



McGregor Bay Association Newsletter 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEMI Updates
Blandings Turtle Study
Seasons in Transition
Dessert With a Dash
Bridge Club wants YOU
Kids and Fishing



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Photo: Greg Miller

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Treasurer	Steve Morgan
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• Junior Sailing Program	Bryan McDonald
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• Social	John /Gillian Woodrooffe
• Website	Joyce Palbuski
• WFRN Liaison	



Photo: Gillian Woodrooffe

The McGregor Bay Association Newsletter

is paid for by your membership dues.

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Many thanks to all who have contributed!

President's Message

After two very long summers with comprehensive COVID restrictions we are looking forward to getting back to normal this summer. Our many volunteers have been working hard over the past several months to put together a full program of activities. They include yoga, organized kayak outings, a kid's fishing program, sailing activities, Dessert with a Dash where invited speakers cover a wide range of topics, bridge games, water festival, garden group activities and of course our annual general meeting on July 31 with fabulous food.

The COVID years have been very hard on our membership numbers as we experienced a 50% drop in paid members. We launched a membership drive in March that yielded encouraging results. Our website payment feature has been very successful by providing a convenient means of payment by e-transfer or credit card. This innovation has greatly reduced the workload of our membership director and treasurer.

Water Levels

Water levels in Lake Huron and Georgian Bay continue to drop from the near record highs of 2020, falling 26 cm (10 in) at this time in 2021 and a further 43.18 cm (17 in) this year at 176.52m (579.13 ft) IGLD 1985.

Contractors in the Bay

If you have been planning on hiring a contractor to make improvements on your property, this is a good time to consider engaging one. Many members have been absent for two years and maintenance talks upon return will likely be challenging.

The Road Ahead

The McGregor Bay Association is on a strong footing, delivering tremendous benefits to its members. We encourage you to participate in our many activities and help us serve our members better by providing ideas and encouragement to the many volunteers that make this such a successful organization. By providing donations to our "General Contribution Fund" we can provide these services at a low membership cost so that everyone who wishes to be a member of the McGregor Bay Association can do so.

Thank you very much for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you once again.

John Woodrooffe



Photo: Emilie Shields

Treasurer's Report

Steve Morgan

Thanks to all those members who continued to support us in 2020 and 2021. Your support has allowed us to maintain our solid financial position as we head into the summer of 2022. Our 2021 revenue decreased to \$18,288 from \$36,324 in 2019 but our expenses also decreased from \$35,219 in 2021 to \$12,656 owing to the fact all board supported activities were cancelled for the past two years. We are looking forward to a return to normal this summer and hope to see a return to pre COVID membership levels.



The McGregor Bay Association DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2021

BALANCE SHEET

	2021	2020
Assets:		
Operating cash	\$ 26,837	\$ 24,875
Investments (Note 1)	-	\$ 79,135
Receivable from Polk Bursary fund	-	-
Cash reserved for Investment	\$ 80,280	\$ 665
Total assets	\$ 107,117	\$ 104,675
Liabilities:		
Dues payable - Georgian Bay Association	\$ 4,100	\$ 7,650
Prepaid membership dues	-	\$ 120
Stier Memorial Fund	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
	\$ 5,100	\$ 8,770
Members' equity:		
From operations	\$ 21,737	\$ 16,105
Rainbow Fund (Note 1)	\$ 80,280	\$ 79,800
	102,017	95,905
Total liabilities and equity	\$ 107,117	\$ 104,675

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

Ending December 31, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Revenue:		
Revenue from memberships:		
Regular members	\$ 12,940	\$ 16,303
Extended family members	1,785	2,730
Associate members	90	450
Friends of the Bay	100	300
Less: PayPal fees	<u>(329)</u>	<u>(488)</u>
	14,586	19,295
Other revenue:		
Members' voluntary contributions	3,030	4,722
Less: contributions directed to Rainbow Fund (Note 1)	<u>(480)</u>	<u>(665)</u>
Investment income (Note 1)	512	688
US exchange	<u>160</u>	<u>526</u>
	3,702	5,936
Total Revenue	18,288	25,231
Expenses:		
Membership dues - Georgian Bay Association	4,050	7,650
Newsletter & membership directory	3,188	5,012
Facilities rental - Parish Hall	-	3,000
AGM, picnics, social events	-	-
Insurance	2,608	2,608
Mailing costs - GBA Update	1,399	2,080
Fire protection	90	182
Membership dues - FOCA	661	717
Donations - First Nation	-	-
Website	-	1,913
Navigation aids	-	704
Dessert with a Dash, nature activities	-	-
Nature Committee	-	-
Postage & office supplies	-	159
Bank charges	79	83
Subscriptions	581	265
Water testing	-	-
Donations	-	1,000
Sailing & kayaking	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total expenses	12,656	25,373
Operations - excess of revenue over expenses	5,632	(142)
Members' equity from operations, beginning of year	16,105	16,247
Members' equity from operations, end of year	\$ 21,737	\$ 16,105

NOTES from NEMI

It's been a very long winter and the thought of open water and no snow and 'opening camp' is most welcome.

In NEMI, it's been another busy year with everyone trying their best to adapt to a new way of doing things while observing public health guidelines. Council is continuing to meet by ZOOM every Tuesday at 7 p.m. and the public is invited to attend : Meeting # 489 313 1974 or call 1 587 328 1099 (one of the few silver linings to this pandemic has been the opportunity to easily participate in our local democracy). For a copy of each week's agenda visit www.townofnemi.on.ca

There does appear to be some light on the horizon as things are opening up and we look forward to welcoming our U.S. and international friends for a full season this year. But as WFRFN remains in a state of emergency with active Covid cases, do check with your marina for updates on access protocols etc. The portion of Hwy 6 between Little Current and Birch Island is also going to be undergoing some much-needed repairs this summer and the Town is anticipating a very busy summer on the docks and marinas with a return of the cruise ships as well. Things are gradually getting back to "normal". (Fingers and toes crossed!)

The past two years have seen a lot of people looking to get away to the north and local waterfront properties have been in high demand. However the Province has delayed MPAC's re-assessment to 2024, scheduled originally for 2020 and normally done every 4 years. This means that property taxes will continue to be based on 2016 valuations. Visit www.mpac.ca for updates and www.aboutmyproperty.ca to see your property value and to compare similar ones in your area. MPAC also generates the municipal voters list. Please go to www.voterlookup.ca to confirm your information. And to check that you are eligible to vote in the upcoming Municipal election on Oct. 24th, Pam Cress is the Clerk for the Town of NEMI and she can help with any questions. Her number is 705-368-3500 ext. 228.

There was good news on the tax front for Ward 1 this year as our taxes are actually going down by .95%.

Ward 1 continues to solely pay for the recycling at J & G Marina in Birch Island and also for the MNR fire response reserve and for water testing bottles. We contribute towards the municipal funding of the Rec Centre on Hwy 6 which is currently still on standby as a field hospital if the need arises, and was the site of several well-attended vaccination clinics. In the spring and summer pickle-ball will resume there and new players are always welcome. Please contact 705-368-2825 for a schedule of events or email rtaylor@townofnemi.on.ca

We also help fund the NEMI Public Library www.nemi.olsn.ca and it continues to offer wonderful programming, free wi-fi, a great selection of DVD's and accessible books, and digital services (on-line resources like World Book, Ancestry, and access to thousands of books, audiobooks and periodicals available through "Overdrive" to library patrons). Membership cards are available free to seasonal residents of NEMI as well so please give them a call (705-368 2444) and take advantage of this fantastic little gem at 50 Meredith St. West in Little Current.

We also contribute to the Centennial Museum in Sheguiandah (705 368 2367) and it will be opening soon with the adjacent archaeological site set to provide tours of a fascinating 10,000 year old quarry this summer. The grounds at the museum are lovingly kept and provide picnic tables and a playground and are a great place to take the family for an afternoon of exploring.

Something that may be of interest to volunteer groups in McGregor Bay who are looking for funding: The McLean's Mtn. Windfarm Fund provides a yearly donation of \$10,000 divided between community groups in NEMI involved in worthwhile projects. Groups can apply before mid June for consideration by the selection committee. Contact the Clerk, pcress@townofnemi.on.ca for more information.

On a wider local level, the municipalities on Manitoulin Island including NEMI have sponsored an "Island-Wide Photo Challenge" running from Feb. 28th to March 20th with the theme being winter landscapes. If anyone is out in the Bay and has an opportunity to take some great photos, please share them. Contest rules are available on the NEMI facebook page or info@townofnemi.on.ca

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Until the summer - please stay well, and try to remain positive in these turbulent times.

Laurie Cook,
Councillor Ward 1/ Deputy Mayor



St Christopher's Church News

It will be almost 3 years since we have had a service in the Bay. This is just one of many things that weigh heavily on us and our families due largely to the pandemic. We know this applies equally to our whole diocese of Algoma where life is also not back to normal yet. Nevertheless, we are really looking forward seeing "old" friends and having services at the church.

At this writing, we don't know the impact of the pandemic on the schools where our student ministers are trained or who will be the minister for the summer. Nevertheless, we are planning for services at St. Christopher's on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. to resume this summer. We also hope to see a mostly full slate of both church and Association social activities at the Hall this summer. The schedule for all the events on the property is going to have to be a little flexible since there was no opportunity to do normal planning for the year. We will do our best to have many quality events. When things firm up we will let all know on the McGregor Bay Friends Facebook page as well as the McGregor Bay Association's website.

After being unused for the last 2 summers, the property will need care. To that end, on June 21st at 9 am the McGregor Bay Garden Group is planning a clean up of St. Christopher's property. Please feel free to join in as it will be a great help. As always, your physical and financial generosity make the difference, as we bounce back from all of this.

Many Thanks,
The Church Board.

