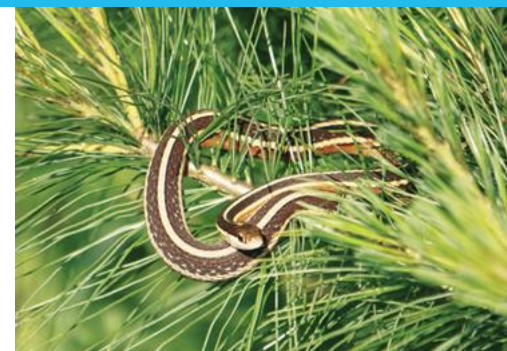




## PROTECTING **GEORGIAN BAY'S** WILDERNESS LANDS





# Conservation LEADERSHIP on Georgian Bay



PROTECTING **GEORGIAN BAY'S** WILDERNESS LANDS



# DEAR FRIENDS

## Thank you for another wonderful year in conservation!

This past year brought some big changes to the Land Trust, as we welcomed two fantastic new staff members: Aaron Rusak and Eleanor Proctor. Eleanor jumped into her role as Land Procurement Assistant with great enthusiasm, going above and beyond in her outreach to new land donors, ecosystem mapping, and assistance with our summer fieldwork. Aaron's passion for Georgian Bay's flora and fauna has been evident in all aspects of his work as Protected Areas Manager, as he has revamped species inventories across our properties, led fascinating nature walks, and spearheaded new bird research projects.

We were delighted to add five new protected places to our network in 2022, totalling 142 acres of habitat that is now conserved forever. The owners of these properties deserve our utmost thanks for choosing conservation and leaving this natural legacy for the entire Georgian Bay community.

We were also happy to continue several important partnerships and projects this past year. Our work on the Maamwi Anjiakiziwin initiative alongside the Georgian Bay Biosphere, Shawanaga and Magnetawan First Nations, and others is making significant strides on a community-wide approach to species at risk conservation. We had another busy year of our research partnership with scientists from Western

University, studying the movement ecology of songbirds using our Motus telemetry stations. Our Executive Director Bill Lougheed has been diligently working with partners behind the scenes on several important large-scale land protection projects, which we hope will come to fruition at some point in 2023. And we were pleased to begin work on a significant grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which is expanding our outreach capacity to landowners, and will hopefully result in increased conservation of ecologically significant land.

We are so grateful to all of you whose support makes this work possible. The Land Trust is a community of volunteers, advocates, donors, and nature lovers, and we could not do our work without you.

Here's to another fantastic summer on Georgian Bay!



**IAN DAVIS**  
*Board Chair*

# PLAN

## Using science to identify and prioritize key habitats for conservation so that species are protected and our coastal ecosystem remains resilient

### SPECIES HABITAT AND THREAT MAPPING

After two years of work mapping our new Natural Area Conservation Plan, we are now working on mapping the preferred habitats for our area's 50 species at risk. When complete, these maps are intended to show the specific locations of each species' preferred habitat across the Georgian Bay landscape. This modelling uses certain assumptions that will need ground-truthing to confirm the accuracy and reliability of the model for each species. This on-the-ground verification will be incorporated as feedback into the model. Eventually this approach may allow accurate mapping of the location of habitats crucial to the conservation of each species at risk.



### LANDOWNER OUTREACH

We were happy to enter year two of our Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, which has allowed us to enhance our outreach to priority landowners. This is an ongoing effort to accelerate the permanent protection of large and ecologically significant tracts of land, including forests and wetlands. We have reached out to several hundred property owners who own lands ranked high in our Natural Area Conservation Plan, based on a series of targets including biodiversity, habitat quality and connectivity, and at-risk species. The Trillium Foundation grant has also enabled staff support for our large landscape corridor project which we hope to announce in 2023.

