

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 43

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Spring/Summer 2014

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

As we emerge from one of the toughest winters on record in many years, it still seems to have its grip on us with a very late cold and wet spring. We also experienced record ice cover on the Great Lakes (at 97%, the most extensive in three decades). The record snowfalls and wet spring will help to add moisture and the record ice cover will have served to reduce evaporation from the lakes.

These are all positives in our ongoing battle to restore water levels in Lakes Huron and Michigan and indeed may help give us a brief reprieve from lake level declines but I emphasize that we must not be lulled into falsely thinking that the lake level problem is solved.

The fact remains that the long term average Huron-Michigan lake levels remain at least three times lower than the other Great Lakes. If we are to restore these levels, we must press our governments to act on the International Joint Commission's advice to them to put compensation structures in the St. Clair River. Please write to Prime Minister Harper, your MP and Minister Baird of Foreign Affairs and urge them to act. And write often.

I continue to work as a director on the board of Restore Our Water International (ROWI), the group that is doing the critical advocacy work with both the Canadian and American governments. ROWI very much needs your financial support. Please visit their new website <http://www.restoreourwater.com> now for an update and give generously.

You are all probably aware that we are now in an election year and as we move through it, FoTTSA has growing concern over how and where our tax dollars have been and are planned to be spent. One of the larger financial challenges (in the millions) facing this and the next council is finding the most cost effective solution to deal with our septage. We are taking much closer scrutiny of expenditure actions both recommended by council and taken by staff and will be reporting our findings as we discover them on our web page. Please visit often for updates. <http://www.tinycottager.org/>

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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Warm summer nights will return! We promise!

Municipalities Questioning Impact of OPP Billing Model

By RICHARD GOULD

As a result of a December 2012 auditor's recommendation to review the billing model for sharing OPP costs, the Ontario provincial government has initiated discussions with 324 municipal governments. According to the auditor's report, a new cost sharing formula was required to apportion the costs in a more fair, consistent, simple to understand and transparent way. Currently, the costs incurred by municipalities vary widely and many communities complained about the complexity and unfairness of the current situation.

The proposed reformulation is not yet cast in stone. There is much uncertainty about the level of impact to our Tiny community. However, according to Tiny Township Mayor Ray Millar, the current proposed tax model will increase the municipal tax rate by 24.1%. The budget to support two OPP officers, support staff and vehicles is currently approximately \$1.7 million. The new formulation would increase this cost load to over \$3.5 million which is approximately half of Tiny's current annual budget. (Tiny's budget accounts for approximately a third of our tax bill. The balance of our taxes support the County and education.)

Under the proposed new formula, all of Tiny's 7,574 households would share the cost of this increased tax load on an assessment value basis. There are only a few commercial businesses in Tiny so almost all of the tax burden will be shouldered by residential property owners.

Shoreline residents will feel the greatest impact of the new formula cost. Roughly 90% of Tiny taxes are paid by shoreline property owners. Many of these residents are seasonal. It is interesting to note that provincial community assessment for hospitals does not include seasonal properties and is only assessed on permanent households. The reason for this inconsistency

was not understood by the OPP when challenged by Councillor André Claire at a recent hearing with OPP.

Currently, the OPP and other groups are continuing to dialogue with community fiscal experts, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and others to analyze the consultation feedback and to provide advice on the billing model details and implementation process.

This spring, the provincial government will consider the advice and feedback from both the municipal consultation and subsequent technical discussions before making their decisions.

However, according to OPP Superintendent Rick Philbin of the Municipal Policing Bureau, the force understands the municipal concerns but "we can't give deals to municipalities based on the ability to pay". Clearly the OPP has shown no signs of reducing their operational costs while the force continues to use the province and its municipalities as their own blank cheque.

The OPP has announced a temporary moratorium on contract renewals and negotiations while the new cost distribution is being considered. However, significant salary increases are scheduled to be added to the costs to the municipalities. When approved, the new formula will go into effect January 2015.

Seasonal communities such as Tiny must quickly identify ways to mitigate policing costs. Perhaps Tiny Township only needs a seasonal police presence. It is essentially crime free and the presence of an expensive year-round OPP is not required. Certainly, other options such the use of auxiliary police and increased community watch programs might satisfy our community needs.

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MAY
22
Grand Opening of HMS Tecumseth Centre,
Discovery Harbour, Midland
May 23-June 7
I'll Be Back Before Midnight,
Midland Cultural Centre
24-25
Midland Model Train Show, North Simcoe Sports Centre,
Midland
23-25
Waterfront Festival, Heritage Park, Barrie
29
Night at the Museum, Simcoe County Museum, Minesing
JUNE
7
Kids Fishing Derby, Midland
Bike Rodeo, Midland
7-8
Doors Open Huronia
4-21
Peter Pan, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
8
Wheels & Tracks in Motion,
Simcoe County Museum, Minesing
14
Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, Midland
15
Wasaga Beach Fun Run – Classic Car Event
20
Party on the Dock, Midland
21
National Aboriginal Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
Camp Simpresca Open House, 1-4 pm 51 Simpresca Rd.
Midland
21-22
Centurion Cycling, Horseshoe Valley
Wasaga Beach Fest
Aboriginal Festival Weekend, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
Coldwater & Area Studio Tour
June 25-July 12
Run For Your Wife, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
JULY-AUGUST
Church in the Pines (Outdoors), 10:30am
Lefaive Rd. off Conc. 11
JULY
1
Canada Day Celebrations:
Penetang Centennial Museum
Little Lake Park, Midland
Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
Discovery Harbour
4-6
Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia,
6
Huronian Triathlon Weekend
12
Library Garden Tour
July 16-August 2
I'll Be Back Before Midnight,
King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
18-20
Festival du Loup, Lafontaine
26
Family Discovery Day, Discovery Harbour
24-27
Collingwood Elvis Festival
AUGUST
2-3
Collingwood Arts and Music Festival
7-30
Twist and Shout: The British Invasion, King's Wharf Theatre,
Penetanguishene
8-10
Wakestock, Collingwood Wakeboarding Festival
9-10
Festival of Peace, Discovery Harbour
14-17
Wasaga Under Siege, 1812 Battle Re-enactment,
Nancy Island, Wasaga
23
Barrie Dragon Boat Festival
24
Savour Simcoe Food Tasting Event, Simcoe County Museum
SEPTEMBER
6-7
Wasaga Triathlon/Duathlon and Give-It-A-Tri
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre Pow Wow,
Sainte-Marie Park
25
Franco-Ontarian Day, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
OCTOBER
11-14
Thanksgiving Studio Tour Barrie & Orillia
11-12
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
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Haunted Harbour, Discovery Harbour, Penetanguishene



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Time to Check the Quality of our Swimming Water!

The Volunteer Water Program Has Brought Us Many Benefits

By JUDITH GRANT

Once again, we are asking shore residents to serve as volunteer water samplers. The program began in 2001 when we (i.e. FoTTSA) worked with the Simcoe County District Health Unit to produce the first-ever comprehensive assessment of swimming water quality along the 72-kilometer-long shores bordering Tiny Township and Farlain Lake.

In the summer of 2001, 177 specific locations were sampled after each weekend. Laboratories then analysed the samples for the presence of the bacterium E. coli. The Health Unit uses the number of E. coli as an indicator when it decides whether to recommend the posting of a beach. An E. coli count of 100 or more per 100 mL of water is the cutoff. (Although E. coli is usually harmless in itself, it was thought to be reliable evidence of recent pollution by warm-blooded animals, and thus an indicator that dangerous fecal pathogens could also be present.)

FoTTSA's purpose in contributing to that first comprehensive water sampling program was to:

- create a baseline record of the township's recreational water quality, including streams entering the Bay at the shoreline
- alert authorities to the need for remedial action if areas of impaired water quality were found, and
- develop a commitment on the part of all stakeholders to the need for surveillance over the environmental quality of our waters.

The first and third objectives were well met. The 1,595 samples from that summer established the desired statistical baseline, and the members of FoTTSA, like the Health Unit, Awenda Provincial Park, and Camp Marygrove, committed themselves to keeping a regular, watchful eye on the township's swimming water. (The results of this ongoing surveillance are available on FoTTSA's website under "Water Reports.")

The second objective turned out to be more challenging. We discovered that the Health Unit had no mandate to investigate sources of contamination or to undertake remedial action. Its responsibility extended primarily to recommending the posting of warnings and, in extreme circumstances (a sewage, manure, chemical, or oil spill) ordering the closing of a beach. However, it did agree to monitor several additional stretches of shore in subsequent years. It also analyzed the data its samplers recorded about weather and water conditions, eventually determining that high E. coli counts tend to be associated with rain, high winds, and turbidity.

Faced with the Health Unit's limited mandate, FoTTSA approached Tiny Township council, which hired the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) to undertake a series of investigative studies in the years from 2003 to 2007. These focused on the watersheds of streams at Woodland Beach, Jackson Park, Balm Beach, and Lafontaine Creek. SSEA also looked at silt deposition along the shore as captured in aerial photographs, and at rainfall as recorded by

gauges set up near Woodland Beach, Balm Beach, Huronia Airport, and Georgian Sands. At the same time, thanks to shore resident Allan Crowe, a research hydrologist, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada undertook some investigative work into E. coli contamination in groundwater and sand below the beaches at Balm, Jackson Park, and Woodland. They came to the conclusion that there was a permanent presence of E. coli in groundwater within ten metres of the lake, arising from gulls and geese, wave run-up, and streams, and that this band of E. coli results in "major loading of E. coli into lake water during erosion of shoreline during storm."

The SSEA made recommendations to the township council, as did Allan Crowe. The SSEA urged:

1. That the township's re-inspection program for septic tanks be continued. (At the end of this summer, the entire township will have been re-inspected twice.)
2. That stream water be treated prior to discharge near beaches during and after storm events, particularly at Balm. (In November 2011, work on this recommendation was completed: water from the outlet near the Surf Restaurant was diverted to join that from the main Balm brook in two catch basins with oil/grit separators. These remove oils, sand, fine grit, and organics before the water flushes into the cove during spring runoff and heavy storms. The basins are cleared spring and fall each year.)
3. That streams discharging directly onto beaches be moved to nearby points where dispersion and mixing would be more effective. (Not done, since this would have aroused the ire of affected landowners.)
4. That the drain on the border between Deanlea and Bluewater Dunes beaches be investigated and corrective action taken as necessary. (So far, no action has been taken.)
5. That erosion of the Lafontaine Creek banks be prevented by establishing natural vegetation buffers, possibly "through enhancement of the Severn Sound Healthy Streams Program in cooperation with the Environmental Farm Plan Program". (There may have been action on this, but confirmation had not been received when the Cottager went to press.)
6. That selected groynes in the Lafontaine area and further north be removed or modified to improve water circulation. (The planned changes are described in the "Final Project File Report" on the township's website under Living in Tiny / Master Plans / Lafontaine Beach Park, Beach Water Quality Improvements. All going well, the next Council will authorize the changes.)
7. That guides be prepared to inform shoreline owners about how to care for sewage systems, dune systems, and natural shore vegetation. (These were made available for a time on the township website, but were then taken down. They are to re-appear soon, probably with Building Department information.)
8. That the township be alert to any proposed mod-

See WATER...page 17

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

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

The Tiny Cottager is mailed to the permanent addresses of more than 10,600 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.

ISSN 1710-9701

Report on Council

Township of Tiny Council: 2010 - 2014

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

R. J. Burnside Comprehensive Parking Strategy

R. J. Burnside & Associates Limited was retained to propose a Comprehensive Parking Strategy for the Township of Tiny in response to concerns raised by Township Fire and Emergency Services with respect to on-street parking and limited access for emergency vehicles.

Burnside has developed a proposal for criteria to assess on-street parking for residential roads west of County Road 6. For roads with no ditches, no parking will be permitted on either side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is less than 8.5 meters. Parking will only be permitted on one side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is greater than 8.5 meters, less than 11.0 meters. Parking will be permitted on both sides if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is 11.0 meters or greater and the minimum parking width is provided on both sides.

For roads with a ditch on one side no parking will be permitted on either side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is less than 9.0 meters. Parking will only be permitted on one side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is greater than 9.0 meters, less than 11.5 meters and the minimum parking width is provided. Parking will be permitted on both sides if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is 11.5 meters or greater and the minimum parking width is provided on both sides.

For roads with ditches on both sides no parking will be permitted on either side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is less than 9.0 meters. Parking will only be permitted on one (1) side if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is greater than 9.0 meters, less than 12.0 meters and the minimum parking width is provided. Parking will be permitted on both sides if the "shoulder to shoulder" width is 12.0 meters or greater and the minimum parking width is provided on both sides. For all roads no parking will be permitted unless there is a continuous parking lane for a minimum length of 100 meters.

Each roadway within the study area will have the pavement and gravel shoulder widths measured. Vegetation (grassed or treed / brush), grading / cross-slope and utilities, structures and ditches will be noted in order to determine the "shoulder to shoulder" width. Existing parking restrictions will be recorded. On May 26 a presentation will be made to Council for discussion.

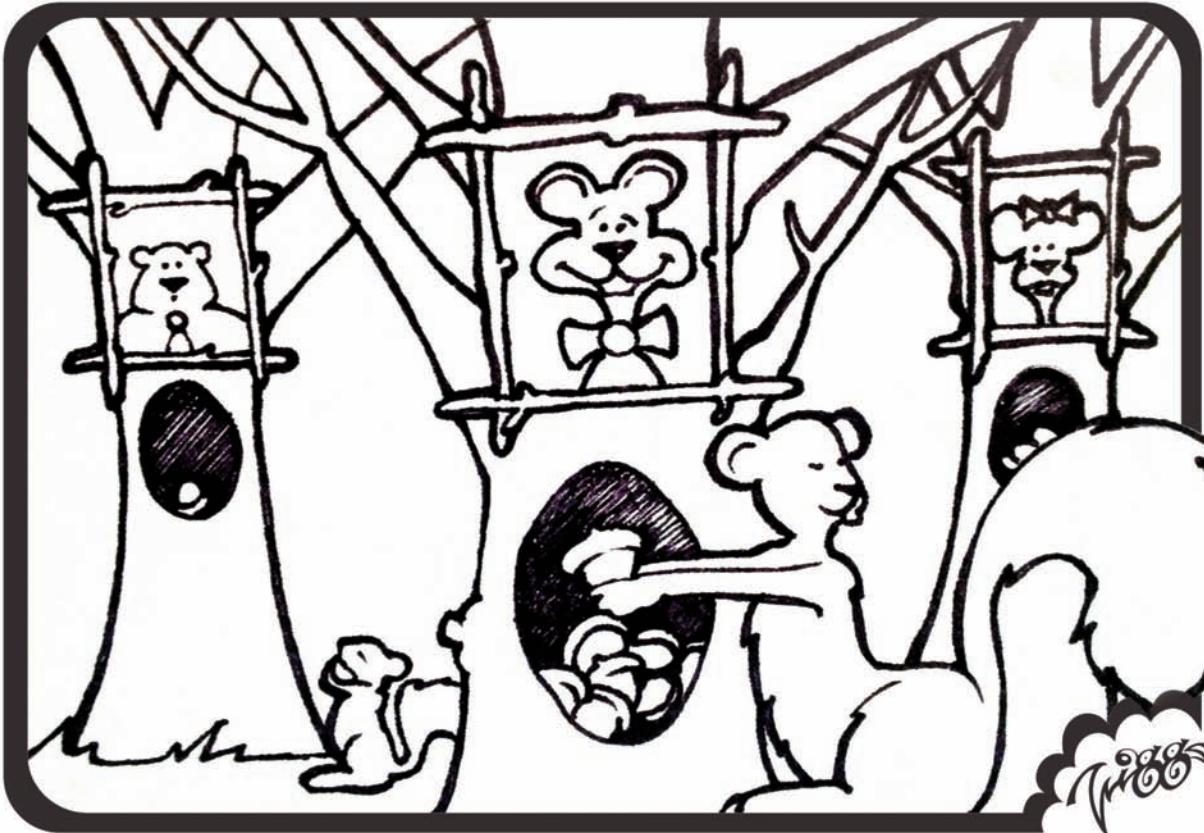
Keith Sherman Severn Sound Environmental Association, Woodland Beach Stream Investigation

In 2013 elevated counts of E. coli in Tamarack Creek were detected. The Association looked at South Creek as well as the storm management system on Lawson Rd. They mapped streams in the area and examined the water sheds. They looked for evidence of pollution and took samples for testing. The Association found no direct link between the quality of the stream and the quality of the beach during monitoring; it found that the elevated levels of bacteria were not entirely due to streams. Something is coming into Tamarack Creek at the lower section and there is an increase in bacteria and chemicals in South Creek nearer the Bay. The higher levels of phosphorous could be due to faulty sewage systems or the treatment of lawns.

Asset Management Plan by Infrastructure Solutions Inc

Like the vast majority of local governments in this province, the Township of Tiny is challenged with aging infrastructure, constrained budgets, and the need to cost

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued on next page



TIME TO START THINKING AHEAD TO OCTOBER 27TH...

A Perspective on Council Then and Now

BY RICHARD HINTON

In 2010, fourteen people ran for five positions on the Tiny Township Council – separate from the School Board Trustee positions. Tiny voters chose five individuals all of whom in my opinion have the best interests of Tiny in mind. They have dedicated their time and resources to these five positions – the financial remuneration does not come close to covering the time and commitment of these positions. Personally, I have found these five people able to fit into these roles without any concern that the custodianship of the township would not be first in their hearts. As we saw the Council working on windmills, and low water levels, it seemed that they all had a clear picture of what was the correct course to take.

On wind turbines, Tiny Council passed a motion saying that Tiny was not a “willing host” for industrial wind turbine facilities, as did 82 other Ontario municipalities. There were a number of financial conditions designed to protect taxpayers in general and homeowners and their assets in particular. Tiny Council has been extremely proactive on the wind front, being the first municipality to pass a moratorium pending cost benefit and human health studies.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all three Tiny Councillor have taken a key interest in water levels. They have all realized that water levels will affect all municipalities on Georgian Bay and I believe each member has done his best on this issue, representing the Township at every opportunity at the provincial and federal level, bringing forward the concerns of Tiny’s residents.

Over this four year term, we have also seen that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor differ in their opinions and choices on other issues, septage for example. In the 2010 election campaign, I witnessed our Deputy Mayor speak very clearly in support of a “made in Tiny” solution for our septage, at every public meeting he attended; at the end of the day, he was elected. I don’t fault him for trying to keep his election promise and standing by what he believes in, but I also know the Deputy Mayor will support a solution that is proven to be environmentally sound as well as fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Tiny.

The Mayor was not keen on the “made in Tiny” solution and has always believed that the best answer would be to work with another municipality, perhaps Midland or Springwater, both of whom have made it clear that they have the necessary treatment facility and are interested in discussing a future with Tiny. However neither municipality would be able to take all of our septage flow immediately. Studies would have to be completed on the volumes of Tiny’s septage, to see if those municipalities would be able to process it, and at what cost. At the end of the day, it will be a dollar decision.

So I think over the four years, we have seen that the “made in Tiny” solution may be changed to a “designed in Tiny” solution that will likely be developed and completed with another municipal partner. Both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have proven that their track record is for the environment first – both worked extremely hard on Site 41, and so cannot be faulted. I found all of the Councillors to be concerned about the environment and all ran on the issue.

I do hope the next Tiny Council does not spend another four years without choosing a direction. I do not want to end up like Toronto where the cost to build a subway is outrageous because the Toronto Council chose to argue the issue for 20 years, about whether or not to even build a subway. We need a septage solution – and it is time for the Tiny Council to work together to solve this issue during the next term.

Again I go back to teamwork, I don’t know if we have a team in our Council of five – which I believe is evident from the number of split votes that have occurred over the last four years.

On a personal note, I would have liked to have the Tiny parking strategy solved by this time. I know that each member of Council has tried to work to get the issue solved, and I do hope that under this current Council, a no-parking strategy for Tiny will finally come to fruition before the election this October. I believe every member has worked hard to curtail non-resident day-tripper parking in

our residential areas – I think we all recognize that the Township cannot afford to become a Wasaga North with the heavy costs associated with that prospect.

Policing in Tiny was not an issue in 2010 but has become a hot issue within the last year. The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has done a restructuring of how they bill municipalities and in the new scenario, Tiny taxpayers will pay considerably more. The OPP had a previous billing formula in which some municipalities paid less than \$50 a household while others were paying over \$1,000 per household. Tiny has always been at the lower end of the scale: in 2012 our policing costs were approximately \$1,650,000 while the estimated cost for the policing budget under the new system would be over

\$3,000,000. Each member of Tiny’s Council is working to get this cost down. This will be an issue that the next Council must tackle at a provincial level to make sure the financial effects on Tiny will be as painless as possible, but make no mistake, our taxes are going to increase under this new model.

On the issue of development in Tiny, our Council again is split with two of our members who would like to see some development and three who have voted against development. Right now the majority has ruled that there will be no development, a decision which could change after the next election if the issue is revisited.

In summary, if you follow Tiny politics, you will know

that the last four years on Council has been somewhat confrontational, as is evident from the number of split votes. Further, we as a Township will spend the largest amount of money in the history of our Tiny budgets over the next four years. We need dedicated and knowledgeable people to sort out these problems, so I do hope the next election brings out another fourteen people who are willing to put their name forward for what they believe in and hopefully we will elect a mix that can work together successfully.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has served on Tiny’s Council. It is not an easy job; the time requirement alone is unbelievable; and the pay is a mere token given the commitment of time and energy that serving on council requires.

REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . from previous page

effectively manage replacement by developing a 20-year asset management plan.

Tiny Township hired Infrastructure Solutions to advise them. The average lifespan of infrastructure assets is 50 years. The Township’s infrastructure deficit was approximately \$1,268 per person in 2013, well below the national average which is in excess of \$10,000 per person.

The Township is very well run but has insufficient funds from existing sources to proactively manage its infrastructure and will need to prioritize its requirements to maximize the impact of existing financial resources.

Infrastructure Solutions is suggesting that Tiny create an Operating Performance Indicator where levels of service would be assessed. This process would feed into a prioritization matrix which would identify projects and their timing. Better efficiencies could lead to savings of 20-30%.

Infrastructure Solutions pointed out that to sustain an infrastructure funding surplus for water the Township needs to do a water rate review that looks over a much longer horizon (i.e. 50-80 years) than the one they are presently using.

A special infrastructure annual levy increase of 0.5% would generate sufficient revenues to eliminate the tax related infrastructure gap over 20 years. These contributions would be dedicated to the replacement of existing reserves.

The Township was advised to seek Federal and Provincial government grants to be able to undertake the capital projects outlined in the Asset Management Plan.

The Township needs to be proactive in reviewing funding options, namely Infrastructure Ontario Lending Policies, Private Public Partnerships, user fees and other funding options to have an understanding of financing options.

Heritage Advisory Committee/Motion Concession 3 East Bridge Proposed Restoration

As the Council representative of the Heritage Advisory Committee, Councilor Claire presented Motion H-08/14 regarding a proposed restoration study of the bridge. Councilor Claire and Warren support the \$306,000 repair or \$450,000 replacement of the bridge.

Mayor Millar would not support a restoration but instead recommended that the bridge be reduced to a level road crossing at a cost of \$80,000. Councilor Wishart added that given the limited funds for historical restoration he would look at refurbishing the rail station because it would have more uses. Tiny has previously funded the restoration of a trestle bridge on the trail for approximately \$1 million. (Also an earlier council replaced a series of trestle bridges with much less expensive foot bridges).

Staff was instructed to bring forward a draft resolution at the Regular Meeting to defer a decision regarding the rehabilitation of the bridge until Deputy Mayor Lawrence returns.

Proposed OPP Billing Model

A new billing model of charging municipalities for policing services will be introduced 2015. While the situation has been characterized by some as a huge increase for the OPP, the OPP costs are only a fraction of what other municipalities pay to operate their own police service.

The objective in creating the new billing model was to reduce the complexity of the costing formula, making the entire process more transparent, and to lessen if not eliminate the large disparity in what municipalities are paying for OPP policing. Some municipalities are paying less than \$50/household while others are paying over \$1,000/household.

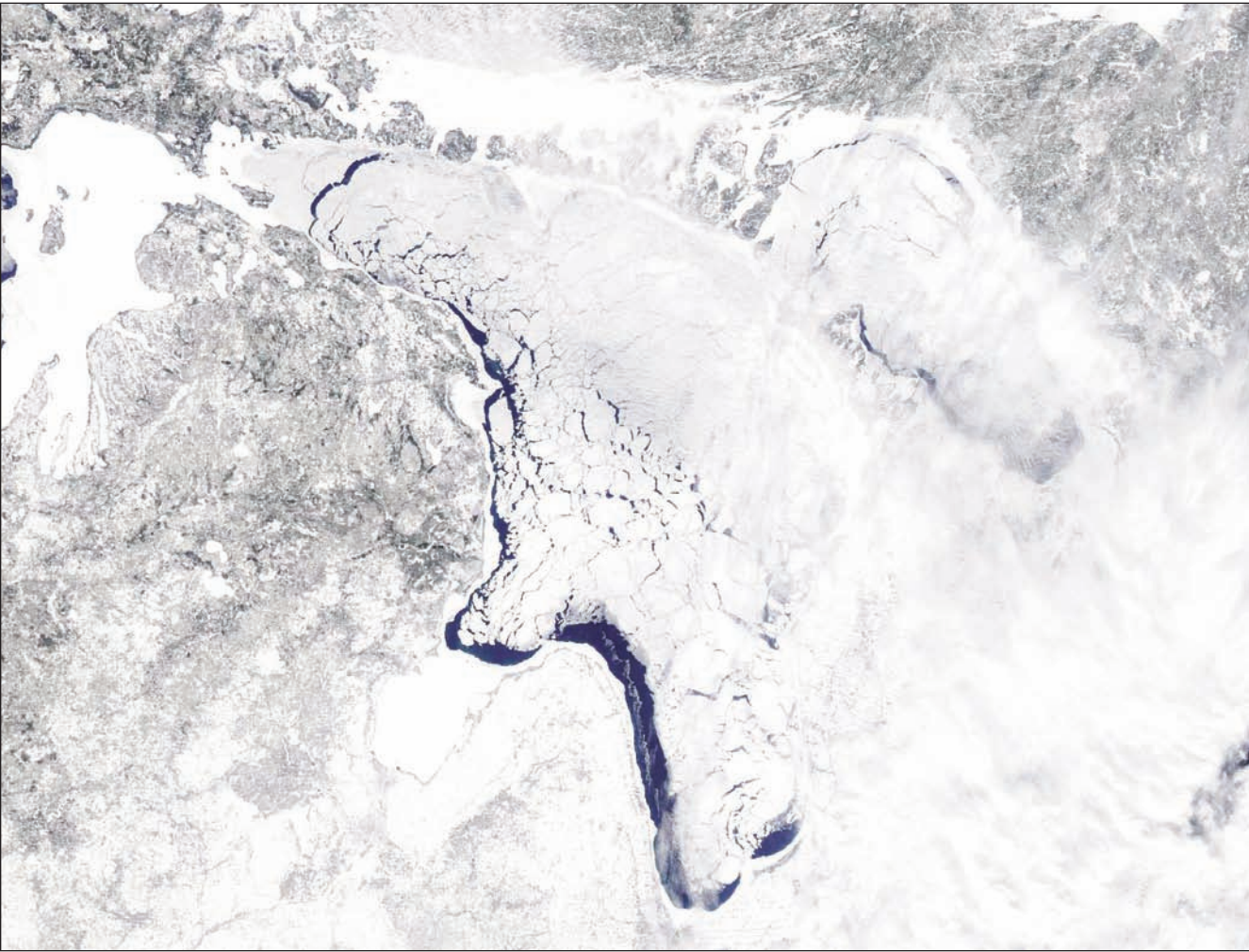
Nevertheless, Tiny has approximately 5,500 permanent and 4,100 seasonal households that are facing significant increases. The increase in costs seems somewhat unfair given the high percentage of seasonal residents who are already paying for these services where they are permanent residents. The current billing model is a deployment model. Cost recovery is based on the percentage of detachment workload, actual detachment staff levels, wages and benefits and a cost recovery component for other expenditures. It has been in place for 15 years. At the moment it costs Tiny \$185 per household.

As a member of the OPP Working Group, Mayor Millar advocated for a split in billing between fixed and

variable costs. This would give municipalities would at least some control over costs. As an example, municipalities could put in place a fee for responding to false burglar alarms; install video surveillance in areas subject to repeated calls for police service and design public space with crime prevention in mind.

Each municipality would be charged a flat fee of \$260./ household for fixed costs related to providing base level policing services plus a variable charge for each call for service. Seventy three percent of municipal policing costs are related to base level policing services and 27 % are attributable to calls for service. The OPP estimate the

See COUNCIL. . .page 15



This past winter saw ice cover on the Great Lakes reach levels unseen since 1979! By February over 97% of the Great Lakes were iced over. (photo MODIS/SSEC)

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Wise Coastal Stewardship Deserves Recognition

By Karen Alexander

With support from Environment Canada and the Township of Tiny, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation will be launching its Green Ribbon Champion program in the Township of Tiny this summer.

The Green Ribbon Champion program is an awards program designed to recognize excellent coastal stewardship. The program also provides resources and support for those who might not initially qualify for an award, but are motivated to make positive, beneficial changes to their shoreline and beaches.

Healthy beach-dune ecosystems provide a natural buffer between the nearshore waters of Georgian Bay and the corridor of development along the coast. The benefits of natural buffers along shorelines are numerous and include improvements to water quality, sand management, reduction in invasive vegetation, as well as increasing property values.

Healthy dunes provide natural protection against wind and wave erosion, particularly during periods of extreme weather. The occurrence of extreme weather events is projected to increase with a changing climate. Healthy beach-dune ecosystems have improved resilience to climate change because they are able to respond naturally to changing conditions in the lake.

The Green Ribbon Champion program offers you an opportunity to take action to preserve and protect your shoreline. With Environment Canada's contributions, the



Centre is able to provide restoration materials for qualifying participants – which means you can make improvements to your shoreline for free.

The program will also offer a series of workshops and beach tours focused on the stewardship and restoration of beaches throughout the summer. Join us and your neighbours at some of these events and learn more about what a healthy coast can do for you.

For more information, or to register for the Green Ribbon Champion program, and coastal stewardship in general, please visit the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation's website at www.lakehuron.ca, email us at coastalcentre@lakehuron.on.ca, or call us at (226) 421 – 3029.





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Recommended Summer Reading

Welcome to the 2014 edition of the *Tiny Cottager* Recommended Summer Reading column. After the winter we just had, you might want to start off by getting rid of some chilblains over a little Robert W. Service and *"The Cremation of Sam McGee"*, continue roasting with a few passages from Dante's *Inferno*, then bring your core temperature up with either *In a Sunburned Country* by Bill Bryson, or Frances Mayes' *Under the Tuscan Sun*. By then you might find that you have thawed enough to warm to these sizzling summer suggestions...

From Linda Andrews, Wahnekewening Beach

The Orenda by Joseph Boyden

The Orenda opens with a brutal massacre and the kidnapping of a young Iroquois girl named Snow Falls, who is then held captive by a great Huron warrior, Bird. The ensuing story is told in three voices -- by these two characters and a Jesuit missionary, Christophe, with the perspective shifting cleverly as each voice is heard. The story is set in the vicinity of southern Georgian Bay in the 17th century, and follows the history we have all heard about when visiting Ste. Marie Among the Hurons.

Joseph Boyden, himself of First Nations Canadian ancestry, manages to revere native life while confronting its violent past. As well he suggests that the motives of the European colonizers were compassionate -- while essentially destroying much of the native culture.

The Orenda is a long and sometimes disturbing read, but rewarding, nonetheless.

Boyden's other two books, **Three Day Road** (recounting the story of young native men returning home after serving in the trenches during the First World War), and **Through Black Spruce** (about residential schools and the death of the traditional way of life for native Canadians) are also worthy of mention.

From Paul Marchildon, Nottawaga Beach

Heart of the Blackhawks: The Pierre Pilote Story by L. Waxy Gregoire and David M. Dupuis (both from Penetanguishene)

As many of you might know, Pierre Pilote has taken up residence in Tiny Township -- in Wyevale, I believe. Whether you are a hockey fan or not, this is an enjoyable read about someone who loves Tiny Township enough to call it home!

From Mike Knell, Balm Beach

Yukon Quest by John Balzar

If you are an animal lover or spellbound by the beauty of the Yukon and Alaska, you'll love this magnificent account of the world's toughest adventure race -- dog sledging with the Mushers from Whitehorse to Fairbanks along a 1,023 mile course. You'll live it all 24/7 and gain new insight into our Yukon and its people.

From Joe Martin, Addison Beach

The Victory Season: The End of World War II and the Birth of Baseball's Golden Age by Robert Weintraub

Canadians will be thrilled and proud to read about the International League champions, the Montreal Royals, and their star player, Jackie Robinson. When the final championship game was played in Montreal against Louisville, Robinson wrote: "I felt a jubilant sense of gratitude for the way Canadians expressed their feelings."

For those of us in Tiny Township, there is also the story of Penetang's Phil Marchildon. Phil pitched for the Philadelphia Athletics and in 1942 he won 17 games, nearly one third of all the games the hapless A's won that year. He then joined the RCAF as a Halifax tail gunner, was shot down over the North Sea and captured by the Germans. He spent the rest of the war in a POW camp before returning to pitch for the A's in the "victory season".

From John Grant, Addison Beach

Canada Rocks by Nick Eyles and Andréw Miall

Most of us are well aware that our beloved Georgian Bay is a result of the recent Ice Ages and used to be part of a much larger glacier-fed lake. But how many know that a huge mountain chain, probably higher than today's Himalayas, sat here a billion years ago? Or that plate tectonics put this part of North America together much earlier than that? The earth has been here 40,000 times as long as we have, including our predecessor Indian bands. All of Canada's geological history is recounted in this great book, illustrated with lots of charts and pictures.




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Asian Carp – Maybe the Next Environmental Threat

BY JACK ELLIS

Lots of People Consider Carp a Delicacy

Fish dishes featuring carp are considered a delicacy in many countries where these fish are cultured commercially and also harvested in the wild. In Germany and much of eastern Europe no Christmas Eve family dinner is considered complete without a huge baked carp as the main course. Carp is also the most popular fish for making Gefilte fish, which Ashkenazi Jewish families enjoy as an appetizer on festive occasions.

Similarly, several species of carp are widely popular as food in much of Asia, particularly in China and the Indochinese countries (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia) where they have been cultivated on a large scale for 1000 years. Grass, silver, bighead and black carp are known as the "Four Domesticated Fish" in China and are the most important freshwater fish species for both food and traditional Chinese medicine.

Several of these species of Asian carp have been introduced into North American waters over the past century or so, particularly in the 1970s when some aquaculture farms used them to clean out their ponds. However, they have tended to proliferate in the lakes and rivers, usually not being confined to regulated aquaculture ponds.

Commercial and sport fishery of these carp does go on to a small extent, because when properly prepared the fish can be quite tasty, although the diner must beware of its many bones. Carp are low in mercury because they do not eat other fish. To make carp more marketable, it has sometimes even been termed Kentucky tuna.

Problems Arise When Introduced To New Environments

The big downside of the Asian carp introduction has been the harm they can cause after being introduced to new environments.

Bighead carp and silver carp feed by filtering plankton from the water. In extremely high concentrations they



Photo by Kate Gardiner

cause great disruption by competing with native species for food and living space. Because of their filter-feeding habits, they are very difficult to capture by normal angling methods.

The black carp feeds on native mussels and snails, some of which are themselves endangered. Grass carp can alter a new environment by altering its communities of plants, invertebrates and fish. Silver carp feed on the plankton necessary for larval fish and native mussels, and can consume up to 20% of their body weight in plankton in a day.

Silver carp also can grow to 45 kg (100 lb) in mass and have become notorious for being easily frightened by boats and personal watercraft, which causes them to leap high into the air. The fish can jump up to 2.5–3 m (8–10 feet) into the air, and many boaters and water-skiers have been severely injured by collisions with the fish. Injuries include cuts, black eyes, broken bones, back injuries, and concussions. Wikipedia notes in its article on Asian carp that catching jumping carp in nets has become part of the

Redneck Fishing Tournament, in Bath, Illinois.

While common carp are abundant throughout the Great Lakes, the relatively benign Asian grass carp have been captured in every Great Lake except Lake Superior, and a juvenile grass carp was caught in a river leading to Lake Scugog. Fortunately, none of the feared silver carp or black carp have yet been found in any Great Lake, but right now they already are more or less knocking at the door.

Within the last decade, several adult, fertile black carp have been captured from various rivers connected to the Mississippi River. Bighead carp and silver carp are already well-established in the Mississippi River basin where they can at times reach extremely high numbers. These fish are thought to be highly detrimental to the environment in parts of the United States.

Because of these concerns, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was mandated to develop a national plan for the management and control of invasive Asian carp (referring to bighead, silver, black and grass carp).

The Saga Of Carp Control Efforts

In 2002, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed an electric fish barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, the only navigable aquatic link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River drainage basins. The initial fish barrier was used as a demonstration project to study the design's effectiveness.

Following positive results, construction began on a second, permanent barrier in 2004. In addition to the Chicago canal, the Corp identified 18 other sites in five additional states, from Minnesota to New York, that could allow for movement of Mississippi basin carp into the Great Lakes.

In 2007, the U.S. Department of the Interior declared all silver carp to be injurious species.

In November, 2009, carp genetic material was detected beyond the two electric barriers, leaving only a single lock/dam on the Calumet River between the detected presence and Lake Michigan. This was considered to be an emergency situation and in the first week of December, 2009, the Army Corps shut down one of the electric barriers for maintenance. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources responded by dumping 2,200 gallons of the toxin rotenone into the canal, which is deadly for fish, but not harmful to humans, animals or most other aquatic life. While "scores" of fish were killed, only one carp was found, near Lockport Lock and Dam almost six miles below the electric barriers. The fish kill cost \$3 million and produced 90 tons of dead fish.

On December 21, 2009, the Michigan Attorney General filed a lawsuit with the U.S. Supreme Court seeking the immediate closure of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to keep the Asian carp out of Lake Michigan. Neighboring Great Lakes states and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which constructed the Canal, were named as co-defendants in the lawsuit.

In response to the Michigan lawsuit, on January 5, 2010, Illinois Attorney General filed a counter-suit with the Supreme Court, requesting it to reject Michigan's claims, arguing that closing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal would upset the movement of millions of tons of vital shipments of iron ore, coal, grain and other cargo, totaling more than \$1.5 billion a year, and contribute to the loss of hundreds, perhaps thousands of jobs.

In rebuttal, Michigan noted that the value of the sport fishing and recreation industry affected in other states with large carp populations would drop by more than \$3.0 billion and result in the loss of at least 4,000 jobs.

President Obama and his administration supported Illinois's efforts to keep the canal open; with the support of USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, their reports have consistently denied the Asian carp poses a threat.

On January 19, 2010 the Supreme Court rejected the Michigan injunction request, but took no action on Michigan's separate request to reopen older cases regarding Chicago water withdrawal from Lake Michigan. The litigation is still proceeding in lower courts.

On June 22, 2010, a 19-pound Asian carp was found in Lake Calumet, about six miles downstream from Lake Michigan, by a commercial fisherman hired by the state of Illinois to do routine fish sampling in the area. That find confirms DNA evidence that Asian carp have indeed breached the electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

On August 24, 2010, a kayaker was knocked out of competition by a silver carp on the Missouri River race at Lexington, Missouri.

In 2011, the Stop Asian Carp Act was introduced to require the Secretary of the Army to study the feasibility of the hydrological separation, such as electric barriers, of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. The Act gave the

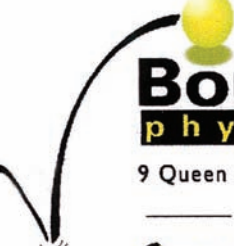
See CARP...page 18



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Enthusiasm Mounting for Champlain 2015 Celebrations

By Jack Ellis

Champlain 2015 Celebrations Taking Shape

In 2008 Québec City went all out with a multi-million dollar program of events and reconstruction to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of Samuel de Champlain in Nouvelle France and his founding of what was later to become the capital city of la Belle Province.

Here in our area the Steering Committee for the Commémorations Champlain Commemorations 2015 has been working for the past three years to do no less in the year 2015 to commemorate the 400th anniversary arrival of Samuel de Champlain in Huronia.

The committee last met on April 25th to review progress and next steps. Support and funding has been sought from various sources, both within our communities and beyond. Significant start-up monies came from an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant approved in June, 2013, in the amount of \$190,600 which has been used to support the hiring of an events/project coordinator, as well as to initiate marketing efforts and creation of a Commemorations 2015 website.

Tiny Township administers this grant and houses the coordinator, Candice Moreau. Mayor Gerry Marshall of Penetanguishene serves as the chair. André Claire, Councillor from Tiny, serves as the Vice-Chair; along with Lois Irvine from the North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation; Bryan Peters, from the Town of Midland; and Greg King, a community advocate from the Township of Tiny. Strong support and participation also has come from the francophone community, the Métis and First Nations and from the Huron-Wendat Nation, descendants of the original Hurons. MP Bruce Stanton and MPP Garfield Dunlop have been key “facilitators” at senior government levels.

The 2015 commemorations will also serve as lead-in to further events and legacy initiatives in 2016, and onwards

into celebrations for Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017. Events and festivals are being planned on a 4-season basis. Each season will feature specifically seasonal activities and attractions. Various legacy projects are proposed for the region’s towns and municipalities and the committee is working diligently to see these projects to fruition.

All events will relate to the overall theme: that of Champlain’s unique way of interacting and collaborating with the original peoples of Huronia on the basis of respect for their culture, learning from them and sharing with them. These fundamental principles still underpin modern Canada’s culture and values. Canadians embrace and celebrate cultural diversity. As Midland’s Mayor Gord McKay noted, we “will both commemorate Champlain’s visit and build that legacy”.

Focal Point: Champlain Huron-Wendat Legacy Park

One major focal point for the 2015 commemorations is a Champlain Huron-Wendat Legacy Park Project proposed for Rotary Park in Penetanguishene. This park will be operated and maintained by Penetanguishene at no cost to senior governments.

Its re-design for Commemorations 2015 has been done by a team of faculty and students from the University of Guelph, School of Landscape Architecture. The capital cost, estimated at about \$6.8 million, has been the subject of grant requests from the provincial and federal governments and Simcoe County.

The Legacy Park will feature an amphitheatre, a Circle of the Tribes, and a Legacy Point with statuary commemorating the landing of Champlain and his meeting with Chief Aenons. Trails, boardwalks and a native arboretum will also be featured.

Signature events are being planned for the park between July 31 – August 2, 2015. These will include a

A quotation from Penetanguishene Mayor Gerry Marshall, Chair of Regional Steering Committee illustrates the cooperative regional nature of the Champlain 2015 efforts:

“The 400th Commemoration of Champlain’s arrival on the shores of Huronia boasts an opportunity for our region to collaborate on festivities that acknowledge our rich heritage. As chair of the Champlain Commemorations Regional Committee it is with great pride and enthusiasm that I support this opportunity. I am working together with strong municipal leaders, private enterprises and community champions from Tay Township, Tiny Township, the Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene and the City of Orillia to ensure our region maximizes our opportunity to promote the history of the Huronia Region. Together with several community organizations and associations the 400th anniversary of Champlain’s arrival in our area will be a first class commemoration that will take place at different venues throughout the year focusing on our heritage and culture. What a unique opportunity for our area to be a focal point for the entire province of Ontario and celebrate our history with tourists and residents! We are urging community members who are interested in participating or volunteering in any of the events taking place during 2015 to contact their local municipality and get involved.”

grand re-enactment of the arrival of Champlain on August 1, 1615, with a First Nations ceremony. This event may also include concerts, plays in the new amphitheatre, parades and fireworks displays.

The regional committee will also be supporting other signature events in the area including a commemorative festival in Midland, which will partner with the Métis Nation; the Festival du Loup, held in Lafontaine; and the City of Orillia Champlain Commemorations. The Committee also supports pre-existing events and organizations that have added Champlain components leading up to August 2015.

How You Can Help

Unfortunately, the economic climate has recently changed to engender more austerity for both the federal and provincial governments. It is hoped that the unique nature of the Champlain-Huronia projects, their connection to and demonstration of the founding principles of our nation, will raise their consideration at the highest political levels.

Regrettably, the 2014 Ontario budget which crashed in flames on May 1st had a significant amount earmarked for the Champlain 2015 facilities. This provision by Ontario was potentially key to leveraging the participation of both the federal government and Simcoe County. It remains to be seen if the outcome of the June 12th Ontario election will reinstate this essential provision. Stay tuned!

If any of you reading this article can support the efforts of the project through direct contact with your MP, MPP or a government minister, you are encouraged to do so. Your support may also be able to help realize it, along with the great benefits of tourism, culture and jobs it would bring to this area.

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Bill Sweenie Given Award by SSEA

Wins 2013 Bob Whittam Environmental Award

By LINDA ANDREWS



Bill in action

On November 14, Tiny resident and former FoTTSA board member Bill Sweenie was presented with the prestigious Bob Whittam Environmental Award at the 2013 Severn Sound Environmental Association Partners Reception.

Bob Whittam is a biologist, an avid naturalist and a tireless volunteer who is well known in the area. The Environmental Award was set up to honour Bob by recognizing those parties who are dedicated and truly interested in improving the Severn Sound ecosystem. Bob’s delightful book *The Birds of Georgian Bay*, proceeds of which go directly to the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, was reviewed in the 2013 spring issue of the *Tiny Cottager*.

Bill Sweenie has volunteered for many years and for many hours particularly to sustain the health of Farlain Lake. There he has monitored water quality for the MOE’s Lake Partner Program, for FoTTSA’s nitrate monitoring and recreational water sampling programmes. He quietly encourages schools and other interest groups to visit and experience sound natural resource management in his area. The on-going septage issue in Tiny has

had Bill’s attention and input for many years and he highlighted the problem long before its importance was recognized by the general public. As a member of the Committee of Adjustment in Tiny Township he carefully monitors land and watershed health implications in the municipality. Bill is a member of the Turtle Guardians and he has worked diligently to protect turtle nesting sites and habitat as well.

In a tribute to Bill, Bob Whittam wrote “These are a new breed of volunteers ... these are the Citizen Scientists who give their time and talent to help biologists make a difference to environmental issues.”

SSEA executive director Keith Sherman said “Bill Sweenie is an extraordinary volunteer who quietly demonstrates to others the benefits and importance of resource stewardship. He has inspired many people to ... protect natural resources for many generations to come.”

Congratulations Bill!



Bruce Stanton MP presents Bill with his award as Keith Sherman, SSEA looks on.



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Restore Our Water International

PRESS RELEASE

Restore Our Water International (ROWI) calls on the U.S. and Canadian Governments to act on restoring water levels on Lakes Michigan and Huron; extreme weather has not resolved the low water crisis.

It has been ten months since the International Joint Commission provided its advice to the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to investigate structural options to provide relief to Lakes Michigan and Huron water levels. This recommendation, submitted on April 15, 2013 was one outcome of a five-year, \$17 million study to address economic and environmental damage on the upper Great Lakes from severe low water conditions. This recommendation has been sitting in the hands of staff in the U.S. State Department and the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 10 months.

ROWI believes that the next logical step is for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to initiate detailed engineering designs for a variety of structural options to be installed in the St. Clair River. The designs should look at restoring water levels upstream by up to 50 centimeters or 20 inches. This level of relief is consistent with authorizations that the Corps received from the U.S. Congress in 1957 for "compensation" of their dredging activities in the 1930s and 1960s in the St. Clair River and erosion of the riverbed since then. The detailed engineering analyses should include assessments of environmental and economic impacts of the various structural options. The Corps limits this type of work to be done within three years for less than \$3 million.

"The foot-dragging by governments is unconscionable" according to Roger Gauthier, Chair of ROWI and a retired senior hydrologist with the Corps. "We recognize that this is a complex problem, but it is simply 'paralysis by analysis.' The IJC deliberated and finally rejected a recommendation from its study board to discourage governments from addressing the St. Clair man-made problem. Now the State Department and Foreign Affairs Ministry are cogitating without providing additional value."

Significant economic and environmental damage has occurred over the last 15 years from severe low water levels on the upper Great Lakes. On March 18, 2014, the Mowat Center at the University of Toronto, in conjunction with the Council of the Great Lakes Region, released a comprehensive report on the economic impacts of low water on the Great Lakes.

