



# McGregor Bay Association Newsletter 2025

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Are you a Guardian of the Bay?

Invasive Phragmites – They are back....

Water Quality – What we are doing to monitor it

Suggestions for Some Summertime “Green” Reads

MBA’s Fire Fighting Equipment – Do you know where and what to find?

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## Board of Directors

### Executive

<b>President:</b> Eleanor Pardoe	eleanor.pardoe@gmail.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	vacant
<b>Treasurer:</b> Tom Carmazzi	tmcarmazzi@outlook.com
<b>Secretary:</b> Ken Lather	latherkll@gmail.com

### Members

Andy Betterton	andbet@rogers.ca
Ian Cook	icookdvm@rogers.com
Doris Cowan	doriscinca@yahoo.com
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Anne Harvey	aharvey145@gmail.com
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Mattia Thillaye Kerr	mattiathillayekerr@gmail.com
Jackie Toombs	jackieltoombs@gmail.com



Photo: Steve Sickles Photography

## Our Mission Statement

To protect and enhance the environment of McGregor Bay, to encourage and promote the respectful enjoyment of its unique natural setting and to represent the interests of all its residents and other stake holders.

The McGregor Bay Association Newsletter is paid for by your membership dues.

Design: Gillian Woodrooffe

Edited: Gillian Woodrooffe

Printer: O.J. Graphix

Cover Photo: Gillian Woodrooffe

Many thanks to all who have contributed!

## Committee Chairs

• Boating	Andy Betterton
• Calendar/Bulletin Boards	Jackie Toombs
• Communications	Anne Harvey, Eleanor Pardoe
• Dessert with a Dash	Doris Cowan
• Environment	Doug Whitton, Eleanor Pardoe
• Fire Protection	Ed Schillmore
• Fishing	Michael Toombs
• Georgian Bay Association	Doug Whitton
• Kids Crafts	Gillian Woodrooffe, Heather Gagnon, Monique Shields
• Medical Emergency	Andy Betterton
• Membership	Anne Harvey
• Nature Program	Peter Zajonc
• Newsletter	Gillian Woodrooffe
• Nominating	Margaret Beard, Doris Cowan
• Phragmites Control	Doug Whitton
• Picnic /Water Festival	Bryan McDonald
• Junior Sailing Program	Holly Higgs
• Senior Sailing Program	Bryan McDonald
• Social/AGM	Karin Lauderback
• Water Quality	Ian Cook
• Website	Anne Harvey, Eric Grant
• WRFN Liaison	Doug Whitton





Photo: Bill Demter

## President's Report

McGregor Bay is an undeniably beautiful part of Georgian Bay. Owning waterfront here is certainly a privilege not to be taken lightly. We are also blessed with wonderful interior land access to hike and explore. But with this comes responsibility and stewardship. We need to treat these ecosystems with respect and be guardians of the land and water. This becomes increasingly evident as we begin to witness changes that impact the balance of nature.

Examples of such changes occurring in the Bay were illustrated in a Dessert with a Dass presentation given by Brian Still last summer. He described some very sobering changes regarding the interdependence of the fish, water and climate.

The Board, with the leadership of Doug Whitton, is taking an active role in learning how to manage the invasive phragmites which are beginning to take root in many places around our waters. Thank you to those cottagers who joined him in August in Scow Bay to begin the removal of these plants. Please contact Doug ([dougwhitton@gmail.com](mailto:dougwhitton@gmail.com)) if you suspect you have phragmites as it is important to remove and dispose of the plants in the correct manner.

The MBA, through your annual membership dues is a member of two umbrella organizations: Georgian Bay Association (GBA) and FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers) both of which handle high profile issues and stewardship of Georgian Bay and our inland lakes

This past November I joined a meeting with Presidents from the other member associations of the GBA in Toronto. We were able to celebrate GBA's successes in tackling key issues like floating homes, water quality, and phragmites while also identifying areas for growth, including proactive advocacy, streamlined communications, and stronger collaboration among our partners. These insights will shape their strategy for the future. The immediate top priorities that were identified were pressures of development, water quality and strengthening Indigenous relations. To find out more you can visit the GBA's website: [georgianbay.ca](http://georgianbay.ca)

Locally, we are actively recruiting new members and extended family members. Have you considered adding your adult children to your membership? They will be the future of our association. They will also receive the benefits of membership other than voting at the AGM.

There have been cottages sold and new owners in the Bay. If you know of any new potential member of the MBA, please let them know about us and how being a member benefits them.

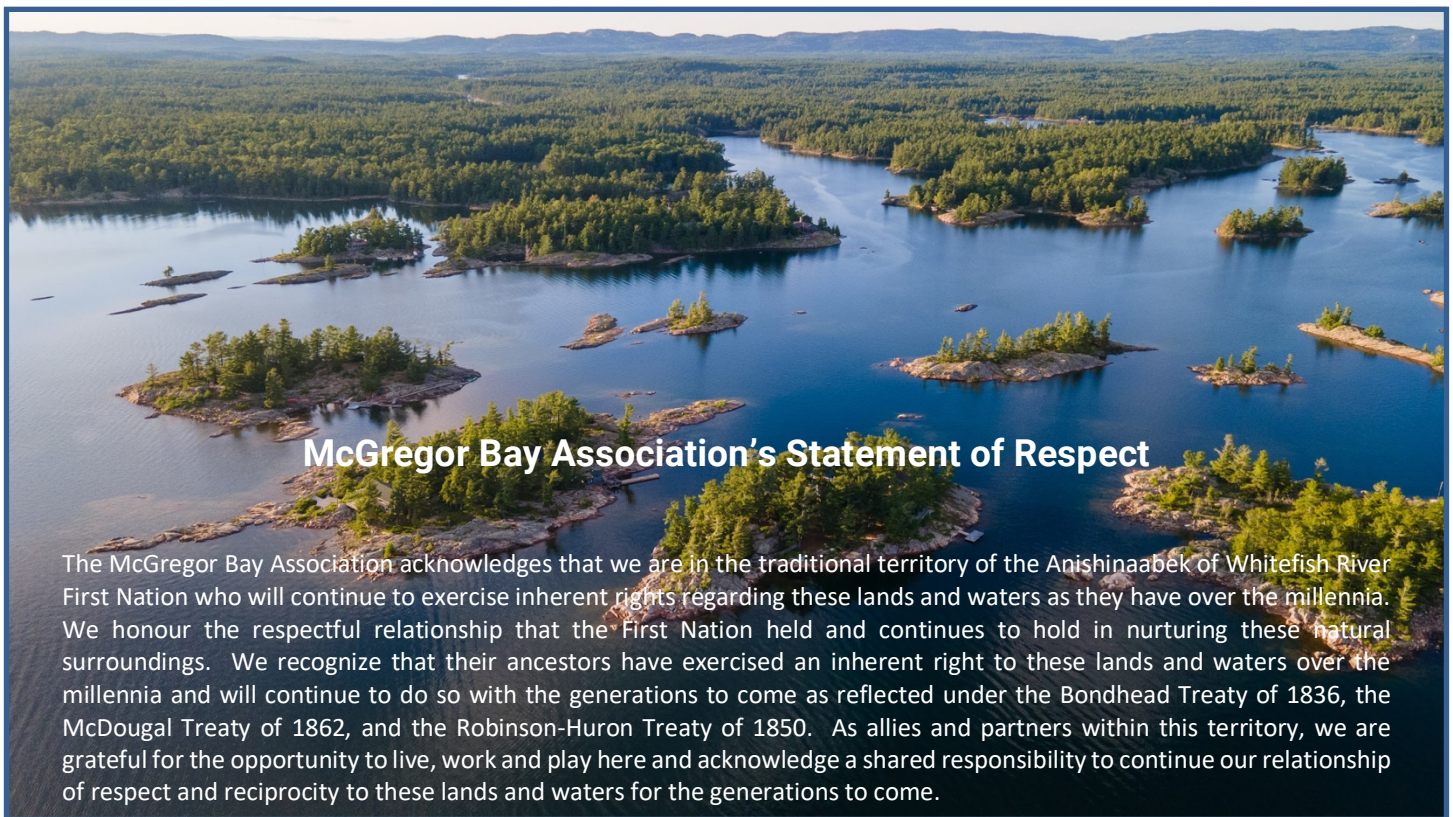
You can look forward to the usual activities again this summer. Red Sand Beach Picnic, regatta, junior and senior sailing, kayak club, Dessert with a Dash, Annual General Meeting dinner/social, yoga and other events run in conjunction with St Christopher's Parish. Please check your calendar for the full list and dates, times, and location.

