

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 46

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2015

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

This summer certainly made up for all the rain we had last year. We had wonderful weather. The Labour Day weekend was the crowning glory bringing a long week-end with near record high temperatures.

That's the good news. The bad news is that such weather brought carloads and busloads of people from neighbouring towns to our public beaches and as a result they became wildly over crowded.

We wonder who the public beaches in Tiny are for? Are they meant to serve as community beaches for Tiny's residents who support their care with their taxes or are they meant to serve as a kind of provincial park, serving people from the GTA, Penetang, Midland, and Barrie? Should the people of Tiny foot the bill for by-law enforcement and maintenance of those beaches and associated parking areas ?

We wonder how many people a beach can accommodate without damage to the environment?

Council's third Town Hall Meeting, which is scheduled from 9 a.m. until noon on November 24 at the Wyebidge Community Centre, is to focus on "Public Beach Usage, Maintenance and Access/Parking." This is a matter of importance to all residents of Tiny. We urge our members and residents of Tiny in general to get out and discuss this important matter.

The two previous Town Hall meetings have been a great success -- providing forums for an exchange of ideas between Council and residents.

On another front, we continue to enjoy a false sense of security now that water levels have risen from record lows to hover around their long term average. Heavy ice cover, reduced evaporation, increased precipitation, and temporary overflow from Lake Superior jointly caused this short term reprieve.

This has led people to think the problem has been solved, but it hasn't. At best, it is a short-term reprieve. The arrival of El Niño further north this winter will probably bring a dry period that could lower the water levels again.

Undue optimism has made ROWI's fundraising to support the lobbying effort in Washington very difficult. Yet it is essential to get exit controls put into the St. Clair River to manage water levels in Georgian Bay in good times and bad. Please read Mary Muter's article on page 12 and visit the ROWI website (www.restoreourwater.com) to gain a clear understanding of the problem. Please donate generously.

Best wishes for a great Thanksgiving and for an enjoyable and healthy fall and winter.

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Champlain Returns to Penetanguishene

By HAMISH GRANT

As part of this year's Rendez-vous Champlain Festival, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Champlain's arrival in Ontario, the Federal and Provincial governments have invested \$2.8 million in Rotary Champlain-Wendat Park in Penetanguishene.

This investment includes improvements to Main St. as well as the commissioning of 16 new sculptures that "recognize the contribution of the Huron-Wendat nation to local and regional history", according to a release on the Rendez-vous Champlain website.

The centrepiece of the statuary in the park is a monument by Catholic sculptor Tim Schmalz of the meeting between Champlain and the chief of the Huron-Wendat

nation. Hundreds of onlookers, as well as representatives of all levels of government, attended the statue's unveiling on August 1. The statue is incredibly detailed and features inlaid First Nations iconography and a maple leaf motif.

The park was built on reclaimed land that was exposed when a 1992 seiche lowered the water level in the bay by 1m and is located along the harbour shore south of the town dock. Visitors are rewarded with pleasant landscaping and paved walkways around the various statues that have already been installed, with more to come.

First French Mass Commemorated Carhagouha 1615-2015

By LOUISE MAURICE

On August 12, four hundred years ago, the first (French) Mass in Ontario was celebrated by Fr. Joseph LeCaron, a member of the Récollets (a reformed branch of the Franciscan order) in the Huron-Wendat village of Carhagouha. The historic site of Carhagouha is located on the south side of Concession Road 18 West, in Tiny Township.

On August 15, 2015, to commemorate the 400th anniversary, Cardinal Thomas Collins, archbishop of Toronto, again celebrated a Mass in French on this most holy ground. He told those in attendance: "I am honoured to be here".

Among the notables in attendance to help celebrate the open-air Mass were Fr. Bernard Carroll, Martyr's Shrine director, Fr. Justin Desroches, pastor of Sainte Croix parish in Lafontaine, and Fr. Viateur Laurin, for-

mer pastor of Saint Patrice church in Perkinsfield and a native of Lafontaine. Over two hundred people from surrounding congregations, including a delegation from Ste-Famille in Mississauga, gathered under clear blue skies to participate in the Mass. Lawn chairs doubled as pews and the Mass was enlivened by folk hymns interpreted by the Ste Croix parish choir, which gave the event a toe-tapping, warm and inviting atmosphere.

The Knights of Columbus formed an honour guard, leading the opening procession with pomp and circumstance. Fr. Carroll addressed those assembled, detailing the important role the region played in the Catholic Church's history. He read from Samuel de Champlain's diary, noting the "extreme affection" that Champlain had for the area and how he and his men were well

see *FIRST MASS* on next page

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People attending the Mass on August 15th

FIRST MASS continued from Page 1

received by the Huron-Wendat people.

During his homily, Cardinal Collins underlined how important Fr. Joseph LeCaron's officiating at the first Mass was to the history of the Church. This first Mass is said to have been attended by Champlain, native interpreter Étienne Brulé, and the Wendat.

Following Fr. LeCaron and Champlain to the area several years later were Jesuit missionaries, who also became a significant part of Canadian and Church history. These missionaries, later known as our Canadian Martyrs, are honoured at Martyrs' Shrine on highway 12 in Midland. They were: Saints Antoine Daniel, Jean de Brébeuf, Noël Chabanel, Gabriel Lalemant, Isaac Jogues, René Goupil, Charles Garnier and Jean de Lalande, who worked as missionaries among the Huron people. They and the Huron people were all killed by the Iroquois during a war between the two nations.

Fr. Carroll brought relics of St. Jean de Brébeuf and invited those in attendance to come up and touch them.



Cardinal Collins addressing the crowd and L to R behind him: Fr. Desroches, Sebastien Lacroix (Catholic schools liaison for the south), Fr. Arthur Kaba Mubesi (Ste Anne's parish, Penetanguishene), Fr. Laurin, and Fr. Ed Curtis (ceremonial aide to Cardinal Collins).

This was a moving tribute which served as a link to 400 years of faith.

At the end of the celebration, Philippe Chartrand, a Ste Croix parishioner, thanked everyone who participated in making this event possible and in particular Fr. Desroches for his "leadership and inspiration".

The recessional hymn led by Louis Lefaiave was a zydeco version of "O Mon Dieu" in the true French "chanson à répondre" (songs of response) style. Once the Mass ended, everyone broke out picnic baskets and continued the celebration and fellowship in a more informal manner.

It was a humbling experience to think that we shared the ground that once was trod upon by a saint and an explorer in a common celebration of faith. Truly an event not to be forgotten.



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Al speaks to the crowd at his retirement party

Thank You Al!

By LINDA ANDREWS AND JUDITH GRANT

Al Taylor has been the longest serving member of the board of the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations. When he retired as director this June, he had served for 21 years. And he was involved even before he joined the board. As the past president of Kingswood Acres going back to 1987, he took his association into the preliminary meetings in 1989-90 of the group that eventually became the Federation. He was one of those who hand-folded early editions of *The Tiny Cottager* and distributed them along the shore. Over the years he gave his considerable energy to the organization in a multitude of ways. He was president for five years in the 90s. He instituted the mailing of the *Cottager* to all residents of Tiny, not just the shore.

He involved himself in the Federation's battles, against

- the gypsy moth infestation that threatened Tiny's forests for two years in the early 90s
- increases in the education component of taxes
- the County of Simcoe's Market Value Assessment thus helping to save the taxpayers of Tiny some \$2,000,000 in 1995 and 1996, only to have the province impose the current method of assessment.

Al also spoke out about many subjects of broad concern – most notably high hydro rates and wind turbines, setting up organizations and meetings, and writing articles for *The Tiny Cottager*. Indeed it was a rare edition of the *Cottager* that didn't include an article by Al. He wrote about cottagers' needs – a well equipped local hospital, security, safety, managing beach sand, insurance, finding an appropriate roofer, purchasing a generator or a kayak, and the like. He was an enthusiastic recounter of local history. And he provided several book reviews for our Recommended Summer Reading column.

But the subject dearest to his heart was fish and fishing. In 1998, he relished a good year when Chinook and Rainbow Trout were abundant, and "the most popular spoon lures" were "'Nasty Boy,' 'Predator,' and 'Northern King'." Unhappily for keen anglers like him, the new millennium brought tough times. By 2007 when sport fishing in Georgian Bay had been in decline for a number of years, Al looked into potential causes, and reported on the threat posed by an invasive virus that attacks 16 species of sport fish and which was gaining hold in the Great Lakes. Ever the activist, he included advice about ways to slow its spread. It was still possible to hook a big one in 2011, as the picture of Al with



Judy and Al Taylor

a 13-pound male salmon proves, though patience was required, some two hours of dragging a variety of lures in this case.

