

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 44

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2014

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE SEE PAGES 5-8

The President’s Message

By PAUL COWLEY

As we move into the fall, it is especially important to fill in our Vote-By-Mail ballots and support good candidates to lead us through the next four years.

More than ever before, these years will be crucial and challenging for us and our council. Its members will be making decisions on projects costing millions of dollars, notably septage and policing.

As in previous elections, we all face the question, “Who should we vote for”? Our answer is: “Vote for the 5 candidates you feel will have the best chance of working together cohesively as a council”. The related challenge that I hear from many residents is that they don’t know all of the candidates and wonder who to choose.

To that end FoTTSA has reviewed all of the candidates, and has provided profiles for the five candidates we feel are the best choices. Please review our recommendations carefully and, most importantly, vote! [see pages 5-6]

I am sure you all were grateful for higher water levels this year and probably breathed a sigh of relief. Unfortunately these high water levels were essentially a blip in the 14 year downward trend of Lakes Michigan and Huron. Contributing to this “blip” were a 97% ice cover (greatest since the 70’s) which minimized evaporation, a record cold and snowy winter (worst in 20 years) and an extremely wet spring. Also Lake Superior was well above its long term average and this led to the release of extra water into our lake. That extra discharge plus our cold wet summer are masking the real problem still existing in the St. Clair River.

This blip has also affected the ability of Restore Our Water International (on whose board I am a director) to fundraise as everyone thinks we are fine. We are not fine.

ROWI’s ongoing lobbying in Washington is working, but costs thousands of dollars a month. ROWI is trying hard to get our Canadian government also to start acting on the IJC recommendations to put in place measures to slow the flow of the St. Clair River.

Bottom line is that ROWI’s funding has reached a critical level and your support is needed. Please visit www.restore-ourwater.com to keep updated and make a contribution. Contact me if you would like to arrange a fund raising event in your area. We must proactively protect the water in our bay.

VOTE !!!!

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The Bluewater Foxtrot



Photo courtesy Carrie Pyatt

By JESSIE GARLAND

Over the course of the spring and summer of 2014, the inhabitants of the Bluewater Dunes neighbourhood have been entertained by a family of foxes who made a den in the dunes. The first fox sightings occurred in late April when the snow was still clinging to the ditches. We identified the foxes as red foxes (*Vulpes Vulpes*). The male fox, whom we named "Dad", demonstrated many characteristics one would find attractive in a human male. Firstly, he was handsome with a lustrous auburn coat with a bushy white-tipped tail and keen observant eyes. He was confident in his own skin and not in the least disturbed by the homo sapiens who meandered through his territory. Secondly, he was bold, opportunistic and cunning. One could even say that he was "Machiavellian" in his attitude towards life. I think he would have made an excellent CEO, or perhaps politician.

His wife, Vixen, was like a starlet from the fifties or sixties. She was demure, beautiful and somewhat reticent; more like a Doris Day than a Marilyn Monroe. She was cautious and a bit aloof while her husband was confident and gregarious. One would definitely say they were a well-matched couple, and the marriage produced ten kits.

The kits or pups were indistinguishable from one another, but all were playful and cuter than anything produced in a "Walt Disney" movie. The kits' fur was darker than their parents and lacked the auburn hue. With this colouring they blended well into their surroundings of dead leaves, forest and sand dunes. Their legs were a dark velvety brown and delicately shaped, like the ghillies on a highland dancer's feet. They used their legs to jump up and then pounce upon their prey. In May we witnessed one of the pups kill his first chipmunk which he ate with relish and did not share with his siblings. Hunting is essen-

tial to life; an adult fox must consume one kilo of food per day to survive. The pups must learn to be successful hunters; failure is not tolerated. One day in June neighbours saw three foxes in their backyard and heard terrible yelping, barking and screaming akin to that of a child and then silence. Behind the garage they found a dead kit; the parents had killed it for reasons known only to themselves. Nature is unforgiving and survival of the fittest is the key to the survival of a species.

As the summer progressed we watched the kits grow up; their fur began to acquire an auburn shade and they looked like gangling teenaged versions of their parents. In the evenings around eight o'clock the foxes emerged from their den in the dunes to entertain the spellbound, camera-clad denizens of Bluewater Dunes. This was termed the "Foxtrot", a variety show performed by the foxes for the benefit of the area inhabitants. Their antics and acrobatics never ceased to amaze and enchant us. At times two of the foxes would stand on their hind legs and box with one another. There was usually a chase with two or more foxes. The showoff pup would walk along the top of the fences and a clumsy pup would lose his balance and roll down the dune. A hungry pup would pounce upon the insects in a dead tree. The show lasted approximately an hour or until sunset.

While foxes are typically wary of humans we noticed that the Bluewater Dunes foxes were very comfortable in our presence. I think they recognized us as food suppliers, probably aided by the copious amounts of dog food, hot dogs and other aliments left for them.

One day in August, an injured kit, limping on three legs came down to the beach. It was clearly hungry and in

See FOXES...page 11

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Pulling Together to Fight Eurasian Watermilfoil

By Peter Andrews



Michael Jordan was referring to sports when he said: “Some people want it to happen, some people wish it would happen, others make it happen.” The Farlain Lake Community Association (FLCA)’s action in combating an invasive aquatic plant in Farlain Lake squarely fits his third category.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) was discovered during FLCA’s 2012 study of the aquatic plants in the lake. EWM is an aggressive, invasive, rooted aquatic perennial plant that poses an ecological threat, a recreational impediment, and an economic concern to a water body if action is not taken to prevent its growth before it becomes widespread.

In 2012, it was still confined to a small, isolated site in Farlain Lake. The site was ‘quarantined’ in 2013 to restrict contact by boaters and anglers, and the infestation was monitored and mapped as part of a FLCA long-term management strategy for aquatic invasives, an ongoing program of detection, control and communications. The Township of Tiny is supporting the project with a grant of \$5500 over a three-year period.

On July 12-13, 2014, a team of commercial divers undertook to manually remove individual EWM plants from the infested site. (Hand harvesting is the most cost effective and environmentally friendly method of controlling EWM in Farlain Lake. The objective was to remove the invasive plants while leaving native plants for fish and wildlife habitat.) Tiny Township Mayor Ray Millar and his two sons were volunteer SCUBA divers who augmented the work of the contracted divers. Over forty ‘Farlain Lake Weed Warrior’ volunteers assisted with the hand harvesting project as surface crew, land crew, and support crew team members.

All participants received instruction in plant identification by the Severn Sound Environmental Association. The ‘weed warriors’ also received instruction in hand harvesting techniques. A 350-foot floating containment curtain was deployed to capture any EWM plant fragments inadvertently created through hand harvesting activities; (EWM is primarily re-propagated through plant fragments created naturally and through human activities such as boating and angling. Plant fragments are dispersed by wind and wave action to other areas of a water body where they take root to form new colonies.)

The two-day project was considered a success as an estimated 1000 plants (approximately 85% of the dense infestation) were removed from the lake. The harvested plants were disposed of inland to ‘dry and die’ in a compost pile; EWM plants can survive out of water for up to ten days.

The project was also deemed a success in terms of the support it received from lake community residents and local businesses. A direct mail campaign targeting the lake community surpassed its goal by 90%. Over \$1500 in financial and ‘in-kind contributions’ was raised through a sponsorship campaign. Lake community residents, local businesses, and community partners all pulled together in the fight.



EWM control efforts will continue over the next two years. The infested site and other key areas of concern will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Remedial action will be taken to hand harvest invasive aquatic plants. Shoreline property owners will be educated in aquatic plant identification so they can monitor their area of the lake. Suspicious plants will be reported to the FLCA so that plant samples can be collected and studied. If invasive or exotic plants are discovered, arrangements will be made to remove the plants.

