



Who are we and what are we?

What is the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council (EGBSC)?

The **EGBSC** was founded in 2006 as part of the Ministry of Natural Resources' **Ontario Stewardship Network**. The Ontario Stewardship model is founded on the principle of voluntary, collaborative community efforts to enhance the health and stability of natural ecosystems.



Go Home Bay Walleye Spawning Bed Enhancement Work -
Fall, 2009

Although the EGBSC is primarily a water-based and fisheries focused Council, we also share wildlife and land-based interests. The Council area extends from Severn Sound to Killarney and encompasses the adjoining geographic townships.

The EGBSC is one of over forty-five Community Stewardship Councils that are made up of interested and active community members who share a strong commitment to sustainable resource management. They provide a forum to recognize and influence community involvement in private and crown land stewardship projects. Councilors are apolitical and non-partisan.

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is caring for the air, land and water as part of a natural life-support system and engaging in activities to sustain and enhance natural resources for present and future generations. (www.OntarioStewardship.org)

Goal of the EGBSC:

To be an effective facilitator of community participation, partnerships and volunteer efforts that foster the establishment of healthy, productive and self-sustaining natural ecosystems.

It is intended that the EGBSC will integrate with existing community groups - not duplicate or replace their efforts. Together, these groups compliment one another and will work together to focus on land and resource management projects of shared interest through mutual support and effort.

The EGBSC is not a government controlled council. Program initiatives originate at the community level. Nonetheless, Council goals and objectives should be compatible with MNR's long-term strategic documents (*Beyond 2000*, *SPOF II* and *Our Sustainable Future*). Ecological sustainability is MNR's corporate mission and this is shared by our Council.



Davy Island lake trout caught during 2008 egg-collection project for thiamine analysis

Essential Relationships:

The EGBSC will operate by exerting influence primarily at the community level, but also at various levels of government when appropriate. Cooperative interests will be achieved through the strength of relationships and common interests of its members - not through legislation and other forms of control.



It is vital that mutually cooperative working relationships be established with key partners:

- Communities including First Nations
- Municipalities
- Landowner & Cottage Associations
- Industry (Tourism, Marinas, Sport and Commercial Fishing interests, Land Development, Boating interests, Forestry, Water Management)
- Resource Agencies (Governments, Game and Fish Clubs)
- Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve
- Georgian Bay Association & GB Forever
- Georgian Bay Land Trust
- Environmental Community groups

A council is established when:

- A group of 8-15 people committed to sustainable resource management and who represent a broad spectrum of land and resource interests.
- Terms of Reference / General Operating Guidelines / general strategies outlining specific goals, objectives, priorities, activities and opportunities are formulated.
- Administrative guidelines including auditable means for handling money are in place.
- An annual Work Plan is prepared.
- A means of tracking community and agency participation and contribution to the attainment of the work plan is in place.

Project Criteria:

- Have regard for MNR's broad strategic directions and programs as well as appropriate and applicable municipal, provincial and federal legislation and regulations.
- Have community participation and support.
- Have broad ecosystem benefit and value.
- Incorporate cost sharing partners.
- Demonstrate a clear link to sponsoring agencies and associations
- Promote education and awareness.
- Have a detailed project proposal and budget with measurable outputs.

Things we're working on in 2010:

- Annual Lake Stewardship Workshop focusing on Moon River water management
- Moon River index-walleye spawners survey; walleye culture and rehabilitative plantings.
- Go Home Bay: rehabilitative walleye plantings.
- Experimental walleye culture project to raise summer fingerlings in-situ for rehabilitative plantings
- Custodial management activities related to mitigating the social and environmental impacts of unregulated Crown Land camping
- Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program: In 2009 worked on 28 ecological and education related projects with nine community partners
- Economic / Fisheries Re-vitalization Initiative for E. Geo. Bay and North Channel
- Fish community assessment survey - Wah-Wah-Taysee area
- Moon River spawning sturgeon count
- Bass Nest Creation Project
- Supporting partner projects



For more information on these and other projects, check us out at our website below: