

## **2022 Manitou AGM, 2022/07/09**

The Manitou Board resumed in-person meetings and the 2022 Manitou Association AGM was held at Martin Island.

### **Hal Martin Welcome & Introduction of Guest Speakers**

- Rupert Kindersley GBA
- Dawn Drayton GBF

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve 2021 minutes, all in favour, approved

**2021 Financials:** Financials are in a healthy position given virtual meetings over past two years and limited expenses. Primary & Secondary membership dues were paid; dues same as previous years, insurance and website maintenance rates increased slightly, all in favour, approved

Approximately half of the dues have been collected for 2022. If you have not paid for 2022, dues can be paid in 2 ways (with eTransfer being the preferred):

- **eTransfer to:** jemartin@shoppersdrugmart.ca
- **Mail cheque:** Jenifer Martin, 29 Edgewood Grove, Toronto, ON M4L 1X8

**Rupert Kindersley GBA:** This is Rupert's 5<sup>th</sup> summer as Exec Director. 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.

### **Coastal Protection**

Although still in its infancy, the Coastal Protection Fund has been started and expected to raise \$100,000 in 2022. The objective of the Township of Georgian Bay (TGB) waterfront policy is to minimize environmental damage. Floating cottages and trailer parks continue to be a serious issue and work is being done to increase taxes to try to get ahead of the issue. Specifically, around floating cottages, the GBA has formed an internal sub-committee.

With respect to septic maintenance, a question was posed to see if Rupert was aware of any alternatives to Chantler Barging

#### **North Shore Barge & Marine Ltd.**

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### **GBA Partnerships & Working Relationships**

The GBA partners on numerous projects with three charities on the bay: Georgian Bay Forever, Georgian Bay Land Trust and Georgian Bay Biosphere. They've also joined forces with Ontario and Canada-wide NGO's such as:

<https://cela.ca/>; <https://ecojustice.ca/>;

<https://www.boatingontario.ca/>;

<https://ontarionature.org/>;

<https://environmentaldefence.ca/>

The GBA is also working increasingly with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) and the Great Lakes & St Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI). FOCA advocates to over 500 member associations as compared to GBA's 18 associations. GLSLCI coordinates the mayors of all Great Lakes municipalities and is a powerful advocacy group. It is important for GBA, FOCA & GLSLCI's to work together on issues where there is a common cause or threat such as floating cottages.

### **Water Levels**

Water levels are in good shape although down over 2' since 2020 and levels are expected to continue to drop. A large focus for 2022 will be to analyze, interpret and communicate the ECCC future water levels projections study results which will be published this summer. The study results are expected to predict "higher highs" and "lower lows" with shorter durations in between – and it will continue to get worse over the next 80 years. Implications can be serious, so members were asked to take a look at any water level investment projects and GBA is happy to provide guidance if there are questions. For example, crib docks will no longer be practical and thus, plans to transition to floating docks should be put in place.

### **Water Quality**

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and public meetings will be held in Niagara Falls September 26-29<sup>th</sup> for those interested.

Some of the key initiatives GBA is focused on with respect to water quality are

- Washing-Machine Filter Bill enactment
- Dock Foam Bill regulations
- Canada Water Agency launch
- Lake Partner Program
- Mercury contamination in fish
- Ongoing Submission on pollution

In addition, work is being done around aquaculture and the GBA is meeting with Government and submissions on new 20-year licenses. There is also a comprehensive study being conducted on environmental pacts along with a review of the regulatory framework. The GBA will also provide input on the new Aquaculture Act and is involved in identifying issues facing fisheries, updates on fishery regulations and the GBB Fisheries Stewardship Framework. Rupert confirmed that blue-green algae is linked to aquaculture and as water levels continue to go down, we will face this issue again.

**Dawn Drayton GBF:** Dawn highlighted the important work Georgian Bay Forever is doing. GBF is a charity dedicated to scientific research and public education on Georgian Bay's aquatic ecosystem. GBF's mission is to protect, enhance, and restore the aquatic ecosystem of Georgian Bay by funding accredited research on water levels, water quality, and ecosystems; by educating the public and governments on issues regarding the environmental protection, conservation, the safety and preservation of the water and the natural features of the Georgian Bay area of Ontario; and by enhancing the public's appreciation for their environment. The data that GBF supports Georgian Bay advocacy initiatives by Rupert and the GBA.

Dawn also reminded members of Alan Harman and Chris Galberg's upcoming initiative to **Swim for Georgian Bay** on August 6th. They are doing an open water swim out at the Western Island and are donating and raising funds to GBF. Darin Buckland and Cathy Coles have volunteered to be the safety boat and members can donate at the link below. Cathy will also be taking pictures which will be posted on our website.

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E229489QE&id=3>

### **Hal Martin, Nomination for Vice President**

This year is a non-voting year for our Manitou Board however we do have a vacant position for Vice President. No nominations were put forward at the meeting. We appreciate your consideration regarding this opportunity and feel free to reach out to any of the Executive for more details. Time commitment is nominal.

### **Hal Martin, Association Business**

- Manitou Regatta July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - Ian and Nancy Baines have graciously offered to host the 2022 regatta on Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>. Ray Heimbecker asked the Regatta Organization Committee to consider adding a kayak race this year. Ian noted that dock space is not a concern if members wish to bring their main boats.
- Directory
  - The group was reminded to please make sure information is up to date on the website. A PDF of the directory will also be circulated via email. Hard copies will not be printed to promote sustainability and the use of our website.
- New Members
  - All members were reminded to reach out to new cottagers in our area and let them know about our association.
- Sound Levels
  - Excessive boat noise is a pervasive problem on Canadian waterways. Unlike the USA and Europe, Canada does not currently have legislation to restrict excessive boat noise. The membership was all in favour and approved that Manitou Association join the GBA Decibel Coalition
- Open Discussion

- Typically, each association elects one Director to sit on the GBF, a role that Jamie Drayton has been filling for the past number of years. If you are interested in stepping up in this capacity, please contact Jamie Drayton to inquire. Time commitment is one meeting per month and participation on 1 or 2 working committees which can be very flexible.
- Janet Burt highlighted the wonderful service that the Health Station at Moose Deer Point is providing although the dock appears to be in disrepair. The members asked the Executive to reach out to Connie Foster to see if they would like some financial support. Janet will reach out to the Wah Wah Taysee Association as well if there is interest.

Motion to Close – all in favour, approved

Lunch and social!