



# 2011 Work Plan

## Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council


This document constitutes a preliminary overview of the work plan of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council for 2011. This work plan may be subject to considerable modification, additions and deletions as circumstances warrant throughout 2011.


**Table 1. EGBSC 2011 – Work Plan Overview**

#	Project	Time Frame	Comments
1	Oak Bay – Osprey Nest Installation	March	Install two osprey nests at Oak Bay in partnership with Oak Bay Development
2	Moon River walleye index netting / egg collection / culture / rehabilitative stocking project	Mid April – Early summer	Project Lead – Bill McRobb. Eggs to go to Moon R. hatchery & private hatchery for advanced culture; to be stocked at Moon River, Tadenac Bay and Go Home Bay. Walleye egg collection concurrent with index-spawners survey.
3	Advanced walleye culture and rehabilitative plantings	May - July	40 – 60,000 eggs to private hatchery – raise 20,000 to summer fingerling stage for rehabilitative plantings at Moon River, Go Home Bay and possibly Tadenac Bay. (Project supported by COA - \$13.5k)
4	Musquash River Index walleye spawners and radio telemetry study	April	Conduct index walleye-spawners survey and concurrently radio tag and track walleye to determine extent of up-stream migration and spawning sites.
5	Musquash River data collection for spawning bed design	Summer	Assist Scott Finucan (Fisheries Specialist – Science and Information Branch) with site data collection at Musquash River
6	Walleye spawning site assessment – Magnetawan River at Hwy 69	Spring	Conduct on-site inspection of various walleye spawning sites in Magnetawan River in cooperation with Magnetawan First Nation. Conduct literature search; write-up summary report with recommendation.
7	Lake Stewardship Workshop	June	Workshop Theme: State of the Bay Reporting – the Fishery

8	Custodial Management of CR / Crown land campsites	Summer July-Aug	MOU agreement with Carling Township re Carling Stewards initiative at Franklin Is. and Huckleberry Island. Utilize OS Rangers for work at Moon River, Severn River, 12-Mile Bay and Six-Mile Lake
9	Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program	Summer July & Aug	Work on multiple partner projects as per Program guidelines & tentative 2011 OS Ranger work plan
10	Economic / Fisheries Revitalization Initiative	On-going	Solicit First Nation partnership in initiative; submit funding applications
11	Bass Nest Creation Project	Summer	On a passive basis continue project by providing instructional flyer and pea gravel to those who request it.
12	Fishing Regulation Stickers for FMZ-14	On - going	Continue and expand distribution of regulation stickers produced in 2010
13	Signage – Re Sturgeon	Summer	Install public education / awareness signage at key access points where sturgeon spawning activities are known to occur. (Federal HSP Application Submitted)
14	Invasive Species Awareness	Summer	Partner with OFAH re their Invasive Species Awareness Project (Federal HSP application has been submitted)
15	ESTN Fisheries Assessment Survey -	End of Spring	Conduct survey in the Britt / Byng Inlet area of E. Geo. Bay
16	Tadenac Bay Walleye spawning assessment	Spring	Partner with Tadenac Fishing Club to conduct visual assessment of usage of walleye spawning habitat created in 2007
17	Geo. Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR)	On-going	Support GBBR initiatives including: Educator's Network, Cons. Action Plan, SAR program, Public conferences, Educator's Network, Stewardship Manual and workshops / symposia and State of the Bay reporting initiative.
18	Lake Trout egg thiamine level monitoring	October	Partner with the Upper Great Lakes Management Unit – Lake Huron Office (OMNR) to collect Big Sound lake trout eggs for thiamine analysis
19	White Squall S.O.D. Project	Summer	Custodial maintenance on outer islands fronting Carling Township
20	UGLMU – Lake Sturgeon Assessment at Moon River	Spring	Presently undetermined how the EGBSC might be able to assist with this project.
21	Northern pike radio telemetry survey – Tadenac Bay	Spring / Summer	Assist Jon Midwood (McMaster post-graduate student) with survey.

