

## 2023 OUTER ISLAND PROJECT (OIP) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by: Tim Dyer Email: [timd@whitesquall.com](mailto:timd@whitesquall.com)



### Overview

White Squall staff, along with community partners and volunteers, have been cleaning campsites, building, installing, and relocating thunder boxes for well over 25 years. We strive to create community awareness about the fragility of the island country west of Parry Sound from Sandy Island north to Big McCoy with particular focus on the heavily used campsites on Franklin and Huckleberry Islands. We continue to do this primarily because we want to help keep our coast and islands intact – and Tim as the time and means to get out there with volunteers and staff, spending time in his favourite place on the planet! But this can't last, we are thinking of how stewardship might continue in the years to come. One thought is to hire summer staff (this was done years ago by Carling Twp and White Squall for a short while) using resources from the Outer Island Fund of the Georgian Bay Biosphere. This is doable but requires oversight and logistical support. Another idea is to encourage individuals or community groups to 'adopt' a campsite – we will try this idea out this coming summer, but the number of 'sites' is considerable, so getting them all covered is not likely.

We appreciate a great deal those who want to help out. Often our decision to head out is game-day, depending on availability of boat, truck, and sea-state/weather. It often makes it difficult to call up volunteers at the last minute. Alternatively, we have coached folks in how they can do stewardship on the islands themselves and have a simple sheet explaining this. We'll continue this and hope it will encourage others to get out and do stuff when they can. The most durable long-term solution is consistent public education so users will do the right thing and no mess up the islands in the first place. We can only hope.....



This year was constructive as we were able to get out for 15 days on the water continuing to use a motorboat. A lot of those days were with volunteers which helped to reduce staffing cost. We continue to see strong outer island campsite stewardship by all users with most work being around thunder box digging, removal and relocation. But inner sites on Franklin and Huckleberry are heavily used with significantly more garbage and signs of use requiring regular visits to keep them clean. We can never get around to all the sites consistently, but along with community involvement, the impact of human use on the islands seems sustainable at the moment.

### **Outer Island Fund Community Awareness**

There is a dedicated fund for outer island stewardship managed by the Georgian Bay Biosphere ([https:// georgianbaybiosphere.com/outer-islands/](https://georgianbaybiosphere.com/outer-islands/)). This fund receives donations for OIP activities year round as well as funds from the Franklin Challenge. We would appreciate all efforts to let the general public know about this fund and that they can access it to offset their costs of island stewardship work.

### **Franklin Challenge Done & Dusted!**

The Franklin Challenge, our major fundraiser through the Georgian Bay Biosphere, was a success, thanks to community supporters and dedicated paddlers. Nearly \$17,000 was raised during the 20km paddling event around Franklin Island on June 25th. We extend our gratitude to all who participated and contributed.

[Check out Thom Morrissey's stunning pictures and videos of the day](#)



## Donations & Big Thanks

Contributions to OIP, including cash donated at Squall Town Shop, have been processed through the GBB Outer Island Fund. Special thanks to our continuing major sponsor, Rockwater Wealth Management, as well as Carling Township Council, Georgian Bay Land Trust, Georgian Bay Biosphere, Gillys, Irma Hamill, and Carling Fire Dept. for their continued support.

## Special Notes

We were very happy to help Katherine Denune and cottagers from Sans Souci in providing a thunderbox for their community stewardship initiative on Pomeroy Island. You can view this at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uXHN8ZvIOA>

## OUTER ISLAND PROJECT WORK REPORTS 2023

### May 30 – Big McCoy Island – South Sites

- Tim Dyer, Jan Raymond (One Staff Cost + One Volunteer)
  - Big McCoy Island – South Sites: dug new holes for east and east middle sites, gathered garbage, dismantled firepit, middle site thunderbox checked
  - Western site: dismantled firepit, gathered garbage, thunderbox checked
  - Green Island All Perimeter Sites: checked, garbage picked up, firepit dismantled
  - Franklin Island – Wiltmann Rock Site: lots of garbage, glass, rope, beer cans – even in the water of sand beach – all cleared



### June 15 – Huckleberry and Wall Islands

- Tim Dyer, Corine Green (One Staff Cost + One Volunteer)
  - Boulder Bay Main Site: lots of garbage near firepits gathered, two pits dismantled, several large pieces of metal picked up, thunderbox ok
  - Totem Pole Bay Entrance flag site – east: garbage, metal picked up, thunderbox renovated, signage
  - Interior west site: garbage in pit, thunderbox ok
  - Wall Isle West: a lot of garbage picked up, around site and in firepit, both thunderboxes renovated and ok
  - Wall Island East: Very little garbage, thunderbox in great shape

## **June 28 – Franklin, Gaspar Isles, Windsor Inlet**

- Isobel Campbell, Tim Dyer (No Staff Cost – All volunteer)
  - Franklin Island Corbman Bay: garbage picked up, checked two thunderboxes – ok for now
  - Franklin Island Corbman Bay – RHS at entrance campsite: dug/installed new thunderbox
  - Gaspar Island: renovated two thunderboxes, garbage picked up in firepits
  - Windsor Inlet – Island site: renovated t-box, picked up garbage
  - Channels off Windsor: checked 3 campsites – all ok, one thunder-box found and renovated, picked up garbage



