

Issue No. 35

### A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Spring/Summer 2010

# The President's Message

BY JUDITH GRANT

It's a good thing that Tiny is such a beautiful place that people are willing to work to keep it that way, because we have some serious challenges confronting us.

Kyra Howes of the Couchiching Conservancy wrote in last fall's *Tiny Cottager* that invasive weeds were coming our way. Alas, the two weeds she named – garlic mustard and dog strangling vine – have already arrived, as you'll see in two letters to the editor on page 5. If at all possible, we must halt their progress before they overwhelm the area's native plant and tree populations. Kyra's article supplies useful advice. We are already finding it very difficult to control another pest that's taken root along our shores and inland ditches – common reed (phragmites australis) – although some action is being taken, as you'll see in Allan Crowe's article on this page.

Water levels in Georgian Bay have returned to the discouraging lows of the last decade. Experts point the finger at the St. Clair River (see page 4) and suggest that management of the outflow from Lake Huron would help to remedy the situation. However, they do anticipate a further decline in levels in the coming years as a result of climate change.

We need to take good care of the lake in any case. To that end, FoTTSA is again managing a water sampling program this summer. Volunteers will be taking samples once a week, beach by beach, all summer. If new problem areas emerge, we'll have good evidence to argue for investigating the sources of the pollution and then for remediation.

Several other broad initiatives are being planned to better manage our environment. There have been preliminary meetings to discuss the possibility of a Huronia Conservancy, which would provide guidance for landowners similar to that provided by the Couchiching Conservancy. There is a Southern Georgian Bay Coastal Initiative under way that would involve municipalities and governmental agencies in management of the shoreline. The Georgian Bay Group of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has been active in bringing forward useful management proposals. And, finally, a group of academics and Environment Canada researchers have applied for a large grant to investigate the causes of beach degradation and to recommend remedial actions. Let us hope that all of these bear fruit.

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# Study Suggests Roundup® Safe for Use against Phragmites

By Allan Crowe

The most prominent recent change along our shoreline has been the invasion and spread of a tall reed-like plant. This plant, "Phragmites australis" or more commonly "common reed" or "phragmites", is spreading rapidly along the shores of the Great Lakes, including the beaches of southern Georgian Bay. The speed of its growth, its ability to spread across a beach, and its development of dense stands are causing our beaches to disappear.

At Wasaga Provincial Park, the growth of phragmites has constrained the recreational potential of the park's beaches. Phragmites also threatens a key mandate of the park – the protection of the coastal natural ecosystem – because phragmites displaces native plants. Many techniques have been tried to control and eradicate it, but given the resilience of the plant, most of these techniques have met with limited success. Currently the most effective method of control is through the application of the herbicide Roundup®, which contains the active ingredient glyphosate. However, Provincial regulations do not permit the spray-application of pesticides (including Roundup®) over or adjacent to open water.

During the fall of 2009, it was determined that Wasaga Beach Provincial Park met the necessary conditions to apply Roundup® on selected stands of phragmites and under very tightly controlled conditions. Environment Canada undertook to assess the environmental risks associated with spraying Roundup® at beaches. The specific objectives of the study were to determine (1) if the active ingredient of Roundup®, glyphosate, enters the groundwater at the beach below the phragmites, (2) if it gets into the lake water adjacent to the shoreline where Roundup® was applied, and (3) if present, whether concentrations of glyphosate are above Health Canada Water Quality Guidelines for aquatic life and human drinking water. It was expected

that glyphosate would infiltrate the groundwater, because the water table is shallow (< 50 cm), the sand has a very high capacity to transmit rain to the water table, and there was a lot of rain after the spraying. Thus, the primary objective of the study was not to determine if glyphosate would be detected, but rather to determine if concentrations of glyphosate were above the Water Quality Guidelines. Results of this study will be presented at the International Association of Great Lakes Research conference in Toronto which takes place May 17 to 21, 2010.

After a stand of phragmites was sprayed with Roundup®, samples were collected of groundwater below the phragmites, of groundwater at the shoreline where it discharges into the lake, and of lake water within a couple of metres of the shoreline. These were analyzed for concentrations of glyphosate. Sampling was undertaken two, seven, 14, 21 and 28 days after the herbicide was applied.

Glyphosate was detected in most of the groundwater and lake water samples. But in all cases, concentrations were below the Health Canada Water Quality Guideline for Aquatic Life of 65 micrograms/L and below the Health Canada Water Quality Guideline for Drinking Water of 280 micrograms/L. One microgram/L is equivalent to 1 gram of glyphosate in 1,000,000 liters of water. The maximum daily mean concentration of glyphosate (the geometric mean of 5 samples) detected in the groundwater was 3.065 micrograms/L, and it was detected 2 days after the herbicide was applied. The maximum daily mean concentration of glyphosate detected in the lake water was 0.159 micrograms/L, and this was detected seven days after the herbicide was applied. The highest concentration of glyphosate from a single sample was 12.5 micrograms/L, and it was detected two days after application of the herbicide.

see PHRAGMITES. . .page 18

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### 2010 Events

29-30

Annual Model Railroad Show, North Simcoe

Waterfront Festival, Heritage Park, Barrie

JUNE

Tiny Trail Open

5-6

Doors Open Huronia 9-26

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,

King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang 12

Victorian Tea, Penetang Centennial Museum 12-13

Wheels & Tracks in Motion, Simcoe County Museum, Minesing

Aboriginal Festival, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons

Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament

Invasive Species Workshops, June 19 & July 15 at Wye Marsh and July 14 & July 22 in Tiny

> Wasaga Beach Fun Run - Classic Car Event 19-20

> > Wasaga Beach Kitefest

National Aboriginal Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons 26-27

Wasaga Beach Fest

Coldwater & Area Studio Tour 30 (to July 17)

On Golden Pond, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang

### **JULY**

Canada Day Celebrations: Penetang Centennial Museum Little Lake Park, Midland

Huronia Triathlon

Mayor's Pig Roast, 1-4 pm, Perkinsfield Park, Tiny Twp

Wye Marsh Inspired - Art Show, Wine & Cheese

Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia,

10

Penetang Annual Library Garden Tour

16-18

Festival du Loup, Lafontaine

21 (to Aug 7) See How They Run, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang

> 22-25 Collingwood Elvis Festival

23-25

Wasaga Under Siege, 1812 Battle Re-enactment,

Nancy Island, Wasaga

23-31

Twisted Pines Concert series, Midland 24-25

> ArtWalk, downtown Midland 24-31

International Contest of Seamanship, Atlantic Challenge,

Midland **AUGUST** 

Métis Day, Discovery Harbour

11 (to Sept 4) Top Dogs, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang

> 21 Elmvale Water Festival

28

Barrie Dragon Boat Festival

3rd Annual "Savour Simcoe" Tasting Event **SEPTEMBER** 

Wasaga Triathlon/Duathlon and Give-It-A-Tri 11-12

Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre Pow Wow, Sainte-Marie Park

25

Settler's Day, Penetang Centennial Museum

Dragon Boat Festival, Orillia

**OCTOBER** 8-11

2010 Thanksgiving Studio Tour (Barrie, Orillia)

9-10

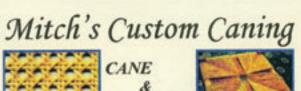
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons 27-28

"Haunted Harbour", Penetang

\* For a more detailed list of Events, including websites, see "2010 Events Listing" in the lefthand menu at www.tinycottager.org







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# **BGW Beach Beginnings**

BY IRENE WILSON

Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches and Ratepayers Association is celebrating its 60th year as a legal entity (Letters Patent issued July 20, 1950), but the evolution of these beaches as a recreational destination dates back to 1925. Our area currently stretches from Bluewater Dunes Park in the south to Concession Road 6 in the north. Property in the Bluewater area was purchased from David Webb by Gilbert Trew, Reuben Webb, Dr. Tanner, Milton Bray and James Trew for \$1,000. The land was surveyed and subdivided in 1926 by Mr. Ardagh, a surveyor from Barrie, with assistance from Walter Webb.

Mr. Ardagh had surveyed Balm Beach, around 1922. He was captivated with the area and purchased the property adjacent, to the north of Balm, from a Mr. Moreau, hence the name Ardmore Beach.

New cottage construction was a slow and labour intensive process. Wood was often shipped in by rail, from as far away as British Columbia, to the train station in Wyevale (County Rd 6 and Concession 5). From there it would be hauled in by horse and wagon. Sawing, nailing and drilling were all done by hand. Hydro would not be available for many years. Initial cottages were located near Concession Road 4 as that was where the road ended. Building roads to access lots was an expensive, time-consuming challenge. The hard sand of the beach was used as a roadway and cars were known to zip up and down. The stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing "dirty 30's" (our last major recession) stalled further development until the mid 1930's.



