

Who Does What on Georgian Bay?

Your Guide to the GB5 Organizations Working to Protect the Bay



At GBA and our sister “GB5” organizations, we continue to get frequent questions from Georgian Bay cottagers and other stakeholders about the specific roles of each organization. Why are there 5 entities and what is the difference in their roles? Simply put, Who does what on the Bay?

To give you a clear answer to those questions, GBA reached out to our sister organizations to develop this summary of each

organization’s roles, vision, and current major initiatives. Each organization’s website is listed in the summary – for more information on any GB5 organization, just go to its website. Social media links are also included.

This information will be available continuously on GBA’s website under the GB5 tab: www.georgianbay.ca



Georgian Bay Association

Vision Statement	To work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.
Founded	1916
Community	An umbrella organization of 19 cottager associations on the eastern and northern shores of Georgian Bay plus one inland lake
Core Strategy	Advocate on behalf of cottagers with all levels of government and non-government entities to protect the interests of our members.
Current Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First Nations – Working with Wiikwemikoong First Nation and senior levels of government as they negotiate a land settlement to ensure that the interests of our members are considered. ➤ Fisheries – Advocate for the use of waste capture and treatment technology in fish farms that use our public waters. Work with the MNR&F and NGOs to rehabilitate and protect our native fishery. Advocate for prevention of Asian Carp in the Great Lakes. ➤ Lands and Forests – Address terrestrial invasive species that affect our wetlands and forests including Phragmites and forest pests. ➤ Boating and Safety – Work with the boating community to maintain a respectful relationship in the use of Georgian Bay. ➤ Water – Protect the quality and quantity of our water resource through active advocacy with all levels of government and our sister organizations. ➤ GB5 – Actively promote dialogue and coordination among the 5 organizations on Georgian Bay to pursue mutual objectives.
Registered Charity	No (funded by member dues)





Georgian Bay Land Trust

Vision Statement	Conserve wilderness lands forever – Port Severn to the North Channel
Founded	1991
Community	Member of the Ontario Land Trust Community and partners with the Nature Conservancy of Canada
Core Strategy	Maintain wilderness places and open spaces to benefit all. Conserve recreation properties for everyone to enjoy and ecologically sensitive lands that protect rare species & habitats (including provincially significant wetlands) of ecological, geological and historic importance. Engage local residents to assist in the monitoring and ongoing management and protection of each property's natural features. Land is secured through donations, purchases, conservation easements and leases.
Current Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ GBLT currently stewards, or financially assists the stewarding of, over 6,000 acres of coastline.➤ Conservation education and university-level research on our terrestrial spaces and their wetlands.
Registered Charity	Yes (funded through donations and grants)



gblt.org



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[@gblandtrust](https://twitter.com/gblandtrust)



[/channel/UCwBL_iDX2_tuPCUec_YsLqw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwBL_iDX2_tuPCUec_YsLqw)



Georgian Bay Forever

Vision Statement	Our vision is for the waters of Georgian Bay to be healthy and thriving for future generations.
Founded	1995
Community	A pan-Georgian Bay volunteer based organization working as partners with research institutions, governments, agencies and other NGOs to execute major research and education projects to protect the waters and sustain the Georgian Bay environment.
Core Strategy	GBF funds and supports scientific research and education that protects and enhances the waters of Georgian Bay, as part of the Great Lakes.
Current Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Water Levels Leadership – Economic and engineering studies looking at possible structural and non-structural adaptive measures to address climate impacts on water level extremes as well as research on how water levels impact ecosystems.➤ Water Quality Assessment – Township of Georgian Bay water quality monitoring program, drinking water protection, microbial source tracking research, blue-green and nuisance algae blooms.➤ Ecosystems Integrity – Index the biodiversity of Georgian Bay using DNA Barcoding, invasive species eradication (phragmites) and prevention education (Asian Carp).➤ NASA Wetlands inventory and conservation projects including assessment of habitat loss.
Registered Charity	Yes (funded by donations and grants)



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Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Vision Statement	To protect and enhance environmental health along the Eastern shore of Georgian Bay and adjacent inland watersheds
Founded	2000. Incorporated into the Ontario Stewardship Network in 2006 and as an independent not-for-profit corporation in 2014.
Community	Focuses on Georgian Bay from Severn Sound to the French River delta including adjoining inland watersheds. EGBSC brings stakeholders together to develop stewardship goals that will benefit Eastern Georgian Bay and works with stakeholders to carry out projects that will achieve those goals.
Core Strategy	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.
Current Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Key River Walleye spawning bed rehabilitation project and monitoring.➤ Assessment of fish habitat and prioritization of fish habitat restoration in 10 tributaries to Eastern Georgian Bay, in the Parry Sound District.➤ Creating awareness about Walleye status through meetings, presentations and distribution of booklet, Walleye Woes.➤ Working with partners on crown land campsite management.➤ Native plant sale for property owners and shoreline restoration projects.
Registered Charity	No





Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Vision Statement	To be an international model of sustainability that preserves the values of the Georgian Bay Biosphere.
Founded	2004
Community	The GBBR is one of 16 biospheres in Canada and 650 globally recognized by UNESCO. The community is made up of First Nations, permanent residents, cottagers, and boaters that live within the shoreline ecosystem stretching from the Severn River up to the French River.
Core Strategy	<p>The Biosphere serves as a model of sustainable development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contributing to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity through research, monitoring strategies and protecting species at risk ➤ Offering environmental education through community stewardship programs and school programs ➤ Providing programs and resources to promote healthy communities ➤ Developing a sustainable tourism program aimed at connecting people with nature
Current Major Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Species at Risk research, monitoring and stewardship. ➤ Love your Lake shoreline stewardship program. ➤ State of the Bay ecosystem health reporting. ➤ Community Stewardship Program funding. ➤ Amazing Places sustainable tourism project. ➤ Lessons-in-a-backpack school program.
Registered Charity	No (funded by grants)

