REM Gab FROM THE CHAIR

In our Spring 2012 newsletter I reported that the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation was moving forward without the assistance of a full-time Foundation Co-ordinator. I am pleased to report that the business of the Foundation has been able to progress smoothly with the assistance of a re-invigorated and involved Board and a helpful Authority staff.

We had another successful Earth Day Hike in Meaford, on April 23rd, involving students from three schools. Once again, the organizational skills of Bruce Calvert made the event a success. This event has raised approximately $20,000 over the last five years with the proceeds being shared equally among the Foundation and the participating schools.

Once again we held a Memorial Forest Ceremony to remember those for whom trees were planted in our three Memorial Forests. This event, held on Sunday June 10th, is a highlight of our year and there were approximately 500 people in attendance.

Other activities in 2012 include our Trees for Schools Program, and our annual $1,000 Environmental Scholarship.

I want to thank all of our members and volunteers who have contributed time, money, and talents to the fundraising efforts of the Foundation. Your contributions allow us to provide funds to the Authority to undertake conservation projects: including trail signage, board walk improvements, and our Bio-mapping program.

Don Knight, Chairman

COMING EVENTS FOR 2012 & 2013

Volunteer Appreciation Night—Wednesday, December 5th
Grey Sauble Conservation and Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation host an evening for this years volunteers. Our guest speaker is Don Sankey: Photographer, Teacher and Outdoorsman. Don will be sharing his experiences in Vietnam, and the Mekong River while he was on a teaching sabbatical.

Spring—2013 Environmental Scholarship
Staff are preparing promotional literature for the Environmental Scholarship. Each year we offer a $1,000 scholarship to a student pursuing a post-secondary program in an environmentally-related program at the university or college level. Information about the scholarship will be sent to all secondary schools, in our watershed, in March 2013.

Spring 2013—Earth Day Hike
Plans are underway for the Annual Earth Day Hike, stay tuned for more information.

Spring 2013—Tree Seedling Sale
Mark us on your calendar! Saturday, April 27th, 2013 from 8:00 am until Noon.
Come and support the Foundation by having a cup of coffee, a muffin or bacon-on-a-bun! Do your part in lessening your carbon footprint by purchasing and planting trees.
Chair Don Knight, (right) presented the $1,000 Environmental Scholarship to Erik Wagenaar of West Hill Secondary School. Erik is pursuing his secondary school education in the Honours Geography and Environmental Management program at the University of Waterloo.

Congratulations Erik!

Christine Silvester, BMO Bank of Montreal, presents a cheque for $500 to Chairman Don Knight of the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation. Christine Silvester has been a valued member of the Foundation since 2010. The cheque from BMO Financial Group is in recognition of Christine’s employee engagement in the Volunteer Grants Program.

As a Volunteer, Grey Sauble Conservation and the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation have numerous activities in which you can be involved:
- Earth Day Hike, Earth Day Tree Planting,
- Memorial Forest Tree Planting, Tree Seedling Sale,
- Water Festival, Forest Festival and Arboretum Events.

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The Arboretum Alliance has completed the last phase of trail development and interpretive sign installations in the Trees of Grey and Bruce Arboretum. There are 150 species of trees and shrubs native to Grey and Bruce Counties that will be planted along the trail system by Arboretum Alliance volunteers. This project is part of the Inglis Falls Master Plan.

The Arboretum partnered with the Tom Thomson Art Gallery in building a temporary art installation completed in July. The creation is made from maple saplings that were removed for trail development in another location. The creation is not a permanent fixture of the Arboretum.

The Foundation received an anonymous donation of $10,000 for the trail project. We greatly appreciate the generosity of our donors!