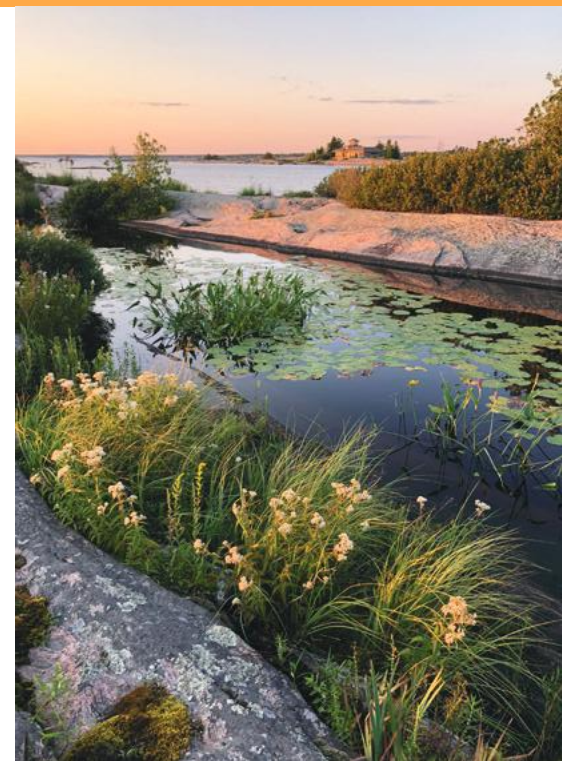
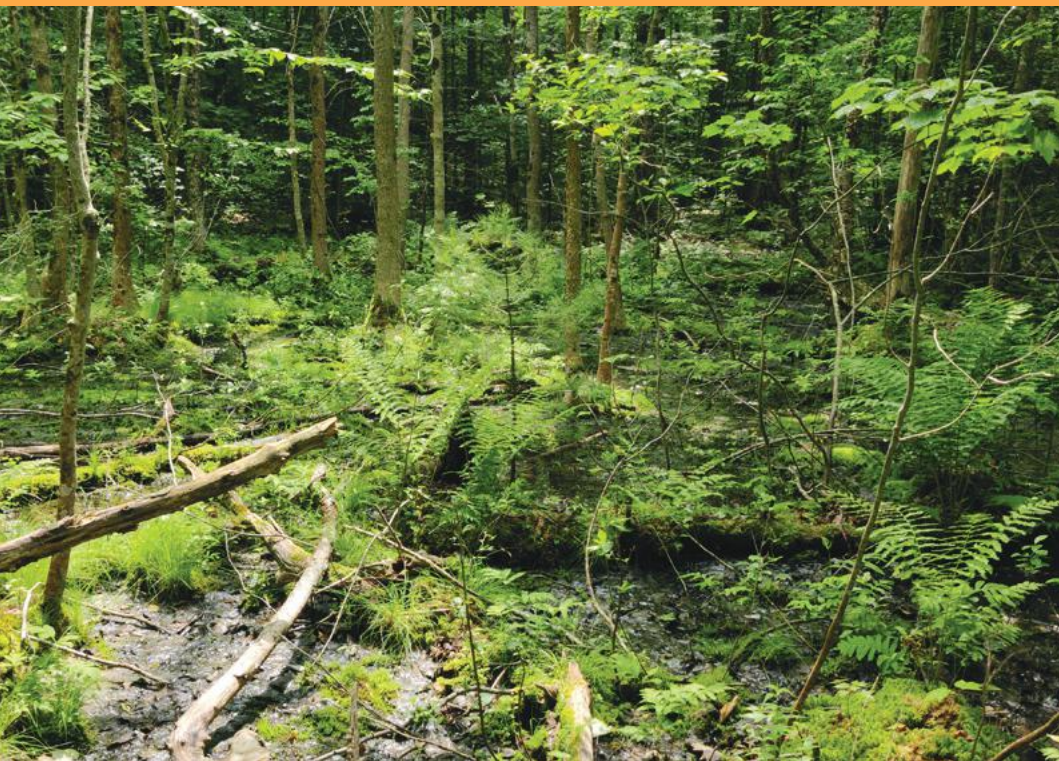




ANNUAL REPORT 2024

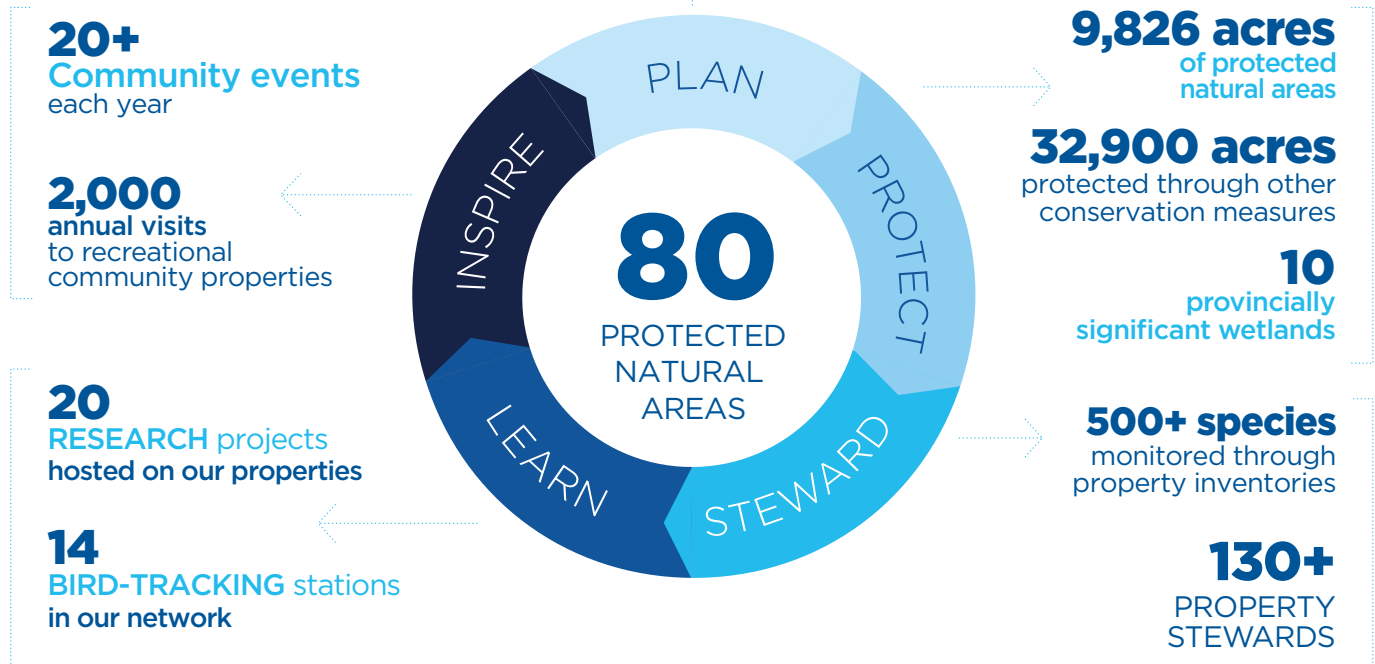


PROTECTING **GEORGIAN BAY'S** WILDERNESS LANDS



Conservation LEADERSHIP on Georgian Bay

A CONSERVATION PLAN FOR
75,000 acres AND **50 species at risk**



OUR TEAM

STAFF

Andrew Young
Executive Director

Aaron Rusak
Conservation Director

Janet Brough
Senior Development Officer

Sarah Koetsier
Communications Director

Stefani Matis
Conservation and Protected
Areas Assistant

Adam Grottoli
Corridor Project Ecologist

Suzanne Legault
Office Administrator & Executive Assistant

Irina Denisova
Bookkeeper

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Carl Spiess
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Cindy Tripp
Barbara Zimmerman

DEAR FRIENDS

As we reflect on the past year, I am reminded once again of what makes the Georgian Bay Land Trust community so special.

