



THE GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION:
YOUR VOICE ON THE BAY.



The mission of the Georgian Bay Association is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

What is the Georgian Bay Association?

The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is more than just a group of like-minded individuals. In fact, we represent the combined voice of 20 cottage associations and 3,200 families along the eastern and northern shores of Georgian Bay. With that much support, we can advocate real action that benefits us all to all levels of government. The GBA dedicates itself to preserving the incredible, yet fragile, wilderness and waterways that make the Bay so enjoyable for you, your family and countless generations to come.

We know how much Georgian Bay and your cottage mean to you. After all, we're cottagers too. It is this shared passion and commitment to the Bay that gave rise to the GBA in 1916. And the GBA continues to thrive today, serving as an advocacy group consisting of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to help protect the Bay and its environment. That not only includes the Bay and its beautiful setting, but also your cottage and its picture-postcard-perfect surroundings.

For thousands of us, this special place represents family, history, nature, memories and the hope of renewal that arrives with each new season. That is a bond and a legacy worth protecting and preserving.



20
COTTAGE ASSOCIATIONS



3,200
FAMILIES



27
VOLUNTEER DIRECTORS

How can joining benefit my family and me?

When it comes to the welfare of our lands and cottages, we are your voice on the Bay. We speak to governments and agencies on your behalf to ensure that your questions, comments and concerns are heard. From environmental protection and aquatic ecosystems management to boating and safety issues, the GBA works to preserve the use and enjoyment our cottages provide.

Of course, we don't operate in a vacuum. We take a "bottom-up" approach to public engagement and advocacy. That means we listen to what you, your fellow cottagers and your local associations have to say. We then act on that input to help make your hopes and aspirations for the Bay a reality.

To make that happen, our 27 volunteer directors, drawn from our 20 member associations, serve on a variety of committees created to strengthen your voice at the local, provincial, national and international level. Leading this team is an experienced, full-time Executive Director who is devoted to supporting the causes that protect the Bay. Our Executive Director and volunteers meet regularly with politicians and civil servants to advocate for better legislation and regulation that can preserve – and even improve – our way of life on the Bay.



Here's what we do for you:

Over the years, the GBA has leveraged its networks and engagement style to win political respect. Beyond what individual cottagers or associations can do, our excellent channels of communication give us access to all levels of government so that we can participate in critical stakeholder meetings in order to consult on the interests of the cottage community.

Some of our most recent, current and ongoing activities include:

WATER LEVELS



- When water levels hit a historic low, we worked with the MNR to fast track applications for dredging and blasting to ensure that our members could maintain access to their properties
- We met with the Federal Ministers of Environment and Foreign Affairs and our local MP to secure a commitment that the Government of Canada will address the long-term issue of water levels
- We work with the International Joint Commission to hold the government accountable for taking action on water levels
- We network with other key stakeholders on the Great Lakes, such as the Shipping Industry, to initiate action on water level

BOATING AND SAFETY



- We sit on both the Provincial and Federal Recreational Boating Committees to offer governments input on rules and regulations for licensing, speed, navigational aids and the wearing of PFDs
- We work with Ontario Boating (the marina operators' association), the OPP and fellow cottager associations (such as FOCA and Muskoka Lakes Association) to ensure continued boating safety and mutual respect between boaters and cottagers

FISHERIES - AQUACULTURE



- We've urged Federal and Provincial politicians to prevent the introduction of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes
- We work tirelessly to persuade the government both to introduce appropriate regulations on open net aquaculture in the Great Lakes and also to have industry adopt closed containment systems

LANDS AND FORESTS



- We urge the Provincial government to be sensitive to landowners when trying to protect endangered species

PHRAGMITES



- We consult with councilors and the MNR regarding critical issues, including the recent protocol for dealing with Phragmites
- We network with other landowner organizations and the Provincial government to develop Phragmites strategies and are members of the Ontario Phragmites Working Group

WATER QUALITY - GREAT LAKES PROTECTION ACT



- We are a key stakeholder in government engagements, including the review of The Great Lakes Protection Act ensuring that the Act is effective in dealing with water quality issues that affect our members.

LASTING ACHIEVEMENTS



- Over the last 100 years, we have made countless improvements to the Georgian Bay Area that have withstood the test of time. One example is the creation of the outside channel up the shore from Midland. These and other lasting initiatives are legacies you can share.
- GBA played an important role in the creation of the Georgian Bay Land Trust, Georgian Bay Forever and the Township of the Archipelago.
- GBA played a significant role in securing the UNESCO designation for the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and in the creation of the Massasauga Provincial Park.

SHARED KNOWLEDGE



- The GBA is a network through which issues in each community are shared with everyone
- UPDATE (the newsletter that comes with membership in the GBA) keeps you up to date with the latest news and issues, as well as with the experiences of other members. For example, many members benefited from one association's invaluable advice on dealing with bears.

**To read more about what we've achieved,
visit us online at georgianbay.ca**

Where do I sign up?

When you join your local cottage association, part of your membership fee will flow to the GBA. The GBA's livelihood and effectiveness depends on the support of its 20 member associations. Just as importantly, when you join your local cottage association, your voice will be added to those of your neighbours to strengthen the GBA's impact at every level of government. Politicians listen to large blocks of voters. They hear us when we say that significant numbers of families take issue with a particular matter, and are concerned about preserving a healthy Georgian Bay – both now and in the future.

Join with us today and help protect and preserve our unique way of life.

To learn more and to find a link to your local cottage association, visit georgianbay.ca

GBA Full Member Associations

Bay of Islands Community Association	Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association
Bayfield Nares Islanders Association	Sans Souci & Copperhead Association
Blackstone Lake Association	South Channel Association
Cognashene Cottagers Association	Sturgeon Bay Pointe Au Baril
Honey Harbour Association	Ratepayers Association
Key River Area Association	Twelve Mile Bay Community Association
Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay	Wah Wah Taysee Association
Manitou Association	West Carling Association
McGregor Bay Association	Woods Bay Community Association
Northern Georgian Bay Association	

GBA Associate Member Associations

Deep Bay Association	North Channel Association
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