

# THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 40

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2012

## The President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

At this critical moment, I would like use this front page space to focus on the lake level fight.

FoTTSA has joined forces with the Great Lakes Section of Sierra Club Ontario in mounting a battle to have our lake levels restored following an unprecedented 13 years of low water. The International Joint Commission (IJC) is made up of both Canadian and American Commissioners who share responsibility in managing the Great Lakes. They commissioned a study by the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board (IUGLSB) who, after 5 years and expenditures of \$17 million of tax payers' money, have recommended that the IJC "do nothing" about lake levels!

The water levels of our glacially-created Great Lakes would normally vary in a healthy range according mostly to precipitation vs. evaporation. What has happened? Over dredging of the St. Clair river has caused an excess outflow of anywhere from 6% to 10% every second - a significant contributor to the declining levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron - the only unregulated lakes in the system.

The Sierra Club has an incredible battery of hydrological /environmental engineers and aquatic biologists whose hard work has uncovered not only flaws in the IUGLSB study, but, worse, exposed cover ups and misrepresentations of data to skew the results of the study in support of their "do nothing" recommendation. This is a highly politically charged situation which will require significant efforts on multiple fronts to cause the right answer to be implemented.

What is the right answer? The Sierra Club Great Lakes Section headed by Mary Muter is recommending that flexible sills be installed in the St. Clair River to stem the outflow and cause us to regain 25 cm over the next 10 years if we act now. The consultants have confirmed that temporary downstream effects would be minimal. This solution adjusts to high water times (if they ever occur again) and is financially viable at a cost of \$200 - 300 million vs. the multibillion dollar price tag of a multi-lake regulation system.

We need your help now. Only 2 weeks prior to the IJC meeting held in Midland in July, FoTTSA mobilized a special task force that helped fill the room with 650 people. A great start and a factor that (amongst other inputs) has caused the IJC to extend the input period for the study. The task at hand now is even more daunting as we need to convince the IJC that the Sierra Club approach is not only right but viable and we must also convince both Canadian and US governments to act on this restoration proposal. Support is growing - join the fight!

Please contact me directly ([paul.cowley@fottsa.org](mailto:paul.cowley@fottsa.org)) if you feel you can help in any part of FoTTSA's committee. Restoring traditional water levels will benefit our grand children and theirs!

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Concerned citizens filing into the IJC Hearing in Midland on July 16.

## IJC Holds Hearings on Water Levels

"Restore our water levels!" said FoTTSA  
"We hear you loud and clear" replied the Chairman"

By JACK ELLIS

### Events of July 16th

A FoTTSA-led campaign with signs, T-shirts, emails, phone calls and word of mouth resulted in a packed hearing room at the North Simcoe Recreation Centre. Other area groups helped, too. Especially eloquent was the First Nations Water Ceremony conducted outdoors before the hearing by Roseann Monague of the Beausoleil First Nation.

The campaign worked wonders! On arrival the Commissioners were quite startled to find so many people streaming into the lower-level Askennonia Seniors Centre. The huge banner and a forest of signs at the entrance made it clear what the crowd wanted: "Restore Our Water Levels".

At 7:00 pm, the time set for the Hearing to begin, Commissioner Lyall Knott offered the overflowing crowd a choice: head into an adjacent room to hear - but not watch - the proceedings; or everyone head up the flight of stairs to the huge Community Hall, bringing a chair along, and wait for 30 minutes or so for the high-tech audio-visual equipment to be moved upstairs.

Some 600 people took the latter choice and eagerly waited. This crowd was double the number at any other Hearing the International Joint Commission (IJC) held in their 10-days of touring US and Canadian Great Lakes communities.

First, a 15-minute video was shown on the findings of their International Upper Great Lakes Study Board (IUGLS) Report - mainly about Lake Superior levels and controls - and the report's conclusion that **nothing should be done** to the St. Clair River outflow from Lake Huron-Michigan-Georgian Bay.

Attendees were then invited to address the Commissioners with their opinions and questions about the IUGLS Report.

First up was Bruce Stanton, the PC MP for Simcoe North. He stressed that it was the role of the national governments to decide what was to be done, and he favours the restoration of our water levels.

Tiny Township's Deputy Mayor George Lawrence and Councillor Nigel Warren also spoke, noting that good science plus coordinated community action is needed in cases like this, reminding us that it was the key factor in the victory over Dump Site 41.

President Paul Cowley spoke for FoTTSA. Numerous beach people, local residents and businessmen also reinforced the need for and the logic of restoring our water levels. The main question was: how can the extremely small probability of flood damage to properties in Michigan outweigh the immense real economic damage in Georgian Bay and the continuing destruction of some of the most productive ecosystems in the Great Lakes?

Expert scientific opinions were presented by Bill Bialkowski, a hydrological expert now working with the Sierra Club, and Pat Chow-Fraser, McMaster University Professor and Director of Life Sciences, who explained the key role that Georgian Bay wetlands - now drying out - play for the entire Great Lakes.

See HEARINGS...next page

### IJC Accepts Comments Until Sept. 30:

In an Open Public Letter sent out on August 31, 2012 - the first-announced deadline for comments on their Report on International Upper Great Lakes Study - the International Joint Commission (IJC) has stated:

"Due to strong public interest, the IJC has **extended the deadline for written comment until September 30, 2012.**" Details of how to send comments are in the article on page 4, or on <http://ijc.org/iuglsreport/>

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HEARINGS continued from the front page



First Nations Water Ceremony

Mary Muter spoke eloquently: she is the amazing lady who over 7 years ago started lobbying incessantly to have the role of the increased conveyance through the St. Clair River included in the IUGLS process. She also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund sound science, including the ‘Baird Report’ that documented the river’s excess conveyance of our water. Now with the Sierra Club Ontario Chapter, she has been tireless all through the study process in exposing “**cover-ups and misrepresentations of data**” in the IUGLS process – a process which led to the IUGLS’s indefensible conclusion that “nature should take its course” with respect to the St. Clair River.

The Midland Hearing finally wound up shortly after 10:00 pm. Lyall Knott, the Canadian Commissioner who chaired the Hearing, assured the crowd: “**We hear you loud and clear.**”



The crowd

This was sweet news. As Paul Cowley put it: “To go from a standing start only 2 weeks ago to filling a room with over 600 people makes me so proud of our combined efforts that I could absolutely burst with pride at our accomplishment.”

**Events of July 17th**

As it turned out, the Commissioners heard the same message loud and clear in Collingwood on July 17th.

Mary Muter was almost ecstatic in telling Paul about her experience there, and the evident responsiveness of the Commissioners to our cause. “(Collingwood’s) hearing was far better than I expected, because after the Midland meeting I did not think anything could be better.”

Mary noted, “What was good about the Collingwood meeting was that the Commissioners had had a chance overnight to discuss what had happened at Midland and by then realized that **something has to be done!!!**”

Mary had personal conversations with three of the Commissioners before and after the Hearing, and they indicated what they could and could not do within their power. But they clearly got the message we wanted them to take away from the Hearings: that increased conveyance is a factor and they do have the authority to advise governments on that fact. They indicated that having the science to back up our concerns made a difference for them.

In an article in the Collingwood *Enterprise-Bulletin*, Morgan Ian Adams reported, “After the meeting, Knott acknowledged there is an ‘element of urgency’ to getting the IJC’s recommendations to government. He noted the commission has heard many of the same comments at public hearings with regard to water levels — and the role of dredging in the St. Clair — since its hearing in Sault Ste. Marie last week.”

“People want us to move,” he said. “All we can do is what we’ve been asked to do (under the 1909 treaty between the Canadian and American governments on the Great Lakes), and I’m satisfied that a decision of this body would be taken seriously by the governments.”

