GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER

NEWSLETTER Vol. 13 Issue 3 FALL 2022

Featured in this Issue

Species At Risk Spotligh

Zebra and Quagga Mussels: Invasive Species in Georgian Bay

Guest Writer Nadine Perron of the Magnetawan First Nation

SPECIES AT RISK

Georgian Bay Forever protects the water; pure and simple. We protect an ecosystem that is unique in its structure and diversity, a habitat rich in variation that includes sheltered inlets, rivers, ponds, coastal wetlands, open waters, and forest gateways. Georgian Bay includes the world's largest freshwater archipelago composed of over 30,000 islands, with the most biodiverse population of reptiles and amphibians in Canada, and more coastline than Lake Ontario, supporting the life of hundreds of different mammals, birds, insects, and fish. Of the myriad life in Georgian Bay and the surrounding area, unfortunately, over fifty species are at risk due mainly to human interference. But there is hope.

Every person can help in some way to mitigate the threat to our wildlife, and we hope you will be inspired to act, and to help us protect the water that so many beloved creatures call home.

A Note About Freshwater Ecosystems

From Nicole Carpenter, Science Projects Manager

Freshwater is essential for all living organisms on Earth. It is the most precious resource in the world that supports both ecosystems and human civilization, and it is threatened by climate change, population growth, pollution, and more. We can't have healthy ecosystems and thriving populations without clean water. What we do as an organization is imperative to the health of Georgian Bay's freshwater ecosystem and we are committed to protecting these waters and the species that live here.





A Message from Terry Clark, Chair of **Georgian Bay Forever**



GBF is excited about the evolving opportunities and challenges on Georgian Bay that lie ahead. We are poised to embrace and meet them with an experienced and dedicated group of Board members and Executive Director, great staff and volunteers. data-driven research and take action to protect the

The challenge of climate change is an ever-present reality as we focus on Great Lakes water quality, the protection of precious coastal wetlands and changes focus GBF on the tremendous biodiversity of Georgian Bay and the importance of our work and collaboration with others on the protection

Recently, Environment Climate Change Canada the long-awaited data-based study on Future Hydroclimate Variables and Lake Levels. GBF has been assessing previews of the ECCC study, which predicts huge extremes of fluctuating water levels; and we will be combining the results of the ECCC study with our own research to evaluate the threats

As always, GBF's goals will be to inform better public on how our lifestyle impacts our aquatic environment and what we can do to make it better.

Georgian Bay Forever is a community response to the growing need for major research and education to sustain the Georgian Bay aquatic ecosystem and the quality of life its communities and visitors enjoy.

> We help monitor the Bay's well-being, throughout the seasons, year after year.

We fund the research needed to protect the environmental health of Georgian Bay and the surrounding bodies of water. Using our research findings, we inform and educate the general public and governments about threats to environmental health, and propose possible solutions.

Through workshops, seminars, and online communication, we are educating the Georgian Bay community. By teaming up with reputable institutions, we enhance the credibility of our research and strengthen our ability to protect what's at stake.

Georgian Bay Forever is a registered Canadian charity (#89531 1066 RR0001). We work with the Great Lakes Basin Conservancy in the United States, as well as other stakeholder groups all around the Great Lakes.

Deeply rooted and broadly drawn, Georgian Bay Forever is steered by lifelong devotees of the Bay. We are committed advocates, educators, environmentalists, realists, idealists, and of course, residents.

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OUR CONTACT DETAILS Georgian Bay Forever PO Box 75347, Leslie St., Toronto, ON M4M 1B3 tel: 905-880-4945

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You can reach David Sweetnam, our Executive Director at ed@gbf.org or at 905-880-4945, ext 1.

Canadian citizens may send their donations to the address above. U.S. citizens wishing to make a donation to support our work can do so by giving to: Great Lakes Basin Conservancy PO Box 504, Gates Mills, OH 44040-0504, USA

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This newsletter is just a snapshot of our work. For the most up-to-date information on our projects, longer versions of newsletter articles, and breaking news about Georgian Bay, please become a regular visitor to our Facebook page and website: **GBF.ORG**

Design and Editing by Laura Thipphawong

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Quick Wins: How You Can Help Protect At-Risk Animals in Ontario

by: Laura Thipphawong, Director of Communications

The environmental issues of today can sometimes feel too big to overcome: climate change, pollution, and habitat loss are among the seemingly impermeable barriers facing us as we look to the future. The good news is that doing your part for the planet, like any other monumental task, is not done with a grand gesture, but with many small and consistent changes. As the adage goes - How do you climb Mt Everest? One step at a time. And while we don't suggest you rush out to climb Everest, the point is well-taken. Here are some easy ways that you can help species at risk in your day-to-day life.

