

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 34

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2009

The President's Message

By JUDITH GRANT

The biggest story of the summer, hands down, has been the successful effort to stop Dump Site 41. A huge thanks to everyone who helped out by organizing events, distributing flyers, attending rallies, persuading County Councillors and the like.

Tiny residents still face immediate environmental issues though. In the last three issues of the *Cottager*, we have drawn your attention to the threat posed by *Phragmites australis*, or Common Reed, to our sand and rock beaches. This invasive plant has been spreading rapidly in the last few years. Unfortunately, as you'll see in the "Report on Council" in this issue, the senior levels of government have provided no help either to us residents or to the Township's staff who have sixty patches of the weed to cope with on public property.

Unable to spray with glyphosate (the most effective control), township employees are going to do some removal of seed heads and cutting of the plants this fall as time permits. We urge private property owners to tackle their own patches of *Phragmites* as a high priority. Snipping the seed heads for burning or bagging as garbage will help to prevent the propagation of new patches.

Cutting the green plants to the ground in the fall for burning or disposal in bags, if done for five or six years in succession, will weaken and eventually kill them.

Snipping and cutting are both important, and if neighbours get together to share the labour, it shouldn't take very long (depending on the size of the patch).

You'll find some practical advice about these and other actions that can be taken, now and next year, to control this species on www.tinycottager.org. This new "closing up" or fall activity could even help to work up your appetite for Thanksgiving dinner!



Inside

Champlain Made History in Tiny	2
The Romantic Allure of Georgian Bay	3
Report on Council	4
Official Plan Review	5
Simcoe County Update	5
New Invasive Weeds Coming Our Way	7
The Group of Seven and Me	12
Why You Shouldn't Abandon Your Pet	13



July 25 Rally for the Site 41 Moratorium, Perkinsfield Pavilion

Dump Site 41 (1979-2009) R.I.P.

By JUDITH GRANT

As most of you know, September 22nd was a momentous day in the history of Tiny Township. It's the day Site 41 finally got stopped. Here's a brief chronology of events that led to this happy outcome.

1979 - North Simcoe municipalities start to search for a dump site location.

1986 - a 20.7 hectare parcel of land in Tiny's Concession 2 East is selected on the basis of an environmental assessment.

1989 - A Joint Board (a combination of the Environmental Review Tribunal and Ontario Municipal Board) rejects Site 41 because the process of site selection was flawed.

1990 - In response to an appeal from North Simcoe municipalities, the Provincial cabinet issues an Order in Council rescinding the Joint Board decision.

1990-93 - Additional sites are reviewed, but Site 41 remains the preferred choice.

1993-94 - Joint Board hearings run from May 1993 to November 1994.

1995 - Board Chair Robert D. Eisen issues a decision approving Site 41. Simcoe County takes over the dump project.

1998 - The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) issues a provisional Certificate of Approval (C of A), including a requirement for a Community Monitoring Committee (CMC) to "serve as a focal point for the collection, review and exchange of information relevant to both County and local concerns in connection with the landfill site." The County starts assembling land, 69.72 hectares in all.

2003 - County consultant Jagger Hims uses Modflow, an open source software program free for use in the public interest, to do a hydrogeological and geotechnical evaluation of the site.

Tiny's Mayor Bob Klug and Deputy Mayor Gordon Salisbury view Site 41 as a done deal. Salisbury sees his

role as ensuring that Tiny is compensated for impacts the Site may have on the municipality.

When the designs are presented at public meetings, however, people become aware that an important aquifer is being placed at risk.

In March, Tiny's Council unanimously resolves not to rezone the property to permit the construction, operation and maintenance of a landfill site, until the Province provides assurance that the groundwater will not be contaminated.

Peer reviews by Dixon Hydrogeology Ltd, Severn Sound Environmental Assn., and Golder Associates Ltd raise major concerns.

2004 - In his Annual Report, Gord Miller, Ontario's Environmental Commissioner, expresses concern over the MoE's failure to review the C of A.

Tiny's newly elected Council (Bob Klug, Pierre Paul Maurice, Peggy Breckenridge, Ray Millar, Rob Panasiuk) hires Harry Dahme of Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP to provide legal advice regarding Site 41, and retains Dixon Hydrology to assess whether Simcoe County had responded adequately to the problems identified in peer reviews of the design. Dixon raises concerns about the liner, the Midland sewage plant's ability to treat the leachate, the staging of the project, and impacts on MacDonald Creek.

When it becomes clear to Council that Mayor Klug is in favour of going ahead with Site 41, he is replaced on the CMC.

2005 - Tiny's Council passes an Interim Control By-law prohibiting construction or development at Site 41 for 1 year to allow time for study of land use policies in the Official Plan.

2006 - The MoE issues final approval for Site 41.

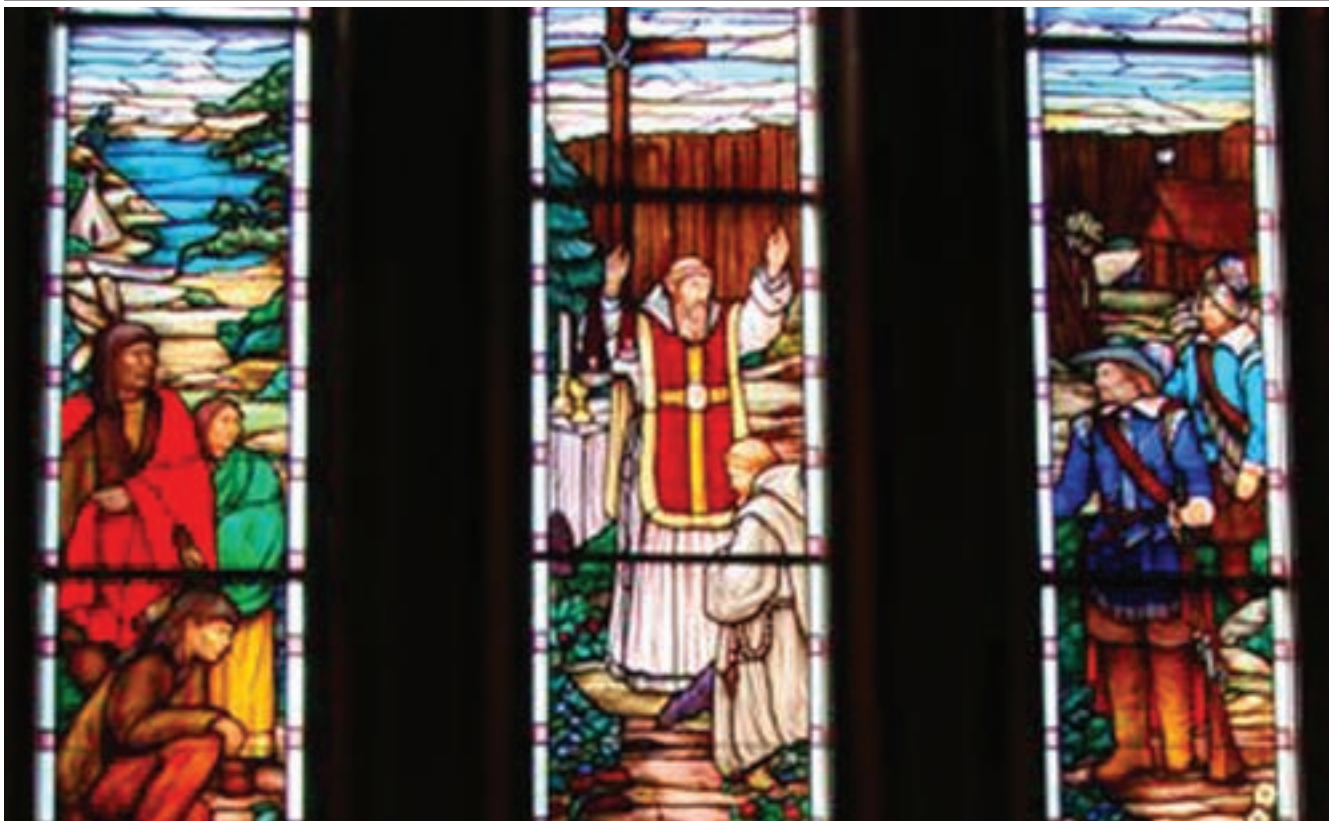
As a result of its study of land use policies, Tiny

see SITE 41. . .page 8

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Lancet windows in Ste. Croix Church in Lafontaine commemorating Champlain's time in Tiny Township – First Nations, first mass at Caraghouha, and, probably, Champlain at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons

Champlain Made History in Tiny

BY BILL JOHNSON & AL TAYLOR

The life of Samuel de Champlain is one of the most exciting adventure stories in our local, and for that matter, Canadian history. Almost single-handedly this seaman and former soldier from Brouage, France seeded an empire on this continent, and came to be called “the Father of New France”. He was an experienced navigator who crossed the Atlantic 27 times, a keen naturalist, and meticulous observer, reporter, and able administrator. It was he who saw the tremendous trade and agricultural potential of this country.