Governors of the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana, along with the Premier of Ontario have also been silent about whether to support restoration of Michigan-Huron water levels through structural measures in the St. Clair River. The Michigan 2013 State of the Great Lakes Report concludes that "moving forward, there will be a continued, if not growing importance of adapting to water level dynamics." This statement essentially calls for society to adapt to permanently lowered water levels caused by human modifications in the St. Clair River and major climate change. The Great Lakes Cities Initiative, a consortium of mayors across the region, however, has been more proactive endorsing further investigations of structural measures to restore lost water levels on the upper Great Lakes.

Over the last year, water levels on lakes Michigan and Huron have improved, due to extraordinarily high rainfall and the most severe winter in a generation. Lakes Michigan and Huron, interconnected through the Straits of Mackinac, are currently 36 centimeters or 14 inches higher than the record low levels set earlier last year, but still are 33 centimeters or 13 inches below their long-term average. The Corps reported this month "that total precipitation over the lake and total runoff flowing to the lake were both above average in 2013 for Michigan-Huron." The National Climatic Center of NOAA has computed that the precipitation over the upper Great Lakes in 2013 was the 110th wettest year in the last 119. Water level forecasts for Lakes Michigan-Huron generated by the Corps jointly with Environment Canada project that water levels will remain at least 12" below their long-term averages through the of 2014. Low water conditions will persist

for the foreseeable future.

"We are disappointed that our governments have not acted quickly to initiate the next step in resolving this 15-year low water crisis – restoration that should have begun more than 50 years ago" said Mary Muter, Chair of Sierra Club Canada's Great Lakes Section and Vice Chair of ROWI. "We hope for a response soon that will restore Michigan and Huron water levels in a responsible manner. Such action will benefit wetlands, fish spawning and recruitment and help to reduce economic losses across the middle Great Lakes," added Muter.

ROWI believes that compensation structures can be placed in the St. Clair River in an environmentally responsible manner which would improve spawning habitat for the threatened Lake Sturgeon fishery. ROWI is advocating that the Corps include studying installing temporary flow reduction structures at the head of the Niagara River to eliminate all downstream impacts on Lakes Erie and St. Clair from a St. Clair project. Other measures outlined in the IJC's 1993 Crisis Response Report should also be assessed to permanently eliminate extreme high and low water extremes on the upper Great Lakes.

"The climate over the Great Lakes has changed radically over the last 15 years. Governments need to recognize that the low water crisis is not over. They need to protect this vital freshwater resource now," concluded Gauthier.

About ROWI, (www.restoreourwater.com) ROWI is an alliance of Canadian and American organizations concerned about the dire economic and ecological impacts of the low water crisis on Lakes Michigan and Huron and Georgian Bay. ROWI represents at least 15,000 shoreline owners and small business interests across these water bodies.

Contacts;

Roger Gauthier, Chair, Restore Our Water International, 248 219 4284 rogergauthier@charter.net

Mary Muter, Chair, Great Lakes Section, Sierra Club Canada, 905 833 2020 marym@sierraclub.ca



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Have Fun and Help with Projects at Tiny Marsh

By KATE HARRIES



Come and help us at Tiny Marsh this year! We have a couple of interesting projects on the go.

One is the two-year biological inventory, led by environmental consultant Bob Bowles. I'm one of a group of volunteers who worked on the inventory last year and found it to be a wonderful experience – both in terms of discovering the natural world, and being part of a great team that worked together to count every bird, butterfly, odonata (Google it), insect, amphibian, mammal, fish, plant, mushroom etcetera.

Our mascot is the beautiful blue frog in the photo (really a Green Frog, with unusual pigmentation). This year we hope to expand the categories of species we are listing to include, for instance, lichens. We will also be doing a study of turtles.

If you're interested in joining us – we will go on 20 field trips between now and September, no need to attend every one – email me at kateharries41@gmail.com or call me at

705-322-2545.

The other project is the Big Pull to control Garlic Mustard, an aggressive European weed that crowds out native wildflowers and tree seedlings. Its spread will reduce the Marsh's viability as wildlife habitat

The Big Pull takes place over three weekends, Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to noon on:

May 10 and 11, May 31 and June 1, June 7 and 8

Join us on one of those mornings, it is very pleasant to work in the peaceful atmosphere of Tiny Marsh. No tools needed, but do wear long sleeves and pants tucked into socks or boots. Park at the nature interpretive centre on the Flos-Tiny baseline, and follow the sign to the Garlic Mustard area.

Kate Harries is a member of the board of the Marl Tiny Matchedash (MTM) Conservation Association.



Garlic Mustard

Parking in Tiny Township

By RICHARD GOULD

Following years of presentations by various township community associations to Tiny council, an October 2013 presentation by the Bluewater Georgina Wendake Ratepayers Association using a recent report by the Township Fire and Emergency Services has prompted a township review of parking.

R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd. was retained in December to prepare a comprehensive parking strategy for the Township of Tiny. The study area includes all residential roads west of County Road 6 and covers the majority of the township's shoreline region.

Road inspections are scheduled to be completed by April 18 and a review draft on recommendations is to be made to township staff on May 16. A presentation by Burnside to Tiny council is scheduled for May 26.

On-street parking is primarily a concern along the local roadways that service shoreline and cottage properties where road width, speed and pedestrian safety concerns are shared by the Township Fire Services and local residents.

Burnside staff met with Deputy Fire Chief Dave

Flewelling on February 12, 2014 to confirm the widths of the tanker and pumper trucks; the 2 largest vehicles in the Fire Department's fleet. The bodies of both trucks spanned 3 metres. A space of 1.5 metres is required on both sides of emergency vehicles and therefore Burnside recommends that a 6 metre width be provided on all roads in order to accommodate emergency response teams. This recommendation also meets the Ontario Building Code which states that a fire access route shall "have a clear width of not less than 6 metres, unless it can be shown that lesser widths are satisfactory"

The proposed parking criteria have been outlined in the Report on Council on page 4.

No implementation dates have been announced but community leaders have promised community consultation before initiating any recommendations. With our May long weekend quickly approaching, our need for a community sensitive parking strategy is critically important. The safety of our roadside pedestrians and the enjoyment of our shoreline community are dependent upon a sound parking strategy.

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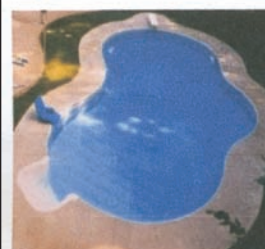


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COUNCIL...continued from page 5

average cost/ household would be \$369.

Mayor Millar also advocated for the creation of a mitigation fund to give those municipalities who would see significant increases in their policing costs an opportunity to budget for increases. He recommended that the mitigation fund be modeled on the 4 year Municipal Property Assessment Corporation phase in. That recommendation has also been supported by AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario).

There is still some question with respect to the cost allocations across all municipalities. It was originally suggested that costs be allocated on a per household basis, including industrial and commercial taxpayers. The bill received from the Province for OPP policing is incorporated into the municipal budget and that in turn is billed to all classes of property owners, dependant on their assessment. Tiny may be disadvantaged by this process because roughly half of our households are seasonal, a disproportionate number when compared to Provincial averages.

One alternative to the per household allocation is to distribute the costs on a total assessment basis. Unfortunately relative to other municipalities, Tiny has a very high assessment basis (over \$3,000,000,000 in assessment vs. Penetanguishene's \$950,000,000).

Lots of Plan 779

Certain land title issues have come to light regarding the lots of Plan 779 as a result of applications made pursuant to the Boundaries Act and the Committee of Adjustment.

In order to address the Township's road allowances, Concessions 6 and 7, the Township has applied to the Minister of Natural Resources for a Municipal Survey, in particular, those portions of the road allowances as they progress to the water's edge.

In addition, the original Crown Patent provides for a road allowance along the shore in front of the lots of Plan 779. The status, location and implications of this road allowance, amongst other issues require court determination.

The Township commissioned a land survey in this area, which is now complete and available for public viewing at the Township Office. On March 31, 2014, Township Council directed its legal counsel to proceed with a court application in order to address the various title issues. In the meantime, the Township will make the survey results available on the Township website. Doug

Luker stated in his letter to relevant property owners that Tiny understands that many of the property owners have already jointly engaged legal counsel and the Township hopes to co-ordinate efforts to allow these long standing title issues to be clarified and resolved.

