

GBA Representatives Report
By Michael Reddy

Cam Richardson and I are your PaBIA representatives on the Board of the Georgian Bay Association (GBA). I am completing my second year as President and by the summer will be the Past President of the GBA - wow, how time flies. Cam has taken on the role of Treasurer of the GBA and sits on the Government Affairs Committee where he focuses on Land Use and Planning Issues/Policies. As you will see as you read this update, the GBA has had a very busy year watching over and protecting "The Bay".

Some of the specific activities and accomplishments of the Committees of the GBA are as follows;

Boating and Safety

- OPP liaison re safety equipment, Personal Craft Operating Cards, boat noise
- Regulatory liaison by committee members on;
 - o The National Recreational Boating Advisory Council
 - o Ontario Regional Boating Advisory Committee (ORBAC),
- Researched issues of boat registration and operation for US citizens who cottage in Canada
- Emergency Planning in consultation with OPP, Coast Guard, 911 dispatch and ORNGE

Fisheries

- Monitor invasive species and in particular Asian Carp and assist other organizations who are taking the lead in addressing these issues
- Monitor the work of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council in their efforts to re-establish native fisheries
- Continue to review the development of the open net cage aquaculture industry in Ontario and lobby for the growth of this industry to be done in an environmentally sustainable fashion. In this regard met with MNR and MOE officials and Ministers to outline our position. We also worked with WWF who are creating a worldwide industry standard for aquaculture.

Lands and Forests

- Developed "Be Bear Wise" tip sheet for cottagers
- Worked with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve staff in developing a Stewardship Manual for cottagers
- Worked with Georgian Bay Forever on wetland research
- Provided input to the provincial government on commercial wind development and practices including making submissions to multiple EBR postings on wind regulations.

Water Quality

- Continued to work with Georgian Bay Forever on water quality issues
- Lobbied for funding for water quality testing in the Township of Georgian Bay
- Participated on the Advisory Panel to the Canadian negotiators of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
- Participated on the Lake Simcoe Source Water Protection Committee

Water Quantity

- Presented our position on the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board's report on the St. Clair River to the IJC
- Worked with the ENGO community (Georgian Bay Forever, Great Lakes United, etc.) to have the Georgian Bay voice heard
- Participated as a member of the Advisory Panel on Great Lakes Sustainable Water Resources Agreement
- Had our representative appointed to the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board-Public Interest Advisory Group (PIAG)

Government Affairs

- Started to work on a process to better address development pressures in our communities
- Held a Land Use Planning seminar for our member associations
- Developed election readiness materials for our communities so they could have better input into municipal elections
- Reached out to our neighbouring first nations to establish a dialogue

Governance

- Provided legal and governance advice as necessary

Communications

- Managed evolution of GBA UPDATE newsletter
- Created the GBF articles as a separate insert in UPDATE
- Revised and Updated the Web site

2011 looks to be just as busy!!!

In closing I have to mention the Executive Director of the GBA, Bob Duncanson, as he is a tremendous asset to the GBA and therefore to all of us as cottagers on the Bay. We are lucky to have him. Having Bob as the ED of the GBA has made my job as the President manageable. Given the other commitments that I have, I could not have done it without him. Thank you, Bob.

As always, if you have any suggestions or feedback for the GBA please contact Cam or me directly or send Bob Duncanson an email rduncanson@georgianbay.ca.