1 - Rewild your outdoor space. You've got property, great! It's yours to do with what you wish, and we know that a well-manicured lawn has long been a source of homeowner pride, but consider giving your outdoor space a more natural aesthetic, and help the environment along the way.

Let leaves sit over winter, it will help prevent flooding and contribute to the natural food cycle. Let dead trees and stumps stay where they fall – they make great homes for local wildlife. And plant native plants and flowers for bees and butterflies to pollinate. Finally, get your space certified with the Canadian Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife-Friendly Habitat, and inspire your neighbors to rewild their spaces too.

${\mathcal 2}$ - Don't feed wild animals.

You probably follow this rule already, but it's important for many reasons. Feeding wild animals like racoons or coyotes can alter the predator population, causing excess pressure on at-risk prey animals like turtles, snakes, and small birds. Furthermore, it can cause predators to act aggressively, endangering themselves, other animals, and people.

3 - Keep your cat indoors and your dog on the leash.

Except in designated off-leash areas, for the turtles' sake. Turtle eggs make an easy snack for natural predators, so we don't need dogs and cats adding to the threat! Fewer than 1% of turtle eggs go on to become adult turtles, and because turtles are often slow to mature, it can take decades to produce a new generation.

It takes the snapping turtle about sixty years to add another turtle to the population through breeding.

4 - Avoid cross-contamination of invasive species.

Always check your boat for any stowaways before you enter a new waterway, you may have picked something up along the way that you will bring into the next lake. Wash your boots and fishing gear as well, and don't dump your bait into the water.

Even on land, it helps to clean off your hiking boots or camping equipment in between trips... just in case.

5 - Observe caution on roadways. Roads are built into natural habitats and require animals to cross through traffic on a regular basis, so slow down on dirt roads, especially in the summer when many animals tend to be more active. Keep a lookout for low-lying animals like turtles who may be attempting to cross, and if it's safe, pull over and help them along.

Our combined efforts go a long way!



SPECIES AT-RISK SPOTLIGHTS

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BY: LAURA THIPPHAWONG



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Massasauga Rattlesnake: Status: Threatened Likely to become endangered if steps are not taken to address factors threatening it.

Little Brown Myotis: Status: Endangered Facing imminent extinction or extirpation.

Bald Eagle - Status: Special Concern May become threatened or endangered due to a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

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There are over 50 species at risk in the Georgian Bay area, all of which are monitored and assessed based on up-to-date science from organizations such as Georgian Bay Forever, and from Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. Once a species is considered at risk by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO), the Endangered Species Act ensures that the species and their habitat are protected.

An ecosystem is a delicate balance, and nearly all species, from the largest animals to micro-organisms, play a role in maintaining the natural processes that keep the atmosphere, climate, and water healthy.

The decline of one species from unnatural causes can lead to a domino effect, the extended consequences of which we may not be fully aware. With the proper conservation efforts, however, many species at risk have been able to bounce back and thrive once again.



They may strike fear in some, with their hefty bodies, keeled scales, and vertical pupils; they're every inch the archetypal cold-blooded killer of peoples' vivid imaginations. The only venomous snake in Ontario and one of only three venomous snakes in all of Canada (the pit viper and western rattlesnake being the others), the Massasauga rattlesnake *is technically* dangerous. Like most feared animals, however, the threat against humans is quite small, while the threat posed by humans has put this snake on the at-risk species list.

The two biggest threats to our rattlesnake are habitat loss, and human persecution Unfortunately, this peaceful and shy snake is routinely hunted and killed by people while in all of Ontario's recorded history there have been only two deaths as a result of snake bites — both over fifty years ago. But in the unlikely event that you are bitten, don't panic, and try not to exert yourself. Get to a hospital as calmly and safely as possible where you will be treated with antivenom. Clinics in the Georgian Bay area are stocked with the necessary antivenom to treat this bite, and the Toronto Zoo carries reserves in case of low stock.