### ALLIANCE OF CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS

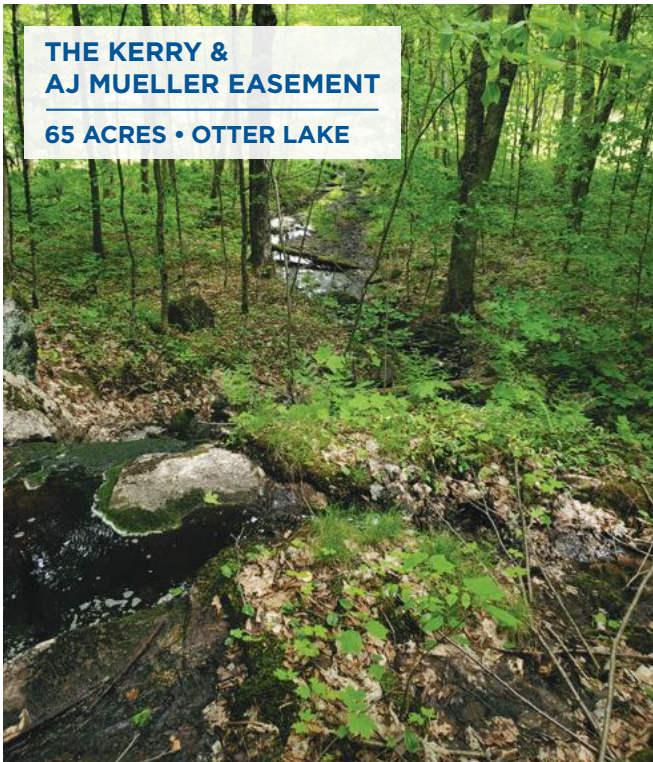
The new Alliance of Canadian Land Trusts is off to a wonderful start, helping to assist land trusts across Canada in securing more funding for conservation planning and the creation of new protected areas. Our Executive Director Bill Loughheed played a key role in establishing the Alliance, and now sits on the board as an advisor. This national body will be invaluable to our land trust in providing funding for our big landscape projects and our work in planning those projects. We were delighted to attend the first national summit hosted by the Alliance this past October.





# PROTECT

Securing ecologically significant lands to protect habitats and species  
and to create open spaces for community enjoyment



**THE KERRY &  
AJ MUELLER EASEMENT**  
65 ACRES • OTTER LAKE

#### **DONATED BY KERRY & ACHIM MUELLER**

3,500 feet of natural shoreline are protected by this wonderful easement, Otter Lake's first protected area. Inland, the property contains a wide variety of large old trees, three streams, and a one-acre swamp.



#### **EASEMENT**

**6.5 ACRES**  
SANS SOUCI

#### **DONATED ANONYMOUSLY**

This easement protects part of an island in Sans Souci that consists mainly of treed rock barren. It provides critical habitat for several at-risk species, which would suffer greatly were the property to be developed.



#### **KATERJAN ISLAND**

**64 ACRES**  
SANS SOUCI

#### **DONATED ANONYMOUSLY**

This spectacular property is one of the few remaining large, undeveloped islands in southeastern Georgian Bay. We are thrilled to protect its forests, wetlands, and shoreline in their natural state forever.



#### **COGNASHENE RESERVE**

**5 ACRES**  
COGNASHENE

#### **DONATED ANONYMOUSLY**

The Cognashene Reserve contains a notable mixture of habitats for its relatively small size, conserving a bog, rock barrens, forest, and a coastal marsh. This proximity of varied habitats is highly valuable to animal life.



#### **THE KENNEDY ISLANDS**

**1.7 ACRES**  
BAYFIELD  
INLET

#### **DONATED BY ROSS & ANN KENNEDY**

The Kennedy Islands are classic Georgian Bay rock and pine, beloved not only by humans but by birds, turtles, and snakes as well. Conserving them helps protect the ecological integrity of the 50-island archipelago of which they are a part.

# STEWARD

## Working alongside communities to monitor and maintain wilderness lands forever



### **VOLUNTEER STEWARDS & CONSERVATION INTERNS**

The backbone of our stewardship program is our Volunteer Stewards and Summer Conservation Interns. Last year they completed 181 monitoring visits to our protected properties, and conducted stewardship tasks including invasive species removal, garbage cleanup, sign and Motus tower repair, species at risk reporting, and public outreach.