Mayor Millar was the only one opposing the motion to direct Tiny's legal counsel to initiate the process of the Notice of Application to be served on all named respondents regarding plan 779; and to seek a certificate of Pending Litigation to be registered against the properties purported to have been transferred by a quit claim deed regarding plan 779 along with the beach lands between the westerly boundary of plan 779 and the water's edge.

Septage

As of the November 25th Regular Meeting of Council, the Septage Management EA was placed on hold until further notice.

Subsequently Mayor Millar and Councillor Warren have approached neighbouring municipalities to determine if there is interest in sharing septage facilities.

The response has been generally positive but no official commitment has been made at this time.

Possible models include a long term fee-for-service arrangement or some form of sharing of capital expenditures.



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Children's Summer Activities in Tiny

Here are 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 www.tiny.ca

Tiny Township

- Weekly day camp programs are available all summer and take place at various locations throughout Tiny including Wyevale Park and Perkinsfield Park.
- Soccer program runs on Wednesday evenings from July 9 – August 27 at a cost of \$72.00 per child. Ages 3-15.
- Tiny in partnership with Simcoe Tennis is offering an 8 week Progressive Tennis Program. Details available on www.tiny.ca

Elsewhere in Tiny

- Lafontaine, Toanche, Wyevale all have excellent baseball programs that are more of a seasonal commitment.
- The Tiny Marsh on Concession 1 is a delightful place for hiking and bird-watching. Be sure to wear bug repellent.

Midland

- Midland Public Library - Story time 10:30 am Tuesdays and Wednesdays for young children includes a story, snack and craft time.
- The North Simcoe Recreation Centre (705-526-9395) is a large facility with 2 ice rinks, gyms and wall climbing. Summer day camps - daily or weekly through the Boys & Girls Club - include swimming and gymnastics.
- The YMCA next door (705-526-7828) offers day camps for ages 3-15 and Leadership camps for ages 13-15. Swim programs are also available.
<http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca/midland-ymca/>
- Huronia Museum (705 526-2844) www.huroniamuseum.com has summer day camps with a variety of activities that are available daily or weekly. Part of the museum is a Huron/Wendat Village.
- Hurons Gymnastics Club, 427 William St. www.huronsgym.ca has a parent and tot program - call 705-527-1517 for more information.
- The Quest Gallery 705-526-2787 or www.questart.ca offers great hands-on creative workshops of different lengths especially for children including week long summer day camps for 6 and up.

Nearby

- Weekly camps at Wye Marsh (705-526-7809) www.wyemarsh.com and various activities at Ste. Marie Among the Hurons (705-526-7838) www.saintmarieamongthehurons.on.ca and Discovery Harbour (705-549-8064) www.discoveryharbour.on.ca. These facilities offer special one day events.
- Big Chute Marine Railway, where you can watch the boats being lifted onto a railway 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) www.elmvalejunglezoo.com is an outdoor adventure featuring exotic animals and birds, interactive presentations and a petting area.
- Penetanguishene Centennial Museum (705-549-2150) www.pencenmuseum.com have various activities and events including a Summer Day Camp.

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WATER. . .continued from page 3

ification of the mouth of the Nottawasaga River that might adversely impact Tiny's southern shoreline. (To keep itself informed, the township is represented on N-WIP (the Nottawasaga Watershed Improvement Program.)

Allan Crowe made several similar recommendations, and added this point:

9. That beaches be made less attractive to geese and gulls by forbidding lawns near the shoreline, that sand dunes be encouraged, and that ingenuity be exercised in tracing sources of beach E. coli, since microbial source tracking is very expensive. (The township did not pass such a by-law, though there's information for private landowners in the guides mentioned in item 7.)

Recently, two academic groups were awarded grants to look into different aspects of pollution impacting Tiny's recreational water. Last summer, in the first year of a three-year grant, Clare Robinson of the University of Western Ontario and her team found that all E. coli and enterococcus concentrations at Balm and Mountainview beaches were below 100 per 100 mL of recreational water except during periods of high waves. During those events, near-shore sand and pore water (both usually much higher in E. coli and enterococcus than ankle- and chest-deep water) eroded and increased the counts in water in the Bay, while the number of bacteria fell in the band of shore sand. The team also noted that groundwater discharge rates along the shores of Tiny were higher than at other Great Lakes beaches.

This summer, a second group headed by Patricia Chow-Fraser of McMaster University is undertaking extensive sampling along the length of the Nottawasaga River, which flows into the Bay south of Tiny, to characterize the organisms and substances the river picks up on its way past farms and sewage treatment plants. Since the beaches in Concessions 1 – 3 receive plumes of silt emanating from the river under certain conditions, the more that can be learned about this the better.

Over the years, the participants' commitment to the water-sampling program has remained strong. In 2010, for example, 159 specific locations were sampled, 70 by shore resident volunteers, 64 by the Health Unit, 20 by Awenda Provincial Park, and 5 by Camp Marygrove.

The program has proven its worth in many ways. A great deal has been learned about the conditions that cause high E. coli counts. Council has been persuaded to hire professionals to study problematic areas and then, in due course, to undertake many of the recommended actions. From time to time, the number of sampling locations at a given beach has been increased where there was suspicion or concern about compromised water. No longer does the Health Unit speak of E. coli solely as evidence of recent fecal contamination, since, as Allan Crowe discovered when examining the swash zone along the edge of the lake, it can persist for a very long time. Nonetheless, the Health Unit continues to see it still as the best indicator of possible trouble, since it is normally present at higher densities in feces than other bacteria and is rarely found in places uncontaminated by feces. If we're understanding the Health Unit's most recent presentation to Council correctly, the E. coli levels that prompt the posting of a beach represent an increased risk of acute gastro-intestinal illness of from 3 to 8%, primarily to young children, the elderly, and those with compromised immunity. The Health Unit also noted that though the sources of E. coli are many (cattle, pigs, wild animals, birds, and humans, in that order), the prevalence of pathogens dangerous to humans is greatest in cattle and least in birds. Interestingly, other authorities set the danger line at levels higher than 100 per 100 mL of water: other provinces use 200, the USA uses 236, and Europe uses 900! This discrepancy may explain why the Health Unit has recently become more lenient in deciding when to post warnings about high E. coli levels at beaches.

Keeping a weather eye for increases in the level of E. coli in our swimming water continues to be very important. If you have time and interest, we urge you to volunteer for what is quite an easy task. To find out more, and/or volunteer, contact webmaster@tinycottager.org.



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CARP...continued from page 8
Secretary 30 days to begin a study on the best means of implementing a hydrological separation of the Great Lakes to prevent the introduction of Asian carp. The study requirements included researching techniques to prevent the spread of carp from flooding, wastewater and storm water infrastructure, waterway safety operations and barge and recreational traffic.

In 2012, the U.S. Senate and House directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete within 18 months their study on how to separate the Great Lakes from the Mississippi watersheds. The Upper Mississippi CARP Act was presented to Congress as recently as 2013. This Act empowers the Secretary of the Army to enact strategies to prevent further spread of Asian carp and begin eliminating the species. It also requires the Corp of Engineers to shut down the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock if Asian carp are detected in the portion of the Mississippi River near the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

In May 2013, a test for silver carp DNA in the waters of Sturgeon Bay in Lake Michigan near Green Bay, Wisconsin, was positive. May is a month when the carp are active. The result was published in October and scientists will re-test in May, 2014.

Stay tuned for the result! Meanwhile, steer clear of any big, ugly fish you may happen to run across this summer. They are unlikely to bite, but the silver carp sure can wallop!



Photo Credit Illinois River Biological Station

And What Is Canada Doing

In Canada, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans has evaluated the risk of Asian carp invading Canadian waters, particularly the Great Lakes, either from the Mississippi system or through the marketing of live carp. A few bighead carp and grass carp have been captured in Canada's portions of the Great Lakes, but no Asian carp (other than common carp, an originally Eurasian species) is known to be established in Canada at this time.

On January 1, 2010 the Ontario government also filed a lawsuit (alongside the American states) in an American court to stop the dumping of Asian carp into the Great

Lakes, a potentially damaging act to the fishing industry (of Canada).

Some additional information on the Asian carp problem and what you can do to help is contained in Bulletins from The Ontario MNR, such as the one below:

http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Biodiversity/1CcolumnSubPage/STDPROD_089510.html

In addition, more information on the Asian carp problem can be found through internet search engines and from the Wikipedia entry on which this article is based.

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