## More Detailed Project Descriptions:

	<p>Project # 1: <b>Oak Bay – Osprey Nest(s) Installation</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide nesting structure for Georgian Bay osprey in Severn Sound area of E. Georgian Bay</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct two osprey nests</li> <li>• Nests to be available post 2011 spring migration</li> <li>• Project summary report to be posted on website of EGBSC</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oak Bay Developments</li> <li>• Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Georgian Bay Osprey Society</li> </ul>	

	<p>Project #2: <b>Moon River Walleye Index Spawners Survey / Wild Egg Collection / Culture and Rehabilitative Stocking</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitative plantings of native walleye to promote sustainability</li> <li>• Assessment of walleye spawning population status</li> <li>• Continued assessment of 2008 spawning bed enhancement project</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6'-Trapnets used to capture gravid walleye for wild egg collection and for index netting purposes</li> <li>• Eggs cultured at the Moon River CFIP Hatchery (Moon River Cottages) to fry and fingerling stage and released into the Moon River. A portion of eggs collected to be transferred to a private hatchery for rearing to advanced fingerling stage for rehabilitative plantings at Moon River, Go Home Bay and possibly Tadenac Bay.</li> <li>• Assessment report on status of walleye spawning stock to be posted on EGBSC website</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Natural Resources – Parry Sound District Office and Upper Great Lakes Management Unit – Lake Huron Office.</li> <li>• Moon River Walleye Association</li> <li>• Tadenac Fishing Club / Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay / Georgian Bay Association</li> </ul>	



Project #3: **Advanced Walleye Culture and rehabilitative walleye plantings**

**Objectives:**

- Raise walleye to summer fingerling stage for rehabilitative purposes

**Description and Deliverables:**

- Raise 20,000 summer fingerling – mean weight 1 gram +/- 0.05 gr.
- Rehabilitate Plantings: Moon River, Go Home Bay and possibly Tadenac Bay

**Partners:**

- MNR: Upper Great Lakes Management Unit – Lake Huron Office & Parry Sound District Office
- Madawaska Club at Go Home Bay / Georgian Bay Association
- Tadenac Fishing Club
- Moon River Walleye Association



Project # 4: **Musquash River – Index walleye-spawners survey and radio telemetry study.**

**Objectives:**


- Assess status of walleye spawning population
- Determined extent of up-stream spawning migration in order to focus spawning habitat rehabilitation effort


**Description and Deliverables:**


- Index-spawners survey summary report on population status
- Spawning location data to assist in designing spawning habitat enhancement options


**Partners:**

- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources – UGLMU and Parry Sound District Office
- Cognashene Cottage Association / Georgian Bay Association

	<p>Project #5 : <b>Musquash River – Morphometry data collection for walleye spawning bed design</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collection of physical habitat data to assist in formulating the most suitable walleye spawning bed design</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description &amp; Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide assistance to Scott Finucan (Fisheries Specialist – Science and Information Branch OMNR) in collecting data relating to the morphometry of the Musquash River at various potential walleye spawning sites.</li> <li>• Scott will subsequently make formal recommendations relating to appropriate walleye spawning bed design</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cognashene Cottage Association / Georgian Bay Association</li> <li>• OMNR – Upper Great Lakes Management Unit</li> </ul>	

	<p>Project # 6: <b>Walleye Spawning Habitat Assessment – Magnetawan River at Hwy 69</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect preliminary information on walleye spawning habitat in the lower Magnetawan River as a prerequisite for future spawning enhancement work</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description &amp; Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visit various (historical) walleye spawning locations on the lower Magnetawan River in cooperation / partnership with Magnetawan First Nation. Document observations.</li> <li>• Conduct literature search of fisheries work that has been conducted in the vicinity.</li> <li>• Re-visit walleye spawning sites during the summer to document substrate and depths at various spawning locations.</li> <li>• Synthesize above work in a project summary report; include recommendations for future fisheries management work including possible spawning bed enhancement work.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magnetawan First Nation</li> <li>• Ministry of Natural Resources – UGLMU and Parry Sound District Office</li> </ul>	

	<p>Project # 7: <b>Lake Stewardship Workshop – Theme: State of the Bay Reporting – the Fishery</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public awareness of science and environmental indicators relating to the state of the Georgian Bay fishery – both sport and commercial</li> <li>• Dissemination of related stewardship messages</li> <li>• Workshop to dovetail with current 'State of the Bay Reporting' initiative being lead by the Geo. Bay Biosphere Reserve</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshop format with scheduled presentations, questions and answers</li> <li>• Summary report to be posted on EGBSC website under “2011 Lake Stewardship Workshop” tab</li> <li>• Findings/presentations may comprise a portion of background information relating to the GBBR state of the bay report card (or whatever other name the initiative is finally called)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve</li> <li>• Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources – UGLMU and Parry Sound District Office</li> </ul>	