While non-fatal bites by this snake are also uncommon at an average of two bites a year, it's still important that we exercise caution while travelling in rattler territory. Wear boots when hiking the Georgian Bay coast, and never reach or step through areas you can't see into. If you see a snake, count yourself as lucky to have witnessed this elusive creature, and don't harass it! Harassment includes screaming, poking at it, or throwing things in its direction. The Massasauga rattlesnake wants to live a quiet life, and will not bite unless it feels severely threatened.

Aside from leaving it alone, there are things you can do to help this amazing animal. Slow down on roads to avoid hitting them with your car, do your part to combat habitat loss and pollution, and report any instance of people killing snakes to the MNR at <u>1-877-TIPSMNR</u>. And spread the word: under the Endangered Species Act, killing a Massasauga rattlesnake carries a fine of \$250,000, while the penalty for selling one is set at a million dollars. The bat may not be everyone's favourite, but let's reconsider this often-misunderstood animal. Bats play a vital role in the ecosystem, contributing to pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal, which greatly aids in the function of the agricultural industry. The presence of bats saves billions of dollars in crop damage every year in North America, all while reducing the need for an abundance of pesticides.

Bats are also adorable! And their capricious flight patterns are a marvel to watch on a moonlit evening when they take to the sky for their own brand of nature's ballet. But unfortunately, habitat loss and an invasive European fungus have severely threatened the bat population in Canada, putting them on the endangered list.

Since bats forage over water for insects, GBF's work to keep our shores as natural and biodiverse as possible directly impacts the health of the bat population. You can help save these quirky critters from extinction too, by helping in our quest to conserve our waters, and by being a good steward: report unusual behaviour or a dead bat to the <u>Natural Resources Information Centre</u> 1-800-667-1940, or report a roost at <u>BatWatch.ca</u> so they can keep track of Canada's bat population. Don't enter non-commercial caves, there are plenty around Georgian Bay, and leave that old shack or dead tree on your property, they make great bat homes.

Or, if you would like to give the bats a fancy new place to stay, install a bat box on your land. Putting up a little home for local bats is a proactive way to help directly contribute to the population of these indispensable Canadian species.







The bald eagle's rehabilitation is a great example of a success story for a species on the brink of extinction. In the 1960s, eagles in North America were nearly wiped out due to the effects of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), a chemical once found in pesticides, with widespread usage spiking in 1959. The chemicals leeched into the natural bodies of water and contaminated the fish, a main source of food for eagles who live in lakeside forests.

The effects of DDT caused eagle and other large raptor eggs to become thin and brittle, cracking and leaving them unviable before they had the chance to properly incubate. Prompted by Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, the public demanded a discontinuation of DDT; in 1972 the Environmental Protection Act banned the use of DDT in the US, with Canada following suit, regulating the distribution of DDT in 1985 and banning it in 1990 under the Pest Control Products Act.

In the 1970s there were ten breeding pairs of bald eagles in Ontario, reaching an all-time low of three pairs in the 1980s; today there are over 100 pairs in Ontario and a population of approximately 1,400, a response that <u>Bird Studies Canada</u> called: "one of the greatest wildlife recoveries in Ontario history". The bald eagle went from a classification of *endangered* to *special concern*, a vast improvement, but still within the at-risk spectrum. *Special concern* in species at-risk-terms means that a species could likely become threatened or endangered due to known threats.

Today the threats to the bald eagle in Ontario include habitat loss in the form of shoreline development, water pollution, and lead poisoning – when hunters use ammunition containing lead it contaminates carrion and gut piles that eagles feed on. Some ways that you can help the bald eagle population include reducing your waste production, saying no to shoreline development and deforestation, and supporting lead-free hunting and shooting.





Help stop the invasion! Items removed from one water body should be inspected before moving them to another. Boats, off-road tires, float planes, nets, and bait buckets are common transports.

Zebra and Quagga Mussels: Invasive Species in Georgian Bay by David Sweetnam, Executive Director

Shelled organisms on the lakebed, like clams, are part of our native Great Lakes ecosystem. Unfortunately, over the past two decades there has been a radical invasion of our waters by a non-native pair of mussels. The zebra mussels entered our Great Lakes lexicon as a safety concern for bathers due to their sharp shells cutting feet along our rocky shores. Water shoes became the norm. They also started attaching to water intakes for cottagers and industry, causing restrictions and blockages and resulting in millions of dollars of clean up maintenance to keep the pipes flowing. Those mussels started to disappear and like everything out of sight means out of mind people thought the problem

had disappeared. But that's when the real problem began.