## **June 29 – Stapely, Lally, Cathcart and Snake Islands**

- Thom Morrissey and Tim Dyer (No Staff Cost – All volunteer)
  - Stapely Site: full toilet set up that needed dismantling, dug/installed t-box, relocated
  - Lally: both thunder-boxes checked and renovated, garbage picked up
  - Cathcart – southern site (Rumble): all good, installed new signs
  - Northwest site: checked and renovated, installed new signs
  - Snake Isle – centre sites (2), southern site, interior site: all checked and ok, garbage picked up, new signage

## **July 17 – Wall Island**

- Tim Dyer, Cathy Crawley (No Staff Cost – All volunteer)
  - Wall Island West Site: both toilets renovated – one has a new toilet seat, a LOT of garbage and wood pieces picked up, young maple chopped/damaged, wood pieces screwed into it – guessing for a child play area, initials carved into trunk. Will paint the damage with tree protector and hope it survives, removed garbage and wood

## **July 23 – Cathcart Isles**

- Tim Dyer (No Staff or Boat/Truck Rental Cost – All Volunteer)
  - Thunder-box checked and renovated – will need changing in a month

## **Aug. 5 – Snake Isle**

- Tim Dyer (Volunteer, no staff or boat/truck rental cost)
  - Northwest site: new hole dug, box needs relocation
  - 3 Centre sites: checked, renovated, all okay
  - Southeast site: good

### **Aug. 9 – Franklin and Lenice Isles**

- Wayne Creasor, Tim Dyer (One staff cost, one volunteer)
  - Dillon site – Franklin: garbage picked up, box okay for now
  - Deadhead Bay: replaced box, garbage picked up
  - Lenice Isle: both boxes checked, renovated, garbage picked up
  - Savage Isle: 1 thunderbox filled with cans, plastic – removed, garbage picked up, firepits removed
  - Franklin Camp site: checked, box old but okay, garbage picked up
  - Burritt Point: box full, needs new hole, ran out of energy, garbage picked up

### **Aug. 11 – Big McCoy, Green, Snake Isles**

- Tim Dyer, Pete Wassermann (One staff cost, one volunteer)
  - Southeast site – McCoy: very little garbage, 2 boxes checked – okay
  - Middle south site – McCoy: thunderbox full – dug a new one, replaced signs, picked up some garbage
  - Southwest site – McCoy: thunderbox missing – dug new hole, replaced box, some garbage picked up
  - Green Island: all four sites checked, northwest site box due for replacement next time
  - Snake Isle – North site: dug new hole and relocated box

### **Aug. 15 – Horsely Island (off Regatta)**

- Tim Dyer (Volunteer, no staff or boat/truck rental cost)
  - Picked up garbage, checked thunderbox – all okay

### **Aug. 29 – Franklin Island Main Beach Site near Regatta**

- Tim Dyer and Robert Baarbe (Volunteer, no staff cost)
  - Very disappointing large collection of soiled toilet paper and general garbage – all cleaned up
  - Dug new hole for thunderbox and relocated

### **Sept. 1 Big McCoy Island Northwest Site**

- Tim Dyer (Volunteer, no staff or boat/rental cost)
  - Renovated one box, all okay but soon will need relocating
  - Second box in water due to significant rain, may need to relocate



### Sept. 13 – Franklin Isle Regatta Bay Beach Site/Henrietta Point

- Jesse, Kathy, Tim Dyer & Bravo the wonder dog (Volunteers, no staff cost)
  - Regatta Bay Beach: replaced one t-box, dug another hole for second t-box, picked up a lot of garbage, steel, and old carpet
  - Henrietta Point: all 3 t-boxes checked, all okay, dismantled several fire pits, gathered garbage, pines planted several years ago by Kathy Dyer and Cathy Crawley are thriving!

### Sept. 21 – Snake Island

- Tim Dyer (Volunteer, no staff cost)
  - Checked southernmost box – all okay
  - 3 central boxes checked, the most westerly will need replacing next springtime
  - Northern box checked, new location, and it's being used – great! No garbage at all

### Oct. 7 – Franklin Isle

- Tim Dyer, Jan Raymond (One staff cost + one volunteer)
  - Burritt Point – inner campsite: garbage collected, dug new hole, new signage, checked second t-box on site - okay
  - Outer point site: dug new hole, garbage collected, new signage, managed to lodge boat on a sandbar – guess the bay is getting lower!
  - Big ledge site across from Peachy: checked t-box in the valley – okay but next time decommission, main T-box full to brim – took an hour to find a better site, dug hole, installed new thunder-box
  - Across channel: checked, 3 big sites – all okay, but candidates for boxes, long, tiring day but lots done!

### Financial Overview

Description	Rate	Quantity	Total
Staffing	\$300 (per day)	5	\$1500
Boat/Truck Rental	\$295 (per outing)	12	\$3540
Franklin Challenge Expenses	Various	-	\$676
Thunderbox Wood/materials (for 17 boxes)	\$64.71 (per box)	17	\$1100
Thunderbox Labour	\$36.00 (per box)	37	\$1332
Subtotal			\$8148
HST	-	-	\$1059.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	-	<b>\$9207.24</b>

Note: The financial report covers various expenses related to staffing, rental, challenges, and materials for thunderboxes.