

Sent in by Paul Morgan, our GBA representative:

**A** ----Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is Beta testing a new website. Check it out. ( [georgianbayassoc.com](http://georgianbayassoc.com) )this will be released to public mid July.

**B** ----The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, GBBR, [www.gbbr.com](http://www.gbbr.com), has announced that their "State of the Bay " report card is ready. Copies will hopefully be at your local marina for the long weekend, and eventually on their web site.

**C** -----Message from Bob Duncanson, Executive Director, GBA, dealing with the sigh of relief being heard by those noting water levels have approached last year's same time levels.

I echo the sentiment that we shouldn't get overly excited by water levels that are still 19 inches below historic average levels. Yes the wet spring has allowed us to dodge a bullet but the IJC's climate scientists predict that over time there is a 95% probability that levels will remain at the low end of the historic range or worse. We (read the two Federal governments) need to figure out how best to react to unprecedented challenges brought on by Climate Change (to say nothing of trying to address the underlying causes of CC). When we get the occasional very wet periods such as now we need to hold back water in the Great Lakes to soften the impact of the predicted prolonged periods of drought. Between man made alterations to the connecting channels between the Great Lakes when the seaway was built and the impacts of, arguably man made, Climate Change, the Great Lakes basin is no longer a natural system impacted by natural forces. We need to try to use our ingenuity to correct past wrongs and cope with a volatile climate in the future. Not only for the sake of our docks and propellers but for the wetlands and critters with whom we share our fragile piece of paradise.

**D**-----Water Levels June 14<sup>th</sup> update.....

After more rain this week we have hit the same water level as we experienced last year at this time last year. Many will be very happy with this situation as am I in the fact that I won't have to dredge this year. But I have offered the following message to my fellow Go Home Bay cottagers; "We shouldn't get overly excited by water levels that are still 19 inches below historic average levels. Yes the wet spring has allowed us to dodge a bullet but the IJC's climate scientists predict that over time there is a 95% probability that levels will remain at the low end of the historic range or worse. We (read the two Federal governments) need to figure out how best to react to unprecedented challenges brought on by Climate Change (to say nothing of trying to address the underlying causes of CC). When we get the occasional very wet periods such as now we need to hold back water in the Great Lakes to soften the impact of the predicted prolonged periods of drought. Between manmade alterations to the connecting channels between the Great Lakes when the seaway was built and the impacts of, arguably man made, Climate Change, the Great Lakes basin is no longer a natural system impacted by natural forces. We need to try to use our ingenuity to correct past wrongs and cope with a volatile climate in the future. Not only for the sake of our docks and propellers but for the wetlands and critters with whom we share our fragile piece of paradise."

The prediction is for 2 more inches in Huron/Michigan by the middle of July which may be a bit pessimistic given our continued wet spring but this would put us ahead of last year.

Bob Duncanson  
Executive Director, GBA

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**E** Here is the link to the morning CBC the Current podcast in which Bob Duncanson ,GBA Executive director was interviewed by CBC

<http://www.cbc.ca/thecurrent/popupaudio.html?clipIds=2387271713>

Bob comments, ---

As you will hear they not only interview Bob and David Sweetnam but also interviewed others including Roger Gauthier (or ROWI), Matt Mendelsohn (of the Mowat Centre) and Mayor Bradley (Mayor of Sarnia). CBC chose to use a clip from Mayor Bradley in which he suggests that Georgian Bay cottager call for a St. Clair River fix is too narrowly and self interest focussed. It is unfortunate that they didn't include a segment from my interview in which I clearly stated that GBA has told our elected officials that any action taken to address Middle Lakes water levels needs to be done with consideration to upstream and downstream impacts.

Bob Duncanson

**F** --- Sue Grundy, newly elected President of the GBA sends a message to members of cottage associations on Georgian Bay.

Now that the International Joint Commission report has come out, we are being asked "what is GBA doing now?" and "what can I do to help?"

What GBA is doing:

GBA has already followed up with Tony Clement and will be continuing to press the governments on both sides of the border to act on the recommendations of the International Joint Commission to take action to raise water levels in the middle Great Lakes by 5 to 10 inches. The fact that we have had a wet spring and water levels have risen from the crisis levels of this winter does not change the need for action. Water levels are still well below the historical range, and with a changing climate it is likely that we will have more droughts in the future. Therefore, it is still vital to retain the water that we have. We have been told by Minister Clement that he understands the issues, and that the

next steps will be to ensure that other politicians of all parties also get to understand the issues and the need for action as well.

GBA has agreed to make a \$10,000 donation to support a study on the economic impact of low water levels in the Great Lakes that Georgian Bay Forever is arranging through the University of Toronto's Mowat Centre. This study will provide a strong economic rationale for taking action on low water levels.

GBA is also urging the Canadian government to fill the Canadian vacancies on the International Joint Commission as soon as possible. Canada is entitled to three positions, and right now two of them are vacant. We need to ensure that Canada is seen to be treating the IJC seriously and has good people arguing our case.

What can cottagers do to help? We have three suggestions:

1. Urge your friends, family and neighbours to join your local cottagers' association if they are not already members. The more people GBA speaks for, the more influential our voice will be with politicians.
2. Write to your politicians, both in Canada and the US, emphasizing the importance of taking action to deal with low water levels. You can get their email contacts and suggested points for your message from the "Political Action" tab on the GBA website: [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca).
3. Consider supporting the economic impact study by making a financial contribution to the study through Georgian Bay Forever.

Members can also get more information from the GBA's UPDATE newsletter. The summer issue is being sent out, and is also available online at <http://www.georgianbay.ca/pdf/update/vol23no2.pdf>

Sue Grundy

GBA President

