



**Spring/Summer 2009**

## BY JUDITH GRANT

As I conclude, I'd like to remind you that this publication is financed by the advertisements placed by local businesses. They always deserve our support, but even more so in these tough economic times.



BY JUDITH GRANT

"We ask that your ministries undertake an Environmental Survey of the impact of the Nottawasaga River on water quality along Tiny

see PLUME. . .page 11

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**2009 Events**

**MAY**  
21 (to June 6)  
*Murder by the Book*, Huronia Players, Midland  
22-23  
Twisted Pines Music fundraising concerts, Penetang  
23-24  
Annual Model Railroad Show, North Simcoe  
Sports & Rec Centre, Midland  
29  
Mayor's Walk, Wyevale Trail Parkette

**JUNE**  
3-20  
*High School Musical*, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang  
6-7  
Doors Open Huronia, Midland & Penetang  
13  
Victorian Tea, Penetang Centennial Museum  
13  
Wasaga Beach Fun Run – Classic Car Event  
13-14  
Aboriginal Festival, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons  
19  
Party on the Dock, Midland  
(Jimmy Buffett tribute)  
20  
Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament in Tiny  
20-21  
Wasaga Beach Kitefest  
21  
National Aboriginal Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons  
24 (to July 11)  
*The Odd Couple*, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang  
27-28  
Wasaga Beach Fest  
29 (to Aug 28)  
Township Day Camps, various locations in Tiny  
30  
Stampede concert, North Simcoe Rec Centre

**JULY**  
1  
Canada Day celebrations:  
Penetang Centennial Museum  
Little Lake Park, Midland  
3-5  
Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia,  
5  
Mayor's Pig Roast, Perkinsfield Park  
Huronia Triathlon  
5, 12, 19, 26  
Free Sunday evening concerts, Penetang  
8 (to Aug 26)  
Soccer program, Wednesdays, Perkinsfield Park  
11  
Penetang Annual Library Garden Tour  
15 (to Aug 1)  
*Moon Over Buffalo*, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang  
17-19  
Festival du Loup, Lafontaine  
23-25  
Collingwood Elvis Festival  
24-26  
Wasaga Under Siege, 1812 Battle Re-enactment,  
Nancy Island, Wasaga

**AUGUST**  
2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
Free Sunday evening concerts, Penetang  
5-29  
*Country Legends*, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang  
8  
Cedar Ridge Pops Concert  
Métis Day, Discovery Harbour  
22  
Elmvale Water Festival  
Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

**SEPTEMBER**  
6  
Memories of Summer Fireworks, Wasaga  
12-13  
Wasaga Triathlon/Duathlon and Give-It-A-Tri

Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre POW WOW,  
Sainte-Marie Park  
18-20  
Quilt, Rug & Craft Fair, Simcoe Museum, Minesing  
19  
Settler's Day, Penetang Centennial Museum  
26  
Orillia Dragon Boat Festival

**OCTOBER**  
3  
Trail Fest, Wyevale Trail Parkette  
10  
Turkey Trot 5K or Half Marathon, Wye Marsh  
10-11  
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, Sainte-Marie  
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Champlain's Cross



The Caraghouha Crosses



The Calvary Cross



The Randolph Cross



The Marchildon Cross

# The Five Crosses of Tiny Township

By Bill Johnson with Al Taylor

Do you know "The Five Crosses of Tiny Township"? No need to feel badly if the answer is no. Consulting with friends knowledgeable in local history, I discovered that no one did -- or even knew what I was talking about!

Best known, perhaps, is the so-called "Champlain's Cross", erected to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the landing of the legendary French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, near the present town of Penetanguishene. But there are four other landmark crosses in Tiny, each with its own story.

Various Champlain 400-Year Anniversary celebrations in Canada and the United States over the coming years celebrate the exploits and journeys of discovery of the "Father of New France" in different regions of the two countries, including here in our own Huronia, which has a recorded history barely second to Quebec City itself and an archaeological record of First Nations' habitation going back thousands of years before that. Yet, so much of that local history may go unrecognized and unremembered.

In celebration of the Champlain 400-Year Anniversary and the rich history of this area, Al Taylor and I decided to embark upon some journeys of discovery of our own into local heritage, starting with the Five Crosses of Tiny Township.

## One - Champlain's Cross

**Follow Champlain Road from Penetanguishene, turn right onto Peek-A-Boo Trail, then watch for a wide lane on the right about two miles along: you've found it!**

In 1921 Father Athol Murray of the parish of Ste Anne's, Penetanguishene, a future member of the Order of Canada and the Hockey Hall of Fame, persuaded the Town of Penetanguishene to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the nearby landing of Champlain with the placing of Champlain's Cross at Toanche. Father Murray's other proposals included the building of Martyrs' Shrine just east of Midland, the construction of the magnificent Ste Anne's Church overlooking Penetanguishene Bay, and the erection of a massive cross at Caraghouha.

Among the events orchestrated by Father Murray during the old home week celebrations of that year was a re-enactment of Champlain's landing and a solemn ceremony in which ancient enemies, Grand Chiefs and elders of the Iroquois Confederacy and a Grand Chief of the descen-

dants of the Hurons, now living in Quebec, buried a war hatchet to make peace on the shores of Penetanguishene Bay.

Since the first Champlain's Cross was raised in 1921 at Father Murray's initiative, four others have been erected to replace it, with the last -- made of wood and covered with aluminum -- succumbing to the elements in 2003.

Local lore tells that the alignment of this cross with Ste Anne's Church and the Caraghouha Cross in Lafontaine was no accident, but meant to keep an unnamed evil lurking over the hill at bay. The last cross finally fell when the alignment was broken by a commercial development!

All that remains is a weedy, neglected area with a concrete pyramid on a stone base, but great things are now being planned as part of the Champlain 400-Year Anniversary celebrations.

## Two - Caraghouha

**Located where Cedar Point Road meets the 18th Concession and continues south about a kilometre as a dirt road, behind a growth of evergreens.**

Another of Father Athol Murray's initiatives: it is a gentle place, with a massive concrete cross and a simple wooden cross, well worth the trip.

A translation of the French inscription on the monument there reads:

The First Mass in Ontario  
August 12, 1615  
Champlain and fourteen  
French men plus  
Father LeCaron a Recollet

You can imagine the French in their woollen garments on a swelteringly hot August day and the Hurons in native dress, celebrating mass with the sounds of nature surrounding them. Until recently a mass was held in August each year to commemorate that event some 400 years ago.

## Three - The Calvary Cross

**East of the village of Lafontaine on the north side of the 16th Concession.**

This cross was erected in 1948 by M. and Mme. Maurice and their children, the site having been selected in a most interesting way. The parish priest had a wooden

cross made to his best estimate of the one on which Jesus was crucified, which he carried on his back from the door of the church until he fell -- and that become the chosen spot.

## Four - The Randolph Cross

**At County Road 6 and the 15th Concession, where the village of Randolph once was.**

This cross was originally located at the 14th Concession and County Road 6. It was moved in the '20s to mark the site of a small Anglican church that was relocated across the road from St. James on the Lines in Penetanguishene -- a gem of a church, not far from the King's Wharf Theatre.

Although made of wood, the Randolph Cross has held up well, as a result of the good care it has received from the Richelieu Club, which now maintains it.

## Five - The Marchildon Cross

**At Old Thunder Beach Road and 18th Concession.**

Located on a farm that belonged to the early settler Clement Marchildon, this cross is a most attractive concrete construction, with fleur-de-lis decorations at the ends of the arms and main shaft. It may be that it was one of several made at the same time, with others installed in Quebec.