Quagga mussels followed from their native eastern European waters into our Great Lakes and they began to outcompete the zebra mussels for the algae and nutrients needed to grow. Our calcium rich Georgian Bay offshore waters are now full of bottom-dwelling quagga mussels in the trillions. These mussels have also removed the food source of a major small freshwater shrimp-like prey species called Diporeia – a fatty and protein-rich food source for our Great Lakes fish species resulting in the collapse of the Diporeia populations and our fish populations in the offshore waters of the Bay.

zebra mussels can increase toxic blooms of blue-green algae

It appears that these quagga mussels have particular tastes, spitting out the blue-green algae in favour of their competitor algae species. Algae blooms are increasingly likely to be toxic, as over half a million residents of Toledo, Ohio experienced in 2014 with a do-not-touch-oruse order for the water coming out of their faucets. Those toxins can't be broken down by boiling the water, so safety dictates extreme caution.

> The presence of invasive mussels negatively impacts many native species at risk. When mussels coat the bottom of the lake floor, they change the construction of the sandy and silty habitat that fish such as the endangered lake sturgeon (pictured below) shelter in during their juvenile growth stage.

2022-06-28 DEEP TREKKER -15



Pictured above: an image we took with our Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) of the Georgian Bay floor, covered in a blanket of zebra mussels obscuring all other marine life around them. The algae growing near the mussels on the bottom can also be the source of these toxins that the few tolerant fish, like invasive round goby, can forage amongst and end up bioaccumulating within themselves, resulting in the death of diving birds and fish that eat them. This results in the periodic bird and fish die-offs we have seen along our Georgian Bay shorelines as well as the anoxia produced by rotting algae on the lakebed.

These quagga mussels grow right on top of our native species of shellfish and disrupt their basic functions, choking them out, starving and killing them. Lots of reasons for continued research into this invasive species. herpetofauna: the reptiles and amphibians of a particular region, habitat, or geological period

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Guest Writer

Nadine Perron, Conservation Biologist

Reviewed by Richard Noganosh for the Department of Lands, Resources and Environment at <u>Magnetawan First Nation</u>

The Magnetawan First Nation is within the boundaries of the territory described by the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850, as signed by Chief Pamiquonaishkung. The First Nation was first surveyed in 1853 and confirmed by Order-in-Council in January of 1853. In 1907, an additional tract of land in the Township of Wallbridge was added to the reserve to compensate for an error made in the 1853 survey.

Our Land Base is now 4714.7 Hectares. Our proud heritage of languages includes our Mother tongue of First Nation Ojibway with English also commonly spoken. magfn.com

Managing aakii (ah-key: earth or land) in a Good Way

Magnetawan First Nation consists of continuous wetlands and rock outcrops that provide idyllic habitat for many species at risk in the Georgian Bay, Mnidoo Gamii region. The beautiful flowing Magnetawan River passes through this land; the mouth of the river is integrated as part of the shore of Georgian Bay. Habitat loss and fragmentation are the leading causes of the decline in herpetofauna worldwide (OTCC, 2022). An important consideration of habitat protection is maintaining the connectivity of the land, which aids in species movement. Connectivity is important for all species, unfortunately that also includes invasive species such as Asian Carp, Purple Loosestrife and European *Phragmites*. Rivers, roads, and rails are movement pathways for invasive species, which are currently a challenge in conservation of critical habitats for species at risk such as the Blanding's Turtle and Massasauga Rattlesnake.



Herpetofauna are mid-level species in the food web, meaning they are both predators and prey. They are highly sensitive to changes and disturbance in their environment, therefore they are great indicators of habitat health. This is known as a bioindicator (Holt & Miller, 2010). The absence or significant reduction of herpetofauna within invasive *Phragmites* stands indicates poor habitat health. Invasive *Phragmites* makes for poor habitat due to its impenetrable monoculture growing style that outcompetes native plant species resulting in the reduction of biodiversity in the habitat they invade (OTCC,2022). Mishiikhens (known in English as turtles) hold significant cultural and ecological value to the community. They are the keepers of the wetlands. Wetlands are important for traditional ways of life, they contribute to hunting, trapping, and are habitat for food and medicines. They are equally as important for the environment, contributing to water filtration, floodplains zones, carbon storage and habitat for many different species of wildlife. Wetlands are also essential to wildlife as they provide a space for foraging, travel, nesting, thermoregulation, bathing, predator avoidance, and are habitat for critical life stages of many species.

