



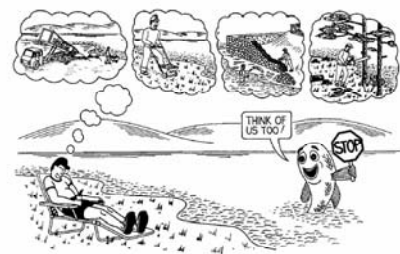
*“Tell me and I forget;
Show me and I remember;
Involve me and I understand.”*

2010 Annual Report of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council



Walleye summer fingerlings destined for rehabilitative planting at Go Home Bay

Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council Boundary



NOTE: This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.



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Message From the Chair – Terry Crawford

Well here we are at the end of another great year for the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council and our partners.

In this annual report you will see that more people and groups are getting involved with the restoration and preservation of our wonderful Bay and all of its fish and wildlife. Again we could not have done this without the dedication of the members of the Council and our partners. To Eric, our coordinator, I don't know what we would do without you. Your hard work and dedication is second to none. Thank you from myself and all the council members.

As we look ahead to 2011 our spirits are high with the anticipation of new projects and new partners to share them with. We are always searching for both so please feel free to bring your ideas to us. I truly believe that there is nothing that cannot be accomplished when we all work together.

Thank you

From the Coordinator – Eric McIntyre

This past year was the fifth-year of operation of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC). With each successive year in this job I am further impressed with the selfless dedication of our partners, volunteers and Council members who work tirelessly on behalf of our natural resources.

When I think of our Council having a “breakthrough project” – I believe we had one this year! The production of over 20,000 summer fingerling walleye for rehabilitative plantings into the Moon River and Go Home Bay was an outstanding achievement. We duly give credit to Venard Robitaille of Cedar Brook Farms who was largely responsible for this. However, the achievement isn't just producing fish – its helping to rehabilitate a fish population. I think we did good, and it feels good.

By its very nature, the work of a stewardship council cannot be conducted in isolation. The success our council achieved in 2010 is directly attributable to the many partners and volunteers who are the true ‘worker-bees’ of *Ontario Stewardship*. To them we say ‘thank you’ for a job well done, and please join us for another successful year of stewardship in 2011!



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council – Established 2006

The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) was established in 2006 under the auspices of the Ministry's Ontario Stewardship Network. Although it is a relatively new Council, its roots go back to the formation of the *Georgian Bay / North Channel Fisheries Stewardship Council* created in 2000. This initial Council acted largely as a sport fishing regulatory advisory body to the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit – Lake Huron Office (Owen Sound). With the implementation of new sport fishing regulations throughout Georgian Bay in 2003, the Council shifted its focus from a regulatory advisory body to one of co-management and stewardship. That transition was completed in 2006 when the former Council was split into two, forming the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council and the Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council. Both new Councils are members in the Ontario Stewardship Network.

The EGBSC is primarily a water-based, fisheries oriented, Stewardship Council. However, our mandate is more broadly based than fisheries alone – encompassing both a land and water component. This council will endeavour to pursue a holistic, ecosystem-based approach to stewardship. As such, our activities may cover the breadth of land, water, air, fish, birds, animals and vegetation. Our natural environment is basically a collection of ecosystems that operate as a holistic system; our stewardship must reflect this. The Council is also cognizant that we as human beings are an integral part of the natural ecosystems in which we live and recreate. As such, our stewardship activities are intended to enhance the ecological, economic and social environment in which we live.

2009 Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council Members:

Name	Liaison with:
Terry Crawford (Chairperson)	Geo. Bay Hunters & Anglers
Bill McRobb (Co-Chairperson)	Moon River Cottages (Lodge owner)
Brian Emery (new in 2009)	Parry Sound Anglers and Hunters
Dave Bulger	NE Geo. Bay Lodge Operator
Ray Hachigian (Treasurer)	Township of the Archipelago
Mike Palmer	French R. Lodge Operator & French R. Advisory Group
Karl Schiefer	Geo. Bay Association & Cognashene Cottagers Assn.
Doug Wright	Britt-Byng Anglers Assn.
Greg Mason	Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve
Glenda Clayton	Parry Sound Nature Club
Gerry Haarmeyer	Inland Lake Association Liaison
John Bell	Municipality of Killarney Liaison
John Crawford	Local Residents Liaison
Eric McIntyre (Coordinator)	Ontario Stewardship - MNR



The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) is a member of Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Ontario Stewardship program. This is a community-based program that brings together property owners, associations, resource agencies and concerned individuals who share an interest in responsible land management and sustainable resource use. The foundation of the program is cooperative partnerships, collaborative actions and community volunteers.



The Ontario Stewardship program began in 1995. There are currently over 45 community-based stewardship councils throughout the province and the program is currently expanding into northern Ontario.

Although the program is Ministry sponsored – it is not Ministry controlled. Projects that the EGBSC work on are projects Council members choose to work on. The Council operates with great autonomy. Although we receive annual support funding from the MNR, this is meant to be 'seed money' with which we leverage additional funding from the community to fund Council projects.

Hence, the EGBSC consider ourselves to be "your Council;" we belong to your community. Together, we will work to make a difference.

Council Goal: The goal of the EGBSC is to be an effective facilitator of community participation and voluntary efforts that foster the establishment of healthy, productive and self-sustaining natural ecosystems.

Council Mission: The Council's mission is to actively partake in management decisions and stewardship activities that promote the ecologically sustainable management of our natural resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Ontario Stewardship Ethic: An ethic in which humans care for the land (and its waters) as part of a natural life-support system. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land and to sustain and enhance it for future generations.



1. Lake Stewardship Workshop

In late July the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council held its 5th annual Lake Stewardship Workshop at the Parry Sound Curling Club. The theme of this year's workshop was ***Climate Change and What it Means to YOUR Environment.***

Over fifty representatives from various community groups were in attendance. The intention of the workshop is for representatives to relay stewardship messages presented at the workshop to their own constituents or members.

The keynote speaker for this year's workshop was Dr. David Pearson of Laurentian University. Dr. Pearson is the Co-author on the Experts Panel on Climate Change Adaptation – Report to the Minister of The Environment (November, 2009). In a clear and coherent manner, Dr. Pearson presented the scientific evidence substantiating the alarming warnings of climate change.



Other speakers includes:

- Kenton Otterbein (Killbear Part natural Heritage Educator) about the effects of climate change on local flora and fauna
- Glenda Clayton (Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve) about the effects on local species at risk
- Francine MacDonald (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters) on how climate change is likely to impact and contribute to the spread of invasive species
- David Sweetnam (Georgian Bay Forever) and Jon Midwood (PhD candidate, University of Waterloo) speaking on Georgian Bay water levels, wetlands and the effects of climate change on them.

A complete workshop summary and presentations are available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com. Look under the "Annual Workshop" tab on the Home Page.



2010 Projects

2. Moon River Walleye Index Netting / Wild Egg Collection / Walleye Culture and Rehabilitative Stocking Project

Trap netting operations resulted in the capture of 361 walleye and a million eggs being collected from 10 gravid females.

The catch rate (Catch-Per-Unit-Effort CPUE) was up this year at 27.8 walleye per net night. However biosampling data shows the mean age of spawning male and female walleye is essentially unchanged, suggesting recruitment and mortality rates remain balanced. Normally this is a good sign, but when rehabilitating a population one hopes to see the recruitment rate far outstripping mortality. Much more rehabilitation work is required for Moon River.



Volunteer Project Leader – Bill McRobb, with approximately 1 million walleye eggs incubating at the Moon River community hatchery

Regrettably, netting operations were marred by thieves who on the night of April 5th pulled our net to shore and removed all the fish. We are disillusioned and saddened by the selfishness of anyone who would not only interfere with our rehabilitation efforts intended for the good of all, but also do harm to the fish population we are trying to help.

In spite of this, egg collection operations went extremely well. From our walleye culture operations, we succeeded in planting almost 5000 summer fingerling and 700,000 walleye fry into Arnold's Bay of the Moon River. The rehabilitation journey continues; stay tuned.

The summary report for the above project can be found on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com. On the Home Page, look under the "Reports and Documents" tab; then under 2010.

2010 Projects



3. Go Home Bay Walleye Rehabilitation (Stocking) Project

The EGBSC has embarked on a project to reintroduce walleye into the Go Home Bay area of Eastern Georgian Bay. Walleye spawning bed enhancement work was conducted in 2009. This year we followed that work up by planting summer fingerling walleye that we hope in 3 to 5 years will become the nucleus of a spawning population at the enhanced spawning site.

We used Port Severn walleye stock from eggs collected at that location this spring



A sample of the 17,000 summer fingerling walleye from Cedar Brook Farms – stocked into Go Home Bay

We contracted Cedar Brook Farms – a private hatchery near Midland to rear the eggs collected to the summer fingerling stage for re-introductory plantings. They responded with a bumper year – producing over 17,000 walleye, approximately 1 gram in size that were stocked into Go Home Bay in July.

With plantings of this size and number we are very encouraged the Go Home Bay walleye re-introduction project has a high likelihood of success. We intend to continue these stocking efforts for an additional two years and then commence assessment work on our efforts.

The project was primarily funded by the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem (COA), a federal-provincial agreement to protect and restore the health of the Great Lakes. Generous contributions from private donors to the EGBSC Fisheries Rehabilitation Fund were also very much appreciated.

A complete project report can be found at www.helpourfisheries.com; look under the “Reports and Documents” tab at the top of the Home Page, then under 2010 reports.



4. Tadenac Bay In-situ Walleye Culture Experimental Project

In 2007, the Tadenac Fishing Club and EGBSC commenced a walleye re-introduction project at Tadenac Bay of Eastern Georgian Bay. Initial work entailed the enhancement of a spawning site where Tadenac Lake empties into Tadenac Bay. As with the Go Home Bay re-introduction project, it was intended this habitat enhancement work would be followed-up with stocking to create the nucleus of a spawning population.

With an acute scarcity of walleye available for rehabilitative plantings, we considered an experimental project to raise walleye in secluded bays cordoned off with fine mesh seine nets to exclude natural fish predators. The cordon net could simply be removed to release walleye into Tadenac Bay.

To us, this option seemed to have merit by virtue of Tadenac Bay being private waters, thereby affording some unique and fortuitous opportunities for creative fisheries management.

Tadenac Bay – in-situ walleye culture bay



The calamitous break in an up-stream beaver dam in mid-July resulted in a tremendous load of organic debris being deposited into the culture bay and the cordon net being washed away. Although the cordon net was reinstalled a few days later, upon inspection it was found to be completely ineffective as a barrier to fish movement. Subsequent underwater observations failed to determine if any walleye were present.

This is the second year of lack of success for this project. Considering the excellent level of walleye productivity achieved by Cedar Brook Farms (see previous project #3) this past year and optimism it will continue in the future, we think this re-introduction project would be better served by stocking pond reared walleye.

Notwithstanding our apparent lack of success with this experimental project, it is plausible some level of walleye production has been achieved. We encourage the Tadenac Fishing Club to continue monitoring efforts to detect this.

A complete summary report for this project is available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com Look under the "Reports and Documents" tab at the top of the home page, then 2010 reports.



5. Spawning Population Assessment of Lake Sturgeon at the Moon River

The lake sturgeon is now listed as a “Threatened” species under Ontario’s Species At Risk Act. As such, there is considerable interest in this species amongst government agencies and the general public. This interest is related to efforts to conserve ecosystem biodiversity and to maintain viable population levels of this unique and prehistoric species in Lake Huron.

There are no Provincially standardized methods of assessing sturgeon populations. Current methods are ad-hoc and very demanding in terms of time, manpower, skill and equipment required.

In 2009, to get some sense of the size of the spawning population at the Moon River, volunteers using visual observations recorded sighting 16 lake sturgeon.



Sturgeon captured (and released unharmed) during the 2007 Moon River walleye egg collection project

Unfortunately, viewing effort by volunteers was much reduced in 2010 compared to the previous year. Only two sturgeon were reported this year from volunteers attempting to sight sturgeon on two occasions. For 2011, the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit has a sturgeon spawning assessment survey planned for the Moon River. The EGBSC will endeavour to assist with this project to the extent possible.

A complete summary report for this project is available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com Look under the “Reports and Documents” tab at the top of the home page.



6. Custodial Management of Crown Lands

This year's custodial management project on Crown Lands comprised two lead partners: Carling Township and White Squall Paddling Centre, as well as efforts conducted by the Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program.

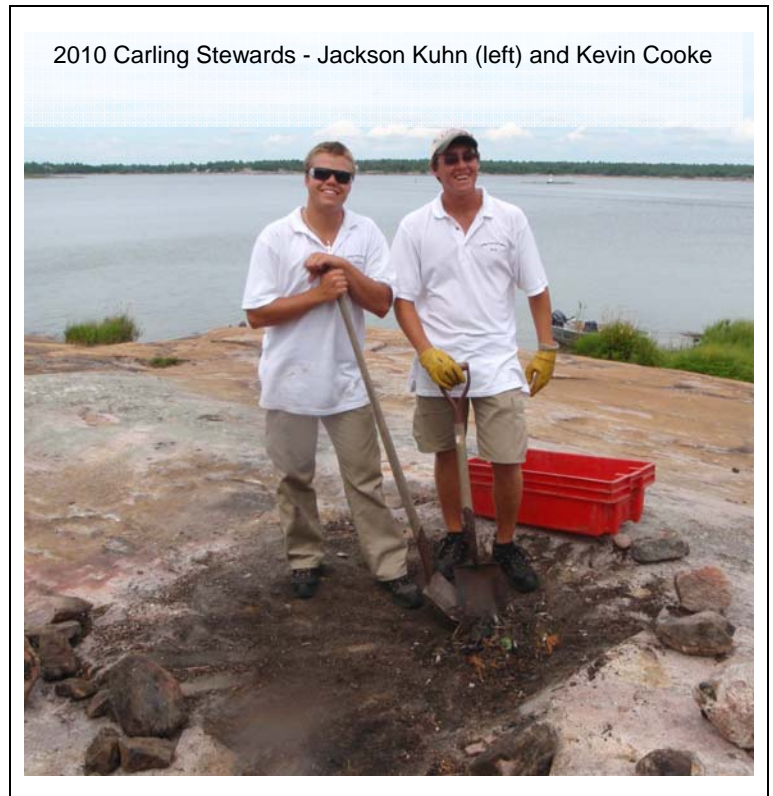
Jackson Kuhn and Kevin Cooke were the 'Carling Stewards' for this year, conducting clean-up, monitoring, public-awareness and maintenance activities on Franklin and Huckleberry Islands. Other supporting partners in this initiative included: The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT), White Squall Paddling Centre, West Carling Association, North Sound Association and Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association (GLSKA).

White Squall Paddling Centre also conducted custodial activities on the "outer islands" (islands in the vicinity of Sandy Is. in the south to McCoy Islands).

Supporting partners in this initiative included the EGBSC, GLSKA, GBLT as well as private donations.

The EGBSC Ontario Stewardship Ranger crew also participated in custodial activities in the Moon River area of Eastern Georgian Bay.

Although we continue to be dismayed and frustrated with isolated problem areas and campsites, there has been a significant reduction in campsite condition and related complaints to the Ministry of Natural Resources. We interpret this development as providing encouraging evidence that custodial activities by various partner organizations is indeed having a beneficial effect on Eastern Georgian Bay.



2010 Carling Stewards - Jackson Kuhn (left) and Kevin Cooke

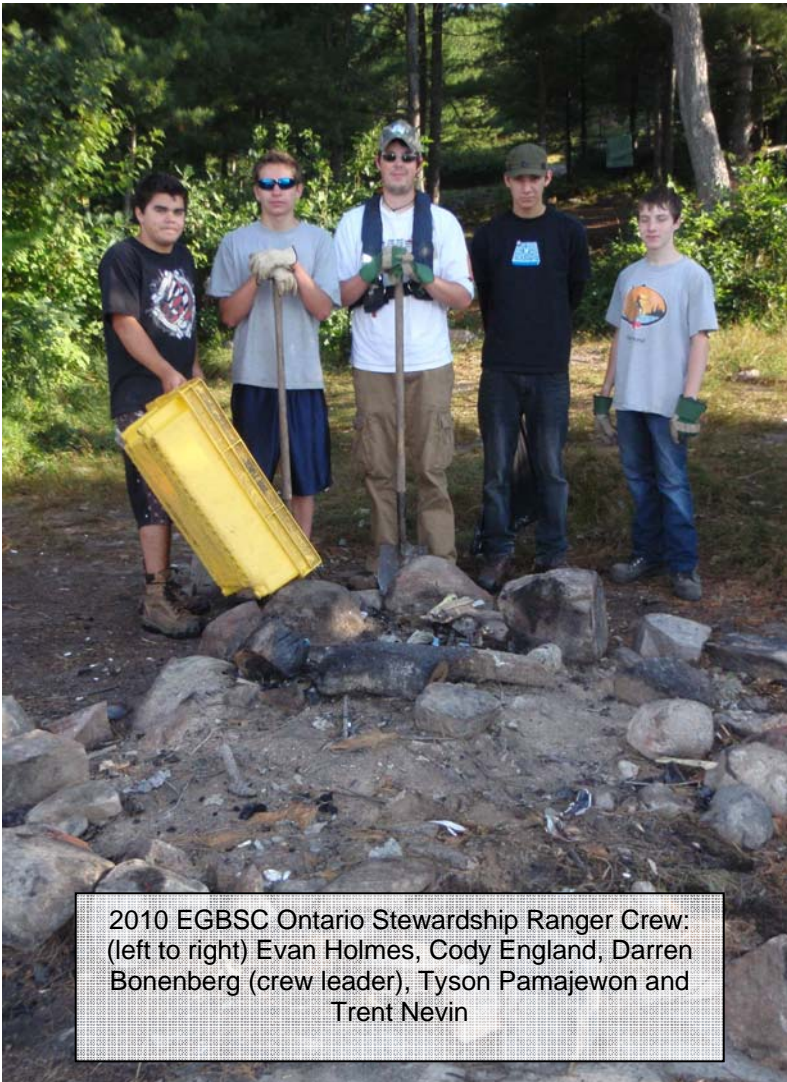
The complete assessment report is available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com; look under the "Reports and Documents" tab and then "2010 Reports."



2010 Projects

7. Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program

2009 was the inaugural year for our Council to have an Ontario Stewardship Ranger crew and we were delighted the quality and variety of tasks accomplished, new ties forged with partner organizations and how they acted as excellent ambassadors for our Council. We are pleased to say our 2010 crew carried on with this high level of excellence and represented our Council well.



2010 EGBSC Ontario Stewardship Ranger Crew:
 (left to right) Evan Holmes, Cody England, Darren Bonenberg (crew leader), Tyson Pamajewon and Trent Nevin

A partial listing of projects they worked on include:

- Education, maintenance and habitat work with the Aspen Valley Wildlife Centre
- Rose Point Trail clean-up
- Assist with the Geo. Bay Biosphere Reserve Chimney Swift Survey
- Crown Land custodial work including bush latrine construction and installation at Moon River
- Assist McKellar Conservation Assn. with walleye spawning habitat enhancement project at Lee Creek
- Constructed rattlesnake fences at Killbear Provincial Park
- Kapikog Trail maintenance
- Parry Sound Anglers and Hunters safety fence construction
- Maintenance at the Kapikog Dam
- Assist Natural Resources Canada with urban tree survey
- Trail maintenance, marking and bridge repairs at Massasauga Park
- Assist Geo. Bay Land Trust with clean-up of Sandy Island property
- Construct fish net shelving for MNR



Massassauga Park Trail Maintenance



Bush Latrine Construction



Species at Risk Training

The Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program not only acts as a means to complete projects with real biological benefits, it is also an enriching employment and personal development experience for the young participants. A significant component of their summer employment is directed towards education on natural resource management and a wide range of training opportunities. Some of these experiences include: Bear and Rattlesnake Awareness training; Workplace Discrimination and Harassment training; tool handling safety; Employment health and safety; Pleasure craft operators card; GPS operation; woodworking safety and reptiles at risk identification.

We are again this year delighted with the excellent work the rangers have done and what fine ambassadors they were for our Council and the MNR's OS Ranger program. We truly thank them for their hard work and wish them well in their future endeavours. We also look forward to our next OS Ranger crew and continuing the high standards displayed over the past two years.

The summary report for this project is posted on our website (www.helpourfisheries.com); look under the "Report and Documents" tab; then under "2010 Projects."



8. Economic / Fisheries Revitalization Initiative

This on-going and long-term project has been a challenging one to get off the drawing board. Since its inception, this project has been a joint-venture of the EGBSC and Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council (MASC). In 2009 we hired Ivan Fillion of i.d.NOR Inc. to help focus the direction of this initiative and to move it into the funding and implementation phase where real tangible progress could be made. This has been a difficult task considering the magnitude of the project with its many ramifications to various government and non-government agencies and interest groups.

Under the guidance of i.d.NOR, the project was refocused as a largely economic stimulus initiative; the foundation of which is predicated on a rehabilitated sport fishery along the north and eastern coasts of Georgian Bay. This re-direction of the initiative was formulated in a “Concept Paper”, used to introduce and describe the initiative to various potential funding agencies and stakeholder groups. This was a marked departure from the original direction of the project which was largely a socio-economic study to assign a monetary value to the sport fishery.

The two stewardship councils steering this initiative now think First Nation’s involvement is a vital ingredient to proceed. Fisheries management – including rehabilitation, is the mandated responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Ontario Provincial Government. By law, the Ontario Government is obligated to consult with First Nations on any matter – including fisheries rehabilitation, which may impact their treaty rights.

There are 13 First Nations within the initiative area. Twelve are member of the Union of Ontario Indians. The EGBSC and MASC are seeking First Nation partnership in this initiative through the Union of Ontario Indians via the Anishinabek-Ontario Resource Management Council. This process is on-going. Shawanaga First Nation has no aboriginal political affiliation and will be approached on a one-on-one basis.

We genuinely hope to report on some tangible progress with this initiative in 2011.



9. Conduct Walleye Spawning Site Evaluation for Enhancement Work

The EGBSC has been involved with several fish population rehabilitation projects since its formal inception as an Ontario Stewardship Council in 2006, and even in its previous incarnation as a fisheries advisory council to the MNR. A key ingredient in successfully rehabilitating a fish population is the provision of high quality spawning habitat. Hence, the Council has been involved with a number of spawning enhancement projects to rehabilitate walleye: Tadenac Bay in 2007, Moon River in 2008 and Go Home Bay in 2009. We paused in 2010 to carefully evaluate where real tangible gains could be made for our next spawning habitat project.

For candidate sites we reviewed our “*Spawning Habitat Rehabilitation Program – A Program Outline and Listing of Potential Projects*” (EGBSC, 2008). Without question, the project that jumped out at us as having the greatest potential was the Musquash River. This was problematic however – we knew a downstream navigational barrier in the form of a rock outcrop prevents us from accessing upstream, historical walleye spawning sites. This problem is exacerbated by low Georgian Bay water levels which have been prevalent for a decade.