	<p>Project # 8: <b>Custodial Crown Land camping initiative</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of unregulated crown land camping on Crown lands, particularly those in Conservation Reserves</li> <li>• Reduce conflicts between crown land campers and other interest groups</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of bush latrines and 'best camping practices' signs at intensively used sites</li> <li>• 'Behind-the-scenes' campsite cleanup</li> <li>• Education and awareness messages through direct communication with campers</li> <li>• Year-end project summary report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Township of Carling (The Franklin/Huckleberry Islands initiative is lead by Carling Township with support from the West Carling Association, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, White Squall, Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Assn., Georgian Bay Land Trust, North Sound Association and the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council. )</li> <li>• White Squall Paddling Centre – re their S.O.D. project proposal</li> </ul>	



Project #9: **Ontario Stewardship Ranger Program**

**Objectives:**

- Work with partners on their projects to promote healthy, sustainable natural ecosystems
- Tangible biological benefits
- Enriching employment and personal development experience for crew members
- Ambassadors for the Ontario Stewardship program and the EGBSC

**Description & Deliverables:**

- Participate with partners in assisting with their projects.
- Project summary report; posted on our website.
- Education, natural resource management, healthy and safety training for crew members.

**Partners:**

- Ontario Stewardship Network – Youth Programs
- Parry Sound District – Ministry of Natural Resources
- Ontario Parks
- Non-government partner groups: Muskoka Wildlife Centre, Longhorn Cons. Assn., McKellar Cons. Assn., Geo. Bay Land Trust, Park-to-Park Trails,



Project # 10: **Regional (North Channel and Eastern Georgian Bay) Economic / Fisheries Revitalization Initiative**

**Objectives:**

- Consolidate background data and Fisheries Rehabilitation Action Plan as a pre-requisite for submissions to funding agencies to commence implementation

**Description & Deliverables:**

- Two phase project: Phase I – Funding ad awareness campaign; Phase II – Socio-economic background synopsis and formulation of Fisheries Rehabilitation Action Plan
- Hire project coordinator; post project progress reports on website

**Partners:**

- Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council
- Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve
- Ontario Federation Anglers & Hunters
- OMNR (Upper Great Lakes Management Unit)



Project # 11: **Bass Nest Creation Project**

**Objectives:**

- Engage cottagers to construct bass nests fronting their properties to increase bass production and as a tool for enhanced stewardship

**Description & Deliverables:**

- Provide pea gravel and instructional flyer to cottage association members in order for them to construct bass nests
- Note: this project has run for many years and is now be conducted on an “on-demand” basis by cottage associations and individuals as they wish to partake

**Partners:**

- Cottage association members as per their requests for pea gravel and instructional flyers

Project # 12: **FMZ-14 Regulation fish stickers**

**Objectives:**

- Increase public awareness of key sport fish regulations for FMZ-14
- Include value-added stewardship messages relating to MNR-tips line; lake sturgeon as a species at risk; promote catch and release fishing

**Description & Deliverables:**

- Distribute 2000+ fish stickers to general public
- Utilize as a fund raising item by requesting nominal ‘loonie’ donation to EGBSC

**Partners:**

- GB-5 (Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve; Georgian Bay Association; Georgian Bay Forever; Georgian Bay Land Trust)
- Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council
- Township of the Archipelago



Project # 13: **Signage – Re Sturgeon Spawning Habitat, Life History and Protected Status under the Species At Risk Act**

**Objectives:**

- Increase public awareness and protection of Lake Sturgeon

**Description & Deliverables:**

- Stewardship messages on signage to include: sturgeon spawning habitat description (tailored to local situation), life history, status under the Species At Risk Act including provisions for protection
- Signs to be located at three access sites near-by to sturgeon spawning areas: Moon River, French River and Port Severn

**Partners:**

- Federal Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP)
- Moon River Walleye Association
- (Lower) French River Cottage Association



Project # 14: **Invasive Species Awareness / Education and Community Outreach Project**

**Objectives:**

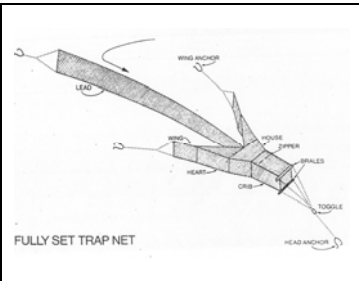
- Increase public awareness and promote preventative action related to invasive species.
- Invasive species monitoring
- Project provides a concurrent opportunity to disseminate other stewardship messages to the general public

