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For Immediate Release

Passing of the gavel at Grey Sauble Conservation AGM

Cathy Little, councilor from Grey Highlands was elected as the new Chair of the Grey Sauble Conservation (GSC) Authority Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on January 24, 2018. Elections were chaired by Wayne Brohman of Saugeen Valley Conservation with Phil Beard of Maitland Valley Conservation and Shawn Carey of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry as scrutineers. High quality candidates made for a close race, and after two tied secret ballot votes, the third round of ballots yielded Ms. Little as the new Chair. Alan Barfoot, Mayor of Georgian Bluffs and former Warden of Grey County was nominated and declared as Vice-Chair. When asked Cathy said, "Dick has provided exemplary leadership over his many years as Chair of GSC and Conservation Ontario. I am honoured and humbled by my new role, but very excited to keep moving forward with our great Staff, Board and partners. GSC is incredibly well positioned to make a real difference in our watershed."

Outgoing Chair, Dick Hibma, shared remarks on his history with the GSC Board starting in 1994, as Chair for all but one year since 1998. He has enjoyed the opportunities to participate locally and on the Conservation Ontario Board where he has been a member since 1998 and held the position of Chair since 2006. Many present echoed recognitions of the immense contributions of Mr. Hibma. Conservation Authorities in our region were started in 1957 and Elwood Moore, Founding and Honourary Member with over 45 years of service was present and reminded us of some of the historical events in the forming of GSC and an adventure visiting Old Baldy when Grey Sauble was planning to purchase that property with the original Grey Sauble Board Members.

The AGM was attended by many special guests who brought greetings from local stakeholder groups, GSC partners, municipal and provincial member of parliament.

A highlight for all present was an engaging and insightful presentation by Peter Middleton. Mr. Middleton is a respected naturalist, ornithologist, retired outdoor education teacher, and scholar of nature from Owen Sound. His talk and visuals really charged up the group for the tasks ahead as they serve the GSC Board, work in local politics and for staff who serve the authority and local watersheds.

In 2018 GSC will complete a strategic plan renewal that began in 2017 with public meetings and input. The next Grey Sauble Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 28th, 2018.

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Background:

Our vision is a healthy watershed environment in balance with the needs of society.

Our mission, in partnership with the stakeholders of the watershed, is to promote and undertake sustainable management of renewable natural resources and to provide responsible leadership to enhance biodiversity and environmental awareness.