



## 2024 Manitou AGM, 2024/13/08

The 2024 Manitou Association AGM held in-person at Martin Island.

### Land Acknowledgement

The Manitou Association respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on traditional Anishinabek lands and the territory covered by the Robinson-Huron Treaty and Williams Treaties. We are grateful for the opportunity to have our cottages here and we thank all the generations of people, in particular the Ojibway, Chippewa, Odawa, and Pottawatomi peoples, who have cared for these lands and waters for thousands of years. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place.

### In Memoriam

Manitou Association members who have more recently passed away were recognized. A toast was made in their honour and to celebrate our absent friends who are cherished and missed.

<b>Cherished Lifetime Manitous</b>	<b>Cherished Manitous</b>
Bob Bothwell Inessa Elias Peggy Muntz	Alan Shiels Anthony Burt Carly Martin Chris Clokie Cindy Burch Ed Bartram Hap Hemphill Helle Tupholme Mike Trudeau Robert Schad Stan Byrne Vivien Stephenson

## Hal Martin Welcome

- The Manitou Association was founded June 10, 1929, and this year, Manitous celebrate our 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## Introduction of Guest Speaker

- Rupert Kindersley GBA

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve 2023 minutes, all in favour, approved

**Financials:** Financials are in a healthy position. Primary & Secondary membership are almost up-to date for 2024; insurance rates maintained, website maintenance rates increased slightly, modest profit of \$60 from 2023 Manitou Regatta; all in favour, approved

A reminder of how to pay dues (with eTransfer being the preferred):

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

**Rupert Kindersley GBA:** This is Rupert's 7<sup>th</sup> summer as Exec Director. Rupert is retiring in the Fall and the Manitou Association extends best wishes and thanks him for his dedication and support over the years.

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.

**Coastal Protection:** The Committee's two main objectives for 2024 are Floating Homes and Vision 2050

### Floating Homes

- Advocating to ensure floating homes are properly regulated to avoid environmental impacts and address safety concerns. To advocate, a strategy group has been formed comprised of ToA, TGB, Port Severn municipalities; FOCA; Great lakes & St Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI); Gloucester Pool assoc. and the GBA.
- Also advocating with Transport Canada for changes to bring Ontario regulations up to the standard of BC. To support there is a letter writing campaign for individuals and/or associations using the GBA's online tool [GBA Floating homes do-gooder letter](#)

- With proper, enforceable regulations the addition of floating homes to the Bay can be socially and ecologically sustainable.
- Support from MNRF - Recent proposal to change regulations to prevent FCs tying up on crown land or anchoring overnight

### **Vision 2050**

- A separately funded project that will begin with a white paper. The aim is to establish sound, responsible planning practices that will ensure sustainable development and protect the coastal environment for generations.

**Water** – GBA is working on 4 main priorities:

- **Microfibres/plastics:** mitigation via washing machine filters
- **Dock foam regulations:** still not in place, and this is also especially important when it comes to floating cottages
- **Lake Partner Program:** looking for more volunteers to do water testing. The program is two decades long and assists in the early detection of changes in the nutrient status and/or the water clarity of the lakes, due to impacts of shoreline development, climate change and other stresses.
- **Cruise Ship Research:** GBA is advocating for controls with respect to grey water. The biggest challenge is understanding Canada's regulations and the GBA is also advocating to bring them up to the higher standards in the US.

### **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 are reviewed by GBA for selection of the overall Grand Champion. All winners receive certificates and will be highlighted 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/>

Manitou Association members were asked to start thinking about potential nominations. A Champions of the Bay coordinator will be selected to gather nominations. The goal will be to have first Manitou Association Champion of the Bay recognized at the 2024 Regatta.

## **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/>
  - The group was reminded that the Manitou Association has a firetree WhatsApp group. If you are not currently part of the firetree please provide Hal Martin with your contact information.
  - The Executive is exploring having “what3words” added to the Manitou Association online directory. For more information on how to use the “what3words” app please see the link <https://what3words.com/how-to-use-the-what3words-app>
  
- **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.
  - Decibel project is going well, and regulations should be in place next year.
  - Wakes still are a significant issue as they are damaging shorelines and fish and bird habitats.

## **Other Current Priorities & Recent Activities**

### **Capital Gains Tax Increase**

- The GBA sked govt to mitigate the unintended consequences on those not in the wealthiest 0.13%. If members need support for tax planning FOCA has useful resources. See links below for details around taxation assessment and cottage succession planning
- <https://foca.on.ca/property-taxation-assessment/>
- <https://foca.on.ca/cottage-succession/>

### **Bill 185**

- Key issue for Georgian Bay residents is proposed removal of public’s ability to appeal the adoption or amendment of Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws
- GBA asked for these critical, long-standing rights to appeal local land use decisions to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) to be maintained and protected. Similar amendments were first included in Bill 23 in 2022 but were rightly removed from that Bill in response to public concern.

## **Indigenous Education**

- Member education – providing information on land use issues and treaties
- Sharing traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)

## **Aquaculture**

- Advocating for 25 years to ensure the open net pen industry in Georgian Bay is not expanded and environmental regulations remain robust. Thus far, the 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
- Indigenous communities currently developing guidelines and protocols that may increase protections
- Working with OAA and MNRF to get Lake Wolsey closed down - lower/warming water pose major risk for blue green algae outbreaks

## **Hal Martin, Nomination for Manitou Executive & Board**

This year is a voting year. The Executive & Board recommended the following slate; approved

- Past President – Hal Martin
- President – Liz Drayton
- Vice President & Treasurer – Courtney Bakker
- Director – Cathy Coles
- Director – Darin Buckland
- Director – Kristi Ellenzweig
- Director – Stacie Branton
- Director – Jenifer Martin
- Webmaster – Chris Galberg

## **Association Business**

- **Manitou Regatta, Cathy Coles**
  - Ian and Nancy Baines have graciously once again offered to host the 2024 regatta on Saturday August 3rd at Kah She Island (BG439) with a start time of 10:30am (Rain Date Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>).
  - Cost for lunch & participation \$10 (free for 5yrs and younger)
    - please consider eTransfer for payment
    - Jenifer Martin will collect at [jemartin@shoppersdrugmart.ca](mailto:jemartin@shoppersdrugmart.ca)
  - Please also be reminded to bring cash for the minnow races and those who are stellar minnow catches, start to be on the lookout!
  - Sausages and Burgers will be provided for lunch; members can bring a salad or dessert to help supplement

- **Manitou Website, Hal Martin**
  - Please ensure your information is up to date on the website. The website has functionality to link profiles to maps and add images.
  - **Directory**
    - Members proposed that a paper version of the Manitou Directory be made available every 5 years. It was agreed that the Executive will publish a paper version in 2024 and then again in 2029 for the Manitou Associations 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - **Classifieds**
    - There is a classifieds section on the website. If you have items to be added to the classified section, please reach out to Chris Galberg or Hal Martin if you require support.
- **New Members, Hal Martin**
  - Please continue to reach out to new cottagers in our area to let them know about our association and invite them to the regatta.
- **Manitou Representative vacancies, Hal Martin**
  - GBA and GBF positions are both currently vacant, please reach out to the Executive if you are interested in participating

Motion to Close – all in favour, approved

Lunch and social!