Buildings were simple in design, often anchored by a substantial fieldstone fireplace which provided the main source of heat. There were few interior finishes and minimal walls. Exposed rafters and two by fours were classic cottage architecture. The walls that did exist to separate bedrooms from living space ended a foot below where there should have been a ceiling. Sounds and physical items easily passed over them. Children were put to bed, but would "play possum" and eavesdrop on adult conversations while pretending to be asleep. Various "missiles" were fired over those walls to instigate squeals and disruptions. I have heard of a kitten being delicately dropped onto an unsuspecting sleeping adult. The kitten and the victim were probably not nearly as amused as the perpetrators.

Large screened-in porches extended across the entire width of cottages and served multiple purposes. They were often used as dining or sitting rooms by day and dormitories at night. Relaxing spots to read, play cards or board games, they became a beehive of activity at bedtime. Trundle beds would be rolled out, additional army cots would be unfolded and mats would be laid out to house the extended family and visitors. Itchy wool blankets, fragrant with mothballs, provided warmth against the cooling night. The sound of the waves and breezes from the bay would lull the occupants into a sound sleep after busy days on the beach.

Conveniences of the day consisted of having a hand pump in the kitchen, wood stove for cooking, and kerosene lanterns for light. With all these sources of flames, fires sometimes were an unfortunate consequence. Cottagers were encouraged to hang an old automotive brake shoe on a tree and to have a hammer handy to bang with in order to sound a fire alarm. With these simple wooden structures, all that would remain standing would be the substantial fieldstone fireplace as a monument to the former building.

Washtubs, scrub boards, Sunlight soap and kettles of water heating up on the woodstove meant it was laundry day. Boiling diapers was a popular pastime for new mothers who would then string them up on clotheslines. Georgian Bay winds would tear away at the clothes pegs

and scatter the clean diapers across sandy dunes. The same washtubs would do double duty as a bathtub or sink for bathing and grooming. A bar of soap and a dip in the bay substituted for our modern version of a morning shower.

Outhouses were placed a calculated distance from the cottage. Not too close, so as to offend the senses, but not so far that a quick run in the middle of the night could not be accomplished successfully. Outhouses provided teenagers of the day a fertile ground for pranks. They were an intimidating place to visit in the dark with only a flashlight to illuminate your path. Creaky doors, wooded areas and sounds of the night set the stage for many a cottage memory and story.

Further beach development was stalled by the onset of the Second World War. Wendake Beach (between the 5th and 6th Concession) along with adjacent lands, was expropriated in 1943 by the Dominion of Canada, Department of Transport, Air Services Branch, as "The Bluewater Gunnery Range Camp Borden, Ontario". The area was fenced off and large targets were set up in the dunes. Aircraft would circle around the bay and fire at the targets, disrupting the peace and beauty of the area. The government abandoned the range in 1946. After the fences were taken down, a popular pastime for local children was playing war in the dunes. Forts would be constructed and long strips of spent ammunition shells, remnants of which were strewn throughout the sand, were used as props.

In 1945, Fred Weaver and Ted Caston bought 38 acres of beachfront in what is now known as Georgina Beach. They subdivided it into 68 lots in 1946. After the government abandoned the adjoining target range, Mr. & Mrs. Wildman who owned that property, legally described as Lot 21 and comprised of 185 acres, sold it to Milton A. Trace. This is the area now known as Wendake Beach, which is an Indian name, meaning "one land apart". He surveyed and registered a plan of 70 lots in February of 1947. Developing this subdivision required a great deal of time and labour. The lands adjacent to the shoreline were gently rolling sand dunes with some sparse vegetation. Mr. Trace planted pine trees and commenced building walkways, access and service roads. Roads were built to service the budding cottage communities, but were unreliable due to their sandy base. Potholes and washouts made them impassable at times.

Georgina Beach was the first to form an association, in 1949. Although the original purpose of the association was to organize social and community events, their objectives quickly evolved to include residential concerns. The newly formed Georgina Beach Property Owners' Association appeared before Tiny Township Council on August 6, 1949, requesting "a proper clay and gravel surface would be put on this road". Another request was "We would also like to confirm the assurances we received at the August 6th meeting that Georgina Beach would receive garbage collection during the summer of 1950."

Mr. Trace and Murdina Gibson of the Wendake area (unnamed at that time) approached the association on April 19, 1950 with this proposition, "Mr. Trace and myself have been trying to name our beach, and we don't like the idea of having to make another beach. We wondered if you people would consider going in with Bluewater so we could all be one beach. We could get our beach organized and would have so much more power to get things done if we were one instead of three." The association grew as the population expanded and came to include Bluewater Beach and then Wendake to form the current organization.

Eventually, in the 1950's, Tiny Beaches Road South was extended along with hydro lines, which were dragged in by horse and wagon to meet up with the existing services at Wymbolwood Beach. These infrastructure upgrades inspired a flurry of construction activity as the BGW community continued to spread its wings.

General stores, such as Webb's at Bluewater and Beacock's at Georgina, were mainstays of the beach areas. They stocked a little bit of everything you might need, plus plenty of beach and swim toys. In the early days, before hydro, refrigeration was limited to iceboxes. Most perishables were purchased as they were needed. Marge Nielen, a seasonal resident since 1944, recalls cutting ice and helping Walter Webb deliver it by horse and buggy to the local residents. The Webbs would chop ice from Georgian Bay in the winter and store it in their icehouse (which still stands behind their original store).

Mothers and children often stayed at the beach for the whole summer without cars, making the beach store their



main source of groceries. Beacock's had a reputation for wonderful homemade pies and baking. With the arrival of hydro, freezers stocked with ice cream were an added attraction. Walking to the beach store for an after dinner double dip cone of your favourite flavours was a cottage ritual. Stocked with penny candy and 5 cent chocolate bars, beach stores were magnets for children. They were also popular places for local teens to congregate.

Another favourite haunt for teens in the 1940's and 50's was Caston's farm and stables just down the road from Bluewater Beach. Ponies and horses could be rented for 20 minutes for a ride along the beach. It was a popular meeting spot for the local and seasonal teenagers. Rumour has it that many a romance and marriage had their start at the stables. Carole McDowell, a long-time resident, recollects having her own horse at the stables and the hard work of mucking out the stall. A friend and also long-time resident, Carol Szarga, recalls that you always knew when her friend Carole had spent time at the stables. The aroma of horse and barn would be a dead giveaway as to what her day's activities had been.

The progression of time has seen many changes happening in the BGW area. A few of the original early cottages still stand with relatively few modifications. Some of those were expanded and winterized to become permanent dwellings that residents have retired to. Many succumbed to fires or bulldozers to be replaced with well-appointed homes with little resemblance to their predecessors. Today's conveniences of built-in dishwashers, washers, dryers and big screen TV's would overcrowd the 7-800 square foot structures that were the norm in the 1930's and 40's. What has not changed is the beauty of Georgian Bay with its magnetic quality that is so addictive. This addiction appears to be hereditary, as we have families who have their fourth generation continuing to gather and spend memorable time at the cottage.





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

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

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# Site 41 – The Saga Continues

Since the writing of "Dump Site 41 (1979-2009) R.I.P." in last fall's Tiny Cottager, the struggle to get the landfill site halted for ever has passed through several more stages – and the battle isn't over yet.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL: A key effort in the fall concerned the passage on November 19 of second reading of Bill 32, Garfield Dunlop's Private Member's Bill, which had revocation of the Certificate of Approval as a key component. This involved a vigorous e-mail campaign urging MPPs of all political persuasions to support the Bill and organizing to bring supporters from Tiny and Springwater on the 19th to make their presence felt in Queen's Park. Our members played a major role in the e-mail campaign, and FoTTSA carried part of the cost of the bus. The result was heartening. The Bill passed second reading, 40 to 11. The 40 supporters included 21 Liberals, 13 Progressive Conservatives, and 6 NDPs. Those who voted against the Bill were all Liberals.

In the winter, an e-mail campaign to get the Bill moved to third (and final) reading came to an abrupt halt early in March when the McGuinty government prorogued the Legislature and failed to carry Bill 32 forward into the new session. When the Legislature reconvened, Garfield Dunlop reintroduced his Bill, but time is now very short to get it through second and third readings before the provincial election in 2011.

**CRIMINAL CHARGES:** As a result of the summer's activism, 18 individuals faced criminal charges, among them Ina Wood (76) and her husband Keith (82, a retired farmer). A petition asking the Attorney General to have the charges dropped was set up by Vicki Monague of the Anishinabe Kweag Protest Group. It was promoted by the many groups and individuals that contributed to the Site 41 fight. Early in December, the charges were withdrawn against Keith and Ina Wood, and stayed against the other 16.

**CHANGE OF WARDEN AT SIMCOE COUNTY:** Tony



"Yep, the neighbours'll tell ya, the well water's fine! They grew up on it!"