Volunteer ambassadors will provide community boat owners and visitors with information on the issues of aquatic invasive species and measures that can be taken to prevent the spread of invasive species.

With ongoing vigilance, remedial action, and education/awareness efforts by FLCA volunteers who ‘make things happen’, I believe that EWM will become a manageable minor issue in Farlain Lake.



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"Giving Thanks" at my Uncle Jack's Log Cabin

By BILL JOHNSON



As my family and I sit for dinner at a long table in the little log cabin built in 1939 by my Uncle Jack deep in the "enchanted forest" just north of Sandy Bay, I reflect that this gathering is the real "Thanks" in celebrating Thanksgiving.

Uncle Jack worked his entire life for Ontario Hydro, and was a terrific artist as well. His specialty was painting portraits of First Nations Chiefs; including one he did of Grey Owl. I also have a detailed map drawn by Uncle Jack showing Tiny Township at the time of Champlain and Ste. Marie, displaying many of the significant indigenous sites.

Uncle Jack bought his secluded treed lot in the area of north Tiny then called Sandy Cove around 1939. He and four buddies worked much of the summer chopping down large cedar trees to clear the building site, then stripping the bark, notching the logs and slowly erecting a charming and sweet cedar log cabin.

I remember visiting the cabin during construction when I was 12 years old. That summer was very hot, 90

to 100 degrees F every day with no rain. These young men worked steadily as sweat rolled off their bodies, but they still joked and laughed all the time. Sadly, shortly after completion, they all went overseas to fight in World War II and some did not return. But Uncle Jack did survive and spent many happy years in his little cabin although he did die young at 64.

Jack's two children, Carol and Peter, who are now the owners, invite us every Thanksgiving to join their families in this small cabin which bursts at the seams with 14 people gathered around what seems to be the world's longest dining table stretching across the entire living room. The food is to die for! Carol, and Peter's wife, Linda, are both superb cooks so it is truly a joyous occasion helped along by love and good wine!

It is always an amazing link to the past of Huronia to partake of a celebration dinner of thanks in this log cabin that is so reminiscent of days gone by in Tiny, and so full of mementos of the much earlier times when members of the Huron nation would have walked this very property. It is always a privilege to give thanks in such a manner!



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The Federation's members are associations of property owners in those parts of the Township of Tiny designated as "Shoreline" in the Township's Official Plan.

The Tiny Cottager is mailed to the permanent addresses of more than 10,600 Tiny Township property owners (including 7,200 in the shoreline areas of Tiny) and to businesses in the area. It reaches some 25,000 readers. Copyright is claimed on all original articles and on advertisement layout and design created by this publication.

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Report on Council

By MARY JANE PRICE

Township of Tiny Council 2010-2014

Mayor Ray Millar
Deputy Mayor George Lawrence
Councillor André Claire
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Building Permit Fee Raised

The building department is required to run at a profit and a reduction in permit volume between 2011 and 2013 required an increase in fees to offset revenue losses. Tiny Township hired Tunnock Consulting Ltd. to recommend a revised Building Permit Fee. It came into effect June 1.

Large Renewable Procurement Process/New Building Canada Fund

Staff forwarded correspondence to the Huronia Economic Alliance
a) from the Ministry of Energy regarding the Large Renewable Procurement Process and
b) from the House of Commons regarding the New Building Canada Fund Plan
for consideration at a future meeting as it relates to a possible funding project for an anaerobic biodigester.

Medical Marihuana Production Facilities

The Committee considered Planning and Development Report PD-36-14 May 13, 2014 regarding a proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to permit a Medical Marihuana Production Facility. Council resolved that a site specific official plan amendment and/or zoning by-law amendment would be required for such a facility. By leaving the by-law as it is, Council is not encouraging this industry and no requests for an amendment have been made. Given the lack of industry in this township shouldn't Council welcome a tightly controlled legal industry?

Roads Budget

The April 28 financial report noted that the Roads Budget is almost exhausted because of the extra snow plowing and removal needed in the winter months. It was suggested that a winter reserve account be implemented to deal with snow operations that may exceed budgeted amounts in the future.

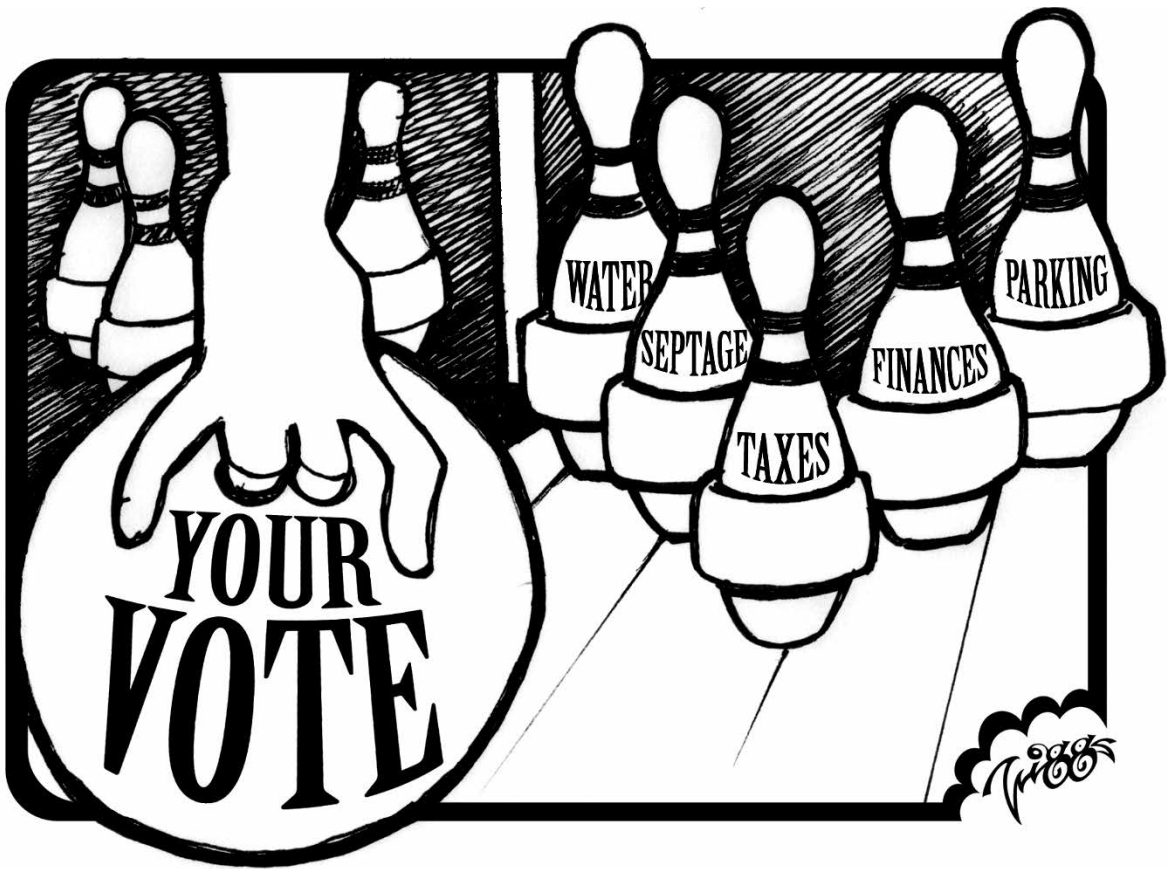
Proposed Telecommunications Tower

On April 28 the Committee reviewed a Planning and Development report regarding a proposed telecommunications tower on township land on Concession 10 West at the end of Gerus Road. The tower is intended to supply cell phone and wireless broadband signals to those areas that remain underserved in the township. Council voted to permit the application to complete the required notification as per Industry Canada guidelines. Council is waiting for the public consultation process to be complete and for Bell to prepare a final report and presentation.