Thank you to all those who have volunteered their time and expertise this past year. Without you, many programs would not be up and running. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you would like to become more involved or assist with activities or even organize something new. You can check out "Guardians of the Bay". You and your family can have fun doing something to help keep our Bay healthy.

If you are interested in becoming a board member please contact Doris Cowan.

Like all of you, I am looking forward to the upcoming summer and the promise of warm weather and warm friendships - new and old. –

~ Eleanor Pardoe

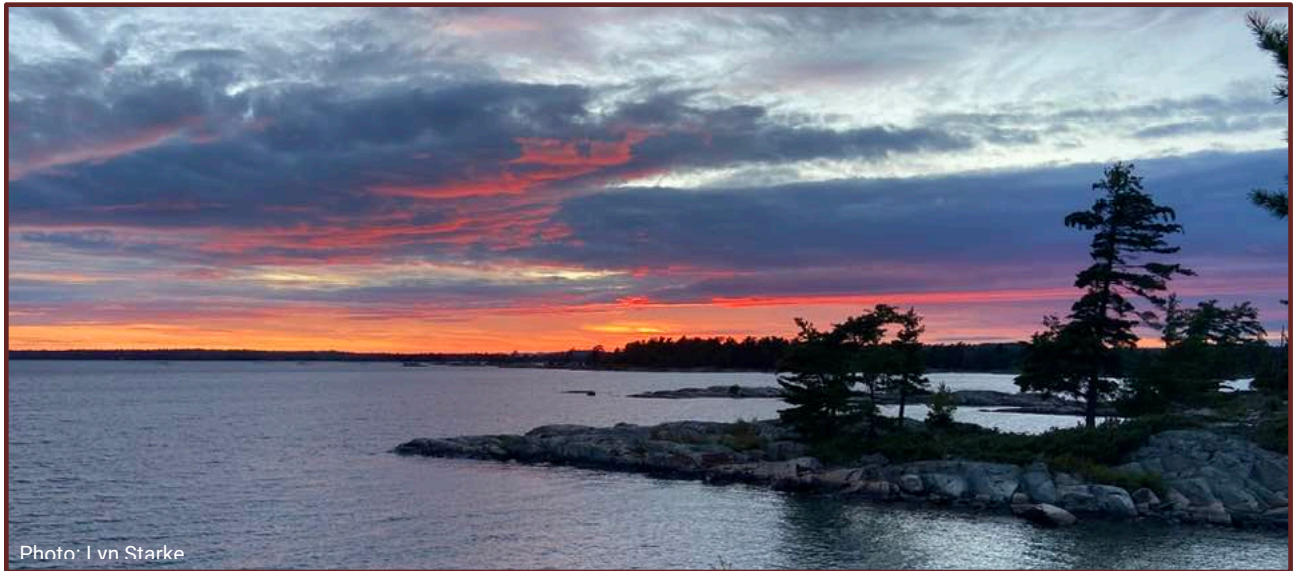


### McGregor Bay Association's Statement of Respect

The McGregor Bay Association acknowledges that we are in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek of Whitefish River First Nation who will continue to exercise inherent rights regarding these lands and waters as they have over the millennia. We honour the respectful relationship that the First Nation held and continues to hold in nurturing these natural surroundings. We recognize that their ancestors have exercised an inherent right to these lands and waters over the millennia and will continue to do so with the generations to come as reflected under the Bondhead Treaty of 1836, the McDougal Treaty of 1862, and the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850. As allies and partners within this territory, we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and play here and acknowledge a shared responsibility to continue our relationship of respect and reciprocity to these lands and waters for the generations to come.

Photo: Bill Demter





## Treasurer's Report

Tom Carmazzi

Hello everyone, I hope your winter has started to subside and you are getting excited to get back to the Bay. I know our has and I am!

Let us look at our financial performance, first in 2024, then our expectations for 2025.

- Financial performance 2024 as compared to 2023.
  - Here's the good news. Although 2024 was still a loss of **\$2,202**, it is better than we told you at the annual meeting, in August, by \$1,714. This favorable improvement was the result of higher memberships \$1,825 and contributions \$492. Our expenses were slightly higher than forecast, mostly due to the final payment of \$1,477 for legal fees associated with having to bring our bylaws into compliance with the new Ontario regulations regarding non-profit organizations, which was completed in 2023.
  - The 2024 loss of **\$2,022** was \$2,849 lower than the loss of 2023 of **\$4,871**. This favorable performance was primarily due to increased membership dues & contributions of \$2,411; increased interest income of \$998; decreased newsletter and mailing costs of \$1,850 as GBA now pays for mailing and a decrease of \$1,290 for office supplies as we did not have the computer expense in 2024 that we had in 2023. This was partially offset by increased dues to GBA of \$650 as our number of regular members increased slightly and the legal fees of \$1477 and accounting fees of \$565 for filing a tax return (which we had to do for the first time in 2024). Now that our efforts in bringing the Bylaws into compliance is finished, we do not expect any legal fees in 2025, giving us a benefit of \$1477, over the 2024 budget.
  - Although we do not want to lose money, this loss was progress from the. very challenging year in 2023. Thank you all for your efforts!!!
  - As you recall, we increased dues from \$120 to \$150 for Regular Members . As a result of this increase, we are forecasted to make **\$822** in income after we net all our revenue against all our expenses. This is good news!
  - This is directly related to income generated by our increase in Regular Membership dues from \$120 to \$150 resulting in an additional **\$4,800** in revenue!!

- Now let us look at our expectations for 2025 compared to 2024.
  - As you remember in last year's Newsletter, we highlighted that we had experienced two years of losses, and that we needed to make some difficult choices. Specifically, we had to increase dues for Regular Members to \$150. It was our first increase in over 10 years! Fortunately, that increase will have the favorable impact that we hoped for.
  - The two other big impacts on the budget almost offset each other. We will have reduced interest income of **\$1,061**, due to less money to invest - related to our previously mentioned financial performance of 2024 & 2023. And, as mentioned earlier, we will not repeat the legal fees of **\$1,477** related to the by-laws that we had in 2024.
  - meeting last August, we pointed out that they had been identified in McGregor Bay and needed to be addressed. This is an estimate that we believe is conservative and yet may be required to maintain the biodiversity in our waters.
  - I feel this is a good budget that has some opportunities for growth, mostly by attracting new members and ensuring we all pay our dues on time.
  - Please do not misunderstand that I believe the budget will be easy to achieve. If we continue to be diligent in our frugal spending, we can ensure that we provide the best value for our membership. The chairpersons for all the committees have done a wonderful job working within our means. Also, we could not have accomplished what we did without all the volunteers at each event!! Never underestimate your impact!! You all have done a great job! Thank you!!!!

In closing, thank you for your continued financial support of the MBA. We would not be able to do what we do without YOU!