Local tradition has it that area farmers, rather than trudging several miles to the church, were able to meet at this cross for Vespers when they heard the church bells ring.

This article touches only a small piece of Tiny's rich history. As we go to press, we've uncovered an archival record indicating that Champlain may not, in fact, have landed at Toanche, but at another location in Tiny. We will research this account, and may have more to report on this subject.

Readers are encouraged to submit additional information or reminiscences about the Five Crosses of Tiny Township to the authors at (705) 533-1215, or by e-mail: [hallantaylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:hallantaylor@sympatico.ca)

For their help with this article, we wish to thank:

- Jamie Hunter, Huronia Museum
- Linda Ellery, Peek-A-Boo Trail
- Matthew Desroches, Tourism Development
- The Richelieu Club, Penetanguishene Chapter.

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The Tiny Cottager is published each May/June and Sept./Oct.

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

**COUNCIL:** After a slow start, this Council has gotten deeply into Strategic Planning. They didn't make decisions about which of their own high priority projects to implement until this year's budget sessions. It was much easier for them to get started on projects that were mandated, among them Asset Management, Official Plan Review, Capital Planning, Development Charges Study, Source Water Protection, Lead Sampling of Municipal Water Systems, Class EA Lafontaine/Georgian Sands (see below). These are all going forward.

**STAFF:** Council's decision to do strategic planning, coupled with the sudden availability of provincial infrastructure money, has presented the Township's staff with many challenges. Though there have been ragged moments, staff appear to be coping reasonably well – sometimes extraordinarily well. We were impressed by senior staff contributions to the strategic planning sessions. And we are aware that the infrastructure money would not have been forthcoming had staff not prepared convincing grant applications. The agenda for 2009 and beyond is very ambitious (*see budget article on page 5*).

**STRATEGIC PLANNING:** When Council completed its strategic planning sessions last fall, it arrived at a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for five areas - Environment, Culture and Heritage, Recreation, Shoreline, and Municipal Administration – to guide its decisions.

**Vision:** "The Township of Tiny – an environmentally focused, diverse family of communities providing a healthy lifestyle."

**Shoreline Guiding Principles:** "Improve access to all municipally owned shoreline properties for recreational use and enjoyment while respecting privately owned shoreline properties" and "Preserve and protect the ecology of municipally owned shoreline properties."

**HIGH SPEED INTERNET:** The County of Simcoe applied for \$1 million funding from the province and was successful. Tiny participated in this application, and the area that will probably gain high speed service this year is the western shore from Balm Beach north and then east to and including Thunder Beach. Improving the Township's Internet capabilities has been one of Council's Strategic Priorities.

**FINALLY - A LITTLE ACTION ON SEPTAGE!** It has been clear for many years that new arrangements must be made to deal with septage, since the province is phasing out the practice of spreading it on farmers' fields. The problem has engaged this Council several times. Septage disposal is one of its Strategic Planning Priorities.

Deputy Mayor George Lawrence, Councillor Warren, and two members of staff attended a Rural Waste Water Treatment Expo and Conference in Orillia last fall, and afterwards Deputy Mayor Lawrence reported that if Tiny doesn't develop adequate disposal/treatment capacities, coming legislation may restrict future development in the Township.

In April, Council learned that Penetanguishene is planning to build a new sewage treatment facility. They directed staff to investigate whether space could be reserved for Tiny's septage there. At the same meeting, they requested a meeting with experts from the Ministry of the Environment to discuss other options, such as lagoon treatment.

### COUNCIL BEGINS TO ACT ON SSEA RECOMMEN-

**DATIONS RE BEACH WATER QUALITY:** The Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) recommended eight actions to improve beach water quality. Council has begun to act on many of them.

1) **Continue septic re-inspections:** Council has recently decided to continue with the program. Once the remaining properties in the Thunder Beach area have been inspected, which will complete the first pass over the Township, re-inspections will begin again in the Balm Beach area, concentrating on properties whose septs have become more than 10 years old since that area was inspected in 2002.

2) **Management of stream storm water at beaches:** The budget includes monies for "Beach Care – Storm Water Management" engineering at Woodland Beach Park.

3) **Move stream outlets at Balm and Jackson:** The budget includes money for "Beach Care – Stream Relocation" engineering at Balm Beach.

4) **Removal or modification of selected groynes:** This was mentioned in the budget presentation as a Strategic Planning Priority that is being investigated.

5) **Be aware of and comment on any proposals to modify the mouth of the Nottawasaga River:** The problem of the Nottawasaga's silt plume is being approached from a different angle. See page 1.

**GEORGIAN SANDS AND LAFONTAINE WATER PROBLEM TACKLED:** Studies have revealed that nitrate levels in the water supply for Georgian Sands and Lafontaine will probably exceed allowable limits by 2014. To find a solution, the Township is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment. Open Houses are being held on Friday May 22, 2009, at the Township Office, from 3 to 5 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. Those affected are invited to discuss the matter with Township staff and engineering consultants. Similar Open Houses will be held later to present alternative solutions.

**TOWNSHIP WEBSITE REDESIGN:** The Township's website is hosted by the County of Simcoe. When the County acquired more sophisticated software last year, municipalities like Tiny suddenly had more options in design and function. As better communication is one of Council's Strategic Objectives, Tiny's staff began to consider home page layouts used by other Ontario municipalities. In January, Brenda Biggs, the Township's GIS/Computer Coordinator, presented to Council a lively draft home page layout design. When Council liked the design, it was submitted to County for programming, which has now been completed. The new website is expected to launch in the fall.

**COUNTY REINSTATES COMBINED BULKY/METAL PICKUP:** Thanks in part to the insistence of Deputy Mayor Lawrence, the annual bulky pickup has been reinstated by the County of Simcoe. You may put out no more than five Bulky Items and five Metal Items for collection by 7 am on Monday June 1, for those on Monday collection, and on Monday June 8, for those on Wednesday collection. For details, see pages 5 and 12 of the New 2009 Curbside Collection Calendar at [www.simcoe.ca](http://www.simcoe.ca) / Municipal Services / Collection Calendar.

**A CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR TINY:** In March, Council authorized the signing of an agreement between The Corporation of the Township of Tiny and the Severn Sound Environmental Association. This is part of a move to create a Joint Municipal Service Board whereby the SSEA is authorized to perform the functions of a conservation authority for the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene; the Townships of Tay, Tiny, Oro-Medonte, Severn, Georgian Bay, and Springwater; and the City of Orillia. The SSEA is to address water quality issues in the Great Lakes, to implement its long-term sustainability plan, to coordinate environmental services, to administer the Province's Clean Water Act, and to follow its strategic and business plan.

