



2023 Manitou AGM, 2023/15/08

The 2023 Manitou Association AGM was once again held in-person at Martin Island.

Hal Martin Welcome & Introduction of Guest Speaker

- Rupert Kindersley GBA

Previous Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve 2022 minutes, all in favour, approved

Financials: Financials continue to be in a healthy position. Primary & Secondary membership dues were mostly paid with some outstanding; dues increased slightly over previous years given increase in GBA fees, insurance and website maintenance rates maintained, all in favour, approved

A reminder of how to pay dues (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 6th 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.

Since 1916, the GBA has taken a leadership role, advocating to all levels of government and other stakeholders on behalf of its 18 water-based communities on the eastern and northern shores of Georgian Bay. They advocate on a broad range of issues, to protect and preserve our precious and fragile freshwater ecosystem for generations to come. As your watchful eye on the Bay, and your insurance policy to protect it, the GBA often identifies and addresses matters early on, before they become a problem.

GBA has 3 staff members (2 full and 1 part-time), 23 volunteer directors and an additional 32 non-board volunteers for 13 committees that deal with a wide range of issues. Rupert provided updates on the work some of these committees are doing.

Coastal Protection

The Coastal Protection Committee's Objectives are to support the protection of the natural environment, biodiversity, ecology and water quality of Georgian Bay by promoting and defending planning standards, planning regulations, sustainable development and environmental responsibility

- **Planning Regulations Guide – Completed Project**
 - This guide was completed and distributed (digitally) in 2022. The aim is to complement the excellent resources your municipality provides by pulling together a complete overview of planning processes into one document for member information and reference.
- **Current Priorities: Floating Homes & Municipal Planning Comparison**
 - With proper, enforceable regulations the addition of floating homes to the Bay can be socially and ecologically sustainable
 - Sustainable development is key to ensuring environmental protection throughout the Bay, and particularly, where development pressures are more intense.

Boating and Safety

The GBA provides these resources to protect your family and property with current priorities being:

- **Fire**
 - Informing members about MNRF and municipal fire danger ratings and restrictions throughout the fire season
 - Providing extensive fire safety information <https://georgianbay.ca/boating/fire/>
- **Boating**
 - Linking members to updated information about new regulations and making sure you have a chance to weigh in on topics such as boat noise, Pleasure Craft Licenses, and mandatory PFD wear

Water

The current priorities are:

- **Water Quality**
 - Monitoring the increase in cruise ship traffic on Georgian Bay to ensure wastewater regulations are in place and being followed
 - Supporting legislation to require filters on washing machines to keep microfibres out of our water. GBA sent a letter in March to all the MPPs and has restarted our online email letter campaign for members to write to their MPP to ask for their support [GBA do-gooder microfibre letter](#)
 - Publishing a guide about septic systems to help you reduce the risk of water quality issues around your cottage [GBA septic management and inspections](#)
- **Aquaculture**
 - Advocating for 25 years to ensure the open net pen industry in the Bay isn't expanded and environmental regulations remain robust
 - Industry has not expanded - only 5 commercial and 6 indigenous sites, but production has increased at these sites
 - Currently engaged with MNRF, MECP and DFO regarding new proposed 20-year licenses - detailed discussions - environmental safeguards significantly increased

Other

- **Communications:** keeping members informed on all the current issues
 - Member Benefits: continue to build more member benefits of value to members
- **Lands and Forests:**
 - Invasive species: monitoring and reporting, information/education, advocacy on govt acts, ballast regulations etc.
 - Species at Risk: monitoring and reporting, advocacy on govt acts, information/education
- **First Nations:** Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Two-eyed seeing
- **Guardians:** Video project
- **Fisheries:** Issues for the industry, regulations and advisories
- **Developments:** monitoring and advocating on impactful, precedent setting developments
- **Water levels:** webinar series with GBF, adaptation to variable water levels, monitoring and reporting

Sheep's Head Information, Catherine Coles

- As of July 1, 2023, cash will no longer be accepted, there are 2 payment methods
 - PayPay (via QR Code)
 - Waste Tags (must be purchased in advance for \$2.50 per tag at the Township Office, Holiday Cove Marina, or the Site 9 Landfill)
- Large item disposal such as furniture, beds and appliances are free of charge. This free service is limited to a one time use for each property, once per year. After this one-time use, applicable fees will apply to large items.

Hal Martin, Nomination for Manitou Executive & Board

This year is a voting year for our Manitou Board. The following nominations were put forward and approved at the meeting.

- President – Hal Martin, President, nominated to continue for one more term; approved
- Vice President – Liz Drayton, Director, nominated; approved
- Treasurer
 - Jenifer Martin, Treasurer, nominated to continue for one more term; approved
 - Courtney Bakker, Director, nominated to assume role for next term; approved

With the above changes there will be a vacancy for two Directors and Vice President for the next term.

Hal Martin, Association Business

- **Manitou Regatta**
 - Ian and Nancy Baines have graciously once again offered to host the 2023 regatta on Saturday August 5th at Kah She Island (BG439) with a start time of 10:30am (Rain Date Sunday, August 6th).

- **New Members**
 - Members were asked to reach out to new cottagers in our area to let them know about our association.

- **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 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@nearthcrimestoppers.com or 705.497.5555 ext. 507.

- **Help Fellow Boaters for Sharing Your Accidental Immersion Stories**
 - Have you or someone you know ever fallen overboard? The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) is looking for boaters who are interested in participating in a study regarding the importance of lifejacket wear in the event of falling overboard and accidental immersion.
 - Sharing is learning and by creating a community of interest the CSBC can help boaters across Canada learn from other's stories and further their efforts to help you stay safe on the water.
 - Get more information and share your stories via the link below:
 - <https://csbc.ca/en/csbc-safety-campaigns/boating-stories>

- **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

Motion to Close – all in favour, approved

Lunch and social!