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August 29,2025

Canadian Geoparks Network

Attn: Frances Heydeman, Chair

Via Email

frances.heydeman@nbm-mnb.ca

Dear Frances Heydeman,

Recently it came to my Council's attention that a southern Ontario organization has begun a process to create a Georgian Bay Geopark that would include Manitoulin Island. The proponent recently presented their model to our Council and asked for our support for their application. After seeing their presentation, it became clear to our Council that we have no desire to be included in the proposed Georgian Bay Geopark. After several years of work by this group, without consulting any municipality or first nation on Manitoulin Island, they still do not have any sense of what Manitoulin Island is all about. Although the concept of a geopark may be beneficial in some places it is important that Manitoulin Island stands on its own in terms of culture and geography. To my knowledge, the group that represents the aspiring Georgian Bay Geopark has not received support from any of the municipalities or first nations on Manitoulin Island. Recently, the United Chiefs and Councils of Mnidoo Mnising has also written a letter to your organization objecting to the inclusion of Manitoulin Island in the proposed Geopark. Our municipality and the Town of Gore Bay are against being included in this proposed Geopark as well. Other communities will follow as the days go on.

There are many reasons for this. There is a lack of consultation during this process and that has led to a sense of frustration. We believe that scarce resources from funding programs are being diverted to this southern Ontario group. Manitoulin Island is unique and stands apart

from Midland and the group that is spearheading the application for the Geopark. The description on your website of the aspiring Georgian Bay Geopark calls Georgian Bay a Great Lake when it is simply a bay In Lake Huron. They designate Manitoulin Island as Tropical Seas at the top of Lake Huron in Northern Ontario. Manitoulin stands on its own and Manitoulin alone will decide whether it seeks status in any Geopark designation.

I respectfully ask that you remove Manitoulin Island from the application for the Georgian Bay Geopark.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al MacNevin', written in a cursive style.

Al MacNevin

Mayor

Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands

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