

GAMIING (gaa-'min-j) is Ojibway
meaning "at the shore"



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First (No Name) Newsletter of GAMIING

Two years ago the Board of GAMIING and the Board and Membership of the Pigeon Lake Environmental Association reached an agreement that PLEA would dissolve and assets move to GAMIING. Much has happened since that time. Many PLEA members chose to become member of GAMIING for which we are very grateful. GAMIING is using the same motto as PLEA:

This is the first official communication with our members.

*"Till taught by pain
Men really know not
what good water's worth"*
Lord Byron

A brief overview of GAMIING, the mandate and the work that has been done seems therefore in order.

Our Vision

The GAMIING mandate is to assist lakeshore landowners in the understanding of and participation in the practice of balancing human desires with the needs of wildlife and lakeshore eco-systems.

History

- 1998:
 - first meeting of concerned friends
- 1999:
 - first Board was established
 - grant from The Friends of the Environment
- 2000:
 - incorporated; received charitable status
- 2002:
 - grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation
 - grant from Community Forest and Wildlife Program (MNR)
 - Fleming College Students Credit for Product Project
- 2003:
 - grant from The Friends of the Environment
 - grant from Human Resources Development of Canada
 - grant from Wetland Habitat Fund

Why has GAMIING come to exist?

- Desire to practice land and water stewardship philosophy
- Concern for destruction of lakeshore habitat
- Need to preserve indigenous species

How does GAMIING address these issues?

- Land is placed in Trust with the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy to conserve for future generations
- GAMIING acts as demonstration site for sound environmental practice for lakeshore dwellers
- GAMIING is a **source of native trees and plants** for lakeshore restoration projects
- GAMIING helps landowners to plan and design the best possible shoreline project

Who are we?

- Board of Directors
- Committees
 - Greenhouse and Nursery Committee
 - Building Committee
 - Educational Committee
 - Marketing and Promotion Committee
 - Interpretive Centre Committee
 - Fundraising and Membership Committee
 - Personnel and Volunteer Committee
- Volunteer Administrator
- Staff
 - Three Eco-System Management Technologists, recently graduated from Sir Sandford Fleming College, School for Natural Resources and Environmental Technology

Currently completed

- Nursery, aquatic nursery and greenhouse
- Bio-engineered Natural Drainage System
- Demonstration sites for shore erosion control
- Bio-filtration outhouse
- Gardens: xeriscape, butterfly, moist, dry, wild edibles
- 7km trails
- Guided trail walks

Ongoing

- Eco-Quest, to become an Eco- Guardian (based on the “Web of Life”)
- School curriculum based programs
- Workshops
- Summer Day Camps
- Consultations with individual lakeshore owners and with groups re: lakeshore naturalization

Our Plan for the next 5 years

GAMIING is a dynamic project that is never finished

- Nursery, specializing in the propagation and sale of indigenous species, will be self sustaining
- Building of
 - “Green” Interpretive Centre, off the grid with a complete self sustaining water treatment system
 - Gate house
 - Utility and potting shed
 - Boardwalk with patio through the wetland
 - “Green” family dwelling as demonstration of sustainable comfortable living
- Year-round educational programs for schools and community groups
- Consultations

The story of GAMIING

GAMIING is located on a 100-acre piece of property on the West side of Pigeon Lake. It comprises of almost 30 acres of wetland, 55 acres of forest with more than 7 km of interpretive trails and 3.5 acres for the nursery and greenhouse, where indigenous trees, shrubs and plants are propagated, grown and used for shoreline restoration projects. The Natural Drainage System, a system that mitigates the effects of poor drainage in this area and is an alternative to traditional tile drainage is just completed. It also functions to retain water for use in

the nursery and greenhouse and will demonstrate erosion control, stream rehabilitation and bio-engineering techniques as well as wildlife habitat construction.