~ Tom

### Analysis of an Increase in Annual Dues for Regular Members

Current Annual Dues for Regular Members	Amount of Increase	New Rate	% Increase	Financial Benefit if 150 Members	Revised Income/(loss) for MBA in 2024
<b>\$120</b>	\$0	\$120	0	\$0	<b>(\$3,841)</b>
	\$5	\$125	4.2%	\$750	<b>(\$3,091)</b>
	\$10	\$130	8.3%	\$1,500	<b>(\$2,341)</b>
	\$15	\$135	12.5%	\$2,250	<b>(\$1,591)</b>
	\$20	\$140	16.7%	\$3,000	<b>(\$841)</b>
	\$25	\$145	20.8%	\$3,750	<b>(\$91)</b>
	\$30	\$150	25.0%	\$4,500	\$659
	\$35	\$155	29.2%	\$5,250	\$1,409
	\$40	\$160	33.3%	\$6,000	\$2,159
	\$45	\$165	37.5%	\$6,750	\$2,909



THE McGregor Bay Association  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 2022**

**BALANCE SHEET**

	Forecast	Actual
	2025	2024
<b>Assets:</b>		
Operating cash	\$ 27,002	\$ 26,180
Investments (Note 1)	65,000	65,000
Receivable from Polk Bursary fund	550	550
Cash reserved for Investment	\$ 10,280	\$ 10,280
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 102,832</b>	<b>\$ 102,010</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>		
Dues payable - Georgian Bay Association	\$ 10,400	\$ 10,400
Accounts Payable - phragmites control	4,000	-
	<b>14,400</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>Members' equity:</b>		
From operations	18,130	17,308
Rainbow Fund (Note 1)	70,302	74,302
	<b>88,432</b>	<b>91,610</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>\$ 102,832</b>	<b>\$ 102,010</b>

## STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

	Budget	Actual
	2025	2024
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Revenue from memberships:		
Regular members	\$ 24,000	\$ 19,200
Extended family members	3,325	3,325
Associate members	360	360
Friends of the Bay	200	200
Less: PayPal fees	(588)	(470)
	27,297	22,615
<b>Other Revenue:</b>		
Members' voluntary contributions	7,900	7,892
Contributions directed to Rainbow Fund	675	675
Investment income	2,600	3,661
US exchange	600	527
	11,775	12,755
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>39,072</b>	<b>35,370</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Membership dues - Georgian Bay Association	10,400	10,400
Newsletter & membership directory	5,000	4,089
Facilities rental - Parish Hall	6,500	6,000
AGM, picnics, social events	6,500	6,051
Insurance	2,900	2,606
Fire protection	500	289
Membership dues - FOCA	1,000	978
Legal Fees - By-laws	-	1,477
Website	500	339
Navigation aids	600	500
Dessert with a Dash, nature activities	400	456
Accounting Fees	400	565
Postage & office supplies	1,600	1,469
Bank charges	150	139
Subscriptions	1,500	2,114
Sailing & kayaking	300	100
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>38,250</b>	<b>37,572</b>
<b>Operations - excess of revenue over expenses</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>(2,202)</b>
<b>Members' equity from operations, beginning of year</b>	<b>17,308</b>	<b>19,510</b>
<b>Members' equity from operations, end of year</b>	<b>\$ 18,130</b>	<b>\$ 17,308</b>



## Statement of Revenue and Expenses

**Operations - Excess of Expense over Revenue - 2024** **(\$2,202)**

Total Revenue:

Inc in Membership dues to \$4,800  
\$150

Dec in Interest (\$1,061)  
Income

Total Expense:

Increase in Newsletter & Directory (\$911)  
costs

Increase in Parish Hall (\$500)  
Rental costs

Decrease in Subscription \$614  
Fees

Decrease in Legal Fees for \$1,477  
bylaws

Various < (\$1,395)  
\$500

**Operations - Excess of Revenue over Expense -  
2025**

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**\$822**



**Paddle Power! Water Festival Canoe Races 2024**



## Membership Report

As I write this, I am looking out my window at piles of snow and thinking fondly of sitting on my dock soaking up the magic that is McGregor Bay. Whether you are there for 2 weeks of holidays or the entire summer season, being a member of the McGregor Bay Association supports many of the initiatives that make life in “The Bay” enjoyable and manageable. These include practical things such as our hazard markers, fire pumps and emergency information, as well as educational and entertaining events like Dessert with a Dash, Red Sand Beach picnic and the Water Festival. The MBA is also keeping an eye on environmental issues such as water quality and invasive species. Pretty impressive for a volunteer organization!

We continue to be below our pre-pandemic membership levels. This past year we had 151 Regular members, 85 Extended members, 4 Business members and 4 Friends of the Bay. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join this wonderful organization. For current members it's time to renew your membership and show your support. Our best marketing tool is word of mouth so encourage your cottage neighbours, friends and family to become members as well.

There are several categories of membership:

**Regular member:** \$150.00 (one voting member per property) receives *Newsletter*, *weekly eblasts in season*, *dinner at the AGM*

**Extended member:** \$35.00 (additional member associated with a regular member's property) receives *Newsletter*, *weekly eblasts in season*

**Business member:** \$90.00

**Friend of the Bay:** \$50.00 (renter or individual with an interest in the Bay)

Visit our website [www.mcgregorbayassociation.ca](http://www.mcgregorbayassociation.ca) to update your contact information and pay your membership dues via PayPal. Dues can also be paid by e-transfer from your Canadian bank account or by cheque payable to *McGregor Bay Association*. Cheques can be mailed along with a completed membership form to Anne Harvey, 1206-222 Jackson St. W., Hamilton, ON L8P 4S5 Canada.

~ Anne Harvey

Membership Secretary

[mbamemberships@gmail.com](mailto:mbamemberships@gmail.com)



## NEMI / Ward 1 Update

Councilor Laurie Cook



As winter gradually recedes, I look forward to warmer days and shorter nights. Despite all the snow we've had, water levels are still predicted to be lower this year. At least the ice may go out early and we'll be able to see how our docks have fared - something that I know we all love to dread. But it means that we'll be back in our beloved Bay.

And in more good news, taxes in Ward 1 have actually gone DOWN this year by 1.41 % and yet we have kept the recycling service at McGregor's Landing in Birch Island. Please be sure to dispose of only accepted materials - and as always - no garbage! This is a service we alone in Ward 1 pay for out of our taxes.

In Ward 1 some of our taxes go towards the Recreation Centre, the landfill, the museum and the library. And we can all be on common ground at the library and museum where history and ideas flourish. NEMI's public library is continuing to excel at expanding its community outreach with technology, events. Its expanding its library of items and equipment to lend out. Please look at their catalogue of incredible 'things'. Contact the library ([www.nemi.olsn.ca](http://www.nemi.olsn.ca) or 705 368 2444) for information on obtaining your card. Note: you do need to be a library member with at least a 6 month borrowing history to borrow equipment. But with a card you can enjoy all the other services and programs the library offers, including on-line and audio resources.

Another Hazardous Waste Day at the NEMI landfill has been set for July 19th, so gather your solvents, paints, batteries etc. More information will be available on the NEMI website [www.townofnemi.on.ca](http://www.townofnemi.on.ca) and Facebook page [facebook.com/townofnemi](https://facebook.com/townofnemi).

The landfill on Hwy 6 opens on Sundays starting the 3rd weekend of May and goes to the 3rd weekend of October - as well as its regular hours of Tuesday and Saturday from 9am to 3pm. Only clear bags will be accepted and plastics from 1 to 6 are recycled. No Styrofoam or coffee cups unfortunately. But glass can be recycled there in a separate bin. Also, remember we have deposits on liquor and beer containers so please keep those separate to return to the Beer Store or donate to local charities.

There are a lot of events planned for the upcoming season but two big ones are the 2nd annual Home, Cottage and Culinary Show ([hcc-show@townofnemi.on.ca](mailto:hcc-show@townofnemi.on.ca)) from May 30th to June 1st at the Rec Centre on Hwy 6. This year, along with local vendors and exhibitors, it will be featuring a high tea and an 8 course tasting menu dinner.

The other event on the Little Current waterfront is the Great Lakes Rendezvous from July 13th to 17th (<https://www.glcclub.com/2025-glcc-rendezvous-little-current-ontario>) which will be its 60th anniversary and a return to the Port of Little Current where the first rendezvous was held. There should be plenty of boats to admire there and it's a great opportunity to meet visitors from all over the Great Lakes.