**PHRAGMITES CONTROL:** Last November, Council authorized the use of "Roundup" if applied by a licensed



### A Permanent Memorial to a Terrible Mistake

If Site 41 goes ahead, residents of Tiny and Tay Townships will make sure the names of those responsible won't be forgotten. At the May 4 protest, FOTTSA director Al Taylor unveiled a prototype for a tombstone, seen above, that lists those responsible for the decision. A larger version will be erected on land near the site.

applicator, as a control measure for *Phragmites* on Township-owned property. The Budget includes money for a spraying program this year. However, a province-wide pesticide ban, which came into effect on April 22, has muddled the waters. The Township has been striving to determine which agency can provide approval for the application of herbicides, so far without success. No guidelines have been developed for municipalities or private property owners. The Township will provide information on [tiny.ca](http://tiny.ca) as soon as it becomes available. (And FoTTSA will supply some practical advice about *Phragmites* control on [www.tinycottager.org](http://www.tinycottager.org))

**LEAF AND YARD WASTE:** Last fall, the collection was done by the Township at a cost of \$13,937 (substantially less than the \$24,024 that the County charged in 2007). **THERE IS TO BE NO COLLECTION THIS** see REPORT. . .page 18

# Thank You, Bob

Since 2002, we've had the good fortune to publish editorial cartoons by Bob Kain. Bob was more than qualified to serve as our cartoonist. He ran his own animation/audio visual studio in Toronto for 35 years, employing as many as 15 workers, along with numerous free lancers. He created a newspaper comic strip *Mud of the Mounties* for the *Montreal Gazette* and sold many cartoons to Canadian and American publications including *The Toronto Star*. In "retirement" he moved to Deanlea Beach and began to teach cartooning to 8-15 year olds and to run cartooning workshops. Since 1997 he has created a monthly comic for *CHIRP*, the lively little magazine for pre-schoolers. These enterprises have become so successful that he can no longer fit us into his busy schedule. And the fact that he and his wife moved away from Tiny several years ago is also a factor. Alas.

**We need a new volunteer cartoonist!** Interested cartoonists, please contact [editor@tinycottager.org](mailto:editor@tinycottager.org).



# Tiny’s Official Plan under Review

By Jack Ellis

Tiny’s “environment first” Official Plan (OP) is now under review. The main purpose is to ensure that the Official Plan is “consistent with” and “conforms to” the latest Provincial and County legislation and policies.

Recently Ontario has updated legislation and policy statements, including changes to the Planning Act, Source Water Protection Plans, Places to Grow Growth Plans, and the recent Green Energy Bill (Bill 150).

The Township can also address any shortcomings identified in the existing OP to ensure that the new OP reflects the Township’s evolving policies and strategies.

The firm of MHBC planning consultants, based in Barrie, with team leader Kris Menzies, was contracted last year to facilitate the review, with a planned completion date of June 16, 2009. However, roadblocks have been encountered:

- Simcoe County’s own OP Review, a benchmark for Tiny’s OP, is late getting approved. The County’s review was completed last November, but still awaits approval by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. As of late April no detailed discussions had occurred. Accordingly, MHBC has applied for an extension for Tiny’s own OP

Review.

- Parts of Bill 150 contradict revisions made in 2007 to the Planning Act.
- Nevertheless, if the County’s OP Review is finalized by June 15 of this year, Kris Menzies expects to get Tiny’s draft OP Review ready by July, with completion in October/November.

- Public consultation is required:
- A Public Open House will be held on a Saturday, from 10 until 12 noon (details to be announced). After a presentation about what the Review involves, **the public is invited to speak about aspects of the current Plan that aren’t adequate. This may effectively be the last point at which to give your input.**
  - After the draft Review is completed, a Statutory Public Meeting will take place, sometime in August if all goes well, to explain the proposed changes. Then a final draft could be ready around October.

- Bill 150, still at the Legislative committee stage, presents big problems:
- the Provincial Policy Statement requires municipalities to enact policies about renewable energy projects, but the bill removes them completely from municipal jurisdic-

- tion.
- the 2007 revision of the Planning Act gives municipalities added powers for site plan approvals, but the bill takes them all away for renewable energy projects.

- The bill has come under severe criticism from several quarters, including consumers, business, labour, energy experts and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The C.D. Howe Institute recently issued a damning review by Michael Trebilcock, Professor of Law and Economics at U of T. Titled *Speaking Truth to “Wind” Power*, it concludes that industrial wind turbines:
1. actually provide minimal reduction of carbon emissions
  2. are uneconomic
  3. cause insufficiently researched health effects
  4. have adverse effects on property values
  5. are to be imposed by undemocratic processes that undermine efficient regulation

His remarks to the committee can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/d9mufu> and a summary can be found at [http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Verbatim\\_\(Trebilcock\).pdf](http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Verbatim_(Trebilcock).pdf)

If you would like FoTTSA to update you on all OP Review developments (and other matters of concern relating to the Township), please supply an e-mail address to [editor@tinycottager.org](mailto:editor@tinycottager.org).

# 2009–the Year of Infrastructure Spending in Tiny

By John Grant

Tiny Township is spending money this year as it never has before! The budget projects outlays of \$14.6 million in 2009, whereas in 2008, the highest previous year, spending was \$10.9 million. Within the total, capital expenditures are to jump to \$5.7 million (\$2.6 million in 2008). Another area of rapid increase is salaries and benefits, which rose sharply from \$3.1 million in 2007 to \$3.7 million last year, and are expected to increase substantially again, to \$3.9 million this year.

Fortunately, the local taxpayer does not fund the bulk of this. The municipal tax levy this year is \$7 million (up only a little from last year), in part because the Township expects to dip into its reserves. (See the table and Note 2 below.) However, the big increase in funding comes from provincial (and to a lesser extent federal) grants, which have risen from \$1.8 million in 2008 to a projected \$4.2 million.

2009 is the year of infrastructure spending in Tiny, as it is in so many localities. Capital outlays on parks are to go from \$230,000 to \$1.37 million (Balm Beach, Woodland Beach, the Beach Care Program, and new signage, accounting for most of this); the Roads Department capital budget is up from \$1.69 million last year to \$2.97 million (construction of the Baseline Road bridge, entirely grant-funded this year, is budgeted at \$1.62 million in itself).

It is worth noting, however, that the Township has not actually managed to spend its capital budget in any year since 2000, falling short by amounts ranging from \$152,394 to as much as \$1,119,725. It remains to be seen how many “shovels will actually be in the ground” this year.

Note 1: The accounts of the Township’s water systems are not discussed in this article, since they are essentially on a user-pay basis and do not depend on the municipal tax base for any of their funding. Garbage collection is excluded as well, since it is also funded separately (by a user fee and through the County tax levy). It is of interest, however, that capital spending on the water systems is increasing sharply this year as well, from \$220,000 to \$940,000.

Note 2: The projected decline of roughly \$600,000 in Reserves and Reserve Funds this year will surprise those who heard or read the Treasurer’s budget presentation on March 9, in which he announced a “Net increase in Reserves and Reserve Funds 2009 budget of \$1,189,655 or 21.3%” and displayed a bar graph labelled “Trends of Reserves & Reserve Funds” showing a modest increase in Reserves and a substantial rise in Reserve Funds. The reason for the difference is that the Treasurer included the

	2005 actual	2006 actual	2007 actual	2008 actual	2009 budget
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM					
Municipal tax levy	\$6,195,857	\$6,140,891	\$6,420,011	\$6,696,414	\$6,985,676
Grants and donations	\$1,205,365	\$1,674,243	\$1,147,238	\$1,834,161	\$4,227,146
Fees, penalties, etc	\$1,179,051	\$1,284,162	\$1,240,158	\$1,241,987	\$1,103,628
Development charges and interest	\$455,434	\$611,533	\$754,813	\$426,304	\$365,108
Land sales	\$220,422	\$12,881	\$0	\$3,600	\$0
Reserves and Reserve Funds	\$720,100	\$1,335,921	\$574,363	\$823,136	\$1,719,559
Other sources	\$411,669	\$606,460	\$703,265	\$854,142	\$206,000
TOTAL	\$10,387,898	\$11,666,091	\$10,839,848	\$11,879,744	\$14,657,117
HOW IT'S USED					
Payment to OPP	\$1,250,956	\$1,618,483	\$1,757,333	\$1,498,368	\$1,551,177
Salaries and benefits	\$2,800,895	\$2,978,829	\$3,152,556	\$3,689,575	\$3,894,747
Other operating expenditures	\$1,965,744	\$2,240,078	\$2,076,380	\$2,306,124	\$2,337,204
Capital expenditures	\$2,032,198	\$3,215,908	\$2,350,785	\$2,597,097	\$5,743,052
Add to Reserves and Reserve Funds	\$1,838,392	\$761,732	\$1,066,839	\$1,311,098	\$1,118,274
TOTAL	\$9,988,269	\$10,921,563	\$9,911,871	\$10,925,748	\$14,644,454

Waste Disposal Reserve and the Water Reserve Fund (whose budgeted increase of over \$600,000 is not funded by the municipal taxpayer) and left out the Development Charges and Parkland Trust Reserve Funds (which do affect the municipal taxpayer and are expected to drop by over a

million dollars).