Students of the Frost Campus of Fleming College have developed these plans as their "Credit for Product" project. Three of them, Joe Bennett, Paul Barnard and Eric Fields came to work at GAMIING after their graduation this June, to implement these plans.

GAMIING is actively involved in restoration projects on Sturgeon, Pigeon as well as Chemong Lake. The ESMT's (Eco-System Management Technologists/Technicians, Joe, Paul and Eric) design in consultation with the property owners a plan most appropriate for their specific site. They recommend best practices and offer a list of best suited trees, shrubs and plants to either restore or naturalize the site, most of which GAMIING grows in the nursery.

Various presentations have been made to groups concerned about the health of our lakes and interested how they can help to improve the quality of the water.

Our Eco-Guardian environmental education program has been offered to schools and we have seen in the Fall of 2002 and the Spring of 2003 enthusiastic grade threes and fours at GAMIING. Staff then later went to the schools to complete the requirements for the first part of the Eco-Quest toward becoming an Eco-Guardian.

In July and August, two Summer Day Camps were held, each five days long. If you have a computer and are connected to the internet, please look at our website under "Experiences". There are 17 photo albums, two of which are about the Summer camps. Just looking at the intensity with which the children involved themselves with the projects, be it a wetland day, a forest day, a habitat day or survival skills day, is such a joy to see and gives hope for the future of the environment.

The late Fall and Winter will be a time to reflect on the experiences, develop next steps of our 5 year plan and get ready for the Spring.

Two major Events were held this year. Our First Summer Solstice Lakeshore Festival, which featured the Raging Grannies and offered finger foods of wild edibles. The Autumnal Equinox in September saw members and guests involved in an intense discussion about water quality, the health of our lakes and what steps to take. This was very helpful and supportive to the staff who feels a need to communicate often with people from the community.

GAMIING is actively involved in the development of Boyd Island. Regretfully, we had to withdraw our appeals, because we are no match for Matamy Homes, who threatened with lawsuits. A kind of David and Goliath affair. However, we have been invited to work with the planning department of the Township of Cavendish Galway and Harvey.

GAMIING received financial and in-kind assistance since the start up from the following agencies and foundations:

The Friends of the Environment
The Ontario Trillium Foundation
The Community Fish and Wildlife Program of the Ministry of Natural Resources
Human Resources and Development of Canada
Wetland Habitat Fund of the Canadian Wildlife Fund
A very generous donation from one of our members
In-Kind Canada
ROVA Enterprises
Rob Barbisan of Barbisan Tiles
Pat and Ted Oakes
Dave Ward

As a not-for-profit organization, GAMIING depends upon the membership, donations, fundraising activities and sales of products from the nursery.

GAMIING has created a large database of Agencies, Foundations and Corporations who fund environmental projects and causes. The Fundraising Committee will meet this month to lay out a plan for continuous fundraising, since most funding is matching funding, in other words GAMIING has to come up with 50% The Vernal Equinox, March 21 has been set aside for our major fundraising event. Please mark this date on your calendar. We will inform you of the specifics at a later date.

Advertisement

Please note that our staff is available to help you with your garden projects. As Eco-System Management Technologists, they are experienced in design and/or redesign of your garden lay-out; planting flower beds , advice for companion planting; special planting to deter rabbits and deer; trimming, pruning or completely reshaping of your trees and shrubs and general garden clean up. They use ecological friendly methods to control weeds. \$15.00 per hour per person.

Please cut here

APPLICATION OR RENEWAL OF HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR 2004



Yes, I want to help GAMIING preserve lakeshore habitats. Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution for \$45.00 for a family or \$25.00 for an individual

Name: _____

Address: _____

Honorary Membership is for one year and includes free access to GAMIING trails for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, information about events and activities.

Cheques payable to GAMIING, 1884 Pigeon Lake Road, Lindsay ON, K9V 4R5

GAMIING, Centre for Sustainable Lakeshore Living Inc. is a registered charity #89832 4413 RR0001