The Centennial Museum in Sheguiandah is a fascinating spot and has various exhibits throughout the season, including a juried art show by the Northern Ontario Artists Association in June and a Manitoulin Fine Arts Association members show in August. The Fall Fair is September 13th with vendors and crafts and of course, pumpkins! The museum sits on 8 acres of lovely grounds, perfect for picnics with a playground and an accessible washroom and coming later this year there will be an outdoor stage for musical and children's events.

You can also combine your visit to the museum with a Sheguiandah Archeological Site tour. Go to [www.shegsite.com](http://www.shegsite.com) for more information or call Lisa Hallaert at 705 368 2367.

Pickleball continues at the Rec Centre and welcomes new or experienced players. If you're interested call 705 368 2825 for more information. Also, at the Recreation Centre throughout the summer, Lisa organizes "Junk in the Trunk" sales where you can sell (or buy!) items free of charge.



Photo: Laurie Cook

The NEMI community picnic and BBQ is July 13<sup>th</sup>. It is held on beautiful Low Island in Little Current where there is also a fun playground and Splash Pad! So come out and meet your neighbours and usually there's a Councilor or two flipping burgers.

Or you can meet your Council virtually on Zoom using Meeting # 489 313 1974 or call in at 1 587 328 1099. Visit the [www.townofnemi.on.ca](http://www.townofnemi.on.ca) website for dates and agendas.

Lastly, if any of your community groups are interested in applying for a grant from The McLean's Mountain Windfarm Fund, please contact the Town Clerk, Pam Myers for information. [pmyers@townofnemi.on.ca](mailto:pmyers@townofnemi.on.ca) or 705 368 3500 ext. 228.

As always let me say that we very much welcome our American long-time residents and visitors alike. I hope that we can deepen or make new friendships with our neighbours, despite these uncertain times.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer, and feel free to contact me with any comments or questions.  
All the very best,

**~ Laurie Cook**

Councillor Ward 1 NEMI

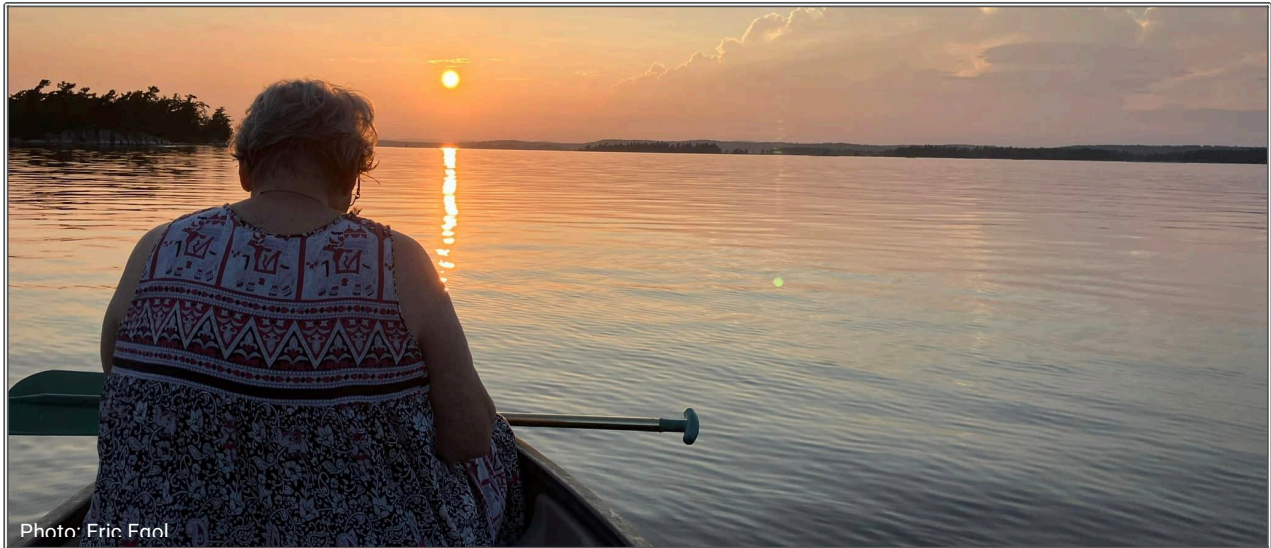
705 282 7076

[hlaurie.cook@yandex.com](mailto:hlaurie.cook@yandex.com)



Photo: Laurie Cook





## Calling For Guardians of the Bay

Doug Whitton and Eleanor Pardoe

The "Guardians of the Bay" (GOTB) is an initiative that emerged from Georgian Bay's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2016. Its purpose is to foster a mindset of protection and preservation among all individuals and groups connected to Georgian Bay, regardless of the size of their involvement.

### What does it mean to be a Guardian of the Bay?

- To have a deep admiration of Georgian Bay and to respect the fragility of its component bays and surrounding lands.
- To comprehend the influence of human attitudes, activities, and decision-making on both the current and future state of Georgian Bay, including its natural ecosystems on the land and in the water.
- To demonstrate your concerns by making decisions and choosing actions favouring the short-term and the long-term sustainability of the Georgian Bay ecosystem.

### Who Can be a Guardian of the Bay?

Anyone! It doesn't matter your age, or your reasons why McGregor Bay is important to you. Your story, big or small, matters.

### What can you do?

We invite individuals to share their stories that exemplify the ethos of being a Guardian of the Bay. We are hoping your story will inspire others to take similar actions in protecting the Bay for future generations. You can submit your story by answering the following questions:

1. What is your name and what is your connection to the Bay?
2. Why being a Guardian of the Bay is important to you?
3. What is your story?
4. How does your story demonstrate the ethics of being a Guardian of the Bay?

Have a story? Share it! Email your Word document to Jamie Drayton, chairperson of the GBA's GOTB committee, at [jrd@draytonproductions.com](mailto:jrd@draytonproductions.com). Stories like yours will be posted on the GBA's website and social media pages. Include a photo or two that illustrates your story. You can also reach out to Eleanor Pardoe ([eleanor.pardoe@gmail.com](mailto:eleanor.pardoe@gmail.com)) or Doug Whitton ([dougwhitton@gmail.com](mailto:dougwhitton@gmail.com)) for more information about how to share your GOTB/McGregor Bay story with this GBA initiative. We will also feature you (and your team) in our own McGregor Bay Newsletter.

During your time in the Bay this coming summer, take a moment to reflect on the natural splendors of our bay and think about what you might do to ensure its future and join the ranks of Guardians of the Bay!

## MBA's Fire Fighting Service

Ed Schillemore

The McGregor Bay Association owns and maintains 9 Fire Pump stations that are placed strategically throughout the various bays within McGregor Bay. Everyone, including family and friends, is encouraged to familiarize themselves with and visit the nearest site. The reason behind this is to become acquainted with what equipment is available for you to use. While we hope the equipment will never be needed, it's nevertheless important to become familiar with it beforehand, not during a panicked situation when it is urgently needed

The location of the stations is shown on the map on the McGregor Bay Association's website (<https://mcgregorbayassociation.ca/fire-medical-emergencies>). There are also maps located in the toolbox at each station.

### Using *What3Words*

This is a location finding app that divides the world into 3-metre squares and 3 distinct words are assigned to each square. *What3Words* is not only helpful for finding a location, but also for pinpointing an exact position when reporting emergencies such as a fire or a medical crisis.

The following are the *What3Words* for the fire pump stations in McGregor Bay. Take note of the one nearest you:

Fire Pump Location	What3Words
North Iroquois Bay	dangle.oxygen.realist
Stratos	billiard.dogfight.potted
St. Christopher's Church Hall	revivals.alas.converging
Ghent	thundered.rugged.foot
Hiawatha	visited.pixies.petals
Robinson	phoned.tooth.stored
Andrew Is	landoccupying.telephoned.enclosures
King	lazed.owning.blatant
Honeycutt	comet.surgeon.articulate

We are thankful to the cottage owners at several locations who have graciously allowed us to utilize their personal docks for the placement of fire pump sheds.