We strongly recommend that the accounts of the Water Department be kept entirely separate from the General Budget, in the future.

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# Invasive *Phragmites australis* Workshop

By DIANE HASLEY

On April 3, 2009, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC) sponsored a very informative workshop at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in Southampton. Doug Freiburger, Board Member, LHCCC, welcomed the participants and Patrick Donnelly, Coastal Manager, LHCCC, emphasized the need to take a science-based approach in efforts to control *Phragmites* — not for cosmetic reasons — but because of the threat to ecosystems.

**The Speakers and Their Topics**

- Janice Gilbert, Wetland Ecologist, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), gave a detailed presentation of her experiences with *Phragmites* and described ongoing control programs, particularly in Rondeau Provincial Park on Lake Erie.
- Bill Jones, Director of Public Works, Town of Saugeen Shores, offered a municipal approach aimed at achieving balance between recreational needs and long-term sustainability of shoreline ecosystems.
- Keith Johnston, Park Planner, Ontario Parks, discussed the development of a long-term plan, including a vegetation management strategy for Wasaga Provincial Park.
- Trevor Robak, Pesticides Specialist, SW Region, Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE), explained how new regulations apply to glyphosate, which is the herbicide recommended for the control of *Phragmites*.
- Bill Droog, Prescribed Fire/Behaviour Specialist, MNR, outlined procedures for those who want to burn standing patches of *Phragmites* and emphasized safety precautions for burning cut stalks.
- Frank Letourneau, Licensed Pesticide Applicator, described what he has learned during 18 years of *Phragmites* control experience.

The following is a compilation of the information contained in these presentations:

**Background Information**

The non-native subspecies of *Phragmites australis* was first noticed to be an issue on the coast of New Jersey in the 1970s (it had probably been there for several decades). By the mid 80s, it had spread to the St. Lawrence River area and from there to the Great Lakes and across the continent, growing in monocultures and taking over entire ecosystems. In Ontario, it is currently found south of the Highway 60 corridor. One flowering seed head of this plant can produce 20,000 seeds, which germinate readily in disturbed soils. On land, the rhizomes spread either below or above soil, depending on the conditions. One rhizome that was found measured over 14 metres long! The plant has developed a different root structure to grow in water.

There is a native subspecies of *Phragmites australis*, which does not grow in monocultures but can be found interspersed with other plants. If there is any doubt, it is important to consult an expert who is aware of the distinguishing characteristics of each subspecies in order that the native variety is left untouched.

**Control Measures**

Methods that are currently being used to control *Phragmites* include removing and burning the seed heads,

cutting, flooding, smothering and applying herbicide by spraying, injecting or hand wicking. Trying to remove *Phragmites* by digging is not a recommended option because pieces of the root system, once disturbed, will spread. Goats grazing in patches of *Phragmites* can effectively control the growth and allow native species to rebound. Natural control solutions are being investigated. At least four species of moth are known to attack *Phragmites*, but there is an understandable reluctance to introduce non-native insects.

**Management Plans**

- Any plan to address the problem of *Phragmites* must be site specific and will probably rely on a combination of methods. Here are a few examples:
- At Rondeau Provincial Park there are many large plots of *Phragmites* that are difficult to access. Using a modified vehicle, which allows the operator to spray from a high level, has facilitated the application of herbicide in these areas. Due to the wildlife present in this wetland, control work occurs only in the late fall.
  - The proposed plan at Wasaga Provincial Park has taken into consideration 1.7 million visitors and the summer presence of endangered Piping Plovers. Control measures will take place during the less busy times of year. The initial 3-year Wasaga project recognizes that *Phragmites* will not be eliminated entirely, but aims to reduce and control the plant by using herbicide application in conjunction with cutting and burning seed heads.
  - At Sauble Beach, herbicide has been injected into the roots and applied to plants by hand wicking.
  - In 2007, a pilot project at Saugeen Shores saw 100 volunteers cut the stalks of vast stands of *Phragmites*. This project provided an instant, visible improvement but only a slight decline in regrowth. An herbicide trial occurred last summer and was very successful.

In southwestern Ontario and Wasaga, flattening or compressing the stands of *Phragmites* when the plants are dormant and brittle – after several killing frosts – and then spraying herbicide on the new plants when they are actively growing in June is the most recent technique being used. The plants are compressed by pulling a farm roller over the area. At other locations, the plants are sprayed in late fall, but the compression/herbicide combination gives much easier access to the plants and uses about 1/4 the amount of herbicide.

Effective management plans include instructions for dealing with the biomass that remains after the work has been done. At Saugeen Shores, outdoor burning is not permitted. The municipality arranged for the cuttings to be buried at the landfill site. Sometimes it is feasible to burn the plant material, if appropriate permits can be obtained. However, it is important to know that burning *Phragmites* produces an extremely hot fire and safety precautions must be part of the plan.

**Herbicides and Surfactants**

Many chemicals have been tested in the quest to control *Phragmites*. One that has been found to be effective is glyphosate, which is the herbicide that is found in Roundup. The brand name of the product used for *Phragmites* is Roundup Ultra, which is much stronger than the domestic version of Roundup. A regulation in the new

MOE Cosmetic Pesticides Act does permit individuals to use domestic Roundup for plants like poison ivy that are irritating to the skin, but not for *Phragmites*. Roundup Ultra can only be purchased and applied by licensed operators. MNR, Conservation Authorities and municipalities that have entered into agreements with MNR may use this product. Private property owners must hire a licensed exterminator and obtain written approval from MNR in order to use an herbicide to control *Phragmites*.


Because *Phragmites* can thrive in shallow water, it takes over wetlands and produces “dead zones” where no other species survive. In Canada, herbicide spraying is not permitted over water, including standing water, or from the air. Most herbicides contain surfactants, which help the liquid adhere to the plant. In Roundup, this surfactant is POEA, which has been found to damage aquatic life including tadpoles. Since Monsanto’s patent for Roundup has expired, the use of glyphosate with other surfactants is being researched in an attempt to find an alternative that might be permitted for use in wet areas. In Australia, Roundup Bioactive is being used. This glyphosate-based product has been formulated to reduce the impact on aquatic organisms. However, it is not available in Canada at the present time.

**Summary**

This workshop was certainly worthwhile, and the speakers were excellent. At the end, there was a panel discussion and a lively question period. The content of the presentations at this workshop is posted at the top right corner on the LHCCC website home page – <http://www.lakehuron.on.ca> – an ongoing source for information that is relevant to the protection of the Tiny Township shoreline.

