



THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 32

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2008

The President's Message

By JUDITH GRANT

Like everyone else, I am hoping that Georgian Bay water levels will continue to move back upward in the coming years to historical norms.

In July and August, there was visibly more water in the Bay than last year, the result of last winter's above-average snowfall and this summer's plentiful rain. So that was positive.

However, on August 11, scientists working for the International Joint Commission presented some disappointing preliminary findings at a public meeting in Midland (one of a series of five such meetings at centres around Georgian Bay).

I had hoped to hear that their work had substantiated the findings of the Baird Report about dramatic erosion of the bed of the St. Clair River resulting in greatly increased outflows from Lake Huron. Such findings, if confirmed, should result, eventually, in the installation of exit control mechanisms, and a consequent recovery of water levels in Georgian Bay.

But, at the meeting we learned that to date they have found only a 12-centimeter drop in the St. Clair River bed downstream from Lake Huron, not the 6-metre drop right at the exit from Lake Huron discovered by Baird & Associates. The scientists argued that the most important factor producing low water levels was higher than normal evaporation from Lakes Superior & Huron-Michigan.

The Georgian Bay Association (which commissioned the Baird Report) is not happy with the scientists' work. In a letter to John Baird, Minister of the Environment, the GBA questioned their failure to install an important flow meter in the St. Clair River, failure to use the required 3-D modeling of the St. Clair River, misrepresentation of the amount of evaporation from Lake Superior and Lakes Huron-Michigan, and misrepresentation of the extent of erosion in the river bed as water exits from Lake Huron into the St. Clair River.

All this is highly discouraging.

I'll end with a recent bit of positive news, and that is the US Congress's approval on September 23 of a bill prohibiting diversions of water outside the Great Lakes' basin and requiring the eight states bordering the lakes to follow new conservation standards. This virtually completes the approvals needed for the agreement reached in 2005 among two provinces and eight states about management of the Great Lakes. All that remains is for President Bush to sign the bill.



The back-dunes before work began.

The Restoration of the Bluewater Dunes

By ANTHONY ROVITO

The on-going restoration of the dunes in Bluewater Park at the southern end of Trew Avenue is the result of action by concerned cottagers and is now supported by the Township of Tiny.

Long-time residents in the area have always maintained that the Bluewater dunes are a special, fragile and dynamic system. As recently as the mid 1980s, these dunes featured a full set of naturally vegetated fore-dunes next to the beach, a full set of back-dunes with well-rooted trees and shrubs, and a small marsh (particularly during years of high water levels) which attracted many types of birds including the occasional blue heron. Bathers swam in the clear bay water, played on the sandy beach and sunbathed on the backs of the fore-dunes away from the cold wind blowing off the bay.

In the late 1990s, however, when some residents expressed concern that the miniature marsh was a source of mosquitoes, the Township bulldozed most of the fore-dunes into the wetland, eliminating it. This action exposed the dune sand to the lake winds, which caused significant "blowouts" in the back-dunes, exposing root systems and destroying vegetation. An increase in pedestrian and motorized vehicle traffic (dirt bikes, ATVs and Skidoos) added to the overall deterioration of the dunes.

While the erosion continued, local residents participated in the "kitchen table" workshops that contribut-

ed to the Township's "Environment First" Official Plan. The Bluewater Dunes were rarely mentioned, however. Only when the final draft of the Official Plan became public, did residents realize that the Bluewater Dunes area had been designated as a "Major Park", one of five on the western shore -- Woodland Beach, Bluewater Beach, Jackson Park, Balm Beach and Lafontaine Beach.

Rumors abounded about future uses for this park. Were there to be paved parking areas? Permanent bathroom facilities? Why was sand being removed? There were fears that more intense use would speed the deterioration of these fragile fresh water dunes.

It was at this point that the local community mobilized to educate the general public and the Township about the aesthetic and environmental value of the dunes. The Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake Beaches Association hired Geoff Peach of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation to examine the site and produce a report with specific recommendations that could then be presented to the Township.

After several presentations, Council agreed midway through 2005 to hire its own consultants (AMEC Earth & Environmental) to prepare a Master Plan for Bluewater Park. The consultants held two public meetings to gather information and input from the public

see RESTORATION. . .page 13

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Serving Tiny Township's Beach Associations



L to R: Al Taylor (Pres. Kingswood Acres Assoc.); Dave & Bridget Sparrow (Wymbolwood Beach); Ian Ferguson (Pres. Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake Beaches Assoc.); Jim Layter (Thunder Beach); Judith Grant (Pres. FoTTSA); Jackie McLaughlin (Huronias Hospitals Foundation rep.); Michael Hasley (Nottawaga Beach); Katherine Finley (Georgian Drive) and Angela Bailey (Addison Beach). The sum on the cheque combines Hospital and Physician Recruitment Fundraising.

Fundraising for Good Causes

This summer, residents at a dozen beaches raised \$28,641 for three good causes. The lion's share went to the Emergency Department of the Huronia District Hospital to purchase a Defibrillator/Monitor, which is used during the transport of critically ill patients. \$2,750 was directed to the Huronia Communities Foundation's Physician Recruitment Fund and \$2,650 was raised for the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

The associations' fundraising methods were diverse. There were fun days, 50/50 draws, a beach walk, a garage sale, a golf tournament, a luncheon, and the generous writing of cheques. The ten households on Georgian Drive poured their energy into a highly effective garage sale. A member of the Wahnekewening Beach Association was so impressed with the service she had received in Emergency after an accident in a local store that she wanted to share the settlement she received from the store. The 40 households of Nottawaga Beach — who between them raised the largest amount by any association — gathered for cocktails and dinner and an amusing Casino Night.

The 165 households of the Wymbolwood Beach Association — winner of the large association category — held a 9-hole golf tournament followed by a black tie and bathing suit luncheon hosted by Kevin and Lenore Murdoch and cooked by Pat McDermott using ingredients supplied at cost by the Midland IGA. Local businesses donated prizes — including a tantalizing Seadoo for a Hole in One offered by Factory Direct. Canadian Tire donated

an inflatable raft, Zehrs a big bag of environmental products, Robert Simpson of Barrie provided a second free barrel of beer, and a dairy supplied ice cream products for dessert. There were spa days, meals at local restaurants, two cords of wood, and assemblies of small prizes organized around themes. A big draw was a week at an eight-bedroom, 11-bathroom condo in Panama, contributed by a member of the Association. As a result the Association raised twice as much for the Emergency Department as it had in 2007.

Although Bluewater Park is not one of the charities supported by FoTTSA's Challenge Cup Competition, mention should be made of the three Associations who raised money for restoration of the dunes there — Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake, Bluewater Dunes, and Deanlea. In this, the second year of such fundraising, BGW hit upon an entirely suitable method — a Beach Walk ending at the Park (where restoration is well underway). The cumulative sum raised is now well over \$2,000, and the Beach Walk promises to become an annual event.

FoTTSA's role in all this is to cheer the participants on, and, on Thanksgiving weekend, to present the Tiny Cottager Challenge Cup to the three associations that achieved the best results — Nottawaga for the largest dollar amount, Wymbolwood for the highest average household donation by a "large Association", and Addison for the highest average household donation by a "small Association".



L to R: Jim Parrott (Pres. Nottawaga Beach Assoc.); Laurie Schutt (Exec. Dir., Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre); Judith Grant (Pres. FoTTSA); and Ian Ferguson (Pres. Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake Beaches Assoc.)

