



GBRC president Jeff Kingsley shared 2024 progress report with picnic attendees.

Photo by Debbie Salisbury

## **GBRC Holds 2024 Annual Meeting and Potluck Picnic**

The Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation (GBRC) held its annual meeting and potluck picnic on August 24th at Kring Point State Park. GBRC members and guests enjoyed a picnic lunch donated in part by the Walton Street Market, Alex Bay Big M, Price Chopper and attendees who brought dishes to pass. The Annual Meeting portion of the program was focused on a review of recent progress to restore and maintain Goose Bay as a premier fish and wildlife habitat, and recreational area for residents and visitors.

Jeff Kingsley, GBRC president, shared a brief review of past and more recent efforts to restore and maintain the Bay. Past efforts included educational outreach, fundraising and several large scale projects to control Eurasian Water Milfoil which was overtaking Goose Bay. Those efforts, which were conducted between 2008 and 2020, resulted in a significant reduction in invasive milfoil in Goose Bay, improved fish habitat, and improved recreational opportunities.

After a period of down time due to Covid-19, GBRC renewed its government and agency outreach, fundraising, and grant funding efforts in 2023 and the GBRC website was updated. This resulted in successful fundraising and membership recruitment which raised about \$10,000 to support large scale milfoil control efforts. Also, the Town of Alexandria, GBRC and Mud Lake applied for a \$950,000 grant for milfoil remediation under the Sustain Our Great Lakes initiative (SOGL). Unfortunately, the grant was not awarded.

Last fall, GBRC developed a relationship with researchers at Clarkson University who are interested in milfoil control and other water quality issues. A group led by Prof. Diana White (math), Prof. Stefanie Kring (biology) and Prof. James Greene (math) was awarded a grant from the New York State DEC to study and model milfoil propagation in Goose Bay and Norwood Lake. The 3-year project is aimed at developing a model of milfoil growth. Students from Clarkson have been working in Goose Bay at a site near Kring Point this summer.

Also last fall, water samples taken in Goose Bay and in lower Cranberry Creek by GBRC volunteers showed higher than normal levels of phosphorus in samples taken in Cranberry Creek and in Goose Bay near the outlet of Cranberry Creek. Phosphorus is a marker for nutrients that are found in agricultural runoff. Those nutrients could be contributing to aggressive milfoil growth in Goose Bay. Prof. Kring from the Clarkson biology department has been working with GBRC to determine potential sources of phosphorus and its impact on the Bay. This summer, additional water samples were taken from Cranberry Creek and Goose Bay as part of the project.

This June, SLELO PRISM (St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) conducted an aquatic invasive species workshop on Goose Bay.

Late in the fall of 2023, GBRC and the Town conducted a project to test the effectiveness of using two weed harvesters in tandem to remove milfoil. A first harvester equipped with a rake was used to pull milfoil by the roots from the bottom of the Bay.

The Town harvester, which is effective at clearing milfoil from the surface, then collected the pulled milfoil for disposal on shore.

Based on past milfoil control efforts, GBRC estimates that clearing 100 acres per year, on a rotating basis over 3 years, should be adequate to maintain acceptable milfoil levels in Goose Bay. GBRC's goal is to obtain grant funding to support 100 acres per year of milfoil control at a cost of \$100,000 per year. Typical grant programs require 50/50 cost share between local funds and funds from the grant, so \$50,000 of GBRC funds and funds from other local sources are required to obtain the matching \$50,000 in grant funding to clear 100 acres.

In February of 2024, GBRC and the Town submitted a \$420,000 grant proposal to the SOGL program to fund a 3-year 300-acre milfoil control project on Goose Bay. Again, the project was not funded. GBRC is continuing to look for grant funding opportunities for milfoil control, but there are few programs available. GBRC will continue to reach out to government officials and agencies to promote the need for additional funding. GBRC would like to thank the Town for supporting grant funding efforts to help Goose Bay.

GBRC held several fundraising events during the summer of 2024. In June, about 70 people enjoyed a fun evening of food and gaming during Monte Carlo Theme Night aboard Uncle Sam Boat Tours' Island Duchess. The group participated in black jack, bingo, wheel of chance, and Texas hold 'em while touring the beautiful St. Lawrence River. In July, 60 golfers competed in the annual GBRC Golf Tournament at the LA Golf Club. Following golf, participants gathered at the clubhouse for lunch and prizes. Drawing of this year's 50/50 raffle winner was held at the annual meeting. Tom and Norma Gardener won \$1,095! Thanks to everyone who sold and purchased tickets.

Jeff Kingsley introduced board members and recognized the board for all their work supporting projects and fundraising. He thanked Debbie Salisbury and Pam Andre' for organizing the fundraisers and getting sponsorships and prizes. He also thanked Debbie for her work on communications and Ed Crawford for keeping the website up-to-date. Finally, Kingsley gave special recognition to Pam Andre' for her 13 years of service to the organization. She is retiring from the board, but will continue to support fundraising efforts.

It's not too late if you would like to become a member of Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation to support our continued efforts to restore and maintain the Bay. Please go to our website to download a membership form or to sign up and pay online using

Venmo or PayPal. Goose Bay is a premier fishing and recreational waterway used by thousands of residents and visitors every year. To maintain the pristine waters and beauty of the bay, we need everyone's support. Membership dues are one way to help.

Don't forget to visit our website, [GooseBayReclamationCorp.org](http://GooseBayReclamationCorp.org), that is updated regularly to keep visitors apprised of all that's happening on and around Goose Bay. We also have a new facebook page, Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation. Our facebook page has a link to the Channel 7 story about our fundraising and milfoil mitigation efforts along with many pictures from our summer events. Please check it out and be sure to like, follow and share!