Guergis, Warden of Simcoe Country for the last couple of years, was a die-hard supporter of a landfill at Site 41. Vigorous lobbying of County Councillors from all parts of Simcoe County resulted in a change of Warden on December 8, 2009. Guergis, who had campaigned hard for yet another one-year term, saw the writing on the wall, and suddenly decided not to stand. Cal Patterson of Wasaga Beach succeeded him as Warden for the final year of this Council's period in office.

**AND NOW?:** The County of Simcoe's waste strategy planning has been moving forward under the careful eye

of observers who are worried that landfills will continue to be the final solution for garbage that is neither organic nor recyclable. So far there is little evidence that the County and its consultants are giving serious consideration to technologically adventurous options.

On the political front, there have been two meetings of residents across Simcoe County who are intent on stimulating more thoughtful involvement of electors and on ensuring that the next County Council will eliminate the County's culture of secrecy and show more concern for the environment.

### **Low Water Levels:**

The St. Clair River Is an Important Factor

For a decade now, water levels in Georgian Bay have been well below the long-term average. Indeed, they have been hovering just above chart datum.

In 2004 the Georgian Bay Foundation commissioned W. F. Baird & Associates to find the cause of continuing low water levels. Baird found the key factor was erosion of the bed of the St. Clair River.

In response to the needs of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1958-62, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers had dredged the St. Clair River channel to a depth of 27 feet. Baird found that subsequent erosion had gradually deepened the channel and that water is leaving the middle Great Lakes at a slowly accelerating rate. Baird recommended that abatement measures be taken.

Alarmed at Baird's findings, the Georgian Bay Foundation convinced the International Joint Commission to investigate the situation as part of a scheduled Upper Great Lakes Study. A year ago the IJC's Study Board released draft findings, and last December finally released the International Upper Great Lakes Study St. Clair River Report.

It found a 5.8% increase in conveyance since 1962 (an extra outflow of up to 7 billion gallons per day), but concluded that no remediation is needed. In justifying this recommendation, the Study Board cited the cost of control measures – but made no attempt to assess the cost of ever falling water levels to the environment, the economy, shipping, and property values.

Georgian Bay Forever (the new name for the Georgian Bay Foundation, still referred to as GBF) was not convinced. After the draft findings were released, Bill

Bialkowski, a retired process control engineer with an extensive background in hydraulics and numerical analysis, asked for the historical data that was used to produce the 5.8% conveyance increase conclusion.

Using this data he ran "what is called a reverse routing model from the Niagara River up through Lake Erie, the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair River to determine what had happened to cause Lake Huron's levels to be where they are today". He found a 10% increase in the flow of the St. Clair River, which has lowered Lake Michigan-Huron's levels by 23 cm (9 inches) since 1962.

GBF then had a second expert, Dr. Kamphuis, a Professor of Civil Engineering recently retired from Queen's University, prepare a peer review of Bialkowski's work. This assessment substantiated his conclusions and recommended that "Serious investigation of flow control measures between Lake Michigan-Huron and Lake Erie should begin as soon as possible", not only because of increase in flow, but because climate change is expected to lower water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron by between one and two metres over the next 40 years.

GBF noted that all the other Great Lakes have binational control boards and control gates to help maintain their lake levels, but there are no control measures for Lake Michigan-Huron.

When we heard about this critical response to the IJC St. Clair River Report, we sponsored a public meeting in Penetanguishene on March 22nd of this year to hear the arguments of both experts. We were sufficiently convinced that at the official "Public Consultation on The St. Clair River Report" that took place soon after in Midland, we asked the IJC to consider the implications of Bialkowski's and Kamphuis's work seriously and carefully.

FoTTSA will make the same point in a written sub-

mission to the IJC, arguing that the consequences of getting the science wrong on water levels are too grave to neglect any work by respected experts that presents itself.

### Ronald H. Fawcett

BY PAUL COWLEY

I am sad to inform you that Ron Fawcett, long time President of the Carusoe Bay Association, passed away suddenly on April 9th at the age of 70. Having grown up in Carusoe Bay with Ron from 1949 (when we both arrived here) on, I can tell you that he had a passion and love for our bay that he shared with all of our residents and which will truly be his legacy. Fond memories of learning to water ski with Ron and of teaching Carusoe Bay youth to water ski with him for years thereafter will be with me forever.

The energy and thought that Ron put into our association and the larger community benefitted all Tiny residents. Consistent with his engineering background and training, he created detailed surveys and then presented convincing statistics to win approval from the Council of the day for Carusoe Bay needs. He contributed much to the Township's Environment Kitchen Table Committee as the "new" Official Plan was being prepared in 1999-2000, carefully translating committee discussions into a series of drafts. For his civic mindedness, we should all be truly grateful. It was characteristic that on the very day of his death, he had sent an e-mail setting the time and agenda of the Carusoe Bay Association's meeting on the long May weekend. I extend FoTTSA's sincere condolences to Ron's wife Barbara and his daughters Christine and Catherine who, I know, will carry on Ron's passion for Carusoe Bay and Tiny.

# So, 2009 was NOT the Year of Infrastructure Spending in Tiny!

BY JOHN GRANT

A year ago, in our Spring 2009 issue, we noted that the Township was budgeting for a huge increase in infrastructure spending, largely fuelled by grants from upper levels of government. In the event, it didn't happen. The table shows that spending on capital projects was not much higher than the previous year's level. But not to worry, it's all expected to happen this year instead. Once again, the budget projects a massive increase in capital outlays, and a big increase in grants to finance it. Can we be permitted a raised eyebrow here? In fact the township has NEVER spent all of its capital budget, at least since 2000, when we began keeping score. We have a serious question about whether the Township could even physically do what it has projected.

Given that record, it would be unfair to compare the full 2010 budget projection, this Council's last, with the levels of spending in 2006, the last year controlled by the preceding Council. We can be almost sure that the Township won't spend its budget this year, at least not the capital part. But in the other areas, budget projections have usually been reasonably accurate, and the eye-opener here is the increase in salaries and benefits, which have increased by a whopping 44.7% since 2006. In contrast, spending on the OPP (the really big-ticket item) is only up 5.6%; all other operating expenditures are up by 14.6%. Leaving out capital projects, the increase overall, from 2006 actual to 2010 budget, is 20.5% (4.8% a year). The next Council is surely going to have to take a look at staffing issues.

Assessment values are up by 6.6% this year for residential properties, pretty much in line with total assessment (6.9%). In addition, the municipal tax rate is up by

	2006 actual	2007 actual	2008 actual	2009 budget	2009 actual	2010 budget
WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM						
Municipal tax levy	\$6,140,891	\$6,420,011	\$6,696,414	\$6,985,677	\$7,036,226	\$7,570,19
Grants and donations	\$1,762,331	\$1,278,376	\$1,714,961	\$5,846,275	\$2,446,084	\$4,308,86
Fees, penalties, etc	\$1,284,162	\$1,240,158	\$1,241,987	\$1,103,628	\$1,000,841	\$899,06
Development charges and interest	\$611,532	\$754,813	\$422,408	\$368,199	\$302,502	\$287,27
Land sales	\$12,881	\$0	\$3,600	\$0	\$0	\$
Reserves and reserve funds	\$1,248,465	\$701,862	\$972,784	\$1,838,384	\$1,201,068	\$1,609,25
Other sources	\$608,798	\$703,265	\$854,622	\$289,003	\$478,698	\$1,048,00
TOTAL	\$11,669,060	\$11,098,485	\$11,906,776	\$16,431,166	\$12,465,419	\$15,722,65
HOW IT'S USED						
Payment to OPP	\$1,618,483	\$1,757,333	\$1,498,368	\$1,551,177	\$1,551,180	\$1,709,90
Salaries and benefits	\$2,978,829	\$3,152,556	\$3,689,575	\$3,916,747	\$4,036,120	\$4,311,24
Other operating expenditures	\$2,253,530	\$2,076,380	\$2,471,773	\$2,364,480	\$2,287,763	\$2,581,51
Capital expenditures	\$2,996,319	\$2,502,939	\$2,614,143	\$7,376,681	\$2,767,785	\$6,434,83
Add to Reserves and reserve funds	\$868,264	\$1,329,630	\$1,257,142	\$1,221,365	\$1,394,915	\$697,64
TOTAL	\$10,715,425	\$10,064,025	\$11,108,593	\$16,430,450	\$11,735,261	\$15,735,14
Tax Levy as % of Total Spending	57.3%	63.8%	60.3%	42.5%	60.0%	48.1

1.5% across the board on all types of property this year: the result is that for residential property owners, municipal taxes are going up by an average of 8.2% (ouch). On the other hand, education tax rates are down by 4.4% and county rates have fallen by 3.1%, so the average residential property tax bill (that includes all three) will increase by just 4.6%.

