



Manitou Association Spring 2024 Newsletter

April 2024

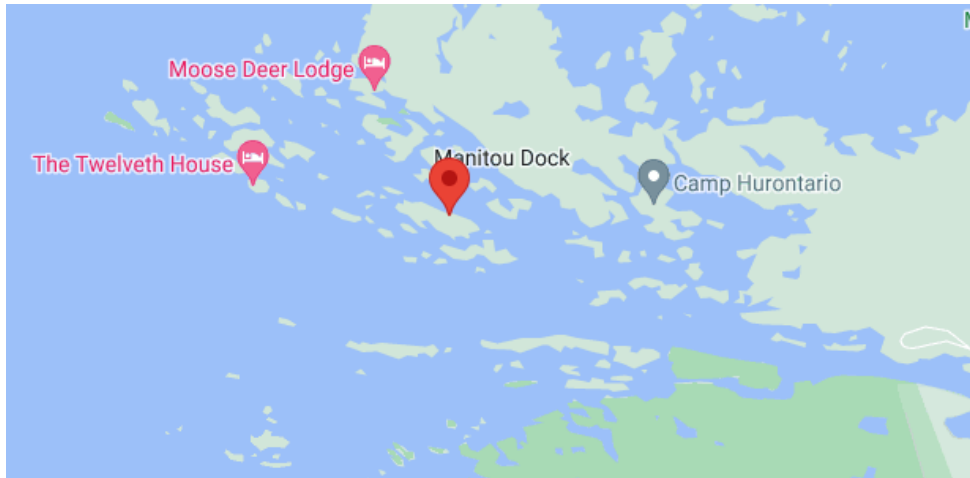
Dear Manitou Association Members,

I hope you all had a safe and healthy off season and are getting ready to start enjoying cottaging on The Bay! We are excited for our 2024 events so mark your calendars with the following important dates:

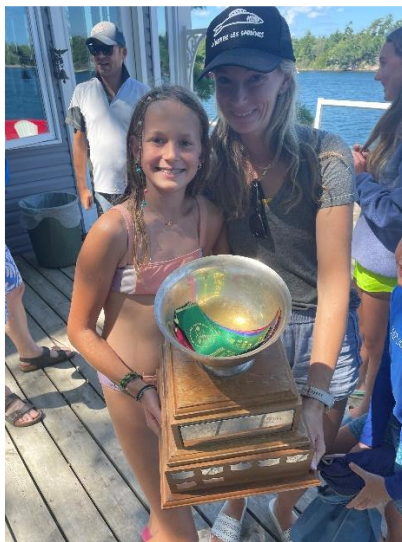
- **The Manitou Association Annual General Meeting** will be held on Saturday, July 13th at Martin Island (B137-1) at 11am
 - Lunch & social to follow
 - Rough route below in from the main channel but, as the usual saying goes....*"if you don't know...go slow"* and feel free to contact me if you need help



- **The Manitou Association Regatta** will take place on Saturday, August 3rd at Kah She Island (BG439) with a start time of 10:30am (Rain Date Sunday, August 4th)
 - Tremendous thanks and appreciation go out to the Baines who are once again graciously hosting at their beautiful property!
 - And.....congratulations to our **brand new champions** – The Ellenzweig / Tupholme Family and our very own Director Kristi! The competition was fierce and we can't wait to see the competitive spirit again this summer!!



2023 CHAMPS!!!



The “infamous” greased watermelon event & beautiful Kah She Island!



This year is a voting and transition year for our Manitou Board. See below as a reminder of our current board members and proposed changes that we will be voting on at the AGM.

Current Manitou Board

- President: Hal Martin
- Vice President – Liz Drayton
- Chris Galberg, Past President & Webmaster
- Jenifer Martin, Treasurer
- Darin Buckland, Director
- Cathy Coles, Director
- Liz Drayton, Director
- Kristi Ellenzweig, Director

Proposed slate for nomination and voting at our AGM:

- Nominations required for multiple positions
 - Past President: Hal Martin
 - President: Liz Drayton
 - Vice President: Vacant
 - Treasurer: Courtney Bakker
 - Director: Vacant

GBA Updates,

Our President and Treasurer had the pleasure of attending the GBA's 2024 AGM. The Georgian Bay Association was founded in 1916 and is an umbrella organization for 19 cottage associations on the shores of Georgian Bay plus one inland lake. They represent over 34,000 people and advocate on our behalf with all levels of government and non-government entities to protect our interests – they are our voice on The Bay.

Dawn Drayton retired from the GBA board and was acknowledged for her dedication. We would like to thank Dawn her years of service and commitment to the GBA along with being a strong advocate and supporter of the Manitou Association.

