



WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER

CCA BOARD

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Matthews & Tom Halpeny

Planning - Marc Kemerer

Environment - Jack Giroux

Cottager - Barb Russell

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President's Message

Hello Cognashene Cottagers,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits as we embrace the season. After several milder winters in Ontario, we are having a more traditional Canadian winter, which can be a force of nature, but it's also beautiful and we are overdue for a snowy wonderland. I have heard several tales of adventure from those cottagers hitting the snowmobile tracks up in Cognashene.

It has been great to see membership renewals and new member applications coming in for 2025! The association last year supported 398 members, the largest membership yet, almost reaching 400 members. Let's see if we can reach that mark - if you have yet to renew, please be sure to lock-in your membership for the upcoming season!

Your Board has been hard at work with a continued focus to fulfill our collective needs as cottagers, enhance the cottaging experience and promote sustainability of our area. Our winter patrol is in gear and plans are underway for the summer Recreation Program and summer events, specifically for our Regatta - stay tuned! Here are some of focus in our strategic plan this year:

- Setting up a governance and nominating committee,
- Growing our recreation program sailing offering,
- Providing environmental education and engagement opportunities and promoting sustainable cottaging best-practices,
- Advocating on use of tax dollars with the Township of Georgian Bay (TGB) and lobbying on

- garbage collection and other community issues,
- Reviewing our technology and website capabilities,
- Providing education and input to the TGB Official Plan and the Cognashene Official Plan; and,
- Strengthening social media connections and presence.

Looking ahead to the coming months, we have a lot to be excited about and to keep us busy. Please reach out to me, or anyone on the Board, if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, or perhaps with interest to join the Board. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference!

As always, my door is open for any questions or suggestions. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your president alongside a hard-working and dedicated Board - get to know them [here](#). Wishing you a warm and fun-filled rest of the winter season.

Kara Hunter
CCA President

Services

Well, it was only a matter of time until Mother Nature had to bring us back to reality and remind us of what Canadian winters are really like.

Snowfall and frigid temperatures are back with vengeance this year and while I write the services report for this winter newsletter, it's hard to imagine sitting on the dock at our island paradise, sipping a cold one. To make matters worse, all 3 of Canada's groundhogs have conflicting opinions of when we can expect spring to get here...oh, and there is over 20" of thick lake ice in Cognashene proper.

The good news is, Scott Murray has completed (2) of our annual winter patrols and overall, most cottages are secure and in great shape. With all this snowfall we have had this season, it's a relief there haven't been any significant issues with snow load. With that said, as snow continues to be forecasted in the coming weeks, Scott has recommended those with older properties, may want to arrange to check their property's roofs.

A few minor glitches with our reporting system have been observed this winter. As such, if you have yet to receive a photo or report from our most recent patrol, please proceed to the website and sign into your profile to view the report.

Cam Allen
CCA Services Director

Recreation Program

Get Ready for an Amazing Summer at the Cognashene Recreation Program!

The sun is shining, and summer is just around the corner! We're gearing up for another incredible season at the Cognashene Recreation Program, and we can't wait to share all the fun and excitement we have planned.

What's Happening This Summer?

Our program is packed with exciting activities for campers of all ages whether they're into sailing, arts and crafts, outdoor adventures, or making new friends. We're offering a wide variety of programs that will keep everyone active, engaged, and entertained all summer long!

Looking for Volunteers!

We're also in need of enthusiastic volunteers to help make this summer unforgettable. If you're passionate about working with kids, have a knack for leading activities, or just want to be a part of an amazing community, we'd love to have you join our team! Volunteering is a great way to give back and gain valuable experience while having a blast.

New Campers Welcome!

This summer, we're excited to welcome both returning faces and new campers! If you know someone who might be interested in joining, don't keep it a secret! Tell your friends, family, and neighbors. The more the merrier, and we're eager to create lasting memories with everyone.

New This Summer!

Join us for a fun, fitness class for parents on the beach! This 45-minute session, held every Friday from 11:30am to 12:15pm, offers a perfect blend of cardio, strength training, and flexibility exercises to help you stay active and energized. We're hoping this offering provides some "me time" to our busy beach parents.

How to Get Involved:

Apply to be a Volunteer: [VISIT THIS LINK](#)

Register for Summer 2025: Registration opens soon. Watch your inbox for updates!

We're counting down the days until the summer fun begins, and we want YOU to be a part of it! Let's make this summer the best one yet!

Meg Finkle & Christine Davis
Rec Program Directors

Environment

Activities coming this summer

Shoreline Cleanup with Georgian Bay Forever:

Come and join the cleanup movement – help remove trash and plastic from our water and shoreline. Cognashene may seem clean, but trash can accumulate in small bays and wetland areas. The majority of waste comes in the form of plastics, synthetic ropes, and blue dock foam. Removing this material from the lake is essential for preventing the breakdown of plastics and the creation of microfibers. Check out [Georgian Bay Forever's website](#) for details on what to expect.

Guided Beausoleil Island nature walk with Parks Canada:

Beausoleil Island is the perfect place to take in the sounds and smells of nature while learning about Georgian Bay's unique ecological history. The amazing staff at Parks Canada are a wealth of knowledge, and eager to share their passions for nature and conservation with you. Come for a walk in the woods with one of Parks Canada's knowledgeable interpreters.

Environment Day with Community Partners:

The CCA is hosting an afternoon of informative talks and activities with some of our amazing community environmental partners. Our Keynote speakers are yet to be announced, but we are looking to welcome some of Georgian Bay's finest stewards, researchers, and ecologists. We hope to highlight innovative research and community based environmental action initiatives. Interactive activities, crafts, and games will be provided by our amazing friends at Parks Canada. Come listen and learn – soak up the sun and go for a dip in the lake – all ages are welcome.