The preceding discussion, and the accompanying table, exclude the Township's water systems, because they are funded separately by user charges. Water rates are

unchanged this year from last year. Although the budget proposes a huge increase in capital outlays on water systems this year to over \$3.7 million, (most of it for watermain replacement at Georgian Sands) two-thirds of this is covered by a provincial grant, and the Water Reserve Fund, which was built up in 2007 and 2008, is being drawn down substantially to assist as well. As for garbage collection rates, they are up by 3.2%.

# **Report on Council**

#### **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

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

### NEW TOWNSHIP SIGNAGE

After three years' planning and with design expenses exceeding \$32,000, Council has awarded the contract for new township signs to Steel Art Signs at a cost of \$295,370. This year the signs will appear at the Main Office, three major parks and four primary township entrances, and next year at the remaining major park (Wyebridge), eight secondary township entrances, four minor parks and ten settlement areas.

In addition, over the next two years, civic address signs are to be placed on the waterside of the Township's public beaches so that emergency crews can be told the appropriate access point.

### SOUTHERN GEORGIAN BAY COASTAL INITIATIVE

This organization proposes to "maintain and restore a healthy sustainable coastal ecosystem in Southern Georgian Bay through awareness and education, by protecting natural areas, rehabilitating degraded habitats, and guiding land use decisions with regional and local community input." This initiative covers municipalities from Tobermory to Penetanguishene.

Council fully supports active management of our coast but there is confusion about how many groups are involved. To date, two meetings of the interim steering committee have been held and a third meeting is planned shortly. This next meeting may address membership on the board but the agenda is not clear.

### **SEPTAGE NEWS**

Over the years, landowners adjacent to properties licensed for the spreading of septage have written letters and made deputations to Council opposing the practice. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment has made it clear that the day of spreading untreated septage on farm fields is coming to an end.

During the fall and winter, there were several presentations regarding the disposal of septage as Council began to look for a practical, reasonably priced, environmentally safe way to dispose of septage. The option presented by a company called Elementa Group, which uses a steam kiln to eliminate virtually all waste, is probably too expensive: a unit appropriate to Tiny's needs would cost more than \$30 million.

The Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services also made a presentation, as did the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MoE). MoE officials and Council seemed to agree that lagoons are one of the most cost effective solutions for a small municipality like Tiny.

Asked for advice, CC Tatham and Associates Ltd outlined the necessary stages preliminary to deciding on a treatment method, namely an Environmental Assessment, a specialist's studies and design, approvals, and tendering for construction. The preliminary stages were projected to cost \$450,000.

Council decided to tender the Environmental Assessment, a process that awaits a consultation with the Ministry of the Environment.

### MCMAHON WOODS DEVELOPMENT

This project, proposed to be located in Lot 23, Concession 4, has had some confusing aspects, particularly with regard to the number of lots and service by private wells or municipal water.

The County's Ecology Peer Review Site Inspection Report concludes that all environmental concerns have been dealt with. Recommendations regarding the documentation and relocation of a couple of species of fern, bird habitat monitoring and tree preservation and planting plans are provided. Based on acceptable results of the EIS and subsequent site inspection, the County may permit a maximum of 20 residential lots as per the Greenlands Policy 3.7.6.

However, constraints on population growth in Tiny Township, as identified in the growth targets in the Province's "Simcoe Area: A Strategic Vision for Growth" policy document still have to be worked through. The County concludes that at this stage, "advancement of this application through the planning stages is premature."

### FALL COMBINED LEAF AND YARD WASTE PICKUP

Last fall Council decided to extend this service to private roads that have Simcoe County garbage service. The remaining private roads are not accessible to big trucks and residents on them continue to have the transfer station as their only option. Spring pickup, which might have reduced the burning of leaves, could not be arranged "due to timing".

### **BURNING BY-LAW REVISIONS**

Council has amended the Open Air Burning By-law to restrict ordinary open air fires (requiring a Class A Permit) to one metre in diameter, with a three metre setback from any combustible material (tree, bush, building etc.), and to forbid fires between 2 am and 8 am and when wind velocity is more than 20 km per hour. For areas like farms where more extensive brush burning may be required, a larger fire is permitted with greater setbacks under Class B and C Permits.

#### **SUMMERAMA REPORT**

Last fall, the organizers reported that this event in Balm Beach in August was a success and made a modest profit. They stated that there were no reported negative incidents. Council then authorized staff to send a letter of support for the group's application for a grant to support a similar festival on August 14th, 2010.

However, waterfront owners south of Balm Beach complained that during Summerama the number of people using their private beaches doubled in number, and crowds used properties on either side of the 10-foot Township-owned right-of-way off Kitching Lane.

They felt it necessary to hire security personnel during Summerama. Requests to visitors to move off the private beach area met with "heated opposition, vulgarity, and threats of violence". There was open consumption of alcohol and

see REPORT. . .page 17

### Letters

**Re the article about "Invasive Weeds"** and the statement regarding Garlic Mustard that there is no report of its presence in Tiny Township as yet:

Sorry. Wrong. A small group of people pulled out Garlic Mustard in Tiny Marsh last June.

Plans are hopefully being made to do a more thorough job this May or June.

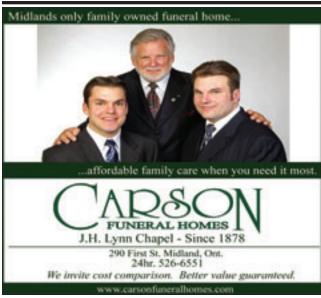
Pat Armstrong (Deanlea Beach)

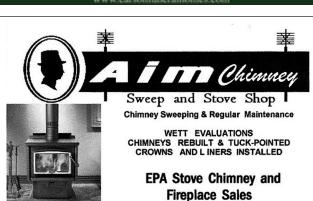
I was interested to read the article on invasive species in The Tiny Cottager. Unfortunately, I have found both Garlic Mustard and Dog Strangling Vine growing in Tiny for several years. The former, which likely arrived in a shipment of unsterilized soil, was growing along Nottawaga Drive and I think I have removed all of it.

Dog Strangling Vine is more problematic. I saw some covering a road sign near the Wymbolwood store. It was removed, grew back, and then a neighbour took care of it. He said that this plant had been a problem in his backyard. Now, there is another patch of Dog Strangling Vine at the south west corner of the 13th and Tiny Beaches Road.

Diane Hasley (Nottawaga Beach)

**EDITORS' NOTE:** The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation observes that "This plant emits a root toxin that poisons other plants in the vicinity, disabling a forest's ability to regenerate." For an excellent video about identification and control of this plant, see http://vimeo.com/2855779





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# Tiny's "Legacy" Dumpsites

BY JACK ELLIS

Over the years, many sites in Tiny have been used as garbage or trash dumps, some by the Township and others by local residents, but it was not until the late 1970s that a start was made on identifying them.

In 1978 the horrors of the infamous "Love Canal" toxic waste site in Niagara Falls, NY, were uncovered. It made many people seriously ill and contaminated hundreds of homes, most of which were subsequently demolished.

To address concerns that Ontario also might contain such a "ticking time-bomb", the Ministry of Environment (MoE) commissioned a quick overview study to try and inventory all municipal waste dumps that had been in use and closed prior to 1971, when legislation to record and control such dumps took effect.

A team of York University students spent 10 weeks combing municipal records, interviewing municipal clerks and engineers, and driving back roads all over southern Ontario looking for such sites.

In Tiny, they turned up 17 "old" closed sites, none of which seemed to be problematic at the time.

Twenty-one years later, in conjunction with the new "Environment First" Official Plan in 2000, the Township commissioned a follow-up study from Dixon Hydrogeology: Closed Inactive Waste Disposal Sites. This more intensive study found 14 additional "potential waste disposal sites", for a total of 31 to be studied. They found that most of the 31 were of very minor or negligible concern and could be removed from further consideration.

In 2006, with an updated Zoning By-law in Tiny, the MoE insisted that "holding" status be placed on all of the over 30 sites, until each was proven free from waste and/or environmental contamination. Over the past year or so, the Township has gradually been able to remove the concern with most of the sites. Ten sites, however, remain in "holding" status.

Interestingly, two of the sites operating in 1971 under MoE rules eventually did cause problems.

#### The Pauzé Landfill

The Pauzé landfill, located in Lot 12 of Concession 9 just east of County Road 6, had opened in 1966 to serve Tiny's needs for waste disposal. It also accepted garbage from Penetang and Midland in later years.

In the early years, dumping of domestic garbage and small amounts of local industrial wastes caused few environmental concerns. In the late 1960s and 1970s an influx of industry sparked by senior government incentive programs for regional development led to much larger volumes of industrial waste being generated in the area. These came from automotive parts plants, electronics and plastic fabricators. And much of this waste was in the form of toxic liquids.

During the 1970s, a number of residents complained to the province about substandard practices at the dump. In 1973, the then newly-formed Ministry of Environment took notice that liquid industrial wastes were being deposited at the site and on the adjacent 80 acres. This practice did not have the prior approval of the Ministry.