The Department of Lands, Resources and Environment have many different initiatives and community-based monitoring programs that operate on Magnetawan First Nation. These programs sprouted from the seeds of research and protection of species at risk like turtles and snakes. This year (2022), we celebrated 10 years of species at risk monitoring and road ecology research. The collected data has enabled the department to advise and guide the community in decisions that support and protect the environment in the face of anthropo-



genic development and impacts of climate change. The warming of the planet has brought about more severe and frequent storms, heat waves, droughts, species extinctions, and ocean rise. Climate change puts the natural world and human life at risk. A concern the community has on the impacts of climate change is the increase in abundance of invasive species. Magnetawan First Nation is currently working on an Invasive Species Management Plan to control, prevent and protect our land. A grant from the Invasive Species Center has supported this initiative with program funding to accomplish this goal. Our team is currently managing target patches of phragmites in critical habitats for our at-risk turtles. Maintaining good winter habitat is critical for the survival of turtles as they lack the ability to adapt to change as quickly as other species. We also monitor known hibernation sites to identify changes in population sizes and/or behaviour. Our partnership with McMaster University Ecohydrology

Holt, E. A., & Miller, S. W. (2010). Bioindicators: Using Organisms to Measure Environmental Impacts. Nature Education Knowledge, 3(10), 8.

https://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/bioindicators-using-organisms-to-measure-environmental-impacts-16821310/

NASA. (2022, June 30). Newton's Laws of Motion - Glenn Research Center | NASA. Glenn Research Center. Retrieved August 19, 2022, from https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/beginners-guide-to-aeronautics/newtons-laws-of-motion/

OTCC. (n.d.). Invasive Phragmites. Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre. Retrieved August 19, 2022, from https://ontarioturtle.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/OTCC-Brochure-Phragmites.pdf

Team monitors implications of climate change for culturally significant and at-risk ecology of indigenous resources, measuring indicator variables for species at risk reptile habitat suitability. These environmental variables are of critical importance to species at risk overwintering sites: both snakes and turtles are sensitive to large fluctuations in water levels. Community initiatives are a core value of our department. The knowledge of recognizing the future of our planet is in the hands of the youth has driven our team to develop opportunities to teach our youth in a hands-on landbased approach. This has included in the past many outreach events, summer employment and volunteer opportunities. With partners such as Science North, Toronto Zoo, Georgian Bay Forever, Georgian Bay Biosphere Mnidoo Gamii, we've accomplished a shoreline cleanup, a community garden, and management of invasive species and youth lead outreach education. Holding the ability to pursue the best management or "better than" management practices on Magnetawan First Nation Land is a crucial milestone for the community, it is empowering to have initiative and knowledge in all aspects of environmental issues pursuant to climate change. Newton's Third Law states that every action in nature there is an equal and opposite reaction (NASA, 2022). We at Magnetawan First Nation recognize that everything is interconnected, and we choose to make sure our actions make the smallest opposite reaction. That is how we do our part in ensuring there is healthy habitat left for generations to come.



Carefully weighing a turtle

The Ban on Single-Use Plastics

By Laura Thipphawong

Litter and garbage have been the subject of much focus here at GBF, especially when the litter and garbage contain inordinate amounts of single-use plastics. It's seemed like the uphill battle on plastic pollution would never end, but just when things were at their bleakest, a major change was announced: the **Government** of Canada (GoC) has introduced a plan to significantly reduce the amount of country-wide plastic waste through a ban on singleuse plastics. Here's what you need to know about the Single-Use **Plastics Prohibition Regulations** (SUPPR) and what it means for you and the environment.



The Change

In an effort to address the dire state of our planet's climate and pollution crises, the GoC has implemented a set of regulations that will prohibit the manufacture, sale, and import of excessively wasteful plastic products designed to be used once and then discarded. Things like plastic grocery bags, cutlery, disposable food containers, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws (except when needed for accessibility) will no longer be sold or provided (given for free) in Canada by December 20th, 2023 – June 20th, 2024.

Why it Matters

While Canadians make up less than .05% of the world's population, we account for 1.4% of manufactured plastic, around 3.3 million tonnes a year, 86% of which ends up in landfills where it's burned, dumped, or buried and often makes its way into natural bodies of water – Canada has the longest coastline and more lakes than anywhere else in the world. Our excessive use of plastic greatly contributes



to global pollution, but the prohibition is expected to reduce Canada's plastic waste by 7% over ten years, a critical first step in world-wide improvement.

