

# GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AGM & Board Meeting Highlights 03/01/2019



Guest Speaker: Rob Messervey – The evolution of CA's and their critical role now and into the future as our leading conservation agencies

Rob Messervey, made a presentation on Conservation Authorities, starting with the genesis of authorities, Conservation Authority Formation from 1946 – 1985, Conservation Authority Restructuring 1996, looking forward into the 2020's. Rob also reviewed the scope and benefits of native plants and biodiversity.



*Rob Messervey*

## Greetings from Guests

Dick Hibma – Retired Board Member, Elwood Moore – Retired Board Member, Ian Boddy – Mayor City of Owen Sound; Hon. Bill Walker, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, Doug Hevenor – CAO – NVCA, Wayne Brohman – CAO, SVCA, Kim Wingrove – CAO County of Grey, Brian Murray – Chair Inglis Falls Arboretum Alliance, Don Sankey – Chair GSC Foundation, and Jan Middleton – Secretary of Georgian Bay Garden Club. Mayor Paul McQueen of the Municipality of Grey Highlands had brought a plaque that was given to the municipality many years ago in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Conservation Authority, an event which was remembered by a longstanding retired Board Director in attendance, Elwood Moore.

Councillor Anthony Chegahno, Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation had brought greetings though he had to leave to address another priority.

Shawn Carey, MNRF, was unable to attend but forwarded his greetings which were read to attendees.

Cathy Little thanked staff for all their hard work. A presentation was then made to Dick Hibma for all his years of service and dedication. Dick Hibma thanked all in attendance and highlighted the attendance and longstanding service of Retired Board Member Elwood Moore.



*Elwood Moore and Dick Hibma*

## Elections

Cathy Little of Grey Highlands was acclaimed Chair and Marion Koepke of City of Owen Sound was acclaimed Vice Chair for 2019

## Committee Appointments for 2019

Conservation Foundation	Forestry Committee	Arboretum Alliance	Conservation Ontario	Indigenous and GSCA Relationships Committee	Source Protection Management Committee
Sue Carleton Marion Koepke Cathy Little	Dwight Burley Scott Mackey Andrea Matrosovs Paul Vickers	Sue Carleton Brian Murray	Marion Koepke Cathy Little Sonya Skinner	Dwight Burley Sue Carleton Scott Greig Paul McKenzie Staff: Tim Lanthier Serenity Morton Sonya Skinner Vicki Rowsell	Scott Greig Cathy Little Sonya Skinner

## GSC Department Updates:

- The Board of Directors adopted the budget as presented for the year 2019 in the amount of \$3,316,036 including a municipalities levy contribution of \$1,388,556.
- The Board approved leases to the highest bidders for seven GSCA agricultural properties, and for several forest harvest tenders in Little Germany, Keppel Forest and Massie Hills Management Areas.
- Under the 2018 Invasive Species Pilot Project each municipality selected education, mapping and/or control services from GSCA to meet their own needs. Mapping is available to municipalities and can be jointly updated, and overall current populations are manageable if effective action is taken. Recommendations include that Municipalities and GSCA use an evaluation tool which considers mapping, the existence of supportive policies and bylaws, a clean equipment protocol, the availability of communications resources for landowners, staff training, and coordinated partnerships.
- GSCA has decided to dissolve its Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification program, as there is no longer a certified mill in the area, and GSCA's Forest Management Policy will continue to ensure sustainable forest management and good forestry practices.
- Chair Cathy Little, Directors Marion Koepke and Scott Greig and CAO Sonya Skinner met with Minister Rod Phillips of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in February. The Board confirmed their willingness to support and help deliver the Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan and will offer to work with municipalities to provide timely and well-considered feedback on questions related to climate change capacity, streamlining approvals and attracting visitors to parks and conservation areas.
- In recent letters MECP confirmed that they are continuing their financial review, and have not decided whether to continue funding for the South Georgian Bay Coastal Initiative, which was assessing the cumulative effects of shoreline alterations and working towards streamlining the processes that regulate the Southern Georgian Bay shoreline, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry confirmed that funding for improvements in the Georgian Bluffs Indian Creek watershed also remain on hold.

## 2018 Highlights, Accomplishments and Upcoming Plans

Sonya Skinner made a presentation on the 2018 Highlights and Accomplishments and the Upcoming Plans for 2019, based on GSCA's Strategic Plan, focusing on its five goals: 1) Better Monitor and Manage Flood Risk; 2) Enhance GSC Land Management and Natural Heritage Preservation; 3) Support the Development of Watershed Plans with Municipalities; 4) Improve Water Quality; 5) Strengthen Environmental Education and Communication.