

Steve takes over the helm

At our Annual General Meeting in August Stephen Jarvis was voted in as the new President. After spending a year as President Elect Steve is now ready to take on the full responsibility of the Georgian Bay Osprey. Steve is my nephew and I have every confidence in him to lead the GBOS into the future: to protect the osprey and enhance their habitat and to educate the public on the importance of saving and protecting these birds.



“Voice of the Osprey”

Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2011

President's Report

We have now closed up the cottage for the season having spent some wonderful late weekends on Minnicog putting docks away and watching the wildlife. The Osprey are long gone to their winter hunting grounds, but many bird species leave much later and many travel through enroute from the far north.

My interest in birds has come late in life and I am no pro, but keeping an eye on them sure is fun. I have had to check with our new Board member, Rick Miller, on whether the loons we were seeing in late October were in fact the Common variety we see all summer, but in different plumage, or a variety such as the Arctic or Pacific Loon, which some claim these to be. I have to figure out whether the flock of Plovers we saw on the island were of the Piping variety – rare and threatened – or the more common Semipalmated. Either way, they were a treat to see.

Many of you may be familiar with the large flocks of Blue Jays that come through every fall – very loud and blue. We may lose the Osprey and song birds to the cooling weather, but there is no shortage of other birds to see. It becomes easier to see them as the trees lose their leaves.

Back to the Osprey, the reason for this organization's being. The GBOS in general terms, is seeing small but steady growth in the Osprey population year to year. We hope to be able to provide more exact data very soon, but, more importantly, we are working on providing monitoring surveys that are a little bit easier to fill out. What we need are people willing to fill them out. So please heed

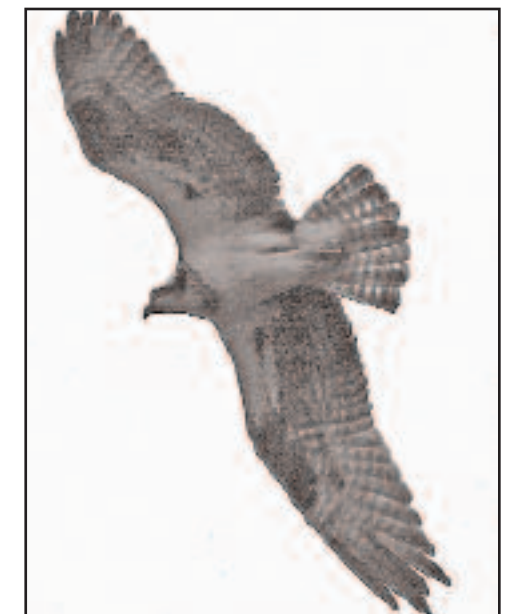
our call for monitors. If you can assist, please let us know by contacting Rick Miller whose e-mail can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I would like to offer my “thank you” to Sue Russell who filled the role of President for many years and has left me with a very efficient and vibrant organisation. Sue continues to help by putting together our newsletter and offering sage advice. I also offer my thanks to the legwork of Sandy and Ric Symmes who ably assembled all our nesting data leaving us with a great base to work from. Finally, I thank the rest of the Executive for welcoming me so warmly and I look forward to 2012.

As a last note I can report the sighting of a Bald Eagle at Minnicog in late October!

Happy Winter.

Steve.



GBOS Board of Directors 2011 - 1012

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Past President: Sue Russell;.....416 923 4919 705 756 1670
Treasurer: Valerie Thompson.....705 835 2784 705 756 1129
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Member-at-large: John Hodge.....416 284 9984 705 756 1730
Member-at-large: Maureen McGibbon..416 493 3255 705 756 4747

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Our objectives

- To protect and enhance the habitat of the Georgian Bay Osprey
- To study and survey their life cycle, habits, nesting and habitat
- To promote awareness, appreciation and communication

Monitoring Report

Osprey are maintaining their numbers on the Bay

"Although reports are still not in for quite a few sites, the trend is very much consistent with previous years and suggests that, if anything, osprey breeding success is going up slightly in the region we are monitoring.

It appears that ospreys have never used some of the sites we have been monitoring. At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that we would no longer ask for reports for these sites although we would ask to be notified if ospreys do at some future time show interest. I will be notifying the monitors of these sites of this change in policy."

Rick



Introducing Maureen McGibbon



Maureen and her dog in their kayak

Maureen has volunteered her time and expertise to serve on the Board of the GBOS. We are very pleased to have her and know that she will be a valuable member.

For the last fifteen years she has been an Early Childhood Educator in the child care industry, working primarily with infants and toddlers and now has just retired from teaching. She has been studying ikebana with the Ikenobo School of Japanese flower arranging for 11 years and has been to Japan for a study tour and hoping to return for another tour. Riding is also a passion of hers, Western and English saddle.

Maureen has been coming to Georgian Bay for 39 years and enjoys kayaking with her dog. She is proud to be a GBLT land steward for Wabeno Point in Cognashene.

Maureen is married to Ian McGibbon whose family has been long time Georgian Bayers. This summer she introduced her 4 year old granddaughter to the joy of kayaking. They did some kayaking this past winter in Hawaii and are returning to the Florida Keys this winter with their G B kayak (and dog).

GBOS Annual General Meeting



Photo: John Hodge

Greg Mason, Steve Jarvis, Becky Pollock and baby at Camp Hurontario

Nearly 40 members enjoyed their visit to Camp Hurontario where our annual General Meeting was held last August. Our speakers were Becky Pollock and her husband Greg Mason, both of whom are on the staff of the United Nations International Biosphere Reserve in Parry Sound. Greg Mason, General Manager of the GBBR gave us a wonderful description of why the Bay has this special designation and how the designation helps to protect the Bay.

Becky told us about the unique natural environment we have on the eastern shore of the Bay. She drew our attention to the many rare and endangered species on the Bay which we have to protect by protecting their natural habitat.

We learned about the diverse communities along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay which are encompassed by the Biosphere Reserve and the workshops being presented over the summer. The U.N Biosphere Reserve looks at the "Big Picture" and creates synergy through partnership and networks and inspires people to think about the future of this special place,

Please remember

No doubt the annual fees for members of the Georgian Bay Osprey Society are the lowest of any charitable organization in Canada. And perhaps that is why so many of you can't remember to send in your renewal fees.

Until this year the annual membership fee has been only \$10.00 for an individual, \$15.00 for a family and \$20 for an association. You can expect a raise in fees next year. Our costs are going up, just like everywhere else, as our nesting site platforms suffer from wind, weather and bird life. The 70 or so platforms have to be repaired and requests for new platforms are coming in.

Soon you will be seeing the video the GBOS is having made and it will have to be paid for and distributed around the Bay. This will cost us money too.

Your membership is important to us and we want to keep a record of your support. If you haven't yet sent in your annual fee please do so now to our membership secretary,
Ian Ferguson,
130 Courtland Cres.,
East Gwillimbury, ON
L9N 0B1

Following this inspiring talk the members were invited to tour the camp. This wonderful camp was built in 1947 by Bernie Hodgetts, Becky Pollock's grandfather. He was assisted by the senior students of Trinity College School where he taught history.

See the marvelous photos of the meeting and the camp on our website, www.gbosprey.ca