Our shared love of this extraordinary landscape—its windswept pines, granite shorelines, quiet forests, and rich biodiversity—continues to inspire meaningful action and lasting conservation. Together, we are ensuring that the places we cherish today will remain protected for generations to come.

2024 was a year of steady, significant accomplishment. We protected four new properties this year: Cooper Cliffs in Go Home Bay, the Walter T. Christenson Nature Reserve in Carling, Fairwood Nature Preserve in Pointe au Baril, and the Southern Corridor in Georgian Bay Township. Each of these properties contributes uniquely to the ecological fabric of the Bay, helping to safeguard critical wildlife habitat, shorelines, and natural spaces that define this region.

Of particular note was the major milestone in our Corridor Project. In partnership with Georgian Bay Township, we completed a conservation easement on 553 acres of township-owned lands, forming the Southern Corridor. This achievement helps provide an additional layer of protection to 32,900 acres of connected Crown land stretching between Honey Harbour and Twelve Mile Bay. It is a remarkable step toward maintaining the ecological connectivity that wildlife needs to thrive, and it sets a strong foundation for expanding the Corridor northward in the coming years.

To support this growing work, we also strengthened our team. This year we welcomed two new full-time staff members, Suzanne as Office Administrator & Executive Assistant, and Adam as Corridor Project Ecologist. We also expanded our summer student cohort from four to six, bringing additional hands, energy, and expertise to our stewardship and research programs. At the same time, we celebrated the remarkable leadership of Executive Director

Bill Lougheed, who retired at the end of 2024 after 11 years of dedicated service. Bill's passion, vision, and unwavering commitment have shaped the Land Trust in ways that will be felt for decades. We are grateful to have welcomed Andrew Young as our new Executive Director in 2025, and look forward to the new chapter of growth and momentum he will help to guide.

Our research and monitoring work continued to deepen our understanding of the Bay's ecosystems. This was the second year of our Prairie Warbler and Eastern Whip-poor-will projects, part of our ongoing effort to study and protect at-risk species whose futures depend on the preservation of healthy, connected landscapes.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and the remarkable community of supporters who care so deeply for Georgian Bay. To each of you, thank you. Your generosity—of time, knowledge, resources, and heart—allows this work to continue.

I hope you feel proud of all that we achieved together this year, and inspired by what is still ahead. The work of conservation is long-term, but it is profoundly hopeful work. With your partnership, the Georgian Bay we know and love will remain wild, resilient, and protected well into the future.