Major initiatives and committees include:

- Coastal Protection
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Healthy Lands, Forests and Habitats
- First Nations Liaison Program
- Water Levels and Quality
 - Microplastics continue to be a serious issue with a focus on dock foam and washing machine filters
 - Liz Phillips, President of the GBA emphasized this area as a high priority for the GBA and is asking for Water Committee volunteers. Please note, you can join a committee without being a member of the GBA board.
 - They are also looking for Lake Partner Program sampling program volunteers and please reach out to info@gba.ca if you are interested in participating. They would like at least one volunteer per association.

- Boating Safety and Emergencies / Fire
 - Download Safe Boating Guide
https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/tc/T34-24-2011-eng.pdf
 - Help Fellow Boaters for Sharing Your Accidental Immersion Stories
<https://csbc.ca/en/csbc-safety-campaigns/boating-stories>
 - OPP strongly recommends the use of the internationally recognized app **what3words** to direct first responders to precise locations for faster and more accurate emergency response <https://georgianbay.ca/boating/what3words/>. Get the 3 words for your dock and make sure they are posted on your fridge or in the cottage. Let guests know your 3 words when they are visiting.

- Guardians of the Bay initiatives
 - **New** volunteer award: Champions of the Bay
 - This award was established to appreciate & recognize efforts of community stewardship initiatives highlight local initiatives to inspire more people to get involved
 - Nominees can be of any age and can be an individual or group
 - Criteria
 1. Impact – reach beyond cottage or family environment
 2. Commitment – demonstrate continued and/or varied commitment
 3. Time & Effort
 - Each association selects own Champion of the Bay
 - Winners more to GBA for selection of the overall Grand Champion
 - All winners receive certifications and highlights in GBA updates
 - Please see the link below to see a series of short & inspiring videos sharing the enthusiasm of our member associations in their commitment to preserve the unique habitat of the Georgian Bay
 - <https://georgianbay.ca/gba-member-association-videos/>

2024 Dues

Dues will be maintained at the 2023 amounts: **\$120 per property owner** (\$55 to Manitou and \$65 to GBA). Secondary memberships for additional families, **couples or individuals who share a property \$55** (\$22.50 to Manitou and \$32.50 to GBA). The secondary membership provides the same benefits without voting privileges. Along with supporting the crucial work done by the GBA on our behalf, membership benefits include a listing in the Manitou directory, login access to www.manitouassociation.com, email updates and direct mailings from Manitou Association, Georgian Bay Association and Georgian Bay Forever. Dues can be paid in 2 ways at or before the AGM (with eTransfer being the preferred):

- **eTransfer to:** jemartin@shoppersdrugmart.ca
- **Mail cheque:** Jenifer Martin, 39 Edgewood Grove, Toronto, ON M4L 1X8

Manitou Website

As a reminder, if you have not already, check out the Manitou Website and don't forget to add it as a bookmark. As a member, once you've logged in, you can find the following valuable information.

- Membership Directory: <https://manitouassociation.com/roster/?py=yes&view=table&st=>

- Latest News: <https://manitouassociation.com/news-events>
- This Newsletter & Newsletter Archives: <https://manitouassociation.com/latest-message/>
- Emergency Info & Important Numbers: <https://manitouassociation.com/emergency-info/>
- Link to Transfer Station Info: <https://manitouassociation.com/transfer-station/>

Reminder

The **WhatsApp firetree group** was created in 2023. This group is used solely for fires and emergencies. If you have not joined the group and would like to be added please reach out to hal.martin@rogers.com.

A few additional topics that may be of interest

- **Near North Crime Stoppers**
 - It is a non-profit designed to enhance community safety across the districts of Nipissing and Parry Sound. Since inception in 1988 NNCS has received nearly 22,000 tips, contributing to the arrest of over 1700 individuals. They have recovered \$4.2M in property and seized over \$52M in drugs destined for our communities.
 - NNCS is having a fundraising golf tournament in June and a Gala in September. If anyone is interested please feel free to contact them at admin@nearnorthcrimestoppers.com or 705.497.5555 ext. 507.
- **Reminder of Tax: Underused Housing Tax Form for Non-Canadian Property Owners**
 - Last year, the federal government put forth a 1% annual tax levied on the value of residential property that is vacant or considered underused. The intention of this tax is to make housing more affordable for Canadian residents by deterring non-residents from passively investing in Canadian real estate.
 - Link to UHT-2900 Form:
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/forms/uht-2900.html>
 - This tax applies to non-Canadian residents although in some situations it can apply to Canadian individuals and corporations. See link below for details on “affected owners”:
 - https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/uhtn1/introduction-underused-housing-tax.html?utm_source=Canada_dot_ca&utm_medium=News_Item&utm_campaign=Minister+LPRAB+Other&utm_content=2023-03-27_0714#_Toc122681156
 - Non-Canadian residents must submit a UHT Tax Form (deadline April 30, 2024). See more details in the link below:
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/taxes/excise-taxes-duties-and-levies/underused-housing-tax/when-file.html>

We are excited for the 2024 cottage season and looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming AGM!

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