For the other fire pump locations, we've been working to improve access. At one location, we had to remove a dock last fall that had deteriorated to the point of being a safety hazard. This year, we will be removing another degraded dock. We are currently seeking funding to replace these docks to provide safer access to fire pumps at those locations.

The fire pumps were collected last fall and were serviced over the winter. The plan is to have them all returned to their locations by the end of the Canadian May 24<sup>th</sup> long weekend.

**Each fire station has been equipped with gear to fight small site fires.**

**Take a look below to see what to expect to find  
when you make your familiarization visit**

- Emergency Response Map
- Fire pump
  - Pump start up Instructions
  - Pump manual
- Spare gas for pump
- 8 water pails
- Fireman's axe
- 2 shovels
- 2 pairs of gloves
- Toolbox
- Stretcher with strapping

#### **Hoses and Equipment**

- Hose shut-off clamp
- 2 hose patches
- Suction hose
- Hoses in a can
- 2 nozzles
- Suction hose wrench
- Hose wye
- 2 quick connect hose ends (female)
- 2 quick connect hose ends (male)
- Spark plugs
- Spark plug wrench

## **Dessert with a Dash of...**

Doris Cowan

"Dessert with a Dash of..." continues to be a highly popular Monday evening among McGregor Bay cottagers. Most evenings last year there were more than 50 people in attendance. This year's series will once again begin with dessert being served at 6:30 p.m. followed by a featured talk at 7:00 p.m.

I would like to thank last years' speakers for their contribution to DWD, as well as our president Eleanor Pardoe for the weekly reminders that were sent out throughout last summer. Also, thanks to Christina Jones for hosting Bay residents in her cottage in Baie Fine for the last two summers. Finally, I would like to extend thanks to Marty Rosen for entertaining us with his repertoire of folk songs in past summers. To all, I would like to share our appreciation for your efforts.

Once again, organizers Margaret Beard and Doris Cowan invite you to join in and select from any or all the smorgasbord of topics listed below and be prepared to be thoroughly entertained! Have a look at what's on tap for this year.

Monday, June 30

### ***Hiking in Nepal with John Woodrooffe***

In the spring of 2024, John embarked on the famous Langtang Trek in North-central Nepal near the Chinese border, deep within the Himalayan mountains. Starting from Kathmandu, he traveled by jeep along primitive roads to the trailhead at Syabrubes! After a four-day trek, he reached the mountain village of Langtang and continued on to climb Kyanjin Ri, which rises to an elevation of 4 800 metres (15,800 feet) in Langtang National Park. From there, he crossed the Gosaikunda Pass, descending into blooming rhododendron forests filled with old-growth trees. Along the way, he visited a Buddhist monastery in Thule Syabru before concluding his journey in the village of Kutumsang. On this solo



adventure, John encountered many fascinating people and witnessed some of the most breathtaking mountains and landscapes he had ever seen.

July 7

### ***Mountain Climbing***

For many years, Chuck Stanich and his son Matt have climbed many mountains. Matt will share stories about some of his adventures for us.

July 14

### ***Storytelling - Celebrating Memorable Bay Citizens***

Seven individuals will be celebrated by seven speakers with stories about their time and impact in the Bay. This year among the figures that we will be spotlighting are Father Reagan, Marianne McDonald, and Reuben Green. We hope this can become an annual evening for us all. Let me know of other Bay citizens that have a legacy in the Bay for this new feature of the DWD program!

July 21.

### ***The Wonders of Costa Rica***

During a recent trip to Costa Rica, Terry Goan photographed captured the wonders of the country at four different locations, where he photographed mainly birds. Come and enjoy his amazingly detailed images.

July 28.

### ***From Echo Island to Lake Helen, Polk Family's History in McGregor Bay and Killarney Park***

Uncover the untold history of Lake Helen, where Louis Polk Sr created a lasting legacy through fishing trips, family retreats, and remote cabins that became legendary in McGregor Bay. Join us for an evening as Stephen Polk shares family anecdotes and legends that detail the remarkable story of his family's deep connection to Georgian Bay.

August 4

### ***The "Missing" Geology of McGregor Bay***

US National Park Service Geologist, Jack Wood, is a member of the Alt family. He will discuss how the geology of McGregor Bay gives insights to the story of Earth's processes, starting close to 2000 million years ago (or for 2 billion years for USA friends). The geology of our islands defines the safe passages between exposures of metasedimentary and igneous rocks and forms the core of the La Cloche Mountains and represents the most visible part of the region's history. While these features have been the subjects of other talks through the years, this discussion will focus more on what has gone missing and those processes that helped shape the waterways, mountains and islands of McGregor Bay. A subfield of geoscience, "Geomorphology" is the study and understanding of processes that went into shaping the landscape we see now. The underlying bedrock, climate change, ecological succession, and the rise and fall of glaciations all played significant roles in shaping the resulting topography, influencing these features and phenomena in various ways. The talk will focus on what has transpired to shape the Bay's landscape and more broadly the Great Lakes and how we can infer the "missing" from these surroundings.

August 11.

### ***Nuclear Power Generation***

Gavin Nyhoff spent his summer work term in New Brunswick at a nuclear generating station. His introductory presentation by staff so motivated him that he offered give a presentation about nuclear power generation.



Photo: Bill Demter

## Water Quality in McGregor Bay

Ian Cook

The health and quality of the waters of McGregor Bay are essential for almost everything we do in the bay, from swimming to fishing and for many of us, drinking water! The McGregor Bay Association has been monitoring water health for years. Recently this has been done through a citizen science initiative called the Water Rangers.



In the summer and fall of 2024, a small group of volunteers headed out on the bay at regular intervals to collect water samples and conduct a variety of simple tests in real time, right there in their boat. Five different sites were strategically selected to try and get a good representation of the water quality in the bay. The water samples were measured for water clarity, temperature, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and pH levels. Results from these tests are available for all to see on the Water Rangers website ([waterrangers.ca](http://waterrangers.ca)). I'm pleased to report that test results from the 5 different sites in McGregor Bay indicates that the water quality is extremely high-quality. This testing is not possible without volunteers, and we need more. If you are interested in helping with this program, send me an e-mail at [icookdvm@rogers.com](mailto:icookdvm@rogers.com).

### Testing your Water Filtration System

How many of you provide drinking water to your cottage by drawing water out of the lake, and running it through a water treatment system? If you do, it's a really good idea to have your water tested from time to time to ensure your water treatment system is working properly and your drinking water is safe. Public Health Ontario will test your water for the presence of *E. coli* and total coliforms. To access this free service, you go to their lab in Sudbury to pick up a sample bottle. Return your sample to the same location for testing. The lab is located at 1300 Paris St., Suite 2, Sudbury. To learn more about this service go to their website at: <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/water/drinking-water/taking-submitting-water-sample>. Alternatively, call 705 564 6917 for more information.

There are also private for-profit labs that will mail you specimen jars and allow you to mail the sample back, and which, for a fee, will do more extensive testing than just the coliform bacteria that the provincial lab tests for.

### Checking your Wastewater System

How many of you treat wastewater at your cottage with a holding tank or use a septic tank and leaching bed system? Over decades of use, these systems can fail and discharge untreated sewage or wastewater directly into the bay. This can be of particular concern since the sewage leakage can be occurring right where you swim or draw water. The Sudbury and District Public Health Unit can also assist with your septic issues. Information about caring for your septic system can be found on their website: <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/sewage-systems/caring-septic-system/>. If you are concerned that your system may be malfunctioning, call Public Health Sudbury and Districts at 705 522 9200 or toll-free 1 866 522 9200 and ask to speak to a public health inspector.

