



ANNUAL REPORT 2020







PROTECTING the WILDERNESS of our UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO







Conservation LEADERSHIP on Georgian Bay



PROTECTING the WILDERNESS of our UNIQUE ARCHIPELAGO









DEAR FRIENDS

2020 created an environment in which the Georgian Bay Land Trust had to be both resourceful and creative in our mission to secure ecologically significant lands, protect habitats and species, and provide open spaces for community engagement.

As COVID-19 restrictions began, we spent time stress testing our conservation plan and implementing creative ways to keep in touch with our growing supporter base. Now looking back, I believe 2020 made our organization stronger and more resilient going forward. We can all be proud of the accomplishments, many of which are listed in the following pages.

This year we protected three new natural places, including the 286-acre Rose Island Nature Reserve. This property, which contains some of the last remaining old-growth forest in Southern Ontario and 70 acres of wetland habitat, will welcome the public and school groups to its existing trail network. We are also delighted to introduce two new Conservation Easements, the 30.5 acre Roberts Island Reserve and 9.9 acre Halpenny Easement.

Our involvement with the Motus wildlife tracking network expanded significantly in 2020, with four new tracking stations added to Georgian Bay Land Trust properties, bringing our total to nine. These stations contribute to international research on migratory birds and insects, including a local study on at-risk Whippoor-wills and Nighthawks being conducted by PhD student Elora Grahame.

Stewardship of Georgian Bay Land Trust properties received a significant boost this year with the creation of the John Catto Conservation Fund, a generous legacy from one of our most steadfast supporters. We will draw on this fund for years to come to support habitat restoration, research studies, and daily stewardship tasks.

Finally, our Executive Director Bill Lougheed has been volunteering his time and expertise as a key member of the Canadian Land Trusts Working Group. This group has played a leading role in developing the \$20 million, federally-funded Land Trusts Conservation Fund, which is on track to help protect over 25,000 acres across Canada by 2023.

This year marks the Georgian Bay Land Trust's 30th anniversary. A special committee was struck to organize and celebrate this milestone. Please keep an eye out for upcoming communications and an array of specialty items that you can purchase commemorating the Georgian Bay Land Trust.

Strong organizations are built not only with talented individuals but also underlying continuity in its people. We are blessed to have great leadership from Bill and his wonderful staff: Janet, Sarah, Brooks and Irina. To the board members, advisors, and volunteers, I can't thank you enough for your enthusiasm and continued support over this past year.

And to all our donors who continue year after year to support our mission, I'm forever grateful. The Georgian Bay Land Trust continues to do great work on the Bay thanks to all of you.



DAVID DORITTY
Board Chair



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

ECOSYSTEM MAPPING

The Georgian Bay Land Trust is leading work to update eastern Georgian Bay's ecosystem mapping as part of our collaborative 4-year project with the Georgian Bay Biosphere, Magnetawan First Nation, and Shawanaga First Nation to improve outcomes for species at risk. This mapping, the bulk of which was completed in 2020, will have a significant impact on environmental planning throughout our region.

The project includes comprehensively mapping key habitat types and their relationships with each other, as well as their position within the current network of protected areas and existing and planned human development. These maps can be compared with the habitat requirements of individual species at risk to identify which pieces of land are most likely to support target species.



When they are complete, these maps will feed into a digital biodiversity atlas accessible to everyone making planning decisions in the area. They will allow users to look at any individual piece of land, understand its ecological role and the species it likely supports, and see how it ranks in terms of conservation priority within the landscape. This will provide municipalities, organizations, and other stakeholders with the tools to include at-risk species and conservation planning in decision making for years to come.

PHRAGMITES MAPPING

In the fall of 2020, the Georgian Bay Land Trust team drove nearly the entirety of our region's public roads to map each location of the invasive reed *Phragmites*. This map will be used to plan targeted *Phragmites* removal over the next few years, and as a baseline for continued monitoring of this plant's spread throughout the region. Ultimately, this will help slow and reverse the spread of *Phragmites* through Georgian Bay's road network, and prevent it from invading adjacent wetlands and water bodies.

CANADIAN LAND TRUSTS WORKING GROUP

2020 was the Georgian Bay Land Trust's third year as a key member of the Canadian Land Trusts Working Group, which has worked alongside Environment and Climate Change Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada, and the Nature Conservancy of Canada to develop the \$20 million, federally-funded Land Trusts Conservation Fund. This fund provides a significant boost to conservation across the country, and has enabled land trusts to plan and implement more ambitious land protection projects. Already, the program has helped to fund the conservation of over 15,000 acres across Canada, which provide habitat for over 60 species at risk, and is on track to protect over 25,000 acres by the time it wraps up in 2023. The Georgian Bay Land Trust has protected 347 acres on Georgian Bay with support from the fund.

PROTECT

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



The Rose Island Nature Reserve protects the remaining 286 undeveloped acres of the 400-acre Rose Island, which has long been a priority for conservation due to its ecological significance. This property contains some of the last remaining old-growth forest in Southern Ontario, and 70 acres of very productive wetlands. It is home to at least ten species at risk, including the Monarch, Eastern Foxsnake, and Blanding's Turtle.