Dates and locations to be announced!

Jack Giroux
CCA Environment Director



ART ON THE ROCKS© began in 1991 on "Aunt Edna's Island/Artists Island" in the Hangdog Channel in Cognashene. The year after a very windy show day, in 1997 it was moved to Maxwell/Whalen Island on the main Muskoka landing Channel. (M42 on CCA map or GPS 44o55'17.7"N 79o55'00.1"W).

ART ON THE ROCKS© is the Cognashene Community's summer art gallery, showcasing the work of local artists and artisans. It's the perfect opportunity for the community to get together with talented artists and artisans who express their love of Georgian Bay. The exhibition is generally held on the last Sunday in July, a week before Simcoe Day weekend.

The Cognashene Cottagers Association sponsored event, Art-on-the-Rocks©, is a rain, wind or shine event and we have had it all, but major lightning is not good for boating. The event is a great way to catch up with Georgian Bay family and friends, renew acquaintances with several of the original Art-on-the-Rock's exhibitors, and meet new artists/crafters who will join with us to add the fruits of their imagination and talent to a great summer day in Cognashene, **Sunday July 27 2025!**

One of the goals each year is to attract new talented artists, which keeps the event growing stronger and more exciting. The CCA board and the organizers of AOTR concentrate on artists who can provide their own transportation. There are an incredible number of very talented artists and artisans who either cottage or boat in the area as well as those who are friends of community members. We do however help artists "boat pool" if necessary.

If you're interested in exhibiting in this year's ART ON THE ROCKS© the cost to participate is \$95. If you are interested in participating or know someone who is a talented artist, please contact Catherine Gillespie (text or call 716.517.0855) or AOTR@COGNASHENE.COM.

If you're interested in exhibiting in this year's **Art on the Rocks**, complete the [ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM](#).

JOB POSTING FROM GEORGIAN BAY FOREVER



Conservation and Restoration Technician

Summer Student Employment Opportunity (4)

Locations:

- 1) Honey Harbour, Township of Georgian Bay
- 2) Waubaushene, Township of Tay
- 3) Matchedash Bay, Township of Severn

Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) is a Canadian Charity focused on aquatic ecosystem research, education and protection.

Invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as one of the most destructive plant species in North America and is a great threat to native biodiversity and wetland habitat in Georgian Bay. GBF is hiring four (4) Conservation and Restoration Technicians across Georgian Bay, of which positions are based out of the three regions around southeastern Georgian Bay, as listed above.

Under the supervision of the GBF Project Manager, Conservation and Restoration Technicians will safely navigate the waters of southeastern Georgian Bay collecting scientific data, removing invasive *Phragmites* and educating the public in environmental protection. Data collection involves identifying the presence of invasive *Phragmites* along the coast and recording exact location (i.e., latitude, longitude), size, density and more. Throughout the summer, technicians will be removing invasive *Phragmites* using manual cutting methods. The Conservation and Restoration Technicians will also be responsible for aiding in the recruitment and organization of volunteers, as well as planning and attending community events to spread education and awareness on invasive *Phragmites* in Georgian Bay. The position will involve teaching the public about how to identify and eradicate invasive *Phragmites* on their coastal property, or where permitted, public property.

GBF works with First Nation communities, municipalities, community associations and stakeholder groups such as Ontario Parks, Parks Canada, MTO and the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group and Ontario Invasive Plant Council.

Skills, Qualifications, and Competencies Required:

- Must possess and maintain a valid Ontario driver's license and Pleasure Craft Operator Card.
- Must have access to a vehicle.
- Must be a Canadian citizen between the ages of 15 and 30.
- Must be confident in/on the water and a competent swimmer with an excellent knowledge of water safety practices.
- Must be available to work some weekends, long days and in varying weather conditions.
- Competency operating a motorized boat, marine navigation, charts, and GPS systems.
- Good knowledge of the coastal waters of Georgian Bay, especially the above noted areas is an asset (i.e., southeastern Georgian Bay).
- Must have good interpersonal skills and competently represent GBF in the online and physical community.
- Demonstrated ability to manage time and co-ordinate the community to take action.
- Comfortable public speaking and able to create and make public presentations online and offline.
- Have access to a smartphone, laptop/computer and WIFI to use FieldMaps, camera, emails, Microsoft Office, Excel and Google Drive.
- Must be in good physical condition and able to operate manual and powered cutting tools.
- Ability to keep excellent records and documentation on all activities and provide reporting on activities and data collection of invasive *Phragmites* stands.
- Must have accommodations in the area and be able to get to Honey Harbour or Waubaushene at the start of a workday.
- Must be enrolled in or have completed a university degree, college diploma or a combination of relevant experience and interest in environmental science/studies.
- Familiarity with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), such as ArcGIS, QGIS and Pix4D is considered an asset.
- Drone Pilot Certificate (Basic or Advanced Operations, Transport Canada) and experience flying a drone is considered an asset.
- First Aid/CPR and/or Marine Basic First Aid certificate is considered an asset.
- Small Domestic Vessel Basic Safety (previously known as MED A3) certificate is considered an asset.
- Restricted Operator Certificate – Maritime (ROC-M) is considered an asset

Salary: \$19 per hour

Contract dates: Entry-level full-time contract position (15 weeks): May 20th – August 29th, 2025.

Hours: A normal workweek will be 35 hours. This position will require some weekend work.

Application Deadline: If you are interested in joining our team for the summer, please send your resume and cover letter in a single PDF indicating "Conservation and Restoration Technician" in the subject line to Nicole Carpenter via email: nicole.carpenter@gbf.org by Monday, February 24th, 2025. We thank everyone who applies for their interest but only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.