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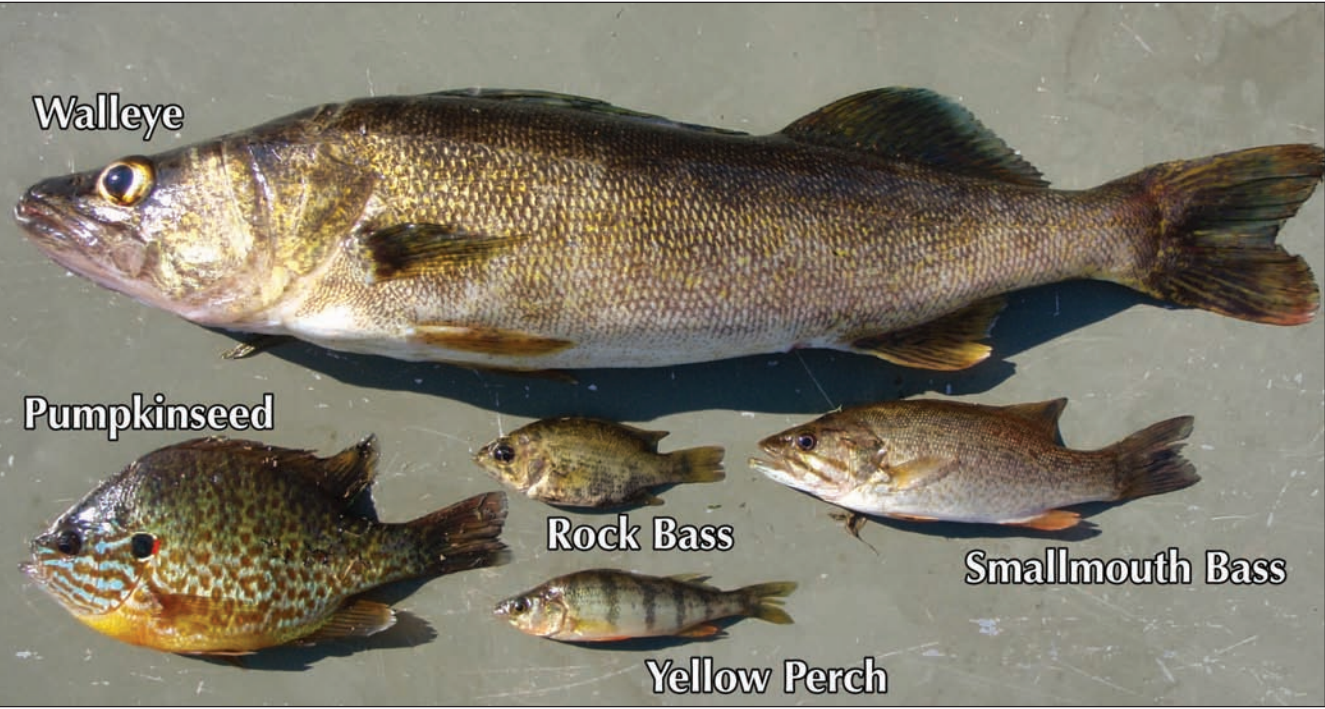
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Farlain Lake Fisheries. . .A Snapshot in Time

By PETER ANDREWS

Nestled into the highlands of the Penetanguishene Peninsula is a small, warm water lake. Farlain Lake is recognized in the Official Plan for Tiny Township as a ‘significant environmental feature that should be protected to ensure that water quality and ecological functions are not compromised.’

Like many other lakes in Ontario, Farlain Lake is undergoing change: change in water quality, in ecological integrity, and in use.

To better understand how the changes that are underway in Farlain Lake may be affecting the fisheries, a ‘snapshot’ in time was undertaken between June 16-19, 2008 by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This ‘snapshot’ consisted of water quality sampling, netting of the fish community and fish habitat assessments. Angling pressure on the fisheries resource will be measured in the future through aerial creel methods. MNR refers to this multi-faceted monitoring initiative as ‘broad-scale monitoring.’ MNR also did a Double Crested Cormorant survey as well as a survey of any potential invasive species in Farlain Lake.

MNR’s broad-scale monitoring program (BSM) is part of their Ecological Framework for Fisheries Management. This new program will enable fisheries staff to compare lakes across Ontario and even Canada more effectively.

Farlain Lake is one of twelve inland lakes in Fisheries Management Zone 16 being monitored by a fisheries survey crew based out of the Midhurst MNR office. Zone 16 extends from Windsor to Lake Simcoe and north to the Bruce Peninsula and to the Penetanguishene Peninsula/Severn Sound area.

The purpose of the BSM is to verify the abundance and health of sport fish in lakes 20 hectares or larger in size. The Ministry’s goal is to survey all inland lakes across Ontario over the next five years and revisit these same lakes over a five-year cycle. The lakes are divided into two groups: fixed lakes and variable lakes. Fixed lakes are lakes that contain walleye, lake trout or brook trout, and they will be monitored on a five-year cycle to measure how the fisheries resource changes over time and the success or failure of regulatory and fisheries management efforts.

Farlain Lake was identified as a ‘fixed’ lake because walleye were stocked in the lake during 1951-1956, and a fisheries survey undertaken in 1984 identified their continued presence. In addition to walleye, the 1984 fisheries survey identified the presence of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, yellow perch, black crappie and other species. Anecdotal recollections by long-time residents in the lake community indicated that both smallmouth bass and largemouth bass were the predominant sport fish in the lake and could be seen nesting at the end of docks in early June.

Variable lakes are selected randomly at the beginning of each five-year cycle. The sampling of these lakes is designed to yield a broad overall picture (i.e. relative health of fish and the lake, identification of any invasive species, etc.) of provincial lakes. This ‘snapshot’ will provide insight into the overall state of fisheries in Ontario.

All aspects of the fisheries survey on Farlain Lake were coordinated by Gregory Cull, fish and wildlife technical specialist, and Stacey McKee, fisheries crew leader.

Each evening, during the four-day survey, the fisheries survey team consisting of Stacey McKee and Evan

Gallimore positioned 150’ gill nets in different locations on the lake. The following morning fish captured in the gill net were removed and analyzed. The fish were biologically sampled by species for total length, weight, fin clips, stomach content, sex and gonad maturity. Contaminant and DNA samples are taken and analyzed by the Ministry of Environment; data collected across Ontario is published in the ‘Guide to Eating Sport Fish’ guidelines for Ontario.

Overnight gillnetting is the most economical scientifically accepted method to sample fish in a lake. Only through this method of capture can accurate information on sex, age, maturity, and stomach contents of the fish be obtained, along with the length and weight measurements. The impact of netting fish of all sizes from very small to very large is minimal on fish populations and individuals. MNR estimates the mortality rate to be less than 2% of any species in the lake.

Stacey McKee provided a preliminary result from the fisheries survey for use in the Association’s annual general meeting. Results show that yellow perch is the predominant species (55%) while walleye and largemouth bass have a minor presence (1% each) in the lake. Other species (e.g. smallmouth bass, rock bass, pumpkinseed, etc.) are present and vary in representation of the overall fishery. As walleye were present in the 2008 BSM survey, Farlain Lake will continue to be identified by MNR as a ‘fixed lake.’ Good news emanating from the BSM survey was the absence of black crappie in the sampling. Black crappie is a non-native species that could introduce other invasive species and parasites into Farlain Lake. Stacey stated that anglers need to be aware of the potential for introducing non-native species (e.g., black crappie) into a lake when dumping bait buckets or when moving from lake to lake.