He enjoyed a very close relationship with France's greatest King, Henri IV. Credible rumors circulated among historians that he was the king's illegitimate son. Henri had close to 100 bastard children. In Champlain's early adventures he could visit the king at any time and get his support financially when needed. He also believed in the king's philosophy of a Catholic nation with complete tolerance of other religions.

The recent revival of interest in Champlain's life kindled by the 400th anniversary of his North American landing reveals an amazing range of talents, determination, stamina and practicality...and his dream of an empire.

His journals and maps have been examined and reexamined and still new information emerges hundreds of years later. The thrust westward was envisioned by Champlain and was carried on by later waves of pioneers.

An early ethnographer, he wrote extensively about the native people, accurately chronicling their customs and life and giving us a first hand account of an unspoiled culture. He supported the Huron in this area against the Iroquois, fought in the first confrontations with the Iroquois, but working for a peaceful solution was always uppermost in his philosophy.

Champlain introduced the first missionaries to "New France" and to Huronia, of which Tiny is a major part. To this day this shows the deep roots of our French heritage, indeed our very existence as part of our great nation today.

On April 24, 1615 Champlain left New France with four missionaries with the goal of penetrating Nipissing country and Huronia in an area where Brûlé had been previously. This was a crusade for the soul of the "wilderness

man"; geography and cartography were secondary pursuits.

To get to Huronia, Champlain and his group canoed about 25 miles a day in spite of an estimated 58 portages, a remarkable pace. He reached Georgian Bay, and reports catching trout four and a half feet long and the smallest as two and a half feet, unless he was the first to tell fish whopper tales!

On August 12, Champlain linked with Father Le Caron, a Recollet, who had preceded Champlain in his enthusiasm to convert souls among the Huron. They met at Caraghouha, and there held the first mass in Upper Canada on August 12, 1615. This was no small collection of wigwams, but a well made fortress with a triple wooden palisade 25 feet high. It was the forerunner of the larger future mission station, Ste. Marie among the Hurons.

The history of our area is second only to Quebec and should be celebrated as such, but sadly, we too often pay little attention to our heritage and history.

In the last issue of *The Tiny Cottager*, in “The Five Crosses of Tiny Township”, we mentioned that recent research of archival records indicates that Champlain may not have landed at Toaniché after all.

Further investigation suggests that he may well have landed at Thunder Bay where a small creek enters the bay. Archives reveal that he marched with his Indian friends a distance of two and a half miles to hold the first mass in Upper Canada at the village of Caraghouha on August 12. That is just about the exact distance from Thunder Beach.

We also know that the indigenous peoples always liked to pull canoes up on sandy beaches and preferred to have a stream handy. Toanché is a less likely candidate; plus, the group would have normally pressed on to the bottom of a bay.

On arrival, the natives fished for salmon, sturgeon and trout at a location that sounds like the mouth of Thunder Bay. We know that area teemed with such fish and still does to a much lesser extent. Champlain talks of nine foot sturgeon. The mouth of Penetang Bay yields bass, pickerel, and pike today and probably did back then – there were no mentions of these species in the archives.

We interviewed Father Tom Day, a charming and delightful Catholic priest who lives on the northwest shore of Thunder Bay in a rather historic stone French type home, with a view of the whole bay. He firmly believes Champlain landed here as well as planting an apple from France resulting in an apple tree, which was felled by beavers many years ago. He is well aware of the Huron village overlooking the bay, which Bill Johnson can attest to, having recovered many excellent artifacts and having visited the related bone pit about a kilometer south of the 19th.

Father Day feels this is the site of Caraghouha.

Champlain has to be considered the father of Canada. His patience, compassion for the local tribes, and his skill in working with the various native groups in New France was unique in the new world. He treated them as equals and when problems occurred he listened and then tried to find common ground that satisfied both sides. This was radically different from the English, Dutch and Spanish to the south who bulldozed the native peoples.

He crossed the Atlantic 27 times in his career to seek funding, support and deal with the politics in France, which were brutal. The boats he sailed in were not the type any of us would be prepared to commit our lives to. A good trip took one month, but bad weather – storms, icebergs, and fog – would often result in spending eight to ten weeks on a turbulent ocean.

His zeal and maturity made Canada what it is today. If he had not been born we would be living in a very different country. We owe him everything for his dream of what could be.

Is there anywhere you'd rather be? For our money Champlain should be declared a Saint. Certainly the settlers of New France and all the indigenous people felt he was their Saint.

Perhaps the church on reading this will consider this suggestion. He and Sir John A. are the true original Canadians with a vision that could not be extinguished in spite of almost overwhelming setbacks, lack of resources and brutal politics in the home country.

We should be more diligent in identifying sites of historical interest that Champlain discovered, along with the native villages and bone pits, and preserve them for future generations. Many of these locations that have somehow survived time could be developed at some point. Once they are gone they are lost to us forever and we will have lost a great deal of our identity and history.

Our next bit of detective work will be to try to find the remains of Father Le Caron's small home just north and slightly west of the present Caraghouha cross. If it can be found it will confirm just where this bit of history occurred.

Special thanks to all those who assisted in the writing of this article: Elizabeth Hancock; Jamie Hunter; Father Tom Day; Berndt and Gerit Taeger; Green Block Trading Post.

Sources:

Ontario Archives – Old Huronia Printer 1908

"Champlain" by Joe C. W. Armstrong

"Champlain's Dream" by David Hacksetter Fischer

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The Romantic Allure of Georgian Bay

By IRENE WILSON



Brides and grooms were spotted amongst the sun worshippers this summer in the Bluewater Beach area, causing the beach goers to stop and admire the show. Many couples have used the beach as a backdrop for their photography, but some even chose it as the venue for both their vows and reception. There has been a trend for Caribbean Beach weddings in the last decade or so. Why go to all that trouble and expense when you can host an idyllic ceremony right here on Georgian Bay (weather permitting)? For most brides and grooms, the cottage or beach has special meaning or significance that contributes to the celebration of their new life together.

A beach wedding tends to have a more casual approach. Attire is less formal, both for the bridal party and guests. Shoes are often discarded. Walking in high heels on the sand might result in a segment for “America’s Funniest Home Videos” rather than an elegant entrance. Sandals, bare feet and shorts blend with tuxedos, silks and satins. Elaborate trains and veils are best suited for formal church weddings rather than competing with the wind, water and sand of Georgian Bay. Likewise, receptions can be more relaxed. Tents are set up to protect against the sun and the rain. Menus are varied from barbecues to pig roasts to full catered affairs.

Reasons for choosing a beach wedding on Georgian Bay are often tied to special memories and perhaps some romantic moments. Some couples can trace the history of their relationship to a chance meeting at one of the beaches, either through visits to a relative’s cottage or a summer rental. One young bride tells of her husband’s proposal right on the beach three years ago. “It is one of our favourite places. It’s paradise right in our own backyard.” Their wedding took place this August on the same beach.

Having a wedding at the cottage provides a setting that may have strong emotional ties. For some, it is a secure, unchanging base, often for generations. There are families that have moved around the country due to job transfers and “coming home” translates into arriving at the cottage. For many family and close friends, meeting at the cottage becomes a revered ritual. Relaxing activities like swimming, badminton, roasting marshmallows and toasting a sunset replace hectic city schedules. Those gatherings become traditional weekends, cast in stone, not to be missed. The sense of family and stability provides a symbolic foundation for the start of a new life together.



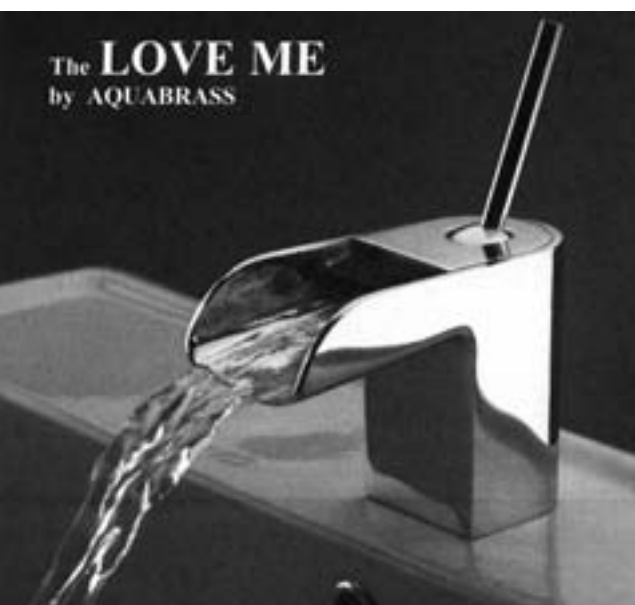
Our lives have become so busy with the advanced electronic age that slowing down, squishing some sand between your toes and savouring a sunset can lower your blood pressure better than any medications. When we are relaxed, we are more open to letting Cupid’s arrow find its mark. Can you think of anything more romantic than a sunset walk along the shore, a stroll on a moonlit beach, or searching for constellations in the spectacular starry sky? These are some of the many features that attract us to come here and keep us coming back year after year.

Countless romances have had their start on the shores of Georgian Bay. The Bluewater Dunes were, and proba-

bly still are, a popular teen hangout where many a summer love has blossomed. Our own dune in Wendake has a romantic history. Two summers ago, a young man asked if he could use our dune to propose to his girlfriend. He wasn’t sure if he would do it Sunday or Monday night. We asked that he leave us a sign that the event had taken place. We set up two Muskoka chairs, side by side on our dune, facing the sunset. Two mornings later, there was a note tucked in the chair, “She said Yes”, and a thank-you. There was also a three-foot high YES etched in the sand. Their holidays, spent in this area, were extremely special to this young man and his fiancée.

Inscriptions in the sand are common evidence of romantic communications. Initials encased in hearts are found strewn along the beach. Even bold statements like “Jane loves Bob” or “Cheryl and Jim forever” are blazoned in the sand, until the waves wash them away. Sunday mornings are the best time to explore the beach and observe this artistry. Some of these summer romances are fleeting and forgotten when Labour Day brings us all back to reality. Some return stronger, year after year and endure for decades.


Take some time from your busy lives and take your sweetheart’s hand and head for the beach. Hold hands and savour the artistry of the sunsets. It is a new masterpiece every night with colours that can leave you speechless. Cuddle by a bonfire and admire the stars or name the constellations. Grab a flashlight the next time there is a full moon and meander down to the shore. The setting of Georgian Bay may just kindle some lovely romantic moments and create some new memories.



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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

STAFF: As expected, given Council's many strategic priorities and the sudden availability of provincial infrastructure money, this has been a hardworking year for staff. On occasion, reports have been inadequately prepared, and at least one key member of staff needed a period of leave this summer because of stress.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET (a strategic priority): The County of Simcoe's Broadband Service project is behind schedule. Bell Aliant, winner of the contract to supply infrastructure, is the cause of the delay. The area of Tiny that is to gain High Speed service this year and next is more extensive than was thought—virtually the whole Township except the northern rim. See the map on tiny.ca under Community / High Speed Internet. Those who will not be covered should fill in the survey, which is also accessible from the High Speed Internet section of tiny.ca. The more households that express interest, the greater the likelihood of funding for High Speed service.

SEPTAGE (a strategic priority): In May, the hope that Tiny Township septage might be sent to the new sewage treatment facility in Penetanguishene was dashed. The plant is not able to accept septage.

In July, officials from the Ministry of the Environment presented information about pilot projects for treating septage, but were unable to say anything about the pros and cons of the various technologies. They said that while the MoE does not like the spreading of septage, there is no plan to prohibit the practice until the capacity for processing is increased substantially.

Council decided to retain C.C. Tatham & Associates to report on options. A preliminary report is anticipated in October.

SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION UPDATE: C.C. Tatham and Associates was hired by the Township in 2002 to inspect all the septic systems in Tiny that are more than ten years old. The entire township has now been covered once, and a second pass has begun, starting with properties in concessions 8, 9, and 10. When problems are found, the property owner is informed and given time to fix them. But laggards ultimately face court action. All the problems discovered in the program's first three years have now been cleared; a few deficiencies from 2005 and 2006 are now before the courts. All the properties with unresolved problems from 2007 have been issued with compliance orders. Those who receive such letters would be wise to act before these matters go to court. Once they get into the court system, a fine of \$300, \$600, or \$800 is likely, whether the problem has been dealt with or not. It's to an owner's advantage to deal with problems promptly and avoid the fine.

Tatham's contract has been extended until March 31, 2012.

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY AT GEORGIAN SANDS, LAFONTAINE AND POINTS NORTH (a strategic priority): The Township has initiated this study to explore its options for dealing with water issues in systems at Georgian Sands and Lafontaine, where nitrate levels have gradually been increasing and are expected to reach the maximum allowable in drinking water in the next five years. The Study is being done by R.J. Burnside and Associates of Collingwood, with Golder Associates of Barrie handling the hydrogeological work.

The first Open House about the Study took place on May 22. Those who attended were shown maps of ground water resources along the northwestern shore.



They learned that there were five potential locations for test wells: one on Charlebois Court, another inland along Thunder Beach Road, a third next to the pumping Station at Georgian Highlands on the 19th Concession, a fourth on Concession 18 west of Cedar Point Road, and a fifth on Concession 17 considerably west of Cedar Point Road.

Last year, the Township did some exploratory work at Charlebois Court. And this year, Burnside drilled a test well on Thunder Beach Road – the most promising location in the estimate of Golder Associates. The quantity and quality of the water there is still being assessed, but it looks promising. This is probably good news for residents of Georgian Sands and Lafontaine, since one of a number of options is to link these systems to an additional source of water and thus reduce the nitrate levels to an acceptable level by dilution.

The results of the summer's investigations will be presented at an Open House, probably in November.

PROPERTY OWNERS ARE ON THEIR OWN TO DEAL WITH 'COMMON REED,' OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PHRAGMITES: The Township applied this summer to the Ministry of Natural Resources for permission to spray glyphosate on patches of common reed on Township-owned shore properties. Unfortunately the province has not yet satisfied itself about the implications for water pollution, and the application was turned down. As an alternative, the Township Department of Public Works has decided to do some removal of seed heads and cutting, as time permits. Whether this will be effective remains to be seen.

So far, there is no information on the Township website to guide private property owners in how to deal with this highly invasive intruder on their own land.

FoTTSA has supplied some practical advice and pictures on www.tinycottager.org and strongly recommends that property owners take whatever action they deem feasible; this weed is rapidly getting out of hand.

FALL LEAF AND BRUSH COLLECTION: See the Township notice on page 9.

BUILDING ACTIVITY: The number of building permits issued in Tiny in the first eight months of 2009 was down substantially compared with 2008 – 301 vs 402. Not surprisingly, for the same period, the estimated value of construction was also down - \$14,607,000 as opposed to last year's \$22,434,000.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE SIGN BY-LAW: Improvements were made to the By-law that forbids the placing of advertising signs on municipal road allowances and property and sets fines, making it easier

for staff to administer. This is a positive step toward protecting the natural beauty of our township.

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.

CHAMPLAIN COMMEMORATIVE TRAIL PROJECT: Three historic plaques are now in place along the Tiny Trail – one between the 1st & 3rd Concessions referring to the Petun peoples, a second between the 4th & 5th Concessions regarding the Hurons/Ouendats, and a third at the 7th Concession marking the location of Ossossane, the capital of the Huron confederacy until 1649.

PROGRESS ON SHORE PROJECTS:
a) Master Plan for Lafontaine Beach (a strategic priority) – This has not yet gone to tender. There are ongoing discussions with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans about removal of rock groynes and other issues related to beach and water below the 177-metre level. A report is to be prepared for Council and then decisions will be made about when to go ahead with tendering.
b) Pay & Display Parking Machines were installed in Woodland Beach Park and Jackson Park before the summer.

At Woodland Beach, residents noted that the paid parking area was full only on long weekends, while the Permit Parking area was never full. At Jackson Park, the boat trailer parking area for residents with permits (10 spaces) was often full, so residents with permits often had to use one of the 10 Pay & Display spaces. It appears that more spaces should be allotted to residents with permits.

c) Woodland Park
i) Master Plan (a strategic priority) – Most of the \$324,310 allotted to this project has been spent and most of the Master Plan put into effect. Boardwalks have been installed. Plantings and paving are to be installed this fall.

ii) Storm Water Management (where the boat ramp used to be) is scheduled for this fall.

d) Beach Care Programs (a strategic priority - \$286,578) Council asked to have a number of things done during its beach tour early this spring.

One was that **signs be gathered** at one place at the access point for easy viewing and a less cluttered look. This is still in process.

Another request concerns **delineation of beach access paths from Concession 1 to 10**. This is to be completed this fall and next spring. Letters are to be sent

see REPORT... page 14

Official Plan Review: *Stuck in the Mud, and Still No Text on Turbines*

By Jack Ellis

A review of Tiny Township’s Official Plan (OP) is required every five years. A review of the current plan was due in 2006. Simcoe County, however, was then revising the County’s OP and had become bogged down on a number of issues. Therefore, Tiny’s OP Review couldn’t be started until 2008.

A well-attended public meeting on a draft version was held on June 27th, 2009. It presented a picture of evolution, rather than change, since most parties are fairly well satisfied with the 2001 “environment first” OP. Minor revisions to the text brought the OP into conformity with various Provincial policies. Some of the main points are:

- A source water protection plan is required, which is the subject of a separate study, whose results will be included when available
- In agricultural areas, no more severance of lots for retiring farmers unless a house already exists, although one is allowed under some circumstances
- The plan requires compact communities, conservation of natural resources, no new settlement areas.

The biggest discrepancies between what the senior levels of government are contemplating and the reality in Tiny Township has to do with future population numbers.

Ontario’s Places To Grow Plan forecasts the Ontario population in 2031, by county. Simcoe County then allocates each municipality’s portion of the pie. But on June 4th, the Province changed all their numbers. The proposed expansion in Tiny’s resident population during the 25-year period between 2006 and 2031 was reduced to only 550 people – a pipe dream!

In reality, in just five years between 2001 and 2006 the population of Tiny increased by 1,800 residents, largely resulting from seasonal residents becoming permanent on retirement or simply preferring the life in their ‘cottage’ to that in the city. There is no way that Tiny can restrict such population growth, nor is it clear that such is desirable.

In February of this year Tiny had almost 3,000 existing lots approved and registered throughout the Township. While there will be no more subdivisions in the shoreline areas and, in settlements only within existing boundaries, this is a huge potential influx that must be addressed somehow.

In any case, this and other situations have led to further delay in approval of the County’s OP, and since Tiny must conform to it, Tiny is also waiting, waiting.....

Wind Turbine Impacts

In 2006 and 2007 Tiny Council were disturbed that an original proposal to build six 400-foot high turbines in open fields in north Tiny was being changed to make the turbines 460 feet high, and locate them in forested areas adjacent to an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Knowing that Tiny’s property values and assessment base, as well as our landscapes, could be ravaged by such inappropriately located turbines, they followed the example of various other municipalities and commissioned a study of their impacts.

The University of Guelph study, *Visual Landscape Guidance for Industrial Wind Energy Facilities*, was presented in June, documenting the systematic scientific approach of the study. Its incorporation of public participation and residents’ values is unusually thorough. The end result is a proposed three-zone policy system the Township can incorporate into its Official Plan. It cites specific reasons for banning Industrial wind turbines in one zone and sets out requirements for locating them in two other zones.

Figures 29 and 30 of thereport define and map these zones (see <http://tinyurl.com/ydxmwm6>).

The Guelph methodology first defines landscape character units within the Township. These were ranked for value/significance based upon expert criteria, and the relative visual absorption capacity of each unit was estimated. Significant view sheds were identified.

The team held a Public Information Session outlining key issues and methodology. Comments were received and recorded.

A public participation workshop and focus group enabled the public to express their values relating to various landscape features and units. GIS mapping was used to present the information and prepare an assessment of value/significance for each landscape unit. This generated a system of three zones with the least (and most) impact potential from wind energy facility development.

The Green Energy Act: On May 19th, 2007, Ontario’s Legislature passed the *Green Energy and Green Economy Act* (GEA).

The GEA is supposed to promote a green future: reducing climate-changing carbon emissions, increasing renewable energy, closing down coal-fired power plants, and creating 50,000 new jobs.

Another goal is “an improved approval process to ensure continued protection of human health and the environment”. That certainly sounds great. The reality is otherwise: the GEA **removes** any municipal approval of renewable energy projects. It also **exempts** all but mega-projects from its own *Environmental Assessment Act*. Some now call it the *Environmental Exemptions Act*.

Some GEA contradictions:

- the Provincial Policy Statement **requires** municipalities to enact policies about energy projects, but the GEA removes them completely from municipal jurisdiction.
- the 2007 revision of the Planning Act gave municipalities **added powers** for site plan approvals, but the GEA takes them all away for energy projects.

What should Tiny be doing? Tiny has decided not to wait for the potentially lengthy and uncertain process of getting all of its Official Plan revisions in place. Policies based on the Guelph study are being developed now to be passed as an Amendment of the existing Official Plan.

If the Province decides to steamroller the Township by over-riding the wind turbine policies from the Guelph study, they will expose our treasured landscape resources, scenic areas and assessment base to rampant abuse:

- Industrial wind farms could be placed anywhere the Province considers appropriate, regardless of local values and *without* an environmental impact assessment
- Our property values and assessment base, as well as our landscapes, could be ravaged by projects forced on us by Queen’s Park.

What should you do? Let our Mayor and Council members know that you support the inclusion of wind turbine zoning policies from the Guelph study into the present Official Plan, and that they should be diligent and persistent in following through with them in the revised OP, whenever it is completed. Encourage them to show backbone in defending a scientific and professional approach to turbine development rather than a blanket “top down” approach.

Simcoe County Update

By Charlie Gamble

About a year ago, our first article on Simcoe County governance set out our intent to continually monitor one committee of County Council on your behalf. We also focused on the proposed restructuring of County Council.

Since that time, two things have happened. Differing opinions emerged about restructuring at subsequent meetings. Clearly, more homework and thinking needed to be done. At this time, discussions continue and to our knowledge a revised proposal does not yet exist.

We now have a far better understanding of how Simcoe County works and have developed some opinions on the strengths and weaknesses of County administration.

As to strengths, the County has the operating staff, talent and budget needed to manage one of Ontario’s largest counties. As a reminder, the 2009 budget totals \$437 million and covers a huge range of services.

Generally, Simcoe County staff work very hard, and are well versed in their specific areas of responsibility. Management is involved in the day-to-day operations and come to Committee and Council meetings prepared to answer questions asked by voting members. They also maintain good relationships with both upper and lower level government counterparts. Senior management has been readily available and promptly responds to our questions and requests for information.

Two important “salutes” to County staff must be made. Our new recycling program was well thought out, successfully launched and follow up progress reports have been well communicated. While some adjustments need to be made, such as service to multiple units, Simcoe County is on its way to becoming a “greener” place.

Simcoe County’s proposed new Official Plan includes

carefully worked out plans for growth in the County’s various municipalities, the result of input from numerous public meetings. The Ontario Government currently has its own Strategic Vision for Growth for Simcoe County, which includes very questionable growth statistics that conflict with those developed by Simcoe County. This is not the fault of the County. The Ontario Government’s position is driven by other agendas and what appears to be a complete misunderstanding of our area.

Now for the weaknesses. We come away from these

meetings feeling strongly that all is not well at the County level. We’ll position our feelings as observations and questions:

- The number of staff present at most meetings is equal to the number of elected, voting members. Since most are not asked any questions and rarely vocally participate, is this efficient use of staff time?
- The largest and most costly committee is Corporate Services. In its meetings, the positioning of attendees is somewhat like the Christians

see *COUNTY...* page 6

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COUNTY.... continued from page 5

versus the lions. Elected members (including the Warden, Tony Guergis) are all on the left side with staff (including the CAO Mark Aitken) all on the right. Raised above the participants are the Chair (Doug Little) and the recording secretary (often the County Clerk, Glen Knox). This arrangement does not send a “team spirit” message. (At meetings of the full County Council, Warden Tony Guergis, County Clerk Glen Knox, and CAO Mark Aitken have the elevated seats, while Council Members occupy the seats on the left and right below.)

• In matters where taxpayers have spoken loud and clear against County direction or decisions, it often appears that staff have made up their minds, have “dug in” and shrugged off opposing views. This was evident over the last couple of years during Site 41 and heavy garbage pick up debates. Have they forgotten whom they work for and who pays their salaries?

• Site 41 appears on almost all Corporate Services meeting agendas. Until the recent September meeting, comments or questions were seldom raised by Councillors on the Committee. The Chair (Doug Little) rapidly moves the matter at hand to a vote and it’s always UNANIMOUSLY approved in less than one minute. Was there a hidden agreement to quickly shuffle Site 41 discussions out of public hearing? Most municipally elected officials speak publicly of their opposition to Site 41, yet in County committee meetings, they offered no debate and allowed unanimous approvals. We are confused!



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• A critical agenda item is the annual budget. Quarterly updates are presented and it’s rare that any question is asked or direction given by County Councillors. The budget review presentation runs about half an hour, but the question and vote time spent is less than two minutes. Is this all the attention \$437 million of our tax dollars deserve?

• County Councillors are buried each month in extensive briefing documents given about a week before each committee or Council meeting. Add to this the documents, matters and meetings they must manage within their respective municipalities. How do they absorb all this? When do they have time to think about their position? How can they get their own municipality’s input? How can they properly prepare a County meeting presentation for or against any given issue?

It has been said that having information is having power. Simcoe County staff has all the information, files, continuity and operating contacts. This suggests that our elected voting members are on the short side of the balance of power.

As the County moves forward dealing with Site 41, its differences with the Ontario Government and all other matters before County Council, it will be interesting to see who really makes the decisions. Will it be County staff or those elected by County taxpayers?



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Dog Strangling Vine (fall)

New Invasive Weeds Coming Our Way

By KYRA HOWES – THE COUCHICHIING CONSERVANCY

With the increase of international travel, global food distribution and gardening, non-native, invasive species are becoming more widespread. Some species were brought to this continent to provide a familiar ‘taste of home’. Starlings, for example, were brought from Europe because, in the late 19th century, a group called the American Acclimatization Society wanted to ensure that every bird mentioned by Shakespeare – over 600 species – would be represented in the U.S. They released a hundred starlings in New York City’s Central Park in 1890 and 1891. Result? There are over 200 million in North America today and it has become a dominant species. Other species came accidentally, such as the Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), and Emerald Ash Borer (*Agilus planipennis*).

When a species is introduced into a new habitat, the consequences are difficult to predict. Many species don’t have predators so they can easily become widespread. An example of this is the familiar Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). This plant was prized as a beautiful garden plant, but quickly became a problem in moist habitats, spreading quickly and out-competing native vegetation. The introduction of the Galerucella beetle appears to have controlled the spread of this species and many wetland areas are becoming more diverse as a result.

Two species you should keep an eye out for are Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and Dog Strangling Vine (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*). There are no reports of their presence in Tiny Township as yet, but they are coming our



Garlic Mustard

way. Both have high seed production potential, adaptability and difficulty of control.

Garlic Mustard can occur in a variety of habitats including roadsides, forest edges and even forest interiors. It grows over one meter tall and produces small white flowers, resulting in a long, narrow seedpod later in the season. Its seeds are most successful in disturbed soils and it can grow in a variety of sunlight and moisture conditions. The best way to eradicate it is to pull the plant out by the roots before the seeds have set. This may need to be done several times over the growing season to ensure control. Pulling the entire root below the ‘s’ curve is crucial to eradicating a new infestation.



Dog Strangling Vine

Dog Strangling Vine is a very prolific vine that spreads rapidly. It has a milkweed-like seedpod that can contain several thousands seeds that disperse easily by air. This fast growing vine quickly out-competes native plants by strangling and shading them out. It eliminates any biodiversity in the area of infestation. Control methods for this species include pulling first year plants and chemical application for persistent infestations. Some butterfly species, such as the Monarch, are fooled by DSV’s milky sap and lay their eggs on its stems. Unfortunately, the eggs laid on this plant are unable to survive.

There are not only plant invading species, but also aquatic, such as Asian Carp, Round Goby and Zebra Mussel, and also terrestrial invertebrates, such as Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle. Several organizations are undertaking proactive measures to control these

invaders, including the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Ontario Invasive Plant Species Council, and many local organizations such as the Severn Sound Environmental Association, Kids for Turtles, and The Couchiching Conservancy.

So why is it so important to keep an eye out for these species? Biodiversity is important for ecological sustainability. Biodiversity allows species the potential to adapt to new and changing conditions. Invasive species can become predators, parasites, bearers of disease and sources for hybridization that upset the natural balance of an ecosystem. The best defense against invasive species is knowing about them.

Questions?
Contact Kyra at steward@couchconservancy.ca

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SITE 41...continued from page 1
adopts Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Amendments to restrict use of Site 41.

On a 65/40 weighted recorded vote, County Council appeals Tiny's amendments to the Ontario Municipal Board.

The County submits a redraft of the C of A to the MoE, a redraft seen by neither the Councillors nor their Corporate Services Committee. It attempts to marginalize the CMC and the Environmental Inspector.

A rally at Queen's Park in August is attended by 250 Tiny residents.

2007 – On June 26, Simcoe County Council approves funding for preliminary work on Site 41, 16-15.

The CMC requests the Modflow calibrate hydrogeological model and accompanying input data used by consultant Jagger Hims. The County refuses to release it. In September, CMC alternate member Steve Ogden files a **Freedom of Information request** asking for release of these data. Further refusal results.

2008 – In June, preparatory work at Site 41 begins and continues through December.

In November, Mohawk elder Danny Beaton, Steve Ogden and a few others walk from Site 41 to Queen's Park to raise awareness of the water issue.

On December 8, MoE issues a Permit to Take Water, allowing construction to start. The permit is for 275 days over a ten-month period, expiring on December 31, 2009.



2009 - January - Maude Barlow and the Council of Canadians enter the fray. Barlow is a passionate, vigorous, persuasive speaker. In the coming months, the Council raises funds, supplies legal advice, and sends letters to the County of Simcoe, Ontario's Provincial Police Commissioner Julian Fantino, the MoE, and Attorney General Chris Bentley with plenty of fanfare. It uses its website to build momentum against Site 41. It gathers 5,000 petitions and delivers them to Environment Minister John Gerretsen's office in Kingston.

Calls about Site 41 to Dale Goldhawk's weekday program on 740 AM radio, "Goldhawk Fights Back," begin. In March, Goldhawk begins to search out key players and archive his interviews with them on www.goldhawk.com.

April - Construction of the first cell begins and is expected to receive garbage later this year.

MRC Partners Inc. a public relations firm owned by Jonathon Shore, an area resident, joins the fight. MRC has its own distribution list of hundreds of media outlets for news releases. MRC develops a second E-mail list

to inform disparate local protest groups and individuals and by July issues almost daily messages about potlucks, car cavalcades, outreach, events, fundraisers, arrests, trial dates, and meetings. MRC also develops a social media site on Twitter that rapidly gains a following of hundreds of like minded individuals and many media producers. All communications become multi-platform releases direct to journalist and protester inboxes, onto the website and with direct links into the social media.

May – Kate Harries, an Elmvale area resident and former editor and reporter with the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*, becomes involved. She and Jonathon run the public relations campaign – issuing news releases, arranging interviews, monitoring media coverage and liaising with reporters and producers. She helps get the stopdumpsite41.ca website redesigned and keeps it updated.