Microwave Hop Project, Thunder Beach Road.

Mr. James Kennedy representing Bell Mobility addressed the Committee of the Whole on August 11 regarding the Site Selection and Justification for a proposed Microwave Hop tower, located at Thunder Beach Road. The proposed tower would connect the broadcast signal between two existing towers. In recognition of the Federal government's exclusive jurisdiction and in an attempt to promote balance, Industry Canada requires that proponents of telecommunication facilities consult with land-use authorities as part of their licensing so that antenna systems are deployed in a manner that considers local surroundings. This consultation process specifically does not give a municipality the right to veto the proposal. Council requested that Bell Mobility notify the interested parties who provided comments at the COW Meeting, notify all property owners within 120 meters of the subject property, post an ad in the *Midland Mirror* and hold an open house to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed Microwave

See REPORT ON COUNCIL...page 14



DON'T DROP THE BALL - VOTE!

Jack Barry Ellis – Thank You!

By JUDITH GRANT



It has been fortunate for all of us that Jack Ellis was one of the founders of FoTTSA. At the time, he was a Professor of Environmental Studies at York University, had written a number of books and studies about rural and urban planning and could write about the issues in a way that was intelligible and interesting to the ordinary reader.

Jack was FoTTSA's first President, serving in that capacity for several years after its incorporation on May 23rd 1991. He became our guide in the area of Official Plans, which was all-important to an organization that had among its purposes-

- the protection, enhancement, and wise use of the environment of the shoreline and shoreline residential area of Tiny Township,
- monitoring area development and considering the principles of sound land-use planning and environmental management.

When Simcoe County's Official Plan was drafted in the early 90s, and later when it was periodically reviewed, he made written and oral deputations to County Council and wrote explanatory articles for the *Tiny Cottager*. He also kept an eye on proposed changes to Tiny's Official Plan and on development proposals like that for a trailer park in Concession 3 that would impact the shore negatively.

His concern for the environment was evident in the articles he wrote for the *Cottager* on the toxic plume from the Pauzé dump and in others on the management and treatment of septage. He served on a township environmental committee for two years, and more recently has written about the long period of low water

levels that started in 2000. Jack is one who has urged the International Joint Commission (that manages waters on the shared border of Canada and the United States) to take action to alleviate the problem.

But Jack is a multi-faceted person. If you have ever wondered why so many roads in Tiny seem to make unnecessary bends, take a look at his amusing "Jogging along the County Road: The Saga of the First Survey of Tiny" in the Spring 1998 issue of the *Tiny Cottager* (see *Issue Archives* on tinycottager.org).

He's tackled many other topics in the *Cottager* as well – on the West Nile Virus, Voting by Mail, Voters' List inadequacies, the Severn Sound Association's study of the watersheds of Balm Beach, Jackson Park, and Woodland Beach, wind turbines, and on and on.

Not only has Jack been a thoughtful, knowledgeable writer of articles for the *Tiny Cottager* in almost every issue since 1992, but for more than ten years he's served on the editorial board. He's been invaluable in those last-minute emergencies when there's either too much or too little copy. Working from Germany, where he spends roughly half the year, he's been quite capable of taking out 500 words here or producing a new article there, practically overnight. Thankfully, he has agreed to remain a contributor to the *Tiny Cottager*, though he stepped down from FoTTSA's Board at the AGM in June.



In his honour, FoTTSA has made a \$1,000 contribution to the newly formed Huronia Land Conservancy. (For more information about the Conservancy, see the article by Tim Tully and Ric Symmes in the Fall 2012 issue of the *Tiny Cottager*). Given Jack's lifelong commitment to good management of our environment, this seemed an appropriate way to thank him for his many years of service.

Recent Developments on Parking Strategy in Tiny

By CAROLE FERGUSON

On July 14, 2014, Council received the Comprehensive Parking Strategy report that R.J. Burnside & Associates had been asked to prepare in response to concerns raised by the Township’s Fire Chief. After measuring the width of tanker and pumper trucks at the Wyevale Fire Station, Burnside recommends a road width of 6.0 m as the **maximum** needed to accommodate all emergency response operations (even though the Fire Chief had in 2012 recommended the 6.0 width as a **minimum**). Not addressed in this study, however, is the actual method of fire suppression in Tiny in areas without hydrants. Reservoirs have to be erected and filled by tanker trucks delivering water from the nearest pumping station. A 6.0 m width does not allow maneuvering room for emergency vehicles shuttling back and forth to the pumping station.

When calculating appropriate locations for parking, Burnside determined the ‘shoulder-to-shoulder’ width of each road west of County Road 6, namely 6.0 m road surface and 2.5 m shoulder space on each side of roads with no ditches, and 3.0 m space where there is a ditch. Shoulder-to-shoulder includes unobstructed adjacent grass, which along the shore grows on sand and, in my opinion, will not support the weight of a vehicle. Burnside also notes that Penetanguishene uses a width of 8.5 m for No Parking, 8.5 m to 11.0 m for parking on one side and greater than 11.0 m for both sides, while Tay and Wasaga determine parking restrictions on an individual road basis.

This chart supplies the essence of Burnside’s findings and recommendations.

Number of Roads	Current Signage No Parking 2 sides	Current Signage No Parking 1 side	Recommended Additional Signage No Parking 2 sides	Recommended Additional Signage No Parking 1 side
No ditches 426	189	20	159	19
Ditch 1 side 87	18	1	61	7
Ditch 2 sides 360	46	13	252	52

Burnside also recommends that there be No Parking where less than 6 vehicles can be accommodated after space is allocated for driveways, walkways, and intersection set-backs.

On September 8, 2014, the Manager of Public Works provided a report to Council about implementing this Parking Strategy recommending that

- Special Occasion permits should not be made available
- Specific Permit Parking areas that were not reviewed by Burnside in Concessions 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 West and Balm Beach Road West be investigated to ensure that they comply, and that
- By-Law should monitor the demand for permit parking.

His report identifies three options:

- Do Nothing (which addresses neither access for emergency services nor risk and liability costs).
- Place additional No Parking Signs as recommended

in either of two ways: by contracting an outside firm to install 4,435 additional signs within a year at a cost of approximately \$595,000, or by having the signage installed in stages by an outside contractor, to a maximum value of work of \$75,000 per year plus \$9,000 a year for additional contract staff (an option that also does not address risk and liability issues).

- Place No Parking On Any Street signage at strategic locations, with further wording to explain permit parking, at an estimated cost of \$15,000 including the removal of existing no parking signs.

These options and Burnside’s report, in my view, don’t take into account the Fire Department’s use of reservoirs, the loss of 0.5 m of pavement on each side of the road after winter storms, population density on each street, volume of traffic, lack of sidewalks for pedestrians, or any safety issues. Also, according to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, a width of 1.5 m on both sides of the street beyond the paved surface should be available for pedestrians. I would argue that each street identified as suitable for parking needs to be re-assessed by the Fire Chief, as some of them do not even meet the stated criteria. For example, Milton Street, listed on Appendix C, Roads with No Ditches, is shown to have a road surface width of 6.0 m with a shoulder-to-shoulder width of 11.0 m. In fact Milton has ditches on both sides, does not have a 6.0 m road surface in many places, has numerous driveways, and no stretch that could accommodate 6 parked vehicles. Trew Avenue, which is identified as a ‘good area for parking’, likewise does not meet the criteria.

Decisions about implementation are to be made during the 2015 budget discussions.

Climate Change Impacts Tiny’s Streams

Report on FoTTSA’s 2014 Volunteer Water Program

By JUDITH GRANT

Each fall, FoTTSA gathers onto a spreadsheet all the results, sample by sample, beach by beach, for the summer’s systematic, weekly sampling of swimming water in Tiny Township. These samples are taken by volunteers at private beaches all along Tiny’s shores, by the Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit at public beaches, and by the staff at Awenda Provincial Park and at Camp Marygrove. This year’s spreadsheet will be added to earlier spreadsheets under “Water Reports” on www.tiny-cottager.org once Awenda and the Health Unit release their data later this fall.

The volunteers’ sample results, which have already been entered, reveal that the improvement in recreational water quality in the Bay that has taken place since the program began in 2001 has, in general, been maintained. The septic re-inspection program has probably been responsible for much of the improvement.

However, all of you have probably noticed that the character of this year’s rainfall differed markedly from earlier years’ precipitation events. This summer we had frequent, intense, heavy rains, which have raised the level of the water in the Bay, and which, we suspect, have loaded a few streams with higher than usual levels of E. coli (and, probably, the pathogens often associated with E. coli).

We believe this may be the case because of an act of generosity on the part of the laboratory that analyses the volunteers’ water samples – namely Central Ontario Analytical Laboratory in Orillia. Ordinarily the E. coli counts reported by the laboratory fall between <10 (ie less than 10) to >600 (greater than 600) per 100 ml. of sample. Because of the upper limit of 600, we usually don’t know exactly how much the actual count exceeds 600. But then, just before the 8th week of sampling this summer, an association asked for an accurate count on a sample from a particular stream, that week and the final 9th week, of sampling.

Without being asked (and without charging us), the lab did exact counts on samples from several sites that had earlier had >600 counts. As it happened, one of the summer’s deluge rains occurred within 48 hours of the sampling time on 18 August – and the results for two of the extra stream samples selected by the Laboratory were 13,400 and 50,000. Now, numbers in the tens of thousands are outside the experience of the volunteer water program. In 2001, the first year of the program, when we frequently asked (and paid) for exact counts for samples

in particular streams, the highest E. coli count was 5,600, though there were a number between that figure and the usual upper limit of >600.

A factor in these high counts was probably the fact that frequent heavy rains had saturated the ground, and so, instead of soaking in, the rain washed everything on the surface into the nearest stream, and if that surface happened to have cattle grazing on it, or manure spread on it, then E. coli counts were bound to be high.

Those who live along the shore and by streams and all those who swim in the Bay and Lake need better information so that they know when and how to take evasive action. How long after a heavy rain is a particular stream loaded with E. coli (and associated pathogens?). How broadly does the stream spread its effluent into the Bay or Lake? (Only a couple of our usual swimming sampling locations near particular streams had elevated counts.) We’re considering mounting a water program focused specifically on streams that regularly have counts above 600 where samples would be taken immediately after a

See WATER...page 15

Candidates Tiny Election 2014

Mayor:

George Cornell
Peter Daveport
Anthony Lancia
GEORGE LAWRENCE

Deputy Mayor:

ANDRÉ CLAIRE

Steffen Walma

Councillor:

Richard Bryan
Cindy Hastings
RICHARD HINTON
John Machnik
NIGEL WARREN
DICK WESSELO
Gibb Wishart

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ELECTION 2014 SPECIAL



We believe **GEORGE LAWRENCE** would make an excellent Mayor

We supported George Lawrence's successful candidacy for Deputy Mayor in the last two municipal elections and believe that he now has the experience to serve as Mayor. Where some Mayors actively dislike the social side of the job – attending functions, net-working, liaising with neighbouring heads of Council, and the like -- George actively enjoys that side of the job. This is a major asset.

At the County of Simcoe, he has served on the Corporate Services Committee, which oversees matters like roads, bridges, garbage, windmills, and forests. In his first term he helped block the proposed cancellation of bulk garbage pickup and contributed substantially to the fight against locating a major landfill at Site 41 on Conc. 2.

During his second term he continued to effectively oppose the installation of wind turbines on Simcoe County forest lands in northwest Tiny, though he sees a place for solar installations as long as they are restricted to Class 5, 6, and 7 farmland. He helped iron out many problems as the new garbage pickup service came into effect in Tiny. He notes that it has been worth it, since the change has saved money. (He reports that the emerald ash borer that destroyed many of Toronto's trees has reached Penetanguishene, but not Tiny as yet. Unfortunately, it seems that there's no stopping it: only early treatment is effective, and that's very expensive.)

In the Township, no Council Member has been more conscientious than he on local and neighbourhood matters. He makes himself available to the 8 to 10 constituents who telephone or e-mail him each week. About half the time, he makes site visits, sometimes traveling the length of the Township a couple of times in a single day.

At Tiny's Council meetings, he arrives prepared and ready to raise questions. He does his share of committee work, in his first term serving on the Site 41 Community Monitoring Committee and on Tiny's Accessibility Advisory Committee. He has been a member of the North Simcoe Heads of Council Committee in both terms, and this last term he has been the Council representative on the Wyevalle Parks and Recreation Master Plan Committee, and on the Springwater Parks and Recreation Committee (Tiny Township children use its arena). He seized opportunities to meet with the LHIN and other Provincial representatives eager to ensure that colonoscopy and ophthalmology services remain available at Georgian Bay General Hospital.

George has given a great deal of time to his community. He gained his first broad experience of the Township between 1996 and 2006 as chair of the now defunct citizens' group Tiny's Residents Working Together and as editor of its newspaper *Tiny Ties*. While some elements of TRWT were seen at the time as hostile to the aims of FoTTSA, George became sensitized to private property rights, including that of beaches. He helped further the system of parking permits for Tiny residents and a network of public parks along the shore.

He also familiarized himself and others with the problems associated with wind turbines and the dumpsite proposed for Site 41. In addition, each year since 2001 he has organized the highly useful Seniors' Information Day. This year the event will take place on October 10 in the Midland Recreation Complex. Forty services are expected to be present to supply information, and there are to be five guest speakers.

He and his wife Joan have been permanent residents of Tiny Township since 1981. George was a successful builder, and took early retirement in 1995.

In his view the key priorities facing Tiny's next Council are

- deciding how to manage the Township's septage,
- evaluating, and possibly changing, the Township's consultants,
- assessing the effectiveness of the Township's staff,
- looking for ways to reduce the coming increase in the cost of policing,
- making sensible use of space in Township-owned buildings rather than building new township offices.

In our opinion, George Lawrence has the experience, the passion, and the commitment essential for anyone aspiring to be Mayor of Tiny Township.

If you have questions or concerns, you can reach George at gglawrence@sympatico.ca.



We believe you should elect **ANDRÉ CLAIRE** as Deputy Mayor

For the last eight years, André Claire has been a stalwart member of Tiny's Council. He has received positive ratings from constituents for his prompt response to their concerns. He does more than his fair share of committee work, currently serving on the Huronia Airport Commission, the Economic Development Corporation of North Simcoe, the Champlain Commemorations Steering Committee, the Heritage Advisory Committee, and the committee working on a Nottawasaga River Improvement Plan. A team player, he works co-operatively with others to reach responsible decisions. He is fully bilingual and has played an active role in the preservation and celebration of Tiny's rich francophone history and heritage.

His career as a professional engineer has given him analytical skills and technical knowledge. He consistently demonstrates a keen understanding of municipal issues and applies a logical approach to their solutions. A Tiny property owner since 1983, he and his wife, Ingrid chose to make Tiny their retirement home in 2001.

