



Woods Bay
Community Association

SPRING 2017

NEWSLETTER

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2016 / 2017

RICHARD CROUCH	President	M: 416 726-3723 C: 705 375-2320
KAREN PHILLIPS	Secretary	M: 705-795-6303
JAMIE CRICHTON	Treasurer	H: 905 939-9062 M: 416 825-9523
SUSAN McPHEDRAN	Director	H: 519 843-5101 M: 519 217-5762
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ROBIN FLUMENFELT	Director	M: 647 234-7547
SCOTT MCKAY	Director & GBA Rep.	M: 416-565-6093
JULIA WEBSTER	Director	M: 647 899-8850
KARIN BARTON	Director	M: 705-938-0242

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF THE WBCA

Any WBCA member interested in serving on the Board of the WBCA is invited to contact Richard Crouch at (416) 726-3723. The Board is in need of additional people. There are opportunities on the Board for you if you are, for instance, interested in organizing or helping with social events or working on any one or more of the issues with which we are presented in our water based community.

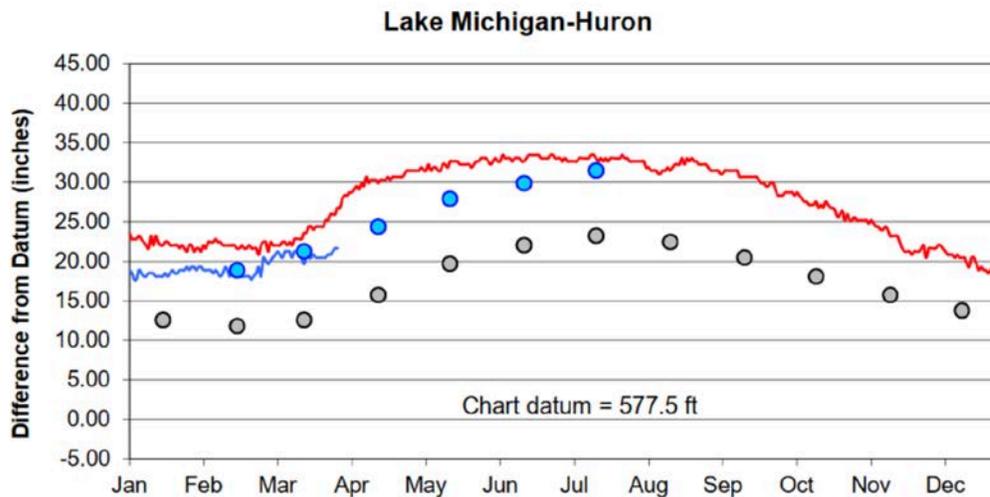
PRESIDENT's Report

By Richard Crouch

I am writing this as the last bits of ice melt on the Bay and people are once again thinking about heading north to open cottages. Here are some things you may want to think about as you plan the summer ahead:

WATER LEVELS:

We are expecting water levels to be about 4-6 inches lower than last summer.



WARM SUMMER

Although it is still early days – Environment Canada is predicting a warmer than average summer this year. If it comes to pass this could make it a year of more fire bans and the need for all to be diligent on the use of such things as fireworks (recalling that their use is only allowed by Our Township on May 24th, July 1st and July 4th –weather conditions permitting).

PHRAGMITIES

We must all continue to work to avoid the spread of this aggressive invader from taking over our wetlands. The WBCA will be working to get the township to take measures to eradicate it from the Healy Lake Rd.

...Have a safe and excellent summer!

... And, always remain Bear Wise!



*"I shouldn't, but I'm going
to have the garbage."*

GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE RESERVE

Calling All Kids in Woods Bay!

Are you ready for fun and adventure this summer? Then you're ready to join *Kids in the Biosphere*!

Simply register online at bit.ly/2oFUzKc to receive your family's **free activity kit** full of outdoor games, crafts, and experiments. You will earn points for completing these activities, and prizes await you at the end of the program!