With an insightful recommendation from Karl Schiefer - one of our Council members, a seemingly obvious solution presented itself! Rather than try to figure out a way around this obstacle ... why not create a walleye spawning bed at this location? Not only does this solve our logistical problem, but with future anticipated low Georgian Bay water levels it also assures walleye access to the site.

Fundraising, planning and meeting the regulatory requirements for this project are underway. We anticipate an additional field season of collecting site data (cross sectional contour data, slope, velocities under varying flow

regimes) will be required. We fully anticipate future walleye rehabilitative plantings to create a healthy, naturally reproducing walleye population in this area of Eastern Georgian Bay.



10. Wah-Wah-Taysee ESTN Fish Community Survey

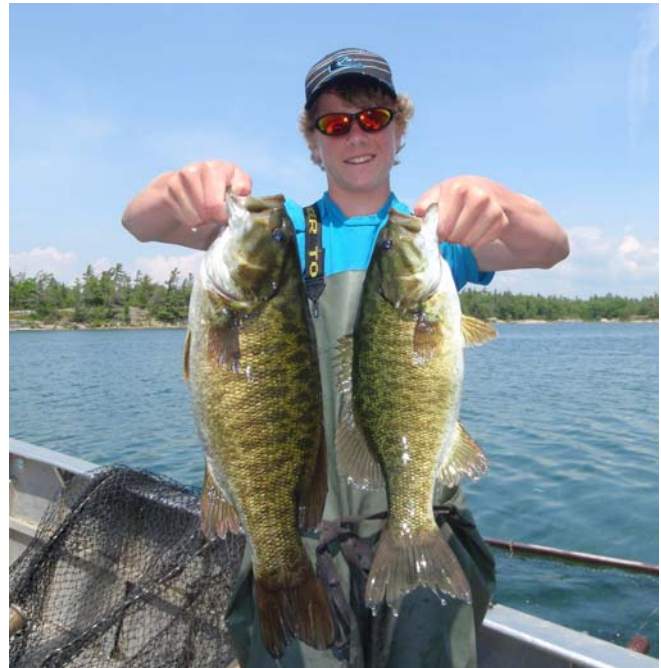
In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, we conducted an End-of-Spring-Trap-Netting (ESTN) survey in the Wah-Wah-Taysee area. This was the first standardized netting survey conducted in this area of Georgian Bay and provided base line data on the status of the near-shore fish community. (Note: Trap nets are live-capture gear allowing fish to be enumerated, size sampled and subsequently released unharmed.)

Almost 2000 fish weighing more than half a ton and comprising 12 species were caught. Most spectacular was an excellent smallmouth bass population! By weight, smallmouth bass comprised 36% of the total catch followed by northern pike and rock bass at 23%. Nine different species accounted for the remaining 18%.

The abundance of smallmouth bass as measured by Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) was almost 15 bass per net set; more than twice the Georgian Bay average in the MNR's reference data set! Most of the 432 smallmouth captured were juveniles – less than 30 cm in total length. The presence of several strong juvenile year classes bodes well for anglers as these fish will soon begin to put on weight and move into the lunker category.

Other game fish such as walleye, black crappie and largemouth bass were not abundant in the catch, primarily due to low habitat availability for these species. Pike abundance was average relative to the MNR's reference data set.

Only eight walleye were captured in the survey, but Wah-Way-Taysee is not know for harbouring the number one game species sought after by anglers in Ontario. Interesting though – we captured a walleye tagged a couple of weeks earlier by an MNR operation conducted at Port Severn, 45 kilometres to the south.



Parry Sound high school student and volunteer – Adam Logan with a nice pair of Wah-Wah-Taysee smallmouth bass to be sampled (measured) and subsequently released

The summary report for this project is posted on our website (www.helpourfisheries.com); look under the “Report and Documents” tab; then under “2010 Projects.”



11. Killbear Channel and Parry Sound Lake Trout Egg Collection for Thiamine Analysis

This project was conducted in partnership with the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit (MNR) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. It is part of an on-going effort throughout the Great Lakes – including Lake Huron, to monitor thiamine (vitamin B1) levels in lake trout eggs. Low levels of thiamine in lake trout eggs are associated with a diet high in alewife and smelt. This has been implicated as a contributing factor to the lack of lake trout reproductive success.



**Volunteer and Georgian Bay Forever Executive Director – David Sweetnam
Assisting with netting and sampling operations in the Killbear Channel**

Although this project is intended to monitor thiamine level in lake trout eggs, it also affords a fortuitous opportunity to monitor the status of spawning lake trout populations in the Killbear Channel and Parry Sound areas.

A total of 84 lake trout were captured in 10 net-nights of fishing effort at two netting locations. (Note: All fish released unharmed)

Egg samples were collected from 12 gravid females. Analysis of thiamine levels will be conducted by and posted on the website of the Great Lakes Science Centre: www.glsc.usgs.gov.

Some observations we noted in this survey relative to a similar one conducted in 2008:

- The catch rate was lower in 2010. (We attribute this to natural catch variability.)
- Smaller male lake trout were present; suggesting increased recruitment.
- Lamprey wounding was up marginally in 2010.

