



For Immediate Release...

October 21, 2011. The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AF) are pleased to announce the successful completion of the first ever donation of land through an unique partnership which allows Canadian land trusts such as GBLT to work with American landowners who wish to donate land or interests in land in Canada and receive similar tax benefits as Canadian donors.

The donation includes the majority of Ingersoll Island, a 50 acre island that is located along the eastern shore of Sandy Island, which includes a 425 acre nature reserve owned and stewarded by the GBLT. The shore of Ingersoll Island is continuous with Sandy Island and therefore shares similar attributes including extensive deposits of sand, and a high diversity of regionally and nationally significant species. Together, the properties provide important habitat for both flora and fauna species, including several species at risk such as the Eastern Fox Snake.

Ingersoll Island along with Nash and Joiner Islands comprise the Sandy Island Natural Area which is located west of Parry Island at the south end of the Township of Carling. This Area has been identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a provincially significant wetland and as a provincially significant Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI).

The gift was completed through a partnership with American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts, a US based publically supported 501(c) 3 charity which allows US taxpayers to benefit from tax incentives aimed at protecting environmentally significant land. American Friend's mission is twofold: to protect and support the ecological integrity and other conservation values of the natural areas of Canada through securement of land, stewardship and public education and to support Canadian land conservation entities and organizations. For more information on American Friends, please visit their website at <http://www.nsnt.ca/af/>.

The island was donated by two sisters who live in Massachusetts, Mary Nelson and Polly Naughton. For Mary and Polly, the donation means that "Ingersoll's unique shallow shoreline, thick forest, flowers, birds and animals that have given us so much pleasure will now be protected and the new acreage will complete a Sandy/ Ingersoll preserve. Our thanks to Wendy Cooper, who shepherded the transfer through its many complexities from August 2007 to a successful conclusion in September 2011. We are also happy that the new alliance between the American and Canadian land trusts opens the door for the many other American islanders to think about similar transfers."

The GBLT's ongoing stewardship of Ingersoll Island will support the natural functions and processes of the island in combination with the adjacent Sandy Island Reserve. Conserving this unique natural area supports important habitat for communities and species ranging in significance from regional to globally rare.

For more information, please contact:

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ABOUT THE GEORGIAN BAY LAND TRUST

The Georgian Bay Land Trust is a not-for-profit registered charity whose goal is to protect the unique archipelago of the Eastern Shore and North Channel of Georgian Bay. Through the securement and ongoing stewardship of land that is of ecological, geological and historic importance, the GBLT preserves and promotes the appreciation of this special area. A grassroots, primarily volunteer-based organization, the Georgian Bay Land Trust is grateful to enjoy the support of the various communities that make up this unique area, which has been designated a World Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO.