



Manitou Association Spring 2025 Newsletter

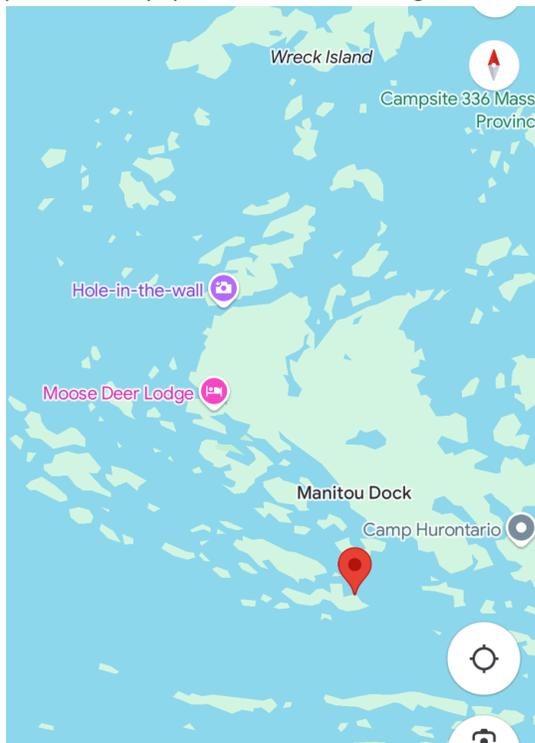
May 2025

Dear Manitou Association Members,

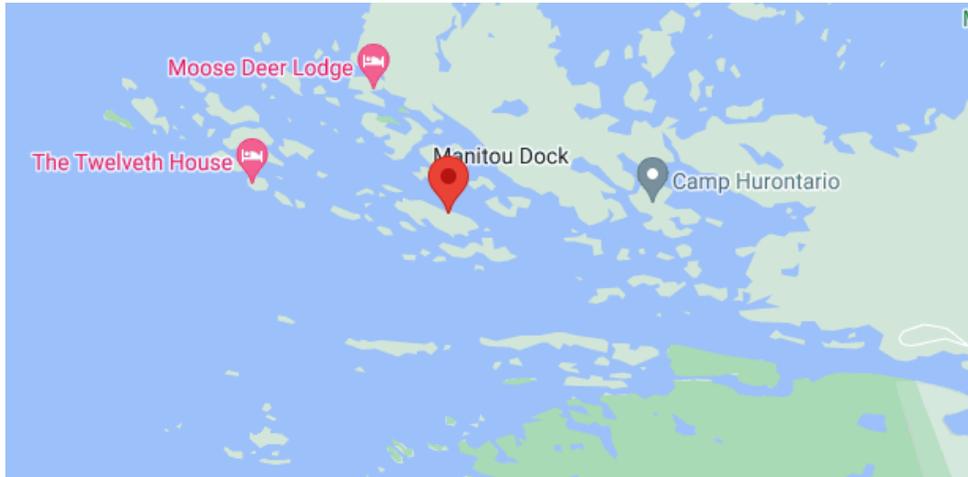
Happy May 2-4! I hope many of you have or are about to open up for the season. The Drayton's went up at the beginning of May and well.... There are quite a few trees down from ice storms over the winter. Nothing too serious was damaged and I hope you all are just as lucky. Please stay safe as you navigate the landscape.

We are excited for our 2025 events so mark your calendars with the following important dates:

- **The Manitou Association Annual General Meeting** will be held on Saturday, July 12th at Drayton Island (GB438) at 11am
 - Lunch & social to follow
 - We are just off Starvation Bay - our back dock is tagged below - please let me know if you have any questions on how to get to our place and I'll be sure to help!



- **The Manitou Association Regatta** will take place on Saturday, August 2nd at Kah She Island (BG439) with a start time of 10:30am (Rain Date Sunday, August 3th)
 - Tremendous thanks and appreciation go out to the Baines who are once again graciously hosting at their beautiful property!



2024 CHAMPS!!!

And.....congratulations to our **2024 champions** – The Byrne’s!



Your 2025 Manitou Board of Directors!

Current Manitou Board

- President: Liz Drayton
- Past President: Hal Martin
- Vice President & Treasurer: Courtney Bakker
- Director: Jenifer Martin
- Director: Darin Buckland
- Director: Cathy Coles
- Director: Kristi Ellenzweig
- Director: Stacie Branton
- Director/Past Past President: Chris Galberg
- Director to GBA: Sarah Wilson

Your 2025 Manitou Director to the Georgian Bay Association

A huge thank you to Sarah Wilson who will be representing Manitou on The GBA this year. We so appreciate her stepping up and know her experience and love for The Bay make her a valuable addition to the board. Thank you Sarah!

GBA Updates

Our President and GBA Director had the pleasure of attending the GBA's 2025 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.

We will invite the new Executive Director of the GBA, Meredith Denning, to come to the Manitou AGM and present on many of the below topics. Major committees and initiatives of the GBA include:

Lands and Forests Committee:

- Raising public awareness about phragmites (only 1 in 10 people recognize it as an invasive threat).
- Misalignment between GBA interests and government priorities (e.g., European pine sawfly outbreak not prioritized by the Ministry of Natural Resources).

Coastal Protection Committee:

- Advocating for a consistent regulatory framework for floating homes across all levels of government.
- Expanding stakeholder support and financial commitment for the "Vision 2050" initiative.
- Engaging with First Nations communities and integrating their perspectives into "Vision 2050."

Water Committee:

- Slower than expected progress on dock foam regulations.
- Setbacks in advancing microfibre legislation.

Boating, Safety & Emergencies Committee:

- Handling excessive engine noise and wake concerns, which the OPP cannot easily address.
- Encouraging participation in the Safe Quiet Lakes survey.

Communications Committee:

- Creating a platform to encourage communication between association presidents.
- Continuing to grow social media presence and eUpdate subscriber base.

Aquaculture Committee:

- Lack of prioritization by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) regarding federal oversight of cage aquaculture's impact on water quality.
- Addressing misleading claims and lack of environmental management strategies in the Ontario Aquaculture Association's (OAA) plans.

Guardians of the Bay Committee:

- Organizing and coordinating the "Champion of the Bay Award" requires extensive communication and grassroots efforts.
- Ensuring nominations align with the award's criteria of environmental stewardship.

Indigenous Liaison Committee:

- Enabling GBA member associations to assess their needs and capacity in establishing successful engagement and relations with neighboring First Nations communities.
- Integrating First Nations environmental knowledge and governance into GBA research and projects.

Membership Committee:

- Slight decrease in full memberships.
- Balancing development pressures with environmental preservation.
- Strengthening Indigenous relationships.

2025 Dues

Dues will be maintained at the 2024 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

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 lizdrayton@gmail.com

We are excited for the 2025 cottage season and looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming AGM!

Liz Drayton
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