2025 OUTER ISLAND PROJECT (OIP) ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by: Tim Dyer Email: timd@whitesquall.com November, 2025



Corine Green Photo - Head Island

Overview

We were encouraged this season by the increasing level of community interest and support for simply keeping our islands clean and fire-free! It's really quite basic - picking up garbage, dismantling poorly-sited fire pits and providing functional thunderboxes. And taking every opportunity to say it's the only Bay we'll ever have - for lifetimes to come!

We can happily report that the Georgian Bay Biosphere has considerably stepped up their involvement, developing mapping and sending crews out on multiple occasions by canoe and powerboat. We were also able to join forces with them a few times:) Here is their report: (https://mailchi.mp/georgianbaybiosphere/november-2025?e=7f78ee15a0)

Several community-minded Bay travellers have quietly done their own stewardship - bringing shovels and garbage bags on their trips. Others have climbed on the Squall boat to volunteer their time, ready to work hard with a smile on their face. Such simple, thoughtful actions are really what it's all about!

We want to especially shine a light on Graham Poole, a local guy who has spent many seasons on the Bay, sharing it with students, family and friends. This summer, out on the Northwest Cathcarts, he continued to dig holes, tear apart firepits and gather garbage when he could have been sitting, enjoying a cold beer. If everyone did a bit of that, the Bay would be forever in fine shape.

One of the benefits of having the Biosphere taking on some of the work is I can go to areas in need of thunderboxes that normally I wouldn't have time for. One example is Agassiz Island (named after the father of glaciology, Louis Agassiz) at north end of the McCoy Island group. A magnificent example of glacial

scouring and an increasing favourite of day and overnight campers - it's been tough trying to find a good t-box site. This summer Zack Crafts and his son Oscar volunteered to get out there with me and after quite some work - we struck gold! Another example is at the outlet of Chicken Liver Channel just north of the Painted Rocks (mouth of Naiscoot River). There are a couple of old, heavily used sites with overflowing t-boxes that needed a lot of attention. Thanks to the volunteering of Fern Doherty, I was able to get up there with him and sort things out.

With increasingly hot, dry summers, campfires are a constant worry. Most of us love to have one, but they just don't belong on these fragile islands in summer, especially when the winds come up. Soil cover is scant, with little fuelwood available. So we'll keep saying... 'Save the Trees & See the Stars' in hopes that more folks will look up!

Franklin Challenge 2025

Another go round mighty Franklin Isle. All in support of the Outer Island Project, over 100 paddlers gathered on a Sunday in June at Snug Harbour to raise over $20,000 - keeping the project going one paddle stroke at a time! whitesquall.com/franklin-challenge-2025/



Thom Morrissey Photo Franklin Challenge 2025

Work Reports

May 25 - Fern Doherty, Tim Dyer, Taz Dyer

- Lichen beach just outside Regatta - new hole, lots of garbage, removed pit
- Big Sand Beach site outside Regatta - two holes will need doing mid summer, picked up a lot of garbage
- Burritt Point - checked both boxes - garbage, small firepits
- Ledged site across from Peachey - box ok, garbage and small pits dismantled
- 3 volunteers

June 20 - Tim Dyer, Taz Dyer

- Huckleberry Isle - totem bay and wall island sites - checked, garbage gathered, pits dismantled - old docks in totem need to be torn up

June 21 - Fern Doherty, Tim Dyer, Taz Dyer

- Winkler Isle - picked up big foam billets, dug new hole
- Cunningham Inlet - site check
- Gaspar Isle - both sites - garbage, all ok
- Henrietta Point -all 3 sites checked, all ok
- 4 volunteers