In 1975, however, the Ministry allowed the site to accept certain wastes from the RCA plant in Midland. Unfortunately, unapproved dumping of other liquid industrial wastes continued to occur, and rumours of "midnight tanker expeditions" circulated in Tiny.

In 1980, the Certificate of Approval for the site was strengthened specifically to prohibit it from receiving hazardous liquid industrial wastes. In 1981, the Ministry finally recognized that contaminants could leak from the site.

In 1982, a study established that a plume of leachate was moving underground far off-site to the west, and three private wells already were being contaminated.

In response to widespread public concern about possible contamination of the village drinking water, Perkinsfield got a new water system in January 1986, and the landfill was closed in 1987.

Surprisingly, the Pauzé site was considered a possibility in the 1979 search for a landfill site to serve all of North Simcoe. That process led to the designation of the now defunct Site 41. Pauzé was quickly dropped from the list when its toxic plume was discovered.

Into the early 1990s, the MoE commissioned studies of the plume leaking from the site. Many people worried that it could eventually reach Nottawasaga Bay, with unknown consequences.

Their 1992 study created monitoring wells and measured contents in local domestic wells. They found that a chloride ion plume, originating from domestic waste but

not considered dangerous, had migrated about 1500 metres southwest of the site. A dangerous plume containing trichloroethylene (TCE), a carcinogen originating from toxic solvents, was found in advance of the main plume.

The consultants recommended that MoE should undertake an ongoing monitoring program, with additional monitoring wells to track the path of the plume.

MoE funded the drilling of three monitoring wells in the area of the plume. In 1998, measurements showed that the front edge of the main plume was then halfway between the 9th and 8th Concession Roads, but had not reached the Nipissing Bluff. It was advancing approximately 80 to 100 metres a year, about 25 to 40 metres below the surface. Fortunately, concentrations of contaminants were going down as time passed.

At current course and speed, the plume is still many, many years away from wells in the shoreline area, and if it ever does get there, it will be considerably south of the 8th, the 7th, or even the 6th concession roads, and will contain very low concentrations.

Continuing tests have shown that harmful substances, including TCE, in the private wells, with one exception, were below MoE guidelines of 5 micrograms/L.

It has been an ongoing struggle for the regional office to convince MoE management either to allocate funds to hire consultants or free up staff time to conduct ongoing monitoring of the Pauzé site problems. After several rounds of monitoring up to 2006, the MoE issued a Director's Order in May 2007 requiring the site's owner to develop and pay for a program of groundwater monitoring and site remediation.

At the time, the Federation felt, and so informed the Minister, that it would be more effective, stable and transparent for the Ministry to pay for such programs because their own legislation and the recommendations of the O'Connor Inquiry Report on the Walkerton disaster call for them to do so. We also were concerned that the Township and the general public were not being regularly informed of the results of such monitoring.

The MoE District Engineer, John Kaasalainen, has kindly provided the Tiny Cottager with information on how this Director's Order has been implemented.

The site owner's consultant conducted studies in 2007/2008 and reported to the MoE in November 2008. The MoE found the report inadequately addressed impacts on groundwater quality and the site owner has committed to additional monitoring in 2010.

Mr. Kaasalainen notes that MoE is "continuing with the residential water well sampling program which was established more than 20 years ago for residential wells located down gradient of the closed Pauzé Landfill site. Based on the most recent sampling results obtained in January of this year, there is no negative impact on the local drinking water supply with the exception of one well. This well has historically shown impacts and has a treatment system installed".

He feels that the plume remains approximately 2 km from the bay. TCE concentrations appear to have peaked by the late 1980s and continue to decline dramatically, and are now lower than the Ontario drinking water quality standard.

He noted that comprehensive results and reports on the site's overall monitoring program can be obtained by a Freedom of Information request, while results of domestic water sampling are provided routinely to affected well owners and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

### **Leaking Old Landfill Under the North Simcoe Waste Transfer Station**

The northeast portion of the site on Golflink Road now occupied by the North Simcoe Waste Transfer Station was once a main Midland-Penetang-Tiny garbage dump.

Since the early 1990s it has been known that some of the garbage has come in contact with rainwater that has leaked down into the waste cells, and a plume of leachate has been created. The carcinogenic volatile organic compound, TCE, was found in groundwater monitoring wells on the site, as well as in some off-site monitors. Combustible gases have been found, and are monitored in seven locations. TCE also has been detected in two wells (now closed) that supply Penetang's drinking water, but the source of that TCE is unclear.

Since 1992, annual/biennial reports of monitoring results have been made to the site's owner, Simcoe County, and to the MoE.

see DUMPSITES. . .page 8



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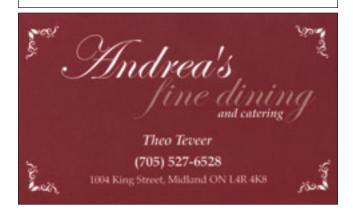




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DUMPSITES...continued from page 7

The most recent available report, from December 2008, concludes that there is a plume of inorganic contamination flowing north and northwesterly beneath County Forest lands. The contamination is described as "low concentrations" and is felt to be consistent with a mature landfill approaching the limit of its life span.

The TCE present in the monitoring locations has fluctuated, and is decreasing over time. The report notes, "the data suggest that there may be other sources of TCE", and "the auto wreckers located west of the site may be a source". The report concludes, "there is no threat to water quality in local wells from volatile organic compounds".

Measurements of combustible gas showed it is mainly confined to the actual site of the old waste deposits, and is not heading toward any of the on-site buildings.

The remediation recommended is to create a "containment attenuation zone" around the property. What this means is that such areas may not be used for many residential and industrial purposes. The potential zones do not include any present residences or industrial buildings.

All in all, it would appear that there is little likelihood that the nature or extent of the plumes from the Waste Transfer Station site will affect quality of life in the area in the foreseeable future. But monitoring will continue.

#### **Old Waste Dump on Concession 15**

Some of the sites listed in the York University study of 1979 were subsequently identified by the Township's hydrogeology consultant as requiring further study.

One such site is in Lot 12 of Concession 14 (municipal address: 97 Concession 15 West) where Tiny operated a dump for local waste for about 8-10 years in the 1960s. The dump area covered about 0.7 hectares (just over 1.7 acres) and was closed in 1970 or 1971.

The Township proposed to place an H3 (holding) zoning designation on all properties within 500 metres from the site. Affected property owners requested a study be made to determine just what area is actually at risk from the old dump. Tiny engaged consulting engineers in early 2009 to perform the study.

In their report of July 2009 the consultants found no evidence of dumping after 1971, and their test pits in the waste area turned up contents consistent with domestic wastes. Waste was encountered to a depth of approximately 3.1 m below the surface, and no groundwater was detected in the test pits.

The consultants also sank two boreholes to a depth of 18-20 m. Groundwater was encountered in only one of them. They concluded that there was a separation of about 16 metres between the bottom of the waste deposits and the local groundwater. No combustible vapours were detected.

The consultants did find evidence of TCE contamination in samples from one of the monitoring wells. Concentration of TCE was 1.9 micrograms/L in one sample, but 5.6 micrograms/L (above the MoE guideline) in another. Without further study they could not determine if the detection of TCE is persistent or not. No such volatile organic compounds have been found in domestic wells in the area, which draw from depths between 30 and 60 m.

They proposed a 30-metre buffer area around the fill area where detailed study should be done in the event that someone proposes a change in its land use.

Overall, they concluded that the site "would not result in a hazard or health and safety risk, a nuisance to people, and/or degradation of the natural environment for surrounding properties within 500 metres of the site for the following factors: potential for surface water contamination by leachate, surface runoff, ground settlement, visual impacts, soil contamination and hazardous waste, and landfill-generated gases".

They did, however, identify an area beyond the 30metre distance to the west, which they considered to be within a potentially down gradient area from the site, and which should be subject to detailed study in the event of proposals for land use changes or new development.

### What's Going on Now?

Wherever the Township Zoning By-law designates an area for "H3 protective zoning" on account of suspected old dumpsites, any proposals for development nearby must be subject to appropriate tests to determine the extent and potential impact of any old waste that may still lie buried there. As noted earlier, there are 10 such H3 sites in Tiny. Tiny's planners hope to clear up all questions the MoE has about them as expeditiously as possible.

Meanwhile, anyone can view the zoning maps (schedules) online or in the Township Office.