Two of his second term committees have been particularly important for Tiny's understanding of its history. As vice chair of the Champlain Commemorations Steering Committee, a group plagued by "politics" and with many demanding subcommittees, he has had to exercise tact and patience. Finding grant money has not been easy: major funding has been promised by the Province if the Federal Government will also contribute, a commitment that has not been forthcoming so far. Nonetheless a number of events are planned for 2015, the 400th anniversary of Champlain's arrival in Tiny Township. Champlain will be the theme of next year's Festival du Loup, there is to be an "Order of Good Cheer" in the spring (a feast like the one Champlain himself arranged in mid winter to cheer up those who had helped him), moveable murals are to be created, and an outlook point is to be established on the Concession 8 West hill from which the site of the village of Ossossane that Champlain visited, the trail he traversed, and the Collingwood area where he overwintered can be seen.

The Heritage Advisory Committee, of which he is an active member, has overseen the revision of the Township's official history – *Recollections: Township of Tiny*. At André's insistence, it will appear in French as well as in English books and also in digital versions.

Recommending Candidates

The decision about who the Board of FoTTSA would recommend for Tiny's next Council was under discussion since this spring, as we heard rumours about who might run and as we gradually learned who was actually going to do so. As candidates, one by one, formally announced their intentions, we talked about what we, as a group, knew about each of them. Many were already familiar to us through their participation in township organizations or on previous Councils or in earlier elections. A few were not, and where we needed more information, a couple of us went to talk to them to get a sense of their background and what they might bring to the position to which they aspired. We also looked for people who knew the individuals in question and could tell us what they knew about them. The final decision about who to support wasn't taken until the weekend after nominations closed on Friday, September 12.

As always the discussion at that last meeting ranged widely, as each individual's experience, background, character, and preparation for the position sought were weighed and considered. In the end we reached clear decisions about the five candidates, and five only, since we had long since decided that this time we would make no dual recommendations. In the years since the election in 2010, our member association had made it clear that they didn't like us recommending two good possibilities for Mayor and two for Deputy Mayor. They wanted a single recommendation for each slot.

We have often been asked why we don't supply assessments of all those who are running for positions on Council. We did that once, in the early 1990s, and, unnecessarily annoyed and anguished a number of people who resented every negative comment we published about them. This was foolish on our part. There is no need to say anything about people we don't support. Besides, there is always a possibility that one or more of them might be elected, and then we'd have made it difficult to work with them. Also, almost always the people who seek office are public-spirited and have much to offer – just not quite as much as those we recommend.

ANDRÉ CLAIRE continued...

According to André, Council's accomplishments in the last four years are to have

- brought township accounting up to the standard set by Ontario's Public Sector Accounting Board,
- produced a parking policy that takes safety, road width, the presence or absence of ditches and the like into account,
- given Council deliberations greater transparency and accessibility by supplying better descriptions of the reasons for in-camera sessions, and by making audio tapes of each meeting of Council available.

If he becomes Deputy Mayor he wants to

- set strategic objectives early in the next term,
- implement an environmentally and fiscally responsible solution to the disposal of septage,
- put the parking policy in place in planned stages, making sure that there is ample permit parking for township residents and limited paid parking for day trippers,
- consider the resources of all township-owned buildings when deciding whether new administrative offices are necessary.

André has proven that he listens, understands, and evaluates fairly the many interests of the residents of Tiny. He stands for responsible stewardship of our township.

He can be reached at andrepclaire@gmail.com



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Kate Smith
General Manager/Owner



We believe you should elect
RICHARD HINTON
as Councillor

FoTTSA has known and respected Richard Hinton since he became a director, and then President, of the Cawaja Propertyowners Association in 2002. He began to serve on the Board of FoTTSA in 2010, and served as Vice-President from 2011 until he resigned in August when he decided to run for Council.

Since ownership of the beach and roads in Cawaja Beach is split: 2/3 by the beach association, 1/3 by the township, it took many years for the two parties to reach a workable Memorandum of Understanding on use of the beach. Achieving this result has required patience, tact and persistence on Richard's Part, all qualities that would serve a Councillor well. It also brought him into contact with key members of staff and Council.

While Richard has been a seasonal resident of Tiny since 1998, his wife Cathy Argyle has been coming to the township since 1959. (Argyle Road in Cawaja Beach is named after her father.)

This summer, Richard revived and re-opened the Cawaja Pines General Store at the corner of TBRN and Conc. 11, which had been closed since 2007. This has been a highly successful venture, employing two full-and four part-time staff, selling locally produced products, giving the community a focus, and attracting interest for several concessions in each direction.

This was by no means Richard's first venture into business or into community involvement. At 18, he became one of the youngest retailers of Texaco Canada, purchasing the gas station where he had worked from the age of 13. Subsequently he became a partner in six businesses, all connected to the retail gas and service industry. In 2002, he founded the Esso Dealer Owners Group to give a stronger voice to gas station owners. Under his guidance, this organization contributed to the community in a generous way. He became co-chair of Esso's Rebecca's Run from 2004 to 2007, which raised over \$150,000 for Spinal Muscular Atrophy. His business experience has taught him how to use spreadsheets and has familiarized him with staffing matters.

Richard's goals for Tiny over the next four years include:

- arriving at a decision about the treatment of septage,
- taking a sharp look at costs versus value in resolving blurry township ownership issues,
- considering policing in light of the coming dramatic increase in OPP costs,
- making township office hours more accessible to cottagers and working families.

Practical, good with people, skilled at calming disputes, knowledgeable about complex matters like septage and parking, Richard would be a great addition to Council. He would bring fresh eyes and experience to township governance. We urge you to vote for him.

He can be reached at richardhinton@rogers.com



We believe you should re-elect
NIGEL WARREN
as Councillor

As a Councillor for eight years, Nigel Warren has amassed a wealth of experience. More, he is known for his tenacity, returning to issues until they reach resolution or are taken as far as possible. With André Claire, he keeps a sharp eye on the Township's cheque register, questioning anything that strikes them as odd, or inefficient, or inappropriate in the week or so leading up to a meeting of Council. Encouragingly, there have been fewer such instances in his second term. He is very much his own man and is not influenced by others unless they win his support with a better factual argument. He is honest and blunt.

In his first term, he was part of a Council that consistently opposed Site 41. With the others he supported the University of Guelph's "Visual Impact Study," which provides a scientific approach to the siting of wind turbine developments and which found very few appropriate locations for them in Tiny.

For the last four years, he has chaired the Septage Committee and the Huronia Airport Commission, represented the Township on the County's Affordable Housing and Transportation Committees, and served on the Bluewater Dunes Restoration Committee until its work was deemed complete. He has continued to serve his community as vice president of the Sandcastle Community Association, as a member of the now much diminished Tiny Community Policing Committee, and an area coordinator and block captain for Neighbourhood Watch.

Until his retirement, Nigel worked as a purchasing and materials manager. As a senior manager with Burlington Technologies, he negotiated with Ford, General Motors, Chrysler and Toyota. He holds a Business Certificate from McMaster University.

When he and his wife became permanent residents of Tiny in 2003, they already knew the area well from many visits to relatives in the area. His wife is connected to the Maheu and Leroux families, descendants of settlers who came to Lafontaine over 150 years ago as loggers, later becoming farmers around Lafontaine and Perkinsfield.

As accomplishments of the current Council, he points to:

- the institution of zero-based budgeting, which began in 2010-11 with one department, a model that was then followed by the other departments,
- the replacement of the Ombudsman with the County's closed-meeting investigator like the majority of other County of Simcoe municipalities,
- the fact that Tiny is viewed as one of the best managed townships in the province (a status which, ironically, makes it more difficult for Tiny to get funding), and
- adding quarterly reporting to the budgeting and financial systems.

Issues he sees for the incoming Council-

- finding a way to manage septage,
- coming up with alternatives now that OPP rates are rising dramatically,
- keeping industrial wind turbines out of Tiny,
- reviewing the Township's choice of consultants,
- finishing the Official Plan Review, now that the Province has finally revised its Places to Grow document.

Community-minded, tenacious, experienced, Nigel Warren is an excellent choice as Councillor.