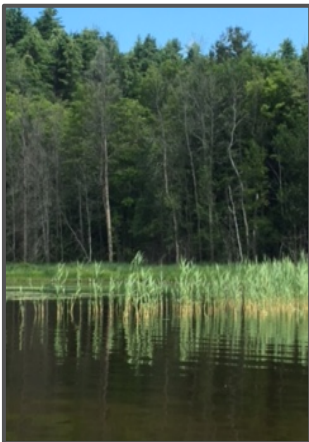


## Prolific and Pervasive Phragmites: They are back in the Bay

Doug Whitton

*Phragmites australis subsp. Australis* is native Eurasia, and likely introduced to North America along the Atlantic coast in the 1800, *Phragmites australis* (pronounced “frag-MY-tees”) is a perennial wetland grass which forms dense, near monoculture stands. It is a member of the grass family and is also known as European common reed, common reed, or common reed grass.

These phragmites can reach heights of more than 5 m and densities of over 200 stems per square metre. Their impact on wetlands is particularly significant. By displacing native vegetation such as cattails, bulrushes and sedges, these plants negatively affect and reduce important wildlife habitat. Phragmites can also alter ecosystem hydrology by transpiring water at a faster rate than native species, resulting in lower water levels.



*A phrag patch in Scow Bay*

In 2004, this aggressively spreading grass was recognized as Canada’s worst invasive plant by scientists at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada. It has spread throughout Ontario and become one of the most significant threats to Great Lakes coastal habitats, where it has drastically reduced plant and wildlife diversity, as well as threatened a high number of species at risk.

In short, they threaten biodiversity and accelerate the decline of species at risk.

The Invasion of these phragmites have spread north from southern Georgian Bay. They were first discovered in McGregor Bay in 2016 on the South Shore on Red Sand Beach. Another stand was later identified in a cove on Middle Sampson Island. Spearheaded by Gail Robinson, a group of dedicated members of the McGregor Bay Garden Club worked tirelessly to eradicate those stands that summer. In the following years, Gail has monitored the spots (and later found yet another small stand on the South Shore). It’s likely that high-water levels in the following years helped prevent regrowth in those areas.

However, due to lower water levels, new stands were identified in Scow Bay this past summer (2024). Volunteers from the McGregor Bay Association acted once again and began the process of removing this large phragmites patch.

Unfortunately, at present we don’t know if there are other patches of invasive phragmites within the boundaries of McGregor Bay.

### What we need to do

The time to act on controlling the spread of invasive phragmites is *now*. To manage the problem, the sooner invasive phragmites are removed the better chance we have of restoring and maintaining a natural balance of native plant, fish, reptile and bird species.

The risk of inaction is significant. If invasive phragmites were to get out of control, chemical herbicides might be required as a last resort, leading to water pollution problems. Some areas of Manitoulin Island are already at that point, having to struggle with the tough choice to use pesticides to kill phragmites, knowing of the harmful consequences. With your help, hopefully it won’t come to that in McGregor Bay.



## Grant Proposal

The province of Ontario has provided funds to support communities that are working hard to control the spread of invasive phragmites.

The McGregor Bay Association has applied for funding from the Invasive Species Centre for a project to address the phrag issue in the McGregor Bay area, set to launch in the spring of 2025. This initiative will be a partnership with the Whitefish River First Nation Department of Lands and Resources and Georgian Bay Forever.

The proposed project has three objectives.

1. The first is to **map** all existing invasive phragmites in McGregor Bay in 2025. The map of phragmites patch locations will form a baseline for future reference. T
2. The second objective is to develop and implement a **plan of best practices for cutting** the phrags. We will send out notices for planned cutting dates and a call for volunteers to help.
3. The third objective is to **monitor future re-infestation**. The plan is to monitor the patches in subsequent years for regrowth. These areas will be monitored using the established baseline map as a reference. Vigilance is needed because regrowth is expected to occur for at least five years or longer.

Fingers crossed; we will secure funding for 2025. If we are unsuccessful, we will continue to push forward with our plans for cutting down the plants to the best of our ability, while exploring other funding options.

## Volunteers are needed!

This initiative will depend on volunteer support and participation for all aspects of the project -mapping, planning and monitoring. While the labour-intensive job of cutting phragmites may not be your thing, there will be a need for volunteers for other project related tasks as well. To make this a community-driven effort, the McGregor Bay Association offer expertise, with additional support from GBA, who bring years of experience in the field.

Awareness of the phragmite problem is vital to the success of this project. At this point we don't know the extent of the invasion, but hopefully the invasion still in an early stage and we are in a manageable position.

## A training workshop scheduled for next summer

A hands-on workshop will be held in McGregor Bay in mid or late July (date TBD) It will be led by Nicole Carpenter of Georgian Bay Forever.



*Phragmites spread primarily through seeds, rhizomes and stolons (shown above).*

Photo: Gail Robinson

The workshop will teach you the following:

- How to identify invasive phragmites species from native species
- How to cut phragmites in water, aka "cut to drown" technique
- How to spade cut on dry land
- How to cut seed heads and properly dispose of them
- How to dispose of stalks in a way that prevents re-growth

All question regarding invasive phragmites will be addressed and answered.



*Phragmites seed head*

Photo: Gail Robinson

## Seven Steps to Controlling Phragmites

Georgian Bay Forever has produced a useful factsheet entitled *Seven Steps to Controlling Invasive Phragmites*. You can find it online at:

[https://www.georgianbayforever.org/\\_files/ugd/152d09\\_55030d755e3445489539e04d1d293622.pdf](https://www.georgianbayforever.org/_files/ugd/152d09_55030d755e3445489539e04d1d293622.pdf)

### 1. Identify and Map

If you find phragmites in McGregor Bay, the first step is to identify the type. Native phragmites look different than invasive phragmites. Invasive species stalks are beige and feel rough, whereas native species stalks are smooth and are red in colour. McGregor Bay Association can consult with Georgian Bay Forever in any case that is unsure or questionable.

### 2. Community Assistance

The McGregor Bay Association will assist all impacted landowners and take steps to manage and control phragmites on Crown Land. In different areas of McGregor Bay, neighbors may choose to collaborate and form location-based teams for mapping and cutting phragmites.

If invasive phragmites are identified on Whitefish River First Nation land, McGregor Bay Association will coordinate with the WRFN Lands and Resource manager for cutting. No cutting will be permitted on WRFN land without consent.

### 3. Equipment

McGregor Bay Association will have hand-cutting equipment available for use and will purchase more in 2025. Apart from that, you will need twine, yard waste bags, gloves and clothing suitable for working in a wetland setting as well as means to remove cut stalks from their location.

### 4. Timing

Mid July to mid-August is the optimal time for cutting, before the plants go to seed. Native phragmites seed heads form earlier in the season. Cutting after seed heads form will risk spreading seeds resulting in new growth the following year.

### 5. Cutting

If seed heads have already formed, cut them first, and set aside in yard waste bags where they can rot and die. For stalks, we will be using only hand cutting methods to control phragmites this year. Be sure to cut only the stalks and do not disturb the roots. There are two techniques for cutting stalks:

- “Cut to drown” which involves cutting phragmites in water.
- Spade cut phragmites on dry land

### 6. Removal

Collect all biomasses including floating debris and place them in a designated spot where stalks can dry out and decay. Seed heads need to be disposed of separately. The different methods for disposal will be taught at the July workshop.

### 7. Follow up

Once McGregor Bay Association develops a database of invasive phrag patches, all sites will be monitored yearly for re-infestation. Each patch needs to be re-cut as needed. Each year will require a reassessment. In the best-case scenario, the patches will be gone in five years.

# Recommendations for Summer Reading with a “Green” Twist

Judy Young

This past year has been a tumultuous time for many of us. So, as we all keep calm and “green” on and mull over our mission “to protect and enhance the environment of McGregor Bay. I have curated some top recently published books that cover environmental topics for the summer, or sooner!

First, I’d like to recommend the new short work by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*. Kimmerer is especially known for her ecological masterpiece, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. In her recent meditation, she gathers serviceberries, along with her thoughts about what she refers to as the “gift economy.” A botanist by training, Kimmerer writes from the wisdom of her shared heritage, both Anishinaabe and European.

