

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 39

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Spring/Summer 2012

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

After the publication of the fall *Tiny Cottager*, thousands of dead fish, birds and other animals washed up on the shore. As we work our way into spring and summer, more questions than answers have been forthcoming. Articles in this edition cover the concerns raised by this tragedy.

With a warm dry winter, very little snow fall and virtually no ice, we face the additional challenge of even lower lake levels. Threatening our fish habitat and our recreational uses of our lakes, this problem is exacerbated by a political deadlock that struggles to find any form of agreement or common ground to take the necessary steps to remedy this grave situation. We have included an article in this edition to bring you up to date on this issue and suggest how you can become engaged and make a difference.

Finding a balance between growth and development in Tiny while being responsible stewards of our environment continues to be one of our key foci. There are many environmentally sensitive areas in Tiny that continue to come under development pressure and these must be monitored carefully.

The institutions and organizations that are important to our lives in Tiny will receive renewed emphasis in this year's *Tiny Cottager* Challenge Cup competition. Please consider holding fund-raising events and spread the word in your associations and note that individual donors should identify their association when making donations to the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation, Physician Recruitment and the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

We will launch the campaign after our Annual General Meeting with a tour of the hospital for the official representatives of our member associations. They're in for a major surprise! The hospital now has state-of-the-art technology and such short wait-times that it is considered one of the five best run hospitals in Ontario.

As a volunteer run organization, FoTTSA is constantly in search of people who would like to get involved and help make a difference in our community. We need many skills and manpower to tackle an ever increasing work load and complex problems. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to me and let me know your interests.

Have a fabulous summer!

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Dead Fish and Fowl Litter Tiny's Shores

PART ONE BY ELAINE STEPHENSON AND PART TWO BY TRACEY PRICE

Part One: Why the Die-off ?

Why were our shores littered with dead fish and waterfowl late last summer? The die-off began with lake sturgeon and lake whitefish in mid-August, followed by waterfowl such as loons, grebes and diving ducks from September to November. Most appeared on beaches from Wasaga to Woodland but many more showed up on beaches farther north. The MNR reported that bodies appeared as far north as Parry Sound.

We have gathered information from the MNR, MOE and Environmental Consultant and Naturalist Bob Bowles from the Simcoe County and Orillia areas. Bob has been most helpful in explaining the chain of events that led to this devastation.

Small-scale die-offs caused by botulism occur annually around the Great Lakes. According to MNR the last large-scale one occurred in Lake Ontario in 2007. It starts with algae. Dead algae beds produce a toxin which causes type E botulism affecting fish and mammals. Since this usually occurs in deeper waters, it has little effect on fish and wildlife closer to the surface. However, with the introduction of invasive mussel species (zebra & quagga) and the small bottom feeding fish (the round goby) the effect has grown. Add that to our warmer water in 2011 and nutrients flowing into the Bay, we saw a big problem.

The warmer and more nutrient rich the waters are, the more the algae grows. Mussels love and constantly eat and filter algae beds, and become contaminated with the botulism-causing toxin. Smaller fish, like the round goby eat the mussels and in turn are contaminated. Larger fish, like lake sturgeon and lake whitefish eat the smaller contaminated fish and also become contaminated. Diving ducks, grebes, gulls & terns eat mussels and small bottom feeding fish and they too become contaminated.

After ingesting type E botulism birds suffer paralysis.

They can no longer hold their heads up and consequently drown. Sadly, migrating birds dined on the contaminated fish and mussels and thousands ended up dead on our shores.

Earlier, we were told that this problem may re-occur for several years. The reality is that while we have invasive species, algae growth, warmer waters and an ever-increasing supply of nutrients, this problem will not go away. In fact, it is unlikely you will ever see another freshwater crayfish (now replaced with the invasive rusty crayfish) or freshwater clam in Nottawasaga Bay as the mussels have succeeded in killing them off.

What to do? According to public health agencies, no cases of human illness have been attributed to outbreaks of botulism in the Great Lakes. Health Canada says proper cooking and handling of food eliminates the botulism toxin.

We cannot control the water temperatures, but we must reduce our role in polluting our waters. Nutrients such as phosphates and nitrates come from human activity: agricultural run-off, septic systems, and fertilizers. We also need to be aware of and on guard against the introduction and spread of invasive species. As long as we continue to contribute to the ill health of our Bay, we are, in part, responsible.

Part Two: The New Normal

I titled this article 'The New Normal' because tomorrow's environment will be different and we will be able to cope if we are prepared for the change.

October 2010

It started simply enough. Cleaning up what we thought were gulls. The season was over, most of the cottages locked up, when we received an email from a Woodland Beach Property Owner member concerned about several dead birds on the beach. We cleaned up 12-15 loons. Wasaga Beach Provincial Park confirmed they had collected a number of dead diving birds,

See BOTULISM...page 8

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2012 Events

For a more complete list including web addresses please see
the 2012 Events page on www.tinycottager.org.

MAY
24-June 9
Our Town, Huronia Players, Midland
25
Dock to Dock - Midland Bike Day
26-27
Midland Model Train Show, Midland Sports and Recreation
Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd
Waterfront Festival, Heritage Park, Barrie
29 - June 23
Annie, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang

JUNE
2-3
Doors Open Huronia
7
Night at the Museum, Simcoe County Museum
9
Midland Cultural Centre opening, 333 King St
9-10
Wheels & Tracks in Motion, Simcoe County Museum,
Mining
16
Wasaga Beach Fun Run – Classic Car Event
Nottawasaga River Paddle Race, Edenvale Conservation Area
21
National Aboriginal Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
23-24
Aboriginal Festival Weekend, Sainte-Marie
Wasaga Beach Fest
Coldwater & Area Studio Tour
27- July 14
Murder at Fern Resort, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang

JULY
1
Canada Day celebrations, Penetang Centennial Museum
Canada Day celebrations, Little Lake Park, Midland
Canada Day celebrations, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
Canada Day celebrations, Discovery Harbour
6-8
Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia,
7-8
Huronian Triathlon Weekend, Waterfront Park, Penetang
13-15
Festival du Loup, Lafontaine
14
18th Annual Library Garden Tour
16-17
Art in the Park, Waterfront Park, Penetang
18-August 4
Harvey, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
21
Ditties and Shanties, Discovery Harbour, Penetang
26-29
Collingwood Elvis Festival

AUGUST
8 - September 4
Blue Suede Shoes, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
11
Métis Day, Discovery Harbour, Penetang
17-19
Wasaga Under Siege, 1812 Battle Re-enactment,
Nancy Island, Wasaga
24-25
Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, Kempenfelt Bay
26
"Savour Simcoe" Food Tasting Event, Simcoe County Museum

SEPTEMBER
8
Wasaga Triathlon/Duathlon and Give-It-A-Tri
8-9
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre POW-WOW,
Sainte-Marie Park
14-16
Quilt, Rug & Craft Fair, Simcoe Museum, Minesing
25
Franco-Ontarian Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
29
Settler's Day, Penetang Centennial Museum

OCTOBER
5-8
2012 Thanksgiving Studio Tour (Barrie, Orillia)
6-7
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival,
Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
25-27
"Haunted Harbour", Discovery Harbour, Penetang

For Children's Activities, see Page 17



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

By Irene Wilson

Lorraine Sanford, Wendake Beach
Lorraine was introduced to Tiny as a young child at Wymbolwood Beach in the 1940's. She remembers the neighbours climbing on the diving tower and banging pots and pans to celebrate the end of World War II. Even then, Wymbolwood was a popular vacation destination for many of their family friends from her Leaside community in Toronto. The family also rented in the Balm Beach area, where she would meet her summer friends at the Wagon Wheel for dancing or Nick's Place (now the Georgian Grill) just to hang out. Lorraine first viewed her cottage at Wendake Beach by flashlight in 1979 and fell in love with the pine and the fireplace. Since her mother's passing in 1978 left an enormous void in her life, she felt that her family needed an anchor and decided to look for a cottage in south Tiny. It was a different world then, as she had difficulty finding an agent who would take a single woman seriously. When she retired, she happily sold her home in Markham and moved to Tiny, an easy decision to make. Her network of supportive friends is an added bonus to the bounty and beauty of nature that surrounds her home. Extended family and grandchildren love to visit and enjoy the sandy beaches and water of Georgian Bay.

Laura (Swift) Ellis, Georgina Beach and North Tiny
The waters of Georgian Bay, the extensive beaches, spectacular scenery and pastoral farmlands are some of the charms that lure people to Tiny. In Laura (Swift) Ellis's case, it was horses that drew her back.



She had started life in Tiny as an infant member of a cottaging family and has evolved into a full-time resident with her husband, two teenage children, five horses and a dog or two. It all began when her parents purchased a vacant lot at Georgina Beach joining many friends who cottaged in the area. Since Laura grew up living in apartments in the city, to her the cottage meant "home". Driving over the hill on the 5th Concession and spotting the Bay always brought a feeling of contentment. As was typical in that era, their A-frame cottage was built from a kit put together by friends. It was basic and functional. Visiting in the winter meant hauling in supplies by sled down their unplowed road, making icy dashes to the out-house and melting snow for water. The Bluewater dunes provided a perfect setting for winter activities. Summer highlights included long days on the beach, pony rides at Caston Stables, "hanging out" on the freezer outside Beacock's Beach Store, enjoying hand-dipped ice cream cones, fireworks, bonfires and roasting marshmallows, or taking a trip to the arcades and rides at Wasaga Beach. In 1986, the cottage burned down. It was devastating and Laura lost that familiar place to come "home" to; but their replacement home was fully winterized, making it possible

for her father to retire there in 1999. Many of his neighbours were converting their cottages to permanent dwellings as well, with similar plans for full-time residency. As a young adult, Laura was busy with her city life and career so her visits to Tiny became less frequent. But fate was about to play its hand. A business supplier organized a horseback riding weekend near Penetang, and as it turned out, the host farm was owned by Ray & Babs Ellis whose son, known as Buz, was part of her old summer circle of friends. They stayed in touch and one thing led to another, eventually resulting in marriage and two children. Buz and Laura lived in Toronto, but they returned to a cabin on the family farm in North Tiny on weekends and vacations. The children had ponies and Laura finally bought her own horse, fulfilling her lifelong dream. After her father-in-law passed away, they eventually decided to purchase the farm, and moved in permanently in 2005. What they value most are the wide open spaces, the forest, the mix of farmland and beaches and their ties with family and friends. They feel that Tiny residents really appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds them. The children have had the freedom to explore, ride horses, use dirt bikes and snowmobiles - all opportunities they would not have had in the city.

Breckenridge History, North Tiny
Long, strong family ties and a love of boating were the two magnetic forces that drew Peggy & Terry Breckenridge to retire to Tiny Township. Peggy is a descendant of the Copeland family, a long established name in this area. Copeland Creek, the subdivision near Concession 13, is located on farmland that was owned and operated by her predecessors. In the 1800s, a Copeland great-great-grandfather, weary of working on Great Lakes ships, decided to settle down in Penetanguishene. He had made his way from Lincolnshire to seek opportunities in the new world. An entrepreneur by nature, he acquired property in Tiny and started businesses in forestry, agriculture and milling, eventually constructing the Copeland Mill. He is buried in the cemetery of St. James on the Lines in Penetang, an historic Anglican garrison church built in 1836.

Genetics may have played a role in politics, as Peggy's great-great-grandfather, Henry Watson Copeland, served as an elected official on Tiny Township council from 1881-1883. Another close relative, W.S. Robins, served as Tiny's Reeve in 1918. His son was concurrently the Reeve of Coldwater and the two met at Simcoe County council. Peggy's own interest in politics began with an interest in local zoning by-laws and grew until she ran successfully as Councillor in 2003 and became the first female Mayor of Tiny Township in 2007. She thoroughly enjoyed her years of service to the community. Peggy's grandfather fought in the First World War and returned with a war bride, who was a former seamstress at Buckingham Palace surrounded by the finer things in life. Arriving in Tiny Township in the early 1900's would have taken some adjustment. The area was going through a period of great growth due to logging and Great Lakes shipping. Many roads were built in the 1920's and the construction of the Tiny Municipal Phone system began in 1927, but it wasn't Buckingham Palace!

Peggy's early memories of Georgian Bay include visits



The Copeland Family, 1924

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to various family cottages at Bluewater and Balm Beach. A favourite spot for family gatherings was the original log cabin, located at Balm Beach (see photo) which was owned by Peggy's great-aunt Robins. The building was eventually sold to Franz Johnson of the Group of Seven and moved to another location. Born in Midland, Peggy left to pursue her education, followed by a career in teaching and then business. She met her husband Terry at the University of Western Ontario in London. Employment opportunities moved them around Ontario and Quebec but family and boating on Georgian Bay always drew them back. In 1982, they acquired a cottage on Champlain Road, which gave them a place to park their boat and enabled them to pursue their love of exploring the beauty of the 30,000 islands and stay connected with family and friends in the area. In 2003, they found a new location on which to build their retirement home, one with plenty of space for children, their spouses and future grandchildren. Peggy and Terry continue to enjoy navigating the waters of Georgian Bay with its wonderful sunsets and peaceful scenery.

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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 this Council generally works efficiently and harmoniously, although some important differences in opinion occasionally surface. The number of times Council has voted 3-to-2 or 4-to-1 is not large in comparison to some earlier Councils, but on some issues - noted in our online Reports - the two new Council members (Mayor Millar and Councillor Wishart) have been outvoted by the continuing members (Deputy Mayor Lawrence and Councillors Claire and Warren). The minority votes have usually involved development matters.

POLICING

OPP Policing Arrangements

Council considered two options for OPP services, either continuing the current year-to-year arrangement or changing to a 5-year contract. The contract option requires a Police Services Board to be set up and would likely cost more. Tiny could have less flexibility in accessing police services. Last November the year-to-year arrangement yielded a semi-annual refund of \$65,790, which Council put into a newly established "Policing Services Reserve". In a 3-2 recorded vote the 3 continuing members voted against a 5-year OPP contract.

Speeding Problems

Council has been concerned about problems with speeding vehicles at several locations ranging from Woodland Beach to Farlain Lake . They recently commissioned a report from Burnside Engineering on methods of traffic calming, their costs, criteria and trial periods. Tiny's Community Policing Committee advises the OPP Detachment on where to station their radar warning sign that encourages drivers to respect the speed limit. OPP constables also patrol for speeders, principally at County Road locations. Concerned residents can notify the OPP directly if they see a dangerous situation in their neighbourhood. Council recently reduced the speed limit along Balm Beach Road West to 40 km/h from 270 m east of Albert Street to Tiny Beaches Road North.

Fire and Police False Alarm Policy

Make sure your household alarm systems are in proper working order! Council policy for false fire alarms is now: First False Alarm no charge; Second False Alarm no charge but a warning notice is sent; Third False Alarm \$200 charge (OPP charge \$500 for a Third Police False Alarm).

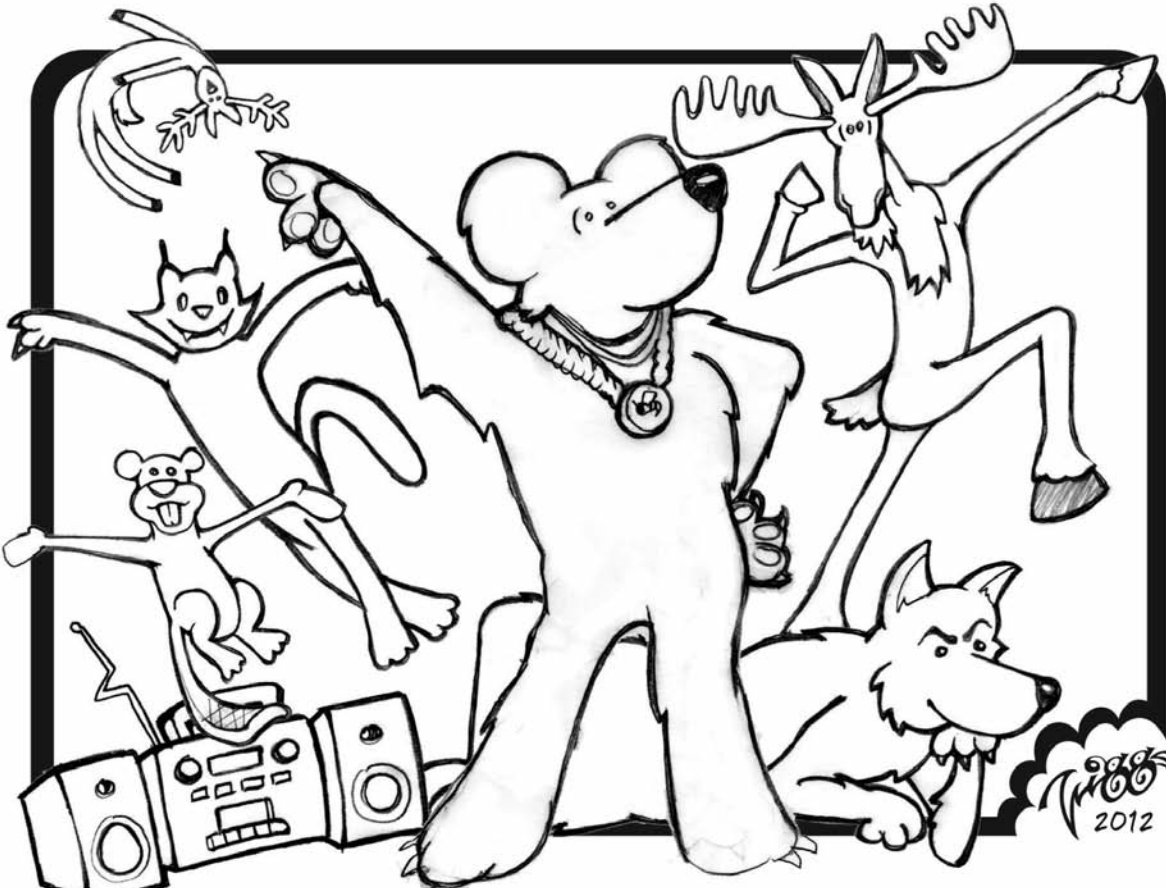
PLANNING ISSUES AND OFFICIAL PLAN

Official Plan – Still Delayed by Differing Visions of County and Municipal Affairs

Tiny's Official Plan was due for review in 2009. The Township hired consultants, held several public meetings, and then....everything was shelved - because the "new" Simcoe County Official Plan (of November 2008) displeased Municipal Affairs. Apparently they didn't like how the Plan would allocate future growth around Simcoe County. County appealed to the OMB to force Municipal Affairs to at least make a decision on the "new" OP. No ruling has yet emerged.

After further reviewing growth prospects in Simcoe County and the whole Golden Horseshoe, Municipal Affairs unveiled a new vision for Simcoe County this January. It allocates most growth to Barrie and south Simcoe, but does recognize a northern growth node in Midland-Penetanguishene. Tiny can grow only modestly,

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued on page 19



A "TINY" FLASH MOB

"Bears and Lynx in Tiny? Believe it!"

By JANE BILTON

There are many reasons that people are drawn to Tiny Township, whether to relax in the serene and picturesque countryside, to enjoy spending family time together away from the rush of the city, or to simply frolic in the Bay.

All my life I have spent most weekends in Tiny, first at my family cottage, and then later at my own Georgian Bay home. In all that time I never stopped to consider a subtle yet important part of my cottage life. Yet while discussing topics for the next issue of the *Tiny Cottager*, I realized how strong my passion was for witnessing and rejoicing in our wildlife. When someone suggested an article on wildlife, I burst forth with excitement, thinking about all the small episodes of awe and humour that I have witnessed over the years. Too late, I realized that this would make me an author.

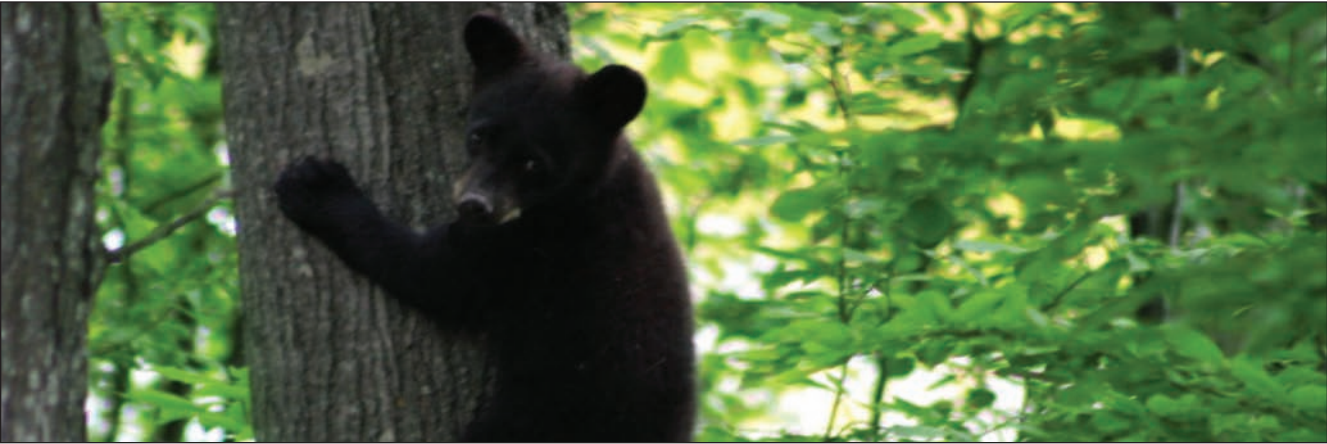
I recount here a few of the meetings I have shared with our furred and feathered friends in hopes that you too will pause to enjoy the simple joys of Tiny and to notice that, as we carry on our human lives, there is another group out there carrying on just as busily with their own lives.

When I was younger, we often played car games as a family to see who could spot the first hawk, deer, owl, always in the safety of the car. Imagine my surprise when in my first summer as a Tiny resident, while reading in my yard, I heard what sounded like the sails of a very large sailboat flapping in the wind descending on me! To my horror, down swooped the largest, ugliest bird I have ever seen. After staring at me in shock for a moment, it took off running part way up my hill and turned to give me a rather

indignant lecture. He (or she!) was a wild turkey quite angry that I had the audacity to be sitting right in the spot he habitually landed. Noting that my big brave dog had not so much as taken a breath, it occurred to me that perhaps my new home was going to be a bit of an adventure.

Only weeks before, when I first moved in, I found on my doorstep several pamphlets on keeping bears at bay. My neighbors had been out on a walk and noticed a black bear ambling through my yard. Being very good neighbors, they had gone to town to get these pamphlets for me. I'd only once heard of a bear sighting, around 2000 when a young child at Cawaja claimed to have seen a bear cub on the public path to the beach. At first, those close by thought the child had mistaken a dog for a bear, but no, the cub had really found its way to the beach. With great caution, many cottagers watched it disappear into the woods to look for its mother.

I also remember watching the deer as they come to drink from the lake in the winter months, and discovering a lynx on my front lawn hoping to get a chance to snack on my cat. I remember a tiny, confused skunk on the road, afraid of the bright lights of the car and yet terrified of the dark, and a chickadee trying to befriend my niece as she used her Audubon app to learn the calls of our local birds. Some have reported moose sightings in north Tiny near Awenda Park. I could tell of oh so many other meetings of our worlds, and I hope that you will stop and reflect on the simple joys these encounters offer us in this wonderful world of Tiny.



The Huronia Land Conservancy: Protecting the Past - Conserving the Future

By TIM TULLY AND RIC SYMMES

Tiny Township cottagers who love nature and Huronia have a new friend and ally. In February of 2012, Revenue Canada granted charitable status to the Huronia Land Conservancy (HLC), a community based land trust devoted to conserving the rich natural and cultural heritage of north Simcoe. Created by an experienced and enthusiastic group of local volunteers, both cottagers and year round residents, the HLC will work cooperatively with private property owners to receive donations and to protect and manage significant heritage properties in perpetuity.

HLC becomes a neighbour to two other highly successful nearby land trusts. The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) serves the eastern shore of Georgian Bay to the north while the Couchiching Conservancy works inland to the north-east. Over the last decade, GBLT and Couchiching helped cottagers and farmers protect thousands of acres of heritage lands. By donating surplus land to a charity, cottagers and others achieved long term protection of nature and their privacy while receiving significant tax benefits. The HLC was created to provide the same services and community benefits in north Simcoe.

While land trusts have existed in Ontario for many years, the number expanded dramatically after the government cutbacks of the 1990s. Communities recognized that in many cases governments would not protect the land features that were important at a local or regional level. In addition, private landowners often preferred to deal with a local non-governmental organization. Free of any legislative authority or responsibility, land trusts depend entirely on cooperation and a friendly, flexible approach. Funded by local membership and donations, with support from other charities and programs, land trusts depend heavily on volunteers. Land trusts accept donations or partial donations of suitable conservation lands, then provide for conservation planning and stewardship. Land trusts sometimes hold easements on property and work with landowners to provide protection of heritage features that run with the title beyond the current ownership.

North Simcoe is one of the last areas in southern Ontario to set up a community land trust. The HLC will be active in an area that stretches from Tiny Township east through the Township of Tay to Matchedash Bay, south to Little Lake in Barrie and west to Wasaga Beach. The HLC will work closely with the Nature Conservancy and other conservation organizations in the region. HLC has a wealth of land trust, natural and cultural heritage and community experience in its leadership. President “Ric” Symmes, whose family has cottaged at Midland Point North for 70 years, brings expertise from his years as Georgian Bay-Huronian Manager for the Nature Conservancy of Canada. Vice President Tim Tully is a professional naturalist and natural/cultural heritage consultant who has worked at Awenda Provincial Park, Tiny Marsh, Wye Marsh and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons through his 25 year career. His family has cottaged on Nottawasaga Bay since 1928. Other members of the executive and working groups are resident in north Simcoe and have extensive experience with other land trusts, archaeology, and conservation. All these volunteers share the belief that a land trust can bring great benefits to our community.

Any resident, cottager or visitor to Huronia is immediately impressed by the stunning beauty of the landscape, from the awe-inspiring forested Nipissing and Algonquin bluffs that dominate the high ground to the myriad wetlands, streams and river courses that traverse the land and flow to Georgian Bay. A number of sizeable conservation areas and parks already exist including Awenda Provincial Park, Wye and Tiny Marshes, and Matchedash Bay but the vast majority of Huronia’s natural heritage exists on private lands.

HLC hopes to “connect the dots” in this complex conservation puzzle and create a natural heritage system that adds to existing core habitats and connects these key larger conservation lands by natural corridors. In this way wildlife will be able to physically move throughout the landscape and species diversity and genetic viability will be maintained. Huronia is part of a larger ecological transition zone that is sandwiched between the Canadian Shield to the north and Carolinian zone to the south. Consequently we find an incredible mix of biological diversity with animals and plants with both northern and southern affinities co-existing throughout Huronia. The area is home to over 800 species of vascular plants, 250+ species of birds, 35

species of reptiles and amphibians and over 40 mammal species. Who would expect to find a moose in a central Ontario wetland or a Virginia opossum waddling through your backyard? It happens in this remarkable geography!



photo by MDF

Among that plethora of species are some of the rarest in Canada - over 25 Species-at-Risk find habitat here. The endangered cerulean warbler is one of the rarest birds in North America with an estimated 500 breeding pairs in Canada. Ceruleans find their home in the area’s mature sugar maple / American beech / red oak forest. What adds further to the importance of Huronia is the rich human history that stretches back to the time of the last ice age. Paleo peoples hunted on the shores of post-glacial lakes for pre-historic game 11,500 years ago! The most well known native group to live here were the Wendat Nation, Iroquoian-speaking farmers, who lived in village communities throughout the entire area between 800 A.D. and 1650. French explorers and Jesuit priests visited this group in the early 1600s and in some cases took up residence among them. Samuel de Champlain referred to this tribe as the Huron; hence the geographic place name of today. A key mandate of the Huronia Land Conservancy will be to protect the area’s archaeological heritage and preserve what is a vital part of our national history.

The most interesting part of Huronia’s conservation story is that natural and cultural heritage are intimately intertwined by geography and history. The area’s high bluffs and tablelands were often selected as village locations by the Wendat people while today many of these same areas are often the last bastions of natural forest. Wetland and water courses were also favored sites of



human activity and remain critical to area wildlife today. The HLC’s goal to fuse these overlapping conservation objectives is a natural fit!

The Huronia Land Conservancy represents a practical opportunity to participate directly in heritage protection in our community. By becoming an active member or making a tax-deductible donation you will be effecting positive change at a critical time in Huronia’s history. Whether your interests are species and habitat protection, native and cultural history or water conservation, the HLC can make a difference in the future of Huronia. Perhaps you have a suggestion of property that is of local conservation interest? Maybe you would like to share your area of expertise or a fundraising idea? Please learn more about the HLC today by consulting our website <http://www.huronialandconservancy.ca> after June 1st, or by e-mailing your question or suggestion to info@huronialandconservancy.ca

Remembering Charlie Gamble

By Judith Grant

Charlie Gamble, who lived at Farlain Lake for 30+ years, and who observed and reported on the Corporate Services Committee of Simcoe County Council for FoTTSA, died suddenly on March 7th in Fort Myers, Florida, at the age of 68.

For many years, FoTTSA’s directors have felt that we needed to keep a close eye on local government, because of its huge importance for us whether as cottagers or as permanent residents. But there are three levels of local government, and the Tiny Township Council is only one of them. Education is a second -- not a subject on which we have expertise -- and the third is the County level. Although we had been reporting on the activities of the local Council for many years, we had no one watching the County for us. Charlie generously agreed to monitor and report for FoTTSA on the activities of County Council and its staff. Out of this experience, Charlie wrote two informative articles for *The Tiny Cottager*.

The first, which appeared in the Spring/Summer Issue in 2008, listed many aspects of a proposed restructuring of county government, including a possible halving of the size of County Council. The second, in the 2009 Fall/Winter Issue, alerted the board and Cottager readers to staff’s closed minds on the selection of Site 41, thus preparing us for the bruising struggle over the Site in 2009 and 2010.

So the work he undertook for us was very useful, but we also grew to respect and admire his humour and his great good sense. Family came first with Charlie, as we learned whenever we tried to entice him to a FoTTSA social occasion on summer weekends. We were balked again and again in our efforts to thank him publicly, but we can do so now. Thank you very much, Charlie.

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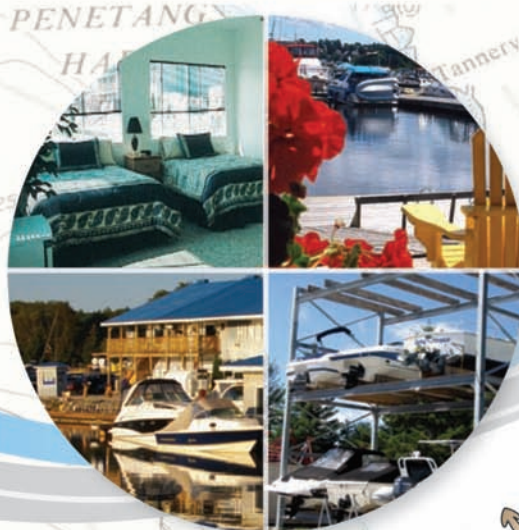


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Recommended Summer Reading

Welcome to the third annual Tiny Cottager Recommended Summer Reading column. As Jane Austen might have said, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a lazy day at the cottage and a good book go together like...well, a good book and a lazy day at the cottage. Without prejudice to our contributors' pride in their recommendations, we doubt it will take much persuasion for you to see the sense (and sensibility) of enjoying these suggestions!

from Steve Coffey, Sawlog Bay
Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin
 by Timothy Snyder
 This book enlightens the reader on the tragic events occurring in the Eastern European regions of the Ukraine, Poland and Belorussia, and the Baltic regions of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania following the First World War until the early 1950's. The murder of civilians, by the Soviet policies of forced starvation, deportation and ethnic cleansing, and the Nazi policy of wholesale genocide, is dealt with in detail. Soviet policy, which has been heretofore propagandized, is investigated and dissected in this scholarly attempt to provide a background to the more current history of the region. A must read for any student of 20th century Eastern European history.

from Joe Martin, Addison Beach
William Pitt the Younger
 by William Hague
 William Pitt became Prime Minister of Britain in 1783, age 24!!! He was the youngest Prime Minister in British history and the second-longest serving (1783-1801 and 1804-1806). This biography by William Hague, former leader of the British Conservative party and current British Foreign Secretary, is brilliantly written, with the insights of someone who has served in the "mother of parliaments". Pitt did not have much time for Canada, given the domestic issues (the "madness" of King George III) and international issues (war with France) which he faced, but the Constitutional Act of 1791 during his tenure created what would become the Province of Ontario. Among his chief rivals were the great Whig politicians Charles Fox and Edmund Burke. It is intriguing to speculate why Penetanguishene has streets named after those two gentlemen, but none after Pitt.

from Jim King, Deanlea Beach
Fighting Sail on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay: The War of 1812 and its Aftermath
 by Barry M. Gough
 This book, of special local interest, provides history of the fort and naval action at Wasaga Beach, which led to the sinking of the schooner "Nancy", as well as information about the British naval establishment at Penetanguishene now known as Discovery Harbour.

from Muriel McVeigh, Balm Beach
Cutting for Stone
 by Abraham Verghese
 About twin brothers born in Ethiopia, their family love and love of country, the story begins in the time of Haile Selassie and continues with the turbulent times of that era. The knowledge and history of surgery is a main theme throughout. I couldn't put it down!
Major Pettigrew's Last Stand
 by Helen Simonson
 Love, loss and racial intolerance in a small English village. Wonderfully written and full of dry humour. I really enjoyed these books!

from Andrew Coombes, Cedar Point
The Art of Racing in the Rain
 by Garth Stein
 A wonderful observation of life, loss and ultimate triumph, told from the perspective of Enzo, the family dog. Enzo has educated himself by watching daytime TV docu-

mentaries and has a deeply philosophical outlook on life. Garth Stein writes with authority and -- for those of us who are dog lovers -- a profound understanding of our own lives. This book is a fairly short read, but I guarantee it will be one of the most uplifting experiences of your life. Enzo is a canine Mitch Albom (***The Five People You Meet in Heaven/Tuesdays with Morrie***), complete with his wonderful aphorisms -- just without the opposable thumbs he so badly would love to have. ***Racing*** has become the all-time # 1 favourite of many that read it, and I count myself among them.

from Pat Warner, Cawaja Beach
Crow Lake and The Other Side of the Bridge
 by Mary Lawson
 Mary Lawson grew up in Ontario and now lives in England. The first of these two splendid books tells how four children in an isolated village in northern Ontario cope after their parents are killed in an automobile accident. The second deals with families in the same village. This time the story is multi-generational. The weaving of character and plot in both books is intricate and gripping, as the personalities of the characters unfold to make the outcome of both stories perfectly believable. Mary Lawson writes with a directness and forcefulness that few others can match. Both books are just wonderful. ***The Other Side of the Bridge*** was long-listed for the Booker Prize.

from Al Taylor, Kingswood Acres
A Prisoner of Birth
 by Jeffrey Archer
 A great summer read and a double delight if you get the talking book version. Danny Cartwright is falsely arrested for the murder of his best friend. And, when the four prosecution witnesses are a barrister, a popular actor, an aristocrat, and the youngest partner in an established firm's history, who is going to believe Danny's side of the story? He is wrongfully sentenced to 22 years and sent to Belmarsh prison, the highest security jail in the land, from which no inmate has ever escaped.

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 The audio version is just fabulous, as the narrator captures the accents of the different characters perfectly. Close your eyes and you will be transported to an English courtroom with all its decorum and the ambiance of centuries.
 A real page turner, and if that is not enough, prepare for an ending that will shock. You will be reading / listening long into the warm summer night!

from Mike Knell, Balm Beach
Life
 by Keith Richards
 If you like Rock'n'Roll history, this book is a must. A beautifully flowing account of the "Keefer" will leave you amazed and laughing. So much R&R history weaves through this autobiography that you won't want to put this book down until the end!



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BOTULISM..continued from front page

including more than 30 common loons, and fish, including nine sturgeon. Botulism was suspected, though it is difficult to test for.

Botulism on Georgian Bay? We had never heard of it before.

September 2011

The alarm bells should have gone off again when we saw 4-ft lake sturgeons decomposing on the shore in the heat of late summer where people were still swimming. Wasaga Beach Park reported disposing of over 120 sturgeons.

We found more dead birds and fish on the shore in late August and into September. Tiny Township confirmed the shoreline was affected all the way to the 12th Concession. Concerned about our residents and neighborhood pets, WBPOA members organized their own clean up.

MNR confirmed that they sent several dead sturgeon to the lab at the University of Guelph for forensic analysis. Zebra and quagga mussels or round gobies were found in the stomach contents. All three of these species have invaded the Great Lakes since the late 1980's. Mussels and gobies live on the lake bottom and filter food from the water, ingesting any bacteria in the lake bottom sediment. They may potentially cause long-term damage to our ecosystem.

Monday October 3rd

Another die-off. This time it was mostly fish and the gulls that were scavenging the shore were totally unaware this would be their final meal. MNR collected approximately 1400 dead fish from the park in a two-day period.

Friday October 21st

An unseasonably warm fall day with very little wind. The kind of day you treasure because you know they are coming to an end. My morning walk to the beach would change the calmness I felt.

Even though I could not make out what they were, I could see them on the shore. At first I wasn't surprised as we had been experiencing die-offs since August. Then I realized they covered the shore to the north and to the south, as far as the eye could see. One footstep after another, bodies of a type of duck that I did not recognize lay motionless. Looking out on the water was just as shocking as I could see hundreds more waiting for the first waves to wash them in. I stood there trying to grasp what was happening at Woodland Beach. Then it was time for action...

My first call was to Wasaga Beach Provincial Park to see if they were seeing anything on their shore. They were not aware of any problems on their beach. It was difficult to make them understand the magnitude of the situation and what I felt could become a serious health

risk. They suggested I report dead or dying waterfowl to the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre in Guelph. Any fish die-offs should be reported to Ministry of Natural Resources.

Advice varied on how to handle the situation. "It was a natural occurrence that happens on all the Great Lakes". But, I thought, not on Woodland Beach. One thing was clear: property owners are responsible for cleaning up dead fish or waterfowl found along their shoreline. Gloves should be worn when handling the carcasses and burying them or putting them in the garbage. Burying them was not an option and could not be considered safe for a beach environment. We were going to need help to dispose of them properly. A call to Tiny Township resulted in a set of guidelines to be followed. Township Staff took the position that they would only clean Township owned Beaches.

Saturday October 22nd – Noon.

Still shocked but armed with shovels, gloves and bags we began the grim task of cleaning up our beach. Ducks continued to wash ashore, some still alive, but in obvious distress. A second clean up was required on Sunday. The community response was amazing! Twenty WBPOA members and volunteers worked together to get the job done.

The following weekend we headed out again combing every inch of the shore to ensure nothing was missed. The precious shore was clear again, but we did not know if the die off was over. No one had ever seen anything like this. Some remembered in the 1950's a massive die-off of alewife that turned beaches into swaths of stinking carcasses. The community had come together then to clean up the thousands that washed ashore.

Tiny Township Staff assisted our efforts by picking up over 1,500 birds on Woodland Beach alone. The dead birds collected by the municipality were buried in the Clearview Landfill at a cost of \$9,954.99. An effort is being made to recover the cost from the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The final report for the area was over 6,000 birds.

Could the events of 2010 and, particularly, of 2011 be an environmental indicator of the condition of Georgian Bay? Over 150 invasive species in the Great Lakes continue to alter what we once thought was 'normal'. Now we may have a 'new normal' and have no choice but to adapt and to manage the change.

If you recognize sickness or death in Canadian wildlife, report to local wildlife officials or report directly to Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) 1-866-673-4781

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Invasive Plants Still a Threat

By KATE HARRIES


About 120 people, including Tiny Mayor Ray Millar, attended an April meeting on invasive plants held in Elmvale. Experts from MNR, Simcoe County, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC) addressed the group. Local naturalist Bob Bowles warned that widely sold plants like Periwinkle (vinca) and Bishop’s Goutweed can create thick mats in local forests that wipe out native wildflowers like Trillium and Bloodroot. A gap in legislation means there is no way of preventing nurseries from selling such invasive plant species. And in fact there are lots of native alternatives available

MNR has a list of species banned for aquaculture, but they don’t have one for horticultural species. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency also has no jurisdiction over horticultural species that are already established here. Giant Hogweed – an invasive that causes painful rashes in humans - has been added to the Ontario Weeds Act, allowing municipalities to enact bylaws requiring its removal, but the *phragmites* reeds that have infested many of our Tiny beaches are not subject to the Act.

Bill Stoner, a cottager on the 14th Concession, is concerned about infestations he has seen all along Tiny’s shoreline. In Michigan he has seen miles and miles of former marshland that are now 100 per cent *phragmites*. Stoner said, “this can have massive lifestyle impact and also a significant financial impact.” Stoner suggested, and the panelists agreed, that people should contact their MPs and MPPs to ask that legislation be introduced making it mandatory for landowners – public or private – to be responsible for control of these species on their property.

Other suggestions for actions that you can undertake include:

- Eradicate any invasive species on your own property and use native species to benefit birds and wildlife;
- Educate yourself and spread the word to your neighbours, distribute OIPC fact sheets;
- Ask local nurseries to stop selling alien invasives and offer native substitutes (see OIPC’s booklet called ‘Grow Me Instead’.)
- Report anything ‘funny-looking’ to the invasive species hotline 1-800-563-7711.



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Huge Disappointment:

Report Says “Nature” Should Control Georgian Bay Water Levels

By JACK ELLIS

After more than five years, \$14.6 million, hundreds of public meetings, innumerable public petitions, and dozens of high-level lobbying sessions, the International Upper Great Lakes Study board (IUGLS) has refused to recommend taking any measures to remedy the deteriorating water levels in Georgian Bay and Lake Huron/Michigan. On March 28 the IUGLS told the International Joint Commission (IJC) to “let nature take its course”; **no** engineering works should be built to control the outflows from Lake Huron.

The Tiny Cottager covered the study process extensively in the Fall 2011 issue and in earlier issues. The public meeting of the IUGLS in Midland last August was well attended by an attentive crowd solidly in favour of taking action to restore the water levels that are so essential to our environment, our recreational enjoyment, and many livelihoods.

The Georgian Bay Association - a group of ratepayer associations in the 30,000 Islands area and north - and the Sierra Club have worked like Trojans on lake level problems and have assembled solid scientific information on environmental impacts and potential engineering solutions. FoTTSA has supported them wholeheartedly, morally and financially.

But it appears that two factors over-rode the science and the sentiment that we in the Georgian Bay area had counted on to win the day, namely:

- The political strength of areas around south-western Lake Michigan and around Lake St. Clair, where low water brought wider beaches and better fishing. They see the costs of doing something as too high, and the benefits either are not desired or are seen as too small and uncertain,
- The letting “nature decide” argument that militates against spending **any** money, and that recalls other low

water periods in the past.

There could be a 5% chance that raising the levels might go too far in future and cause damage but there is an **80% chance** that environmental damage from low water levels in Georgian Bay will worsen further. Did the IUGLS simply buy into the easy-to-sell “do-nothing” philosophy?

Recently all nine Great Lakes chapters of the Sierra Club - endorsed the restoration of Michigan-Huron-Georgian Bay water levels. This is encouraging, since they include chapters in southern Michigan where various politically active groups want no action. It may be that the Sierra Club can see a glimmer of hope, but given the present miserable condition of government finances on both sides of the border, don’t hold your breath.

Public meetings with the IJC Commissioners themselves are planned for mid-July. Be there! Get one of the Sierra Club’s Restore Our Water Levels t-shirts. Let the IJC hear what we think about “doing nothing”. Tell them Canadians want water levels restored.

You can get more information at:
<http://tinyurl.com/749hlt>
<http://www.iugls.org/highlight-iugls-final-report.aspx>
Information about t-shirts and this summer’s meetings will be posted on <http://www.tinycottager.org> as soon as it is available.

Tiny’s Maple Trees Threatened

By AL TAYLOR



In a surprising statement, Ontario Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller recently claimed that all of Ontario’s maple trees could be decimated in a few decades by Asian long-horned beetles and climate change.

This beetle was first detected in New York in 1996. It also has been found in Massachusetts and New Jersey, and likely arrived in wooden palettes from other countries, much like the Dutch Elm disease which wiped out the majestic elm trees in the ‘60s.

The beetles could start chewing through our maples within 10 years. In 2003, the Asian long-horned beetle was found in the area just north of Toronto. Ontario’s response was to designate quarantine zones around the GTA to restrict movement of wood out of the area. Signs have been already erected on the 400 series highways, for example.

Miller also noted that climate change may make southern Ontario too warm and too dry to support maple trees. The range for maple trees is expected to shift north in the decades to come.

How many people can imagine the impact of this change? Look around you... look out your windows... how many maples do you see? Now picture them all gone. Can you imagine the impact on our economy, on tourism, lumber and maple syrup?

- What can you do?
- Don’t bring wood from infected areas to burn in your fireplace
 - Check trees in your area for small bore holes and if you suspect a tree is infected call in a licensed arborist for confirmation and remedial measures.

Tiny Council recently resolved to support the Ontario Urban Forest Council to gain financial assistance from the Federal and Provincial governments to combat the spread of forest pests including the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer, which may destroy our ash trees as well. Please support these efforts also.

Join the “Big Pull” at Tiny Marsh

Garlic Mustard was first spotted in Tiny Marsh four years ago. It is still confined to one corner of the property. It is an invasive European weed that produces chemicals in the soil that inhibit the growth of native plants, from wildflowers to trees. The Big Pull is now in its third year. Please join us on Saturday or Sunday, June 9 or 10, or June 16 or 17, from 9:30 am to noon and wear protective clothing. For more information call Pat at 705-361-2637.

Visit <http://www.tinycottager.org> for a detailed description of Invasive Species that occur in this area.

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COMPLIMENTARY PROPERTY EVALUATION

Faith and Fortitude – Churches in Tiny

By BONNIE REYNOLDS

This is part one of a two-part article that will be continued in a subsequent issue of the Tiny Cottager.

Tiny Township is home to a number of churches, some relatively new, others with roots that reach back more than 150 years. In the early days of pioneering settlement, families would gather to worship in one another's homes. Pioneer homes always had a bible, held in an honoured place, and God could be worshipped anywhere - a home, a forest, or the one-room schoolhouse.

With the rapid growth in the mid-to-late 1800s different denominations began erecting churches in Tiny Township. At the present time some 14 places of worship exist here. A brief description of these churches and their significance in Tiny's communities follows, roughly in order of their age.

Lafontaine - Ste. Croix Roman Catholic Church - 1856-present

As early as 1830 the residents of Ste. Croix (now Lafontaine) travelled to Penetanguishene for mass. In 1856 a square-timbered church was built as a mission church of Ste. Ann's. In 1861 the building was enlarged and a vestry added. Starting in 1872, Father Michel, using much of his own funds, oversaw the building of a new brick rectory and church. It was built in 1877 at a cost of \$18,000. Topped with a 120-foot steeple, Ste. Croix was reputed to be the finest church in the diocese of Toronto. The spire still dominates the skyline of Lafontaine today and is a proud reminder of those who came before.



Waverley - St. John's Anglican Church - 1860s-present

The community of Victoria Hill (now Waverley) straddles the border between Tiny and Tay. Home services began as early as 1835. A log church was later constructed in what is now the cemetery. In 1896 a new brick building was erected across the road. St. John's is located behind the Soldier's Monument in Waverley, which honours those killed in action from the townships of Tiny, Tay, Flos and Medonte.

Wyebridge - The Church of the Good Shepherd Anglican Church - 1864-present

In 1864 Angus and Catherine Grant, original storekeepers in Wyebridge, donated a lot for a 'free pewed church and burial ground'. A frame church was constructed and



other faiths also used the building from time to time. The congregation grew so they built a larger brick church in 1909. Over the years the pioneering spirit of the Good Shepherd parishioners has continued and it is especially well known for its annual fall roast beef supper. A walk through the pretty cemetery reveals many sad stories where entire families were wiped out from such diseases as TB and scarlet fever.

Wyebridge - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - 1870-1987

From 1832 services were held in area homes. In 1861 a lot at the corner of Highway 93 and Ellerys Sideroad was given to the Presbyterians. This lot was used solely as a cemetery until 1870, when a log church was constructed. In 1889, a new brick church was built in the village on a lot donated by Cevila and Nelson McRae. The original log church was torn down but the cemetery is still in use today. St. Andrew's always had a small but faithful congregation,

but in 1987 they made the difficult decision to close the church. Today the building stands empty and for sale. A craft shop operated here for a little while in the 1990s.

Perkinsfield - St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church - 1870 - present

From the 1850s to 1870, Catholics had to travel to Ste. Croix in Lafontaine for services. In 1870 a lot was purchased from Joseph and Jean Baptiste Asselin for a church and cemetery and a small log chapel was constructed. In 1884 the present white wooden church was built at a cost of \$4,000. St. Patrick's was a mission church until the arrival of Father Geoffrey in 1909. He had a rectory built and relocated the cemetery. A major renovation in 1964 resulted in the church being referred to as the 'Showpiece of the Diocese'. Tiny's Historical Advisory Committee has proposed that the church be formally designated as a Heritage Building. Services are now in both French and English.



Wyevale - Methodist Church - 1880-1917

A Mr. Belding donated a lot on the west side of Queen Street, as well as the lumber and labour for a church. The wooden frame building was used until 1917, when the congregation amalgamated with the Presbyterians and attended services in the brick Presbyterian church (now United). The wooden building was dismantled in 1924 and the pews went to the Woodland Beach Community Church.

Wyevale - Presbyterian Church - 1891-1925; United Church - 1925-present

In 1891 a brick church was erected on the corner of Matilda Street and County Road 6. The brick came from the Saurin brickyard (just south of the village of Wyevale) and the timber from George Stott's bush. Church Union in 1925 saw this church become the United Church and part of the Wyevale-Waverly charge. It is well known for its



strawberry, turkey and spaghetti suppers. One such supper mentioned in the book 'Country Parson', by Rev. George Morrison had no less than 119 uncut pies left over. Apparently 150 people were unable to attend, thus the leftovers. Morrison wondered if the other 450 guests consumed pies at the rate of one pie per person. No better value is given than at a rural church supper.

Wyevale - Free Methodist Church - 1935- 1980s

Early prayer meetings were held in cottages and at the home of David Webb. In 1935 a white frame church was built on a lot purchased at the corner of Concession 5 and Sunnycove Drive. This building served the group until the early 1980s, when the former Orange Hall was purchased and renovated into a church. The former building then became the residence of the pastor.







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Georgian Bay General Hospital LEAN and Focused for You

By JACKIE McLAUCHLIN, DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT, GBGH

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Whether you come to your cottage to bask in the sunshine, stroll along the beach, or just get away from it all and spend time with your family – a trip to the hospital is probably not in your plans.

But when you need the hospital, it is the best place for you to be.

Last year, Georgian Bay General Hospital’s Emergency Department treated more than 45,000 patients. When you consider that Mount Sinai in downtown Toronto saw roughly the same number, you get a picture of the magnitude of the work being done here. What makes it even more exceptional is that the work is being done in a department that was designed to accommodate less than half that number.

The summer is particularly busy. The population of Tiny Township alone swells by 11,000 to more than 27,000 in the summer months. When you factor in your guests, seasonal residents in neighbouring municipalities, boaters and other tourists, it’s not uncommon for the GBGH Emergency staff to see and treat 200 patients in a day.

Chief of Emergency, Dr. David Bayfield and the Chief of Staff, Dr. Martin McNamara, along with their colleagues and nursing staff are committed to making a difference by delivering the best quality patient care. And they have a tremendous track record. Reducing wait times is among GBGH’s top priorities. Using LEAN methodology, a Toyota manufacturing process, you may be surprised to know that your hospital’s Emergency Department has become one of the most efficient in the province. “We have adopted a LEAN management system here at GBGH because we firmly believe that continuous quality improvements can drive efficiency,” President and CEO Paul Heinrich says. “Our top priority is patient care and we know we have to look internally first to make improvements and reinvestments where the patient will be impacted the most.”

GBGH staff were involved in implementing the LEAN project in the Emergency Department, assuming roles as “patients” and tracking their progress from the moment of arrival to discharge. During the exercise they were able to identify waste and wasted time.

“What may be surprising is that we don’t talk about LEAN saving money because we don’t view this as a cost cutting exercise,” notes Heinrich. “We talk about LEAN management helping us to serve you, our patient, better.”

The end results speak for themselves. Last year, Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews made a visit to GBGH to congratulate hospital officials and the Emergency Department staff on achieving the best wait times in the province. Your Emergency Department consistently ranks in the top five for the shortest wait times in

Ontario.

This past January, FoTTSA President Paul Cowley and Vice President Richard Hinton were given a first-hand tour of the hospital. They were accompanied by Heinrich, Dr. McNamara, Vice President of Patient Care/Clinical Services Barb Guidolin, and GBGH Foundation President Lyn Wolfhard. After the behind the scenes glimpse, Cowley commented, “I was most impressed at how the hospital was addressing patient needs by implementing smart business practices and not by throwing money at the problem as is what usually happens.”

Your FoTTSA representatives were also impressed to learn more about your hospital’s newly installed Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS), an electronic imaging system. It scans and stores x-rays as digital images, which can then be transmitted electronically anywhere in the world in the blink of an eye. That could mean sending an x-ray to a local doctor’s office, or to a hospital or specialist in Toronto or even Boston. In one case a doctor in Australia was able to review an x-ray and provide an instant diagnosis for a patient in Midland!

This will be an exciting year for Georgian Bay General Hospital as we embark on the biggest expansion in 20 years. Coupled with the gains realized through the LEAN process, the Emergency Department is about to undergo a transformation to meet and properly serve the increasing demands. As more people retire to the area to enjoy Southern Georgian Bay year round, a larger and better equipped Emergency Department is essential.

The expansion project will cost \$12.7 million. The GBGH Foundation has already raised \$2.1 million and is gearing up to raise the \$1.7 million more that will be needed to complete and equip the new Emergency Department.

Over the past 12 years, several beach communities under the leadership of FoTTSA have participated in a “fun”draising challenge, generating over \$100,000 in funds that have been invested in much needed state-of-the art technology and equipment for GBGH’s Emergency Department.

The bottom line is that when you need the hospital, you want the doctors and staff to be there, at the ready, with the equipment they need to treat you - and maybe even save your life.

If you want to learn more about your hospital or if you think you can help, please visit the GBGH Foundation website <http://www.gbghf.ca>, or speak in person with a Foundation staff member by calling our office at 705-526-GIVE (4483).

You can help – by contributing in your own unique way, as an individual, family, group of friends and neighbours or by taking part in the *Tiny Cottager* Challenge Cup.

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Top row (L to R): John Grant, Addison Beach; Judith Grant, Addison Beach; Al Taylor, Kingswood Acres; Dr. David Gravelle, Physician's Recruitment; Linda Andrews, Wahnekeewening Beach. Bottom row (L to R): Paul Cowley, Carusoe Bay and President FoTTSA; Lois Lipton, Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; Kathy Elsdon Befort, Past President of the Hospital Foundation Board of Directors; Dr. David Bayfield, Emergency Doctor; Denise Gardian, Woodland Beach; Mac Cosburn, Nottawaga Beach



L to R: Mac Cosburn, Nottawaga Beach; Judith Grant, Addison Beach; Denise Gardian, Woodland Beach; Sonya Stermerdink, Program and Education Coordinator, Wye Marsh; John Grant, Addison Beach; Paul Cowley, Carusoe Bay and president of FoTTSA.



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9th Annual Tiny Cottager Challenge

By DENISE GARDIAN

Amount raised in 2011: \$17,907.00

Members of The Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations took time from a hot and busy summer in 2011 to participate in the ninth annual Tiny Cottager Challenge. A total of eight associations participated. FoTTSA's fundraising Challenge supports the Georgian Bay General Hospital, the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, and Physician Recruitment. To date associations have raised over \$160,000 for the Hospital's Emergency Department, which many shore area residents have used over the years for everything from swimmer's itch to heart attacks.

This year Tiny Township will match donations given to the hospital up to a total of \$25,000 and FoTTSA hopes many associations will help raise that amount and have it matched by the Township.

In keeping with its commitment to the environment, FoTTSA has also supported fundraising for the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre over the years. Many shoreline seasonal and permanent residents have enjoyed walking, observing, kayaking or canoeing in this 3,000 acre natural area. This year we hope fundraising efforts exceed the contributions made in 2011.

Crests have been added to the Challenge Cup acknowledging the Addison Beach Property Owners' Association for raising the largest average amount per household for a small association (under 50 members), the Kingswood Acres Beach Association for raising the largest average amount per household for a large association (50+), and the Nottawaga Beach Association for the largest amount raised by any association.



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Is Tiny Township Being Over-Developed?

By RICHARD HINTON

Currently there are just over 180 lots in Tiny Township in three subdivisions that Council has approved "in draft" between 1990 and 1997 without setting a time limit on the approval. This gives the developers an open ticket to proceed whenever it suits them. Since the 1990s, Tiny's Official Plan and Zoning By-law have undergone significant changes, and these proposed developments may not conform.

The subdivisions are:

- the Sokol/Downer Plan of Subdivision, in Part Lot 22, Concession 5 (Part 1, 51R-22943), draft approved on September 26, 1990;
- the Montebello Beach Development Plan of Subdivision, in Part Broken Lot 21, Concession 5, draft approved on January 25, 1993;
- and the Ontario Potato Distributing Plan of Subdivision, in Part Lot 18, Concession 16, draft approved on September 2, 1997.

Tiny Council is now seeking authority to impose a three-year time limit on all three draft subdivision plan approvals, which is now the normal practice. This action shows that they are actively embracing the goal of *environment first* in Tiny.

With all properties in Tiny on septic systems and with many wells so close to our Bay, developers must realize that the first key for their success is to have a local infrastructure for waste in place that can service the homes they are intent on building. Until that time, we shouldn't even consider developing properties on the greenbelt. There are

already areas in Tiny Township that are over capacity, and nobody seems able to govern how many residents there actually are.

If we allow continued growth in all of our green spaces, a sad but certain day will come when we no longer see the birds, deer, foxes, and all of the wildlife that we so enjoy when we are in Tiny. Over-population and pollution will ruin this paradise. Protection of this land is critical. And more development will surely exacerbate the ongoing problems with traffic, parking, and waste disposal.

Building on sand dunes and the greenbelt close to our water makes no sense. Why would we take such sensitive areas and abuse them with wells, septic beds and holding tanks?

As you read this article, another one of these approved developments is in front of the Ontario Municipal Board: the McMahan subdivision in Con. 4. I am hoping that there will soon be a settlement which will be in line with the Official Plan of Tiny, allowing *reasonable* development while respecting our *environment first* policies that we all value.

Tiny is a small community that does not have the municipal infrastructure to handle an aggressive development plan. Much of the present *environment first* Official Plan was approved years ago, and should be enhanced to suit today's Tiny Township. I personally would like to see our Official Plan revised to zero growth.

Let's remember – *environment first*.

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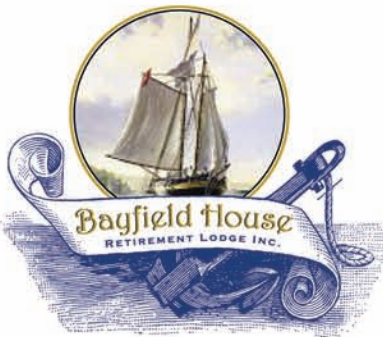
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Summer Activities For Children

By PENNY BARR

Here are just some activities that have been recommended for youngsters who may be spending a week or more in Tiny this summer. For more information about all Tiny Township activities contact Bonita Desroches, Community Recreation Coordinator (705 526-4204 ext. 230 or toll free 1-866-939-8469) or visit <http://www.tiny.ca>

Tiny Township – Perkinsfield Park:

- Simcoe Tennis is running instructional classes for different age groups on Saturday mornings.
- The Soccer League requires a minimum of a 4 week commitment.
- Day Camps offer one day or many day programmes. Watch for their schedule of events later in May.

Elsewhere in Tiny:

- Lafontaine, Toanche, Wyevalle all have excellent baseball programs that are more of a seasonal commitment.

- The Tiny Marsh on Concession 1 is a delight for hiking and bird-watching. Be sure to wear bug repellent.

Midland:


- The North Simcoe Recreation Centre (705-526-9395) is a large facility with 2 ice rinks, gyms and wall climbing. They operate weekly sports camps in early July for boys and girls. There are several one week hockey skills camps. The Centre has applications for weekly sailing camps which are very popular and pricey.

- The YMCA next door (705-526-7828) has excellent 2 week swimming programs and day camps. In the adjoining park, the Huronia Museum (705 526-2844) with an actual Huron/Wendat Village provides great fun for the kids.

- The Quest Gallery (705 526-2787 or <http://www.quest-art.ca>) offers great hands-on creative workshops of different lengths especially for children.

Penetang:

- there are many activities at Penetanguishene Centennial Museum (705-549-2150) and Discovery Harbour (705-549-8064)



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Slightly farther afield:

- There are weekly camps at Wye Marsh (705 526-7809), and many activities at Ste Marie Among the Hurons (705 526-7838) These facilities offer special one day events.
- The old Slide Ride at Blue Mountain in Collingwood has been replaced with the Ridge Mountain Ride. Our family loved the thrilling descent! Also note that if someone drives to the top of the mountain, the gondola ride down is free! On a clear day the view around the bay is spectacular.
- Also free is the Big Chute Marine Railway where you can watch the boats being lifted onto a railway, moved across the road and transported down past a gorge to the lower Severn River. Pack a lunch and follow the signs on 400 north
- Elmvale Zoo (705-322-1112) is an outdoor adventure featuring exotic animals and birds, interactive presentations and a petting area. Have fun!



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REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued from page 4

mainly in the hamlets and through infill. Tiny politicians say they could live with that.

In late April, County planners sent a confidential email to all municipal planners. It sought their input on preliminary ideas about various changes to the new official plan that County proposed to send the province. But the planners were asked **not** to share this information with their Councils, and that set the cat among the pigeons. This latest brouhaha may get resolved by the time you read this, but maybe not. Stay tuned for the next spin of the Official Plan merry-go-round!

Draft-Approved Subdivisions; including McMahan

(See separate article, page 15)

Property Standards By-Law Coming

A by-law on property standards is being drafted to deal with properties with damaged or abandoned buildings or exterior yard issues not covered by the Clean Yards By-law. The enabling Official Plan amendment has been passed, and also an updated Clean Yards By-law is being drafted.

Land Use Study

Council has commissioned a Residential Land Use Study to review the amount of land in the Township that is currently designated for future development in the Township Official Plan and also review future residential development lands in the context of the Provincial Policy Statement 2005, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2006 and possible amendments, and the proposed County of Simcoe Official Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Georgian Sands/Lafontaine Water Supply Class EA Completed

The preferred alternative for controlling future nitrate concentrations in the water supply to Georgian Sands and Lafontaine municipal water systems is to interconnect the Georgian Sands and Lafontaine water systems in the next 4-6 months and blend the water. In 8-12 months, a new well will be drilled at Concession 17 and Rue Jules Leger (cost \$3.5 million) and connected to the Georgian Sands system. Costs will be covered from the user-funded municipal water systems capital reserve.

A Source Water Protection Plan for Tiny is to be approved by the Province of Ontario in 2013 and implemented over 2 years. This Plan will identify threats such as agricultural practices and septic systems and show how to manage, eliminate or reduce these risks, resulting in long term improvement of ground water quality.

Slow Progress on Class EA for Disposal of Septage

Penetang is enlarging its sewage treatment plant and Midland claims their sewage treatment plant is operating at only 40% of capacity. Councillor Nigel Warren, chair of the Septage EA Committee, is frustrated that Council still awaits a reply from the MOE for the Township to consider utilizing such capacity instead of developing a septage facility in Tiny. A third Public Information Centre was held on April 21, 2012

No Wind Turbines on Christian Island

A proposal for a large wind power project on Christian Island will not proceed since the Beausoleil First Nation consultants report that it is not feasible.

BEACH MANAGEMENT - PARKS AND RECREATION

Balm Beach Pay Parking

Council has implemented pay parking in public areas of Balm Beach, except privately owned spaces in front of or adjacent to existing businesses which will be signed as Customer Only for 30 minutes free parking. No Parking signs will be posted on side streets. Pay parking is to be installed at Parent Park. All permit parking holders are allowed to park in either pay parking or permit parking areas without additional charge, but must abide by any 30 minute parking restrictions. Rates are to be set at a minimum charge of \$0.25/15 minutes to a maximum of \$15/day. Pay parking will be in effect May 15 -Sept. 15, and is enforced 5:00 am – 10 pm, with parking prohibited from 1:30 - 5:00 am.

Cawaja Beach - Joint Management Agreement with CPOA and Tiny

The Cawaja Property Owners Association is a two-thirds co-owner of the beach property from Concession 11W northward to the Point; the Township of Tiny is the other one-third co-owner. After decades of uncertainty the Township and the Association have undertaken to work together to ensure that their respective undivided interests in the Property are protected and preserved. The Property is unique, in that, while it is jointly owned it is not a public park and is there for the exclusive use and enjoyment of Cawaja and Township area residents as a

recreational property. The Township and the Association will work together to develop a comprehensive parking strategy for the area to ensure the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of this jointly owned property. In particular, the Township agrees to implement a strategy to limit access to the Property by non-Township residents. This strategy will focus on limiting impact on Cawaja residents while providing mutually acceptable access to other Township residents.

Boundaries Identification Training for By-Law Staff & OPP

On February 21 Council held a training session for Tiny By-law Enforcement personnel and OPP Officers which focused on issues of land boundaries and land ownership, particularly along the shoreline. Support persons included an Ontario Land Surveyor and legal counsel. The objective is to ensure that property rights of both public and private owners are respected, and clarify enforcement responsibilities within lands that are private or public, such as which infractions are a matter for By-law personnel and which for OPP. Landowners are urged to facilitate these efforts by marking their boundaries clearly.

Lafontaine Beach Park Swimming and Beach Improvements

In October 2011 representatives of relevant Provincial and Federal agencies signified their general agreement with the proposal to reduce the groynes and improve the beach. Council approved construction for 2012 or 2013, depending on budget and physical conditions such as water levels.

CBO Park Developments

The Cawaja Balm Ossossane (CBO) Parks and Recreation Association has now been "activated" with a new board!

The CBO Board is looking for activity ideas and volunteers throughout the summer (for seasonal families) and into the winter (for permanent families). To volunteer or offer new activities, please email Vice President, Chris Figgures at figgz@rogers.com

2012 SEPTIC RE-INSPECTION PROGRAM

For 2012, re-inspections continue in Concessions 1 and 2 (Old Survey) including Wyebidge, Concessions 4 & 5 including Wyevale, Concessions 8 to 15 including Perkinsfield and the south half of Lafontaine. In addition, Tatham will follow up with any lot owners who have not submitted pump-out records or responded to deficiencies from the previous year's program. Council approved a four-year extension of Tatham's contract to conduct the septic re-inspections, with a higher fee of \$85.

NEW TOWERS FOR BROADBAND INTERNET BY POINT TO POINT AND BELL

Point to Point Broadband Inc. will lease municipal property for towers at four locations: Bush Tower, Concession 18, Lot 25; Lafontaine Tower, Concession 15, Lot 21; CBO Park Tower Concession 9, Lot 16; and Pump House Tower at Plan 1371 Water Works. Bell Mobility plans to build a steel telecommunications tower on the North Part of Lot 21, Concession 14W to expand wireless and data services. Council has approved both proposals.

CHANGES TO BURN PERMITS

Council has approved increased fees for burn permits, and new validity dates apply to some types of permits. Make sure you apply for and receive from the Township Office the appropriate permit you need.

NOTE: Most details of Council meetings are available online from both the Tiny Cottager website <http://www.tinycottager.org> and the Township's own website <http://tiny.ca>. This report highlights only those Council actions of widest overall interest.

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