

## **2020 Manitou Virtual AGM, 2020/09/23**

**Note:** 2020 is a non-voting year and the Manitou Board deferred the 2020 AGM to a virtual meeting on September 29, 2020 so that more members were home with reliable internet/infrastructure to attend a virtual Zoom meeting.

### **Chris Welcome & Introduction of Guest Speakers**

- Rupert Kindersley GBA
- Alice Barton & David Ashley Township of the Archipelago Ward 4
- Heather Sargeant & Janet Burt GBF

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve 2019 minutes, all in favour, approved

**Financials:** Chris Galberg & Marianne Galberg, No Regatta in 2020 due to Covid-19; Primary & Secondary membership dues were paid; motion to approve financials, all in favour, approved

**Rupert Kindersley GBA:** This was Rupert's 3<sup>rd</sup> summer as Exec Director (was previously president). GBA is voice of power with government and other organizations with mandate to protect the Bay by leveraging committees to address wide range of issues.

The past year Covid-19 has dominated government focus. One of the key focus areas of the GBA for 2020 was around water quality and ecosystem health and a submission to the Canada-Ontario Agreement which binds Ontario into the provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between Canada and the US. The submission addressed many of the issues and action items that affect Georgian Bay. Claudette Young contributed a significant amount to the aquaculture content, highlighting the rise of antibiotic resistant fish. There was also a focus on water quality & polluting industries. In addition, there will be a water levels symposium on October 24, 2020 run by GBA & GBF to among other things ensure that the best job possible is done to mitigate extreme high and low water levels by using the current tools available.

**Alice Barton & David Ashley, Township of the Archipelago (ward 4 counselors):** given Covid-19, there was no committee meeting but some of the areas to highlight are the development of a strategic plan to guide decision making and bring internet to residents through building / purchasing towers in the Parry Sound area. In addition, a bill is being crafted to ban dock foam led by MPP Miller. The ask of the Manitou Association members is to consider alternatives to dock foam and it was noted that there is easy disposal of old foam at Sheep's Head for no fee. It was also noted that Parry Sound hospital needs funding given summer influx of patients. The Township has also joined with Georgian Bay Biosphere / First Nations to combat climate change, reduce carbon footprint & implement a carbon calculator. A project focused on reducing excessive boat noise was mentioned. With respect to this topic, it was noted that there are 3 loud boats on 12 mile bay and a question around our rights. Note, Canada does not currently have legislation to restrict boat noise.

*Subsequent research following the AGM shows that Safe Quiet Lakes established the Decibel Coalition in Fall 2019 to build grassroots national support for legislation. A meeting was also*

*held by Canadian Marine Advisory Council & Transport Canada in Fall 2020 exploring options. Since then the GBA has also posted information on this topic and if you would like to get involved please contact Rob Bosomworth ([rbosomworth@gmail.com](mailto:rbosomworth@gmail.com)).*

**Heather Sargeant & Janet Burt: GBF Update:** GBF is a charity dedicated to scientific research and public education on Georgian Bay's aquatic ecosystems. In 2020 there were 16 shoreline clean-ups (13 in 2019) and the two main issues were foam & cigarette butts. Unencapsulated dock foam pollutes the Great Lakes as it breaks apart into smaller and smaller pieces to become microplastics (plastic <5mm) which pose a risk to fish and wildlife. GBF has established the "Say No to Dock Foam Committee" and the ask of Manitou Association members is to look under docks and to see if there is unencapsulated foam & consider replacing with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)/Hard Plastics or Steel Pontoons. Manitou Association members can also provide additional support by joining future clean-ups, doing their own shoreline clean-ups, and donating to GBF.

Other areas GBF is focused on are around Phragmites, water levels, building wetland resilience to climate change and micro waste. An example of micro waste are the microfibers that come off clothes during laundering. Most clothes are made of synthetic materials and many of them are plastic, so this becomes microplastics which end up in Georgian Bay. Filters for washing machines to prevent/reduce release are currently being tested.

### **Chris Galberg, Association Business**

Phragmites Update& Cormorant Hunt 9/15 – 12/31 taken off-line due to time constraints

Tour of Manitou Official Website ([www.manitouassociation.com](http://www.manitouassociation.com)): Members can post photos & updates, chat look up the directory, newsletters property location maps (including fire pump sites) and links to The Township, GBA, GBF and Emergency Information. Members can pay dues via the website which improves documentation efficiency. The initial cost was \$1250 with an annual operating cost of \$300/year. Note our new site also gives us a presence on GBA's list page:

<https://georgianbay.ca/membership/our-members/>.

President & Founder of Apex Pest Control - Doug Smith – will do work in the 12 Mile Bay area. Contact 1-888-434-2739.

Open – Hal Martin updated the group about exploring opportunities for Manitou Association branded T-Shirts & ball caps. Some concern was expressed around type of fabric (to prevent microplastics).

Options to be explored and presented at a later date.

Motion to Close – all in favour, approved