It is clear that the invasive subspecies of *Phragmites australis* will not be eradicated; it is equally clear that there is a huge effort underway to find the most effective methods of control. The professionals involved in this effort are showing the way. We need to follow their lead – not only to restore the ecosystems that have been taken over by this plant, but also to prevent the spread of *Phragmites* from the Tiny Township beaches to other areas.

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# Wind Turbine Visual Impact Study Report

By Jack Ellis

Since last spring a University of Guelph team has been busy studying the potential visual impact of industrial wind turbines in Tiny. The team is composed of leading experts in this field: Prof. James Taylor and Prof. Robert Corey of Guelph's Landscape Architecture Program, assisted by Ms. Shirley Hall, a recent graduate student.

By the time you read this, their draft report should have been presented to Council and become available for circulation.

The basic objectives of the study were to:

1. provide a community standard to protect the scenic beauty of Tiny Township,
2. base the analysis on sound principles of visual resource assessment,
3. provide the standard in a form that can be legally adopted and provide clear zones and guidelines to potential wind turbine developers.

The Guelph team undertook a thorough study of the township by land, water and air. They identified 15 different characteristic landscapes, and mapped the township accordingly. Each landscape unit in the township was assessed for visual quality and sensitivity to industrial wind turbine development.

The Guelph team held a well-attended public meeting last summer and conducted an all-day interactive workshop session in September. The public provided information regarding which landscapes, focal points and views are most highly valued and require the strongest protection from the visually intrusive turbines, indicating shorelines, inland waters and forests as the three most valued types of landscape.

Ongoing discussions were held with Township planners and the Official Plan Review consultants regarding how to incorporate the recommendations of the study into

the Township's revised Official Plan. The draft final report merges a huge amount of information on the landscape units, their value to the public, the potential to mitigate intrusion from turbines, and many other factors.

The final analysis led to the mapping of three types of zones:

1. Turbines are excluded from these zones,
2. Turbines may be permitted after proponent conducts a specific study to demonstrate their suitability to Council,
3. Turbines may be permitted subject to appropriate setbacks.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the Visual Impact Study will be complicated by the Ontario government's efforts to pass its Green Energy Bill. This Bill, still under review by legislative committees, contains strong medicine indeed. It would strip municipalities of all planning controls on renewable energy projects and centralize them with the Province. Official Plans would be just so much empty paper!

The objectives of the Act are laudable: to provide "green jobs" for Ontario, to increase the proportion of our electric power from renewable sources, and to help to end our dependence on dirty coal.

But nobody wants to despoil beautiful areas and devastate local property values in the process. The proposed industrial wind turbines (40+ stories high) can do that in a heartbeat!

The Bill has attracted criticism from citizens, lawyers, municipalities and activists across the province. *The Tiny Cottager* suggests that all residents of Tiny should inform themselves about the proposed Green Energy Act and its potential to run roughshod over your rights. Make your opinion known to Council and to your MPP.

# The Middle Ages Return

By Robert McLaughlin



The "Dark Ages" will soon be upon us. Are you prepared? In the smoky haze of cooking fires, stories will be told of past glories, armour will be repaired and wounds attended. The young and young at heart will join in music and dance while their elders attend to the more mundane daily tasks of making clothing, pottery, cooking and metal work. You are invited to learn the skills of archery, weapon throwing and armory in anticipation of the coming battle, for battle is inevitable in the world of the SCA.

The SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) is an international organization dedicated to researching and re-creating the arts and skills of pre-17th-century Europe. Members, dressed in clothing of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, attend events, which may feature tournaments, battles, art exhibits, classes, workshops, dancing, feasts and more. On Midsummer's Eve, June 19th - 21st, Swans Keep, the local SCA, has invited medieval groups

from across Ontario to join with them on the farm of Mary Ann & Robert McLaughlin near Lafontaine, to recreate life of the Middle Ages in the fields and forests of Celtic Roots Equestrian.

This will be Swans Keep's first major event where they act as hosts. Nick West (aka Augustyn von Brixen), the "autocrat" of our local SCA, is excited with the venue. The mixed forests, trails, hills and ravines will offer strategic locations for battles involving archery and hand to hand combat. The scenic escarpment overlooking Georgian Bay will provide an ideal site for the tent village and a beautiful venue for the "Bardic Circle", workshops and crafts. Their nonprofit group seeks to educate themselves and the public through hands-on demonstrations. It is hoped that the public will embrace the spirit of the day by dressing in medieval garb and actively participating.



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- Can we control Phragmites and other invasive species on our beaches?
- How do we implement stewardship at volunteer and beach-community levels?
- Is the Nottawasaga River affecting the water quality of the Bay?
- How do we protect our sand dunes and cobble beach ecology?

The weekend should prove to be a full one for visitors, for in another area of the farm, Celtic Roots Equestrian will be hosting back to back schooling horse shows involving riders from across Simcoe County. Saturday June 20th will see Hunters and Jumpers take to the arena including a special Medieval Fun division. This will be followed on Sunday morning with the intricate beauty of the Dressage Horses. Visitors are invited to tour the stables, make some horsey friends and enjoy the Rotary food tent. Proceeds from the weekend's festivities will be shared among a number of local nonprofit organizations who have helped to bring this event to Tiny Township.

People who would like to volunteer or participate in some manner should contact Robert or Mary Ann McLaughlin at 533-2359 or [ride@celticrootsequestrian](mailto:ride@celticrootsequestrian).



# IT'S YOUR HOSPITAL TOO!

## UPDATE...

The Emergency Department at HDH introduced a new Electronic Patient Tracking system in the summer of 2008. The \$34,100 project included new computers and equipment, staff training and the development of a new triage station and furthers the hospital's commitment to E-Health; it was made possible as a result of the fundraising efforts of the Huronia Hospital Foundation and people like you!



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### 23 Mulberry Court—\$949,000

Waterfront—3000 sq.ft. home, 113' of sandy waterfront, groin protected, spectacular swimming and deep water, 3+1 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Custom cabinetry in kitchen and living room, granite counter tops. Floor to ceiling stone fireplace. West exp. Hardwood & ceramic throughout.



### 37 Glen Cedar Drive—\$449,000

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### 1011 TBRN—\$399,000

Bluewater Beach area. Almost waterfront without the taxes. Waterviews from upper living area. Directly across the street from access to a beautiful sandy beach. High basement with walkout. Spacious 100 x150 lot.



### Lt 18 Lakeland Drive—\$60,000

Vacant lot located in the community of Georgian Highlands. Access to 3 private waterfront parks. Natural gas & municipal water available.



### 1414 TBRN—\$549,900

Waterfront—Sandy shoreline w/southern exposure. Newly renovated 2400 sq.ft. 5 bedroom, 2 bath beach house w/maple kitchen & maple floors. Rec room w/walkout to beach, games room, wet bar & gas fireplace.



PLUME...continued from page 1

the letters, had staff send letters to both Ministers supporting our request. Those letters were copied to the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and to the Town of Wasaga Beach.

The response from Ministers Prentice (DOE) and Gerretsen (MOE) was discouraging. Neither proposed to have their departments address the problem through investigative work.

There were positive results, however. In February, Mayor Breckenridge and CAO/Clerk Doug Luker met with George Vadeboncoeur, CAO of Wasaga Beach, and Wasaga’s Deputy Mayor David Foster about FoTTSA’s letter and Tiny’s letter in support. The Wasaga representatives agreed to work with Tiny and share the information they receive in regular reports from the NVCA and from a community committee whose members live along the Nottawasaga River and monitor its water. They revealed that they too are concerned about what is happening to the river upstream. All four agreed that Tiny’s residents need to be aware of the results and trends of the testing of water quality in the Nottawasaga River, and agreed that a presentation by the NVCA, possibly during this summer’s Caring for Our Beaches conference on July 10, would be useful. This is going to happen. The NVCA has been invited to give the presentation “Is the Nottawasaga River affecting the water quality of the Bay?” at the conference.