May 4 – First Rally of 2009 – March for Water. 400 people gather at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmvale to hear speeches by Mohawk elder Danny Beaton, long-time Site 41 activist Steve Ogden, Goldhawk and Barlow. Al Taylor, representing FoTTSA,



unveils the prototype of a mock tombstone that is to be erected across from the dumpsite if it goes ahead. Glimpsed in the crowd are George Lawrence, André Claire and Nigel Warren (Members of Tiny Council). Then, led by Maude Barlow, the crowd walks six and a half kilometers to Site 41. The tombstone idea gets little media attention. But the rally reveals growing popular concern.

May 8 - The Anishinabe Kweag, the women from the Beausoleil First Nation of Christian Island, set up camp on Art Parnell's farm opposite Site 41. Their plan is to hold a weekend of ceremonies to honour the water, moon, the sun and the earth, but in very short order they decide to protect the Alliston Aquifer and to

continue at the camp until they get the dump stopped permanently, or as Vicki Monague says, "to ensure that the life blood of our Mother the Earth will be preserved in its natural pristine state for the Seven Generations to come." As Keepers of the Water, the women appeal to First Nations people across the continent to join with them. They are joined that weekend by Danny Beaton and other elders from the United States and Ontario. In the weeks that follow, First Nations across the continent make their views on Site 41 heard, in news releases, letters, and well-publicized visits.

Undertaken at considerable personal sacrifice, the First Nations protest attracts coverage not only locally but also internationally. MPs and MPPs come to visit. Farmers, long-time dumpsite activists, cottagers drop in. They join the Saturday night potluck suppers, have meetings there, organize events, sit at the gates with the First Nations people, listen to the drumming, organize car and truck cavalcades to accompany protesters charged with criminal offences, and support the camp and its objective with labour, donations of food, and companionship.

May 13 – Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner orders the County of Simcoe to obtain the Modflow data from Jagger Hims and make a decision about its release to Steve Ogden.



July 4 – Second Rally of 2009 – Another 'Walk for Water' from the Elmvale Arena to the Dump Site. This is better organized than the May 4th Rally. Farm families and Stop Dump Site 41 folks pitch in. There are straw bales and planks for people to sit on at the protest site and an excellent sound system financed by the Council of Canadians. School buses ferry those who need a ride from Elmvale to the campsite and back. All five Members of Tiny's Council attend as do MPP Garfield Dunlop, and MP Bruce Stanton.

In the crowd of 700 are **David Crombie** and his grandchildren. A longtime cottager in Tiny, and former Toronto Mayor and Federal Cabinet Minister, Crombie





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takes part in the walk, and he makes three telling points in his speech: 1) Site 41 was environmentally illegitimate from the beginning, failing to get environmental approval in the 1980s when standards were lower. 2) Going ahead with it ignores what we've learned in the last 20 years about the environment – that everything is connected. 3) Saying that it should be completed because a lot of money has been spent on it is a bad moral position. It is never too late to do the right thing. Maude Barlow speaks movingly.

The eloquence of Maude Barlow and Crombie so moves **David Ladell, Joe Allevato and Paul Cowley**, all cottagers from Carusoe Bay in Tiny, that they decide another rally should be held at which cottagers' full force would be evident. Ladell and Allevato devote July to the cause and involve FoTTSA in organizing the Rally to support the Moratorium along with First Nations women, the agricultural community, the Stop Dump Site 41 group and the Council of Canadians. News releases are discussed and drafted: 12,000 flyers composed and distributed. Outreach efforts begin, in an effort to persuade the 16 County Councillors responsible for giving the dump the go-ahead in 2007, to support a year's moratorium.

July 6 - The Anishinabe Kweag sit down blocking entrances to the site, close down construction. Farm women, many of them grandmothers, join them.

July 13 – The Council of Tiny Township resolves, unanimously, to request the Premier of Ontario to declare a one-year moratorium on the construction of the site.

July 22 - Simcoe County staff moves to obtain an Interim Injunction against the blockade, naming Vicki Monague and dairy farmer Anne Ritchie-Nahuis, claiming damages of \$160,000, without formal Council authorization. (The claim for damages is eventually dropped on August 25.)



Vicki, Maude & Anne

July 25 (Saturday) – Third Rally of 2009 – The Rally for a Moratorium.

On Thursday, with heavy rain predicted for Saturday, the rally is booked for the sheltered Perkinsfield Pavilion. By start time, 2,500 people pack the Pavilion and stand three deep outside under umbrellas. Dale Goldhawk emcees, and introduces speaker after speaker – Vicki Monague, Judith Grant (President of FoTTSA), Mary Muter (Georgian Baykeeper, who speaks about the probable negative impact of the dump's leachate on Georgian Bay) William Allen (who urges everyone to wear a blue ribbon symbolizing their commitment to protecting the planet's water), Charlie Angus (an activist who helped stop the proposed dumpsite at the Adams Mine near Kirkland Lake, and who explains how his group suc-



ceeded in their 15-year fight), David Crombie, Bruce Stanton, John Hawke, Maude Barlow, Steve Ogden, and finally, Sandy Agnew (of Zero Waste Simcoe). Of the area's elected representatives, only Councillor Warren is absent (attending a wedding). There is much applause for Vicki Monague and Anne Ritchie-Nahuis who are facing injunctions.

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When the hat is passed, more than \$10,500 is collected to help with legal expenses.

July 29 – Simcoe County obtains its Interim Injunction against Vicki Monague and Anne Ritchie Nahuis and unnamed others.

July 30 – John Hawke from the Beausoleil First Nation on Christian Island is arrested and charged with mischief and intimidation. He is released after agreeing to limits on where he can go and whom he can talk to.

August 4 – The OPP telephone Ina Wood, 76, and inform her that she and her husband Keith (82), face charges in relation to a protest at Dump Site 41. Ina says she has never actually turned anyone away, because no one came in the month while she sat at the gate, and Keith, walking with a cane, has spent his time visiting with other protesters. Barb Hunt, retired teacher, receives a similar call, as does Vicki Monague.

August 6 – A convoy of cars and trucks accompany the Woods and Barb Hunt from the Dump Site to the Midland OPP Station, where a supportive crowd awaits them. Driving home afterwards, Anne Ritchie-Nahuis is pulled over by the OPP on County Road 6 north of Perkinsfield, taken to the Station in Midland and charged with mischief, as is her father Bob Ritchie, later. Both refuse to sign the release statement (requiring that they keep considerable distance from Site 41, although the Injunction requires only that they not blockade the Dump Site). Anne is held overnight; her father is released because of his medical condition.

That evening, Mohawk Danny Beaton is arrested at Gate 3 – the first individual to be taken from the Site.

August 7 – Another convoy accompanies Vicki Monague as she turns herself in, is charged with public mischief, and released after signing an undertaking. She is the eighth person arrested. **The arrests continue** at intervals until August 20 – among them Elizabeth Brass Elson (Councillor on Christian Island), Linda Chernicki (who manages the protest kitchen but does no blockading), Rick MacRae (Six Nations), Jen Meunier (Algonquin from Eastern Ontario), Patricia Watts (Toronto First Nations), Bruce Wilkes and John McNeil (both of Elmvale), David Milne (Christian Peacemakers), Michael Schmidt (Grey County dairy farmer), Andrea Barbuto (dairy farmer).

Construction resumes. The workers stay late and labour through weekends. Protesters fear that the first garbage will be dumped before the moratorium vote at County Council on August 25th.

August 9 – Four Councillors from three Simcoe municipalities send a letter to the Warden and

Councillors of Simcoe County Council expressing concern “that because of the County injunction, good upstanding citizens are being criminalized for peacefully trying to protect the natural heritage and the clean water in the Alliston aquifer below Site 41”. They urge support for the proposed moratorium.

August 11 – Ralph Nader visits the protest camp, then writes to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty urging him to suspend construction of the Dump Site.

Barrie’s Council votes unanimously to ask the County to cease activity on Site 41 until environmental issues and concerns from city residents are properly assessed as it relates to the potential impact on their drinking water. An attempt on August 24 by the County to convince Barrie’s Council to reconsider fails when questions are asked about the Modflow privacy issues and about the murky well water at Art Parnell’s farm.