**Description and Deliverables:**

- Public Outreach including: Dissemination of brochures, fact sheets, ID cards, etc. at:
  - Cottage Association annual general meetings (AGM)
  - Public School Presentations and local clubs
  - Community events
- Promoting media coverage of invasive species topics from local perspective
- Participate / promote OFAH invasive species monitoring activities
- Active engagement in above mentioned activities with completion of project summary report to document activities

**Partners:**

- Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (Lead Partner)
- Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR)



**Project # 15: ESTN Fisheries Assessment Survey – Britt / Byng Inlet Area of E. Geo. Bay**

**Objectives:**

- Assess the status (health) of the near-shore fish community in the Britt / Byng Inlet Area of E. Geo. Bay
- Collect base-line, benchmark data using a standard OMNR survey protocol
- Support the fisheries monitoring program of the UGLMU
- Assess the need for future management – specifically relating to key sport fish species

**Description and Deliverables:**

- Conduct standard ESTN survey protocol
- Data to be included in UGLMU data base
- Summary report to be written by EGBSC and posted on our website

**Partners:**

- Magnetawan First Nation
- Upper Great Lakes Management Unit / OMNR Parry Sound District Office
- Britt / Byng Inlet Anglers Association
- St. Amant’s Marina



**Project # 16: Tadenac Bay Walleye Spawning Assessment**

**Objectives:**


- Assess the status of the Tadenac Bay walleye spawning population
- Assessment of previous stocking efforts to create a spawning population at this site
- Assessment of spawning habitat work conducted in 2007


**Description and Deliverables:**

- Documentation of visual assessment of walleye spawning activity at the Tadenac Bay site
- Project summary report by EGBSC / to be posted on website

**Partners:**

- Tadenac Fishing Club

	<p>Project # 17: <b>Support Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve Projects pursuant to their Conservation Action Plan</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public awareness / community participation in conservation projects</li> <li>• Support GBBR initiatives relative to their conservation action plan / committee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue community-based Species-At-Risk awareness &amp; education program</li> <li>• Support community-based Biosphere Action Group</li> <li>• Support Educator's Network / Education Advisory Committee and Education Facilitator</li> <li>• Support public conferences relating to environmental awareness and stewardship</li> <li>• Participate as member of Conservation Committee</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b> Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and a compendium of over 20 environmental community organizations (e.g. GBA, GBLT, NCC, OMNR, Parks Canada, Parks Ont., cottage associations, municipalities, First Nations).</p>	

	<p>Project # 18: <b>Lake Trout egg thiamine level monitoring</b></p>
<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect lake trout eggs to monitor thiamine levels</li> <li>• Monitor lake trout spawning population status; catch &amp; biosampling data</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Description and Deliverables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set 6' trapnets at index locations during the Lake Trout spawning period</li> <li>• Collect approx. 50 eggs from 30 individuals</li> <li>• Forward eggs to UGLMU for thiamine analysis</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper Great Lakes Management Unit – Lake Huron Office</li> <li>• OMNR – Parry Sound District</li> </ul>	



Project # 19: **White Squall – SOD (Custodial work on outer islands fronting Carling Township of E. Georgian Bay) Project**

**Objectives:**

- Mitigate the negative social and environmental impacts of unregulated crown land camping on Crown lands, particularly on the outer islands of E. Geo. Bay fronting Carling Township
- Reduce conflicts between crown land campers and other interest groups

**Description and Deliverables:**

- Installation of bush latrines and 'best camping practices' signs at intensively used sites
- 'Behind-the-scenes' campsite cleanup
- Education and awareness messages through direct communication with campers

**Partners:**

- White Squall Paddling Centre
- Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association
- Carling Township



Project # 20: **UGLMU - Lake Sturgeon Assessment Survey at Moon River**

**Objectives:**

- Assist the UGLMU crew with field activities designed to monitor the status of the Moon River Sturgeon population
- Assess spawning habitat used by sturgeon; determine benefits of 2008 habitat improvement project

**Description and Deliverables:**

- UGLMU to write up project summary report
- Assist UGLMU with field work activities

**Partners:**

- Upper Great Lakes Management Unit
- Moon River Cottages
- Moon River walleye association



Project # 21: **Northern Pike Radio Telemetry Study – Tadenac Bay (McMaster University)**

**Objectives:**

- Collect data re home range of Northern Pike in Wah-Wah-Taysee area of E. Georgian Bay

**Description and Deliverables:**

- Assist with netting operations (provide netting and boating gear requirements)
- Assist with radio implant and tracking operations as requested

**Partners:**

- McMaster University
- Ministry of Natural Resources – UGLMU and Parry Sound District Office