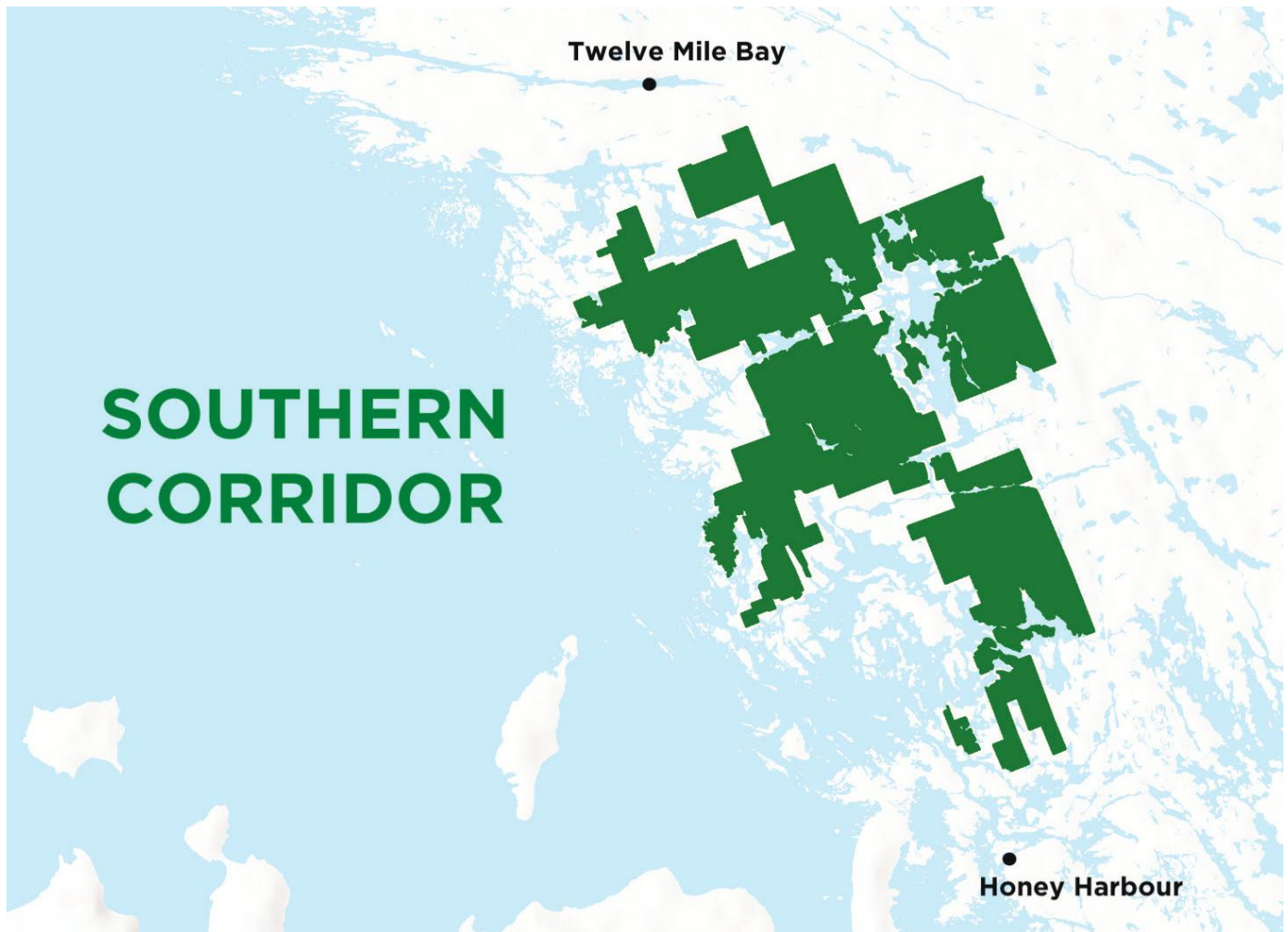
With gratitude,



CATHY BONGARD
Board Chair

PLAN

Using science to identify and prioritize key habitats for conservation so that species are protected and our coastal ecosystem remains resilient



CORRIDOR PROJECT

This year, we made significant progress on the Corridor Project, an ambitious plan to create a 60,000+ acre protected habitat corridor stretching along the eastern coast of Georgian Bay.

The first major milestone of the project was achieved with the protection of the Southern Corridor, a 553-acre Conservation Easement over a network of municipal lands that provide protection to a further 32,900 acres of crown land, stretching from Honey Harbour to Twelve Mile Bay.

As part of this, a new Corridor team was hired consisting of a full-time Corridor Project Ecologist and two seasonal Corridor Students, whose job is to survey and monitor the extensive network of lands protected through the project. Data from the Corridor team will inform not only the long-term stewardship of Corridor lands, but also habitat modeling for the larger ecosystem that these lands are a part of.

Behind the scenes, we continued work to expand the Corridor Project northwards, consulting with partners and identifying target lands for ecological surveying and mapping.

PROTECT

Securing ecologically significant lands to protect habitats and species and to create open spaces for community enjoyment



The Southern Corridor is the first major milestone in the Georgian Bay Land Trust's Corridor Project. This 553-acre network of municipal lands stretches from Honey Harbour to Twelve Mile Bay, and surrounds 32,900 acres of crown forests and wetlands which are now provided with an added layer of protection. This protected network fills the gaps between existing conservation areas and dramatically increases long-term resiliency in the landscape.

The Corridor Project's goal is to secure our region's ecological integrity and protect public access to nature by creating a protected habitat corridor along much of Georgian Bay's eastern shoreline. We're grateful to those who have supported this project, including the Township of Georgian Bay, the Government of Canada's Nature Fund, the Government of Ontario's Greenlands Conservation Partnership, and several private donors from the Georgian Bay community.



WALTER T. CHRISTENSON NATURE RESERVE
93 ACRES • CARLING

The Walter T. Christenson Nature Reserve protects rich wetland and aquatic habitats for numerous species at risk in inland Carling Township. One of these is a black ash swamp, an endangered habitat due to the effects of the emerald ash borer beetle. The property lies in close proximity to the Upper Shebeshekong Wetland Conservation Reserve, and protects part of the Shebeshekong River that flows from the conservation reserve into Georgian Bay, preserving habitat connectivity throughout the area.

DONATED ANONYMOUSLY



FAIRWOOD NATURE PRESERVE
30 ACRES • POINTE AU BARIL

The Fairwood Nature Preserve protects a portion of a large island in the heart of Pointe au Baril. The property contains extensive rock barrens which provide excellent snake habitat, and large areas of forest where the at-risk Eastern Wood-Pewee can be heard singing. Swamps, marshes, and fens, are present both in the interior of the property and along its shoreline, providing important habitat for species at risk, including the Midland Painted Turtle.

DONATED ANONYMOUSLY



COOPER CLIFFS
2 ACRES • GO HOME BAY

Located along the Go Home River, Cooper Cliffs contains classic Georgian Bay mixed forest and rock barrens, as well as small coastal and interior wetlands. This property is located in close proximity to other cottage development, and contains remnants from past human use on the site, making it a unique acquisition with potential to include a local base for staff accommodations and research as the Land Trust grows.

DONATED BY WENDY CAMIRAND

STEWARD

Working alongside communities to monitor and maintain wilderness lands forever



PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP

Our staff and volunteer stewards conducted 272 monitoring visits to our 79 protected properties in 2024. Through these efforts, we are stewarding 9,800 acres of environmentally significant land, ensuring it remains healthy and well cared-for in perpetuity. Stewardship activities including invasive species removal, garbage cleanup, wildlife surveys, and human impact tracking. Many of these stewardship visits were documented on the Landscape app which we continued to roll out in 2024 to improve our data collection and incident management.



INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

This year's invasive species removal efforts focused on *Phragmites australis* and *Sedum acre*. *Phragmites* is a tall reed that grows in dense monocultures in wet areas, choking out wetland life. In 2024 we continued our annual efforts to monitor and remove new and persistent stands of *Phragmites* before they become a larger problem for our conservation properties. We removed *Phragmites* from 3 conservation properties, including complete removal of a large persistent stand at the Port Severn Wetlands property.

Sedum acre is a small succulent that spreads throughout shallow rock crevices, crowding out the other diverse species that grow there. It can be found on many islands and rock barrens throughout Georgian Bay. This year our Conservation Interns removed *Sedum* from three properties: Southeast Wooded Pine Island, American Camp, and the Lizard.



SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STEWARDSHIP

Three new staff members (1 permanent, 2 seasonal) joined us in 2024 to steward the Southern Corridor. These 553 acres of newly protected land form a grid encompassing a further 32,900 acres of mostly crown land. Our Corridor team spent the summer conducting foot surveys of this protected grid, mapping ecosystem types, human disturbances, and at-risk species. The team achieved their target of monitoring one third of the land in the first year, with complete monitoring of the Southern Corridor to be conducted on a three-year cycle. The data they have gathered is invaluable in informing our long-term stewardship plan for this significant protected area.

