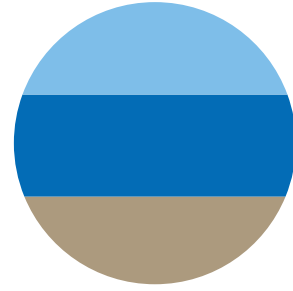


GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER



FALL 2019
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Protecting your water.

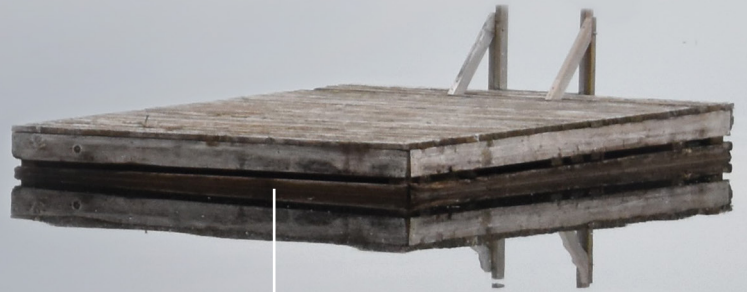
SHORES LITTERED WITH FOAM TOO HIGH TO COUNT

Cleaning Shorelines and Pinpointing Litter Sources

Thank you to Georgian Bay volunteers who cleaned shorelines and listed what they found.

Community cleanups included: Woods Bay, Parry Sound, Collingwood, Tay Township, Tiny Township, Pointe au Baril, Seguin Township, and Wasaga Beach. Individual volunteers also cleaned their own shorelines.

Thanks to all of you, GBF has determined major sources. The next step is to eliminate the most major source — dock foam! See page 6 for more.



Also Inside:

NEW TECHNOLOGY
DEBUT
PAGE 03

UPDATE ON WASHER
FILTER STUDY
PAGE 04

FAMILIES TASKING
FOR THE FUTURE
PAGE 05

THE WARDS, LOVING
GEORGIAN BAY
PAGE 07

SUPPORT INTO ACTION

By David Sweetnam, Executive Director

Summer is over and it is raining acorns again. Your generous support of our research and education programs has been turned into actions to protect, restore and enhance our treasured Georgian Bay.

It was great to see so many families take part in our Families For Change program. You'll see the results later in this issue. We hope that your family will become a Families For Change team and be motivated to live the changes we need to make in our energy, fashion and lifestyle choices.

Phragbusting season is almost over! Our students achieved great results this summer mapping more shoreline and saving many wetlands. We've managed to beat back the infestation in Cognashene to near zero infestations — a fabulous example of a motivated community taking action early. All of our previous treatment sites are showing the impacts of our cutting program. We are winning the war, but there are still more battles to fight. Rest up this winter so you can volunteer again next year!

We have been very busy with our microfibre/microplastics diversion and shoreline clean-

up projects with the enthusiastic support of over one hundred volunteer families. The University of Toronto team has collected the winter and summer treated wastewater samples to analyse the "before" baseline case to measure the effectiveness of the diversion filters. We will be determining if the volume of wastewater filtered from this many households is a sufficient sample size, but the question is, will it be large enough to see an impact signal in the treated waste water.

Preliminary findings from our aquaculture research with the University of Guelph uncovered a surprise. We had selected 10 km distant "control" sites that we thought would be beyond the aquaculture operation's impact radius. To our surprise, we saw impact signatures in the control sites that might mean that native fish populations are travelling much farther than expected. We'll need to track fish next year, but if proven true, the radius of impacts are far larger than anyone thought. More at <http://bit.ly/MonitoringEcosystem>.

I hope you learn something new in this issue. Thank you for your passion to protect our Bay.

GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER

Georgian Bay Forever is a community response to the growing need for major research and education to sustain the Georgian Bay aquatic ecosystem and the quality of life its communities and visitors enjoy.

We help monitor the Bay's well being, throughout the seasons, year after year.

We fund the research needed to protect the environmental health of Georgian Bay and the surrounding bodies of water. Using our research findings, we inform and educate the general public and governments about threats to environmental health and propose possible solutions.

Through workshops, seminars and online, we are educating the Georgian Bay community. By teaming up with reputable institutions, we enhance the credibility of our research and strengthen our ability to protect what's at stake.

Georgian Bay Forever is a registered Canadian charity (#89531 1066 RR0001). We work with the Great Lakes Basin Conservancy in the United States, as well as other stakeholder groups all around the Great Lakes.

Deeply rooted and broadly drawn, Georgian Bay Forever is steered by lifelong devotees of the Bay. We are committed advocates, educators, environmentalists, realists, idealists, and of course, residents.

DIRECTORS

Derek Bowen	Jennifer Ferguson
Helen Bryce	Doug Heintzman
Janet Burt	Neil Hutchinson
Adam Chamberlain, Chair	Anne Randell
Terry Clark	Laren Stadelman
Paul Emond	Joe Tucker

MEET OUR NEW CHAIR

By Adam Chamberlain, Chair of Georgian Bay Forever



So this is my first newsletter as Chair of the GBF Board of Directors. I am lucky to be taking on this role at a time that the organization has matured and is supported by a strong and vital staff and a dedicated group of volunteers, both on the board and otherwise. On behalf of GBF, I have to take a second to thank our outgoing Chair, Anne Randell, who has done such a fantastic job. We (and I) owe her our deep thanks and appreciation.

We continue work in many important areas including the fight to "manage" invasive species that threaten Georgian Bay and initiatives to protect the waters of the Bay from microplastics and other threats. We also have acquired new technology to apply to water quality projects and improve data collection.

I continue to enjoy Georgian Bay thanks in large part to the efforts of others. In my case, some of the "others" are those who have come before. My great-grandfather William Smith, with his brother George, came to the bay in the early 1900's (when it was way harder to get to) and found two Islands. George purchased

what is now Smith's Island near Cognashene (we call it Island 62) while in 1914 William purchased Island 61 immediately to the south (Island 1800 in the new numbering system).

William's descendants, including my grandmother (Margaret Saunderson) and my mother (Mary Chamberlain) maintained the tradition of summering on the Bay with their families and now we do the same. We are part of a large "Smith" clan that includes various family names that are familiar to this part of Georgian Bay: Drinkwater, Saunderson, Edwards, Halpenny, Bannister, Finn, Bolsby, Spring Chamberlain and Smith (of course). It is not all that unusual for some of us to meet people only to realize later in a conversation that we are related — through our mutual family connections on the Bay.

What is truly wonderful is that we are still coming back — to this incredible corner of the world.

I look forward to meeting and speaking to you as GBF Chair. If we happen to be related, please let me know!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
David Sweetnam

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You can reach David Sweetnam, our Executive Director, at ed@gbf.org or at 905-880-4945, ext 1.

Canadian citizens may send their donations to the address above.

U.S. citizens wishing to make a donation to support our work can do so by giving to:
Great Lakes Basin Conservancy
PO Box 504, Gates Mills, OH
44040-0504, USA

This newsletter is just a snapshot of our work. For the most up-to-date information on our projects, longer versions of newsletter articles and breaking news about Georgian Bay, please become a regular visitor to our website and Facebook page.
GBF.ORG

Design by Key Gordon (keygordon.com)
Editor: Heather Sargeant

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The AUV Georgie McBayFace

REVOLUTIONARY WATER QUALITY MONITORING TECHNOLOGY COMES TO GEORGIAN BAY

By: Heather Sargeant, GBF Director of Communications

What's in a name? A clue to what it can do...

Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) has partnered with Western University, the University of Waterloo, and Wilfrid Laurier University. The four groups contributed to the roughly \$350 thousand dollar cost of the technology, the first Canadian Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) for water quality testing in Georgian Bay.

The AUV was christened **Georgie McBayFace** (*Georgie*) at its launch event in Honey Harbour on July 3rd. Its name plays off another famous AUV — Britain's *Boaty McBoatface* (*Boaty*). Remarkably, *Boaty's* first mission found data that significantly links Antarctic winds with rising sea temperature. This discovery will further assist in scientific modelling on how climate change impacts rising sea levels.¹

Boaty's younger cousin *Georgie* will have similar breakthrough opportunities to benefit our understanding of how humans are impacting water quality in Georgian Bay, and other Canadian lakes.

According to GBF's Executive Director David Sweetnam, the data collected by *Georgie* will allow us to assess the impacts on our water from climate change, water levels, increasing development, industrial or municipal spills, sewage overflows, septic failures, bacterial contamination and the success of conservation measures. Furthermore, the data collected from the AUV will also provide high-resolution underwater maps allowing modelers to create Digital Elevation Models (a 3D computer representation) of areas of the Bay.

The AUV will enable consistent and efficient data collection allowing us to monitor trends from year to year and assist stakeholders such as federal, provincial and local governments to make science-based decisions regarding issues that impact the health of the Bay.

And it's not only in Georgian Bay that the AUV's data collection can help us understand how to mitigate big problems like climate change. From mid-summer until early fall, the three university partners will be conducting their own critical research projects in the far north. Western University's Dr. Brian Branfireun

noted in a Mirage News interview that “millions of lakes in Canada remain completely uncharacterized simply because of the lack of ability to get accurate data.” One example of the many benefits to getting data on a much wider and efficient scale is in the Northwest Territories. There are going to be many lakes in northern Canada that will not support the fish populations they currently do because surface lake temperature is already climbing to 16–18 degrees C.

“These are <normally> sub-arctic, high-altitude lakes. For things like lake trout, that's starting to get close to the thermal tolerance.”

For fish habitats, “the most important data involves the bottom topography of the lake, including details like depth, and temperature. These vary widely from lake to lake and are the difference between the water being able to support certain fish.”

“Using sonar, the AUV can measure water depth and bottom topography, while simultaneously using water-quality sensors in the nose cone to measure everything from PH levels and water temperature to the conductivity levels in dissolved oxygen. The data collected will allow for climate change adaptations for fisheries and those relying on traditional foods in the north.”²

Back to Georgian Bay

Georgie had a busy schedule this summer; meeting the public in visits to Honey Harbour, Pointe au Baril, Sans Souci, and Carling all while the Executive Director focused on putting academic training into practical trialing of the technology.

We'll keep you updated on *Georgie's* 2020 Georgian Bay projects and progress, but if you would like more information on the AUV, please visit http://bit.ly/AUV_Georgie.



Georgie McBayFace, the autonomous underwater vehicle, visits with curious onlookers in Honey Harbour on July 3rd.

¹ Griffith, Janelle. *Boaty McBoatface* makes significant climate change discovery on maiden mission. June 18, 2019. NBC News MACH. Retrieved in Aug. 2019 at <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/news/boaty-mcboatface-makes-significant-climate-change-discovery-maiden-mission-ncna1018781>

² New underwater research vehicle makes a splash. Mirage News. July 25, 2019. Retrieved in August at <https://www.miragenews.com/new-underwater-research-vehicle-makes-a-splash/>

DIVERT AND CAPTURE:

THE FIGHT TO KEEP MICROPLASTICS OUT OF OUR WATER

Study begins on reducing microfiber pollution through washing machine filters

On August 1st, 2019, we officially “switched on” washing machine filters to divert and capture microfibres, which are the most common type of microplastic in the Great Lakes. Nearly 100 volunteer households in Parry Sound have joined forces with Georgian Bay Forever and the University of Toronto to limit microfibres from entering Georgian Bay.



A washing machine filter.

Why?

Washing machines have been shown to release thousands of plastic and other microfiber types into washing machine effluent, and when that water is carried to a wastewater treatment plant, many microfibres are released directly into bodies of water risking the health of aquatic ecosystems.

Research from the University of Toronto demonstrates that commercially sold filters on washing machines significantly reduce microfibres in washing machine discharge. As a pilot project, Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) and the Rochman Lab are seeing whether the microfiber diversion done in a lab environment can be scaled up to a real-life municipal environment to divert microfibres from the effluent going into Georgian Bay. The amount of microfibres will be quantified over about two years and also qualified in terms of their makeup in order to provide stakeholders information that could help mitigate this pollution.

What's been done?

Throughout January to July, GBF and the Rochman Lab worked together to publicize the requirements for volunteer households in Parry Sound and to educate and listen to many Georgian Bayers talk about their own plastic

pollution and their own strategies for plastic use reduction (particularly single-use). It was an energizing experience—and we want to thank the over 465 people who attended these talks and the 15+ media outlets and supporters who helped spread the word.

The result

By August, with the help of Bay Area Plumbing and KPS Plumbing, we installed the “Filtrol 160” washing machine filters in volunteer homes in Parry Sound. Many volunteers are telling us they are taken aback by the volume of fibres the filters have started collecting. Unpleasant, but exciting!

The first samples from volunteers will be taken in November to be quantified and a portion will be examined to determine their chemical makeup. The samples will continue to be submitted and tracked periodically over the next 12 to 18 months to also show any seasonality trends.

In addition to the washing machine as a source of plastic pollution, we are also looking at the impacts of microfiber emission from machine drying including if there are associations with chemicals of mutual concern (CMC).

More research is pointing to the volume of microfibres being dispersed through the air, where they can end up in all types of environments like water and as far as the Arctic. One source could be the dryer, where microfibres are bypassing the internal lint traps and being emitted to the atmosphere where their destination is unknown. The goal of this project is to test the effectiveness of CMC diversion using external lint filters attached to the exhaust pipe of the dryer.

A summary of the important questions we are trying to address

As we monitor microfibres in Parry Sound, we are hoping to gain valuable information to answer questions such as: Do microfibres going into Georgian Bay decrease after installing washing machine filters? Do extra filters on dryers help capture significant further amounts of microfibres? How many microfibres are collected in a regular washing load in a family home? What is the makeup of the microfibres that are being captured? We hope that the data we collect can help provide a

better estimation of microfibres captured in filters and increase scientific knowledge to inform effective policies to prevent further plastic pollution.

We continue to be excited by community action that makes a difference in plastic pollution! To learn more about what you can do, this project, and the filters we are using for your own consideration visit, <http://bit.ly/LessMicrofibres>.

Author: Cassie Weston is the Divert and Capture Project Coordinator at Georgian Bay Forever. Keep an eye out for future cleanups and activities from Georgian Bay Forever by following GBF on Facebook.

Author: Lisa Erdle is a PhD candidate and researcher at the Rochman Lab at the University of Toronto. Learn more about microfibres and research at the University of Toronto by following Lisa on Twitter.



Lisa Erdle sampling the water at the waste water treatment plant in Parry Sound to get base level readings before the filters are installed.

We send our sincerest thanks to all for their investment in this initiative.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Further funding and assistance for Divert and Capture: The fight to keep microplastics out of our water, was provided by the RBC Foundation, LUSH Fresh Handmade Cosmetics, Patagonia, the Helen McCrea Peacock Foundation, the Charles H. Ivey Foundation and our many passionate donors.

GBF wishes to acknowledge the support of these partners:

The Rochman Laboratory and the Diamond Environmental Research Group at the University of Toronto, the Town of Parry Sound, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Fashion Takes Action and our many community volunteers!

TOP 12 LITTER ITEMS YOU PICKED UP FROM GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINES

*Based on submissions from Jun to Aug. Future submissions may alter results. Foam pieces based on an average of 167 pieces per submission as many submitters indicated there were too many to count.

430 pounds of litter removed from Georgian Bay Shorelines

By Cassie Weston, GBF Project Coordinator for Divert and Capture

At a first glance, the waters of Georgian Bay may seem just as pristine as it is beautiful. However, you may see differently after a closer look. Floating among the sparkling water is plastic debris, ranging from large pieces to microscopic particles. As a result of the convenience culture and the mismanagement of waste, approximately 22 million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year including Georgian Bay. Much of this plastic pollution is deposited on the ecologically diverse and productive shorelines, compromising these important habitats. That's why GBF is working with you to help our shorelines, aquatic animals and beyond by organizing shoreline cleanup events around Georgian Bay.

Though only a few months into this initiative, over 430 pounds of litter has been picked off over 4 kilometers of shoreline with the help of 65 dedicated volunteers during 9 cleanups. Volunteers used trash tally sheets to collect data on what is found on our shorelines. This data will pinpoint items of concern, and identify ways in which we can mitigate these items from landing on our shorelines.

Fragmented dock foam and tiny pieces of plastic (sometimes volunteers found just too many to count!), are the most common items found on the top 12 list.

Cigarette butts, now known as the world's most littered item, unsurprisingly ranks very high as a common trash item found on the shorelines of Georgian Bay. Other single use

plastic items related to food and beverage packaging and consumption dominate the remaining spots, including food wrappers, bottle caps, plastic bottles, straws, coffee cups and lids, and pop cans. Balloons, another single use plastic item, ranks number 12 on the list.

