



Release from Save Georgian Bay

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MEDIA ADVISORY

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

ADVOCACY GROUP RECEIVES ONTARIO NATURE AWARD FOR EFFORTS TO PROTECT GEORGIAN BAY

SAVE GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION HONOURED FOR EDUCATING PROVINCIAL RESIDENTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS ABOUT HAZARDS OF TCE's PUMPED STORAGE PROPOSAL ON MEAFORD MILITARY BASE

MEAFORD, ONTARIO: Save Georgian Bay, a grassroots advocacy group committed to stopping TC Energy's planned Pumped Storage Project in Meaford, Ontario, has just received Ontario Nature's 2024 Corporate Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership and sound action in the environmental field. The prestigious award was presented at Ontario Nature's annual Conservation Awards gala at the Evergreen Resort on the Saugeen Bruce Peninsula on Saturday June 1st.



"Our group was surprised and humbled to learn we had received Ontario Nature's 2024 Corporate Award for Conservation," said Tom Buck, a director of the Save Georgian Bay Association, who accepted the award along with treasurer Louise Green. "We are honoured to be among the many organizations who work every day to protect our environment from harm. As it is with so many environmental organizations, the work can be thankless and often frustrating. We persist in a battle against a huge corporation, TC Energy, as well as the Department of Defence and the Ontario Energy Ministry who are pushing the project forward despite the environmental harm it would cause and the massive cost to the people of Ontario." As Buck pointed out, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which manages Ontario's grid, has

twice concluded that the project provides no net economic benefit for ratepayers.

The Save Georgian Bay Association, which began in 2019 with only a few dozen volunteers, has grown to include thousands of supporters who live not only on or around Georgian Bay. Some hail from hundreds of kilometres away and have shared their time, talents and expertise in helping to protect the sanctity of the Niagara Escarpment and Georgian Bay.



“This award recognizes the many people who support and take part in Save Georgian Bay’s efforts,” Buck said. “Our supporters have written letters to political leaders, called Georgian Bay councillors, made deputations to councils and braved challenging weather to show up at political meetings with protest signs. Some have even shared their expertise by offering unpaid analyses of the project’s engineering shortcomings. We have produced environmental reports, published a bat study, gathered many thousands of signatures on petitions, and shared thousands of pages from Access to Information requests secured from the Department of Defense. The work of our volunteers has been extraordinary. They do it because it’s right—it’s the right thing to do.”

Among Save Georgian Bay’s other efforts: highlighting at least 30 federally-protected species at risk on the project’s proposed site, the Defence Department’s 4th Canadian Division Training Centre in Meaford. Eight decades of live-fire weapons training on that active military base have also left a legacy of unexploded munitions and toxic chemicals that risk draining into Georgian Bay, causing irreparable harm to the aquatic ecosystem as well as to the public health and safety of the estimated 100,000 people who rely on the bay for their drinking water.

In addition to saluting Save Georgian Bay supporters, Buck paid tribute to the association’s allies. “We’ve had a chance to work next to some great organizations in this effort, like the Georgian Bay Association and the Ontario Clean Air Alliance,” he said. “At the conference, we were able to meet many other organizations making a terrific impact on preserving the environment. We are in awe of the accomplishments of our fellow Ontario Nature 2024 award winners and are grateful to be included among these heroes working to preserve Ontario’s environment. We greatly appreciate the work of Ontario Nature and the recognition this award offers Save Georgian Bay.”

For more information:

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Ontario Nature is a 30,000-member Toronto-based charity dedicated to protecting wild species and wild spaces through conservation, education and public engagement. It helped protect Ontario’s Green Belt and is involved with the campaign against Highway 413. It publishes the award-winning quarterly ON Nature magazine.