LEARN

Advancing conservation by conducting scientific studies and using our properties to support research

This was our second year conducting in-house conservation research, with a research team based at our field station in Go Home Bay. We built on the lessons learned in 2023 to strengthen our two existing projects, and began two new pilot projects.



PRAIRIE WARBLER POPULATION STUDY

Continuing from last year's efforts, a total of 17 male Prairie Warblers were fitted with radio transmitter tags and followed by our research students. We collected 160 data points over the summer, discovered three nests, and learned more about territory size and migration habits.

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL BREEDING HABITAT STUDY

We tracked 8 Whip-poor-wills in the second year of this study, designed to learn more about nest sites and habitat usage during the breeding season on Georgian Bay. Preliminary results indicate some expected behaviours, including nesting in rock barren / forest edge habitats, as well as unexpected behaviours including roosting high in trees and in wetland habitats.



PILOT PROJECT: MOTH STUDY

Using a bucket trap, our research team was able to document 330 moth species at our field station over the course of the summer. This project provides insight into moth diversity, density, and distribution on Georgian Bay, with implications including food availability for Whip-poor-will populations.

PILOT PROJECT: FALL MIGRATION MONITORING

We tested out migration monitoring protocols in preparation for more extensive spring and fall monitoring next year.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE: MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING STATIONS

We continued to maintain our network of 14 Motus Wildlife Tracking Stations, installed on Land Trust properties throughout eastern Georgian Bay. These stations record bird movements through radiotelemetry, contributing to international avian research through a network of participating scientists.

INSPIRE

Bringing communities together and cultivating the next generation of conservationists that will protect our land and species



19 COMMUNITY EVENTS welcomed guests for nature walks, bird research demonstrations, and webinars.



2,000+ VISITORS explored our conservation properties, with activities including hiking, birdwatching, painting, picnicking, and swimming.



11,800 PEOPLE learned about Georgian Bay's diverse wildlife species, tips for maintaining natural habitats, how to combat light pollution, and inspiring stories of neighbours getting involved in conservation through our newsletters and social media.

FINANCIALS

Georgian Bay Land Trust

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | As at December 31

ASSETS	2024	2023
CURRENT		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,651,913	716,300
HST Rebate Receivable	24,480	12,221
Prepays	18,497	38,026
	1,694,890	766,547
Stewardship Funds and Endowment	1,873,716	1,867,344
Sheila MacFeeters Memorial Fund	217,949	217,949
Wally and Marilyn King and Family Fund	111,615	111,615
Corridor One Fund	1,971,613	-
John Catto Conservation Fund	200,000	200,000
Conservation Working Fund	4,324,185	3,045,987
Conservation Lands Securement Fund	524,532	518,636
Capital Assets	61,111,770	50,505,919
	72,030,270	57,233,997

LIABILITIES

CURRENT		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	15,013	47,888
Deferred Contributions	627,000	-
	642,013	47,888

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	1,052,877	718,659
Internally Restricted Net Assets	5,048,717	3,764,623
Externally Restricted Net Assets	4,174,893	2,196,908
Net Assets Invested In Property	61,111,770	50,505,919
	71,388,257	57,186,109
	72,030,270	57,233,997

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURES | Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2024

REVENUE	2024	2023
Award - GLBC	74,690	123,262
Donations - Stewardship, Conservation, and Land Acquisition	12,268	26,815
Government Grants	1,210,009	692,022
Donations	3,008,563	646,353
Events	99,749	105,758
Investment	1,407,083	111,280
	5,812,362	1,705,490