All in all, these Hearings were a major breakthrough. But this is only a prelude to getting the message “Restore Our Water Levels” through to the politicians who have the authority to act. It will not be easy to motivate them to real action, but we must keep trying!

## 2011 Tiny Cottager Challenge Cup Presentation



Left to right: Lynda Wolfhard, President of the GBGH Foundation; Ted Bailey, Nottawaga Beach (Most Raised); Al Taylor, Kingswood Acres (Largest Amount Raised Per Member - Large Association); Hamish Grant, Addison Beach (Largest Amount Raised Per Member - Small Association); John Lister, Director of Development GBGH; Paul Cowley, President of FoTTSA; in front: Denise Gardian, FoTTSA



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# Faith and Fortitude – Churches in Tiny

BY BONNIE REYNOLDS

*This is a continuation of an article in the Spring [Tiny Cottager](#) chronicling histories of the churches of Tiny from the mid 1800s to the present.*

## Randolph - Anglican Church - 1885-1912

A white frame church was built at Randolph (14th Conc and County Rd 6) for the local English speaking families. It was later moved to Penetanguishene and is now the parish hall for St. James-on-the-Lines.

## Cawaja Beach - Church in the Pines - 1925-present



There is a 'church' located just off Lefaive Road at Cawaja Beach that is unlike any other church. A sign reads "Church in the Pines", and as you look around you see only a park-like setting. On any given Sunday between June and Labour Day worshippers gather here on lawn chairs and blankets, although in inclement weather meetings move to "The Place" in Balm Beach. Guest speakers representing different religions lead the weekly services. Music is also a component of the services; Mabel Finley, an early cottager, composed a hymn for this church. One stanza is:

Come to the Church at Cawaja  
Come to the Church in the Pines.  
No lovelier spot for our worship,  
Than the outdoor Church in the Pines.

## Woodland Beach Community Church - 1929-present



Up until 1926 services were held in private homes. Then in 1929 a lot was purchased from Jonathon Tripp and a frame church building with a cedar post foundation was built for the cost of \$1,010. Pews came from the old Methodist Church in Wyevale. From time to time the building is given a face-lift. Services are seasonal, from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving, plus a special service on Christmas Eve.

## Highland Point - Our Lady of the Rosary Roman Catholic



## Mission - 1938-present

In 1938 a mission church was established at Highland Point off Champlain Rd. in association with St. Ann's Church in Penetanguishene. Originally named St. David's Chapel, it became Our Lady of the Rosary in 1962, when an upper level was added to the building. The congregation is proud of its little church and the view of Penetanguishene Bay is stunning.

## Thunder Bay Beach - The Church of St. Florence - 1943-present

In 1943 George McNamara donated the land and built the Thunder Bay Beach chapel. Opened on July 2, 1943, it was associated with Ste. Croix in Lafontaine. This white frame building served a dual purpose. During the summer it was used as a place of worship, and for the remainder of the year it was a public school (S.S. #24). The school closed in 1967 and St. Florence has been used as a chapel



all year round. A ball-park and other recreational facilities border the church property, courtesy of the McNamara family.

## Marygrove - 1961-present



The new chapel at Marygrove was opened on July 9, 1961. It is connected to the nearby summer camp for girls. This residential camp welcomes girls, aged 5-13, to enjoy a camping adventure on the shores of Penetanguishene Bay. Managed by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Toronto Central Council, the chapel is located on Champlain Road near Coutnac.

## Conc. 11W - Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic



## Church - 1989-present

Ukrainians have been living and cottaging in Tiny for many years and one of their dreams was to build a church in this area. Early services were held at the Gerus family cottage but in 1988 the parishioners started building a church on a lot donated by Myron Gerus. It became a beautiful wooden structure constructed in the style of Carpathian mountain churches of the western Ukraine. On July 9, 1989, the church at the corner of Conc. 11 and Brooke Ave was officially opened. Not only is this a place of worship, it is also a gathering place for the Ukrainian community of Tiny Township. This incredibly beautiful church is well worth a visit and if you enjoy perogies, come after the service on Sundays to purchase a few.

As you can see, there are many interesting and beautiful churches in our township. Whether for religious reasons or for their architectural styles, they are all worth a visit. While most are still in a good state of repair, sadly, a number of them are suffering from dwindling and aging congregations and one wonders how long they will last.



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

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

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# Report on Council

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Ray Millar  
Deputy Mayor George Lawrence  
Councillor André Claire  
Councillor Nigel Warren  
Councillor Gibb Wishart

## OVERVIEW

Our observers report that Council agendas were lighter than usual over the summer months. Council generally works efficiently and harmoniously, although some differences have resulted in split votes. As noted in the Spring issue of the *Tiny Cottager*, the two new Council members (Mayor Millar and Councillor Wishart) occasionally differ from the continuing members (Deputy Mayor Lawrence and Councillors Claire and Warren) over development issues.

## TOWNSHIP GENERAL ISSUES

### Budget Planning for 2013

Council has announced the following dates for Budget Meetings:

- Friday, October 19;
- Friday, November 9; and
- Monday, December 3.

The meetings are public; for times and locations check the events calendar on <http://tiny.ca/>  
If you want to watch Council plan its expenditures – and your taxes – for next year, show up!

### Water Levels: International Joint Commission (IJC) Hearing and Follow-up

Deputy Mayor Lawrence and Councillor Warren addressed the Midland hearing on the International Upper Great Lakes Study (Final Report) on July 16. The Mayor also attended. Mr. Lawrence also contacted neighbouring municipalities and obtained their support for a joint letter presented to Bruce Stanton, MP, at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference.

See also the articles adjacent and on Page 1.

### Simcoe County Official Plan Update

A new County OP was released in June and is hoped to replace the version originally passed in November 2008 but never approved by the province. Ontario now has policies governing growth in the GTA region, and protecting the Lake Simcoe watershed, and the new version of the Simcoe County OP has been designed to conform.

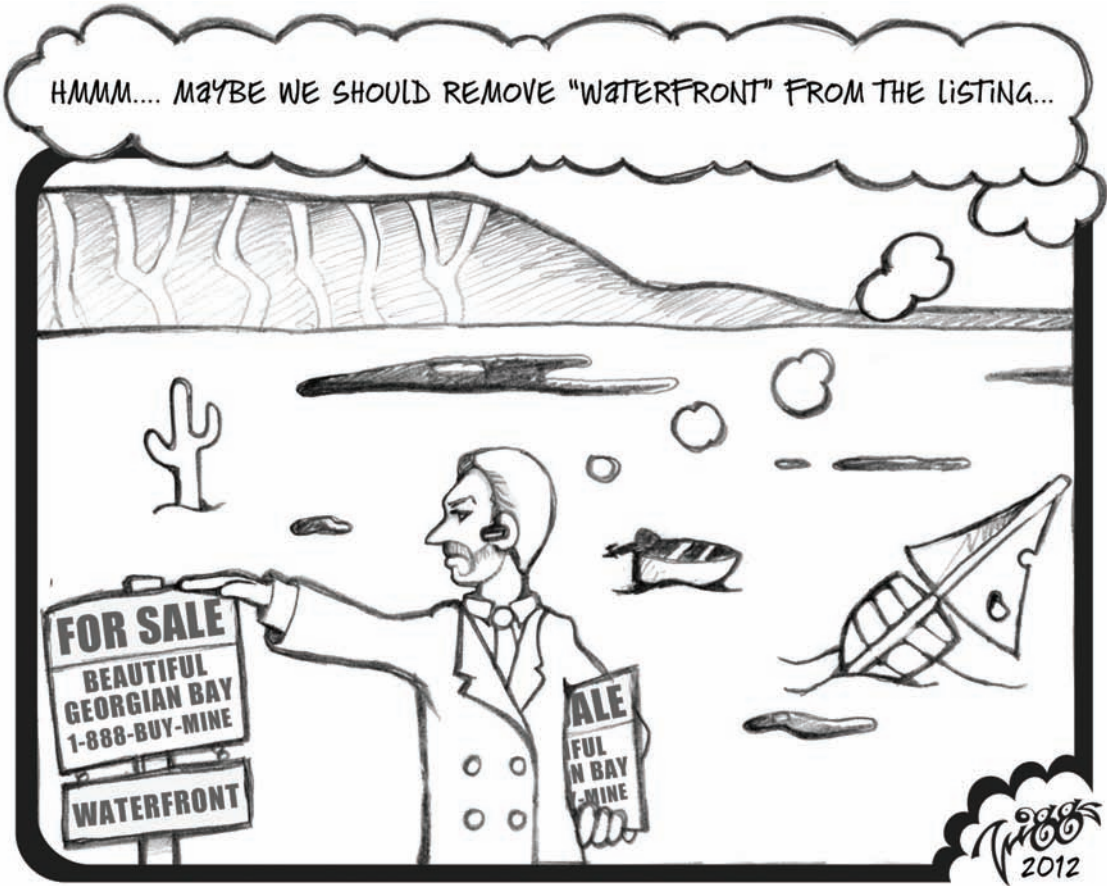
The new OP has not been subject to public meetings, but has been available online and to all municipal Councils in the County. It was the subject of a 50-page PowerPoint presentation at Tiny Council on August 9. The consultant showed a summary of the OP and suggested specific points for Tiny to consider for comment. The new OP reduces the population allocation to Tiny from 13,900 to 12,500 and there are changes to the way the greenbelt overlay is applied to hamlets. For shoreline areas, there are some provisions to control major developments like Friday Harbour in Innisfil but these are very unlikely to affect potential developments in Tiny. You can view or download the full presentation at <http://tinyurl.com/9lwk8he>

The consultant predicts that it will likely be late 2013 or early 2014 before the new Simcoe County OP can be passed by County and approved by the Province (perhaps even later, if any objections reach the OMB and make an OMB hearing necessary). After that, Tiny must revise its own OP to conform to the County's. Tiny taxpayers should try to stay apprised of County OP developments as they occur and be prepared to engage in Tiny's OP process when appropriate.

### Property Standards and Related Matters

Council is currently considering revising its Property Standards By-law, updating the present Clean Yards By-law and forming a Property Standards Committee. The

*See REPORT ON COUNCIL...page 14*



# Follow-On Strategy Needed to Restore Our Water Levels

BY MARY MUTER

## The IJC Makes a Dramatic Announcement

On August 31, the International Joint Commission (IJC) announced a major extension until **September 30** of their original deadline for comments on the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board report (IUGLSB).

They also announced that **another Hearing** would be held by **teleconference** to receive oral comments from those unable to attend one of their on-site Hearings in July. This teleconference was held on September 19th, our mailing deadline for this issue.

Clearly the IJC Commissioners have been listening to our concerns, and could well be on the brink of giving a direction to the US and Canadian governments that would call for at least a partial restoration of the water levels of Lakes Huron/Michigan.

The goal is to have appropriate **flow reduction structures** such as submerged sills installed and operating in the upper St Clair River to achieve at least a **25 cm increase** in our water levels over the next decade. This will require 3-dimensional hydraulic modeling, full environmental impact studies and onsite prototype testing.

## Next Steps

FoTTSA and the Great Lakes Section of Sierra Club Ontario are working hard together on how to get a solution:

1. We need to get the IJC Commissioners to reject the "do nothing" recommendation on Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay levels contained in the IUGLSB 2012 Final Report. They should direct and advise governments at all levels in both Canada and the US that **restoration is needed** to protect all the interests of Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay, and that gradual restoration is possible with no or only minimal temporary impacts downstream.

2. We need to get the Commissioners to **delay implementing** the 2012 Lake Superior Regulation Plan outlined in the IUGLSB Final Report until appropriate control measures to maintain levels on Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay under expected climate

change predictions are in place in the St Clair River.

3. We need to get the responsible **political leaders**, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (John Baird) in Canada and the Secretary of State (Hillary Clinton) in the US, to reference/request that the IJC Commissioners restore Michigan Huron Georgian Bay levels gradually by 25cm. This reference is to be termed an **ecological emergency** and should issued by May 2013.

4. If the Commission and the political leaders refuse to take action or delay doing so, then **options** should be explored to determine whether legal action would help to drive restoration.

There are some hopeful political signs in Canada:

On the local front, the municipalities of Tiny, Tay, Midland and Penetanguishene have made their support for restoration loud and clear to the Federal MPs in the Georgian Bay area. Spearheaded by George Lawrence, Deputy Mayor of Tiny, they apparently made some yards.

Also, I recently met with Tony Clement, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and President of the Treasury Board. He gets the message from his many constituents. Tony was concerned about the recent *Globe and Mail* article" (<http://tinyurl.com/8n8taet>). It implied that Ted Yuzyk, the Canadian Chair of the IUGLS, cared more about some shoreline property owners on southeast Lake Michigan (who love low water levels so they can own more land) than he cares about all the damage to Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. Clement especially wanted to see Bill Bialkowski's submerged sill design and its estimated costs. He has already spoken with John Baird and said they will be getting together in Ottawa as soon as the House resumes.

Also good news is that the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Cities Initiative (Canadian and US mayors) are asking for a 25cm restoration, and urge the IJC to look at options such as the barriers proposed by Sierra Club.

And, just recently, the biggest opponents to restoration - Save Our Shorelines, down on southeast Lake Michigan - have changed their minds and have submitted comments in support of water level restoration.

It is encouraging to see this change of position on





## Dead Fish and Bird Count

*The Great Lakes Section of Sierra Club wants to begin to keep records of the dead fish and birds that wash up on our shores.*

*We hope there is not another large kill like the one last fall but if there is, we want to know immediately. If that happens again we will issue a press release and make certain the government agencies at all levels know about it.*

*So please send an email to Jerry Smitka (smitka@rogers.com) and let him know the date, time, number and species of dead fish or birds that you find. If there is a question of identity send Jerry a photo.*

*Jerry is a retired fisheries biologist from MNR.*

*If there is a large kill, leave a message ASAP at 647 346 8744 or 905 833 2020 and call Jerry at 905 456 3322.*

the American side. If any of you have American contacts, urge them to write to the IJC and their state and federal political leaders asking for water level restoration for Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay.

Let us remember that the US is so much bigger in population and dollar commitments that in the end the US will play a large role in deciding what will be done about the St Clair River.

### Funding is Needed Now in Washington

The US political system is incredibly complex compared to ours, but their political leaders can be open and responsive to the public. Contacts in Washington are a necessity. Sierra Club and colleagues have such contacts. We have worked with them before. They are professional and therefore charge fees.

The US work will require non-charitable funding of about \$15,000 per month to retain these contacts in Washington. There will also be travel expenses. This work should begin immediately so that best options and timing can be determined by late fall 2012.

### What else is needed in Canada?

Muster every connection you have to Federal and Ontario political leaders. While Georgian Bay area MPs are on board, you should reinforce your support by writing to your Federal MP, regardless of party affiliation.