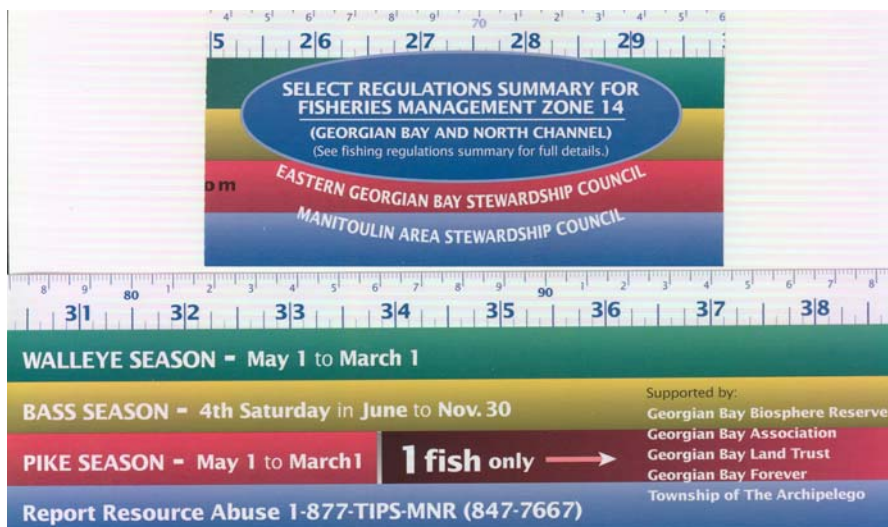
The summary report for this project is posted on our website (www.helpourfisheries.com); look under the “Report and Documents” tab; then under “2010 Projects.”



12. FMZ-14 Fishing Regulation Sticker

In an effort to increase awareness of fishing regulations for primary game fish in the waters of Georgian Bay and the North Channel, the EGBSC spearheaded an initiative to have 10,000 stickers made up for distribution to area fishermen.

Supporting partners making a financial contribution towards the project included: the Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council, Georgian Bay Association, Township of The Archipelago and the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit (MNR). The EGBSC is highly appreciative of their support.



Select segments of the fish stickers noting supporting partners.

The EGBSC used the distribution of tapes as a fundraising opportunity – charging “a Toonie-a-Tape.” We would like to acknowledge and say thank-you to the following outlets that supported us in this endeavour:

Service Ontario – Parry Sound
 Dillon Cove Marine (Dillon)
 Twp. Georgian Bay (Port Severn)

St. Amant’s General Store (Britt)
 Dive Shop & Bait (Parry Sound)
 Home Hardware (Honey Harbour)

The Bait Shop (Pointe Au Baril)
 The Bait Store (Mactier)
 Moon River Cottages



13. Trumpeter Swan Monitoring

This project came ‘out-of-the-blue’ when our Council received a request from Harry Lumsden – coordinator of the Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Project, to assist with monitoring activities. The reintroduction of trumpeter swans to Ontario is one of the great North American wildlife success stories. The restoration program began modestly in the early 1990s and today there are over 1000 trumpeters throughout south-central Ontario.

Although trumpeters have been under careful management for two decades, much remains to be learned about these birds. Interestingly enough – managers are not sure where they breed! Hence the call to our Stewardship Council to help answer this question.

Our Council canvassed our network of volunteers and partners to report any sightings. Five were received and passed on to Mr. Lumsden. Sightings at Grundy Park, Sturgeon Bay, south of Parry Sound, Hurdville and even one from Cheboygan, Michigan were reported.



**A breeding pair of trumpeter swans and their three cygnets.
(Photo courtesy of Wye marsh Wildlife Centre)**

Further monitoring was conducted by fixed-wing aerial observations. This portion of the monitoring program was a partnership between the EGBSC, Amherst Wildlife Federation, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. The search area extended from Parry Sound south to Severn Sound and as far east as the Muskoka Lakes. A total of 22 trumpeters were sighted; almost all in the vicinity of Severn Sound – the most northerly being in the vicinity of Gibson Lake in Georgian Bay Township.

We hope to be involved with this fascinating monitoring program in the future.

The summary report for this project is posted on our website (www.helpourfisheries.com); look under the “Report and Documents” tab; then under “2010 Projects.”



14. Oak Bay (Port Severn) Osprey Nest Project

Another project that came ‘out-of-the-blue’ is the Oak Bay osprey nest project. We received a call from Larry Wickett – an environmental consultant with the Oak Bay Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Wickett asked if the EGBSC might be interested in assisting with the installation of osprey nests on two decommissioned hydro poles present on the golf course property.

After checking with the Georgian Bay Osprey Society and the Ministry of Natural Resources ... the project seemed like a great idea! We toured the site where the poles are located and gladly accepted the challenge of erecting the nests. We intend to accomplish this in the late winter of 2011 – before migrating ospreys return.



Decommissioned hydro pole at Oak Bay – waiting for an osprey nest

15. Species At Risk – Identification and Information Guide

Admittedly, this has been a low-priority project intended to be worked upon – when time permitted. Not surprisingly, nothing has been done to date. We do however foresee some “free time” coming available early in 2011.



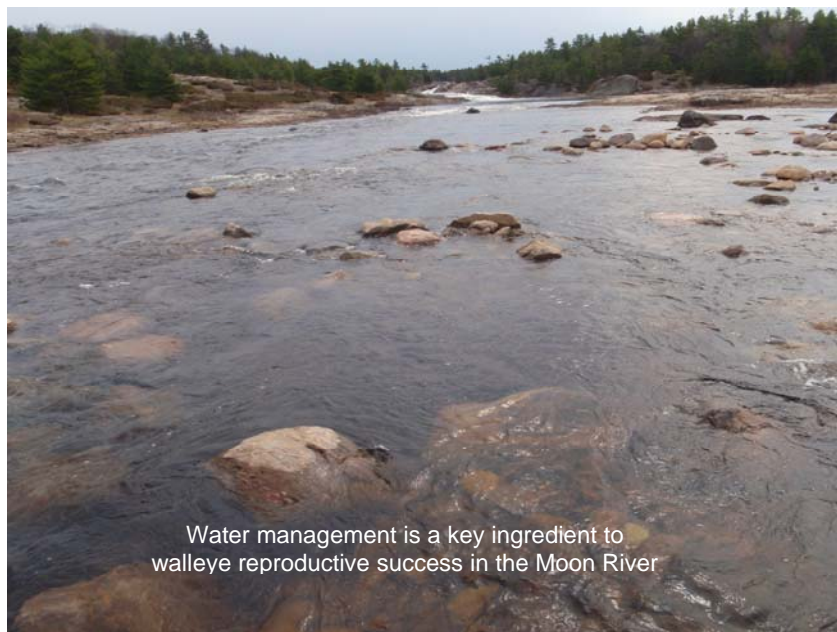
16. Moon River Water Management

In early 2010 the Council was involved in discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources relating to dam operations on the Muskoka River system – particularly downstream of Bala. Water management in the watershed is conducted in accordance with the *Muskoka River Water Management Plan* (MRWMP) (OMNR, 2006). A sub-committee of the EGBSC was struck to make recommendations to the Ministry on how the system could be operated consistent with the MRWMP but provide a flow regime more conducive to walleye reproductive success.