He can be reached at nigelgwarren@gmail.com



We believe you should elect
DICK WESSELO
as Councillor

After a career that gave him strong organizational, analytical, and problem solving skills, D.J. "Dick" Wesselo and his wife Sandy moved to Tiny in 2007 to enjoy semi-retirement.

Dick has involved himself in his new community as an active volunteer driver with Wheels 4 Wheels (the service provided by the Huronia Seniors Volunteer Care Team for those confined to wheelchairs). For several years he was a member of the Tiny Township Lions Club. He continues to serve on the Community Policing Committee, now a shadow of its former self since the Township and the OPP have ceased to support it. Since January, he has attended meetings of Council regularly, eager to understand the way the township he loves is governed.

Born in The Netherlands, Dick moved to Canada in 1970 (where he became a Canadian citizen in the late 70's) and, at the age of 18 with only a high school education, embarked on a career that taught him much and kept him in the greater Toronto area. He expanded his skills by means of night school courses and on-the-job training. His first jobs were with financial collection agencies, one of which had the Ford Motor Company as a client. In quite short order, Ford hired him, and with that company he moved from collecting and repossessions to auditing and credit analysis. When the oil crisis closed Ford's Oshawa office, he moved on to Citibank where he rose to become an assistant manager. He then became Manager: Data Control for Shared Health Network Services (the first point-of-sale network that linked health care providers with insurance companies). There he introduced much needed accounting controls and when this was automated, he began to look for inconsistencies and aberrations – fraud -- work that made him conscious of issues to do with privacy and confidentiality. Next he became an Assistant Vice President of BCE Emerges (the internet convergence arm of Bell Canada, again with a focus on fraud), before moving on to his last full-time job managing a medical research office from 2002 to 2007. In "retirement" he is a consultant to two businesses, commitments that absorb two to two and a half days a week.

Dick sees a number of expensive financial challenges confronting Tiny's next Council: the disposal of septage, the escalating cost of policing, and clarification of land ownership. His financial acumen and analytic skills would be valuable assets in making decisions about all of these. While sensitive to issues of privacy and confidentiality, he would like to see the township produce minutes that communicate clearly the decisions taken at meetings of Council. He thinks the township relies too heavily on the advice of consultants. He would like to see the next Council set itself some strategic objectives. And he thinks the Policing Committee plays a useful role and should be re-energized as a committee of Council.

Ethical, honest, forthright, reliable, and hard-working – these words recur in endorsements for Dick. We recommend that you vote for him as Councillor.

He can be reached at dwesselo@gmail.com

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To check if you (owners, spouses, tenants) are **On The Voters List**:

- Visit the Township's website, tiny.ca and click on Election 2014. Then page down to the last section Am I on the Voter's List; or
- Telephone the Clerk's Office at 705-526-4204; or
- Visit the Municipal Office in person.

The internet check asks for your first and last name, and the number and street of your **Tiny Township** property. It **does not respond** to your home or mailing address.

Check the Voter Lookup for each eligible voter in your household!

A **Vote By Mail Kit** will be mailed to all persons who are on the Voters List in the week of September 29th.

If you do not receive a Vote By Mail kit, or if the kit is incomplete or incorrect, contact the Municipal Office.

What Is In The Vote By Mail Kit And How Does It Work?

The municipal website tiny.ca has an excellent tutorial with clear instructions on how to complete your Vote by Mail kit.

These instructions are reproduced below for your convenience:

Your Vote By Mail kit will contain 4 pieces inside:

1. The voting instructions and declaration form
2. A ballot
3. A white ballot secrecy envelope and
4. A yellow return envelope

The voting instructions and declaration form are on the front of the sheet and other important information is on the back.

First sign the voter declaration form attesting that you are an eligible voter.

Next remove the declaration form by tearing along the perforation; place it in the yellow return envelope. Do not seal the yellow return envelope yet.

Now complete the ballot by voting for the candidates of your choice.

Using a pen mark the voting box to the right of the

candidate's name with an X.

Now place the completed ballot in the white ballot secrecy envelope and seal.

Insert the white ballot secrecy envelope into the yellow return envelope; the signed declaration form should already be inside the yellow return envelope.

Ensure the municipal address is visible through the window of the yellow return envelope.

Seal the postage paid yellow return envelope and mail (by October 18).

Or hand deliver the yellow return envelope to the local municipal office.

What can go wrong?

Far too many ballots are rejected each election. Reasons your vote could be negated are:

- If, for any reason, your returned kit is not received, or is received after 8:00 pm on October 27th, **your vote will not be counted.**
- If the Voter Declaration form and the ballot are placed in the inner white secrecy envelope together, thus identifying the elector, the ballot will be **rejected.**
- If you have not signed the Voter Declaration form, your vote will be **rejected.**
- The usual reasons for rejecting a ballot as "spoiled" apply, such as making an identifying mark on the ballot or voting for more candidates than allowed.

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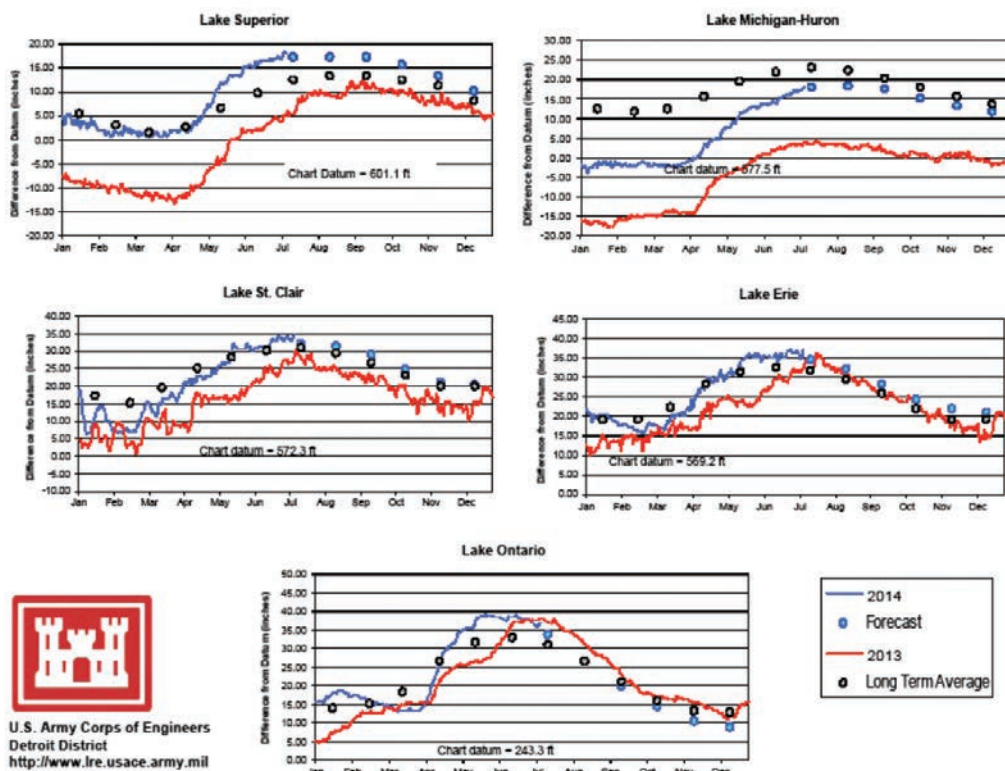
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Water Levels Are Up But...

By MARY MUTER, CHAIR, GREAT LAKES SECTION, SIERRA CLUB CANADA FOUNDATION, VICE-CHAIR, ROWI



Most people have welcomed the increase in our water levels this year, but they must realize that the extreme weather we have had over the past year or so is just a blip. It is exactly what the climatologists have said climate change would bring – short periods of cold wet weather followed by longer periods of warm drought conditions. Since Lake Superior is above its long-term average level, the International Joint Commission has ordered that the Lake Superior control be opened more to allow additional water to flow into Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay.