July 10 - Fern Doherty, Taz Dyer, Tim Dyer

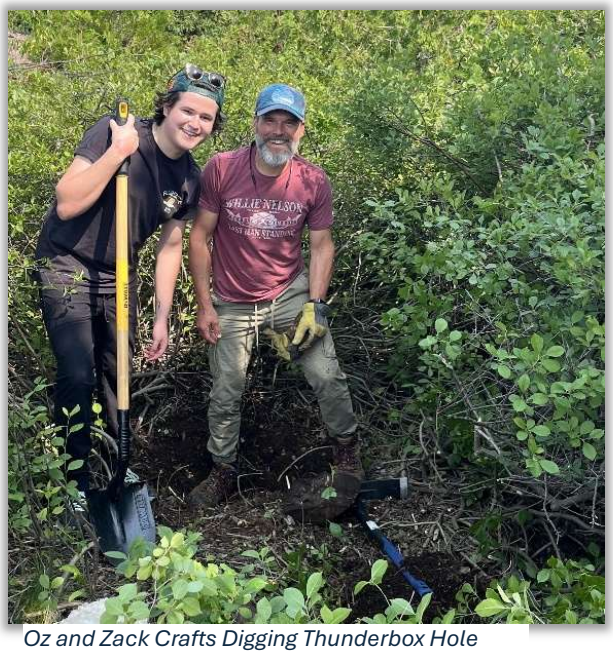
- Big McCoy - northwest site - 2 boxes, moved one with new hole
- South of nw site - checked, all ok
- Southern McCoy sites - all ok, some garbage, small firepits
- Green Island - all sites checked, garbage - firepits
- 3 volunteers

July 14 - Taz Dyer, Tim Dyer

- Snake Isles - south site good, dismantled 2 fireplaces, central 3 t-boxes ok - renovated 2, northern site all ok
- 2 volunteers



Fern Doherty armed with a shovel.



Oz and Zack Crafts Digging Thunderbox Hole

July 18 - Zack Crafts, Oscar Crafts, Tim Dyer

- Agassiz Island - west side - brushed out new hole - installed box/signage
- Big McCoy Island - new hole/new box, mouth of nw inlet - south side, checked old box at end of inlet south side - new signage, all ok
- Dart Island - renovated hole, new signage
- All volunteer

Aug. 25 - Tim Dyer, Fern Doherty

- Gaspar Island - south box - full to brim with garbage, poop and paper. disposed of box, and covered mound - dug new box/new hole - a right royal mess
- Franklin beach site - all ok
- Henrietta - all 3 ok, garbage
- 2 volunteers

Aug. 23 - Tim, Taz, Fern, Katrina, Graham

- Video shoot for Biosphere - Franklin Island west side - Wiltmann's rock, Cunningham Pool
- 2 volunteers

Aug. 26 - Fern Doherty, Tim Dyer, Taz Dyer

- Chicken Liver Channel - 2 major sites - lots of garbage and overflowing t-boxes. new holes, new boxes and a lot of bugs and sweat
- Painted Rocks site - checked box, all ok - garbage picked up
- 3 volunteers

Sept. 15-18 - Tim - solo trip Minks/McCoys

- Searle Isle, Green Isle, Raper, Goodkey, Elmtree, Garland, Big McCoy, Agassiz - survey of all major sites for geo-pinning
- 1 volunteer

Sept. 25 - Angela, Tim, Taz, Stacy

- Site checks for geo-pinning Franklin west side - Corbman - all 3 sites, Cunningham Pool, Winkler, Gaspar, site south of Gaspar (Waynes' Isle:)
- 2 volunteers

Oct. 3 - Jan Raymond, Tim Dyer

- Lally Island - north site - dug new hole, checked signage and dismantled firepit
- Stapely Island - checked both southern sites - brushwork, garbage - all ok
- Cathcart Island - rumble site checked, east engineered site ok, north-west sites (2) brushwork, signage, some garbage
- 1 volunteer, 1 staff

Oct. 9 - Tim, Angela, Stacy (Bio Staff)

- Corbman Bay Inner Sites - pinned, checked
- Gaspar Isle - checked/pinned/garbage
- Lenice Isle - both sites checked - all ok
- 1 volunteer, 2 bio staff

Oct. 25 - Wayne Creasor, Tim Dyer

- Franklin - beach site north of Deadhead Bay
- dug new hole - garbage - bullets, broken whiskey bottles strewn across rock and sand - a complete mess and most disappointing, and it all happened on the Thanksgiving weekend.
- Island South of Gaspar (I'll call it Wayne's World) -beautiful site and consequently heavily used, box full. dug new hole, signage
- West of Savage Rocks - garbage picked, pits dismantled - dug 1 new hole, needs new box/hole next year



Wayne Creasor and Taz Inspecting Thunderbox