When asked why there was a noticeable decline in the largemouth bass population and why walleye do not have a greater presence in the lake, Stacey offered the following explanation. “There is a limited amount of macrophytes (aquatic plants) in Farlain Lake. Habitat may be a limiting factor for the fish, since the bottom of the lake is 90% sand.” She also explained that “walleye is a specialist species that requires specific habitat, environmental conditions, spawning habitat and food to survive.” Stacey also noted that walleye are very sensitive to light. Lakes containing an invasive species (i.e. zebra mussels) have an increased clarity in the water thereby permitting light to penetrate deeper into the water. Farlain Lake does not have these clarity characteristics.

Bathymetric mapping (defining lake depth contours) of Farlain Lake was also undertaken by Greg Cull and GIS specialist Paul Jurjans to aid in the assessment of the lake’s fisheries; water depth data is important when evaluating fish habitat.

Information on Farlain Lake, along with data collected on other Ontario inland lakes, will guide MNR fisheries managers and lake fisheries management zone advisory councils in the development of fisheries management plans and regulations in the future.

Analysis of the Farlain Lake BSM survey will help define existing conditions and problems, and input from MNR fisheries specialists will help provide direction for short-term and long-term management of the fisheries resource.

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Boaters and anglers can help prevent the spread of invasive species (i.e. gobies, ruffe, rudd, black crappie, zebra mussel, etc.) and viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS).

- **INSPECT** and **REMOVE** all aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat, trailer, and equipment (e.g. anchor, etc.) before leaving any water body.
- **RINSE BOAT** with high pressure water or **DRY** the boat for at least five days.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and fishing equipment, including bait buckets and coolers, **before** leaving the lake or shoreline.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release live bait into the water, or release aquatic animals from one water body into another.
- **ICE YOUR CATCH.** Don't leave any water body with any live fish, bait or fish eggs.



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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 10,000 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

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Peggy Breckenridge
Deputy Mayor George Lawrence
Councillor André Claire
Councillor George Cornell
Councillor Nigel Warren

TIME AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Council meets on the second and last Mondays of each month in the Council Chambers at the Township Offices, 130 Balm Beach Road West. Committee of the Whole meetings generally begin at 9 a.m. and continue for the morning and much of the afternoon. This is the time to observe the members of Council at work as they discuss issues and reports. At the Regular Evening Meetings of Council, which begin at 7 p.m., the members of Council vote on the issues discussed during the day.

SETTING AND MONITORING PRIORITIES:

All Councils and Clerks wrestle with the problem of keeping on top of their priority projects. The previous Council had initiated a monthly progress report, listing each project, with columns for the date assigned, expected date of completion, progress month to month, and actual completion date.

This was very useful. It stimulated discussion about delays, caused reassessments of priorities, and the like. Currently, however, Council gets this report only at three-month intervals. This seems to be allowing things to slide. We note, for example, that there has been no follow up to the Severn Sound Environmental Association's report about its investigations into the sources of pollution at the Township's beaches, though that report was submitted in March.

COMMON REED ("PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS"):

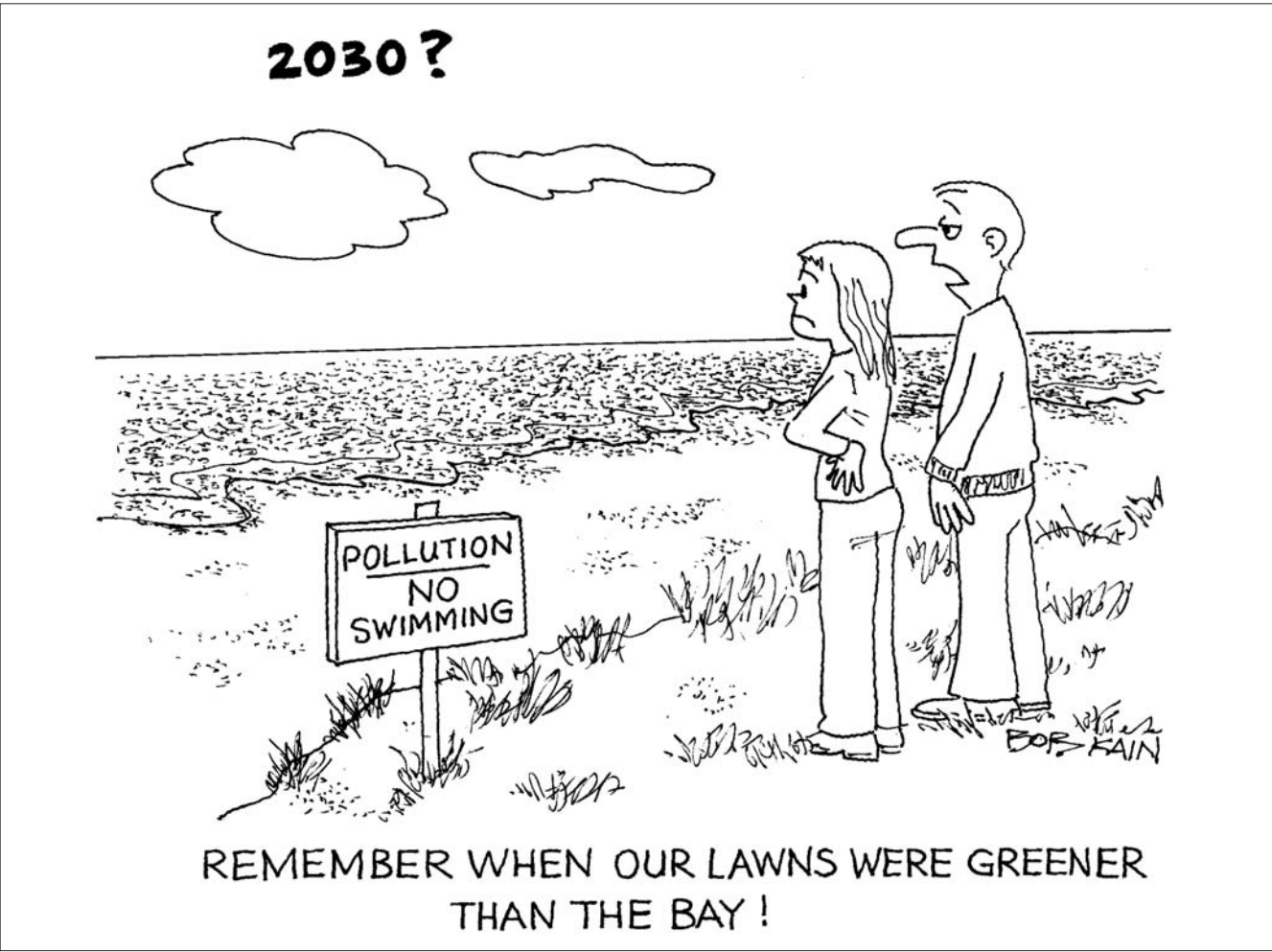
At the end of March, FoTTSA asked the Township to act quickly to halt the spread of Common Reed along the shore. Council hired a consultant, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), to survey the extent of the problem on Township-owned parcels of shore land and to make recommendations. A draft report is expected on September 30, and a final report on October 7.