The IJC seems to be drawing down Lake Superior in a vain attempt to raise our long-term levels. But Lake Superior interests are catching on and beginning to demand that the governments stop the leak in the St. Clair River instead of just drawing down their lake.

While we are grateful for the resulting rise in water levels this year, let us not forget that there is still a leak in the St. Clair River that is drawing down our water levels. If it were not doing that, our water levels right now would be up around the 1986's highs. The levels are nowhere near that and with another El Nino now set up in the Pacific Ocean we can expect the warmer dry weather to bring the levels back down again.

Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay are likely to suffer the most under climate change since they have by far the largest surface area and therefore will suffer the highest evaporation rate with the predicted loss of ice cover. The solution is to have some ability to control the outflow of these vast middle lakes at the St. Clair River. We don't need locks and dams such as Lakes Ontario

and Superior have, but some type of flexible submerged sills with flap gates that would restore our water levels.

Restore Our Water International (ROWI) has had some success in Washington to get the Obama administration's 2014 budget approval of some funding for the US Army Corps to begin to figure out how to determine the most environmentally and cost effective restoration structures for the St. Clair River. But first they will have to cover over the eroding parts of the riverbed that are now over 60 feet deep in sections. We are now working to get the funding to the Corps to complete their Re-evaluation Report.

There is actually a Canada/US agreement that required compensation measures to go into the St. Clair River as a condition of the last 1962 St. Clair River dredging for navigation. But it has been outstanding ever since then. We now need our federal government to support the International Joint Commission's April 2013 advice to restore Michigan Huron Georgian Bay water levels via flexible compensation measures in the St. Clair River. The Georgian Bay members of parliament have all expressed support including key Cabinet Ministers. We are hopeful now that our Prime Minister will soon officially support the IJC's advice.

We need FoTTSA's continued support! ROWI Chair Roger Gauthier and I have plans for both Washington and Ottawa educational visits to get funding support for St. Clair River design compensation structures.

If you would like to help our efforts please go to www.restoreourwater.com and send a message to our Prime Minister and donate. Yes We Can!

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Georgian Bay General Hospital Update

By Karen McGrath

When Karen McGrath, President and CEO of Georgian Bay General Hospital spoke at our AGM last spring, the audience was spellbound. In a clear and concise presentation she outlined the financial challenges ahead but never wavered from her strong belief that this wonderful hospital which serves our community so well will one day overcome these challenges and continue to provide excellent care to all. Karen's wisdom, commitment and passion was more than evident to all attendees. We asked her to summarize her remarks for this fall issue.

Georgian Bay General Hospital is a great hospital facing significant fiscal challenges over the next few years. Not only are we facing a \$1.7M deficit in 2014/2015 but we also have long term debt of approximately ten million dollars.

The \$10M dollar long term debt is comprised of non-accrued pay equity payments, costs in excess of funding associated with the operation of an interim long term care unit and a failed energy efficiency program.

Georgian Bay General Hospital has a \$55M dollar annual budget. While our relationship with our banker is good this amount of debt is obviously a concern.

Over the past few years Georgian Bay General Hospital has undertaken two reviews to identify areas where savings could be achieved. All the recommendations of these reviews have been implemented.

In order to deal with this current challenge the Board has been considering options since the Fall of 2013. All options considered either alone or coupled with other options had to be substantial enough to save approximately \$1.7M. Given that there was no longer any 'low hanging

fruit" available, closures of programs and services were considered.

After a lengthy process of weighing the options the Board in May of 2014 decided on a two-year strategy. In year one (2014/2015) we would move thirty-six of our forty-seven rehabilitation and complex continuing care beds from our Penetanguishene site to our Midland site. These beds would be located on 1 North, our former long term care unit. In year two (2015/2016), we would move both our dialysis program and our finance department from our Penetanguishene site to a yet to be determined location at our Midland site. In 2016/2017 our Penetanguishene site would be put on the market for sale.

The Board has had a strategy for a number of years to eventually single-site Georgian Bay General Hospital. This option will fast forward this process.

The current funding model for hospitals in Ontario is complex. There is some evidence that it is disproportionately negatively affecting medium-sized community hospitals like Georgian Bay General Hospital. We certainly feel these challenges.

In order to save Georgian Bay General Hospital so that it can continue to provide services to the citizens of our area we needed to take what many would describe as drastic measures. The closure of our Penetanguishene site in 2016 is one of these. Penetanguishene General Hospital brought a rich legacy to the new Georgian Bay General Hospital in 2008. We are committed to working with our citizens and our staff to ensure this legacy is honoured at our Midland site.

It will be a challenging few years. We will "turn this ship around". We will survive and eventually thrive.

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MORE THAN YOU'D EXPECT

FOXES...continued from the front page



distress. Everyone watched as the kit ambled close to the bathers and approached a beach mat where food was visible. The sympathetic occupant got up from the mat and left food for the fox. The kit hungrily consumed the food and returned to the dunes. A few days later a dead fox was found in the dunes and was removed by the municipality.

As August rolled into September we noticed that the den seemed abandoned, the show had ended although the foxes were seen individually in the neighbourhood. Now the boardwalk was denuded of the camera-clad inhabitants and the focus shifted to watching the sunsets. Will the foxes survive the autumn and winter? In spring will the fox couple again take up residence in the dunes and raise another litter? Will the Bluewater Dunes ever experience another "Foxtrot" show? No one knows, but we all consider ourselves blessed to have witnessed life in nature similar in many ways to our own, yet we are cognizant of the ephemeral nature of all life.

Woodland Beach History Day

BY TRACEY PRICE

They say memories stir the heart and that describes perfectly Saturday August 2nd at the old Ship a Hoy Dance Hall. The Woodland Beach History Committee was thrilled with the response and the feedback when approximately 400 people enjoyed learning about the beach history, visited and reacquainted with friends from days gone by. Thanks to everyone for making this an amazing day and for taking the time to share memories, bring photos and memorabilia. Special thanks to the Aldridge, Tripp and Trace families for their contributions. Plans to write a book documenting our history and sharing your memories are in progress. We hope you will contact us if you have history or photos to share at

woodlandbeachhistory@gmail.com.

Till next time.....




Carolyn Olds Mikels (Aldridge) with Committee Member Marg Robertson



Barbara, Luella and Anne Marie of the Tripp Family



Doreen Doan and Mary Whitfield sharing memories



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Phragmites: The Battle Continues

By Linda Andrews

Phragmites australis, or Common Reed, is an invasive species that is spreading rapidly in Ontario and causing increasingly severe damage, outcompeting native species, destroying bird habitat, and (for shoreline users) impeding access and enjoyment of the beaches.

In late July the *Parry Sound North Star* published a picture of *phragmites australis* (or Common Reed) along Highway 400 in Seguin Township under the title “Invasive Plant Heads North to Parry Sound”. In late August the *Toronto Star* published an article titled “Invasive phragmites hurting bird population on Leslie St. Spit”.

Although Common Reed has begun finally to be noticed and recognized as a major threat to our ecosystems, it did not just arise overnight. For example, the *Tiny Cottager* sounded the alarm as early as Spring 2008.

Subsequent issues reported on phragmites workshops attended by representatives from MNR, MOE, Ontario Parks, Public Works (Spring 2009); on the effect of herbicide application on the near groundwater and lake water (Spring 2010); and on site tours of invasive species organized by the Wye Marsh (Fall 2010).