### **PHRAGMITES REMOVAL**

Our efforts to keep our protected properties and surrounding areas free of invasive Phragmites continued in 2022. This is a project that requires annual monitoring and effort, as new patches spring up, and some existing patches regrow. However, we are pleased to see progress in terms of reduced or eliminated growth at multiple sites, and to have contained the spread to within manageable levels.



### **PROPERTY INVENTORIES**

2022's biggest stewardship task was the systematic re-inventorying of our properties initiated by our new Protected Areas Manager, Aaron Rusak. Throughout the spring, summer, and fall, Aaron visited the majority of our conservation areas and made detailed lists of all the plant and animal species found on each one. These lists give us a snapshot of the current state of each property, which we can compare with past and future lists to track changes over time. They answer questions like: are invasive species spreading? Are at-risk species appearing or disappearing on particular properties? How are habitats changing, and what impact does this have on animal life? All of this information will help us make the best possible stewardship plans for each property, and identify any problems that need addressing.



# LEARN

**Advancing scientific knowledge by collaborating with academic partners and using our properties to support research in the biosphere**



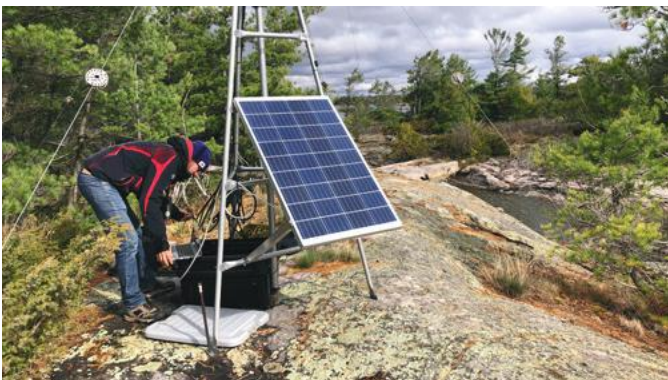
## **BIRD MOVEMENT RESEARCH WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

This was our second year welcoming scientists from the University of Western Ontario to study bird behaviour on our properties. The scientists tagged and banded a number of species, and tracked their movements in order to determine which Georgian Bay habitats they make use of during the post-nesting season.



## **BAT MONITORING WITH ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (OLTA)**

We continued our collaboration with OLTA to track the abundance of bats on our properties by recording their calls through automated passive recorders. Four of Georgian Bay's bat species are designated at-risk, and understanding their distribution and habitat use is an important part of conservation.



## **MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING PROGRAM WITH BIRD STUDIES CANADA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Our nine Motus wildlife tracking stations continued to collect important data on bird movements from Port Severn to Pointe au Baril. These towers have tracked birds tagged by scientists on the western and southern sides of the continent, contributing to international research.



## **JEFFERSON SALAMANDER RESEARCH WITH MCMASTER UNIVERSITY**

For the first time, we welcomed students from McMaster to our properties to conduct research on water quality and salamander populations. The students took water samples from wetlands and vernal pools, which they then analyzed for Jefferson salamander DNA. This is part of region-wide research to determine where this endangered salamander is breeding, and thus identify key sites for conservation.

# INSPIRE

## Bringing communities together and cultivating the next generation of conservationists that will protect our land and species



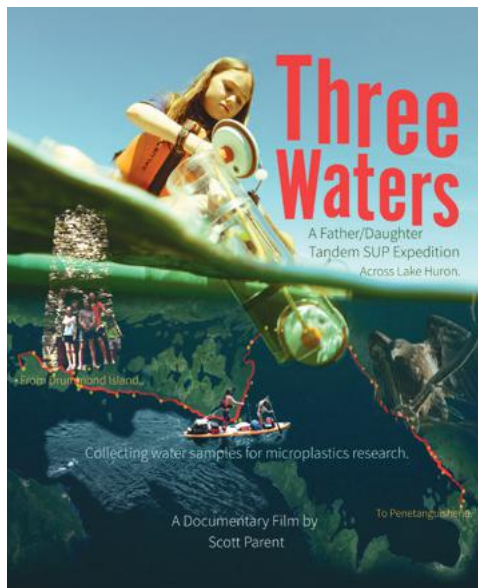
We loved welcoming people to our protected properties for staff-led **NATURE WALKS**, where we could together explore the amazing flora and fauna around us.