The Rose Island Nature Reserve will provide opportunities for people to enjoy and learn about nature through an existing trail system that will be open to the public and school groups. It also protects a critical link in a coastal migration corridor for the region's animals. Thank you to the many generous supporters who have made protection of this remarkable place possible!



ROBERTS ISLAND RESERVE

30.5 ACRE
EASEMENT
HONEY HARBOUR



Roberts Island straddles the transition between northern Shield and southern Moraine, and is home to a diverse mix of flora and fauna from both regions. This property protects a link in coastal migration routes, and includes a large Provincially Significant Wetland which provides habitat for several species at risk.



HALPENNY EASEMENT

9.9 ACRE EASEMENT COGNASHENE

DONATED BY BETH & TOM HALPENNY

A secluded marsh surrounded by forest and rock barrens makes the Halpenny Easement ideal habitat for Georgian Bay's animals. This property is home to an impressive fourteen species at risk, including a number of turtles and snakes, two bat species, Eastern Whip-poor-will, and Canada Warbler.

STEWARD

Working alongside communities to monitor and maintain wilderness lands forever



PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP

Our Volunteer Stewards and Summer Conservation Interns continued their excellent work caring for the Georgian Bay Land Trust's 64 protected properties. In 2020, they cleaned up garbage and dismantled fire pits, removed invasive plants, interacted with visitors, tracked at-risk species, and more.



JOHN CATTO CONSERVATION FUND

A generous legacy from longtime supporter John Catto has enabled the creation of this memorial stewardship fund, which will be used to restore habitats, develop conservation plans, monitor species, and support scientific studies. It will also help support the Georgian Bay Land Trust's daily work to keep our conservation properties clean and well cared for, and to provide environmental learning opportunities for visitors and community members.



PHRAGMITES REMOVAL

In 2020, we expanded our *Phragmites* removal efforts beyond Georgian Bay Land Trust properties to include all patches along Ogemawahj Road. By removing this invasive reed from the roadway, we are protecting the extensive wetland habitats on either side from the spread of *Phragmites* and resultant habitat destruction.



COVID-19

A new stewardship task this year was ensuring that Georgian Bay Land Trust properties could serve as safe places for people to enjoy nature during a global pandemic. Our Summer Conservation Interns and Volunteer Stewards did an excellent job ensuring that social distancing and capacity guidelines were followed, as did the many visitors who came out to spend time in nature.

LEARN

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



MASSASAUGA GESTATION SITE MONITORING WITH THE GEORGIAN BAY BIOSPHERE RESERVE (GBBR)

Our Summer Conservation Interns continued this multi-year study into Massasauga breeding success by monitoring known and suspected gestation sites for signs of mothers or young.



EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL AND COMMON NIGHTHAWK STUDY WITH THE NORRIS LAB AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

PhD student Elora Grahame continued her study on breeding habits and nestling survival among Eastern Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks by using GBLT-funded Motus towers to track these at-risk birds.



MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING PROGRAM WITH BIRD STUDIES CANADA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We significantly expanded our network of Motus wildlife tracking stations in 2020, adding four new stations between Sans Souci and Nares Inlet to complement our existing five further south. These stations provide crucial data on the movements of migratory birds and insects to researchers around the world.



BAT MONITORING WITH ONTARIO LAND TRUST ALLIANCE (OLTA)

2020 marked the 5th year of our collaboration with the Ontario Land Trust Alliance to study Georgian Bay's four endangered bat species. This year, we installed passive bat call detectors at two new locations in Cognashene and Go Home Bay to gain additional information about bat distribution and abundance.

INSPIRE

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

Connecting with nature felt more important than ever in 2020. As the year progressed, we worked to find new ways of inspiring our community remotely, and discovered that virtual opportunities allowed many new people to engage with our activities.



VIRTUAL LANDMARK SPEAKER SERIES brought 500+ people together over zoom to learn from experts on a variety of conservation topics, including turtles, climate change, and migratory bird research.



AT-HOME CONSERVATION QUEST provided 10 weeks of educational and exploratory activities to help kids connect with the nature around them at home.



IN-PERSON EVENTS including Yoga on the Rocks and

Walking for Wilderness brought our community together in safe and refreshing ways.



4,200+ people connected through social media with nature photography, learning opportunities, and at-home activities.



16 PUBLIC-ACCESS PROPERTIES

opened to socially-distanced visitors in June, providing 1,180 acres of safe outdoor places for families to relax and enjoy the natural world.