Don't miss the Kid in the Biosphere's blog, fascinating facts and answers your questions by our local nature nuts. Plus, Biosphere staff will be on location at events throughout the Archipelago with crafts, games, and even our species at risk friends!



Discover the excitement: gbb.ca/education/kids. For more info or to volunteer with the program contact Delaina and Tianna at kids@gbb.ca, space is limited!

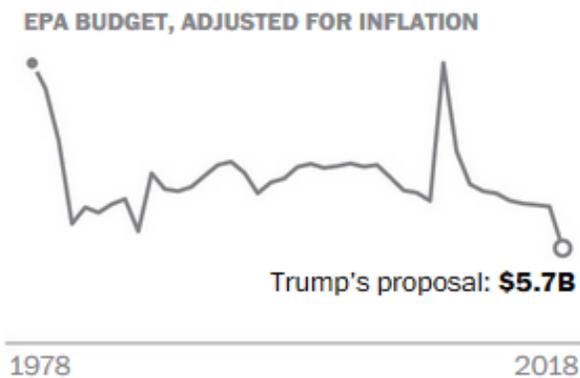
This Georgian Bay Biosphere signature program will be available to Woods Bay families at no cost with thanks to support from the Township of The Archipelago. Visit www.gbb.ca to find information about other programs, subscribe to *Biosphere News*, and become a *Biosphere Member*.

(Picture by Meg Wallace Photography)

The following article is from the Washington Post March 24, 2017

How eliminating two EPA programs could affect large parts of America

President Trump proposed to slash the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 31 percent, the biggest cut of any federal agency, in addition to eliminating a fifth of its workforce. Efforts to clean up the Great Lakes are among the more than 50 programs that would be eliminated.



By **Denise Lu and Tim Meko**

March 24, 2017

Working across state and country borders by the Great Lakes

Trump's budget proposal also cuts the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which was launched in 2010 to protect and restore the lakes. The Great Lakes region stretches across eight states and affects more than 30 million people in the United States and Canada. The lakes hold 84 percent of all surface freshwater in North America. Efforts to restore the lakes also represent a diplomatic collaboration via the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the two nations. With the EPA spearheading U.S. activities, the agreement was first introduced in 1972 and was updated most recently in 2012.

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1987 identified 43 geographic areas of concern: 26 in the U.S., 12 in Canada and five shared between the two countries. These were locations suffering environmental degradation as a result of human activity. In 2012, the updated agreement reaffirmed these areas and the effort to restore them.

Since being identified, four areas in the U.S. and three areas in Canada have been removed from the list, because they have been restored. Two of the recovered U.S. sites received nearly \$13 million total funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Restoration of White Lake, Mich., an area of concern delisted in 2014, spurred new real estate development, said Richard Hobrla, head of the Great Lakes Coordination Program within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

“If [the budget] went through as it’s proposed, it would be fairly catastrophic,” Hobrla said. Although he expects some funding cuts, Hobrla doesn’t think the GLRI will be completely shut down. “There’s just too much support for the EPA and for the program and for the general goals of clean water and clean air.”

Nevertheless, some areas could be heavily affected if funding stopped. Torch Lake, Mich., on the shore of Lake Superior, is one example of a trouble spot that needs more work, according to Hobrla, who speculates that a loss of funding from GLRI would mean it might never get cleaned up. For similar areas of concern that have not significantly improved, Hobrla thinks it’s unlikely there would be state funding to support these initiatives if federal funding were to be drained.

A 2011 study by the University of Michigan found that more than 1.5 million jobs are directly connected to the lakes, generating \$62 billion in wages annually. The Rust Belt states that border the Great Lakes rely on them for shipping and transporting manufacturing goods. But the lakes’ impact on the region extends beyond the factories. According to the Brookings Institution, every dollar spent on the GLRI will bring in \$2 of long-term economic gains.

Direct economic benefits of specific improvements



\$2 TO \$3 BILLION

Water-based recreation

Reducing beach closures due to untreated or undertreated human and industrial waste



\$1.1 TO \$5.8 BILLION

Recreational and commercial fishing

Bolstering the health and abundance of commercial and sport fisheries



\$100 TO \$200 MILLION

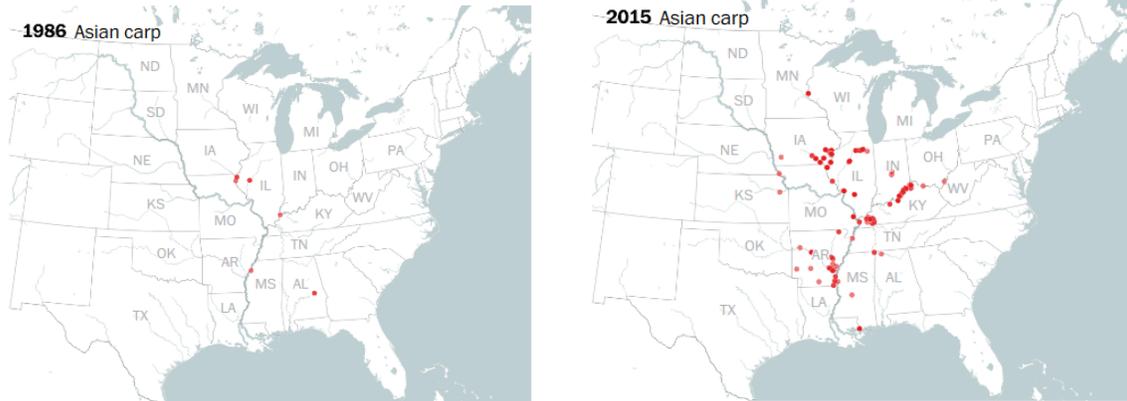
Birds, birding, and wildlife tourism and recreation

Restoring habitats, increasing tourism related to wildlife recreation

Among other things, the EPA fights the spread of invasive species within the lakes. These non-native animals out-compete native species and disrupt the ecological balance of the lakes. Many, like the Asian carp, have voracious appetites and no natural predators in the ecosystem.

The EPA has been fighting a number of invasive species over the years. Some have already infiltrated the lakes. It’s estimated that aquatic invasive species cost the region \$100 million a year.

Asian carp were introduced into Arkansas lakes in the 1970s and have been spotted as close as six miles from the lakes in the Chicago River. When startled, the fish—which can grow to be up to 50 pounds—have been known to leap out of the water, high into the air. This behavior can be dangerous, risking the safety of recreational boaters and property.



Note: Each dot represents one sighting in the USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database and varies in count of animals sighted.

Another invasive species, the zebra mussel, attach themselves to surfaces and can cause problems when they block intake pipelines. They also attach themselves to docks, buoys and the lake bed. Their sharp shells have led to beach closings to protect swimmers, which hurts local tourism.

The EPA is also responsible for monitoring the water quality of the lakes. When bacteria is high, local areas might close swimming at beaches. A major problem for the lakes is phosphorous pollution and associated algae blooms, which can deplete oxygen. Low oxygen levels can kill fish, putting vital fisheries at risk.

In addition to funding, the EPA provides research that helps local jurisdictions make decisions as well as coordination to hold them accountable. While Trump's proposed cuts may not pass, a significant reduction in the EPA's budget may have wide-ranging effects.

WBCA/FOMP Event: “Exploring OUR Shores”

Sue McPhedran

We have confirmed that Dr. Tom Nudds, a Conservation Biologist from the University of Guelph will lead a guided canoe paddle on Sat Aug 5th at 10 a.m. with Sunday being the rain date. Starting at the Moon Island Day Use docks, Woods Bay folks and their guests are invited to bring their own canoes and equipment to paddle an ~ 1 h loop with Tom, stopping at sites of interest to chat and point out natural features. We will return to Moon Isl for a wrap up talk, Q and A and refreshments.