Ontario too has significant interests in the Great Lakes. While the two federal governments own the water, on the Canadian side Ontario owns the lake and riverbeds. Approval must be given by Ontario for submerged sills to be placed in the St Clair River. In addition, the fish and bird kills washing up on our shores can be related to the sustained low water levels and concomitant water quality concerns. We need to connect at senior levels with all Ontario political parties to get broad support for restoration.

The extension of the deadline means we should keep sending more letters in! Address your emails as follows:

### International Joint Commission

[commission@ottawa.ijc.org](mailto:commission@ottawa.ijc.org)

**The Hon. John Baird**, House of Commons

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# Septage: Outhouse to Doghouse

BY BILL SWEENIE

## Spreading Septage is Banned or is It?

As electrical power came to cottage country the humble outhouse gave way to indoor facilities. The upside: no more night "excursions". The downside: grey water from sinks, showers, laundry mixed with human waste forms septage. Septage is all matter (liquids and solids) that is pumped from septic tanks and holding tanks. It should not be confused with biosolids, which are solids that result from municipal sewage treatment processes.

Two septage haulers service the approximately 8,800 private septic systems and holding tanks in Tiny Township, and more beyond. Each hauler has a septage disposal field operated under Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Certificates of Approval. One is near Farlain Lake and the other on Concession 15 E. More than 90% of the untreated septage is disposed of on these lands when the ground is not frozen or saturated with heavy rainfall.

However, in adverse conditions, the remainder must be sent to municipal waste water treatment plants outside the Township, which are not designed to handle septage due to its higher strength (160 times more concentrated and 350 times higher solid levels) compared to normal sewage. A premium 'tipping' fee is charged and the increased disposal costs are passed on to property owners.

Spreading untreated septage on agricultural land has been an issue throughout Ontario. Untreated septage raises greater health risks than animal manure. Septage may contain endocrine disrupting chemicals from pharmaceuticals and personal care products, as well as heavy metal contamination from household chemicals and pathogenic organisms (i.e. bacteria, viruses, etc.) that pose health risks to humans, birds, fish, and aquatic animals. These substances can pollute surface water from runoff and ground water in wells by percolation.

In 2002 the Ontario Government passed the Nutrient Management Act which forbids the spreading of untreated septage on agricultural land by the year 2005, but the MOE has not yet set a firm deadline for discontinuing the practice.

The MOE perceives the management of current septage disposal fields as a private matter between the Ontario Government and private sector service providers. Therefore the Township of Tiny has no role in overseeing septage disposal by haulers within the Township. Complicating the matter further, the County of Simcoe has stated that its mandate pertains to solid waste management, not septage management.

Some municipalities throughout Ontario began addressing concerns with septage management years ago. Concerned citizens of Tiny Township have made it clear that the direct spreading of untreated septage on land is not an acceptable practice. In 2005 submissions and presentations were made to Tiny Township Council by concerned groups, including FoTTSA, about the sad state of managing untreated septage within the Township.

## Tiny Township Takes Action

The Township of Tiny has a commitment to its residents to protect the natural environment, and an obligation to MOE to develop a septage management master plan. In

2010 Tiny initiated a planning process to study what should be done.

A Class EA is now being undertaken by the Township in accordance with the requirements of the Municipal Engineers Association Municipal Class Environmental Assessment to:

- determine the most cost effective manner to manage septage generated within the Township,
- identify all environmental issues that can be identified,
- ensure that the septage management plan satisfies the Ontario Government legislation and guidelines, and
- select an alternative to the disposal of septage on the land.

Eight consulting companies responded to the Township's request for proposal to undertake the first two phases of the Class EA process, and Council approved the bid of \$87,721 by R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. on August 9, 2010.

The Class EA process involves five phases. Phase 1 defined the problem and opportunities for change; and Phase 2 identified septage management options.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of 14 members (5 consultants, 2 Township staff, 1 Council member and 6 others) was formed to guide the process. It held its first meeting on May 13, 2011, and has met four times since then.

Public Information Centre (PIC) meetings have been held to solicit input from the community at large. Since the first PIC on June 25, 2011, there have been two additional meetings. The final PIC meeting was held April 21, 2012, and the PAC was disbanded.

Although the Public Information Centre meetings were scheduled to allow residents to participate in the process, public involvement has been dismal to say the least. At each PIC, consultants, Township Councillors and staff, and representatives of the PAC outnumbered the 10 -15 community participants.

The low PIC turnout can be attributed in part to apathy about the topic, but also by the lack of an effective communications strategy to engage and educate the community about the Class EA of an expensive major Township environmental initiative.

The communications effort was too limited. The general public is not familiar with the issue of septage management within the Township, and the possible ramifications if the right solution is not implemented.

Five alternative solutions were identified and evaluated on criteria of natural environment, socio-economic/cultural, financial and technical factors. A preferred alternative was selected: Tiny's own dedicated facility.

## Dedicated Facility in Tiny is Preferred

The technically preferred option selected was to construct a dedicated septage treatment and disposal facility within the Township to fully treat and dispose of both the solid and liquid portions of septage.

A number of treatment systems are under consideration for the facility:

*See SEPTAGE...on page 6*

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SEPTAGE...continued from page 5

- geotubes, which treat liquids using a membrane bioreactor and remaining dried solids are composted.
- a lagoon system,
- anaerobic digestion of solids, and
- reed beds.

The estimated capital cost for constructing a full septage treatment facility is \$6.2 million and the estimated operating and maintenance cost is \$489,000 annually.

R.J. Burnside and Associates Ltd. presented the preferred option to Council on July 30, 2012, and Council accepted. Projected costs to-date for Phase 1 and Phase 2 are \$125,971.

Although no communications have as yet been conveyed to registered participants of the PIC process, it is our understanding that R.J. Burnside and Associates Ltd. have been contracted to undertake Phase 3 of the Class EA process. This phase involves further evaluation of the preferred solution during the 2012-2013 time frame.

It is also our understanding that the advisory committee may be re-instituted to assist with Phase 3 and that one more PIC may be held to engage community residents in reviewing plans to implement the preferred option.

Phase 4 of the Class EA process involves filing an Environmental Study Report with design and location, projected for 2013.

Phase 5 is the construction of the full septage treatment facility, projected to be completed in 2014.

#### Completion by 2014 ??

Is it too optimistic to believe that, by the end of 2014 or early 2015, a Township managed central septage treatment system will be fully operational?

How will the capital costs be funded given that Federal and Provincial grant programs have been curtailed due to financial constraints? In the past, the grant process could cover 50% of the costs. Will the Township need to initiate a special service levy to cover a municipal debenture?

While disposal fees (tipping fees) will be levied on haulers to cover operating costs, these costs will ultimately be borne by property owners. Could steep increases in the overall cost of septic pump-outs drive some people to seek illegal and environmentally damaging ways to empty their tanks, or delay pumping out their septic tanks longer than the recommended 3 – 5 year intervals?

#### Where Would Such A Facility Be Located?

Are there Township properties available to be used for a full septage treatment works or will suitable land have to be purchased?

How will potential environmental impacts such as potential contamination of surface and groundwater, and potential nuisance issues such as odour, increased local traffic, dust, etc., be addressed to satisfy “not in my backyard” objectors?

Will new Township staff need to be hired to manage the septage treatment works or will existing staff be required to undertake septage management courses to become certified operators?


#### How Can You Get Involved?

How should the Township raise public and stakeholder awareness of the concerns and the need to improve septage management within the Township?

You can call any Council member and encourage the Township to develop a more effective education and community engagement strategy for the Septage Class EA. Let them know if you feel the current process lacks the recognition it deserves by Township Council and staff as a major long-term initiative involving a multitude of potential issues.

You can attend any future Public Information Centre meetings, and inform yourself!

If there are big delays in solving the septage management issue, Tiny Township could well find itself in the proverbial septage doghouse.



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# Woodland Beach History

## Part One:

BY DENISE GARDIAN

Next time you plunk your chair down on the beach, look down at the sand and be mindful that it took billions of years of geological evolution to become what it is today. There are reminders of that evolution in the sand, water, rocks, and cliffs at Woodland Beach. Two such examples are “King’s Rock” and the Nipissing Ridge.



“King’s Rock” is located north of Lawson Road in front of the stony craggy cliffs. It became known as “King’s” because it was in front of Charlie King’s cottage on Woodland Beach. Charlie originally painted a cross on the rock, but the cross was mysteriously transformed into a thunderbird, and as a result the rock has become legendary, the stuff of folklore.

For many generations of cottagers and residents, that rock was and is a marker on the shoreline; many people have sat on it since the formation of Woodland Beach in the 1920s. The rock has been a place to rest, meet or converse with friends. Kids of yesteryear could jump off the rock into the water. Today it stands beached in the sand, majestic and legendary.

The rock is a huge black boulder, unlike other rocks on the beach. Some years ago, a geologist from the Royal Ontario Museum identified it as a “Gabbro”, an igneous rock that probably formed as magma over a billion years ago. The Canadian Shield to our north is the planed-down remnant of the mountains in which it formed; in all likelihood glacial action brought the rock south to here far more recently.

The Nipissing Ridge is an old shoreline of Lake

the Huron-Wendat and Petun were decimated by Iroquois attackers. Later, Chippewas (Ojibwe, Anishinabe) from Northern Ontario moved into the land vacated by the Huron-Wendat, and they remain in Tiny Township today.

Who else walked the beach before you? According to John Raynor, Samuel de Champlain and Father Joseph Le Caron (the first missionary in Huronia) would have walked along Woodland Beach. In 1615 they overwintered with the Hurons and trekked from the area of Awenda Park to approximately what is now Collingwood. As it was winter, Champlain and Father Le Caron would have snowshoed along the shoreline rather than crossing the ice on the bay.

Next time you watch the waves lapping on Woodland Beach or the colourful sailboats, remember there were once other vessels older than these on the bay. Logging was a significant trade between 1840 and 1895 in Tiny Township, and barges anchored just below Spratt’s point between Concession 2 (Lawson Road) & 3, were loaded with cedar logs for transport to Chicago to make corduroy roads. There were many sawmills in Tiny. Years later, when Chicago’s roads were being dug up and repaved, the cedar logs under the old asphalt bore the stamp of the Chicago Lumber Company stationed in Penetanguishene.

Woodland Beach had a sawmill located just north of Siesta Drive in Concession 3. It operated from 1870 until 1935 when it was destroyed by fire. Cecil Knuff (1899-1983), recounts in his memoirs that as a boy he saw booms of 100 to 200 logs floating by Woodland Beach toward Penetang and Midland. Cecil even remembers an ‘ocean liner’ aground a mile out from the Woodland shoreline. Three tugboats were necessary to free the vessel. Next time you swim in the water at Woodland Beach know that canoes, schooners, fishing vessels, log barges, and even an ‘ocean liner’ passed through its waters!

If you look down toward the bay from the corner of Lawson Road and Tiny Beaches Road South, you will see the Bayshore Seniors Club and old boarded up buildings. Once upon a time this little area was thriving and buzzing with activity. This was “Main Street”!

In the late 1930s, there was the Sunset Lodge, the Sunset Pavilion or “Dance Hall”, where live music was



played, and subsequently a jukebox. It was 5 cents a record! Adjacent to that was a bowling alley where teenagers could get a summer job resetting the pins for patrons. During the Second World War, Thursday Nights were called “British War Victims Night”. Anybody with a modicum of talent: singing, dancing, or piano-playing, could put on a concert, and the proceeds from these impromptu events went to British children who were affected by the bombing raids. Ritchie’s General Store was booming, a great place to stock up for the summer. No need for a car - everything was close to your cottage.

Subsequently the Sunset Pavilion became the Ship-a-Hoy, which showed movies on Saturdays. There was bingo night, and dances were every Saturday in the summer. Jiving was “in” during the 50s and “poodle skirts” were the rage. Elvis and Buddy Holly boomed from the jukebox. Dancing was manic. The Ship-A-Hoy rocked!

Other stores in the area were the Woodland Wonderbar and the Woodland Food Market. The Woodland Food Market was owned by a Mr. Smith, who used to bring a goat to work; he tied it up on different areas of his property so that it could trim the grass for him!

Quinn’s General Store was also part of that retail boom from the 1930s to the 1990s. The aroma of Mrs. see *WOODLAND* on the next page

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WOODLAND continued from previous page



photo courtesy P.Whitfield

Quinn's freshly baked pies filled the air and the enticement of ice cream on hot sunny days drew people in. There were many local stores at Woodland Beach - Culvers and the Woodland Terrace Restaurant were others. The Woodland Terrace was beside Whitfield's store. In 1979, there was a fire: Harry Tripp led the fire brigade. Everyone who could help frantically created a bucket brigade, but to no avail. Sadly it was destroyed, but Whitfield's was spared.

Whitfield's was the centrepiece of Woodland for forty years (1953-1994). It combined a general store with a pharmacy and a post office. It served very generous scoops of ice cream, so generous in fact that sometimes over a hundred people waited to be served, lined up out the front door.

Whitfield's employed a lot of teenagers over many summers, and many formed lifelong bonds. One of



photo courtesy P.Whitfield

Whitfield's outstanding mainstays was Lily Sibthorpe, who worked at the store for 28 years. She was the real deal when it came to customer service! She was motherly and helpful; adults and kids alike adored her. Her sense of humour made people smile and laugh. On most Saturdays the store was crowded and people loved to talk to her. However, little did they know that one of her favourite sayings was: "People who talk by the yard and think by the inch should be moved by the foot!"

It seems that these local stores helped cement a sense of community at Woodland Beach. Now, with the advent of superstores like Wal-Mart, Loblaws, and Shoppers Drug Mart, that sense of community has diminished. Cottagers have retreated to the car, nothing is within walking distance anymore, and we don't meet and greet our neighbours like we used to in years gone by. Except for the Bayshore Seniors' Club, "Main Street" in Woodland Beach now looks like a ghost town.

Sources:  
*Recollections: Township of Tiny*; (Township of Tiny Historical and Heritage Committee, 1995).

Special thanks to Anita Weatherell for access to the Tiny Township Heritage and Historical Archives, to J. Raynor, President of the Huronia Chapter, Ontario Archeological Society, to David Foster and Joy Norris Fowler for access to their private memoirs, and also to P. Whitfield, S. Maddock, E. Stephenson, and Bev Holmes.

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# OMB Update: McMahan Woods

By RICHARD HINTON

In our last issue, we reported that the development in Concession 4 (at Tiny Beaches Road South) known as McMahan Woods Development Ltd. – proposed to have 51 lots - was the subject of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. We can now provide a brief summary of the terms of the settlement.

In general, the developer has received approval for 20 single residential lots, and in addition, one residential lot on 'other lands' owned by the applicant known as Block 21.

The approved plan for the entire property of approximately 152 acres has residential development on 32.8 acres (nearest the north end), parkland on 1.8 acres, Environmental Protection zoning on about 49.2 acres, Block 21 is 62.8 acres and the rest is designated for roads, access, reserves etc.

The restrictions (in part) on Block 21 are as follows:  
"3.b. That the lands comprised of Block 21 may only be developed for one single family residence until the year 2020 and until that time no application for development shall be made by McMahan, its successors and assigns and any such development shall be in accordance with the Provincial, County, Township and other applicable policies and by-laws approved and in place at the date of that subsequent application. For purposes of this provision, the proscription against "development" shall include the construction, placement or installation of any structures whatsoever, or any excavation or site alterations, unless same are pre-approved by the County and Township." and further, "It is intended that this condition runs with the land and binds subsequent purchasers, successors and assigns."

In conclusion, 21 lots in total have been approved, with restrictions as described above.

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# How I Came to Live or Cottage in Tiny: Personal Histories

BY IRENE WILSON

## Diana & Andrew Harvey, Bluewater Dunes

World class boating was the lure that convinced Diana and Andrew Harvey to build their permanent home in Bluewater Dunes. Diana was introduced to the Southern Georgian Bay area when she was just a babe through her family vacations on Springhurst Beach, now a part of Wasaga. Later they also rented in Victoria Harbour. She has fond recollections of the miles of sand and crystal clear blue waters that were part of her summers as she was growing up. After she met Andrew as a teenager, she introduced him to Allenwood Beach, just north of Wasaga where they would spend summer days hanging out with their friends.

Married with a young family, Diane and Andrew bought a home in Markham. In those days, their family vacations consisted of camping at Killbear Provincial Park on Georgian Bay, where they would enjoy windsurfing and admiring the passing boats. One day, they decided that sailing was a natural progression from windsurfing, so in 1996, they purchased their first sailboat, a CS 27, which they decided to dock at Hindson's Marina in Penetanguishene. Understanding the potential challenges of navigating Georgian Bay, they wisely took extensive lessons with Captain Mike. Their boat was pre-owned and named "Road to the Isles" which they thought was appropriate for exploring the 30,000 Islands. As it turned out, the name alluded to the Isles of Scotland which are famous for their Scotch Whiskey Distillery District. As Andrew appreciates fine single malt, they were content to leave the name unchanged. Their new acquisition became their weekend 'cottage', although at times the space was confining with three teenage daughters aboard. As time progressed, they upgraded to a comfortable, 34 foot Catalina which they continue to sail out of Hindson's.



With the frustrations of accelerated growth and traffic gridlock in Markham, Diana and Andrew decided to start looking for a property in Southern Georgian Bay. Andrew's business had moved to the south end of Barrie in 1999, so this area offered a viable commuting distance. They spent 3 years investigating various options but they kept gravitating to Bluewater. On one of their exploratory drives along Tiny Beaches Rd. South, they ventured into an open house and began their search in earnest. On another occasion, a future neighbour stopped and told them that they should move here because it was a great area and they would love it. In 2006, after 3 years of searching, they fell in love with the sandy dunes and the forested areas of Bluewater Dunes. There was a bidding war for their lot, but they won and are now just a short walk from a beautiful sandy beach and an extensive boardwalk plus sounds of the waves can be

heard from their new home

There are challenges, as Georgian Bay weather can test the skills of even the most experienced boater as it can change without warning. Also winter whiteouts and icy road conditions can produce long, nerve wracking white knuckle drives. In spite of these challenges, the area has been everything that they had hoped for. They value the strong sense of community and the many caring friendships that have developed. They feel that residents, both permanent and seasonal, truly appreciate all the natural wonders that abound in Tiny. There is a little bit of everything; charming hamlets, rolling hills and pastures, picturesque farm houses, spectacular vistas of Georgian Bay, excellent swimming and some of the best boating in the world. They have the best of both worlds, a location convenient to work and amenities surrounded by nature's serenity.

## Don & Rosemary Stefano, Edmore Beach

In 1970, Don and Rosemary Stefano were planning a summer vacation for their family of three young boys. As residents of Rochester, New York, the nearby Finger Lakes district would have been a logical choice. Unfortunately, the lakes were polluted at that time and since Don's mother was Canadian, a natural choice was to investigate their neighbour to the north. They approached a local travel agency that specialized in Canadian holidays. They were directed to the southern Georgian Bay area with safe sandy beaches ideal for children.

The Bluebird Cottages at Woodland Beach were their destination that summer. The family had a wonderful time and fell in love with the area, especially the clean sparkling water and white sandy beaches. The birth of their daughter in 1971 delayed their return to Woodland until 1972. With their brood in tow, they decided to explore the possibility of owning a little piece of this paradise. Although it was a long drive from Rochester, both Don and Rosemary were teachers and could spend much of the summer in the area. Happily they found an old white cottage just across from Edmore Beach with the asking price of \$14,500. After some negotiation, their offer was accepted



ed and with a \$100.00 deposit, their dream was a reality. Part of this old cottage had been the local variety store which was the hub of activity for the beach. Many similar beach stores have disappeared through the years. Edmore Beach is tucked off Tiny Beaches Road South, in a quiet, private area, surrounded by forest.

Twenty-five years ago when the American dollar was strong, the Stefanos built a new winterized home as a

potential retirement residence. They continue to use it primarily as a summer retreat, but also have come up in the winter when the children were younger to enjoy tobogganing down the dunes and other activities. The roads were always well plowed, so that it was easy to gain access. It has become a gathering place for their family of 4 children, spouses and grandchildren, who live in Rochester, Boston and Israel. The grandkids can hardly wait to get to Canada. There is a strong sense of community in this area and their children meet up with old friends that they have made over the past 40 years.

Growing up at the Canadian cottage influenced their daughter's decision to attend McGill University in Montreal to study French and International Studies. She currently lives and works in Israel, but makes the trek back to the cottage every summer to reconnect with family and the Edmore community.

Many years ago, Don had the unfortunate opportunity to test the response time of the Tiny Volunteer Fire Department. The white cottage had been built over the old well which was no longer in use. Don had set a ladder on top of the wooden cover, not realizing that it was rotten. As he went up the ladder, the cover gave way and he landed in the bottom of the well. The fire department had to be called for the rescue, which Don recalls was prompt and professional. Luckily he suffered only minor injuries.

Both Don and Rosemary are active here as members of the Bayshore Seniors' Club. Don has been president of his beach association for the past 10 years, but would love to find a successor and Rosemary runs a book club. They love to watch the spectacular sunsets and appreciate their caring neighbours and community.

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# Memories are Made of This

By PETER CALAMAI

A few years ago the discounted price at a sales table lured me into purchasing a slightly battered “time capsule” from that purveyor of putative necessities, Lee Valley Tools.

This stainless steel cylinder, almost two feet long by six inches in diameter, seals with a Thermos-like top. The instructions (it’s a Lee Valley product; there are always instructions) suggest filling the cylinder with personal and topical memorabilia .

This was, I thought, the ideal thing to bury at the cottage which four generations of my wife’s family have inhabited at Cove Beach during more than 35 years.

Alas, the time capsule lies under our cottage bed, still empty. That’s because the Big Red Shoe is too large to fit inside.

And the Big Red Shoe is what memories are made of, an object of no intrinsic value but sentimental value beyond price.

The Big Red Shoe is the kindest sobriquet given to the home-made trophy awarded at The Donald Classic, the combined fun golf tournament, barbeque, hootenanny and camp-out which brings together the descendants of the two Donald brothers, Ray and Bud. Since each brother fathered eight children starting in 1944, that now means roughly three score souls, counting spouses.

Bud, his four sons and a son-in-law erected Wounded Tree Cottage in 1976 with maximum of sweat equity and a minimum of capital (the second floor was a tiny house in the way of a highway widening, purchased for a bargain price and trucked to sit atop a ground level built from concrete blocks.) The finished structure boasted six bedrooms, so each of five owners had their own even on busy holiday weekends. There was, of course, just the one bathroom and Wounded Tree has never been winterized.

No matter, the cottage has been heavily used every

year from the Victoria Day weekend through to Thanksgiving, with occasional Christmas forays. But at the end of the 90s, the Big Red Shoe made its appearance and the memory-creation pace of Wounded Tree kicked up a significant notch.

The Donald Classic event had already been taking place for nine years at that point, at sites around Hamilton and Dundas, and with the matriarch of the clan adding a commemorative verse each year to an epic poem. In 1999, at the invitation of some of the cottage owners, the golf moved to Brooklea’s executive course and the eating-games-drinking-singing aftermath descended on Wounded Tree.

Since most participants came from several hours drive away and all liked to party, sleeping spots had to be found. Thank goodness for the flat septic bed behind the cottage which could easily house six tents. (The expanse of canvas likely would have reminded Bud of his artillery training at Meaford before shipping out to Britain and D-Day.)

Since then, the Classic has alternated between the Hamilton area and Cove Beach (with a hiatus in 2008). As many as 56 participants have found their way into a group photo one year and the number seldom falls below 40, with offspring as young as eight wielding a golf club.

This summer’s event, on July 28, was particularly magical. A waxing gibbous moon reflected off the water and shone on the make-shift performance area where several silver-throated cousins sang and played guitars for hours. Especially gratifying was the applause from neighbouring cottages.

A “time capsule” can’t really preserve such moonlight and song, any more than it can hold the Big Red Shoe. Which, by the way, this year’s winners left behind.

I wonder why.

# Paul Cowley – FoTTSA’s New President

By JOE ALLEVATO

As a long time seasonal resident of Tiny, Paul has been a strong and vocal advocate of FoTTSA’s efforts in Tiny Township. He has been an active director on the FoTTSA board since 1998. Paul assisted in the Market Value Assessment project to support an equitable assessment system of property in Ontario and he also participated in the beach mediation initiative in Tiny Township.

He came to the FoTTSA board as a result of his considerable experience on the board of the Carusoe Bay Association. Paul was one of a handful of neighbours who organized cottagers to form the Carusoe Bay Association in 1975 when development on environmentally sensitive land was proposed.

When the Site 41 proposal looked as if it was going to be implemented, Paul along with others, helped to organize and promote a rally against Site 41 in Perkinsfield. That successful rally, along with the efforts of many others, brought the issue to a head and Site 41 was finally abandoned. Currently, Paul is leading efforts to persuade the International Joint Commission of the Great Lakes to reverse the significant water loss that has occurred in Georgian Bay.

Paul has been enjoying every summer since infancy at the cottage that his parents built in 1948. The cottage, one of the first in the area, has been enlarged over the years to accommodate his wife Katherine, his secret weapon, and their four lovely daughters. The latest addition to the family, a 3-pound Yorkie Poo, won’t require any additional space. In his early years, Paul spent from June to September at the cottage and he has built and maintained a wide circle of friends in Tiny over the years.

Paul was born and raised in the Old Mill area of Toronto. After Runnymede High School he earned Honours Degrees in Business from Western University and Wilfred Laurier University. For the past 26 years, Paul has owned and operated a consulting company specializing in management systems.

At his cottage, Paul enjoys water skiing, sea-dooing and fishing and, all of his neighbours know when his seaplane lands and takes off from the waters in front of his cottage. When neighbours howl “duck”, one doesn’t know whether a bird or Paul’s plane is about to land.

We are fortunate to have Paul’s sense of humour, organizational skills and commitment to our community and the leadership of FoTTSA.



# The End of a Love Story

BY BILL JOHNSON, AS TOLD TO PENNY BARR


*(This article is a sequel to "Love and War at the Cottage" Fall/Winter 2003 issue of The Tiny Cottager that you can access on our website's issue archives. In it Bill Johnson, who has cottaged north of the 21st Concession since the 1930's, describes his infatuation with Libby, the beautiful girl next door to his cottage, who was 10 years his senior. Her true love was Peter, a daring English pilot instructor, who was lost during a search and rescue mission in Ontario in December 1940.)*



When I wrote the above article, I never dreamed that nine years later events would happen that would allow me finally to close this chapter of my life about a special girl, Libby Henry, on whom I had a lifelong crush, and her fiancé, Flight Lt. Peter Campbell, who to me was a hero.

Their love story had all the Hollywood requirements: love, pathos, adventure, and excitement.

Peter Campbell, an English flight Instructor from the RAF, was stationed at Camp Borden during World War II to train our airmen and was known to buzz Libby's cottage frequently. I desperately wanted to follow in his footsteps and join the RCAF. Among his life experiences that I admired were the ten claw marks on his body from an aborted tiger attack in India where he lived as a child.



Then came that terrible day in December 1940 when he took off to search for a fellow pilot's missing plane in Muskoka. He ran into a blinding blizzard, collided with another search plane, and never returned.

His plane was one of 400 lost over Canadian soil during World War II. And so the story of this gallant pilot ended ... or so I thought, until the following article hit the headlines on page A2 of *The Toronto Star* on July 25, 2011, printed here with permission - Torstar Syndication Services:

## Missing plane found – 71 years later

by Raveena Aulakh

*It was snowmageddon, only that word hadn't been coined. Yet.*

*On Dec. 12, 1940, the snow was flying fast and furious in high winds when an aircraft on a training flight from the Royal Canadian Air Force base in Borden went missing over Lake Muskoka.*

The next day, though the weather was still treacherous and the countryside and lakes still frozen, two aircraft took



*off to search for the missing plane.*

Hours later, the planes, Northrop A-17A Nomads, collided and plummeted into the icy waters of Lake Muskoka.

One plane was found within weeks and the bodies of the two pilots recovered. The other aircraft and its pilots – a Brit, Peter Campbell, 24, and a Canadian, Ted Bates, 27 – were never recovered.

*Until recently.*

.....

*On Dec. 13, Flight Lt. Peter Campbell and Leading Aircraftsman Ted Bates climbed into the cockpit of their Northrop Nomad, the last time anyone saw them.*

*Efforts were made to recover their plane but the weather was still treacherous in the months following the crash, and the technology nothing like what it is now.*

Nomads, originally built as “attack bombers”, were big aircraft – they weighed about 3,175 kilograms, had a 16-metre wingspan, stood four metres tall – and for a long time no one really knew where exactly this plane went down into Lake Muskoka. (The lake is more than 30 metres deep in places.)

Then Matt Fairbanks stepped in.

*President of Lost Airmen in Muskoka Project, a group dedicated to finding missing aircraft, Fairbanks and his friends learned some years ago that a family of trappers living beside the lake had actually seen the crash and the two planes plunging into the water. Backed by eyewitness accounts and military maps of the crash site, the group started searching.*

*"I spent hours, hundreds of hours, looking for it," said Fairbanks, who used side-scan sonar. "It's like a golf ball in middle of a football field. Blink and you miss it."*

Fairbanks and his friends, Al Bacon and Don Ruud, narrowed the potential sites down to three then called in the OPP. The provincial police underwater search and recovery unit found the plane last fall.

*"It was so good to see that the plane had been located," said Fairbanks. "These men made a sacrifice...this is the least we can do for them."*

*It's not yet clear if any remains of the two pilots have been recovered.*

*Campbell from West Sussex in England, came to Canada in 1940 as part of the successful Empire Air Training Scheme to train pilots from the Commonwealth countries and other allies for the conflict.*

*He had been here only a few months when he and Ted took off.*

And so this poignant story finally comes to an end 71 years later, and one wonders what could have been. Libby died a few years ago and so never quite got a full sense of closure. But, in a positive way her young daughter, Janet Boyer, who today is still my cottage neighbour, and I have become close friends. She has given me copies of letters from Peter's sister to Libby after his death and the telegram from the Commanding Officer at Camp Borden, inviting



her to the memorial service for Peter (shown below).

And as I have grown older, the romance and excitement of combat that I felt in my youth has disappeared when I consider the waste and the pain that so many suffered for the rest of their lives. I hope that The Lost Airmen in Muskoka Project will leave Peter and his pilot buddy, Ted Bates, to rest peacefully in their quiet grave.

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"Dead and at his post."



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# S.S. Keewatin Comes Home

By LINDA ANDREWS

On July 23rd of this year, a fleet of approximately 1000 local boats escorted the S.S. Keewatin – the last Edwardian steamship in the world -- home to Port McNicoll. The designated captain for the trip, a former crew member from some 40 years ago, was greeted by cheering crowds on the pier area as an estimated 7,000 onlookers welcomed the S.S. Keewatin home.

Back in 1908 the Canadian Pacific Railway fingered Port McNicoll to become a major Canadian port city on the Great Lakes rivaling the American port Chicago and providing a much shortened route to transport grain from the west. By 1912 the CPR's Great Lakes fleet of 5 – the Assiniboia, Keewatin, Manitoba, Alberta and Athabasca – called Port McNicoll home.

Commerce (grain shipments) and tourism (luxury passenger accommodation) thrived for many years as the ships sailed regularly to and from Port Arthur/ Fort William. Port McNicoll was booming and even the gardens surrounding the pier were a famous attraction. After the construction of the St Lawrence Seaway, the lake shipping business slowed and ultimately CP announced the end of passenger service in 1965. The Keewatin was sold for scrap but happily was rescued and refurbished to become a marine museum in Michigan.

Seven years ago, an international developer and marine history buff fell in love with the area around Port McNicoll and with the story of the Keewatin. He envisioned a renewed waterfront park with the Keewatin as the main focal point and a much rejuvenated residential, retail and recreation area in town. And his timing was fortuitous as the Michigan owner of the Keewatin was ready to pass on the care and responsibility of this preserved treasure to a new owner. Bringing the Keewatin home was a huge challenge. Although she was in excellent condition, she did have to be towed and some of the waterways had to be dredged. The captain of the day had been instrumental in keeping tabs on the Keewatin in Michigan and making a connection with the owner.

The S.S. Keewatin, originally built in Scotland, could accommodate 288 passengers in 105 first class cabins – a mini Titanic with lots of mahogany and polished brass, stained glass windows and an impressive staircase. As many of these features as possible will be restored. Current plans for the refurbished Keewatin include a museum, a community space, a theatre, a restaurant and a bar and the target date for opening the facilities to the public is summer 2013!

Many folk in the community have a past connection with the Keewatin and they have enthusiastically embraced her return and offered many volunteer hours towards this homecoming. The "Friends of the Keewatin" group is working hard to raise funds for the refurbishing project; they are looking for sponsors, fundraising ideas and people interested in buying naming rights to the lifeboats and rooms. Watch for the official opening scheduled for next summer and visit the S.S. Keewatin, an histor-

ical symbol of pride and tradition in the community.


There is a delightful series of short video tours narrated by Ship's Master Eric Conroy on the Huronia Museum website (<http://huroniamuseum.com/?s=Keewatin>) in which one is introduced to the ship's interior accompanied by the narrator's recollections of his experiences working aboard the S.S. Keewatin many years ago.

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REPORT ON COUNCIL...continued from page 4

draft revisions will bring Tiny's provisions in line with those that apply in our neighbouring municipalities. A Property Standards Committee is required to hear any appeals that may be filed against an Order issued by the Property Standards Officer. Staff would advertise to locate candidates for Council consideration and appointment.

The re-drafts incorporate all existing provisions, strengthen some definitions and incorporate a few new provisions commonly found in more recently drafted by-laws. These include the ability to address long weeds and grass, dead or damaged trees, and wrecked or dismantled boats and trailers. In the past, the By-law Department has received complaints of this nature but lacked the legislation to address these issues.

The full report to Council contains the relevant draft texts and can be viewed or downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/8vm349c>

Penalties Increased on Many By-law Offences

Council has passed revisions to several By-laws to increase penalties. These include higher fines for parking, noise, fireworks, signs and topsoil removal.

Beach Access Permits and By-law

Private property owners needing access to township-owned beaches or access ways to work, for example, on a well or boathouse, need a Beach Access Permit. The application form covers types of use, fees and security deposit.

Improved Cellular and Wireless Internet Service

Many users of mobile phones and internet devices have noted a significant improvement in service since early summer. Both Bell Mobility and Rogers have added capability in our area. A tower can cover 200 calls simultaneously but as usage grows dropped calls and slow or dropped internet connections can result. Bell plans further expansion in the Thunder Beach and Ardmore Beach areas. Under the Rural Data Program the Federal

government helps finance construction of cell towers; the program stipulates they have to reach each home in the area.

Champlain 400 Celebrations

Gregory King, Chair of the Infrastructure Committee for Champlain Commemorations Huronia 2015, has requested Council's assistance in funding the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Champlain's visit to Huronia. He noted that the bulk of funding for programs and events will likely be provided by the federal and provincial governments. At this time, he is asking each municipality (Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay and Tiny) to set aside some money in their next three or four (2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016) budgets for a total of \$30,000 to assist in making this celebration a regional success.

Heavy Garbage Questions Remain

Deputy Mayor Lawrence has reported that the issue of whether or not a heavy garbage pick-up will take place in 2013 has yet to be resolved at the County level, in view of the likelihood that a new contractor will service the entire County of Simcoe. Items not accepted by the County heavy garbage pick-up and left at the roadside must be collected by the Township; letters will be sent to the offending owners.

Septage Class Environmental Assessment Selects Preferred Solution

The Septage Class Environmental Assessment Phase 2 has completed. The selected preferred solution is to construct full septage treatment works. (See article on page 5.)

BEACH AND LOCAL ISSUES

In July the Cawaja Property Owners Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Township on public beach use and parking in the Cawaja Beach area. A management agreement was needed since the beach and roadways in the original Cawaja subdivision are owned 2/3 by the Association and 1/3 by the Township.

In September Council discussed the ownership situation for the beach fronting Registered Plan 776 (Ossossane) with the lawyer representing several property owners.

The Balm Beach pay parking machines are considered a success, including the 30-minute free spaces for merchants and the picnic tables in front of the Georgian Grill. Pay machines are also approved for Parent Park.

The Lafontaine Beach Park Master Plan process has progressed since the initial report 18 months ago on what steps to take. The feasibility of removing the existing groynes and boulders from the shore and the approval process needed to do so was addressed in a new report to Council. In view of the continuing low water levels that affect the kinds of machines needed to do the job, Council decided to defer, to later this Fall, a decision on starting the actual work.

Blewater Dunes restoration is proceeding well. Signage now deters the public from walking on the dune grass, boardwalks have been modified and the look-out has a new location.

A comprehensive report on the study of the water quality in Farlain Lake found moderately low nutrient concentrations, low algal biovolume and high clarity.

The Georgian Sands Water Supply Class Environment Assessment is complete, but an appeal has been launched by a resident and will have to be addressed.

In Wyevale an intersection pedestrian signal and School Zone warning signs are being installed at County Road 6 and Concession 5.

Parking spaces on Balm Beach Road West in Perkinsfield for Church access will be clearly signed to delineate the parking from the bike lane. A 1.5 m bike path will be designated with appropriate signage along the south side of Balm Beach Road West (BBRW) from County Road 6 to #39 BBRW, with open parking from County Road 6 to #19 BBRW.



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