Our **VIRTUAL LANDMARK SPEAKER SERIES** continued to reach people near and far, with topics including nature's role in climate solutions, sustainable urban planning, fall bird migration, and art as environmental activism.



Our wonderful Summer Conservation Interns brought the **CONSERVATION QUEST** kids' program back to camps around Georgian Bay, teaching kids about our local plants and animals, and how to be good stewards of the environment.



We were delighted to host a screening of **THREE WATERS**, an inspiring documentary about a father-daughter paddling and microplastic sampling expedition along the coast of Georgian Bay, which was supported by our **KING FAMILY BURSARY**.



**2000+** visitors enjoyed our conservation properties in the ways they love best: picnicking, hiking, swimming, paddling, and more.



# FINANCIALS

## Georgian Bay Land Trust

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | Year Ended December 31, 2022

ASSETS	2022	2021
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	396,194	318,358
Sundry receivables	14,560	77,000
HST rebate receivable	14,096	8,320
Prepays	14,367	28,654
	<u>439,217</u>	<u>432,332</u>
Stewardship Funds and Endowment	1,800,611	1,796,961
Sheila MacFeeters Memorial Fund	200,288	200,288
Wally and Marilyn King and Family Fund	115,115	115,115
John Catto Conservation Fund	200,000	200,000
Conservation Lands Securement Fund	558,554	553,266
Conservation Working Fund	3,045,987	2,690,445
Property and Equipment	44,541,249	39,020,391
	<u>50,901,021</u>	<u>45,008,798</u>

### LIABILITIES

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,118	25,518
Deferred contributions	—	—
	<u>17,118</u>	<u>25,518</u>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	422,099	406,814
Internally Restricted Net Assets	3,804,541	3,443,711
Externally Restricted Net Assets	2,116,014	2,112,364
Net Assets Invested in Property	44,541,249	39,020,391
	<u>50,883,903</u>	<u>44,983,280</u>
	<u>50,901,021</u>	<u>45,000,398</u>

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE | Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE	2022	2021
Donations & Grants	338,856	386,147
Grants for Creating New Nature Reserves	452,275	260,184
Georgian Bay Book Sales (net)	2,166	2,059
Events (net)	57,234	71,971
Investment	234,689	917,773
	<u>1,085,220</u>	<u>1,638,134</u>

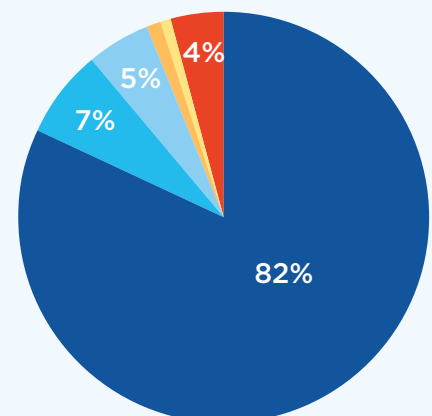
### OPERATING EXPENSES

Land & Wetland Protection	272,851	252,243
Conservation Stewardship & Research	179,242	167,777
Conservation Communications & Education	117,183	101,106
Fundraising	90,845	84,121
Administration	107,790	97,442
	<u>767,911</u>	<u>702,689</u>
Excess Revenue over Expenses	317,309	935,445
Funds and Revenues Dedicated or Used to Create New Nature Reserves	(304,858)	(893,283)
	<u>12,451</u>	<u>42,162</u>