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# **Recommended Summer Reading**

We asked readers for their ideas for a Suggested Summer Reading column. (Fortunately, no one misread this as a request for "suggestive summer reading" -- but perhaps the heading above is safer.) Thanks to all who responded, and herewith some great recommendations for your favourite chair on the screened porch on a rainy day, or under the beach umbrella on a sunny one:

from Linda Andrews, Wahnekewening Beach:

#### John Arpin: Keyboard Virtuoso,

by Robert Popple (Dundurn Press)

Born and raised in Port McNicholl, John Arpin has become an icon of Canadian music history. During his full but complicated life, Arpin moved effortlessly between recording studios, the Roy Thomson Hall concert stage, ragtime jam sessions in New Orleans and fundraising sessions at the King's Wharf Theatre. His musical friends included such greats as Glenn Gould, Eubie Blake and Gordon Lightfoot. Popple (a Penetang native and friend of Arpin since the early 1950's) skilfully conveys what is special about Arpin and his music: his energy, humanity, artistry and passion.

from Judy Bell, Cedar Point:

#### The Elegance of the Hedgehog,

by Muriel Barbery (Europa Editions)

The story takes place in Paris, France, in a ritzy building of flats, where the concierge, a self-taught woman, hides her intelligence and interest in the arts from the privileged and empty-headed residents. The second voice telling the story is a 12 year old girl, a resident, who also hides her superior intelligence and is struggling with suicidal tendencies. They become friends and the concierge is unmasked by a new tenant who changes her life. There is humour, themes that touch on social class, education, music, art and literature, and a lot about food!

#### Vermeer's Hat,

by Timothy Brook (Bloomsbury Press)

I read on the Internet that the author spends his summers on Christian Island -- which may or may not be true. A quote from the book jacket: "By way of Vermeer's pictures he takes us through doorways into a suddenly wider universe, in which tobacco, slaves, spices, beaver pelts, China bowls and South American silver are wrenching together hitherto well-insulated peoples." A look at the world in the 17th century.

from Jack Ellis, Rowntree Beach:

#### Champlain's Dream,

by David Hacker Fischer (Vintage Canada)

Samuel de Champlain is familiar to all of us as the father of New France and for his celebrated travels through Huronia and what is now Tiny Township. Most of us, however, are not aware of his broad influence on the development of Canada and how it emerged as a modern state, and even on the history of the Americas as a whole.

In 2008, the 400th anniversary of his founding of Quebec was celebrated, and in 2015 it is expected that there will be significant events staged right here to celebrate the 400th anniversary of his travels to Huronia. This is the perfect book to bring you up to speed on Champlain's origins in France, his life, travels and accomplishments: not only a scholarly work, but also a really good read.

Fischer is a Pulitzer Prize winner, and his gripping and readable prose attests to his deserving it, among many other awards. Champlain comes alive as you read the pages of this book -- a long read at 531 pages of text, but definitely one of the most readable and entertaining of any serious history books that you will find, as well as being of great relevance to our own area.

from Carol Ann Goddard, Wendake Beach:

#### Blazing Figures: A Life of Robert Markle,

by J.A. Wainwright (Wilfrid Laurier University Press)

This newly released book chronicles the life of Robert Markle (1936 - 1990), a Mohawk artist, who lived in Hamilton, Toronto and Mount Forest, Ontario. Markle was a controversial expressionist painter of the female figure who also played sax in the Artist's Jazz Band. He had many friends (Gordon Rayner, Patrick Watson, Gordon Lightfoot...) who were interviewed for this book.

from Sandy Small Proudfoot, Copeland Creek Estates and Nottawaga Beach:

My idea of good summer reading is that it should go on year round. Curled up by the fire or sitting under a tree at the beach, I recommend:

Louise Penny. A Canadian author, her mystery novels do not dwell on the gory details, but on character development. The setting for her first five novels is an imaginary village in the Eastern Townships of Quebec called Three Pines. It's good to begin with her first book, **Still Life** (Headline), available in paperback. Although not dependent on a continuing story, her original characters (and new ones) are more developed in each book.

Marcia Willett. An English author, whose books are set in the southwest of England, in the country around Cornwall and Devon. Her themes intertwine, as do some of her characters, from book to book. Her descriptive storytelling gifts are like comfort food for the mind, but definitely a woman's book -- not for men!

The first book in Marcia Willett's Chadwick Family Chronicles is **Looking Forward**. Her latest, due out in hard cover in July 2010, is **The Summer House**.

If you have a chance to sample some of these titles, let us know if you enjoy them. Or let us have your own summer reading recommendations for what we hope will become a regular fixture of the spring issue of the Tiny Cottager.

# This Year's Municipal Election in Tiny

This is a municipal election year. Many decisions have been and are about to be made – by the Ontario Legislature, by the Municipality of Tiny Township, by organizations thinking about the election, and by individuals who might run for office.

THE PROVINCE: After reviewing the Municipal Elections Act, the Ontario Legislature passed Bill 212 "Municipal Elections Reform" in December 2009. This lays down the rules for candidates regarding expenses and finances and for municipalities about the management of the election. It also sets key dates:

- Nomination period starts: January 1, 2010
- Deadline for alternative voting by-law and procedures: June 1, 2010
- Voters' List to be prepared: September 1, 2010
- Nominations closed and deadline for withdrawal of a nomination: September 10, 2010, at 2 p.m.
- Municipal Voting day: October 25, 2010, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

THE TOWNSHIP: A number of key decisions have already been taken in Tiny Township. Once again, residents are to vote by mail, and at its April 26th meeting, Council leased tabulators to speed the counting of ballots. The Township website – tiny.ca — is already making a broad range of pertinent information available in a special "2010 Municipal Election" section under "Town Hall". There is evidence there of co-operation among Penetanguishene, Midland, Tay and Tiny in the formal "Notice/Municipal Elections 2010" and in the "Candidate Information Session" which is to take place on June 10, 2010. Doug Luker, Tiny's CAO/Clerk, says that a draft Voters' List will be ready by August and that voters will be able to determine if they are on it by using Internet Voter Lookup on Tiny's website.

**FOTTSA:** Immediately after the 2006 election, FoTTSA prepared a report on the election and presented it to Council. Our Report commended the decision to stay with voting by mail and praised township staff for its careful management of the election. We also recommended improvements to the Voters' List (stronger efforts to remove

those who have moved or died and to include new residents and spouses) and urged more vigorous use of the Township's website. We asked that the Township Offices be kept open for a number of hours on Saturdays during the election period so that problems could be dealt with. We suggested that a number of changes should be made to the Vote-by-Mail packages (clearer instructions, a larger secrecy envelope, use of a different colour of envelope for each municipality using vote-by-mail). We recommended that an official, secure, well-advertised drop box be available at the Township Offices so that votes could be dropped off during evenings and weekends. And we asked that information be collected about voting patterns poll-by-poll as such data confirms the integrity of the count and is a practice endorsed by the electoral officer of Canada.

**INTERVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:** For several elections, FoTTSA, together with Tiny's Residents Working Together, has interviewed candidates and recommended those who seem most likely to serve the Township fairly and well. This year the Site 41 group is also going to participate in the interview sessions, which will take place over the summer.

**CANDIDATES:** Now is the time to consider whether you have skills that would benefit Tiny Township and whether you might like to serve on Council. If you wish to become a candidate, we urge you to get a clear sense of what the job might entail by attending meetings of Council.

To date the following individuals have certified their intention to run:

For Mayor: Peter E. Davenport, Ray Millar. For Deputy Mayor: George Lawrence. For Councillor: André Claire, Nigel Warren, Gibb Wishart.

Others are expected to declare before the close of nominations on September 10th

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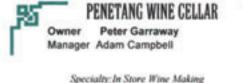
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### **UPDATE..**

What a difference a season can make! Last August the hospital (North Simcoe Hospital) embarked on a process to invite the community to help re-name the hospital to better reflect our two sites - Midland and Penetanguishene - and all the communities served.

Georgian Bay General Hospital won out in a vote that took place on-line, in print and via email and mail last December. Georgian Bay, is the common connector for everyone who calls this home or 'second' home!

And, because the Foundation supports the work of the hospital they are newly renamed as well with a fresh new logo and motto that carries us forward together.

To find out about the Foundation or events become a Fan on Facebook or invite a representative to a future event you are hosting, or host an event that supports our hospital.



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# Champlain's 400th Anniversary in Tiny

BY BILL JOHNSON



1921 Reenactment of Champlain's Landing near Toanche

Many of you may already know that August, 2015 will be the 400th anniversary of Champlain's visit to what is now Tiny Township. But many of us are just getting to know the broader heritage he left us, beyond his well-known travels and exploration. Actually, his philosophy and management style still define much of how Canadians think today. History marks us even after four centuries.

An ad-hoc group of Tiny's citizens is now considering how to plan the forthcoming celebration and beyond.

In earlier years, a remarkable local priest, Father Athol Murray, was a great fan of Champlain. He erected the great cross at Caraghouha, marking the site of the first mass in Upper Canada, celebrated on August 12th, 1615 (see "The Five Crosses of Tiny Township" in the Spring/Summer, 2009, *Tiny Cottager*). He erected another cross where Champlain first landed at Toanche, and in 1921 held a ceremony there, at which the Iroquois Confederacy and the last of the remaining Hurons – ancient enemies - finally made peace.