The Township's Public Works Department encouraged shore landowners to report patches of Common Reed on their land but to await the advice in the report from SSEA before doing anything about them.

At this point the Public Works Department says that the Township will NOT be managing patches of Common Reed on privately owned land. However, the SSEA Report should supply advice about when to spray, whom to call, and what to do if spraying is not advisable. (The SSEA information will appear on the Tiny Cottager website as soon as the Report has been made public.)

We asked Janice Gilbert, the Wetland Ecologist who is investigating ways of controlling Common Reed for the Ministry of Natural Resources, for advice. She said that the time to spray is after the Phragmites flowers have become seeds and before the first heavy frost. Spraying must be done on a calm day by an applicator licensed by the MoE using 5% commercial grade Roundup, called Roundup Ultra2. If a weaker grade is used, there is concern that the plants may become resistant. A nozzle size that produces a fine mist, not heavy droplets, should be used. And a surfactant should be mixed with the Roundup to help it stay on the plant. To get to the middle of dense patches, an applicator may need to spray from a ladder. (Dr. Gilbert noted that spraying too early only stunts the plants and spraying after the first heavy frost has little effect.)

The applicator that Dr. Gilbert uses has had long experience with Phragmites. He is less sanguine than she is about the possibility of control with a single spraying, no matter how well timed and executed. In his view, nothing less than a comprehensive program is



effective. If patches remain unsprayed, they are sources of reinfection. So there is little point in the Township dealing with the Common Reed on its property if private landowners fail to act. And vice versa.

What is needed is a comprehensive, Township-wide program, in conjunction with similar programs in Penetanguishene and Wasaga. We understand that Wasaga is about to act. Let us hope that Council moves decisively before we lose our beaches – both public and private -- to this noxious invasive plant.

Beach Associations take note: if Council doesn't act, there is only a short window of opportunity to take action this fall. If that is missed, you'll need to wait until next year. It is strongly advised that spraying be done only by an experienced, licensed, professional. The licensed applicator used by the Township is Glen Cleaveley of Huronia Weed Control.

HUNTING IN URBAN AREAS OF THE TOWNSHIP:

In May, representatives of the OPP and the Ministry of Natural Resources answered Council's questions regarding hunters pursuing coyotes onto private land in Tiny Township. Inspector Philbin emphasized that the offenders were a small group, known to the police, and that by the next hunting season the OPP and the MNR expect to have a plan in place. Both authorities assured Council that sufficient regulations were already in place and that a Township By-law forbidding hunting in urban areas was unnecessary.

COUNTY CANCELS BULKY ITEM PICKUP:

In June, Council learned that the County of Simcoe had decided to cancel the annual collection of bulky items. Mayor Breckenridge and Deputy Mayor Lawrence both argued vigorously against this move, but failed to gain sufficient support at County Council. There are to be vouchers for use at the North Simcoe Transfer Station on Golf Link Road, but residents who own neither a large vehicle nor a trailer will now be put to the expense of transporting the items.

Recently another municipality has asked the County to reinstate the heavy pickup. Tiny's Council gave Deputy Mayor Lawrence the go-ahead to support this request at the Corporate Services Committee, though they felt the chances of success were low.

SIMCOE COUNTY ASSUMES OWNERSHIP OF ROADS THAT SERVE SITE 41:

In July, the County of Simcoe agreed to take over responsibility for the "main

see REPORT. . page 14

Letters

Re: Site 41

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario has stated unequivocally that the public has ample reason to be sceptical of the process and the decisions that have been made with respect to Site 41 and yet here we are again, on the brink of another decision.

The MOE is currently considering Simcoe County's application to remove over 225 million litres of water from the aquifer under Site 41. Until recently, the County believed, and the MOE accepted, that the source of the water under Site 41 was the "upland recharge area". They were so certain of this that the County's consultant suggested placing the entire area under protective zoning. This assumption went unchallenged for many years until a gravel pit operator made application for a Permit To Take Water (PTTW) in the upland area. The County opposed that application causing the gravel pit operator to undertake extensive investigations. Those investigations revealed that there was no connection between the lands identified as the "upland recharge area" and Site 41. The MOE then accepted these findings as well.

What should be obvious to all is that there cannot be both a connection, and not a connection, at the same time. If the continued presence of the upward hydraulic gradient is essential to Site 41's design, shouldn't we know with certainty the source of the water and the recharge rate of the aquifer? To proceed in the absence of this information is an unacceptable risk. In reaching their conclusion, I only hope the MOE will use the PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH.

Ray Millar
Chair, Site 41 Community Monitoring Committee

Green Our Planet, Not Our Bay!

By Irene Wilson

When you go swimming have you noticed a greenish tinge in the water? Are the rocks getting slipperier?

Increased phosphate and nitrogen levels have been acting as fertilizer for algae growth in Georgian Bay. Some sources of these nutrients are phosphate based cleaning products (especially dishwasher detergents) and the runoff from garden fertilizers. Phosphates increase cleaning performance, hold dirt, soften water, and reduce spotting and rusting. Dishwasher detergents still can contain up to 18% phosphates by weight even though their use in laundry detergents was reduced several years ago.

Blue-green algae thrive in areas where the water is shallow and warm or just below the surface in deeper, cooler water. Their scientific name is cyanobacteria, but they are more commonly known as pond scum. Normally, blue-green algae are barely visible, but during warm weather, populations can increase rapidly to form a large mass called a bloom. Blooms most commonly occur during the late summer and early fall.

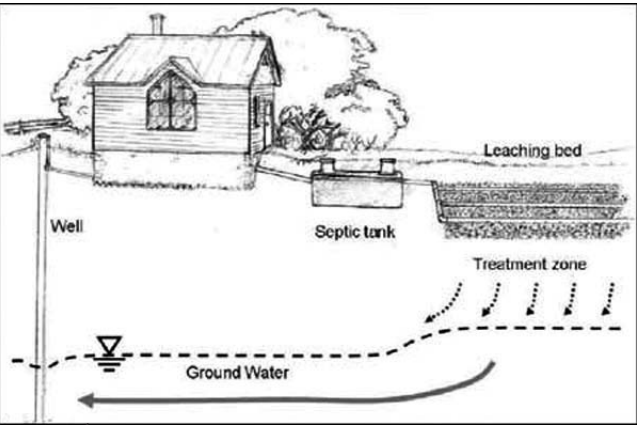
Dense blue-green algae blooms may make the water look like pea soup and when fresh can smell like newly mown grass. Older blooms smell like rotting garbage. Although many forms of blue-green algae are relatively harmless, some forms produce toxins which can be harmful to humans and animals. Symptoms from contact with these toxins can include itchy, irritated eyes and skin from swimming and if swallowed, headaches, fever, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting.

A key factor in their growth rate is the level of available nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. These are also two of the three ingredients in lawn fertilizers. The third is potassium, also known as potash. Those are the three numbers found on bags of lawn food. Through run-off, fertilizer finds its way into Georgian Bay. Unfortunately, green may be a healthy colour for a lawn, but it's not a sign of vitality for our bay.

The Canadian Government is proposing to amend legislation to reduce further the amount of phosphates that

can be contained in laundry detergent and for the first time limit the amount found in dishwasher detergents and general purpose cleaners to 0.05% by weight. The proposed legislation will take effect July 1, 2010. Under the new rules, phosphate concentration in laundry soap would be reduced from 2.2% by weight to 0.05%.

