



Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

www.helpourfisheries.com

Terms of Reference Operating Guidelines and By-Laws

Latest Revision: January 2011

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 one part of the natural ecosystem. To participate in environmental stewardship is to make a personal commitment to the land and to sustain and enhance it for future generations.

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1.0 Council Origins and History:

In 2000, the Upper Great Lake Management Unit – Owen Sound Office (UGLMU), established the formation of the *Georgian Bay / North Channel Fisheries Stewardship Council*. This Council represented a broad spectrum of stakeholders throughout the Council area and acted largely as a regulatory advisory committee to the UGLMU. With the implementation of new regulations for Division 16 (Georgian Bay and North Channel) in 2003, the Council shifted its mandate away from being primarily an advisory body. Under the auspices of the Canada – Ontario Agreement (COA), the Council secured an Acting Coordinator position and became an active partner with the UGLMU in fisheries management issues related to Georgian Bay and the North Channel.

With termination of COA funding in 2006, the Council was ‘retooled’ and brought into the Ontario Stewardship Network of the Ministry of Natural Resources. (*The Ontario Stewardship Program was initiated by MNR in 1995. It was formerly the Ministry’s Private Land Resource Stewardship Program.*) The significance of this retooling being:

- The Ontario Stewardship program provides annual base-funding for the EGBSC
- It also provides a full-time stewardship coordinator position and provides multi-faceted support through the Ontario Stewardship program
- Redefined the EGBSC area by:
 - Splitting the former Georgian Bay / North Channel Fisheries Stewardship Council into two new Councils under the Ontario Stewardship program, and
 - Adding a land component
- Broadening the mandate of the Council to include land-based management initiatives.

1.2 Council Area:

The area of the EGBSC is shown in Figure 1. Loosely described, it includes the waters of Georgian Bay from Severn Sound along the east coast of Georgian Bay north to the French River delta and adjoining geographic townships.



2.0 Introduction and Setting:

The Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC) is a member of the Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) Ontario Stewardship Network (OSN). This Council is partially supported financially by the MNR, but is not controlled by MNR. It is fundamental to recognize that the Council is a representative collection of key stakeholders from the community at large. Council activities are solely directed by its members with the strength and vitality of the Council based on volunteerism and community involvement. Although the EGBSC is not government controlled, Council goals and activities should be compatible with MNR's long-term strategic direction (Beyond 2000, SPOF II and Our Sustainable Future). Ecological sustainability is MNR's corporate mission and this is shared by the EGBSC.

The mandate of the EGBSC is to form partnerships with Provincial Government Ministries (primarily but not exclusively MNR), Municipal Governments and private organizations and individuals to facilitate the effective, holistic and sustainable management of natural resources within the Council's boundaries – and even beyond.

The EGBSC is primarily a water-based, fisheries oriented, Stewardship Council. However, our mandate is broader 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.

The Eastern Georgian Bay coastline is home to five First Nation communities (Henvey, Magnetawan, Shawanaga, Wasauksing, and Moose Deer Point First Nations). The vast majority of shoreline is Crown owned with four Provincial Parks being present (French River, Killbear, Massassauga and Awenda Provincial Parks). The Federally owned Georgian Bay Islands National Park is also present. A large portion (approx. 50%) of Crown shore lands have been regulated into Conservation Reserves through the MNR's Ontario Living Legacy – Land Use Strategy (OMNR, 1999).

Notwithstanding the majority of the shoreline being Crown Land, there are still thousands of private cottages that dot the entire coastal area, with the density generally decreasing as one proceeds further north. Today, these seasonal residents and tourists that recreate along its shoreline are the economic life-blood of the area. There is an almost complete absence of heavy industry in the area, although historically several were at one time or another present. Even the present-day sustainable forestry operations are of a relatively small nature.