CAPITAL REVENUE

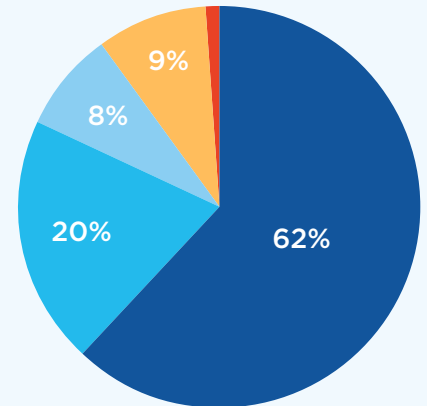
Donations - Land and Land Easements	9,612,700	5,510,150
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EXPENDITURES

Land Protection	496,600	310,791
Stewardship	268,870	227,058
Communications & Education	134,120	124,152
Fundraising	123,464	111,914
Art Auction	60,158	43,200
Project Management, Dues, Conference and Training	139,702	96,319
	1,222,914	913,434

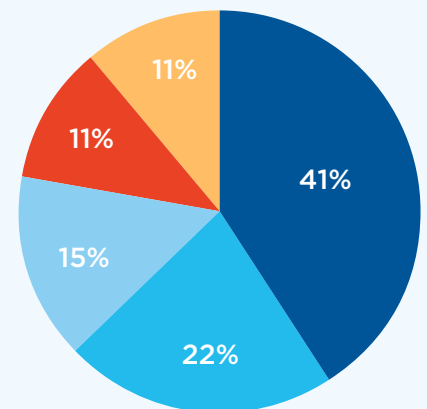
Excess Revenue over Expenditures	14,202,148	6,302,206
Net Assets Beginning of Year	57,186,109	50,883,903
Net Assets End of Year	71,388,257	57,186,109

REVENUE



- Donations of Land
- Donations
- Government Grants
- Investment Income
- Event Income (gross) (1%)

EXPENSES



- Land Protection
- Stewardship
- Fundraising
- Project Management, Dues, Conference and Training
- Communications and Education

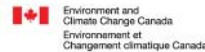
The Georgian Bay Trust Foundation, Inc.
(operating as Georgian Bay Land Trust)
Reg. Charity # 13195 8811 RR0001 Complete audited
financial statements are available upon request

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Many Thanks to our Generous Sponsors



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Over \$500,000

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Over \$300,000

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Bob & John Suter
Rob & Val Thompson
Robert Thomson
Township of Georgian Bay
Jill Hodgins Ukrainec &
Terry Ukrainec
George Wilson
Donald & Jane Wright
Donald Paton Wright
Barbara Zimmerman
Anonymous Donors

DONORS

Your generous donations ensure that Georgian Bay's wilderness lands are protected in perpetuity. We are honoured to celebrate the following supporters who made gifts from January 1 through December 31, 2024.

PROTECTED PROPERTIES

Our deepest appreciation to those who donated property or conservation easements, or made contributions for land protection projects in 2024:

The Southern Corridor Conservation Easement
Township of Georgian Bay

The Walter T. Christenson Nature Reserve
Anonymous donor

Cooper Cliffs
Wendy Camirand

Fairwood Nature Conservancy
Anonymous donor

Conservation Lands Securement Fund
Christopher Baines
Jim & Maureen Cooper
Brien & Nancy Dane

Corridor Project
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Great Lakes Basin Conservancy
Mary Hudson & C. David Gifford
Greenlands Conservation Partnership
Catherine Kidston
Nosreap Family Foundation
Katy Rea
John & Victoria Tremayne
Weston Family Foundation
Anonymous donor

STEWARDSHIP FUNDS

Stewardship Funds are long-term investments that support the ongoing annual stewardship of our protected properties. Thank you to those who made contributions in 2024:

Legacy Stewardship Fund
Derek Bate
Peter Scandrett

Andy Griggs Memorial Fund, Pointe au Baril

Dave & Bev Stager Sandy Island Stewardship Fund, Sandy & Martyr Islands

Douglas & Marylon Alexander Stewardship Fund, Wah Wah Taysee
J. Douglas & Ruth Grant
Martha & Gavin Ivester
Michael Wenban & Virginia Froman-Wenban

Watson Family Stewardship Fund, Cognashene, Go Home Bay & Honey Harbour
Peter S. Watson

PLEDGE FOR THE BAY

The five-year Pledge for the Bay enables the Land Trust to better plan for the future in land protection, stewardship, education, and outreach, knowing resources are in place from committed supporters. Thank you to these supporters for your generous pledges:

Leader of the Bay (\$25,000 over 5 years)
Jennifer Ivey Bannock
Maureen & Jim Cooper
Mason Family Foundation
Robin & Robert Ogilvie
Robert & Valerie Thompson
Jan Ruby & Mary Thomson
Margot & James Tushingham
Tom & Pamela Scoon

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Our achievements are shared with our generous supporters who care about the conservation of Georgian Bay as much as we do. Thank you to all those who made contributions in 2024:

\$250,000 +
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Greenlands Conservation Partnership
Weston Family Foundation
Anonymous (1)

\$100,000 - \$249,999
Estate of Dr. Michael Francis
Nosreap Family Foundation
The Estate of Nancy Powis

\$50,000 - \$99,999
Great Lakes Basin Conservancy
John & Victoria Tremayne
Janet Walker

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Estate of Christina Clokie
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The Mason Family Fund
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Anonymous (2)

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Including a gift to the Georgian Bay Land Trust in your will or estate plans is a special way to leave a legacy to wilderness. Thank you to those who have planned a future gift:

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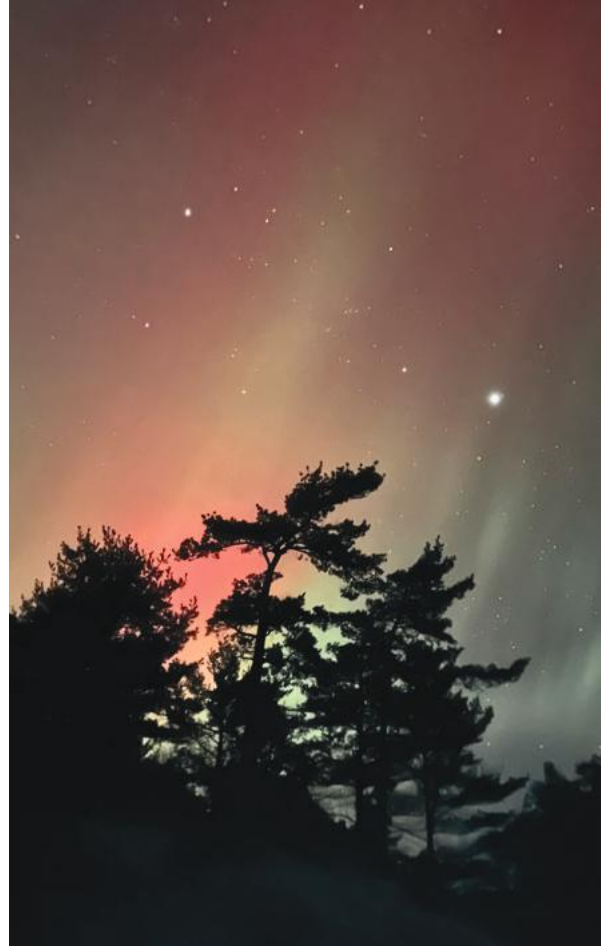
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In preparing this report, we have tried our best to be as accurate as possible. If there is an omission or a spelling error, please accept our sincerest apologies and contact us at 416.440.1519 x107 or info@gblt.org so that we can update our records.



OUR MISSION

The Georgian Bay Land Trust acts to protect wilderness lands and species along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and the North Channel and its near watershed, through strategic conservation planning, land securement, stewardship, research, and education.

OUR VISION

An eastern Georgian Bay and North Channel whose islands, shores, and inland watersheds are connected and strengthened by a network of protected natural lands and habitats, where native species thrive and people interact with the natural world.

OUR VALUES

Love and respect for our special place; Integrity and commitment to our work; Inspiring others to preserve this natural wonder.

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