Dessert with a Dash

Doris Cowan

Sadly for two years in a row due to the COVID pandemic, we have been unable to present our ever popular Monday night program, *Dessert with a Dash (DWD)*. It looks like this summer we will be able to finally go ahead with our schedule of talks. We have seen no reason to make changes to the previous planned talks, so we will keep the same program that have been prepared for the last two years. Below are program descriptions - a repeat of the ones that appeared in last year's Newsletter (and the previous year's as well)

As in the past DWD continue on Monday evenings, starting at 6:30 p.m unless otherwise indicated.

July 5 -(Tuesday) This year, due to the way American Independence falls on a Monday, we moved *Mike and Jackie Toombs's* talk to Tuesday, the following day. Entitled "*From Middle Earth to the Middle Kingdom*" *Mike and Jackie will talk about their magic carpet ride exploring the traditional and the extraordinarily modern China that they discovered during their three week journey traveling from Shanghai to Tibet and back again.*

July 11 - Gary Shannon will give a two-part talk:

Part 1 will be on the topic of telemedicine - how health care services can be distributed over great distance using electronic information and telecommunication platforms. Gary has been involved in this field for over 30 years. He will look back as far as the early 20th Century and forward to its current status regarding how clinicians can provide care without being in the room - something that has taken on great prominence as result of the current pandemic!

Part 2 will cover COVID -19 origins, mutations, and reproduction. He will discuss the differences between RNA viruses and DNA viruses.

July 18 - Zoe McDougall will talk about her family cottage on Vim Island, its history, and its construction. She will also talk about her grandfather, Thad Patten and his crew of First Nation surveyors and their travels across Northern Ontario

July 25 Storytelling Individual story tellers capture events, lifestyle and anecdotes about life in the Bay. If interested, contact Doris Cowan (dorisinca@yahoo.com)

July 29 (Friday) - A folk concert at the Parish Hall featuring *Marty Rosen*. Music will begin at 6:30 p.m. Come and listen to Marty's wonderful repertoire of folk music by popular artists of this genre. He also delights in presenting music by artists unknown outside their home regions of the English speaking world.

August 1 - Professor Joe Shorthouse of Laurentian University will speak on the topic of the amazing life cycle of monarch butterflies. Most people know that these insects transform through a 4 stage lifecycle prior to their migration south to Mexico. Not everyone knows that it takes four generations of these insects to return to the same milkweed patch the following spring. Professor Shorthouse will elaborate on this as well as the mysticism associated with monarchs. Included in his presentation will be photos taken on Manitoulin Island as well as presenting caterpillars and tagged adult butterflies.

August 8 - Eric Grant will talk about the aftermath of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. As an associate research chief at the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF), he has been involved in the conducting of the longest and largest epidemiological study on the life span of atomic bomb survivors in the world. Data collected from the Life Span Study (LSS) of atomic bomb survivors informs the world of the long-term health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. This study provides the foundation for the development of radiation standards used around the world.

Bridge Club is Looking for New Players!

Every Wednesday morning at 10:a.m, our group of players meet to catch up on friendship, drink coffee, nibble on goodies brought along by one of our members and to play cards. We are a group of not-so-serious players who have been congregating for several decades. Initially, we met at various members' cottages, but as the club grew we began to use the large space offered by the Parish Hall.

Always looking for new players, experienced and otherwise, we encourage one and all to join us. Even though Bidding Boxes may sometimes seem intimidating, don't feel intimidated, we don't bite! Membership of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) is definitely not a prerequisite. We see it as just a fun day of cards, a good opportunity to enhance your game and a really good way to meet others from around the Bay. If you do not have a partner, come anyway - we will "fix you up" with another single. Bring a lunch as we take a break at noon, then continue play until the scores have been tallied - usually around 2:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please free to call me on my Bay phone: (705) 866-7059.

Hope to see you there!
Lynne Stanich

Bridge Whiz is free for Juniors Interested in Learning to Play Bridge

Bridge Whiz is a program sponsored by the ACBL for kids from grades 4 to 12 who are interested in learning this fascinating game. Learning to play bridge will help develop your child develop competitive team and individual skills and help enhance deductive reasoning and math abilities.

Taught by experienced bridge teachers, the course is offered at different times in multiple time zones. The course involves 20 weekly lessons of 90 minutes. The next course of lessons will begin in the fall of 2022.

These are free lessons and we hope that junior card players who graduate from these courses will want to join in on Bridge Club Wednesdays at the Parish Hall on Wednesdays.

For more information, look up Bridge Whiz: Bridge for Kids @ <https://www.acbleducationalfoundation.org/page/bridgewhiz-online-bridge-lessons-for-grades-4-12-44.html>



Photo: Brian Still

New this Year! Fishing and Kids with Brian Still

Interested in learning more about fishing? Then mark July 5, on your calendar for 'Fishing with Kids.' Framed by the environmental/cultural issues facing sport fishing everywhere, Brian Still will give a one-hour presentation/demonstration (with a brief Q&A at the end) for kids of all ages on the tools and techniques for fishing the waters of McGregor Bay.