FINANCIALS

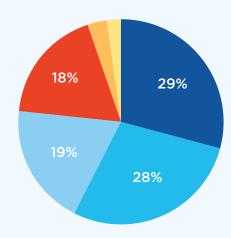
Georgian Bay Land Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | Year Ended December 31, 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
CURRENT		
Cash	311,294	210,058
Sundry receivables	75,532	18,930
HST rebate receivable	41,888	8,661
Prepaids	7,866	13,564
	436,580	251,213
Stewardship Funds and Endowment	1,635,893	1,585,593
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	_
Conservation Lands Securement Fund	553,877	553,877
Conservation Working Fund	1,000,000	650,000
Property and Equipment	37,946,624	37,354,061
	42,088,377	40,710,147
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	36,838	39,460
Deferred Contributions	_	-
	36,838	39,460
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	399,742	211,753
Internally Restricted Net Assets	1,753,877	1,203,877
Externally Restricted Net Assets	1,951,296	1,900,996
Net Assets Invested In Property	37,946,624	37,354,061
	42,051,539	40,670,687
	42,088,377	40,710,147

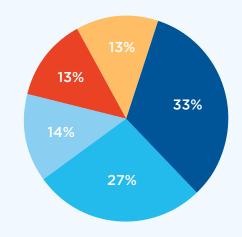
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2020			
OPERATING REVENUE	2020	2019	
Donations & Grants	605,247	517,579	
Grants for New Nature Reserves	382,563	1,131,908	
Georgian Bay Book Sales (net)	3,100	2,710	
Events (net)	47,716	29,472	
Investment	400,610	587,484	
	1,439,236	2,269,153	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Land & Wetland Protection	190,994	227,838	
Conservation Stewardship & Research	153,226	128,172	
Conservation Communications & Education	79,545	86,318	
Fundraising	72,066	81,827	
Administration	76,219	85,442	
	572,050	609,597	
Excess Revenue over Expenses Grants and 2020 Revenues Used	867,186	1,659,556	
to Create New Nature Reserves	(382,563)	(525,744)	
	484,623	1,133,812	
CAPITAL REVENUE			
Donations: Externally Restricted Funds	55,300	32,924	
Donations: Internally Restricted Funds	248,366	56,700	
Value of Land Secured	592,563	4,192,908	
	896,229	4,282,532	

REVENUE



- Annual Giving, Grants & Other Income
- Donations of Land
- Investment Income
- Grants Received & Used to Secure
- New Nature Reserves
- Donations to Restricted Funds (3%)Event Income (net) (2%)

EXPENSES



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

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

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Bayfield Nares Islanders Association
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Cognashene Cottagers Association
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Many Thanks to our Generous Sponsors















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THANK YOU

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Over \$500,000 John & Margaret Catto

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Over \$300,000 Geordie Dalglish Family Robert & Julia Foster Wally & Marilyn King

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Over \$200.000 Echo Foundation Sheila MacFeeters & Michael Williams Weston Family Foundation Annabelle White

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DONORS

Your generous donations ensure that the spectacular wilderness of our unique archipelago is protected in perpetuity. We are honoured to celebrate the following supporters who made gifts from January 1 through December 31, 2020.

PROTECTED PROPERTIES

Our deepest appreciation to those who donated property or conservation easements, or made contributions for land protection projects in 2020:

Halpenny Easement, Cognashene

Beth & Tom Halpenny

Roberts Island Reserve, Honey Harbour

Jill Hodgins Ukrainec & Terry Ukrainec

Rose Island Nature Reserve, Carling

Ken & Margaret Andras Bartram-Thomas Family Echo Foundation Environment & Climate Change Canada Jean Friedel Brian & Jean Fuller Susan Golets Ralph Grose Barbara Hayes lan & Louise Hayes Mark Hyland & Carolyn Smith & Family Teresa Long & Tom & Katherine Denune The MapleCross Fund McGowan Bartram Family The McLean Foundation Ulrike Meyer Mr. & Mrs. Brad Sanders Paul Smith Westerly Family Bruce & Maggie Youngblood Valerie Zawilski

Land Acquisition Fund

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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
Tim & Ann Bowman
Dr. T. James & Maureen Cooper
Fred & Sue Dalley
Ann & David Doritty
Doug & Sue Grundy
Mason Family Foundation
Paul & Martha McLean
Robin & Robert Ogilvie
Francie & John Pepper
Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson
Tom & Pamela Scoon

STEWARDSHIP FUNDS

Stewardship Funds are longterm investments that support the ongoing annual stewardship of our protected properties. Thank you to those who made contributions in 2020:

Legacy Stewardship Fund

Estate of John Catto Anonymous

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*

Michael Wenban & Virginia Froman-Wenban

Rose Island Stewardship Fund, *Carling*

Weston Family Foundation

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

Caroline Grose 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 2020:

Wally & Marilyn King

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 2020:

\$100,000 - \$249,999

Estate of John Catto Environment & Climate Change Canada Valerie Zawilski

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Great Lakes Basin Conservancy The MapleCross Fund

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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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:

Wally King Legacy Circle

Dr. Ralph S. & Caroline Grose Dr. David R. & Susan Herbold Wally & Marilyn King Donald & Lorraine Lawson Peter S. Watson Anonymous

Legacy Stewardship Gifts

Peter & Cathy Cooper Susan Forrester & Frederick Dalley Ann & David Doritty Jon Grant Dr. Ralph S. & Caroline Grose Donald & Lorraine Lawson Peter S. Watson

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.

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Janny Vincent
Barbara Zimmerman











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 120 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 1000 | Toronto, ON | M4P 1E2 416.440.1519 | www.gblt.org