And then some refreshing good news – in the fall 2013 issue Lynn Short reported on successful action against *phragmites* by Wymbolwood Beach residents. And we have learned that in 2014 Wymbolwood has made even more progress. “This summer was our most successful summer to date. We worked a total of 28 days and cleared 23 properties. [We found] beautiful shrub willows hidden in the *phragmites* that we were able to expose. More people are becoming aware of this species and are recognizing the importance of controlling it on our beach.”

Other beaches in Tiny have also reported various degrees of success in controlling *phragmites* in their areas.

“This summer the Woodland Beach community declared war on *phragmites*. Flyers were hand-delivered to shoreline owners to raise awareness, educate and advise residents of our plan of action. During three organized “digs” along the shoreline, an enthusiastic army of volunteers filled over 150 yard bags for disposal. We used Lynn Short’s method of removal, cutting the stems below the surface of the sand and thereby robbing the plant of its ability to photosynthesize. Exposed roots and runners



were also dug and bagged. This method of control is certainly labour intensive and not a permanent solution. However we know that repeated cutting will eventually weaken the plant, thus lessening the work load each year. Our “Phrag Busters” are already planning next summer’s attack!” (Linda Lockyer)

Nottawaga Beach has controlled their patch over the years by i) digging out plants in new locations as soon as they are discovered, ii) in late June or early July, injecting large plants and exposed roots with vinegar and iii) in late July or early August, cutting all plants at the base, removing and disposing of the cut plants. The first 2 methods kill the plants and the third appears to weaken the plants considerably. The important factor here is that these residents started their battle before the stands became too large.

Cawaja Beach has some larger established patches and have hired a local farmer to cut their stands twice each summer which is gradually weakening the plants and preventing further spreading.



Rowntree Beach attacked their stand vigorously several years ago. Access to the shore was cut off by stands well over six feet high. First efforts in 2007 to cut the plant with a heavy duty ‘weed whip’ and burn the stocks was ineffectual. So they hired a local farmer to harrow their stand with a gang cultivator which reached at least a foot under the soil. They then gathered and removed all the debris. This process started in 2008 and was repeated several times over the next few years. Now they can easily control new plants each year by spot digging and happily the dunes have re-established with natural growth returning to the area.



Shan Atkins, an Addison Beach resident, reports “a backhoe and (multiple) people to pull the fragments from the sand can go a long way towards getting rid of them. Just cutting off the seed heads (which we tried for a season or two before the big dig) appeared to do little or nothing to slow the spread. The key is the underground root ‘web’, which has to go. And it’s deep for mature plants - up to four feet down in our case.”

The battle continues. Unfortunately there are several established stands that are not receiving any attention and so the threat of spread is still there. Ideally one should attempt to remove the phragmites without disturbing the native plants and some of the examples above illustrate that this is possible. Hiring big machines can be costly, the process can last for several years and one must consider the negative environmental consequences of disturbing the native growth and the dunes. Usually a multi-year site-specific approach is required – plus a very dedicated group of committed volunteer residents. More information can be found on our website tinycottager.org under *Invasive Species* and the articles cited above can be found under *Issue Archives*.

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The program began in 2014 and will be offered again next year. If you are an individual who is interested in learning more about how to care for your beach please go online to register for next year’s program.

In spring 2015, the Coastal Centre will also be offering beach tours or presentations for Beach Associations interested in learning more about their unique beach areas, and to learn how to participate in the Green Ribbon Champion program.



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REPORT ON COUNCIL...continued from page 4
Hop; and, once complete, report back to Council.

Amendment to Tiny Trail By-law re ATVs

On June 30 the Committee considered a report from Steven Harvey, Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, regarding an amendment to Tiny Trail By-law 03-053 to prohibit the use of ATVs on the Tiny Trail. In 2013 there were 8 motorized vehicular charges for dirt bike bylaw infractions and 1 so far this year. Council voted to amend Tiny Trail By-law 03-053 and prohibit the use of ATVs on the Tiny Trail.

Municipal Administration Building Needs Assessment

Mr. Ted Handy, Ted Handy and Associates Inc., presented the Municipal Administration Building Needs Assessment Report on June 14. The purpose of the report was to

- review the existing facility and its ability to meet the current and future needs of the Municipality for meeting and administrative staff space;
- provide a building condition assessment;
- consider functionality as well as building program options and sustainable design opportunities.

The report addressed the amount of space needed in the next 15—20 years; whether it would be more economical to retrofit/expand the existing facility or construct new; whether the existing facility can be made fully accessible; what it would cost to accommodate all admin staff if they were relocated to the main admin building; what would be an appropriate size for a Council Chamber; whether it is too expensive to renovate the existing facility, where a new building should be located; whether LEED elements could be incorporated, and at

what cost; what a renovated or new facility would look like.

Deficiencies in the current building arrangements were identified including crowding, security, ventilation, inadequate washroom facilities, office privacy, accessibility, off-site offices, to name a few.

There are three options to address needs:

Option 1 involves adding three single-story “wings” to the existing two story building and reconfiguration of the interior spaces, phased to allow the existing operation of the facility to be maintained. The total approximate cost: would be \$4,882,525.00 Option 2 involves constructing a new single story building adjacent to the existing Administration Centre. Operation of the Administration Centre would be uninterrupted during construction. The total approximate cost would be \$5,489,000.00.

Option 3 would involve building offsite. The cost is similar to Option 2. This would allow for the uninterrupted operation of the Administration Centre. Potential locations include: the old school site at Perkinsfield, the works yard on the 9th concession or the 100 acre site beside the works yard.

Further study would be required for potential uses of the existing building if Option 2 or 3 were chosen. All options present design opportunities in LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design). This is a certification process that helps the building industry integrate and evaluate best methods for sustainable design and construction.

Council voted to direct staff to prepare a report on a possible funding strategy in relation to the construction and/or renovation of office facilities.

(We wonder why this report did not also assess the possibility of making use of other Township buildings – the Fire Hall in Wyebridge, the Community Centre, and so on. -Eds.)

Champlain Commemoration

Councillor Andre Claire, Township of Tiny representative on the Heritage Advisory Committee and Vice-Chair of the Champlain Commemorations Steering Committee, is preparing for next year’s Champlain Commemorations. Council voted (4/1) to approve a contribution of \$4,000. from the 2015 Champlain Commemoration reserve fund for the ancient lacrosse tournament demonstration and lecture.

As a member of the Steering Committee, Councillor Claire was party to a \$6,000,000 grant application for funding that involved the federal government (\$2,500,000), the Provincial government (\$2,500,000) and the County of Simcoe (\$1,000,000). So far there has been a positive response from the Provincial government. \$500,000 of this funding would be devoted to the creation of Champlain historic lookouts on Concessions 8 and 15, as well as a redesign of the Wyevale Community Park. In addition to the grant money sought, the application goes on to state "it is expected that the Township will make a significant contribution to the capital costs." To date, this proposal has not been before Tiny Council.

Beausoleil First Nation declined participation in the Champlain celebrations and ancient lacrosse tournament as they feel that Champlain is a reminder of how First Nation culture has been lost. They asked the organizers to respect their wish to not participate.



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WATER...continued from page 5

heavy rain and then for several days thereafter near the mouth of the stream and at several points in the lake that might be impacted so that we'd know how long the high E. coli counts impact swimming water.

In the long term, we need to address the health of particular streams, so that they don't carry heavy loads of E. coli (and associated pathogens) after torrential rains. Keeping cattle back from streams helps. Forcing streams to drop their particulate matter by routing them through a wetland is another. Fringing streams with native plants, shrubs, and trees is a third method of remediation.

Fortunately, there is money available for environmental projects designed to improve the health of streams. A new manual titled *South-Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Guide* explains how to apply for some of this grant money. We'll be running an article about this program and work that is being done on one of our streams in the spring *Cottager*. As soon as it is possible to download the *Guide* from the web, we'll supply the address on www.tinycottager.org.



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