Photo: Laurie Masters

Winter Transitions

Laurie Masters

How can the extreme change to winter from fall and then from winter to spring be so definitive yet fraught with so many uncertainties?

Visually, my perspective views are from the east tip of Island 748 (Hiawatha) where I look north to the mainland, east to Harrison Rock, south to the McGregor Point (part of the La Cloche hills), - otherwise known as the South Shore and west to Birch Island with that view obstructed by the forest of the island.

Spring – When Ice Breaks Up

As I write this, we've just passed the Spring Equinox when night and day are equal. It occurs a week after the time changes to daylight savings time, when we pretend that we have gained more daylight. In the Bay, the springtime change means the sled rides and cookouts on the ice last longer, dogs are walked later in the day and after dinner we say, "Wow, it's still light outside."

The Seasonal Soul website suggests your spirit is waking up during this time, with new ideas and new dreams for your life. Its fresh, warm energy has the power to make you feel more alive and inspired. For the few of us who are island bound during that phase, following that impulse must be somewhat restrained as there's still an unknown number of weeks of winter left.

Subtle spring weather changes become more obvious as the sun and warm temperatures erode the ice by day. And then, colder temps at night encourage it to stay strong. But these conditions are perfect for maple tree tappers. It means sap is beginning to run and they can begin tapping trees, emptying buckets and boiling sap to create one of nature's greatest gifts - maple syrup. If the weather turns too warm too fast, it's a blink and you missed it, leaving lots of empty jars. The perfect balance for the maple syrup season is to last over several weeks even though it makes tree and boil tenders weary. But they are too respectful of Nature's whims to say: "Enough already."

In 2020 I took my sled (snowmobile) off the ice March 28 and was able to boat April 13. When I wrote for the Newsletter in March 2021, I was set to again spend break-up at home in the Bay. The best laid plans don't always work out. I bailed at the last minute when my dog Athena became very ill a few days before the ice became too unsafe for sled travel. Had we stayed, time without sled or boat would have again been about two weeks. In both years, the more intrepid had taken sleds off a few days later and put boats in a day or so sooner.

Around the end of March, the handful of us who

choose to hunker down on islands for spring break-up 2022 begin planning our last trip to town for supplies and guessing when our sleds will come off, when our boats will go in and whether anything unforeseen will prevent any of us from staying. We ponder whether the ice will break-up and melt quickly or will it linger in boat-obstructing chunks and stretch the break-up period to 40 some days or more? Will it melt away and skim over again, too thin for walking yet too thick for boating? From Athena's perspective the questions range from how many perfect and endless lake walks are left and when will the mink, otters and Canada geese come back to tease her?

The transition from winter to spring is dramatic and breathtaking. If you're in the Bay because you love the wintry landscape, then it's bittersweet as well. It starts with the snow melt, then the degradation of ice which had deepened to near indestructible thickness and strength in the cold of winter. With growing warmth and daylight hours, birds return, woodland creatures awake and water loving mink, otters and beavers reappear to join in celebrating spring. Often, winter challenges spring with a late season snowfall, saying: "I'm not done yet." But eventually, the hillsides and forest floor will glow in a fresh and vibrant green and the earliest flowers will blossom with joy.



Photo: Laurie Masters

And When the Ice Forms in Late Fall

With all that said about the break-up, how can winter freeze-up be more captivating? This past year was my first freeze-up experience in the Bay. What I thought would be an 'I have to do this once' became a 'how could I ever want to be anywhere else' experience. When asked, "How was freeze-up?", I'm tempted to respond back, "Which one?" It was not a year when a few calm cold days and nights brought ice from shore to shore that stayed in place. Instead, I was blessed to watch Nature lightly freeze the lake over and then break it up day after day.

A harbinger of freeze-up and the winter to come occurs in early November when the clocks shift back an hour. This taking daylight from the evening and adding it to the morning reminds us that there's about six more weeks of less daylight.

Although Winter Solstice is the symbolic start of winter, in all but the most moderate years, well before it, there's already ice on the lake and snow on the ground earlier; winter has truly already begun.

Again, according to The Seasonal Soul website,, winter, as the darkest, coldest time of year, reveals to us the stark, bare beauty of Nature. This is when there is a special stillness, and everything appears dead and frozen. The lake seems to swallow the light to stay warm and resist icing. The maples, birch and poplar are bare, leaves long lost in October, while the oak trees stubbornly hold on to their dry brown leaves as long as they can. In contrast, the dominant pine trees show resilience as they endure the weight of snow and ice on their tender needles.

The snowless starkness of late fall doesn't last long, when just a dusting of snow adds a joyful, uplifting brightness.

I found that preparing for freeze-up, rest was illusive when the weather was at all nice. I tackled with the zeal of a nut harvesting squirrel some extra winter firewood prep and pushed on to spring projects. I allowed my sleep cycle to follow the longer nights, resulting in ignoring all my indoor projects that I had moved from summer to fall to winter. Less snow this winter meant that my snow shoveling chores were reduced.

