

OUTER ISLAND PROJECT - Year End Report for 2020

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Overview

White Squall's Outer Island Project (OIP) with community support, maintains campsites on Crown Islands along the central Georgian Bay Coast west of Parry Sound and helps to educate and build awareness amongst all users. The field work includes dismantling redundant fire-pits, picking up garbage and installing wilderness thunder boxes. Some outer islands eg. Snakes and Green Isle have a number of new firepits. With high heat and dryness, we are concerned an island could easily burn. Our strong recommendation is that as a community we encourage no summer campfires on these fragile areas, even with store-bought wood. It's just too dangerous, and interestingly, where there are no fire pits, there is less garbage and damage. Additionally, where there are maintained and functioning thunderboxes, there is less damage. This gives us encouragement to keep this effort going for generations to come. Ultimately we hope to see everyone taking an active and on-going part in stewardship. To that end we happily coach others where to go, how to do it and have developed a community fund through the GBB they can access for expenses incurred.

Activity Summary

13 days of work - 2 people

40 thunderboxes (t-box) checked and serviced

22 new holes dug

12 new t-box installations

20 full bags of garbage removed

39 firepits dismantled

MNRF Dock & Vault Toilet Abandonment

Vault toilets and picnic docks at Huckleberry, Pancakes and Regatta Bay have all been abandoned by the MNRF with no rehabilitation plan. The provincial docks at Regatta and Pancakes are left to rot along shoreline, with chunks of blue foam deteriorating. This is simply wrong as we are all doing our best to keep the coastal islands pristine – yet our own provincial government has created an environmental hazard.

Funding

In years past, we received donations from Squall clients through free paddling demos at our centre. This source was a significant contributor to our project but is no longer available, so we need to further rely on partners like the Georgian Biosphere Reserve (GBB), Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT), Great Lakes Sea Kayak Association (GLSKA) and private businesses and individuals. More work is by volunteer, and to best utilize this help it is 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 welcome new sources of funding to enable the Project to continue.

Fixed & Ongoing Costs

Construction of 15 new Thunderboxes – Material and Labour.	\$2221
Motorboat service, new battery, steering cable re-fit, gas-line	\$725
New Industrial Shovel	\$60
Leather Gloves, Disposable Gloves, Sanitizer	\$50
Insurance – boat, general operations liability -	\$700
Boat Usage & Storage – donation - thanks to Jesse Dyer!	
250 International Blue Washroom Signs	\$360.
Oil – synthetic 2 gallons -	\$100
Gas for Season	\$390
Wages – 7 days, all other days donated	\$1750

Total	\$6356.
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Contributions Directly to OIP

Georgian Bay Land Trust	\$2000
Great Lakes Sea Kayak Association -tba	
Georgian Bay Biosphere Outer Island Fund	\$5000
Jack Elliott – donation from painting sales	\$140
Donations from White Squall customers	\$45
Gilly’s – Free launching	
Total	\$7185.

Contributions to GBB Outer Island Fund

This fund is an ongoing effort supported by proceeds from the Franklin Challenge as well as group and private donations. These people include:

Ralph Gardave	\$200
Ken Jepson	\$100
Michael Clarke	\$50
Krpan Pike	\$50
Victoria Best	\$50
Michael Leckman	\$300
Brenda Royce	\$500
Irma Hamill	\$250
Great Lakes Sea Kayak Association	\$250
Jessica Vergeer and Dan Dinicolo	\$1600
Marg Scott	\$50
Total	\$3400

Note: these funds are held by GBBR, not OIP

June 7 – Big McCoy-Tim Dyer

Checked/Serviceed 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/serviceed 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 - Burritt Point - Savage Rocks – Isobel Campbell, Tim Dyer

Burritt Point campsite, dismantled, cleaned and soil/duff overtop of main firepit. Decommissioned existing T-box and dug new one. Campsite next to Burritt – 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, \$35 gas. rest volunteer

July 22 – Green, Dart and Big McCoy – Tim & Kathy Dyer, Marlene Hume

Southwest Green T-bx – moved and dug new hole

Northwest Green T-box – re-dug and signed

Eastern main campsite – re-signed and took off lid, picked up foil, tin, glass

One T-box on northern Dart ok – put up new signage, dismantled one firepit
Could install another mid-island

Big McCoy south side mid – site – Dug new hole, new signage
West site – dug new hole and picked up garbage

Cost – all volunteer labour - \$50 gas

July 29 – Huckleberry/Wall Island – Tim, Kathy & Jesse Dyer, Jess Robinson

Totem Pole Bay west site – spent a lot of time here picking up foam pieces, old tarps, toilet paper, foil, cans etc. T-box is ok for now, erected new sign
Totem Pole Bay south site – T-box ok, old one still there and full but exceptionally large and heavy made out of metal – needs to come out one day. Very little garbage.

Totem Pole Bay – east site – mattress, tent poles, old tarps, litter – T-box ok

Wall Island – east site – built new T-box – with signage – biggest hole we've ever been able to dig 😊

Cost – all volunteer labour - \$35 gas

Aug. 1, 2020 – Lally Island (south of Cathcarts) – Tim Dyer

Checked two T-boxes on island, both ok

Re-signed western box

Gathered tarp, and small litter – 3 firepits – no time to dismantle

Cost – none, recreational trip

Aug. 15, 2020 – Franklin, Lenice, Gaspar, Winkler – T. Dyer, P. Wassermann

Installed new t-box on site opposite Peachy Isle – was overflowing 😞

Dismantled 3 firepits

Lenice Isle – lots of garbage picked up and firepits dismantled

-re-signed new T-box

Deadhead Bay Sand Site – lots of small garbage

t-box ok

Gaspar Island – re-located one t-box, checked second one – ok

Winkler Isle – dug new hole, picked up garbage

First site west of Dillon Cove on Franklin – installed new t-box

Cost – 1 daily wage, 1 volunteer day \$40 gas

Aug. 19 - Green Island (Minks) T. Dyer

Checked western box – needs replacing

Dismantled firepit, picked up garbage

Cost – none – rec trip and volunteer

Sept 5 – Franklin – Tim, Kathy Dyer, Cathy Crawley and Emma Bartlett

Site opposite Peachy – relocated and dug t-box – very messy, not fun

Cost – all volunteer labour \$35. gas

Sept. 17 – Franklin Isle – T. Dyer, Jan Raymond

Sand beach at Regatta Bay entrance

Lots of small garbage – well worn

Dug two new t-boxes up on hill

Plywood, old toilet seats removed

Regatta Bay entrance – small island has a lot of stuff on it, needs clearing

Inlet just east of Savage Rocks – site on west side

Installed new t-box with pit

First Bay north of Henrietta – low site on RHS

Dismantled one big t-box, Dug new pit, Checked third one – ok

First Bay north of Henrietta

Re-signed and checked t-box, dismantled firepits

Windsor Inlet Isle – dug new pit

Cost – 1 daily wage, 1 volunteer day, \$45 gas

Oct. 15 – Huckleberry and Wall Islands – Tim Dyer and Kathleen McGill

Boulder Bay – relocated full t-box, picked up 2 full bags of garbage

Totem Pole Bay – east site – cleaned up garbage, checked box – ok

Inner west site – checked, all good – outer west site – lots of garbage picked up, t-box re-dug

Wall Isle – west site – dug new pit, two full bags of garbage

Cost – 1 daily wage, 1 volunteer day, \$45 gas

Oct. 29 – Franklin Isle – Tim Dyer and Jan Raymond

Regatta Bay – relocated inner harbour t-box, cleaned outer south sites – lots of garbage, dismantled several fire pits but most obvious is large sections of MNR dock just left to rot along shore

Site just east of Savage Rocks – dug new t-box pit, checked second box – all ok, picked up garbage and dismantled 2 firepits

Cost – 1 daily wage, 1 volunteer day, \$45 gas

Early Nov – Franklin Isle – Tim Dyer, Brian Goodings

West site north of Henrietta – dug new pit – gathered two full bags of beer cans and garbage

Henrietta Point – north t-bx – relocated with new box

Cost – all volunteer \$30 gas