On March 3, Mayor Breckenridge hosted a meeting of the mayors of municipalities from the Town of the Blue Mountains around the Bay to Georgian Bay Township, all of them members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. Among the topics discussed were three suggested by FoTTSA – controlling Phragmites australis, opposing major transfers of water from one Great Lake Basin to another, and cleaning up rivers that flow into the Great Lakes.

Out of this meeting came an “Information Session and Discussion” at Wasaga on April 16th organized by Janette Anderson of Environment Canada and hosted by Mayor Ellen Anderson, Mayor of the Town of the Blue Mountains. Those invited were political representatives from municipalities around southern Georgian Bay, representatives from key federal and provincial government agencies and groups, and, because of the January letters, the president of FoTTSA, the only citizens’ group invited. Experts made brief presentations about a range of environmental issues. At the end, Mayor Anderson asked each of the municipalities represented whether they wanted to work together on “Southern Georgian Bay Shoreline and Watershed Issues.” Everyone declared support.

This is very hopeful. Almost all environmental problems are larger than municipal boundaries. It’s important that they be managed on a regional basis. The government agencies appear to be strapped for cash when it comes to acting on the problems they perceive. They could, however, provide guidance for municipalities, the jurisdictions closest to the issues that require solution, as they work together to solve them.

While brainstorming and meetings are interesting, what must result is a series of actions. We’ll be keeping a watching brief on this one – and will report on what we observe.

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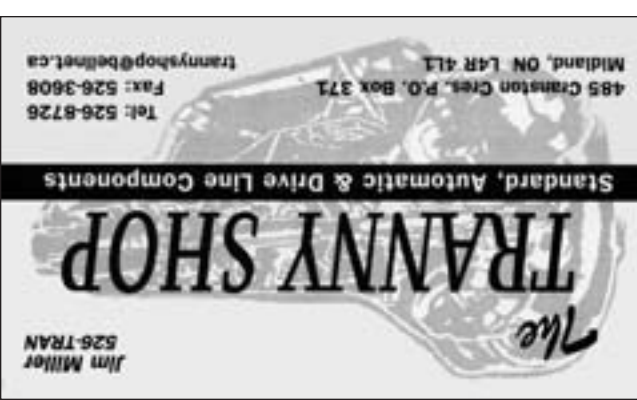


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# Woodland's Candlelight Christmas

By ELAINE STEPHENSON



There is a lovely little non-denominational community church in Woodland Beach that has been offering Sunday services during July and August plus Thanksgiving week-end for approximately 84 years. Recently, it began offering a Sunday service on Victoria Day weekend. Since there is no heating or insulation, it closes for the winter.

Last year, Pastor Greg Armstrong and his dad, Larry Armstrong, wondered if people would enjoy a Candlelight

and his family decorated the inside beams and windows with boughs of greenery, battery operated candles and bows. They erected a Christmas tree, adorned it with lights and candy-canes for the children.

December 24, 2008 was a nasty night. The wind howled. The streets were like skating rinks. But when we stepped into that little church, glowing with warmth, everyone forgot the weather. The church was filled to capacity. Pastor Greg gave a heart-warming service, played his guitar and gathered the children around his knee (some of them in their pj's) to read them the Christmas story. His wife Nancy played a lovely version of "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming" on the flute, daughter Sarah read from the Scriptures and his son Noah played the drums for "The Little Drummer Boy". Bev Domm did a fabulous job on keyboard and we all sang carols. When it came time for "Silent Night" the lights were turned out and we all switched on our battery candles that had been handed out when we entered the Church.



We are so grateful for Pastor Greg's brilliant idea and the warmth of the Christmas Spirit it brought to all of us. I think the little church felt happy too! It is everyone's hope that this will continue as a tradition in Woodland Beach for years to come.



Service on Christmas Eve. They got busy and spoke with the church board and Hydro One, arranged to have power provided to the Church for two days, installed portable heaters and had it toasty and warm by Christmas Eve. He

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# The Dance Halls of Tiny Township

By BONNIE REYNOLDS

There was a time in Ontario when the 24th of May signaled the traditional opening date of many summer dance halls. Some people still have a soft spot for that little known hall beside the lake where they had the best summer of their lives. Summer romances, strolls along the beach, the music of your youth and fast cars - lots of fun and memories to cram into the summertime.

From the 1930's into the 1950's, summer dance halls enjoyed their most successful years. All featured the best in local talent with some well-known talent thrown in for good measure. Big band music dominated the music scene at this time, to be replaced in the 1960's and 70's with rock music.

Two shoreline communities in Tiny Township had seasonal halls that would close down either Labour Day or Thanksgiving weekend, but indeed there were also various halls that operated year-round in inland communities.

I hope that I can bring back fond memories of these dance halls as you read this article.

### Woodland Beach

The Ship-A-Hoy at Woodland Beach was a popular dance hall. Built in 1932 by a Mr. Whelan, it was originally called the **Sunset Pavilion**. The music was usually provided by the Ted Johnstone family of Midland, with dances every Wednesday evening and on weekends during the summer. (Ted's son Guy and his wife Kathy operated the music store in Midland for many years and it is now run by their daughter Beth. Here you can see pictures, playbills and old musical instruments from the era of the summer time dance halls.)

In the 1950's Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tocher bought the pavilion and renamed it the **Ship-A-Hoy**. Saturday evenings there was bingo followed by a dance. On holiday weekends there was a midnight dance on Sunday nights. Disc jockeys became common at this time and one of them eventually married the Tochers' daughter, Julie.

In the late 1960's the pavilion again changed hands, being purchased by the Ellison family. Later it became the **Bayshore Seniors Club**. Today it has been renovated and upgraded, but one of the original features still remains - portholes along the side walls.

### Balm Beach

There have been several dance halls at Balm Beach over the years. One of the earliest ones was a white wooden building located on the point (near the present change/washrooms) just to the west of the arcade. Gerry Barbour, long-time resident, recalls going there as a young man in the 1930's. The building had window shutters that would be propped open to allow cool breezes to blow in from the bay. These were very handy for a young lad to look in and watch the girls dancing by. One time Gerry reached in through the window and snatched a girl off the dance floor. From my understanding she must have been expecting this, as he is still alive to tell the story. The admission was 25 cents and the music was often loud and a little off-key. This building is reported to have burned down in the 1930's.

According to Jim McIntosh, a new dance hall, the **Chateau Gai**, was then built on First Street by Norm Wahl. It was a family hall, and Norm would allow no drinking. Jim McIntosh, a long-time Balm Beach cottager, worked there as a young man. He and two other fellows acted as ticket seller, ticket taker and bouncer. McIntosh said that in later years the Chateau Gai burned down, to be replaced by a new structure located east of the beach on the Balm Beach Road, near the present-day Township Offices. Years later it was turned into a boat storage shed.

The early Chateau Gai was a popular destination. The late Jack Beauchamp said, "we played a variety of music, modern and old-time, but the folks really loved the barn dances, square dances, and the popular schottisches (a round dance). It was a great way to get to know one another." The Beauchamp family orchestra, known as the "Georgian Swingers" was made up of Jeanne Beauchamp on accordion, Jack Cowan on trumpet, Jack Beauchamp on alto sax, Alex Larmond played drums and old-time violin, Herb Beauchamp tenor sax and drums, Alice Beauchamp on piano, and Audrey Desroches - singer. The Chateau Gai was still in use into the 1950's.