On November 29th when the marina bay boat ramps were freezing in, I took my big Stanley

Islander boat out of the water, even though there was only skim ice at my end. For several more days after that, contractors continued to break ice in Marina Bay and boat freely to their worksites. With the ice playing, I wondered whether I should stay, or should I go? I finally decided to put my small 15 hp open boat that I store on the island back in the water. While the Stanley is a much better boat to use in the shoulder season, I'm not equipped (yet?) to take it out here on the island and yet the prospect of pulling the Stanley out any later on a frozen ramp at the marina is intimidating and unfair to the marina crew.

Ice-wise, anything is possible from late November through early to mid-January. I was told that quite often the boat comes out and goes back in a few times as ice forms and melts away. That can mean a bonus trip to town or just a cold boat ride to the edge of thick ice and then back home. A week later, you could be cautiously boating or snowmobiling to the marina or facing the middle ground of ice thick enough to cautiously walk on but not boat through or ride on.

December 10th was a calm sunny day and a bonus boat trip to town beckoned. Full speed ahead turned to slowing down to break thin ice to exhausting ice breaking at the bow with a 2x4. But I was too close to give up. I saw it as an adventure and practice for an urgent exit if needed, even though I was already well stocked with supplies. After a few more cycles of ice, not much ice, I finally pulled the boat out December 17.

I used to associate the worst winds of the year with October and November, so was a bit surprised with the winds of December, which seemed endless and created countless freeze-up / break-up experiences. The lake would freeze



Photo: Laurie Masters

over with 'looks thick enough to stay' ice as far as I could see and then winds of 50 - 70 km/hour from the south and west destroy much of it. Almost every day there was a "Wow" factor watching a mini freeze-up or break-up happen again and again. After a few weeks of this, my reaction to another mini break-up became "Not again!" Many times, I hugged the most wind vulnerable trees that tower near the cabin to offer them strength and thank them for standing tall and brave after another dark and stormy night. Ice-wise, the high wind freeze-up caused chunks of broken ice to freeze together or on top of each other. Where the ice was able to withstand the wind, it froze in large expanses of clear ice that made me question whether I was walking on water or thick safe ice. For a few weeks we had no new snow fall and leaving on the windswept ice the varied freezing features visible. Every walk was a lesson in the wonders of Nature.

By December 23rd, the more wind sheltered north side of Hiawatha was frozen across to the mainland and probably walkable. I was surprised to see a narrow river of water stayed open on the south side that snaked north east and abruptly turned south for a bit. The lake was frozen in from Wardrobe Island well past the west end of Hiawatha, leaving this river with no connection to the open water near McGregor Point. That it didn't ice over until January 5th both tempted me to kayak and deterred me from skating on the near perfect ice beyond it. It also made walking on the north side ice too intimidating to try.



Photo: Laurie Masters

At less than a month, it was a fairly short period of isolation and would have been much less had I cautiously walked out sooner on the frozen north side.

As it was, I waited until January 10 to walk quite freely on the lake ice and got a ride to the mainland by early-season ice rider Ron McGregor to get my snowmobile from storage. It was time for me to focus winter recreation, among which includes ice walks with Athena, kicksled outings with my occasional neighbour Gwen and of course snowmobiling

The downside of freeze-up is it's hard to promise to be elsewhere with family for Christmas. As it was not feasible to host a family Christmas here,

I created a nest of Christmas decorations to settle into, cooked a turkey with all the traditional side dishes and celebrated the Christmas season with my sister and her boys via video calls.

Island bound freeze-up and break-up and to a lesser extent winter are not without risks and I suppose it takes a special sort of crazy or a hermit gene to embrace any of them. As with the photos I post on Facebook's McGregor Bay Friends page and my own Facebook page, I hope this article offers a view of winter Bay life that you've wondered about or brings back fond memories if you've experienced them in the past.



Photo: Laurie Masters

Co-Creating a Conservation Plan for Blanding's Turtles in McGregor Bay

Professor Pat Chow-Fraser

The Whitefish River First Nation (WRFN), McGregor Bay Association (MBA) and McMaster University together have partnered to develop a conservation plan for the population of Blanding's turtles (BLTU) in McGregor Bay. This project started to take shape following a talk on at-risk turtles by McMaster University Professor Pat Chow-Fraser at the McGregor Bay Community Center in August 2019. During the Q&A and informal discussions with cottagers, it was revealed that there is currently an undocumented population of BLTU living on the archipelago of islands in McGregor Bay - a species deemed as threatened both provincially and federally. This led to an application for funding to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program to conduct a multi-year (2020-2023) telemetry project to determine the home range and critical habitat of the Blanding's population near the northern extreme of its home range in Ontario.

The general approach taken to study BLTU in this project is to use radio telemetry, a common surveying method used by ecologists to track the movements of animals over a season. Due to the pandemic, plans for sampling in 2020 were postponed until the summer of 2021. The McMaster team is led by M.Sc. candidate Reta Meng, and includes grads Jonah Lehman and Kelton Adderley-Heron, who work on other BLTU projects elsewhere in Georgian Bay. Prior to the field work in 2021, Reta used archived orthophotos to map all wetland habitats on islands, since Blanding's use these preferentially as overwintering habitat. Together with information on where turtles had been spotted by cottagers in the recent past, the biologists were able to find turtles shortly after they emerged from overwintering in May 2021. In total, they caught six turtles - three males and three females (see Figure 1) and attached small radio transmitters on their carapace or shell. The transmitters send out a unique frequency that could be detected by an antenna and a hand-held receiver. When the observers find a tagged turtle, they use a GPS unit to record its exact location. In this way, the team geo-located these six turtles 137 times between mid-May to late August. During May, Alexis McGregor from the WRFN, assisted with the tracking and then later in July and August, a team of MBA volunteers (Gillian and John Woodrooffe) and members of the WRFN (Keith Nahwegahbow, Steve McGregor, and Mskwoka McGregor from the Lands Department of WRFN) took over the tracking.



All GPS points are entered into a Geographic Information System, and together with field notes, biologists can determine the home range and daily distance travelled by these Blanding's turtles in a single year. Compared with published data, Reta has found that the home range of this island population is generally smaller than those of mainland populations elsewhere in Ontario. She also found that one individual travelled approximately 200m across deep water to mate with other individuals on a small island. Such an occurrence has not been reported in the literature before. While Blanding's turtles are naturally great swimmers, they were not known to use deep water, but were instead thought to use shallow regions in coastal or inland marshes and in vernal pools. This is the first report of BLTU's ability to use deep-water habitats throughout their active summer season, and as such, should be incorporated into an effective conservation plan; it may be necessary to minimize boating activities during the mating season in areas frequented by BLTU.

There are plans this summer to increase the number of tagged turtles to twelve, and to include the use of GPS loggers, which will greatly increase re-locations of female turtles to help identify small-scale movements and to help map nest sites so they can be protected. The team is also planning to install a few radio transmitters and GPS loggers on turtles that inhabit Birch Island within the traditional territories of the WRFN. This expanded project should yield information on turtle movements and home range that would complement indigenous knowledge of where BLTU nest. The long-term goal is to empower all people who live in McGregor Bay to engage in collaborative, long-term monitoring of these turtles and their habitats. Towards this end, they will hold workshops (hopefully in-person, depending on COVID-restrictions during summer 2022) to inform anyone interested about the tracking program and what is involved if you wish to volunteer. The actions we take now to protect turtle habitat will ensure these sensitive species will persist for many generations into the future.



Figure 1. Blanding's Turtle Study Subjects obtained during the Summer 2021 Field Season.

In Memorandum



Charlotte Smith Bode

1920-2021

In 1948, along with her husband Gayle, Charlotte helped her parents, Talmage and Emma Watkins build their cottage on TP 1545. During early years of graduate study and teaching, Charlotte and Gayle stayed with the Watkins on 1545 every summer. Then in 1956 they bought TP 1249 and 1256 and built their own camp. The fireplace on 1249, a classic with stones from all over the Bay, took Gayle and Charlotte 5 five summers to complete. Summers with children Tony and Judy were also enriched by Charlotte's Krumrei cousins on a neighboring island, still in the Krumrei family today. The Palm family began to summer in the Bay after Evie (Charlotte's college roommate) and Floyd first visited the Smiths in 1967. Palm children continue their Bay tradition today with property on Jumbo Island.

Charlotte took a break from teaching when her children were young, but never stopped being a scholar, and remained a resource for her children and grandchildren after returning to teaching, and after retiring as well. Tony once pulled out his cell phone to check on a question under discussion about the US Electoral College. Returning with the answer, he was asked if he had "Googled" it, and admitted to calling his historian Mom instead. His friend's response--Oh, you "Mawgled" it—and that episode entered into the family lore. For years many a question continued to be "Mawgled."

In the Bay, Charlotte loved to learn about loons and other birds, to read, to swim, and to pick blueberries. On a day of flat calm in the 1970's

she called across to a fellow berry-picking neighbor, Barbara Linxweiler, and the two of them planned the adventure on the spot.

Charlotte enjoyed getting away from modernity, and her off-grid camp continues to be powered by a mixture of solar and propane to this day. Charlotte's second husband, Carl Bode, adjusted to the rustic way of life also, but her grandson Scott did install solar-powered LED lights to help with reading.

Charlotte went back to teaching at the University of Maryland and combined her scholarship with becoming the first IT expert in the family. She helped Scott to get his start in that field, and is also remembered by grandson Mark as the one who taught him to swim and to ride a bicycle. She continued to mend socks and knit winter caps for family members even after she put away the sewing machine that had created many an outfit. As well as to her family, Charlotte was devoted to the life of the mind and to responsible civic engagement. Even at the end of her one hundred years, Charlotte could find "*le mot juste*" for situations both tough and tender, and was beloved for her wisdom, compassion, and self-deprecating humor. Charlotte's last visit to the Bay was in 2007, but her spirit remains.