Foreseeable Impact

The effects of plastic pollution range greatly in scope as toxins enter our landscape and water in mass quantities. The shortand long-term consequences are undeniable: from plastic bottles marring the natural landscape, to microplastic particles contaminating the aquatic ecosystem and wreaking havoc on marine wildlife, plastic waste production is a matter that affects us all.

We thank our supporters for helping us to promote plastic-free waters and create actionable strategies for keeping plastic out of Georgian Bay and all of our irreplicable lakes and oceans.



Prehistoric Georgian Bay

By Laura Thipphawong

Around 450 million years ago, predating the dinosaurs by several eras, the Georgian Bay landscape was a shallow tropical sea. Home to an abundance of marine creatures, the soft, muddy sea floor would undergo a process called lithification, turning sediment into the varied rocky landscape we know today, and preserving a wealth of fossils that can be found along the Bay's coast.

Among some of the best fossil-hunting areas of the Bay are <u>Craigleith</u> <u>Provincial Park</u>, where you can see plenty of imprints on the smooth, flat rocky shores; and Rock Glen, where you'll find Devonian-period (Age of the Fishes) fossils. Some specimens you'll likely stumble upon include ancient marine species like brachiopods, trilobites, and horned corals, but on the rare occasion, fossils of ancient mammals like the three-toed horse, and mastodon have <u>been discovered!</u>

Donor Profile - The Burt Family

Interview by Amber Gordon, Director of Development, Donor Relations

Article by Laura Thipphawong

As a long-time donor and former member of the Board of Directors, Janet Burt has a vested interest in the preservation of the Georgian Bay waters and surrounding lands, but the work done at Georgian Bay Forever is not simply a matter of environmentalism for Janet, it's also about protecting a place that she and her family consider home.

Generations of the Burt family have been retreating to Georgian Bay since 1969 when Janet's husband, Tony (a founding member of GBF) and his family bought a small island property at the mouth of Twelve Mile Bay, an area surrounded by national and provincial parks, the O'Donnell Point Provincial Nature Reserve, and Camp Hurontario. The 14-acre island is a family haven, with Tony's brother maintaining a property on one side, and at one point up to four generations of family inhabiting the island at any given time. They choose to keep the island as off-grid as possible, with no TVs and limited screen-time, their home away from home is what some might call "glamping", a basic shelter in the wilderness without the industrial luxuries of modern development. Rather, their home in Georgian Bay is a place to escape to the quiet beauty of nature where they can relax and spend time with their grandkids.



Life on Georgian Bay

Some of their favourite activities include berry picking, rock hoping, and getting onto the water in a kayak, canoe, or on a paddleboard. Being conscious of noise, pollution, and the importance of staying true to nature, they only use motorized boats when necessary, which helps them to live in harmony with the local flora and fauna.

One of the best parts of being on the island is getting to spend time with the resident wildlife. Janet and family share space with a host of Ontario animals, including bears, Massasauga rattlesnakes, deer, mink, turtles, a variety of birds (from common terns to hawks and osprey), and a very special furry friend, Chunky the beaver, who splits his time between two houses on the island and even made his own slide down by the dock.

66 We are grateful for Georgian Bay and its waters. We want to do what we can to protect them.

> Janet Burt on the importance of Georgian Bay Forever



Looking to the Future

This cherished natural habitat, however, has undergone changes of which the Burt family has been witness. The water itself is different now, as Janet recognizes, the effects of climate change have resulted in a noticeable increase in wind and waves.

According to Janet, the quality of the bay is impacted by everything around us: development, pollution, and climate change being among the most significant issues facing the Georgian Bay water and landscape. Thankfully, with the help of Janet and others like her, Georgian Bay Forever can continue working on the conservation of this unique and treasured place that means so much to so many.

GBF IS PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER CIRCLE

Honoring our loyal supporters for their cumulative donations of \$15,000 or more from May 31 2021 to May 31, 2022

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"The Baykeeper" indicates that Georgian Bay Forever is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect over 100,000 miles of rivers, streams and coastlines in North And South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and

Africa. For more information go to waterkeeper.org



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Other Businesses include: Bay Port Yachting Centre



THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES STEPPED UP TO HELP PROTECT THE BAY