This legislation is still almost two years away but the time to start acting is now. Many environmentalists are frustrated because the regulations won't apply to commercial or industrial sources of phosphates, such as cleaning equipment used in restaurants, hospitals and schools.



Credit: Eric Brunet, Ont. Rural Wastewater Centre, U. of Guelph

We, as seasonal and full-time residents of Tiny, can make an effort to reduce our contribution of phosphates to Georgian Bay. Many households enjoy the convenience of a dishwasher, which can be a valuable labour saving device when the cottage is bursting at the seams with family and guests. But we can do our part to reduce its impact on the environment of the bay by choosing products that are phosphate free for both our dishwashers and household cleaning products.

You can make some of these products yourself from simple, home recipes that are also inexpensive. Or you can shop carefully for store bought "green" cleaning prod-

ucts that are now becoming available, but can be more costly. The cost needs to be weighed against the long-term benefits to the quality of our water. Will our children and their children be able to continue swimming and enjoying the beaches of Georgian Bay?

Manufacturers have jumped on the "green" bandwagon and are using both the word and the colour on packaging to attract environmentally conscious consumers. Not all products that are labelled as "green" are phosphate free.

There is an organization called EcoLogo that is a Canadian government sponsored agency founded in 1988 to provide customers "with assurance that products bearing their symbol have met stringent environmental standards that have been verified by a third party auditor". Their website is www.ecologo.org. You can view a wide range of consumer products under a variety of categories. The website also includes the criteria that are used to designate a product as being acceptable. The program is stewarded by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing Inc. under a license agreement with Environment Canada. The

EcoLogo^M is a registered mark of Environment Canada.

What can you do about it? Firstly, purchase products that are phosphate free. Loblaws' President's Choice brand has come out with a new phosphate-free dishwasher detergent. I have tried it and found it worked well even with my hard water.

Read labels; look for "phosphate free". See our list of recommended products at the end of this article. For general cleaning, reach for the bottle of vinegar or the box of baking soda. The old fashioned products that grandma used really worked. They also deodorize as they clean without leaving artificial chemical scents or residues that can be inhaled and cause irritation. They also require some elbow grease, so another benefit is burning some calories while you clean! A website that will provide you with natural cleaning alternatives is www.lesstoxicguide.ca. It lists both commercial products and home recipes.

When it comes to lawn care, look at ground covers or wildflower gardens that need little maintenance and no fertilizers. Use bark mulch as a ground cover in areas where grass is difficult to grow. This mulch can be obtained

see PLANET...page 12

Letters

Re: Site 41

Citizens have complained for years about the landfill Simcoe County is building at Site 41 on Tiny Concession 2. Even though a major landfill could become unnecessary as recycling and composting reduce the need for landfill, the County bulldozes along. Citizens are concerned that the site is right on top of aquifers bearing some of the purest water in the world, and which feed the Wye River flowing into Severn Sound and Georgian Bay.

To try and avoid polluting these aquifers, the engineering design of the landfill requires that the liner of the dump be subject only to upward pressure from these aquifers.

But the County of Simcoe ignores - even denigrates - opinions voiced by the public in opposition to this landfill. The County also holds similar dislike - disdain some would say - for the Community Monitoring Committee, a group composed of township residents living within 3 kilometres of the proposed site's location, and who would be most directly impacted if it is ever built and opened. This Committee was created by the Board that approved the site.

What is definitely NEW NEWS is that the County and MoE have now aimed their disdain and disregard in the direction of this Joint Board, specifically: its Decision under the Consolidated Hearings Act, and the Certificate of Approval (A620278) that flows from it.

In that 1995 Decision the Board stated specifically and unequivocally in Condition 10.6 of the resulting Certificate of Approval that: "There shall be no landfilling in any area of downward hydraulic gradients". Simple. Straight forward. No vagueness, quibbling or qualifications or exemptions.

Late last year, the MoE quietly approved a "Design and Operations" document filed by the County that was prepared by Jagger Hims Limited, the engineering firm hired by the County for the EA hearings in 1989 and the 1990's, and since retained to provide services including development of the site design.

In that report, it is noted on page 42 that "...occasionally the naturally hydraulic gradients are locally downward for short periods of time." Interesting indeed, and poten-

tially at odds with Condition 10.6.

Later on, at page 92, the report mentions "...a reversal of the hydraulic gradients for 3 to 6 month period" and in the very next sentence states that "...the 6 month period relates to seasonal declines associated with dry summer conditions."

Well, well, well... six months sure sounds like it is somewhat more than a "short period of time"! It is, in fact fully half of the year that the upward hydraulic gradients are going to be absent! These are the very same upward hydraulic gradients that the County and MoE have long and loud assured us, time and time again, are necessary to protect the groundwater, OUR groundwater!

And "seasonal declines" sound more like a regular-as-clockwork, every year event than something that might occur "occasionally"!!

Just what is going on here? Why has the MoE not "pulled the plug" on development and commissioning of Site 41 when the County's very own engineer states that there are conditions present, and ongoing into the future, which utterly and irrefutably contravene the Joint Board Decision and the Certificate of Approval Conditions for landfilling to proceed?

If this situation bothers you, you should write or e-mail John Gerretsen, the Minister of the Environment. Fortunately, construction of Site 41 has recently been put on hold until Spring 2009. So there is a window of opportunity for the MoE to review the safety of the Site. Write to insist that Minister Garretsen issue an order to STOP work IMMEDIATELY on the development and commissioning of Site 41 until this matter is sorted out.

The Honourable John Gerretsen
Minister of the Environment
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4V 1P5

Even more so, you should write to the MoE Supervisor responsible for this project, Ian Kerr, to demand an investigation into and an explanation of why this is being allowed to go ahead, and an explanation of why the MoE is not performing the regulatory and oversight roles required of it by the governing legislation and Board order.

Mr. Ian Kerr, P. Geo.
Supervisor, Water Resources
Ministry of the Environment
Southwestern Region

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PLEASE NOTE: It is VERY important that you also send a copy of your letters and e-mails to the Site 41 CMC:

Site 41 Community Monitoring Committee
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c/o County of Simcoe
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e-mail: raymillar@rogers.com

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Tiny’s Official Plan Review - What You Should Know

By JACK ELLIS

Tiny Township is gearing up for a major planning process that could affect you and your property. The Township’s “environment first” Official Plan (OP) was completed in November 2000 after thorough and productive public participation and consultation. It received Ontario Municipal Board approval on August 27, 2001, and must go through a review that is mandatory now that five years have passed.

Since seven years have elapsed the review must be done with reasonable dispatch. Council has engaged consultants to get the review started this fall with an objective of completing the review by next summer.

The current OP appears to enjoy widespread support among residents of all parts of Tiny, and has served well in guiding the Township’s development in a progressive but environmentally sensitive manner.

The one exception where the wrong kind of development got approved was the huge Stubbs mobile home park in Concession 2. That situation was not the fault of the OP itself but of the way the developer’s application was handled by an earlier Council. Fortunately, the vigorous intervention of the Federation, Simcoe County and nearby residents at the Ontario Municipal Board was able to mitigate many of the worst impacts of this development.

- The OP Review is required to assess the following:
- The effectiveness of the Plan in protecting water quality, heritage resources, natural resources and habitat and the general environment within the municipality,
 - The continuing relevance of the vision that forms the basis of all policies found in this Plan,
 - The degree to which the objectives of the Plan have been met, and
 - The effectiveness of the policies in the Plan in solving problems and realizing desires.