The land base component of the EGBSC area is also diverse. Most of the land is Crown owned, but again there are an immense number of cottage and permanent residence properties on lakes in the area. Settled communities are few in number and relatively small. Severn Sound in the south is the most populated area with Penetanguishene, Midland, Port McNicholl, Victoria Harbour, Waubashene and Port Severn on its southern

shores. Further north, Mactier, Nobel, Pointe Au Baril, Byng Inlet, Britt and Parry Sound are the other communities of note. The Wahta Mohawk First Nation is also present between Port Severn and Mactier. Excepting those communities along the south shore of Severn Sound, the aforementioned communities rely heavily upon the tourist industry for their existence. Agriculture is present within the Council area – but on an essentially negligible scale. The significance of this land-use profile of the Council area is the fact that this area is primarily a ‘playground’ for cottagers and resource based tourism.

Ecologically, the Eastern shore of Georgian Bay is truly unique. The 30,000 islands form the largest freshwater archipelago anywhere in the world. Indeed, the entire eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay has recently been designated Canada’s 13th UNESCO biosphere reserve; a worthy recognition of its globally unique landscape and ecologically significant ecosystems.

The recognition of Georgian Bay’s picturesque, magnificent, wind-swept pine shoreline is nothing new however. Almost immediately after early communities and founding industries were established along its shoreline, cottages and a tourist industry sprang up. Those simple cottages and fledging tourist industry have evolved into today’s burgeoning cottage and tourist mecca. The demand for high quality recreation and seasonal enjoyment of the area continues to expand. The legacy of recreational development has often been quite controversial. As the demand for recreational development continues to increase – the quality of recreational experiences are likely to diminish.

Perhaps this is no more evident than in the fishery of Georgian Bay and adjacent inland lakes. Anecdotal records tell us these waters once teemed with fish; historical commercial catch records confirm this for Georgian Bay. Regrettably however, the sport fisheries in these waters have hit upon very hard times and their productivity has been drastically reduced. Contributing factors are many and varied:

- ecosystem and fish community changes related to:
 - water quality deterioration
 - exotic species introductions
 - water level manipulations
 - dams
 - nutrient loading
 - acid rain
 - shoreline modifications
 - habitat alterations
 - historically – environmentally unfriendly logging practices
- Unsustainable and excessive harvest by sport and commercial fisheries.

3.0 Council By-Laws:

3.1 Membership:

The intention of council membership is to represent as wide a variety of interested stakeholders as possible. Key stakeholder groups have been identified as:

- Municipalities
- Local landowners / cottage and waterfront property owners
- Business interests (marinas, tourism industry, forestry)
- Inland lake cottage associations / Georgian Bay Cottage Associations
- First Nations
- Metis Councils
- Sporting interests (Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, local angler and hunter associations, Muskies Canada)
- NGO organizations (Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Georgian Bay Land Trust, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited, Westwind Forest Stewardship, Severn Sound Environmental Association, Georgian Bay Association and Geo. Bay Forever)
- Boating Interests (Ontario Sailing, Ontario Boating Alliance)
- Federal and Provincial Government interests (OMNR, OMAF, MNDM, DFO, Transport Canada, Parks Ontario, Parks Canada).

As the above list attests, to seek complete representation of all the above interest groups would make Council membership so unwieldy as to impair the effective and efficient operation of Council matters. The EGBSC has adopted a model whereby stakeholders with a direct and vested interest in council matters would be represented by a “Full Member” who would be expected to represent their interests and attend Council meetings.

Those stakeholders who are likely to have an indirect interest in most Council matters, but on occasion matters may become more direct and germane to them, will reside as “Associate Members” on the Council. Associate members are not expected to attend Council meetings, although welcome to do so. They will be informed of council matters by having meeting minutes circulated to them. On those occasions where matters may directly involve them, they will be directly notified of such (by e-mail, phone, fax and/or letter).