Tom has a background in wildlife biology and has consulted with Parks Canada. He taught field courses in Algonquin for many summers. He's knowledgeable, friendly, approachable, and is one of the most enthusiastic people I know. He is really looking forward to visiting the Bay again. It will be a fun and informative morning.

The Travelling Dinner: Saturday July 8th at 4PM

Back by popular demand ! Consider joining in on this fun and social event. You host three couple at your place for appetizers and, in turn, you are hosted at three other homes.

You get to socialize with a different group of people at each stop. It's a fun afternoon of conversation and community. Send an email to rwcrouch@rogers.com to book into the event or look forward an email blast closer to the date.

Tap Water Testing

Once again your association is getting together to make it easier for you to test the quality of your drinking water - and make sure that any expensive purification system you may have is working correctly. Come to the AGM to pick up a water-testing bottle and provide it back to us on Sunday July 16th and we will get it into the health unit for testing.

A TIP from our Fire Safety folks of the Community Assistance Program (CAP): When you open up your place in the spring, attach your garden hoses – your garden hoses are your first line of defense in the event of a fire. If a fire were to start you can apply water with your hose while the CAP team is still responding

Water Quality Monitoring – the following is taken from an e-mail sent to Water Quality Monitoring Volunteers by Cale Henderson – **Comments in italics are mine.** – Sue McPhedran

“In the spring of 2016 the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) recommended changes to its water quality (WQ) monitoring program, with the main recommendation being a shift from bacteria to phosphorus monitoring. Recommended changes (to the WQ monitoring program) were made following discussion amongst TOA’s Environment Committee and as a result of partnership with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR). For the past three years, GBBR’s “Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring Program” has reviewed existing nutrient monitoring efforts (along eastern Georgian Bay) and developed a new set of guidelines and recommendations. Among these recommendations are:

1. Townships, ratepayer associations and volunteers should join the Lake Partner Program (LPP) administered by the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). This includes shifting existing water quality monitoring programs from bacteria monitoring to phosphorus monitoring *The WBCA joined the LPP program in 2016. One monitoring site was determined near the centre of Woods Bay and sampled. The samples were tested for their phosphorus content. Our reading was: 14.8 micrograms/L, which was in the lower range for our area.*

2. Current Lake Partner Program (LPP) sampling locations should continue to be monitored in order to establish long-term records and trends. *We will continue to monitor the 2016 location*

3. New LPP monitoring locations are proposed for enclosed bays and in-land lakes (and are shown on maps and listed in tables) as opportunities to be addressed by townships, ratepayer associations and volunteers (see Appendix D for further information). *The TOA has recommended that we add 2 additional sampling sites for 2017. These are located in Blackstone Harbour and in the channel to the north of Francis Island.*

Enhanced Monitoring in the TOA

During the summer of 2016, GBBR and the TOA partnered with Pointe au Baril Islanders Association and *Woods Bay Community Association* to conduct enhanced nutrient monitoring. This partnership involved training and loaning of equipment (with funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada). The objectives of enhanced nutrient monitoring are:

- 1) to map areas that ‘stratify’,
- 2) to collect vertical profiles, and
- 3) to collect late summer total phosphorus samples to confirm internal loads.

This water quality information will help us to better understand what areas of Sturgeon Bay and Woods Bay are contributing to high phosphorus levels. WQ Monitoring Program Objectives Nutrient (phosphorus) monitoring requirements along eastern Georgian Bay are complex. In

WQ Monitoring Program Objectives Nutrient (phosphorus) monitoring requirements along eastern Georgian Bay are complex.

In the past, phosphorus monitoring meant measuring concentration over time to detect any increases due to anthropogenic (*human activity*) inputs that could lead to eutrophication and the increased likelihood of nuisance algal blooms.

In recent decades there is evidence that phosphorus concentrations in inland lakes have been declining for reasons other than a reduction in anthropogenic loads (Eimers, 2009) and it has been shown by Environment Canada that this is occurring in the open waters throughout the GBBR. In addition, the invasion of Dreissenid Mussels in the Great Lakes has led to the removal of nutrients in offshore areas, which is a result of the filter feeding process of the mussels.