The ad-hoc group so far has considered several projects for the 400th Anniversary, some of which may involve substantial investment:

- 1. Enlargement of the Huronia Museum in Midland, a cultural jewel focusing on Southern Georgian Bay: Huron First Nations; Marine history lighthouses and boats; art, including paintings by the Group of Seven member, Franz Johnson; pioneer artifacts and history, including one of the pioneers of aviation, a Wright brother, a summer resident on an island north of Midland; and a Champlain display and educational project.
- 2. Development of a "Champlain Trail" through the Indian villages he visited during his nine months in Tiny

Township.

- 3. Suitable memorials for Caraghouha and the landing point in Penetang Bay.
- 4. Identification of all Huron village sites and bone pits (a long-term project).

A separate project would be an archeological assessment of Fort St. Marie II, on Christian Island, possibly followed by reconstruction.

Several groups already plan initiatives for 2015, including the Tiny Historical Committee, La Clé d'la Baie en Huronie, and the Richelieu Club. The role of the ad-hoc group would be to achieve an overall vision of what could be done, to better define the goals, to roughly cost out projects and explore possibilities for financing. It would also liaise with and assist those now working on related projects.

Although 2015 now seems a long way off, there is a lot to be done and we believe there is only just enough time to accomplish this worthwhile work.

We hope that a visionary overarching concept for the 2015 Anniversary celebration will result in a significant series of events in that year, which will enable visitors and residents to better understand Champlain's contribution to Huronia and his profound influence on the character of Canada. It also would leave a significant group of sites and attractions that will put Huronia and Tiny more prominently "on the map" for Canadians and tourists, to the overall benefit of the area.

The Tiny Cottager will keep you informed about the progress of these efforts, and alert you to how you might participate.









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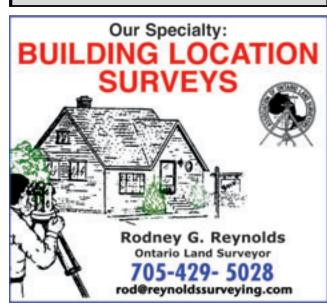
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# Where Birds Shouldn't Fly!

By Beverley Macdonali

What do birds collide with? How about transmission lines, cars, planes, skyscrapers, or subdivision homes? All of the above, and family cottages as well. Across North America, 193 birds die every minute due to collisions with human-built structures. Tinted and mirrored windows pose the most serious hazard, since they reflect a bird's natural habitat. And this is our loss as well as theirs, because birds are a critical part of the ecosystems on which we rely.

However, birds do have friends, dedicated bird lovers who gather statistics and form volunteer clubs and organizations in order to create safeguards for birds in urban environments. These people provide education, research, rescue and rehabilitation techniques to help save our feathered friends. FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program)\*, a registered charity formed in 1993, provides a lot of information. It has set up a program called BAGS (Bird Action Group Stations), through which people can pick up bags, nets, gloves and literature to assist them in rescuing injured birds.

Some of the solutions they provide are as follows:

**Bird Friendly Building Programs** – Guidelines are currently in place through the participation of architects, development and property management corporations and bird advocacy groups who all co-operate with city staff. If a building or development has been verified by a city as "bird-friendly", this accreditation gives their owners and managers a competitive advantage, allowing them to market their buildings as such, thus increasing environmental awareness in the marketplace. This is a great idea that can also be established in rural areas!

**Lighting Techniques** – For nighttime migratory birds, larger building structures can install motion-sensitive lights or encourage the use of desk lamps & task lighting for nighttime workers. They can also re-program timers, adopt lower intensity lighting, reduce perimeter lighting, and use blinds and/or curtains.

**Window Films** – Most daytime collisions actually happen between ground level and the fourth floor. Various manufacturers produce films that can be applied to clear or tinted windows that last up to three years. Check on-line for a distributor near you.

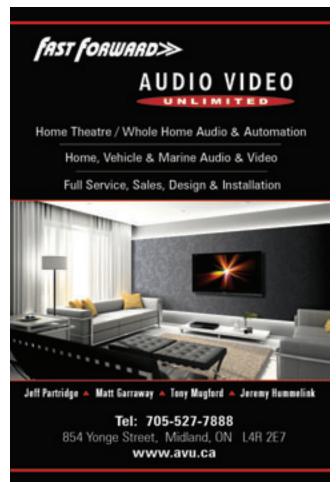
Simple solutions for the homeowner include window decals. There is debate as to their effectiveness, but I think they're still worth a try. If you have set up feeders, you should make sure they are either less than one meter from your house so the bird cannot build up enough momentum to injure itself, or, more than three meters away, so it's less likely to come close enough to collide with your house or cottage.

Finally, what about learning bird first aid techniques? They are spelled out on the FLAP website. That would equip you to help that little injured hummingbird you just might find on your cottage patio this year. Be aware -- and care!

\*FLAP, Dundee Place, 1 Adelaide St. E., P.O. Box 175, Toronto, ON M5C 2V9 (416) 366-3527 http://www.flap.org/flap\_home.htm







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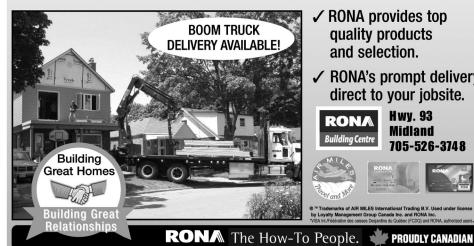




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L to R: Paul Heinrich (CEO, North Simcoe Hospital Alliance), Dave Sparrow (Wymbolwood), Linda Andrews (Wahnekewening), Carole Ferguson (Bluewater Georgina Wendake), Dorene Trunk (Rochelle), Alison and Alan Fryer (North Tiny Community Assoc.), Ian Ferguson (Bluewater Georgina Wendake), Judith Grant (kneeling, Addison), Barb Guidolin (Senior Director of Patient Services, HDH), Dr. David Jones (Co-President, Huronia Hospitals Foundation).



L to R: Bill Johnson (FoTTSA), Linda Andrews (Wahnekewening), Ian Ferguson (Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches Assoc.), Alison Fryer (North Tiny Community Assoc.), Judith Grant (Addison Beach Assoc. and Pres. FoTTSA), Laurie Schutt (Executive Director, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre), Al Taylor (FoTTSA), Carole Ferguson (Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches Assoc.), and H. Alan Fryer (North Tiny Community Assoc.)

# FoTTSA Members Support Worthwhile Causes

Once again members of the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations took time from their summer vacations to participate in the Tiny Cottager Challenge in support of local hospitals, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, and attracting doctors to Huronia.

The incentives to do so were great.

From time to time both seasonal and permanent shore residents require the services of an Emergency Department. Like everyone else in Tiny Township, they want to be sure that there are enough physicians to serve their needs. The result in 2009 was a fundraising effort by eight associations that produced \$15,761 for the Huronia Hospitals Foundation and for physician recruitment. The Wymbolwood Beach Association won a crest on the Challenge Cup for the largest amount raised by a large association and the Addison Beach Property Owners Association won another as the outstanding small association. Though not represented in the photograph, the Kingswood Acres Association and the Nottawaga Beach Association also put forth excellent efforts, the latter raising the second largest amount of any association.

Tiny Township's shore area residents enjoy the many attractions of the Marsh. Their children and grandchildren go to its camps. They often attend its informative lectures, walk its trails and explore its waterways. So last year, five associations also raised \$1,685 for the Wye Marsh. They were the Addison Beach Association, the Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches Association, the North Tiny Community Association, and the Wahnekewening Community Association.









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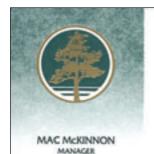
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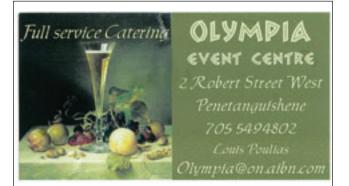
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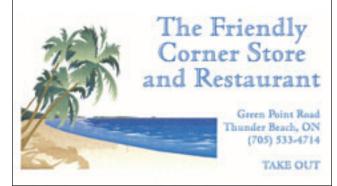
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REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued from page 5 increased littering. Owners felt that the signage defining the limits of the public beach at Balm was inadequate.

Council directed staff to clearly define the extent of Township-owned property with signs at Kitching Lane and at the access point just north of the Sunport Motel.

#### **BALM BEACH LIGHTING**

Nine new light standards – ones that limit ambient light pollution – are to be installed at Balm Beach as the first step in the long-term improvement plan. In spite of tendering, the cost of these standards was excessive – \$116,103.

#### **OBEYING THE FINANCIAL PROCEDURES BY-LAW**

Members of Council noted that staff too frequently ignore the requirements of the Financial Procedures Bylaw and use single source suppliers. They requested a report for major purchases such as engineering, fire equipment, and legal services, indicating the current suppliers and the availability of other sources.