Bruce Burton

05/20/1946–3/24/2022

Bruce passed away peacefully in his home surrounded by those who cherished him—his wife and children-- after a period of declining health. Others in the Burton family who loved the Bay included Bruce's parents, Donald and Virginia, his wife Marcia Pauly, his children Malinda, Timothy, and Christina, and his brothers Dale and Tim Burton and family, along with six grandchildren and extended family members, many still regulars in the Bay.

Bruce had McGregor Bay, Canada, engraved on his heart, his favorite place in the world. He loved to be there to enjoy the sights, sounds, and essences of the out-of-doors. Bruce grew up in the Bay, spent countless days exploring and



Doug Rogers

1964-2021

Doug Rogers came to the Bay with his family when he was 7 years old as a guest of the Plice Family, and fell in love with it. Doug was born April 27, 1964 to Lynn and Jan Rogers and died on September 10, 2021, from a very rare form of a stroke. He was able to spend parts of 50 summers in the Bay and pass his love of the Bay on to his wife Wendy and children Jaynee, Jack, Jace and Dominic.

Doug's family and the McGregor Bay community will remember him waterskiing through the channels, jumping off the rocks at Hanging Rock, and climbing Blueberry Hill listening to Neil Young.



ingesting all that McGregor Bay had to offer. Bruce was the kindest and gentlest of men, loyal, with an ever-ready smile. His greatest blessings were his family and friends, fellow Veterans, and his SCI Community. We are so fortunate to have known this extraordinary human being .

Remembrances may be sent to: Shepherd Center: [Give.shepherd.org](https://www.give.shepherd.org), Select 'Patient Assistance Fund' or the Paralyzed Veterans of American [PVA.org](https://www.pva.org) .

A remembrance celebration will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at the Atlanta Friends Meeting at 2 p.m.



Photo: Renée LaLonde

James MacLean Stewart 1947-2021



Born in Garson, Ontario, and well-known as a crown attorney, but in the Bay, Jim was known as an eternally helpful friend, who had an amazing ability to put things into perspective and put everyone he met at ease. When word of Jim's heart failure on Sept. 11, 2020 reached his friends of the Bay, shock and disbelief were followed by grieving that continues.

As a regular attendee at St. Christopher's church in the Bay, Jim didn't wear his religion on his sleeve, but showed such kindness and humour to all whom he encountered. Jim is remembered and beloved as one of the "Fearless Friday" kayak leaders along with his best Bay buddy, Chuck Stanich.

During their 17 years of leading kayak club trips together, Chuck remembers how generous Jim was with lending out his kayaks and providing transportation for people who wanted to join the Friday kayak outings. "He would entertain us all by imitating a call of a loon and when they called back, he would tell us the loons were reporting on how good the fishing was", Chuck recalls. Jim's positive attitude was contagious, and how he was a role model for living a good and full life: "Jim was kind of a philosopher and had a particular knack for knowing what someone might need, and then he would provide it for them. I heard him say many times 'it was little thing for me, but a big thing for them'" adds Chuck. Some of his many life mantras were 'don't sweat the small stuff,' and 'if money can make a problem go away, then it isn't a problem.'

"Jim was always able to turn a misfortune into a positive. He was a rock of integrity, kindness, and sharing."

Lara Shannon is another who has some favorite quotes from Jim as well: "When someone tails you, just pull over, let them pass and drink your coffee (Timmies)." and "Never ever get out of your car in a road rage situation." Then she remembers him speaking in his Gilda Radner voice: "There's always something..." If being joked with, he was quick with the response: "I will get you in to see my therapist; Mon, Wed, Fri., or Tues, Thurs." And, to my dad when they were joking around, he would say: "Gary, I can make you cry in 3 questions."

Adrian Frazier, another close friend, wasn't surprised to learn of Jim's fame in Canada's legal circles, but noting "Jim never needed us to know what a Big Shot he was elsewhere. And he never tried to winkle out whether you yourself had some 'importance' elsewhere. He treated you like a fellow human being--with respect and equality, and with a good laugh over whatever was worth laughing about."

Even among his professional colleagues his expressions were well known. Fellow Crown Attorney Geoff Beasley has fond thoughts: "Wherever he has gone, I have no doubt that his first words will be..." "Who called this meeting, and what's it's purpose?" Top prosecutor Robin Flumerfelt was quoted in an article about Jim in the *Ottawa Citizen*: "For almost five decades he dealt with the worst crimes, earned the biggest titles, and advised the most senior officials in government. And yet he remained so normal and decent that people who met him never imagined he was that guy. He treated the person who sold him his morning coffee the same as he would treat the Chief Justice of Canada. That's just who Jimmy was."