### CAPITAL REVENUE

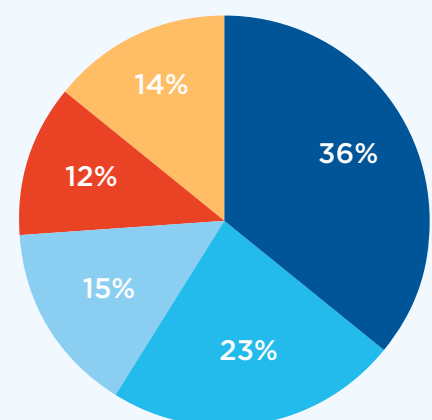
Donations: Externally Restricted Funds	8,650	809,157
Donations: Internally Restricted Funds	90,770	166,068
Value of Land Secured	5,486,000	1,014,000
	<u>5,585,420</u>	<u>1,989,225</u>

### REVENUE



- Donations of Land
- Grants Received & Used to Secure New Nature Reserves
- Annual Giving, Grants & Other Income
- Investment Income
- Event Income (net) (1%)
- Donations to Restricted Funds (1%)

### EXPENSES



- Land & Wetland Protection
- Conservation Stewardship & Research
- Conservation Communications & Education
- Fundraising & Development
- Administration

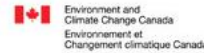
The Georgian Bay Trust Foundation, Inc.  
(operating as Georgian Bay Land Trust)  
Reg. Charity # 13195 8811 RR0001 Complete audited  
financial statements are available upon request

# PARTNERS

## Many Thanks to our Generous Sponsors



## Partners



Environment Canada  
Ecological Gifts Program

Glencairn Wine  
Merchants

Great Lakes Basin  
Conservancy



# THANK YOU

## Cumulative Giving

### LUMINARIES

Over \$500,000

John & Margaret Catto  
Bill & Carol Prior

### VISIONARIES

Over \$300,000

Geordie Dalglish Family  
Robert & Julia Foster  
Wally & Marilyn King

### AMBASSADORS

Over \$200,000

Echo Foundation  
Sheila MacFeeters & Michael Williams  
Robin & Robert Ogilvie  
Sandy & Marilyn Phillips  
Weston Family Foundation  
Annabelle White

### CHAMPIONS

Over \$100,000

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Galen & Hilary Weston  
Janny Vincent  
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### PIONEERS

Over \$50,000

Rick Balaz  
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Over \$20,000

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Robert Thomson  
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George Wilson  
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Donald Paton Wright  
Barbara Zimmerman  
Anonymous Donors

# DONORS

Your generous donations ensure that Georgian Bay's wilderness lands are protected in perpetuity. We are honoured to celebrate the following supporters who made gifts from January 1 through December 31, 2022.

## PROTECTED PROPERTIES

*Our deepest appreciation to those who donated property or conservation easements, or made contributions for land protection projects in 2022:*

### **Cognashene Reserve, Cognashene**

Anonymous (3)

### **Easement, Sans Souci**

Anonymous

### **Katerjan Island, Sans Souci**

Anonymous

### **The Kennedy Islands, Bayfield Inlet**

Ross & Ann Kennedy

### **The Kerry & AJ Mueller Easement, Otter Lake**

Kerry & Achim Mueller

### **Conservation Lands Securement Fund**

Michael Douglas  
Glenn & Karen Root  
Ida Lynn Stankie

## STEWARDSHIP FUNDS

*Stewardship Funds are long-term investments that support the ongoing annual stewardship of our protected properties. Thank you to those who made contributions in 2022:*

### **Legacy Stewardship Fund**

Gary Bouck

### **Andy Griggs Memorial Fund, Pointe au Baril**

### **Dave & Bev Stager Sandy Island Stewardship Fund, Sandy & Martyr Islands**

### **Douglas & Marylon Alexander Stewardship Fund, Wah Wah Taysee**

Douglas & Ruth Grant  
Anonymous

### **Watson Family Stewardship Fund, Cognashene, Go Home Bay & Honey Harbour**

Peter S. Watson

## WALLY & MARILYN KING FAMILY FUND

*The Wally & Marilyn King Family Fund supports initiatives that increase knowledge and appreciation of the environment, culture, and communities of eastern Georgian Bay and the North Channel. Thank you to those who made contributions in 2022:*