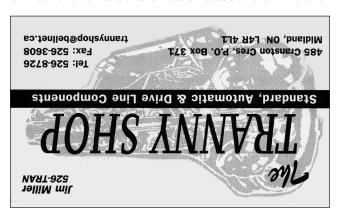
It is unfortunate that this step was not taken early in Council's term as some of the current purchasing arrangements have not been analyzed for many years. By the time a report is prepared and discussed, the current term will be virtually over. We note that staff continue to recommend purchasing from a single source.

#### **HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE**

The Treasurer, Doug Taylor, reported that Bell Aliant expects to make changes to Bell's existing towers in Tiny in June that will make broadband service available at a reasonable rate to all but a strip of properties across the north end of the Township. An approach is to be made to the CRTC in September by many municipalities across the province on behalf of such unserviced properties, as there is a new technology that might be used. The dates and areas to be covered in the new program are still not firm. A representative from Bell advised that there will be a followup program which should see the entire township covered by 2013. Council is asking the county to provide a map of current coverage areas.

#### SALE/TRANSFER OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

During the past few months, several requests have been made to the Township to sell or transfer townshipowned land to residents or beach associations. This sub-



Peter R. Deacon, B.A., A.M., L.L.B. William P. Taws, L.L.B.

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ject was discussed in closed session. Subsequently, we learned that, as a practice, the Township will not sell or transfer any property unless there is demonstrated and tangible benefit to the public.

#### **SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION UPDATE**

Council approved the continuation of this program. 1000 systems are to be examined this summer. Last summer, the first pass over the entire township was completed and re-inspections started again at Balm Beach for all systems that had reached 20 years of age, regardless of whether they had been previously re-inspected. The "shoreline" area from the Township line to the 5th Concession Road will be checked this year.

Among last year's 1175 inspections, 300 sites require further work. The list of deficiencies requiring follow-up work is instructive:

- 58 lots had indications of vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed.
  - 49 lots had root intrusions into the leaching bed area.
  - 38 lots had an unsafe septic tank.
  - 31 lots required more information from the resident.
- 29 lots had fire pits dug into the surface of the leaching bed.
  - 29 lots had an outhouse that was in disrepair.
  - 23 lots had a structure on top of the leaching bed.
  - 17 lots had decks supported by the septic tank.16 lots had a patio on the surface of the leaching bed.
  - 3 lots had a boat parked on the leaching bed.
  - 2 lots had an eavestrough drain onto the leaching bed.
- 2 lots had indications that the sewage was not being properly treated due to high ground water table.
- 1 lot had sewage effluent breakout on the surface of the ground.
  - 1 lot had grading/erosion deficiencies.
- 1 lot had a gray water system discharging directly onto the surface of the ground.

It is heartening to see that all deficiencies have been remedied for inspections done up to 2005, with only 1% outstanding for 2006 and 2007.

### PARKING AT JACKSON AND WOODLAND BEACH PARKS

Council has decided to merge pay-parking spaces and

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resident permit spaces at Jackson Park, and to give Resident Permit holders the right to park in any available space without paying.

The same arrangement was to pertain at Woodland Beach Park, but, as a result of resident pressure, pay parking and permit parking areas will remain separate for one more year. This is to the advantage of permit holders as permit spots receive little use, while the pay-parking area has usually been full before noon. This advantage will be lost next year if permit spots are not used.

#### **BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY**

Total year activity declined in 2009 to \$25,888,000 from \$31,772,000 in 2008. The start of 2010 is more promising with activity through March at \$3,387,000 versus \$2,845,000 for 2009.

### TOWNSHIP WEBSITE UPDATED

Early in 2010 the Township unveiled its new website which is more attractive and user friendly.









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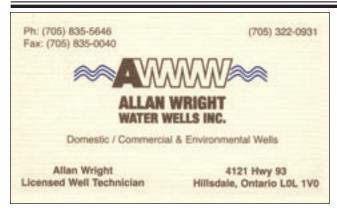
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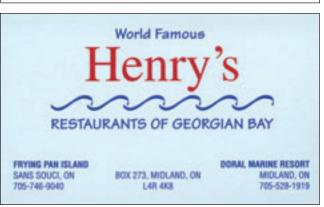
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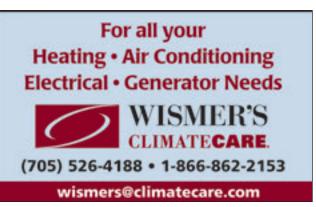




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PHRAGMITES...continued from page 1

Concentrations of glyphosate in the groundwater below the stand of sprayed phragmites rapidly decreased over time with mean concentrations of 0.135 micrograms/L one week after application, 0.095 micrograms/L two weeks after application, and by three weeks after spraying only a couple of samples contained glyphosate and their concentrations were below the accurate detectable limit (0.050 micrograms/L).

Concentrations of glyphosate in the lake water were always very low; the maximum concentration detected was 0.286 micrograms/L, well below the Health Canada Water Quality Guideline for Aquatic Life of 65 micrograms/L. However, glyphosate was detected more and for a longer time in lake water (4 weeks after the herbicide was sprayed), because glyphosate would slowly enter the lake via groundwater discharge and through surface runoff after a heavy rain.

So, does this mean that it is safe to spray Roundup® on phragmites at beaches? Although the results look promising, caution must be used when trying to extrapolate the results to a more widespread policy. First, this was only one study, undertaken at one very limited site and under one set of site conditions. Hence the results from this specific test site may not be duplicated at other sites along the beaches of southern Georgian Bay. And to use an analogy from medicine – further clinical trials are necessary before we can say conclusively that spraying will not result in concentrations that could affect aquatic life at the shore or present a risk to those swimming at the beach. Second, the spraying was undertaken by a pesticide applicator specialist under the direction of a Ministry of Natural Resources scientist with years of experience with phragmites control. They both knew how to apply the herbicide in a manner that would ensure minimal environmental impact. Third, because the spraying took place last fall when the phragmites was in the midst of its fall-winter dieback, it will not be known until this coming summer whether the application technique and the concentrations of Roundup® applied will actually have the desired impact on the phragmites.

**EDITORIAL NOTE:** Tiny's budget includes \$10,000 for control of phragmites – for education, for spraying with Roundup® if officials permit, or for mechanical removal of the reed on municipal lands if they do not.

Private land owners have a responsibility too. See the advice keyed from the main page of www.tinycottager.org. Of relevance here is a resolution that will be presented to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative AGM in June. Drafted by Mayor Breckenridge and Keith Sherman of the Severn Sound Environmental Association, it "calls on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other relevant authorities to introduce a protocol that establishes 'due process' in controlling invasive phragmites". It would require private landowners, under carefully defined circumstances, to control phragmites on their land, and if no action were taken, to allow an authority to act.

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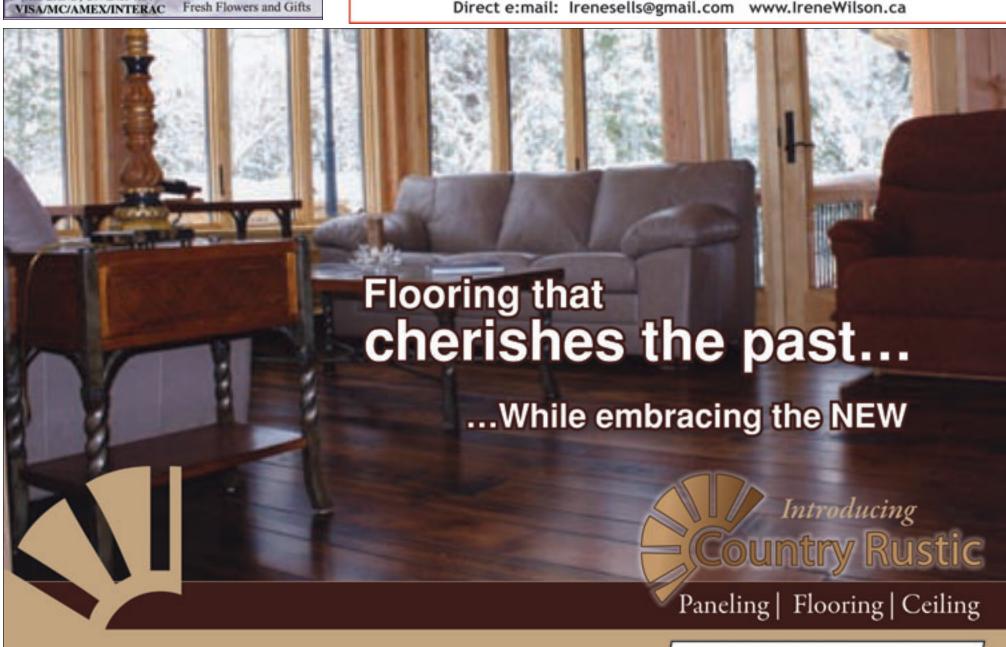


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