

Mabel Hart and Marion Hill Foundation

THE MABEL HART BROOK AND MARION HILL MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

(Antioch Conservation Area)



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUNDATION SET OUT IN THE CHARTER READ, IN PART:

"...The sound development in the public interest of appropriate undeveloped lake land and wilderness regions through the setting up of conservation areas and preserves suitable... for the preservation of wildlife and to encourage public participation in... research and planning on conservation projects..."

FOUNDATION and PROPERTY



The 'Foundation' is a Charitable Not-For-Profit Corporation that owns and administers this private property for the purpose of conservation and education as established in its charter. Rules and policies are set by the Board to meet these objectives.

The Foundation property consists of 428 acres of land with 3100 feet of beach shoreline on Bella Lake and 300 feet of shoreline on Heck Lake

The property is open for public use, a picnic table and outdoor toilet are provided. Dedicated Foundation members and volunteers clean-up and maintain the property. Your cooperation in taking home whatever you bring is appreciated.

Overnight camping, hunting, introduction or removal of vegetation, and open fires are NOT PERMITTED. Visitors are requested to take their garbage home.

BACKGROUND

The Mabel Hart Brook and Marion Hill Memorial Foundation (*the Foundation*) was established in 1967 through the foresight of the late Sanford (Sandy) Thompson and others in the area. Their purpose was the purchase and preservation of the property on Bella Lake known locally as "Second Sandy Beach" and "Norway Point". With the help of dedicated directors and members, funds were raised from pledges and donations to purchase and preserve this outstanding property for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The original 228 acres of land was purchased on March 28, 1968, from Marion Hill of Limberlost Lodge. On August 29, 1986, an additional 200 acres was purchased which contained the pioneer homestead known as Antioch Mission.

Since 1998, the lands owned by the Foundation have been subject to the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program and are classified as "Other Conservation Lands". The CLTIP recognizes, encourages and supports the long-term stewardship of Ontario's significant conservation lands.



HERITAGE AND LEGACY

The Foundation is named after two wonderful pioneer women who strived to preserve the land they loved in its natural state.

MABEL (BILLIE) HART BROOK

Mabel (Billie) Hart Brook, an original settler of the area, contributed tirelessly to the local community. Raised close to the present Billie Bear Resort site on Bella Lake, Mabel ran Camp Billie Bear from 1905 to 1945. A high spirited and legendary figure in the Algonquin Highlands, Billie was selfless, friendly and a benefactor to many!

MARION HIGGINS HILL

Marion Higgins Hill spent many teenage summers in the area. In 1922, she visited the new Limberlost bungalow camp on Lake Solitaire, married owner Gordon Hill and ran Limberlost Lodge for many years. An adventurous, enthusiastic and dedicated naturalist, Marion's dream was to someday turn over her Bella Lake property to field naturalists who shared her enjoyment and study of the area.

L-R Edgar Brook, Dean Maxwell, Marion Hill,

Sandy Thompson



MEMBERSHIP

The Foundation was chartered under the laws of the Province of Ontario on December 13, 1967, and revised on July 1, 2023, in accordance with the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (ONCA).

MEMBERSHIP

A membership is \$100. To apply for membership, request an application from mhbmh.treasurer@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP FEE

Annual fee of \$10 per member

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Canada Revenue Agency has designated the Foundation as a Charitable Organization for Income Tax purposes within the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

In 1985, the Board of Directors established an Advisory Council of senior directors who had served for a minimum of ten years or who had been a Past President. Advisory Council members serve for life, or until they resign. The President of the Bella-Rebecca Community Association serves as an ex-officio Director during his/her term in office.



DONATIONS

E-Transfer: mhbmh.treasurer@gmail.com

Please note on E-Transfer if payment is a donation, membership purchase or remittance of dues.

All contributions and donations are gratefully accepted. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$25.00 or more.

Any further questions may be addressed to mhbmhfoundationsecretary@gmail.com or mhbmh.treasurer@gmail.com



INFORMATION CAN ALSO BE FOUND UNDER
'FOUNDATION' AT:
www.brca.on.ca

CONSERVATION

The Conservation Committee of the Foundation is committed to promoting conservation and education on the property.

Natural Heritage Inventories have been conducted involving flora fauna and ecological community surveys. Species at risk, bird and habitat surveys as well as mushroom forays have been conducted.

A self-guided interpretive trail was installed in 2018, depicting the natural and human heritage of the conservation area.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Directors and its Executive. Directors are elected at the Annual General Meeting in July by present and proxy membership.

FOUNDING DIRECTORS

Graham Atkin, Frank Hull, Emil Jensen, Dean Maxwell, Col. Jack Perry, John Perry, Fred Pugh, Sandy Thompson, Vivian Thompson, Doug Tideman, William Wagner.