The present “Full Member” status of Council members consists of:

	Name	Interest Group Represented:
1	Terry Crawford (Chairperson)	Geo. Bay Anglers & Hunters / OFAH
2	Bill McRobb (Co-chairperson)	Moon River Cottages (Lodge owner)
3	John Crawford	Local Residents Liaison
4	Dave Bulger	NE Geo. Bay Lodge Operator
5	Ray Hachigian	Township of the Archipelago
6	Mike Palmer	French R. Lodge Operator / Advisory Group
7	Karl Schiefer	Geo. Bay Assn. – Fisheries Committee Cognashene Cottagers Assn. / GBA
8	Brian Emery	Parry Sound Anglers and Hunters / OFAH

9	Doug Wright	Britt-Byng Anglers Assn.
10	Greg Mason	Geo. Bay Biosphere Reserve
11	John Bell	Municipality of Killarney
12	Gerry Haarmeyer	Inland Lakes / Cottage Associations
13	Glenda Clayton	Parry Sound Nature Club
14	Eric McIntyre (Coordinator)	Ontario Stewardship - MNR

The present “Associate Member” status consists of:

	Name	Interest Group Represented:
1	Michael Williams	Ducks Unlimited
2	Wendy Cooper	Georgian Bay Land Trust
3	Steve Munro	Westwind Forest Stewardship
4	Keith Sherman	Severn Sound Environmental Assn.
5	Graham Poole	Parry Sound Educator’s Liaison
6	Brian Ramakko	Sporting Goods Store Owner (Sudbury)
7	Bob Duncanson	Georgian Bay Assn./ Executive Director
8	Brian Beriault	Fishing Tackle Business Owner
9	Ernie Williams	Canadian Boaters Alliance
10	A. Liskauskas / D. Gonder	Upper Great Lakes Management Unit
11	Joe Dipong	French River (Water Quality) Stew. C.
12	Vacant	Muskoka Parry Sound Stew. Council
13	Dan Duggan	OMNR – Parry Sound District
14	Louise Goulding	Moon River Metis Council

Each First Nation within our Council area is an independent entity for which only the Band Council can speak on their behalf. Consequently, all First Nations have been accorded Associate Member status.

	Name	First Nation
1	Chief Dan Pawis	Shawanaga
2	Erwin Redsky (Band Manager)	Shawanaga
3	Chief Wayne McQuabbie	Henvey
4	Millie Pawis, Administrator	Henvey
5	Chief Blaine Commandant	Wahta Mohawks
6	Chief Barron King	Moose Deer Point
7	Chief William Diabo	Magnetawan
8	Wanda Noganosh (Librarian)	Magnetawan
9	Chief Shane Tabobandung	Wasauksing
10	Wilma Tabobandung, CFO	Wasauksing

Council membership will change from time to time to reflect the changing dynamics of interest groups and the availability of members. Council membership will be reviewed on an annual basis with the intention of securing dedicated and active members who display a genuine interest in council activities and goals.

3.1.1 Termination of Membership:

Any member may resign at any time.

By way of Council resolution and vote, membership may be terminated where it can be clearly shown the member has

- demonstrated neglect or lack of interest in Council matters (failure to attend at least 50% of meeting, excepting extenuating circumstances, shall be considered an indication of a lack of participation and interest in Council matters)
- is disruptive or an impediment to Council proceedings
- philosophically at odds with Council goals and objectives.

Where the member is a representative of a stakeholder group, the stakeholder group will be advised of their representative's termination and requested to select a new member to represent them.

3.1.2 New Members:

Where a vacancy occurs on Council that is a representative of a key stakeholder group that has an overseeing body (e.g. Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, Georgian Bay Association, etc.), the Executive of the overseeing body will be requested to designate a new representative.

Where a vacancy occurs on Council that is a representative of a key stakeholder group but there is no overseeing body (e.g. inland lakes cottage association, municipalities), the EGBSC will appoint a representative to the best of their ability.

New council members (i.e. "Full Members – see 3.1) will be adopted by resolution at a general meeting following a 30-day period as a guest member of the Council.

The deletion of old or the addition of new "Associate Members" or "First Nations Associate Members" will be done on an immediate and ad-hoc basis with notification to Council at the next general meeting.

3.2 Officers:

The Council Executive shall consist of four officers:

- i/ Chairperson
- ii/ Co-chairperson
- iii/ Treasurer
- iv/ Coordinator (and by default – secretary)

The Chairperson, Co-chairperson and Treasurer will be elected by Council members. The Coordinator position is an appointed position by the Ministry of Natural Resources. All the above officers have voting rights.

These officers will be responsible for the conduct of the Council and its business on a day to day basis.

Officers shall be elected from the membership for a period of one year extending from January 1 to December 31. Officers shall be eligible for re-election.

The number of officers and positions of officers will be reviewed annually.

3.3 Meetings

The frequency of meetings will be at the discretion of the Council and will be scheduled such that the efficient and expeditious processing of Council matters is maintained. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Council will convene at a minimum four general meetings each calendar year.

3.3.1 Quorum:

At least 50% of full members will be required for a quorum. A meeting may proceed where a quorum is not present, but resolutions and financial matters may not be dealt with. (Exception to the foregoing: Day-to-day financial operations of the Council that are dealt with through petty cash do not require a council resolution or approval. Such transactions may proceed at the discretion of the coordinator.)

At a meeting where a quorum is not present but an issue arises in which time is of the essence, an electronic vote may be held subsequent to the meeting to pass or defeat a resolution. The number of electronic votes cast must constitute a quorum as described above.

3.3.2 Decision Making:

Decision making will be by consensus. Consensus is when everyone has an equal opportunity to speak and a particular course of action is supported by a majority of members.

From time-to-time, an issue may arise where consensus is not apparent. In these instances, a course of action will be decided upon by a vote on a specific resolution put forth by a Council member and seconded by another member.

At a meeting where a quorum is present and a vote on a resolution is tied, the vote of the chairperson will decide if the resolution is passed or defeated.

Note: The Chair only cast a vote when a vote is tied. The chairs vote carries or defeats the resolution.

3.3.2 Deputations to Council:

The EGBSC welcomes deputations. Any person, organization or group wishing to make a deputation to Council, is requested do so in writing (e-mail is acceptable). The written request should state the purpose of their deputation, its content and approximate duration. Requests should be forwarded to the coordinator (Eric.McIntyre@Ontario.ca) to be included on the agenda at the next Council meeting.

3.4 Finances:

The Council will conduct its own financial dealings in accordance with a chartered bank's service agreement for small business. Council books will be reconciled on a monthly basis upon receipt of end-of-month financial statements.

The Executive Members of Council are jointly responsible for the financial dealings of the Council. The Treasurer will be responsible for the preparation of an annual financial statement. The annual financial statement shall be subject to review by two trustees appointed by the Council. The trustees will confirm the accuracy and authenticity of all transactions in accordance with the financial statement and advise Council accordingly of their review.

The Council Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day financial dealings of the Council and keeping the Treasurer apprised of all financial matters. The coordinator may make payment of day-to-day transactions related to Council business at his discretion. All transactions, including petty cash transactions are to be included in the annual financial statement.

The financial year will be same as a calendar year.

3.5 Requests for Donations from Council:

Periodically the Council will receive requests for donations to worthy causes. These may be charities, community events, humanitarian causes, etc. The Council will deal with these in the following manner:

- All requests are to be made in writing as per the EGBSC 'Request for Donation' form
- Request will be reviewed by Council three times a year: the first meeting after January 1, May 1 and September 1.
- Donations will be made by resolution passed at the foregoing meetings.

3.6 Disbursements

The EGBSC and the Ontario Stewardship Network are extremely appreciative of Council members who participate on a voluntary basis with no expectation of financial reward. However, it is not intended that members should bear a personal financial cost in addition to their voluntary time commitment.

The EGBSC will reimburse members for expenses incurred related to Council business, including gas expenses to attend regularly scheduled meetings. Members may be

reimbursed for travel (kilometers driven) at an appropriate rate set by the Council executive for that time.

3.7 Amendments

These terms of reference, operating guidelines and by-laws will be reviewed annually and amended accordingly. However, amendments can take place at any time by way of a resolution passed at a general Council meeting provided 30 days prior notice is given to all Council members.