In turn, there has been an increase in the nutrients in nearshore areas as the mussels concentrate nutrients as both biomass and waste products in some areas. These multiple stressors require nutrient monitoring for many reasons other than straightforward vigilance with respect to eutrophication.

There is now the need to understand complex patterns in nutrient flux and the way these changes in phosphorus concentrations affect ecosystem function. Therefore nutrient monitoring objectives for eastern Georgian Bay are:

1. Mitigating localised water quality issues.
2. Regional characterisation of water quality.
3. Spatial and temporal trend detection.
4. Identifying the effects of regional drivers and multiple stressors to protect ecosystem function.

While the focus of TOA's water quality program is on nutrients (i.e. phosphorus), it is understood that other contaminants of concern and emerging issues exist, such as: pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals, microplastics, invasive species, etc. The "Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring Program" has started with Total Phosphorus and is building capacity to expand and respond to other water quality monitoring needs and concerns. It is therefore recommended that the TOA's water quality program follow a similar approach and that GBBR staff, via the Environment Program MOU, act as a point of contact for ratepayers on water quality issues, concerns and comments.

**Woods Bay Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting**

Minutes: Sunday, October 23, 2016

Present: Richard Crouch, Julia Webster, Carol McCron, Sue McPhedran
Scott McKay, Robin Flumerfelt, Karin Barton

Regrets: Karen Phillips, Jamie Crichton

Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m.

**Welcome extended to our new board member, Karin Barton 705-938-0242,
karinbarton@utoronto.ca**

1. Review and Approval of Minutes – from meeting of Aug 28, 2016

Amendments required.

Approval deferred until next meeting

2. Treasurers Membership Report (Jamie):

Membership	2016	2017	2018	Liability
Regular	73	15	5	\$1700
Corporate	1			
Auxiliary	22	6	5	110
Total	96	21	10	\$1810
Bank Balances	Operating	\$4062.96		
	CAP	7748.30		
Accounts Payable		-		

Motion: To approve Treasurers' Report : Moved by Sue, seconded by Richard.
Carried

Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

WBCA will join the GBBR as a member at an annual cost of \$100,
completion 10/31.

3. Water Quality Report (Sue)

GBBR staff met with 3 members of the WBCA Board on Sept 2/16 for discussion and training on new water quality program. Group went onto Bay to verify depths of sites previously surveyed by in Aug. Found deepest point in Blackstone Harbour, where phosphate levels will be tested to determine if there is potential for a blue green algae bloom. Water sample taken and will be tested as part of Lake Partner Program Discussion: new protocol will monitor nutrient accumulation with potential to affect local water quality. Baseline data will enable better monitoring of possible risks. Members noted effect of higher water levels this year on clarity, shoreline vegetation, etc.

4. Drinking Water Testing (Sue)

We had a 30% increase in participation, including several members who requested to pick up bottles after the AGM and some non-members. It is important for members to follow the instructions on the bottle carefully.

5. Phragmites (Sue)

A power point presentation prepared by GBF covering 2016 efforts to remove this invasive plant from our area and plans for 2017 was shared.

6. FOMP (Sue)

Both end of summer events, the Music in the Massasauga concert and the Images in the Massasauga photography workshop were successful, and well attended by WBCA members.

7. GBA Update (Scott) - from Sept and October meetings

Communication initiative –

GBA is pleased with results of electronic initiatives,
Request that all members subscribe to e-Update, for more current and frequent updates between print mailings.

Septic Primer document was intended initially for 1st time cottagers, but is useful to all cottagers for maintenance information

Discussion: It was suggested people go together to schedule maintenance on water access properties to reduce cost of pump outs. One is planned for 2017.

Great Lakes Public Forum – October

Was a joint Canadian and American meeting to review current legislation and its impact on the Great Lakes. Politicians, municipalities and scientists participated. Three GBA representatives attended.