Herb Beauchamp's love of music resulted in his decision to open the **Wagon Wheel** dance pavilion (later to become the **Barrel Works**) closer to the beach and across from Lawson's Billiards. Herb operated a radio parts and repair shop in Midland for many years, until his son Jack took the business over. He purchased a lot in the 1940's



and built the Wagon Wheel, booking his own band on a regular basis. His son Jack said that it was "an immediate success. Cottagers and people from Midland and Penetanguishene came to the hall all summer long."



In 1956 the original Wagon Wheel burned down and was replaced by a cement block structure, and later was re-named the "Barrel Works". Scott Whittington, partner in the musical duo called "Nightlife", commented that "beach parties, beer and fun of every description were the order of the day. The music was loud and high energy. The 400 or so faithful regulars who would crowd the dance floor every Saturday night were mainly from the Toronto area, with some locals mixed in." Whittington was then a member of the popular Barrel Works House band from 1974-1981. The Good Times Band and Six Pack were other groups that were popular at this time. During those years the music varied from punk and new wave to 50's rock 'n' roll. "We played anything at all, as long as it would fill the dance floor", said Whittington. Today the Barrel Works is used for storage.

### Inland Dance Halls

Due to the success of his seasonal Barrel Works, Mr. Beauchamp built the **Circle B** dance hall in 1952. It was located just outside Midland on the way to Penetanguishene, and used logs to give it a rustic appearance. The Circle B operated during the fall and winter, until the May long weekend, when the Wagon Wheel would roll into life.

Another popular year-round dance hall was the **Rooster Tail**, located behind Johnson's Fruit Market on Hwy. 93. Operated in the 1970's by Vern Johnson, it usually featured a band led by Tommy Shields. The music must have been quite loud at times, as in the September 28, 1978 council minutes, a nearby neighbour expressed concern at the noise that originated from the Rooster Tail.

Vern's son Jim says that after a night of music and frivolity his Dad would go to bed apparently dead tired. In the morning his wife Edith would rush out to the hall to sweep the floors. Unknown to her, Vern would scatter some coins on the floor, to entice her to clean up the hall so he could stay in bed. However Edith wasn't so naive, as one morning she ordered Vern to get out and pick up the coins he had dropped when his money jar had fallen on the icy field (between the hall and their home) the night before.

Another dance floor popular into the 1980s was the **Country Mill**, located on the Balm Beach Road, near the Castle.

### Community Halls

Dances were held year round in halls in Lafontaine, Waverley, Wyevalle and Wyebridge. Today the halls or community centres in Lafontaine and Wyebridge are still used occasionally for dances. Weekly line-dancing has been popular in Wyebridge for the last 12 years or so. On Wednesday evenings, the Huronia Ballroom Dance Club holds ballroom and Latin dancing.

Perhaps the style of dancing has changed, but when people and good music get together a fun time is had. People often comment on the wealth of musical talent in this area. Whether it be at an impromptu jam session or a more formally developed band - rest assured all of those who attend have a memorable time.

To learn more about summer dance halls in Ontario, read the book *Let's Dance* by Peter Young.



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# Spring Clean the Greener Way

By IRENE WILSON



The days are longer and the sun is streaming in through those hazy windows, illuminating the dust bunnies and residues of living. The first weekend of opening the cottage can produce some major cleaning challenges: the mouse droppings, fly and insect carcasses, spider webs and sticky fingerprints that have fossilized onto walls and switch plates. Most of us **really** don't look forward to cleaning and scrubbing to bring the place back to the living. It's tempting to reach for those products that promise "no scrubbing" and miraculous levels of germ free results with minimal effort.

While we all welcome that breath of fresh spring air, we often contaminate our indoor air with a cocktail of chemicals. There are deodorizers, sanitizers, air fresheners, and antibacterial agents, to name a few of the products that we add to the indoor air that we breathe. These products may contain dangerous chemicals, some of which are carcinogens, toxins and respiratory irritants.

Let's start with aerosol "air fresheners" that release chemicals as tiny particles, which can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and transferred into the bloodstream. They work by using a nerve-deadening chemical that interferes with our sense of smell or by coating nasal passages with an oily film or by masking the offending odour with a different odour. The plug-in variety breaks chemicals into even smaller particles. Anything that we spray into the air can be inhaled, similar to the concept of second hand smoke. Young children, older adults and those with respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis and emphysema can be seriously affected by such products.

Any cleaning products that we spray on surfaces such as windows or furniture are dispersed into the air and become part of the air that we breathe. Combining ammonia (contained in window cleaners) and bleach (contained in many bathroom cleaners) creates chloramine gas, a toxic substance that can cause eye, nose, throat and respiratory irritation. Combining bleach with toilet bowl cleaners or vinegar (which contains acid) creates chlorine gas -- that was used in World War 1 as a deadly weapon! Its effects can be long lasting and damaging to the lungs and respiratory system.

Scientists worry that we don't understand the long-term effects of exposure to the cocktail of chemicals that are found in household air and dust. Furthermore, we often assume that household cleaning and air freshening products have been tested and are safe. Household cleaners are covered under the Hazardous Products Act, which dates back to the 1960's, and are regulated by the consumer Chemicals and Containers Regulations. This

requires labels to have hazard symbols that we are familiar with



Corrosive      Reactive      Flammable      Poison

Manufacturers are required to provide information about first aid treatments for "hazardous" ingredients. There is no requirement to list other chemicals that could produce health risks or to provide warnings such as "may cause respiratory problems". Products with these hazard labels should be used with care. Assume that they have the potential to cause serious health side effects with normal or prolonged use. Respiratory illness is now the leading cause of admission to hospital for children. The incidence of childhood asthma has jumped 400%, and according to Health Canada, more than half of all hospital visits for children under 5 years old are due to poisoning and other injuries from common household products.

Our skin is another avenue for our bodies to absorb toxins from our environment. Patches like the "Nicotine Patch" or "Nitro-glycerine Patch" are frequently used as a reliable method to deliver consistent medication into our bloodstream. Remember to use a pair of protective gloves before using any cleaning products. Think of young children walking barefoot or sitting on floors and carpets that have been cleaned with chemicals. They are absorbing some of those residues through their skin. Many young children also put everything into their mouths. A commonly marketed product, Lysol Antibacterial Action Spray, lists 79% ethanol (denatured ethanol), which, according to Material Safety Data Sheets, "May cause irritation of the eyes and mucous membranes, may cause central nervous system depression if inhaled or ingested". Do you want your child or grandchild to put toys or objects in their mouth that have been sprayed with these chemicals? Scientists are also concerned that products containing antibacterial agents kill beneficial bacteria and contribute to the creation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Use household products with care. Store them in their original containers and follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and precautions. Do not mix different cleaners together. Ventilate your rooms after using sprays and cleaners. If you can still smell them, then you are breathing them into your lungs. Use bleach sparingly, as it is toxic as a skin irritant and by inhalation. It may be a neurotoxin and cause liver damage. It also disrupts bacterial action in your septic tank. Some of the immediate side effects of household chemicals can be dizziness, headaches, burning, itchy eyes and shortness of breath. Skin problems such as eczema and contact dermatitis can result from exposure while using the products or from residues on surfaces or fabrics.