Fundamentally, the sub-committee's recommendations are predicated on a return to the natural condition of high flow rates during the walleye spawning period followed by gradually descending flow volumes throughout the incubation period. This is the flow regime under which walleye have evolved and adapted over millennia. The sub-committee believe this can best be achieved through:

1. Revisions (lowering) to the Lake Muskoka Target Operating Level – within the normal operating zone as stipulated by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan
2. A reduction in the magnitude of discharge volumes through log manipulations at Bala; made practical by adopting the above recommendation.

The above and several other recommendations were carefully studied and considered by the Ministry. In a 'gentleman's understanding' – the Ministry agreed to adopt the recommendations and they were successfully applied throughout the 2010 spring freshet.



Water management is a key ingredient to walleye reproductive success in the Moon River



17. Partner Projects

Our Council wishes to acknowledge the tremendous support and guidance provided by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' Parry Sound District and Upper Great Lakes Management Unit; not only this past year – but every year since Council inception in 2006. To varying degrees – almost all our projects involve the Ministry of Natural Resources as the primary partner, and if not then as a supporting partner. In plain fact, we remain a viable and effective Council almost solely due to this unflinching support. We thank the Ministry for the trust and confidence they have placed in us.

As a fisheries-focused Council, this close working relationship is not only desirable, it is indeed essential. We are pleased to have been of assistance to the Ministry in helping with their fisheries management mandate.

The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) continues to be one of our strongest and most valuable supporters. Our Council is in turn pleased to support the many, varied and highly worthwhile initiatives of the GBBR. In 2010, some of these initiatives included:

- Partaking in and supporting the work of their Conservation Committee
- Partnering in Crown land stewardship initiatives
- Coordinated wetlands strategy
- Coastal Stewardship Guide
- Species at Risk Stewardship Program
- Lessons in a backpack (Environmental education for grade school children)
- Hosted Environmental Youth Forum and Water Festival
- Community Gardening Workshops
- Status of the (Georgian) Bay Report

Under the leadership of the Georgian Bay Association (GBA), the EGBSC and other members of the GB-5 (Geo. Bay Land Trust – GBLT, Georgian Bay Forever – GBF and GBBR) are continuing collaborative efforts to support one another. The GB-5 members have recently jointly adopted the Lake Huron Charter, an Environment Canada lead effort in support of the Lake Huron Binational Partnership.

The EGBSC continues to support the efforts of the French River (Water Quality) Stewardship Council (FRSC). Mike Palmer of the EGBSC continues to sit as our representative on the FRSC.



A vital component of effective stewardship is the ability to interact with the general public and numerous partners in an open and transparent manner. Strong partnerships are built on trust and confidence that obligations and targets are being met. To this end, our Stewardship Council considers the documentation of our activities and its availability to the public to be a top priority. Summary reports are prepared for all projects we work on – whether successful or not. These summary reports and Council documents are available on our website at www.helpourfisheries.com; look under the “Documents and Reports” tab on the Home Page.

The following is a listing of reports/documents generated in 2010:

1. EGBSC, July 24, 2010. **Trumpeter Swan Flight Survey** Summary Report. 4 p.
2. McIntyre, E. July 28, 2010. 2010 **Moon River Walleye Culture**, Index Spawners and Rehabilitation Planting Summary Report. 5 p.
3. EGBSC, July 27, 2010. **Go Home Bay** Walleye Re-introduction Project.
4. Bonenberg, D. Sept. 2010. Parry Sound **Stewardship Ranger Report**.
5. McIntyre, E. Sept. 2010. 2010 **Lake Sturgeon Spawning** Monitoring Project at the Moon River of Eastern Georgian Bay. 2 p.
6. McIntyre, E. Nov. 2010. 2010 **Wah-Wah-Taysee** End-of-Spring-Trap-Netting (ESTN) Survey Report.
7. McIntyre, E. Dec. 2010. Killbear Channel and Parry Sound **Lake Trout Egg Collection** for Thiamine Analysis. 12 p.
8. EGBSC. Nov. 2010. Walleye Rehabilitation / Restoration Project Proposal – Cognashene Area of Eastern Georgian Bay. 11 p.
9. EGBSC. Nov. 2010. Environmental Screening Report - Rehabilitation of the Cognashene Area Walleye Population of Eastern Georgian Bay. 9 p.
10. McIntyre, E. Nov. 2010. 2010 Assessment of In-situ Walleye Culture in a Tadenac Bay Embayment of Eastern Georgian Bay. 5 p.
11. McIntyre, E. Dec. 2010. 2010 Custodial Management Project Summary Report. 9 p.

The Council held nine meetings in 2010: January 16; February 24; March 24; May 5; June 16; August 4; September 29; October 27 and December 1. A quorum (50%+ attendance) was present at all meetings. Minutes for all meetings are available on our website under the “Meeting Minutes” tab at the top of the Home Page.