August 13 - Fourth Rally of 2009 - in Toronto. Emceed by Dale Goldhawk, this rally packs the Macleod Auditorium at the University of Toronto. Protesters come from Tiny in school buses sponsored by the Federation of Agriculture. Steve Ogden, Mary Muter, Vicki Monague, Garfield Dunlop, Anne Ritchie-Nahuis, David Crombie, and Charlie Angus speak, along with Sandy Hudson (U of T Student Union President), Andrea Horvath (Leader of the Ontario NDP), David Ladell (FoTTSA), Mira Karunanathan (Council of Canadians), and Keith and Ina Wood.

August 14 - Outreach begins in earnest. Organized by Letty McNeil, teams begin an all-out, 12-day campaign to blitz municipalities whose County Councillors support Site 41, with flyers, phone calls, FAQ sheets, and E-mails.

August 15 – Formerly clear artesian well water on Art Parnell’s farm across from Site 41 becomes cloudy, the first particulate matter there in Dr. William Shotyk’s five years of testing.

August 20 – A County news release refers to a

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dozen blockaders wearing black bandanas over their faces who intimidated County staff. The OPP supplies correct information: the blockaders slow, but do not prevent, access and do not wear black bandanas. Two individuals not associated with the blockade wear bal-clavas. The blockade is peaceful. The news release is removed from the County’s website after two weeks. No apology is issued.

August 21 – The Information and Privacy Commissioner issues an order to deal with the County of Simcoe’s failure to comply with the May 13 order to obtain release of the Modflow data, now owned by landfill industry giant Genivar. The IPC says that the tone of a letter from Genivar “could be construed as an attempt to intimidate an Officer of the Legislature.”

August 22 – Elmvale Water Festival keeps the focus on clean water. Women’s Water Blessing Song is sung at the protest camp.

August 24 – At the press conference called by protesters about sediment in aquifer water outside MoE headquarters in Toronto, Environment Minister Gerretsen says the Modflow data should be made public.



August 25 - Simcoe County Council meets. A cavalcade of cars and trucks leaves the protest camp at 8 a.m. The County holds a two-hour “public information session” and faces tough questions from the audience.

By 3 p.m. Council is ready to tackle **the Moratorium motion**. Peggy Breckenridge introduces the motion: “BE IT RESOLVED THAT Simcoe County immediately halt construction and any further development of waste facilities at Site 41 for a period of a least one year so that:

- i) the public release, and independent review, of all pertinent information concerning the environmental impacts of operating a waste facility at Site 41 can occur;
- ii) meaningful consultations take place with local residents and cottagers, First Nations groups and other organizations that have raised concerns about the envi-

ronmental impacts of establishing a waste facility at Site 41; and that

iii) the suitability of Site 41 for waste management use be assessed in light of the source water protection planning mandated by the Clean Water Act.”

Mike MacEachern, New Tecumseth’s Mayor, seconds the motion. An amendment to reduce the length of the moratorium to three months is defeated, and an amendment to put an end to the dump site forever becomes a stand alone motion for the next meeting on September 22nd.

The vote is 22-10 (83 to 37 on a weighted vote) in favour of a one-year moratorium.

August 26 – Heavy equipment leaves Site 41, to cheers.

August 31 – Knowing that a motion to Stop Site 41 completely is on County Council’s agenda for September 22, and **fearing that with the C of A still in place** the site could be sold to a private landfill operator or County Council could change its mind, Tiny’s Council asks all Simcoe municipalities to support their motion that “The County of Simcoe request the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of the Environment to revoke the Certificate of Approval for Site 41”.

September 9 – The County’s Corporate Services Committee proposes that County hold a **special workshop** meeting for Councillors at which alternative options for dealing with garbage would be presented, including the energy-from-waste incineration projects planned by York and Durham regions, another from Dufferin County, and another from Plasco of Ottawa.

September 12 – Eddie Benton-Banal, Grand Chief of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, is at the Anishinabe Kweag protest camp for a special ceremony involving 12 water drums.

September 14 – Penetang’s Council votes unanimously in favour of supporting Tiny’s resolution. But other municipalities do not.

September 17 – Anne Ritchie-Nahuis, Danny Beaton, and Michael Schmidt appear in Midland Court charged with criminal mischief – the first of 17 so charged. The three are remanded until October 8.

September 18 – Council of Canadians writes to the Attorney General urging that all Site 41 charges be dropped.

September 22 – Simcoe County Council meets. Motion to halt construction and all future development. Councillor Doug Little (Adjala-Tosorontio) introduces his motion, seconded by Anita Dubeau (Penetanguishene): “That construction and all future

development of the North Simcoe Landfill Site (Site 41) be discontinued.” Chris Carrier (Collingwood) proposes an amendment, seconded by Ruth Hackney (Midland) “that application be made to the Ministry of the Environment to revoke the Certificate of Approval for the North Simcoe Landfill Site”. Warden Guergis insists that any amendment is an unwanted “complication”, but Carrier persists. **The Amendment to revoke the C of A is defeated,** 84 to 28 on a weighted vote. The YEAS were: Peggy Breckenridge (Tiny), Chris Carrier (Collingwood), Jim Downer (Midland), Ruth Hackney (Midland), Tony Hope (Springwater), George Lawrence (Tiny), and Scott Warnock (Tay).

Little’s motion to discontinue construction and all future development on Site 41 passes by a weighted vote of 93 to 13. The NAYS were: Dennis Roughley (Bradford W Gwillimbury), Phil Sled (Severn), and Doug White (Bradford W Gwillimbury).

Of three options for **“winterization” of Site 41** -- fill with water, partly fill with soil, or fill completely to grade -- Council chooses the second. According to Rob McCullough (County’s Director of environmental services) in an interview with Kate Harries, this means replacing 0.3 metres of clay plus up to 1.2 metres of soil, or almost half of the 40,000 metres of excavated material. At that point, dewatering would no longer be necessary, though a 1.5 meter depression would remain. This option is selected because of cost: \$275,000 as opposed to the \$575,000 that would be required to fill the depression completely.

2010 and after? - Is Site 41 truly stopped? There is no likelihood of this County Council reversing its decision, but it is possible that once the network of protesters turn their minds to other things, a future Council might change its collective mind yet again. By leaving the C of A in place, County Council left the door open to the possibility of a landfill at Site 41. The C of A must be revoked.

Sources: stopdumpsite41.ca website; communications from MRC Inc.; documents accumulated over the past 15 years.



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The Group of Seven and Me

(Artistic Ramblings with a Tiny Connection)

By BILL JOHNSON

In 1935 my father built a large cabin, recycling (long before that concept became in vogue) the logs and boards from a 60-year-old barn, on a height of land with a spectacular view of Christian Island.

We moved there each June 15 to September 15 in order to protect my sister Liz and myself from the terrifying scourge of polio that ravaged Toronto each summer. We were about two miles from any other house, with no electricity or running water, so no radio or phone. My mother Glad recognized that life might be pretty dull, so being a prolific reader with an avid interest in history and art, she made sure we were never bored.

She focused on two areas: Champlain's travels in Tiny, and the related Huron village sites, as revealed in her copy of "The Jesuit Relations", and the Group of Seven artists – a hot topic at the time in the world of art, as a result of a recent showing at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

The show was not well received by the public, as it was far outside the conventional painting of the day. It was shocking. There was a similar group in Scandinavia that emerged at about the same time – perhaps it was the northern mystique.

Part of our early education was to visit Tom Thomson's grave at Leith near Collingwood (although subsequently there has been debate about whether he is buried there or not). Later, my life continued to be marked by these remarkable Canadian painters.

At about 12 years of age, while I was fishing on the Wye River just east of County Road 6, Franz Johnston walked down the embankment and chatted with me for some time. He was a very dapper gentleman, rather formally dressed for the occasion with a small cape over his shoulders, even though the day was quite hot. He was short in stature and a little overweight. I found him to be charming and ingenious.

When I built my own cottage on the family property almost 60 years later, I visited the Huronia Museum in Midland and met a remarkable character, Jamie Hunter, the curator. He had amassed a significant collection of Group of Seven artists, predominantly Franz Johnston. The museum held 54 paintings and sketches plus many prints and Christmas cards.