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continued from previous page

wagon by changing their product designs and marketing. Kathy Cooper, a senior researcher with the Canadian Environmental Law Association, says, "There's a lot we don't know about the chemicals in our cleaners. Companies are not required to tell us." Companies are hesitant to publish ingredients and risk giving away trade secrets. Their formulas are protected by legal patents both in Canada and in the United States. Labels such as "Biodegradable" can be misleading. DDT for instance biodegrades into DDD and DDE, both probable human carcinogens.

As an alternative to commercial cleaning products you might head to your local dollar store and buy a few of the new microfibre cloths and several spray bottles in which to mix your own safe concoctions. The cloths do a great job of cleaning with nothing more than water.

Alternative All Purpose Cleaners:

1. Arm & Hammer Washing Soda: Sprinkle on a damp sponge for cleaning bathtubs and sinks. Dissolve in water (according to package directions) for cleaning floors, walls, etc. Use as a laundry additive to whiten clothes.
2. 20 Mule Team Borax: **Caution:** Do not inhale powder.
3. Baking Soda: Sprinkle on a damp sponge to remove stains from countertops, walls, etc. Removes coffee/tea stains from mugs. Sprinkle on a damp toothbrush to get into crevices. Also deodorizes as it cleans.
4. Vinegar: Add half a cup to 8 cups of water in a bucket with a small squirt of liquid dish soap. I find that it deodorizes as it cleans. I find vinegar and water and a well wrung out microfibre cloth do a great job of cleaning stainless steel appliances. (How dare they call them "stainless"? Just keep all your wiping actions horizontal to lessen the appearance of streaks.
5. There are alternative cleaning products available, made by Nature Clean, Down East and Shaklee.
6. Multipurpose Cleaner: 1 tsp borax, 1 tsp washing soda, 2 tbsps vinegar, 1 tsp liquid castile soap, 2 cups very hot water. Add first four ingredients to a spray bottle, then slowly add the hot water and shake until the dry ingredients are dissolved.
7. Vinegar Cleaner: 1 cup white vinegar, 1 cup water, mix in a spray bottle or wipe on and wipe off.

Alternatives to Bleach:

1. There are many brands of oxygen bleach on the market. They do a good job and can be used for general cleaning or as laundry additives.
2. Sunshine will whiten cotton and linen and is a great deodorizer.

Disinfectants:

1. Disinfecting/deodorizing cleaner: 1 cup of borax to 4 litres of warm water.
2. Disinfectant: 2 tsp borax, 4 tbsp vinegar and 3 cups hot water. Wipe on or use spray bottle.
3. Tea Tree Disinfectant: 20 drops tea tree oil, 20 drops emulsifier, 1 cup water or vinegar. Put emulsifier in bottle, add oil and blend. Add vinegar or water. Shake well.
4. Cinnamon Disinfectant: 12 drops cinnamon oil, 12 drops emulsifier, 1 cup water or vinegar. Put emulsifier in container, add oil and blend, and add water or vinegar. Shake well before using.

A very helpful website is [www.lesstoxicguide.ca](http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca). Select Household Cleaners from the left hand column.



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REPORT. . .continued from page 4

**SPRING.** The Township will collect leaf and yard waste this fall on all roads other than private.

**NEGOTIATIONS WITH PARKS & REC:** David Clark, of David A. Clark Consulting Inc., was retained to facilitate the relationship between the Township and the Recreation Associations. Though complex, this negotiation has been going well, and a new agreement should be signed some time in June. This has been an important community-building exercise.

Volunteer recreation associations have for years poured energy into providing recreation facilities for the Township's children and adults. The six groups (Lafontaine, Toanche, Perkinsfield, Wyebridge, Wyevale, and CBO) have raised money (matched by the Township) and managed the facilities, which are now owned and maintained by the Township. Recently, however, given its insurance liability and other concerns, the

Township has become uneasy about the division of responsibility. It became clear that a different structure needed to be developed.

A tentative Memorandum of Understanding between the Recreation Associations and the Township has now been developed, which is to be reviewed by the Township's Community Recreation Committee, the Steering Committee, and will be formally approved by Council probably in June.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT COOPERATION:** In January, Randy Smith, Tiny's Fire Chief, described to Council how the fire departments of Tiny, Penetanguishene, Midland, Tay and the Georgian Bay Township are making cooperative use of resources.

Chief Smith is Vice President of the Simcoe County Fire Chiefs' Administration Group, which is following the same cooperative path, though more slowly. He believes that there'll be more regionalization of fire

departments in the years to come as municipalities strive to control rising costs.

**BUILDING ACTIVITY IN TINY:** In spite of a slow start in January and February, the value of construction permits in Tiny was down at the end of March only a little as compared with the same point last year, \$2,845,000 in 2009, as opposed to \$2,891,000 in 2008.

**ENFORCEMENT OF THE SIGN BY-LAW:** During the discussion of the By-law Department's activities last year, Councillor Claire requested more enforcement of the sign by-law which prohibits advertising signs on trees and posts along Township roads.

When we asked Steven Harvey, the Township's Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, about this he said, "In previous years there has been one summer officer that takes the lead on dealing with this by-law concern. This will be happening again in 2009."

We urge anyone who notices advertising signs nailed to trees along Township roads to report their location to the By-law Department at 705-526-4136. Before the Sign By-law came into effect, such signs were a real blight.

**GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS:** Recently, Council made a two-year commitment to Physician Recruitment of \$10,000 a year, to the Huronia Hospitals Foundation of \$10,000 a year, and to the Caring for Our Beaches Conference (which is to take place on July 10) of \$3,500.

**CHAMPLAIN COMMEMORATIVE TRAIL PROJECT:** At the end of March, Councillor André Claire, who represents Council on the Historical and Heritage Committee, announced that three plaques are to be placed along the Tiny Trail with funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

**Plaque #1** - between the 1st & 3rd Concessions – refers to the **Petun** peoples, who occupied villages located immediately below the Blue Mountains. Champlain visited them early in 1616.

**Plaque #2** – between the 4th & 5th Concessions – concerns the **Hurons/Ouendats**, whose traditional homeland lay in this area. At the time the French arrived, the Huron/Ouendat Confederacy had a population of about 12,000 in 20 villages.

**Plaque #3** – at the 7th Concession – marks the location of **Ossossane**, the village that was the capital of the Huron confederacy, abandoned in the spring of 1649 when its inhabitants moved to Awendahoe (now Christian Island).


**SHORE PROJECTS:** The Budget includes funding for a Master Plan for Lafontaine Beach (\$30,000), parking machines for Jackson's Park and Woodland Park, implementation of the Woodland Park Master Plan (\$324,310), beach care programs (\$286,578, a strategic plan project), and lighting and landscaping at Balm Beach (\$171,800, another strategic plan project).

**WATER PROJECTS:** The Water Department is now required to test for lead and to perform an audit of its drinking water quality management systems.

Among Water Capital Budget budgeted items are SCADA software upgrades; well upgrades at Whip-poor-will, Perkinsfield and Sawlog Bay; replacement of a water main at Georgian Sands; a strategic water supply plan (\$290,000); pump upgrades, and well source protection assessment.

**TAXES:** Overall, Township spending (excluding water and garbage) is budgeted to increase by a whopping 34% this year, because capital outlays are projected to more than double. However, provincial and federal grants and a drawdown of reserve funds will cover a great deal of this, so the municipal tax levy is projected to increase by only 4.3% (see article on page 5.)

Capital spending on water systems, which are funded by users as opposed to taxpayers, is also expected to increase hugely this year. Here too, however, provincial grants come to the rescue: user charges are projected to increase by only 4.5%, which will not require a fee increase since there are more water users than last year.



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