"While many volunteers leave the cleanup feeling good that they helped out, there is also a lingering feeling of discouragement—the more you look, the more garbage there is on the shorelines." says Sue McPhedran, a #GBFTrashTeam volunteer and Georgian Bay Association Director.

"If we look at the single use plastic issue in a glass half full perspective, you will quickly realise how simple it is to reduce your plastic use. There are so many alternatives to virtually all single use plastic; you just have to give the effort to make the switch!"

Over the winter months, GBF will continue to do shoreline cleanups with volunteers at hot spots for winter activities.

To learn more about ideas to reduce plastic waste and how to participate in shoreline cleanups, visit <http://bit.ly/LessPlasticsTips>.

Next Steps: Eliminating Dock Foam

GBF has started the "Say NO to Foam" project. The project will simultaneously gather the science around the chemical harm from samples of dock foam, provide consumers with dock choice alternatives, and work to longer term solutions of eliminating open foam use for docks in the market.



FAMILIES FOR CHANGE

By Heather Sargeant,
Communications Director

This spring, Georgian Bay Forever, launched a program for families who want to do specific tasks that help the environmental future of Georgian Bay. The program, Families For Change (F4C), consisted of a list of 49 tasks for families to choose and complete at their own speed, or in a competition for prizes from Patagonia.

Why did GBF launch Families For Change?

Climate change, pollution, and wetland deterioration are complex global and local issues involving politics, economics, science and the human will. Plastic and greenhouse gas emissions are overwhelming our planet, and we are losing wetlands everyday. Many of us don't know what to do! GBF has stepped in because we feel strongly that the family unit can be the greatest powerhouse for long-term change.

And families all over Georgian Bay responded

GBF can't know how many people did this on their own initiative, but we did distribute 4,500 printed F4C guides (the summer GBF newsletter), and heard a lot of positive feedback.

In the digital world, which is easier to measure, we had 82 participant families, 40 of which signed up for the online contest.

COMPLETING 3140 TASKS TO HELP GEORGIAN BAY



The Walker Family's plastic free grocery shopping result!

What kind of differences did the families take on?

Participating makes a difference, and that was the main goal.

However, thanks to the families who sent their completed submissions in for the contest, we can share aggregate insights on their activities and an estimate on non-contesters. Note — the over-all winner by points will not be announced until after Oct. 4 when the winners are drawn and notified.

- 2952 tasks completed by non-contesters. This is an estimate based on one task being done by half of the 4552 F4C guides distributed, and a tenth doing 3 tasks.
- From the 40 contesting families, 8 submitted their task forms before the deadline. Out of 8 family team submissions, 188 tasks were completed out of a possible 392! And 1,187 points were scored out of a possible 5730. Families — this is amazing! There were a lot of tasks, 49, and although some were easy, many were quite hard!
- The F4C teams liked making changes in your daily lives the best, completing 111 tasks out of a combined possible 176! The other categories were as follows: Clean Up Your Shorelines (27 out of 88, Choose Fashion that Matters (26 out of 72), and Preserve Wetlands (14 out. of 56).

- GBF learned and got a lot from your submissions, and we are going to follow-up on them, build on them, and get them out to you. Some examples: pictures from one family's plastic-free grocery journey, listings of where to buy recycled or second hand clothing, what to recycle (check out Team Clever Clarke's recycling video for their municipality <https://youtu.be/xulHXDUYqdc>)

How can your family get involved?

- You can still try many of the tasks for our summer F4C program. You can find the list at <http://bit.ly/F4CSummer>.
- We're working on the next F4C task list. Email us info@gbf.org if you want your family to join other Families For Change!
- If you want to volunteer to help with the development and spread of this program, please email heather.sargeant@gbf.org. Thank you so much to ALL the families that participated! We look forward to giving you more challenges, and growing your numbers!

Here's what was said about the program:

"Thank you for organizing such a great activity for Georgian Bay families to change their daily habits and advocate for change from all levels of government, as well as from private industries."
F4C Team MCJAH

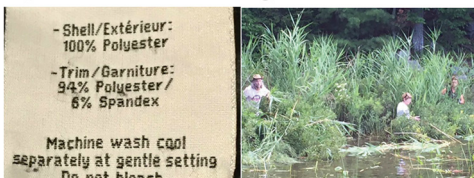
"I want to let you know that I've loved using this guide this summer to challenge us to do more - we've learned a lot this summer about fashion choices as a result and are so happy for the work you are doing. I hope this is something you will continue to use and make new targets. :) Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced ?? Keep newbies in the loop and challenge others?"
F4C Walker

"Thanks for running this program! We learned a lot, and did as much as we could this summer!"
F4C The Clever Clarke's



F4C CLEAN UP YOUR SHORELINES

F4C IMPROVE DAILY CHOICES



F4C CHOOSE FASHION THAT MATTERS

F4C PRESERVE WETLANDS



The Wards in their 2019 annual Georgian Bay family photo.

