

Marine Patrol 2009

Our Patrollers are the best!

PaBIA and our summer community has been the consistent beneficiary of having an abundance of highly qualified applicants for our summer Marine Patroller positions. The Patrollers selected for the 2009 summer were no exception; they were highly motivated, showed terrific initiative and had a strong sense of responsibility. Each Patroller brought unique skills and both were deeply committed to helping PaBIA promote: environmental quality; proper care/use of local crown land recreational sites and local GBLT properties, safe operation of boats, compliance with public waterway regulations and provided positive, pro-active assistance to anyone in need. Adrienne Hall and Alec Bradford, our 2009 Patrollers, have my deepest respect and regard! They worked diligently in some of our worse early summer weather and took ownership of their mission. Both were the subject of several positive comments and letters for going the “extra mile” to help members of our summer community. Based solely on their persistent and cheerful commitment to regularly cleaning up trash and debris, while maintaining our local Crown land areas and GBLT properties, every PaBIA member owes Adrienne and Alec a sincere, heartfelt, “Thank You!” Without complaint, they would go to these sites to bag and remove all trash/glass and ensure that the area was always attractive and safe for the next series of users. This, very routine, dirty and nasty task, is unfortunately, caused by the neglect of others. If you happen to see any of our current or previous Patrollers, please stop them and express your appreciation for their commitment to helping us improve and maintain our community.

[Insert Picture of Adrienne and Alec from 2009 MP file]

Patroller Applicants

As mentioned above, we have been fortunate to consistently receive quality applicants for our patroller positions and have not been disappointed with the performance of the patrollers employed. All have been interested in protecting our environment and are motivated to have a positive impact on our community life. The support from families, summering in PaB, who have college students that know our waters and share PaBIA’s interest in improving our community, is critical to our long term success. It is so much easier to select Patrollers from a pool of highly qualified applicants. In all honesty, we can hardly go wrong with any qualified candidate! As I mentioned last year, I am concerned that some qualified students may not apply, believing they do not have all of the requisite skills. To them I say, “Please reconsider and submit your application for 2011.” We simply seek responsible, motivated students, familiar with our waters and realize that few applicants ever have all the knowledge and experience that we would like to have.

Summer 2009

While the Marine Patrol has always owned the patrol boats, we have enjoyed terrific support from Yamaha and their local dealer, Payne Marine, who has provided the boat motors and maintained them at a very favorable cost. However, recent economic conditions compelled Yamaha to terminate support for such community programs. Recognizing our dilemma, Payne Marine, generously offered PaBIA several attractive options, which allowed us to purchase the motors. Both motors have low hours, are in good condition, and we continue to enjoy favorable rates for maintaining the boats and our “new” motors.

Accordingly, I want to express publicly, on behalf of PaBIA and certainly everyone who has been involved in the Marine Patrol, our appreciation for the invaluable support that Yamaha and especially, Payne Marine, have, so generously, provided the Marine Patrol, since its inception. We all say, "Thank you, Payne Marine, for your selfless contributions -- they have truly helped make the Patrol what it is today!"

On average, about 80% of a Marine Patroller's week, continues to be dedicated to: monitoring and maintaining local Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) properties; maintaining Crown recreational areas/sites; supporting Township of the Archipelago (TOA), water quality sampling; conducting follow up BioHealth surveys of established sites; educating visitors who use public/GBLT recreational sites; and, documenting all Marine Patrol activity. The balance of a Patroller's week, generally involves promoting water safety, responding to boaters in distress, supporting PaB's Auxiliary Emergency Response Team, when a fire is reported, and providing general assistance to our members, as needed.

While not requested during the 2009 summer, the Marine Patrol continues to be interested and committed to visiting our older, less mobile summer residents, when requested to do so. If any member is ever concerned for a member who might benefit from specific or regular visits by a Patroller, please contact the Marine Patrol, as appropriate.

The 2009 summer allowed us to continue strengthening our partnership with the Georgian Bay Land Trust. Wendy Cooper, Executive Director, GBLT, was again able to spend time, during our training week, to educate and provide the new Patrollers hands-on-training, while helping them establish the annual monitoring benchmarks for each GBLT property. With the growing inventory of local GBLT properties, I believe that a strong partnership with the GBLT can only help promote better recreational use of our community. Based on their commitment to supporting the GBLT, the Marine Patrol has become the, de facto, Steward for Friend Island. The Patrollers continue to work with the Ojibway Recreation Staff to coordinate educational opportunities, during weekly young camper picnics, to promote concepts of conservation and responsible care, as promoted through the GBLT.

A Concern and Request

As mentioned in my our previous report, our 2009 summer experience, continues to be hostage to some unfortunate experiences, where someone took a selfish, inconsiderate or sometimes reckless action that affected us, a neighbor or perhaps, the fragile beauty of our Georgian Bay.

[Insert several picture of trash accumulation or area abuse from 2009 MP file]

Given the relatively brief opportunity to enjoy summer in PaB, we all tend to be overly tolerant of others. Unfortunately, such tolerance may or can promote further abuse of our public areas and reinforce a more general acceptance of boating behavior that is routinely inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous. Whether using public or private recreational areas or enjoying the waters of the Georgian Bay, I ask each PaBIA member to consider where you can be more pro-active or responsible -- to help us sustain and promote the area's natural beauty, while fostering a better sense of daily sensibility, responsibility, gentility, and respect for one another.

If you happen to witness the abuse/littering of a public area, become the victim of a negligent boat operator, or observe unsafe or inconsiderate boat operations, please report the instance to the Marine Patrol. In all reports, please include your name and local phone number to help us follow-up with you, as necessary.