In *The Serviceberry* she questions how can people walk alongside one another, learning an ethic of reciprocity that fits both the “more than human” plant and animal communities of our world, and communities of people. How can we be informed by Indigenous wisdom in this undertaking, so crucial in our day?

Second, Pulitzer Prize-winner Richard Powers’ novel, *Playground*, is also an eye-opener. *Playground* is a study of both Polynesia and the intersection of the awesome world of the ocean with both humanity and AI. Powers is known for his earlier novel about the forest and foresters, called *The Overstory*, as well as for other New York Times bestsellers like *Bewilderment*. For environmental readers, *Playground* is a good entry into the marvels of the Powers universe.

Third, *The Light Eaters* by Zoe Schlanger, is “a masterpiece of science writing,” as Robin Wall Kimmerer says. Schlanger details discoveries in the world of plants, which humans are finally beginning to recognize are much more complex than we used to believe. Plants communicate, they warn other plants, even at a distance, of dangers that have affected them. They send different types of signals for immediate plant family members and for the general plant public. And science continues to struggle to keep up. Schlanger points out that “nature, never a flat plane, has always more folds and faces still hidden from human view. The world is a prism, not a window. Wherever we look, we find new refractions.”

Finally, *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey, won the Booker Prize for good reason. Samantha Harvey describes watching Earth from the various viewpoints of each of the scientists and astronauts on the space station, in what is indeed “a moving elegy to our environment and planet,” as described on the book’s back cover. Whatever else you read in 2025, consider lifting your spirits by reading *Orbital* too.

~ Judy



Photo: Sylvie Favret



## Garden Club Report

Last June, the Garden Group took a trip to Sheguiandah to visit Pepper Point Gardens. There had been previous flooding which had an impact on the grounds causing some plant die-off, but owner Jean



Narozonski did a great job of getting things back to normal. First stop for the day, though, was for lunch at the Brewery before heading out to the gardens.

In August we had our annual Potluck at Rosemary

Grenside's place, which is just east of Williams. We discussed summer planting and had a delicious lunch.

Looking ahead, we are planning a clean-up of St. Christopher's grounds on June 10 and possible 12, starting at 10a.m. Please bring a lunch, garden tools and a bucket with pine needles, if possible. We are anticipating some planting of perennials.

Every June we plan an outing to learn about native plants that live and thrive in the Bay. This year we have planned for June 24th at 10 a.m. At this point it will be either West Bay Trail, the Bog depending on weather and water levels.

If we head to West Bay Trail, Gail Robinson will join us help identify which native species will do well in a garden. Details are to come via email closer to the date.



L-R: Susie Griffiths, Laurie Masters, Lindsay Barrett-Williams

Finally, our last meeting will be September 2nd at 10 a.m. for the fall clean up at St. Christophers church grounds. Once again, please bring a lunch, garden tools and a bucket.



For more information, please contact me at 239-464-9798

~ Lee Williams

Our annual potluck is planned for August 12 starting at 11a.m. This year, Susie Griffith will host. Bring a dish to share. Susie will provide drinks. Due to limited dock space, try to boat pool.



Lynne Stanich and Gail Robinson

## St Christopher's Church News 2024/25



We had a fantastic year in 2024. It was the first time since 2019 that we had a summer minister, Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans. Dean, a fulltime professor of music at Lakehead University, was onsite most of July and August, until his last service on 1 September. Guest ministers during the summer included Jesse Clapperton, a Lay Reader from the Church of the Ascension in Sudbury led services early in the season, followed by The Rev. Dr. Robert Wainwright from the University of Oxford. And, of course, The Very Reverend Peter Wall. helped out several times throughout the summer - including offering a last service of the season on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We had a wonderful visit from Archbishop Anne Germond of the Dioceses of Algoma and Moosonee. She was elected Metropolitan for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and became Acting Primate for Canada in the fall for several months. We are grateful that despite her expanded responsibilities, she continued to support and visit St. Christopher's and

McGregor Bay. We wish her all the best in her many roles.

Fund raising went well. We received many individual donations for the Building Fund. We also generated revenue from several fundraisers, including Tie and Buy, the Many Hands arts and crafts sale, Trivia Night, Euchre Night and Wednesday Bridge. We thank all the organizers and contributors for these events. Many new sponsored picnic tables and benches were purchased – and our thanks to Larry Shields who assembled them. He and Property Manager Veronica Stier worked together to identify and complete numerous repair, maintenance and replacement projects.

We also very much appreciate support from Murray Still at Stillwater Marina. He has kept the church boat for many years and has also donated a parking place for the minister.

Several changes are taking place on the board, including both shifts of position and new members. Lee Williams is succeeding Meridith Randolph as Rector's Warden. I am succeeding Carl Botan as People's Warden, Leslie Randolph Menikoff has followed Jennifer McCreddie as Secretary and Todd Alexander follows me as Treasurer.

We always are in need for help cleaning, organizing, repairing, and replacing items in the church, the rectory, the parish community hall and the grounds, as well as for fund raising. If you are interested in contributing in any way, please let one of the board members know. Please also consider serving on the board.

~ Dick Lockrem

## Kids and Crafts and Shenanigans

"There's nothing to do". How often have you heard your kids say this? Well last summer we did something about that. For the first time, a group of kids ranging in age from 4 to 14 (plus their parents and grandparents) met up for fun and games at the Parish Hall. While the grownups chatted, the kids did crafts, played improvised games, organized by the junior set. From musical chairs, to pin the tail on the... (???) It was an afternoon of fun, making new friends and promises to return and repeat in the days to come. Many thanks, Monique Shields and Heather Gagnon for your contributions to help make this new program a success.

And yes.... there was something to do!

The Children's Crafts in the Afternoon will resume this summer. Already stepping up to the bat to host the afternoon of July 7<sup>th</sup> is Krista Barr. We are looking for volunteers to host July 21 and August 11. If interested, please contact me at [gwoodrooffe@gmail.com](mailto:gwoodrooffe@gmail.com) or 613.355.3801. Start time will 1:00 p.m. Location will be at the Parish Hall, rain or shine.



This is where the shenanigans happen...all in good fun. See you again in July '25!

Photos: Gillian Woodrooffe

## Trivia Night

Sue Nyhof

Do you know who were the 1970's Fab Five, where St. Nicholas was born? What about this: who would be the gold medalists for communication, long jump and sprinting -in the animal world? Here's another question : which dessert represents the second half of the weekend? These are just a few of the random things you missed out on if you didn't attend last year's Trivia Night!

Thirty-four Bay friends came together once again for this St. Christopher's fundraiser to enjoy good food, good friendships, and a good sense of adventure to tackle a brain teasing evening.

Congratulations to the "Susies", the Grants and the Nyhofs on their triumphant win. We promise there was no collusions among the Nyhofs - proof was in corrections of potential answers and pronunciation!!

Categories this year may include our usual Christmas in August, balls of fun and other sports, highest, lowest, hottest, coldest, northern, southern, cottage games and a new *progressive* category.

We hope you will consider joining us for Trivia 2025, version 17.0. Once again it will be held in the first week of August – (Thursday August 7<sup>th</sup>). Family, friends and neighbours are all welcome!



Photo: Sue Nyhoff

### Winners of Trivia Night 2024

L-R: Bar Nyhof, Susie Woodward, Susie Turnbull, Gavin Nyhof, Eric Grant and Dave Grant

## Mark your Calendars for these St. Christopher's Church Fundraisers:

**Murder Mystery Nights Fundraisers for St. Christopher's Church:** There will be 3 murder mystery dinners up for auction; with dinner and game date open to the bidder...all the money goes to the Saint Christopher into the Futures Fund. The date and time will be selected by the winning bidder!

Eight people are to be included at each of the three dinners. Murder by chocolate will be the first one and will include cocktails appetizer, salad, main course, dessert and a few surprises...

Cheques are to be made out to Saint Christopher

For more Information, contact Veronica Stier at [veronicastier1965@gmail.com](mailto:veronicastier1965@gmail.com)

**Two Arts and Crafts Sale Weekends.** The first will be July 5 and 6 followed by the weekend of August 9 and 10. Ten percent of sales goes to the church. For more info contact Kathleen Pistor: 226 260 2856 or email [kpistor86@gmail.com](mailto:kpistor86@gmail.com)





## Junior Sailing - 2024 Recap

Last summer, the McGregor Bay Junior Sailing Club had another great month of sailing races. It was smooth sailing for all of our dockmasters, skippers, and crew as kids from all over the bay “learned the ropes” and mastered the art of sailing around the beautiful bay.

The 2024 Junior Sailor of the Year trophy was awarded to Amina Sow, however it was a close sibling competition between Amina and her brother Djabril, who won the trophy in 2022. This next summer, we will have a promising group of young skippers and crew which will make for another great competition!

I encourage all families with young potential sailors to turn out for Junior Sailing this summer which is held on Wednesdays in July at the church docks. It is always a blast and no previous experience is needed. And if you have any Pico sailboats that you are willing to let us borrow on race days, I am more than happy to help transport them to the docks and am always willing to help set them up/rig them for you.

You can contact me at [hannahhigens@icloud.com](mailto:hannahhigens@icloud.com).

~ **Hannah Higens**, Captain of the McGregor Bay Junior Sailing Club





Photo: Dick Lockrem

## Bridge in the Bay 2024

Dick Lockrem, with lots of help from Jennifer McCreadie

2024 was a great year for Bridge in the Bay with six tables on most Wednesdays. Skill and experience levels among regular players vary greatly and, while the game is fun, the company and camaraderie are the best. We were pleased to welcome new participants who had never played bridge before they visited us this summer, as well as players new to the group. Martine Nyhof joined her parents, Dag and Sue, for an enjoyable day of bridge. Suzie Martin came to bridge while visiting her aunt Jan Grant. Stephanie Barrington watched a time or two and then joined the game. We encourage anyone of any age to come and watch or play in a friendly and non-threatening environment. Join us once or come all summer, whatever suits your schedule.

This is the second year we have used tablets to record bids and results to give us immediate scoring. It has been challenging to adapt to the technology but is worth all the effort. We only had one glitch and had to depend on Marge Hicks' hand calculating to rescue us. Thanks, Marge!

Another aspect of the activity is that it raises funds to support the church. The total donation during the summer was over \$500. Thanks to all the players for being so generous.

As a reminder, the play is Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Parish Community Hall. (We also get to see the junior sailors on the weeks when they are active.) When you come, bring a lunch and a small donation of a "toonie".

Hope to see you in 2025.

~ Dick Lockrem

[Richard\\_lockrem@yahoo.com](mailto:Richard_lockrem@yahoo.com)



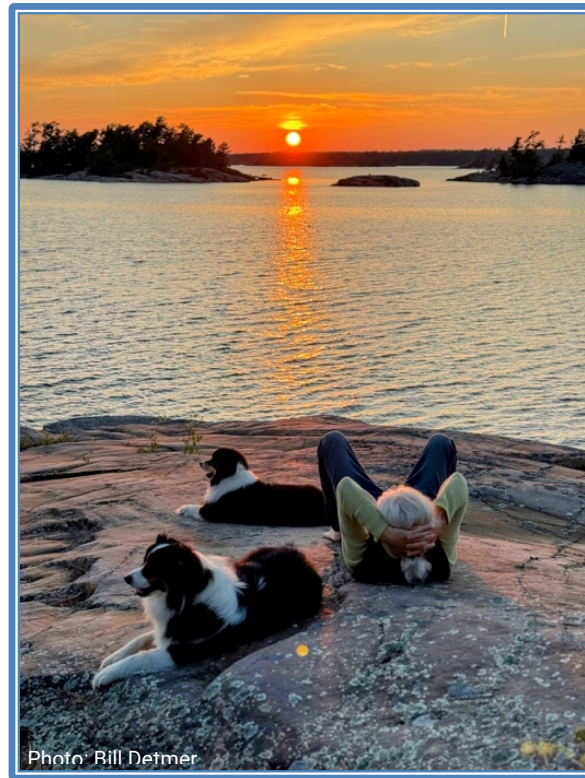


Photo: Bill Detmer

## *Remembering*

### **Peggy Biederman**

1936-2024

Peggy and her husband Glenn purchased their cottage in McGregor Bay in 1992. Glenn aptly named it Peggy's Cove. They spent every summer there until Peggy was into her 80's and had to get her hips replaced. Peggy's Cove, on the east end of Hiawatha, has an unusually large flat rock along its shoreline. Our mom was meticulous about that rock face, constantly picking weeds, grass and saplings out of the small crevices and using a power blower, sometimes several times a day, to clear away the pine needles and other small debris. We used to jokingly say, "Mom is busy polishing her rock". We are fortunate to continue to have Peggy's Cove in the family as Peggy's daughters, Julia (Bob) and Cindy (Willy), have taken over the property. Glenn, now in his 90's, is unable to spend the full summer in the Bay but still loves to come up for a visit every year.



Glen, Julia, Cindy and Peggy Biederman

Peggy (nee Margaret Uffelman) was one of six children born and raised in Waterloo, Ontario. It was her sister, the late Phyllis Turner, who introduced Peggy and Glenn to the Bay and let them know when Peggy's Cove came up for sale. Our dad didn't hesitate and purchased the property promptly. It was a wonderful family connection that these sisters shared by being in the Bay each summer. Peggy and Glenn's children, grandchildren, and now, great-grandchildren, all love Peggy's Cove in McGregor Bay and will continue to enjoy it for many years to come. We have many fond memories of spending time there with our mom, Nana and Great-Nana.



## Stan Strato

1944 – 2044



It is with great sadness but also thankfulness for a life well lived that we announce that Stan Strato passed away on May 31, 2024 in Sudbury. In 1988 after visiting friends in Iroquois Bay, together with Patti and Dave Bragg, Judy and Stan purchased TP 1846 better known as Pleasure Island. True to Stan's Finnish heritage, the first renovation (of many) was the addition of a sauna. Stan was born and raised in the small community of Beaver Lake (between Espanola and Nairn Centre) on Highway 17. That background, his gregarious nature, and an electrical supply business based in Sudbury, meant that he already had friends all over the region. Membership in the McGregor Bay Association was just another opportunity to make more friends, and many in the Bay were fortunate to become part of Stan's network, united instantly by a common knowledge of his repertoire of bad jokes, always inviting them for afternoon sauna and perhaps a little rum and Pepsi!

Stan loved maps and exploring and had a rich knowledge of Killarney Park, the La Cloche Mountains and McGregor Bay. Stan had hidden fishing spots and he knew overgrown trails that were still useable and how to access secret places in the mountains. He shared his knowledge of the lakes and bays with visitors who came to stay at Pleasure Island with boat tours of the Bay, zipping through its channels. He loved keeping his wood pile stocked and was forever looking for a fallen tree to add to his stockpile. Stan couldn't have been prouder in 2023 when his daughter Karen and husband Chris joined Judy and Stan as owners. Many new memories and adventures were to follow with their grandchildren. McGregor Bay was a happy place for Stan, surrounded by the familiar beauty of northern Ontario and his many friends, who miss him now.

Full obituary can be found at: <https://www.sudbury.com/obituaries/strato-stanley-michael-8960278>



Photo: Gillian Woodrooffe

## It's the Same Every Year

Adrian Frazier

The boats all pulled up on shore  
Save the one that takes you away.

Small fish scatter by the dock  
And return in a half circle  
To stare up as you stare down.

Upon the wake you look back--  
The cottage grows small,  
Sinks into the horizon.

Unpeopled, the bay wraps  
Her arms around herself.

Nothing to get mad at there!