LARRY AND JUDY WARD

SHAPED BY AND SHAPING GEORGIAN BAY

By Amber Gordon, Director of Development

Picture this: The year is 1963. It is a hot May day. A young man starts his summer job at a big computer corporation. A lovely young woman begins her new career there as well. They meet there soon — two lives collided, and were changed, forever!

To me, it sounds like a really great romantic movie doesn't it? But I can tell you — it wasn't! Those two lives belong to Lawrence (Larry) and Judy Ward. Two extremely passionate and wonderful advocates for Georgian Bay whose lives have been tied to the water for many, many years.

The Ward family's love affair with the Bay started over 106 years ago, when Larry's grandfather began summering on the shores with his family. Since then, the family has been an integral part of the Bay community, ensuring the preservation of the health and well-being of the water and the summer cottage communities by actively supporting and involving themselves in the issues that are critically important.

Larry's father Alf, a true Georgian Bayer, spent every summer at the family cottage on Bone Island and served on the Board of the Honey Harbour Association for many years. After 1913, he realized that with three brothers and the addition of his own children, they were outgrowing the original family cottage. He believed it was time to expand the Ward compound. Thus it was, in 1949, that Alf purchased Island 81 in Cognashene, the

beginning of a new family destination which, even today, has never been formally renamed!

Growing up on the water from a very young age, Larry recalls a vastly different lifestyle than he experiences today. He fondly remembers the young people of Cognashene meeting daily at Whalen's, the local store that offered the necessities and mail to the cottagers who did not have the size and speed of boats to go to Honey Harbour regularly for supplies. There were weekly picnics on the rocks, periodic bonfires and Sunday night sing-songs.

“Our favourite place on Earth”

Having a deep lifelong love for the Bay, Larry knew that his partner in any long-term relationship would also have to share his passion for water and island living. After meeting Judy, Larry wasted no time in bringing her up to the cottage to meet his parents and see her reaction to the Bay that was such a part of his family's life story.

Three children, and eight grandchildren later, I am sure you know how the story has unfolded! They were married in 1965 and have spent every summer since on their beloved Island 81.

It is the gathering place for all of the family and, in the words of two of their grandchildren, “Our favourite place on Earth”! Because family time is so important to the three generations of Wards, vacations are planned around cottage time to ensure that everyone is together at least once every summer. Larry and Judy love nothing more than seeing their children and grandchildren playing in the water, paddleboarding, sailing, fishing, boating and enjoying every moment they can in the great outdoors.

Through the years, Larry has been supportive of many of the Bay's organizations. He was on the Board of the Cognashene Cottagers' Association in the '70s, Chair of the Cognashene Community Church in the '80s, on the Board of the Honey Harbour Boat Club from 1994 to 2009 and on the Board and Treasurer of Georgian Bay Forever from 2009 to 2012. He has felt it is important to give back to the area that has given him and his family so much pleasure. This is why the Wards support Georgian Bay Forever's water protection work — everything is interconnected and without clean fresh water, it's at risk.

The Wards have made lifelong friendships on the Bay, finding kindred spirits in neighbours with whom they travel and winter alongside in Florida. Georgian Bay living has truly shaped the lives of so many of the Wards, and will continue to do so for generations to come.

GBF is pleased to recognize the members of the Georgian Bay Forever Circle

Honoring our loyal supporters for their cumulative donations of \$15,000 or more to August 2019

HELP US PROTECT GEORGIAN BAY. FOREVER.

Using the enclosed envelope, send in your
donation today!

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THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES STEPPED UP TO HELP PROTECT THE BAY.



"The Baykeeper" indicates that Georgian Bay Forever is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, a global movement of on-the-water advocates who patrol and protect over 100,000 miles of rivers, streams and coastlines in North and South America, Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa. For more information go to waterkeeper.org