Nine Amendments of the OP have been made since it was implemented. This is not considered to be a large number and they have not altered the basic concept of the Plan.

However, the County and the Province have enacted new legislation and policy statements that, by law, must be reflected in Tiny’s Official Plan. An initial look at these

external changes leads us to expect that, by and large, they should actually lead to reinforcement of the vision and “environment first” principles now in our OP.

Shawn Persaud of Tiny’s planning staff has prepared a checklist of the new provincial and County legislation and policies that must be considered in our OP review:

- **Provincial Policy Statement** (2005) requires growth to focus on settlement areas and avoid significant or sensitive resources. Our present OP is in tune with this policy, but some provisions may need to be strengthened.
- **Places to Grow** (2006) is a framework for managing growth within the Greater Golden Horseshoe. (Surprise! Tiny is included in this area!) It mainly calls for wise use of land and optimization of infrastructure.
- **Clean Water Act** (Bill 43, 2006) requires plans to protect sources of drinking water. Mapping of wellhead protection areas and identification of areas where existing or future land use could have negative impacts on aquifer quality have already begun.
- **Planning and Conservation Land Statute Law Amendment Act** (Bill 51, 2006) makes numerous amendments to the Planning Act and gives municipalities some new tools to implement provincial policies and encourage sustainable development.
- **Simcoe County Waste Disposal Sites Study** (in process) is examining all closed waste disposal sites to see which sites are not hazardous and can be de-listed from the current restrictions on nearby development.
- **Simcoe County Official Plan** (in process) is perhaps the major factor in governing the timing of Tiny’s review. Our OP must conform to the County’s OP, and it is expected to be completed in 2009.

As Shawn put it in a memo to Council earlier this year:

“The Township, based on Statistics Canada information, is experiencing a period of potential growth and critical decisions regarding growth management of the Township and County levels will be taking place during the next few years.

Active growth management decisions made by Council will be required to respond to application pressures, community expectations and mandated provincial and county interests and policies. An important and critical component to this exercise will be the community visioning and planning reviews and the public input process which will be part of the official plan review.”

Public input will be crucial, but its form and timing have not yet been decided. At a minimum, one or more public meetings will be held. It is unlikely, however, that “kitchen table” working groups on various issues will be formed.

The consulting firm designated to do the review is MHBC Planning, a well-respected group headquartered in Kitchener with offices in Vaughan, London, Kingston and Barrie. Ms. Kris Menzies, the Partner in the Barrie office, will head the study team. Our planners have met with her twice so far, and a presentation to Council should occur in the near future.

The bottom line: The potentially thorny issue of growth while still preserving our environment will certainly be a major concern. All of Tiny’s existing development relies on private wells or one of the 18 scattered municipal water systems for water, and on septs for sewage disposal.

The capacity of the water systems serving the five existing settlements is limited, but to what degree can they be expanded? Much of Tiny’s growth occurs through conversion of seasonal shoreline residences into permanent dwellings, but how much can the added pressure of year-round use, usually with additional creature comforts such as dishwashers and added washrooms, be accommodated in these areas without running the neighbourhood out of water or adding to pollution from septic systems?

If these and other issues are important to you, be sure to make your views known to Council. Watch both the Township website for topics and reports that reach the Council agenda, and the Tiny Cottager website for our reports on Council meetings. And prepare yourselves for participation in the OP review process as events are announced over the course of the next few months.

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Kettle’s Beach History

By JOANNE SCOTT

Horace J. Kettle arrived in Canada in 1906 with a five pound note in his pocket, at the age of sixteen. He eventually met and married Montalena Skinner from the Mount Albert area, near Newmarket. They moved to Midland, where they started a family grocery business on the main street and lived above the shop. The business thrived and was moved to a new location on the corner of Yonge and Russell Streets. The new store was a going concern, with gas pumps out front, apartments above, a flour and feed warehouse at the back and a new home, complete with large gardens and a barn for the cow and horse, next door. Cordwood, for home heating, was also part of the family business.

In 1939, Horace and Stewart Benson, Manager of the Bank of Commerce, purchased a large parcel of land between 800 and 900 acres, in Tiny Township, along the north shore of Georgian Bay. Lumbering for cordwood was carried out in the areas around Kettle’s Lake and in later years, scotch pine was planted for Christmas trees. After Mr. Benson’s death, Horace Kettle bought his share of the property from Fred Grant, a barrister in Midland, at the time.

The waterfront property, along Georgian Bay, was accessed by a narrow lumber road. The road was so narrow that it was often difficult for two vehicles to pass. The lower portion, where it passed through a cedar grove, was so wet that cedar logs were placed to create a corduroy surface. The first sale of waterfront property was to Vern Wood, a good friend of the family, in the late 1940s. Mr. Wood built a small cabin and a stone and crib dock. That sale was followed by another to Charlie Simmonds, in 1949.



Montalena Kettle, at the cottage

Horace Kettle passed away on May 18, 1955. One year later, his wife, Montalena, had a log cottage built from the cedar logs, lumbered from the nearby forest. “Monta” spent many of her years working in the family grocery business but enjoyed Sundays and Wednesday afternoons at the cottage. She would take time from her busy life to

join her children and grandchildren at Kettle’s Beach, during the summer.

Son Bruce continued to run the store, while son Harold took on the task of developing a subdivision plan for the shore property. Originally, 13 waterfront lots and 25 back lots came into being but the current plan, #1321 was developed in 1959. The road to the shoreline was improved and Hydro was eventually brought in.

In 1963, Harold sold much of the remaining property to the Province of Ontario to become Awenda Provincial Park. As the new park was surveyed, it became apparent

that it was rich in archeological sites as well as areas of rare plant and animal species. For those reasons, it took 15 years before parts of the park were opened to campers and hikers.

Gradually, over the years, the little settlement at Kettle’s Beach grew and people built more and more cottages. In 1966, Harold gave a small portion of the road, then known as Grandview Drive, to Tiny Township so that the road from Georgian Bay Estates could continue through to Kettle’s Beach. However, most of the Kettle’s Beach residents preferred to use the shorter route through the Park to get to their cottages. In 1975, after Awenda opened to the public, the MNR tried to prevent access through the Park by erecting a gate. This greatly upset the residents so they came together to form the legally incorporated Kettle’s Beach Association. With the help of a lawyer and the backing of Tiny Township, they gained the right of passage through the Park on the “old road” only. All Kettle’s Beach residents were issued keys to the gate. This turned out to be quite unsatisfactory and cards were issued next. Eventually, the Park gatehouse was moved and the road became the responsibility of Tiny Township so the residents and the general public can drive through freely.

Bruce Kettle and his wife Mildred built a small home at the very end of Champlain Road. Tom Kettle and his wife Colleen dismantled the old family cottage and built a new home using some of the original cedar logs. Harold Kettle passed away in 1978 and his wife, Jessie, built a cottage on the second last lot. At this time, all three residences have passed along to the next generation. Richard and Sheila Kettle, along with sister Mary Lyn Beauvais, live in the home that Tom and Colleen built. Joanne and Jack Scott extended Jessie’s cottage into a year-round home. Gail and Vance Ivany renovated Bruce and Mildred’s home and have lived there for the past seven years. Jim Kettle and wife Karen are in the process of building their home, next to Joanne and Jack. All continue to be involved in the Kettle’s Beach Association. Cousins, Joanne and Gail are on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Awenda Park.