Photo: Lyn Starke

John Robert Tompkins*19 July 1951 – 13 August 2021*

John passed peacefully on his terms with his sons holding his hands in August. He might have helped you fix your water pump, build your sauna, or take your dock out. The list goes on. John was a good man, a reliable friend, a great father, and a doting grandfather.

An old flame brought him to McGregor Bay in the '70s but he was drawn to the place, later renting cabins with friends and canoeing into campsites with his babies. He became caretaker to the Hicks family in the '90s so he could spend summers among the islands as his children grew. There he not only built, but he also learned to garden and to enjoy life in a way he could not while running his business in the city. He rebuilt a crumbling boathouse underwater without shifting its historic roof. He built docks, bridges, and stone walkways. He kept ancient mechanical systems working. And he learned to appreciate and debate the politics of the American rust belt at the dinner table.

John was chair of fire protection for the McGregor Bay Association for several years. He didn't care for meetings but cared that the equipment was maintained, and that people could use it. He led demonstrations for residents at picnics and the Annual Social. He went into the fire many times – behind the pines in Russian Pass, on the ridge with four pumps in sequence behind him, in Potholes because of yachter's flares, Jumbo Island, and on Garden Island during the Social.

For many years he cut the grass for the picnic. He built the cross that stands in the courtyard at

St. Christopher's. He volunteered as a land steward for the Georgian Bay Land Trust. John gained much from his time in the Bay but he gave back at every turn.

McGregor Bay was not just rocks and trees to John – it was people. John made many of his best friends in the Bay. It is not everywhere that rich and poor, Canadian and American, indigenous and settler, liberal and conservative, and young and old gather to break bread. Take opportunities to build bridges and cherish that experience. In John's final days he told his sons to pass on his love for – and to – the people of McGregor Bay.

Heather Robson Whitton*1953 - 2021*

Heather passed away peacefully at her home in Toronto on September 18, 2021, surrounded by her loving partner and her family. Heather was predeceased by her parents, John and Sheila Whitton. With courage and grit, Heather battled for 18 months the cancer that ultimately took her life. Fortunately Heather was able to spend some time in the Bay last summer and she had her final visit just 3 weeks prior to her death – one last weekend at the cottage with her family and a few close Bay friends



Heather's first trip to McGregor Bay would have been as a teenager in approx. 1967. She

spoke fondly of that long drive with her mom and the first glimpse of the La Cloche mountains. The unique scenery was immediately appreciated by her artistic eye. The Whitton family rented the "Patten" cottage on Vim Island from the Flemings for a few weeks each summer from the mid '60's until 1983 when John and Sheila purchased Camp 66 on West Sampson Is. A few years later, the family collectively purchased the neighbouring cottage – fondly referred to as the OP (Other Place). It was at the OP that Heather spent her cherished summer holidays.

Heather attended the Cleveland Institute of Art, graduating with a BFA Industrial Design in 1977. When Heather left home for school in the United States, John and Sheila were comforted by the fact that good friends from the Bay, the Gallagher family, lived close by in Akron. Heather's career as a graphic designer included many years running her own design firm. After receiving her M.ed Curriculum Studies in 2006, Heather became an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Animation Art and Design at Sheridan College in Oakville in 2007. She was passionately supportive of young people and their ambitions and education. She retired in June 2020.

Introducing a New Handyman Service

Hello McGregor Bay cottage owners and friends. We would like to introduce our new venture called **McGregor Bay Services**.

We are offering services to help you with small jobs around your camp, including but not limited to; pressure washing of decks & walkways, shoreline/ island clean up, weed eating/grass trimming, raking/ leaf blowing, garden weeding/prep for planting, branch trimming, minor repairs, help with launching a boat on your shore and more.

For those of you who don't know us, we are Todd, Alex and Eric Aistrop. Our family has been coming to the Bay for over one hundred years - and we know the love all of us have for our little piece of paradise.

If we can be of service please call or text 705-561-8190 or email mcmgregorbayservices@gmail.com

Ship Judy Young

**My ship was an old pine tree over the water
With one bough low enough for a ten-year-old to climb.**

**Up there I caught every summer breeze
commanding the far horizon of the Bay.**

**On the summer they were ten and twelve
my sons ran gleeful up that path,**

**and my brother welcomed us with dinner.
We were pulling the old wicker chairs around the table**

When Scott glanced out the window, froze, and yelled:

"Uncle Tony made a tree house for us!"

**We ran out to survey the glory
Of the quarterdeck that swayed aloft,**

**And I found my ship supporting other dreams:
A picnic basket pulley system created by the kids,**

A reading lounge,

**Each year, until we cleaned up from the microburst
And found my ship uprooted whole, one of 20 trees
we lost that year.**

The quarterdeck remained, tilted sideways to the sky.

**When we cut the tree to logs, we rolled the
treehouse to a flatter spot, and it became our deck.**

**Now I drink my coffee there, content,
among the daisies that were just seeds we
scattered and then they grew.**