The EGBSC also participates in the following committee work:

- Conservation Committee, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve
- 12-Mile Bay Environmental Protection Group
- Aboriginal Engagement Committee, Ontario Stewardship – OMNR
- Member, Fisheries Management Zone 14 – Stewardship / Advisory Group

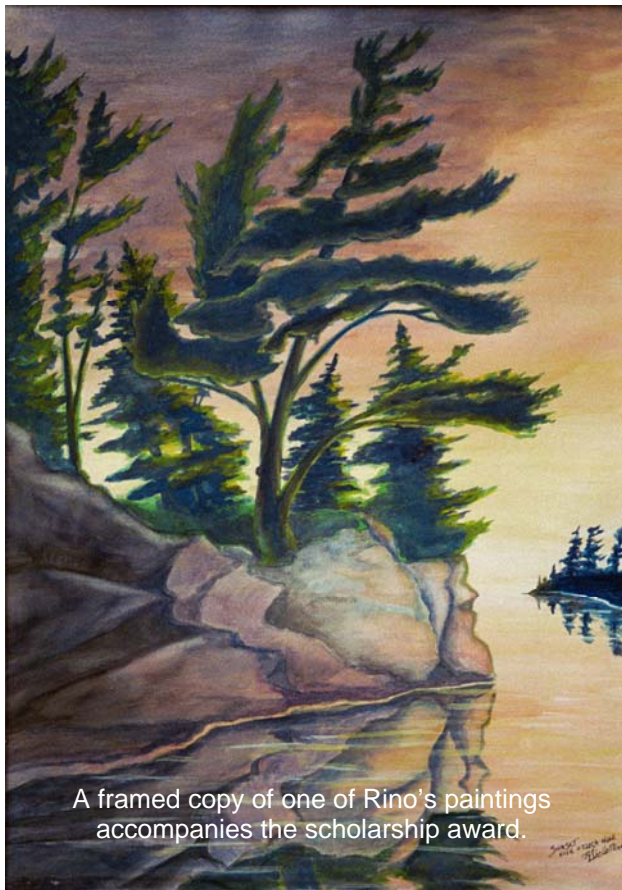
Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award



Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award

In 2008, the EGBSC commenced the Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award – a \$500 scholarship to the Parry Sound high school student who demonstrates a passion and dedication to the *Ontario Stewardship Ethic* (see Council Goals and Mission Statement – pg. 6).

In 2010 the scholarship was awarded to **Jackson Kuhn**. Jackson also worked as one of the Carling Stewards during the summer. We received excellent reports of the crew's work. We wish Jackson all the best in his future endeavours.



A framed copy of one of Rino's paintings accompanies the scholarship award.



Moira and Rino Ouellette



**Jackson Kuhn –
2010 Recipient of
the Rino
Ouellette
Scholarship
Award**

2010 EGBSC Honour Roll



The EGBSC gratefully acknowledges the many groups, agencies, individuals, partners, financial supporters and volunteers who are the true backbone and ‘worker bees’ of *Ontario Stewardship*. Collectively, your support and contribution helped to make a difference in 2009.

Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve	Andy Heerschap (OMNR PS District Staff)
Georgian Bay Land Trust	Rob Viejou (OMNR PS District Staff)
Georgian Bay Association	Arunas Liskauskas (UGLMU – Staff)
Georgian Bay Forever	David Gonder (UGLMU – Staff)
West Carling Association (GBA)	David M. Reid (UGLMU – Staff)
North Sound Association	Jim McMullen (UGLMU – Enforcement Staff)
Township of Georgian Bay	Dan Duggan (OMNR PS District Staff)
Township of The Archipelago	Tim Cavanagh (OMNR PS District Staff)
Carling Township	Jim Palmer (OMNR PS District Staff)
Canada Ontario Agreement	Ken Molyneaux (OMNR PS District Staff)
Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council	Leslie Joynt & Laura Heidman (OMNR)
Venard Robitaille (Cedar Brook Farms)	Rolanda Elijah
Iron City Fishing Club	Bob Liscombe (Rosseau Plumbing Services)
French River (Water Quality) Stewardship Council	Bill McRobb and volunteers of the Moon River Walleye Association
Charlene Peck (Parry Sound North Star)	Terry Crawford (Geo. Bay Anglers & Hunters)
Glenda Clayton (Parry Sound Nature Club & GBBR)	Karl Schiefer (Ecological Consultant)
Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Harry Lumsden (Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Coordinator)
Jackson Kuhn & Kevin Cooke (Carling Stewards)	Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
Parry Sound Anglers & Hunters	Candis Strickler (OMNR – staff)
Britt-Byng Inlet Anglers Association	Ivan Filion (i.d.NOR Inc.)
Tadenac Fishing Club	Larry Wickett (Oak Bay Golf Course)
Great Lakes Conservancy	Randy French (French Planning Services)
Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association	Whitestone Conservation Association
Tim Dyer & White Squall Paddling Center	Pennsylvania Club Inc.
Dr. David Pearson (Laurentian University)	David Lee
Francine MacDonald (Ont. Fed. Anglers & Hunters)	Longhorn Conservation Association
David Sweetnam (E.D. – Geo. Bay Forever)	Killbear Provincial Park
Jon Midwood (University of Waterloo)	King Bay Marina
Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary	Darren Bonenberg (OS Ranger Crew Leader)
Parry Sound Curling Club	Shawn Payerl (PS high school Co-op student)
Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters	Adam Logan (PS high school volunteer)
McKellar Conservation Association	
Britt / Byng Inlet Anglers’ Association	
Zing Yang (Dept. Fisheries & Oceans)	

To those whom we inadvertently omitted – and I know we did, we do apologize for the oversight.



How to Contact Us

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Your Friendly Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Back L to R: Greg Mason, Doug Wright, Glenda Clayton, Gerry Haarmeyer, Mike Palmer, Karl Schiefer, John Crawford, Brian Emery. Front L to R: Eric McIntyre, Bill McRobb, Terry Crawford and Dave Bulger.
Absent with regrets: John Bell and Ray Hachigian