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GEORGIAN BAY

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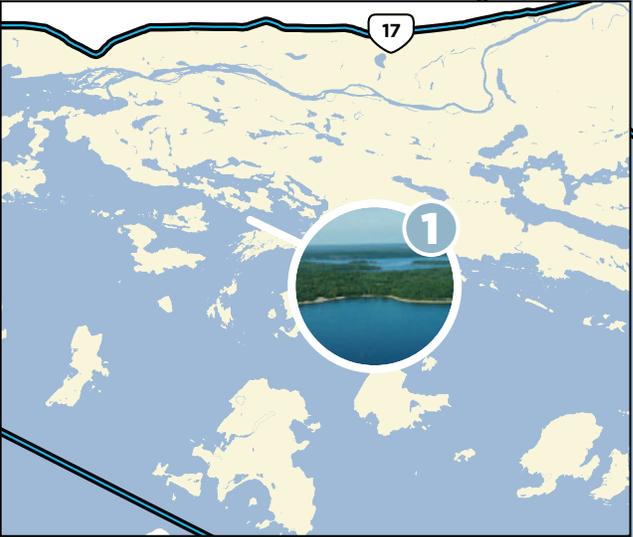
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INSET

MANITOULIN ISLAND

GEORGIAN BAY

MAIN VIEW

LAKE HURON

69

124

Parry Sound

141

400

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 m



12 Spots to Connect

with Nature this Summer

These dozen Georgian Bay Land Trust properties are great destinations for family excursions this summer. Please remember to always follow the Land Trust's Visitor's Guide, available at gblt.org/visitorsguide.

- 1** If you're exploring the pink-granite Benjamin Islands—one of north Georgian Bay's most popular boating destinations—grab a pair of water shoes and visit the wave-washed cobble beaches of **Campbell Reserve** on the North Channel's Hotham Island. There's a protected forest of red pine and oak trees to enjoy as well. (46.1275, -82.2438)
- 2** An easy kayak from Nares Inlet, the **Thomson Reserve** features a small lagoon where you'll often spot basking turtles. This property is something of a community hub for Nares Inleters and was a wonderful gift from the conservation-minded Thomson brothers. Stay until dusk to catch an incredible, classic Georgian Bay sunset. (45.5724637, -80.5136787) *Please note that Islands A499 and A516 are still occupied and not yet open to the public.*
- 3** Ancient geological potholes are a draw to the three-island **West Lookout Island Reserve**, which boasts over 5km of shoreline. Shoal-hop to spot frogs and turtles, then cool off with a quick swim. Pair this with a trip to the nearby Thomson Reserve for an informal sunset tour! (45.552, -80.5121)
- 4** A boat ride through the narrow and shallow Hemlock Channel in Pointe au Baril takes you to the flat, open **Friend Island**. Getting there is half the fun—it'll feel like you can reach out and touch the landscape as you cruise by. Enjoy a nice picnic (strictly no fires or stoves on any of our properties, and please collect any and all refuse!) with panoramic postcard views. (45.5153, -80.4842)
- 5** Good weather is required for a visit to **Little McCoy**, so check the forecast before heading out. 10 miles offshore, this large 35 acre island has great expanses for a few throws of the Frisbee. In mid- to late-summer, watch for the blooms of the showy Cardinal Flower, a favourite for hummingbirds and many species of butterflies. (45.4574, -80.4816)
- 6** **Sandy & Ingersoll Islands** are among the Land Trust's most important protected properties. Sandy and Ingersoll are oddballs to the core; they feature geological characteristics and vegetation communities completely uncommon for this area. In some ways, they have more in common with the more southern moraine than the Precambrian Shield. A naturalist's haven, their healthy, provincially significant wetlands support an abundance of species. Walk sections of the shore for excellent bird watching. (45.2689977, -80.3011213)
- 7** Make sure your camera's memory card has plenty of space for a visit to **Umbrella Island**. An important resting stop for migrating birds, it's also home to a terrific range of amphibians and reptiles. Umbrella has specimens of American elm which may be benefitting from its remote offshore location. Watch for wind—its exposure makes it an easy spot for a "big lake" boating experience. (45.208, -80.2529)
- 8** Only for the intrepid, **Oldfield Lake Reserve** is a large inland property just south of Blackstone Lake. At one time heavily logged, its acquisition by the Land Trust protects a great diversity of more inland vegetation communities, including examples of recovering sugar maple and rich mixed hemlock forests. Access is via a snowmobile trail off Healy Lake Road. (45.2153, -79.8653)
- 9** **Manitou Dock Island** is small in stature but big in history. An interpretive plaque marks this site where steamboats used to dock—so popular, it was one of the few Georgian Bay sites identified on the earliest National Geographic maps of Canada. Keep an eye out for the dock cribs, still there after all these years. This spot was one of Group of Seven painter Arthur Lismer's favourites, and it's easy to see why. (45.1113, -80.1163)
- 10** On just about any fair-weather Saturday you can expect to see a number of families enjoying a picnic, game of Frisbee, or a swim at **American Camp Island**. Kids love jumping from the rocks into the water below. So popular is this spot that a hoisted red flag means it is at capacity—please don't land when the flag is up. Also watch for Environmentally Sensitive Area signs—these areas are off-limits to people and pets. (45.0410611, -80.0305172)
- 11** Butterfly aficionado? Take flight to **Southeast Wooded Pine** to enjoy seeing a variety of species. This outlying island is a refuge habitat for birds as well, including the handsome killdeer, which is still spotted here from time to time. Bring along your paint set, find the spot where A. Y. Jackson painted *Night, Pine Island*, and try your hand at your own interpretation. (44.9876, -80.0169)
- 12** As soon as rain clears, head out to **The Lizard** to see its raised ponds give start to waterfalls, which follow luges carved into the granite over thousands of years. This island's unique shape has made it a Cognashene favourite for many years, and a stroll from end-to-end feels as though you're walking an elevated runway. (44.933, -79.9411)