I became interested in this trove and also enjoyed the company of Jamie, with his unmatched knowledge

of the area and adventurous spirit. We became fast friends and worked together on a mission statement for the museum: "To showcase, preserve and provide education on Southern Georgian Bay's history, focusing on First Nations, Marine, Pioneers and Franz Johnston and the Group of Seven."

Johnston's "Indian Grave" (Huronia Museum)

By then, I had discovered that Franz Johnston was himself a long time resident of Tiny Township, having lived at Balm Beach, Ossossane, and finally, in an old refurbished school house in Wyebidge, which is now well marked with a heritage plaque beside the river.

Over the years following my boyhood visit to Tom Thomson's grave, I continued to ponder the mystery of his death. As a youth I canoed Algonquin Park, drinking in each lake scene, island view, waterfall and portage. This place seemed to hold a special feeling for me because of those Canadian creative heroes that spent so much time revealing its natural beauty. I wondered then and I still question how Thomson, the most romantic of these individuals and such a strong and expert outdoorsman, could have got tangled in his fishing line and drowned in his prime.

Many years later another connection appeared. A fellow engineer who worked for me was married to the daughter of the ranger who found Tom Thomson's body. He knew all of the Group of Seven because they frequently stayed in a freight car that the ranger would park on a siding from the time the ice went out until late fall in Algonquin Park.

I was also fortunate enough to meet A.Y. Jackson, a living link to the other members of the Group of Seven, at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, north of Toronto, where he lived out his final years. The Huronia Museum has 19 works by A.Y. Jackson, as well as a few by J.E.H. MacDonald and David Milne.

Although I didn't realize it at the time, as my mother taught us history the proper way, my life has been marked by delightful encounters with the Group of Seven ever since. I hope this fascinating ghost, dapper as a caped Franz Johnston and mysterious as Tom Thomson's grave, will haunt me to the last years of my life.

Thanks to my mother Glad who always made history exciting.

And thanks to Jamie Hunter (Archaeologist and Curator, Huronia Museum), a giant in our local historical community. Without his persistent networking and knowledge the museum would just be another pioneer display, not an exciting place of discovery.

- 12 -



Why you Shouldn't Abandon Your Pet

By JULIA LOACH, AGE 10

I don't understand how people could abandon their animals, especially animals that need lots of attention like cats or dogs. So please do not abandon your pets, or you could cause an incident like this one.

On Concession 12, around Rowntree Lane, there was a cat that was abandoned by its owners, and unfortunately it turned wild.

Some people felt sorry for the cat. She must have been freezing in the winter. So they fed the cat.

Because the cat was fed, she made it through the winter and even gave birth to six kittens.

With seven cats (the mother and kittens) in one area, the population of other animals like chipmunks and birds could decrease. So animal control had to be called, and the cats were taken away.

Sadly, the mother cat was extremely wild, and it was impossible for her to be put up for adoption. So there was no choice but to put her down.

On the bright side, the six kittens were too young to have turned wild and have been put up for adoption. Also, summer is a popular time for animal adoptions. In other words, there is great hope for these young kittens. I truly hope they find a home.

But as you can see, the main cause of this sad story is the fact that people abandon their pets. So no matter what, please do not let your animal go in the wild. They are all wonderful creatures.

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REPORT...continued from page 4

to nearby property owners explaining what is intended before action is taken. The intention is to place the usual dark red posts at the beginning of each township-owned access path to the beach, along with an additional couple of posts on each side of the path, defining the width of the public path and showing where private property begins. Information about Township ownership is to be stenciled onto the posts. Old posts are to be replaced. Signs indicating the extent of township ownership are also to be placed at major access points.

e) **Concession 8 Beach Road Allowance Drainage (part of the environmental improvements and remediation, a strategic priority):** Channels were dug and cleared through the vegetation to guide drainage on the edges of the beach road allowance. A channel was also dug well back of the shore to guide water from the south perimeter to the north trench. This seems to have worked well – getting drainage under control, allowing the area to dry and sand to accumulate.

Council's additional request that water from the north side be re-routed to the south drainage channel is probably not needed, given the success of moves already made.

f) **Balm Beach:** The four temporary light standards that Council asked for as a safety measure have been installed and there has been progress on a **Balm Beach Master Plan (a strategic priority).**

In June, R.J. Burnside & Associates held a public meeting about design concepts for Balm Beach. At the end of August, they presented a \$1.4 million detailed plan for redevelopment over three years. It includes decorative street lighting, seating areas, storm outfall relocation and treatment, a lookout and gazebo, washroom improvements, trees, more parking, narrowing of road lanes, crosswalks, and a patio seating area at storefronts. Details are available on the Township website under the Committee of the Whole Agenda for August 31, 2009. (We note that the price tag is half a million higher than that of the original Balm Beach Master Plan, which was not implemented because of cost.)

The \$171,800 in this year's budget for Balm Beach will be used this fall to get the permanent lighting and storm water treatment and relocation tendered, and possibly installed. Next year, the washrooms will be renovated (and will include facilities for handicapped users). Boardwalks, landscaping, and possibly also the gazebo are on the list for next year.

SIGNAGE STILL PENDING! (a strategic priority) In May, Council approved an expenditure of \$18,800 to have MC3 Communications determine a style and design for the Township's signs, many of which need replacing.

In July, MC3 Communications presented preliminary ideas for Township signs. Staff and Council were to select the most appropriate option. The consultant included for consideration, at no extra charge, three new Township logos, but a majority of Council refused to discuss them.

Early in August, Council and staff reviewed the latest designs, and made some decisions about shape and colour.

Later in August, design, typeface and colour were finalized. The next step is for MC3 Communications to provide the detailed design and prepare a Request for Proposals.

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GEORGIAN BAY PROJECTS: In June, representatives of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority presented a brief overview of a plan to improve water quality and ecosystem health in Georgian Bay. Council decided to join the other municipalities involved in this project (the Towns of Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach and Collingwood, and the Townships of Clearview and Springwater).

Also, the new Southern Georgian Bay Coastal Management initiative, which had its first meeting in April, is to meet again on September 29th in Wasaga Beach.

These developments represent the beginnings of an important kind of co-operative action regarding the health of the Bay.

PROGRESS WITH LARGE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROJECTS:

• **Lafontaine Arena:** The engineering drawings have been completed, and a project engineer has been hired. Work is to begin this fall on the original plan plus roll-away walls on two sides to protect against the winter winds, but removable in other seasons, which were suggested at the public meeting on the project. The hope is that demolition and the pouring of concrete will be completed before the snow flies this fall and that the balance of the arena will be constructed over the winter.

Council decided against a proposal presented by a group headed by Lyle Blair for a substantially different sort of facility, on land that would have had to be purchased, involving artificial ice, and management by a private corporation. Pursuing this proposal would have caused substantial delay and have risked the loss of the large grant for the initial project.

• **Paving Balm Beach Road** from County Road 6 to Albert Avenue is to be undertaken next year.

• **Paving the Tiny Trail** from the Wye bridge to Concession 12 East. Snowmobiles are major users of the Trail, but are harmful to pavement. The Township has asked the Community Recreation Committee whether it is appropriate to continue permitting them to operate on the Trail.


• **Bridge on Baseline Road** is to be built next year.

SUMMERAMA AT BALM BEACH: This August 15th event consumed a surprising amount of Council's time, largely because the organizers were trying something new and many details had to be worked through. The initial request for a \$12,000 Township grant was whittled down to a more reasonable \$1,920.

In the event, Summerama – vendors, a beer tent, contests, a band, kayak races - was less elaborate than initially planned. There were no major untoward incidents. We hear that organizers hope to be able to attract grants to cover some costs next year.

Some local residents felt that they had not been sufficiently involved in the discussions that led up to the decision to approve the event. The Township may find it wise to develop a communication policy for such events similar to the one for commercial zoning changes.

CEMETERY DESIGNATED: At the request of the Historical and Heritage Committee, Council designated as historic the municipally owned cemetery on Cemetery Lane (the Copeland Hill Cemetery). As a result, the property is to be surveyed and the Public Works Department will provide regular maintenance.




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140 County Road 6 North
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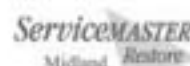
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