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Update on High-Speed Internet

By Jack Ellis

Tiny Township is still divided into the “haves” and the “have-nots” when it comes to this now vital service: high-speed internet. The service areas have expanded slightly since we last reported, but most of the Township still is “a land which time forgot”.

For those of us in the “have-not” areas, here is an update, roughly in order of desirability, of what is now available. Meanwhile, we can dream of some day enjoying the “luxury” of phone DSL or cable internet capable of speeds up to 6 Mbps.

Wireless internet service is available on much of the eastern shore of Tiny along Penetang Bay. Coverage can be available from either Bell/Rogers Wimax or Indigiinet, but since reception is spotty, you have to be lucky.

Wimax service is provided by both Bell and Rogers, and their coverage maps indicate that their tower in Victoria Harbour reaches some of the Champlain Road area. Wimax has the advantage that the modem is portable and can be used anywhere in Canada where their service is available. Just plug it into the wall and go. Speed is pretty good, and costs \$50 per month for standard service claimed to be 1 Mbps. A “basic” service at about 100-200 Kbps is just \$27. It is rumoured that Wimax may be expanded in our area in the near future, but don’t hold your breath!

Indigiinet operates out of Bala and can be reached at 1-866-235-7510 or www.chbhghspeed.net. Their tower in Tiny is situated in a gravel pit near Toanche Park, and covers the nearby area. The upfront cost for their receiver and antenna (which can radiate the signal over your whole property) is in the \$100-200 range, and service is about \$50 per month. The speed is supposed to be 1 Mbps, but users report that it is not usually that high. Certainly, it is much faster than dial-up, and is able to support small-screen videos (YouTube anyone?) and streaming music from nice sources such as BBC3.

Cell phone data plans are available to get fairly high

speed service anywhere you can get a good cell phone signal from the provider of your choice. Bell calls it “mobile connect”; Rogers, “portable internet”; etc. The internet signal is received by a small USB device that you just plug into your laptop or PC. These typically cost an exorbitant \$300 to buy (without a contract) down to \$50 on a 3-year deal. The monthly cost depends on how much data volume you download, with a basic charge of \$75 per month for up to 1 GB, rising to about \$95 if you are in the 3 to 5 GB range. There is a moderate \$35 activation fee. One big advantage for mobile users is that you can take your laptop and use the service anywhere your provider’s signal is available. “Bundling” may help you somewhat with the cost, but data service suffers from the same disease as all cell phone service in Canada – lack of competition.

Satellite internet service is available anywhere, and has become more cost competitive recently. Xplornet is the provider, and up-front costs have dropped to the \$200 level for the dish and receiver (plus installation and access fee of \$100 to \$300, depending on contract). Basic Light service (up to 512 Kbps) costs \$50 per month, with 1 Mbps (claimed) costing just \$10 more. User reports are very mixed. One local user was angry last year but happy this year. The service can slow to a crawl at peak user times, according to on-line user forums. Information can be found at www.xplornet.com.

Is that the end of hope? Maybe not. Ontario recently announced a four-year \$30 million Rural Connections Broadband Program and according to Doug Taylor, Tiny’s Treasurer, the first round of applications just went in on September 18th. (For information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/4twfcd>). Tiny could benefit from the blanket application made by Simcoe County, whereby up to \$1 million could be provided to improve high-speed service in unserved areas of the county. The catch is, each dollar of this money must be matched with \$2 from the municipality or the internet service providers.



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We all drive by area history everyday and don't even know it, much less see it. So it was that I have driven by the Blondin Boat Repair in Lafontaine for the past 30 years without noticing it. The "shipyard" is not the white building on the south side of Concession 16, but the 2-storey bright red shop across the street tucked back behind the houses.

My good friend and neighbour Bill Johnson, local historian and long time cottager, mentioned it a short while ago and asked had I ever been through the building that once manufactured hundreds of boats for eager buyers.

He talked of a sophisticated manufacturing facility that had flourished in Lafontaine since the 1930s. Started by Gilbert Blondin, at one time it could turn out a cedar strip boat a day. Bill also described a very interesting set up on the inside with belts, moulds, steaming devices, etc. We had to see this.

On a fabulous summer day Charlie Blondin, the son of the founder, gave us a tour.

As soon as you enter the building you can see that this was a first class boat works, with a clearly laid out assembly line starting with the mould and ending with final finishing upstairs.

Charlie talked about the humble beginnings on the 17th Concession where his father was a furniture maker back in the '30's. With that skill and a loan of \$125.00 the enterprise started.

A very noisy gas turbine provided the power until electricity took over.

From the beginnings, the Blondin and Marchildon families worked side by side building boats that started with B.C. cedar and oak locally cut by the Maurice family. They made their own machinery and were totally self-sufficient. Moulds ranged from 14 to 33 feet. The laying of the keel was the first step, followed by 3/8-inch cedar strips, gunnells, oarlocks, transoms and trim.



Charles Blondin & Bill

Many boats were sold locally, although Charles told of a gas station in Toronto that sold them for \$200 and couldn't keep up with demand.

The families who worked here got \$14 a week + room & board, working 8 to 5, with windows providing most of the illumination. A wood stove provided warmth with the flue hooked up to the streamer for bending, a very ingenious set up.

Back then there were no earplugs, safety goggles or helmets and Jules Marchildon who worked there at one time, said everyone "ate a lot of dust", but they enjoyed great food when they stayed with Charlie's family

When we visited, a 14 footer built in the 1940s was in the shop being restored for a local resident. To actually see and feel one of these boats seemed to bring the whole thing alive; the skilled workmanship was quite evident. The boats were on display at an early boat show in Toronto and placed second for craftsmanship.

So is this all past history? Not quite. Charlie showed us a recently finished 14 footer built by hand as in the past, a gleaming beauty, valued at the \$6000 it now costs to buy a piece of history and worth every penny.



Bill with Curtis Blondin

Bill suggested the mint boat was so beautiful that it should be kept in the buyer's living room and never put in the water. Charlie is, after all, a "master builder."

Of course the Blondin family and staff under his guidance are continuing the family tradition with Roger, Francis and Charles still involved in boat repair and restoration with the old fashioned skills still present.

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Garbage

By CAMERON LOACH, AGE 7, ROWNTREE BEACH

August 29, 2008

Today I picked up the garbage on both sides of our concession from the end of the road to the bottom of the hill. I used long tongs. I found a wine bottle so I will get the 20 cents for that. I found a whole pizza box. The biggest pile of garbage was from Tim Horton's - 18 paper cups and a bag. The weirdest thing was a new pink mitt on a hot day. I found a nice china coffee cup that I am keeping. There was a lot of poison ivy right by the side of the road, so I washed my hands as soon as I got home. In 1 hour we collected a full garbage bag. A lady walked by us and asked me my name. She thanked me for picking up litter. Two years ago my grandmother picked up a bag with 4 deer legs thrown into the bush by hunters. Why are people such slob?



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(*) Tax and Business Planning provided by Michael Ryan, CMA, independently of Freedom 55 Financial

PLANET...continued from page 5

for a nominal amount from the North Simcoe Transfer Station at 1700 Golf Link Road, Midland. Just bring your own shovel and garbage bags. Some ground covers (ivy and pachysandra) are not appropriate for septic beds due to their root systems. Thick, dense vegetation of any sort on the septic bed will prevent transpiration and cut the effectiveness of your system. A website with tips for natural lawn care is www.richsoil.com/lawn-care. Think of the time and money that you will save that can be spent enjoying the beach or cottage.