Forum was included in the TVO program The Agenda with Steve Paikin. Below is a link to one of the shows

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrgjCgUpWIU>

GBA Fall Symposium

Dec 3rd 9:30 a.m. WBCA will be represented by Richard Crouch
Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the organization
Symposium will focus on the Future of the Bay – the next 100 years.

Water Quality

All member associations are doing water testing

Discussion: Water uses as indicators of water quality not being discussed. Some GBA directors are boat only users of the waters (i.e. do not own shoreline property) Perspective of boaters and cottagers very different
Broader issues – availability of pump out locations, hours of operation, public/private access

Areas of Concern –

1. Echo Bay near Sans Souci, acknowledged as the farthest point that can be reached on a weekend cruise from the Midland area.
2. Indian Harbour south of O'Donnell Point natural harbor, no water movement, large gatherings – reflects heavy boating traffic

These areas are monitored by GBBR with support of GBA

Great Lakes Initiative

Provincial Government initiative, supported by Lieutenant Governor to raise profile of Great Lakes

OMB hearing

GBA has applied for intervener status after receiving request from local Community Association, in response to application made in Honey Harbour/Cognashene area to expand a trailer park to include 150-200 affordable vacation homes

Wikwemikong

Ongoing discussion regarding the GBAs' concern with land claims process. New council, incumbent Chief

Aquaculture –

GBA has good science that indicates concern for this activity

Aqua-Catch Fisheries in Parry Sound have become members of the GBBR South Channel CA requesting that we do not remain members of the GBBR until the GBBR “deals with” the situation which they find unacceptable

Discussion

What is the position of the GBBR?

Wouldn't it be beneficial to indicate concerns as members of the organization

Aqua-Catch has not made any requests of the GBBR, but has not agreed to meet to review science accumulated by GBA.

Aquaculture companies require a licence to operate, but are not gov't regulated

WBCA will recommend that GBBR require Aqua Cage Fisheries to meet and if not, cancel membership, return fee and go to the press

Letter to South Channel Association indicating same

8. Plans and Focus on the Next Year

1. Letter to MNRF re: Park expansion – letter has been sent to Superintendent's superiors in Sudbury, no further response.
Next steps: Correspond with Zone and deputy minister
2. Obtain from Planner at TOA Clarity of “natural state” designation to land in OP, local understanding implies protected land, name is misleading
3. Request TOA phragmites control efforts
4. Revitalization of the CAP program - use Newsletter to outline state of CAP group and next steps. Discussion to include:
 - i) Committee membership
 - ii) Formalize response process
 - iii) People willing to respond
 - iv) Calling Tree

- v) Pumps - # and location, map, training, maintenance and storage
- vi) App – automated messages
- vii) How to spend \$7700
- 5. Fireworks – follow up in 2017, signage on road, share contact info of Bylaw Enforcement officer
- 6. Explore the possibility of e-Interac membership fee action
- 7. Monitor participation of ICFC members in our events. Contemplate another membership category – “Fishing Club” if main organization is full member, give aux membership (without voting rights) to all members

- 8. Events for 2017
 - 1. Regatta as Family and Friends Event – August long weekend? Colin and Barb
 - 2. Travelling Dinner
 - 3. Support FOMP events

- 9. Other Business
 - i. Pass along printing/ mailing costs of those members who want print copy of Newsletter. Go green – go electronic. Contact board if you have a special situation.

- 10. Next Meeting:**
Saturday March 25th, 10 a.m. at Julia’s house 9355 Wellington Rd 50, Erin N0B 1T0
647-899-8850
Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.





July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day Parade of Boats in Woods Bay (fireworks allowed - weather permitting)
2	3	4 (fireworks allowed - weather permitting)	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 WBCA Travelling Dinner (4PM) WBCA AGM (9:30AM) At Calhoun's Lodge
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Festival of the Sound - Parry Sound	29
Festival of the Sound - Parry Sound						
30	31	Notes:				
every summer Saturday morning - Yoga at the MRM docks at 9AM						
Festival of the Sound - Parry Sound						

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