### **Wally & Marilyn King**

## PLEDGE FOR THE BAY

*The five-year Pledge for the Bay enables the Land Trust to better plan for the future in land protection, stewardship, education, and outreach, knowing resources are in place from committed supporters. Thank you to these supporters for your generous pledges:*

### **Leader of the Bay (\$25,000 over 5 years)**

Jennifer Ivey Bannock  
The Bowman Family  
Dr. & Mrs. T.J. Cooper  
Fred & Sue Dalley  
Doug & Sue Grundy  
Mason Family Foundation  
Paul & Martha McLean  
Robin & Robert Ogilvie  
Francie & John Pepper  
Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson  
Tom & Pamela Scoon

## ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

*Our achievements are shared with our generous supporters who care about the conservation of Georgian Bay as much as we do. Thank you to all those who made contributions in 2022:*

### **\$100,000 - \$249,999**

Great Lakes Basin Conservancy  
Sandy Phillips

### **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Ontario Trillium Foundation

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson

### **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Environment & Climate  
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The Langar Foundation  
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James Mosher  
Kerry & Achim Mueller  
Pamela & Tom Scoon  
John & Victoria Tremayne

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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Dr. & Mrs. T.J. Cooper  
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Wally & Marilyn King  
Paul McLean  
Peter Newell  
Nosreap Family Foundation  
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Glenn & Karen Root  
Sean Stewart & Christine Beck  
Val & Rob Thompson  
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Richard (Dirk) Vanderkooy

### **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

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Valerie Zawilski  
Anonymous (6)

### **\$500 - \$999**

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Arnts The Landscape  
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Virginia & Randall Barbato  
Allan R. Barnes &  
Shirley Coleman



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 Christoph Stoll  
 Michael & Melinda Tabor  
 Mary Dawn Thomson  
 Don Wheeler  
 Mark & Sarah Whitener  
 George & Helen Will  
 Anonymous

#### **\$150 - \$499**

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 Pam Aitken  
 Dominic Auld & Flo Panizza  
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 Graeme Bate  
 David & Christine Bennett  
 Marty Bingham  
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 Judy Baker  
 Barbara Barrett  
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 Sarah Bradshaw  
 John Catto  
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 Ian Grant  
 Arthur Stirling Halpenny  
 Jane Hansuld  
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 George C. Heintzman  
 Roy Hlohinec  
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 Beverly Hunter  
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*Including a gift to the Georgian Bay Land Trust in your will or estate plans is a special way to leave a legacy to wilderness. Thank you to those who have planned a future gift:*

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Jon Grant  
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*If you would like to leave your legacy for the Bay we all love, please contact Janet at 416.440.1519 x 104 or janet.brough@gblt.org.*

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*In preparing this report, we have tried our best to be as accurate as possible. If there is an omission or a spelling error, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at 416.440.1519 x102 or info@gblt.org so that we can update our records.*

## OUR TEAM

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**Aaron Rusak**  
Protected Areas Manager

**Janet Brough**  
Senior Development Officer

**Sarah Koetsier**  
Communications Director  
& Office Administrator

**Eleanor Proctor**  
Land Procurement Assistant

**Irina Denissova**  
Bookkeeper

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### OUR MISSION

The Georgian Bay Land Trust acts to protect wilderness lands and species along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and the North Channel and its near watershed, through strategic conservation planning, land securement, stewardship, research, and education.

### OUR VISION

An eastern Georgian Bay and North Channel whose islands, shores, and inland watersheds are connected and strengthened by a network of protected natural lands and habitats, where native species thrive and people interact with the natural world.

### OUR VALUES

Love and respect for our special place; Integrity and commitment to our work; Inspiring others to preserve this natural wonder.

Georgian Bay Trust Foundation, Inc. operating as Georgian Bay Land Trust  
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