If you are shampooing yourself, children or pets in the bay, remember to use environmentally friendly products. Personal hygiene products can also contain phosphates. Shampoos for killing fleas contain pesticides, which are left as residue in the water.

Ideally, government bodies such as Environment Canada, should be monitoring consumer products and restricting the use of harmful chemicals. Manufacturers often have strong lobby groups that slow down or impede this process. It can take years to implement effective legislation. We, as consumers, can react in several ways: contacting our politicians, writing or e-mailing product manufacturers, (they take input from consumers very seriously since very few people do it), financially supporting environmental watchdog groups such as the David Suzuki Foundation and educating ourselves and choosing products that are environmentally friendly. Your consumer dollar speaks loudly and manufacturers listen. The website, www.DavidSuzuki.org, provides a comprehensive, user friendly, resource that can direct your concerns in a positive way. There are a variety of links, including ones to contact the appropriate politicians to voice your opinions. Every small action that you take can make a difference!

- Recommended phosphate free dishwasher detergents:**
- Nature Clean All Natural Dish Washer Powder, available at Sobeys and Zehrs in Barrie.
 - President's Choice Green Phosphate-free Dishwasher Detergent, available at the Superstore, Midland, Valu-Mart, Midland and any other locations of No Frills and Loblaws.
 - Seventh Generation Dishwasher Powder, available at Health & Bulk Store, King St., Midland.
 - Shaklee Dish Wash Automatic Concentrate Powder, available through direct order on their website or through Shaklee distributors.
 - Home made: Mix equal parts of borax and baking soda and store in a tightly sealed container. Use 2 tablespoons per load. If you have hard water, double the amount of baking soda in your mixture. For either mixture, use vinegar in the rinse cycle. Sodium hexametaphosphate can be used instead of dishwasher detergent. The amount required will vary depending on hardness of water.

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UPDATE...

The Emergency Department at HDH has introduced a new Electronic Patient Tracking system. The new program provides an electronic record of patients as soon as they arrive at the ER and follows them through each step of their treatment at the hospital. The \$34,100 project included new computers and equipment, staff training and the development of a new triage station - made possible as a result of the fundraising efforts of the Huronia Hospitals Foundation.




Foundation sets \$700,000 goal for new equipment this year

Among the items on this year's equipment needs list at the hospitals is a Transfer defibrillator/monitor. This compact, portable cardiac monitor will be used in Emergency as it has the capability of monitoring critical patients during transport. Cost is \$21,650. Funds raised from this year's Tiny Cottager Challenge are supporting this purchase! Thank You!




Other items on this year's Equipment List include:

- * cardiac monitor - \$15,000
- * ER stretcher - \$4,800
- * ultrasound machine - \$179,000
- * colonoscope - \$44,000
- * OR core warmer for patients - \$6,900



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RESTORATION...continued from page 1

Google Maps

and in January of 2006 produced the Bluewater Beach Environmental Restoration Plan. This was followed by two detailed reports: Phase 1 Report (October 2006) and Phase 2 Report (March 2007). These reports are now available on the Township website tiny.ca.

The consultants proposed a five-year management plan to deal with the deterioration of the site. In year 1 (2007), they recommended barrier fencing to trap the sand and reduce blowout areas, perimeter fencing to reduce vehicular traffic, paths and boardwalks to direct pedestrian traffic away from vegetation and dunes, and dissemination of information to residents and the public about the restoration of the dunes. To date, most of the barrier fencing has been installed and major portions of boardwalk have been constructed.



The consultants also recommended that a Restoration Advisory Committee be established to advise Council and assist the Township in implementing the management plan. The Advisory Committee formed in June of 2006 includes a Councillor, two members of staff and four area residents, one of whom is the author of this article.

Part of the mandate of the Advisory Committee is to raise money to cover some of the costs of the management plan. Committee members secured a Federal Infrastructure Grant that paid for materials for the boardwalks (roughly \$60,000). The Committee also applied for grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to cover signage costs, the Shell Environmental Fund and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation to offset the cost of replanting native vegetation on the site. As well, on August 31st the Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake Beaches Association sponsored its first annual Beach Walk to raise funds to help with the restoration of the dunes. Together, Bluewater-Georgina-Wendake, the Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association, and the Deanlea Beach Association have raised well over \$2,000 to help defray costs at Bluewater Park.

The work scheduled for year 2 (2008) is a little behind schedule. The boardwalk is not yet fully completed, signage has been delayed due to Township “branding” decisions, and the granting agencies have

not yet made decisions about the Committee’s applications. However, the work completed thus far has been most successful: the barrier fencing is helping to re-establish the fore-dunes and the perimeter fencing and boardwalks are restricting pedestrian and vehicular traffic and allowing the native vegetation to regenerate. Progress can actually be observed from one visit to the next.



The Bluewater Dunes Advisory Committee looks forward to years 3, 4 and 5 of the management plan. Then informative signs will encourage local residents and visitors to support the park’s restoration; native vegetation will be planted; the boardwalks and fencing will be completed; “Open Space” (OS) zoning will be replaced with an “Environmental Protection” (EP1) designation; funds will become readily available through fundraising initiatives; and on-going monitoring by local residents and Township staff will protect the restored dunes and ensure their preservation for generations to come.

If there is a lesson to be learned from our experience with the restoration of the Bluewater Dunes, it is that success depends on people becoming pro-active and working cooperatively with other stakeholders.



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At a second public session on September 27th, focus groups representing all areas of Tiny participated in an exercise to establish what aspects of various landscapes in Tiny are most valued. The results will enable the Guelph team to determine the areas of Tiny that would be most heavily impacted by the placement of industrial wind turbines.

TINY TRAIL BRIDGES: Bridge replacement on the Tiny Trail continues: one is being rebuilt this year as a footbridge, and another will probably be replaced next year, also as a footbridge. Both are just south of the series of bridges that were replaced recently at the

AUDITORS OKAY TINY'S BOOKS: In September, BDO Dunwoody, the Township's external auditors, said that in their opinion Tiny's 2007 financial statements met accepted accounting standards. They identified four control weaknesses, all minor in nature. Three have already been corrected. The Treasurer observed that even a consideration of the fourth, a proposed move to a centralized purchasing system, had to be postponed, due to a lack of resources, until after the Township's capital assets have been evaluated.

SSEA TO ADMINISTER THE PROVINCE'S CLEAN WATER ACT IN TINY: For some time the Severn Sound Environmental Association has been Tiny's de facto Conservation Authority, although only half of the Township lies within the Severn Sound watershed. Now moves are being made to bring all of Tiny under its aegis so that it can administer the Province's new Clean Water Act for the whole of the Township. Negotiations are underway about the fee that will be charged. The SSEA is hiring more people to manage its new workload.

If the re-inspection program is continued, some thought should be given to which of the approved types of septic systems are most appropriate for properties directly on the bay or streams and whether the standard setbacks are enough in an "Environment First"

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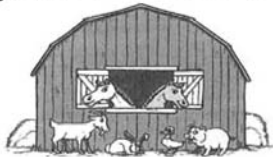
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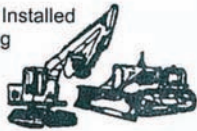
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