

Outer Island Project Interim Report July 17, 2020

Submitted by: Tim Dyer – White Squall

Overview

The White Squall Outer Island Project (OIP) is again cleaning campsites, dismantling fire-pits and installing wilderness thunder boxes, utilizing both paid Squall Staff and volunteers. We get a lot done quickly as over the years we have come to know the problem areas and issues that seem to need addressing. We are noticing that the near shore crown islands (Franklin and parts of Huckleberry) are again receiving a lot of use with attendant garbage, toilet paper and cutting of trees. One site on Franklin near Burritt Point even had a Canadian Flag proudly flying from a large flagpole, along with a shower bag and a fair bit of garbage –although less than we were expecting. What is alarming is the outer islands eg – Snakes and Green – have a number of new firepits, with live trees being cut. With the high heat and dryness, we are very concerned that an island could burn. Our strong recommendation is that we encourage no summer campfires – even with store-bought wood. It's just too dangerous – and interestingly, where there are no campfire pits, there is less garbage and damage. And where there are installed, functioning thunderboxes – we're seeing next to no litter or used toilet paper.

Fixed & Ongoing Costs

Construction of 15 new Thunderboxes

Motorboat – spring tuneup, new battery, steering cable re-fit, new gas-line (haven't got bill yet but likely around \$750)

Insurance – boat, general operations liability - \$700/yr

Boat Rental, Storage – no charge (thanks to Jesse Dyer)

50 International Blue Washroom Signs from Chrismar (no bill yet)

Miscellaneous – Gloves, Repellent, new shovel etc – tbd

Gas/Oil – ongoing – using synthetic oil now so about \$50 per gallon

Funding Issues

In years past, we solicited donations from Squall clients through free paddling sessions on Cole Lake etc. This source was a significant contributor to our project but is no longer available to us, so we need to rely on partners like the GBBR, GLSKA, GBLT and private businesses and individuals. More work is being done by volunteering, however in order to get stuff done efficiently, it is still most effective to hire Squall Staff for lead roles. For myself (Tim) I am not charging for my time and there are folks willing to come out for a day on the Bay. Long term, we need to find more sources of funding to enable the Project to continue. We have had contact with Brook at Georgian Bay Forever and hope to co-ordinate our efforts with their great work on the Bay.

2020 Current Operations Report

June 7 – Big McCoy-Tim Dyer

Checked/Serviced 5 thunder boxes on south, east and north sides of Big McCoy. All ok, dismantled two fire-pits and picked up small bits of garbage – mostly balloons and plastic

No costs – volunteer labour and completed by kayak

June 14 – Snake Islands – Tim Dyer

Checked/serviced 4 thunderboxes on Snake Isle. All still ok but need moving and installation of a 5th box soon. Lots of plastic/foam bits and balloons.

No cost – volunteer labour and gas

July 10 – Snake Isles, Lenice, Franklin Island – Peter Wassermann, Tim Dyer

Snake Islands – Installed new thunderbox and pit on southeast end to enable campers staying on the inside of island to access. The island is very dry and susceptible to a catastrophic fire if a campfire got away. removed 5 shoreline firepits as well as main firepit on centre west site.. Picked up soiled toilet paper in bushes, bits of plastic, balloons etc. Fixed lid of centre thunderbox. Dug new hole for second centre box. Re-signed both of these to make them more accessible.

July 10 – Lenice Island – Peter Wassermann, Tim Dyer

This island has numerous firepits and heavy use. We removed all pits and put forest duff overtop. Dug new pit for existing main T-box.. Found second box in disarray as a bear had topped it over. Renovated that one and need to return to install better signage (waiting for more signs)

July 10 – Henrietta Point, Franklin Isle – Peter Wassermann, Tim Dyer

Checked 3 T-boxes, all still have a bit of room – maybe a month left? Dismantled firepit on west side.

Cost – 1 daily wage, \$30 gas rest volunteer

July 13 - Franklin - Burrirt Point - Savage Rocks – Isobel Campbell, Tim Dyer

Burrirt Point campsite, dismantled, cleaned and soil/duff overtop of main firepit. Decommissioned existing T-box and dug new one. Campsite next to Burrirt – a major site with flagpole, and huge firepit. Picked up a full garbage bag of cigarette butts, plastic, foam, etc. Fixed T-box. Went on to 3rd site heading towards Regatta Bay. This site is quite clean – checked T-box, all ok. Big sand site just to northeast of Regatta Bay was occupied so needs to be checked later. I'm guessing it's full judging by the number of folks there. Skipped Regatta and then went south to Horsely Island just off Regatta. This is a small site, but well used. T-box was ok, but big firepit – and the island has no fuelwood! Picked up a lot of small garbage including

a discarded syringe. Then went to high site just across from Peachy, as well as inside channel site immediately north. The latter was fairly clean – there are two T-boxes there and both ok. Gathered small bits of plastic and foil. On to main high site just south (opposite Peachy). The common T-box is full, but deer flies drove us away 😊 – another day. Checked second T-box up and over the ridge – not used much so flagged it better. Dismantled another firepit and picked up garbage. Found a complete foam billet so brought that out.. Final stop was Savage Rocks site – both T-boxes are ok. Several firepits – one really far back and quite dangerous. Dismantled all but the biggest, most commonly used one.

Cost – 1 daily wage, \$30 gas. rest volunteer