However, Al's greatest service to the Federation and cottagers in general has been his work as advertising manager of *The Tiny Cottager*. He took on this task in 2006, and carried it for ten years. His career was in sales, so advertising manager was a good fit for his skills.

This task not only involved the selling of approximately 130 ads each year but included the inevitable follow up to obtain suitable copy or delinquent payments, or to liaise between an advertiser and a graphic designer. You will notice that the selection of advertisements that Al sold is well balanced with lots of variety, minimal repetition within the same industry and geographically representative of the entire township. Al felt strongly that it was important to include new businesses and small businesses (as a way to support the local economy), and many of the trades that cottagers might find useful.

Over the years Al successfully fine-tuned the process – moving the selling activity to very early in the year while business advertising budgets were still flush, relying much more heavily on email communication thus avoiding several time-consuming personal visits, and introducing a discount offer to those who signed up to advertise in both spring and fall issues.

Al also tried to recruit help with sales but no suitable candidates came forward with one notable exception – Jackie Hrebicek from Georgian Drive Beach. Jackie will continue to be part of the advertising team.

In appreciation of Al's contribution to the Federation and to all cottagers, we made a donation to the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation in his name. At our summer social gathering, we also gave him a local history book and thanked him for his many years of hard work and dedication.



Al with the one that didn't get away

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Welcome Michelle Rogers



We would like to introduce Michelle Rogers -- the new advertising manager of *The Tiny Cottager*.

Michelle graduated in interior design and has enjoyed work in the design, marketing and sales industry for over 25 years. The creation of her own business, Willow Graphix, is the culmination of her natural artistic talent and of the design and marketing principles she has been practising and developing throughout her career. Her use of cutting edge technology and the breadth of her experience allows Michelle to offer her clients solutions that are creative, original and relevant for their business.

Michelle has spent most of her life in the close-knit community of Victoria Harbour. She lends her talents to the Georgian Bay General Hospital, sitting on the communications committee as the graphic designer, designing the information for their fundraisers and events.

Michelle strives to forge close connections with the people she works with to ensure that expectations are met and even exceeded. We welcome Michelle to the *Tiny Cottager* team.

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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.

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Report on Council

Mayor George Cornell
Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma
Councillor Cindy Hastings
Councillor Richard Hinton
Councillor Gibb Wishart

NOTE:
TOWN HALL MEETINGS and the **STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS** are discussed in Jack Ellis' article on page 13
For the **OPEN AIR BURNING BY-LAW**, see "Fire Safety is Everybody's Responsibility," on page 10.

McMAHAN WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE:

In 2012, the township was ordered by the Ministry of the Environment to bring the McMahan water system into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. This May, after examining the way costs were handled when the township was ordered to take over the Renouf Water System in Balm Beach and the Lafontaine Water System (both privately run), Staff recommended full cost recovery from the 22 benefitting residential properties, then estimated at \$14,931.47 per property. It also recommended that costs be amortized to ease the initial financial burden, as was done when the other two private water systems were upgraded.

In June, Terry Hudson and Joanne Bodrucky, residents on the McMahan Water System, presented to Council a detailed history of the township's handling of the system, supplying documents back to 1982 regarding ownership and assignment of costs.

A by-law passed in 2004 requires those on township water systems to pay both capital and operating costs whether they were charged for them at the time or not. This proved to be key to Council's response -- a cost recovery amount in the mid-range of what users would have been paying since 2004 -- \$8,277.90 plus 3% interest amortized over nine years. The balance of the full cost (now estimated at \$15,447) is to be drawn from the Water Reserve Fund.

WYEVALE PARK MASTER PLAN:

The Master Plan, which is the result of two years' planning, was presented to the community in June. The consulting firm — PLANbyDESIGN — was guided throughout by a steering committee consisting of representatives from the Community Recreation Committee, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Wyevale Parks and Recreation Association, the Township's Public Works and Recreation Departments, the CAO, and Council. A special committee has been struck to oversee implementation of the Master Plan.

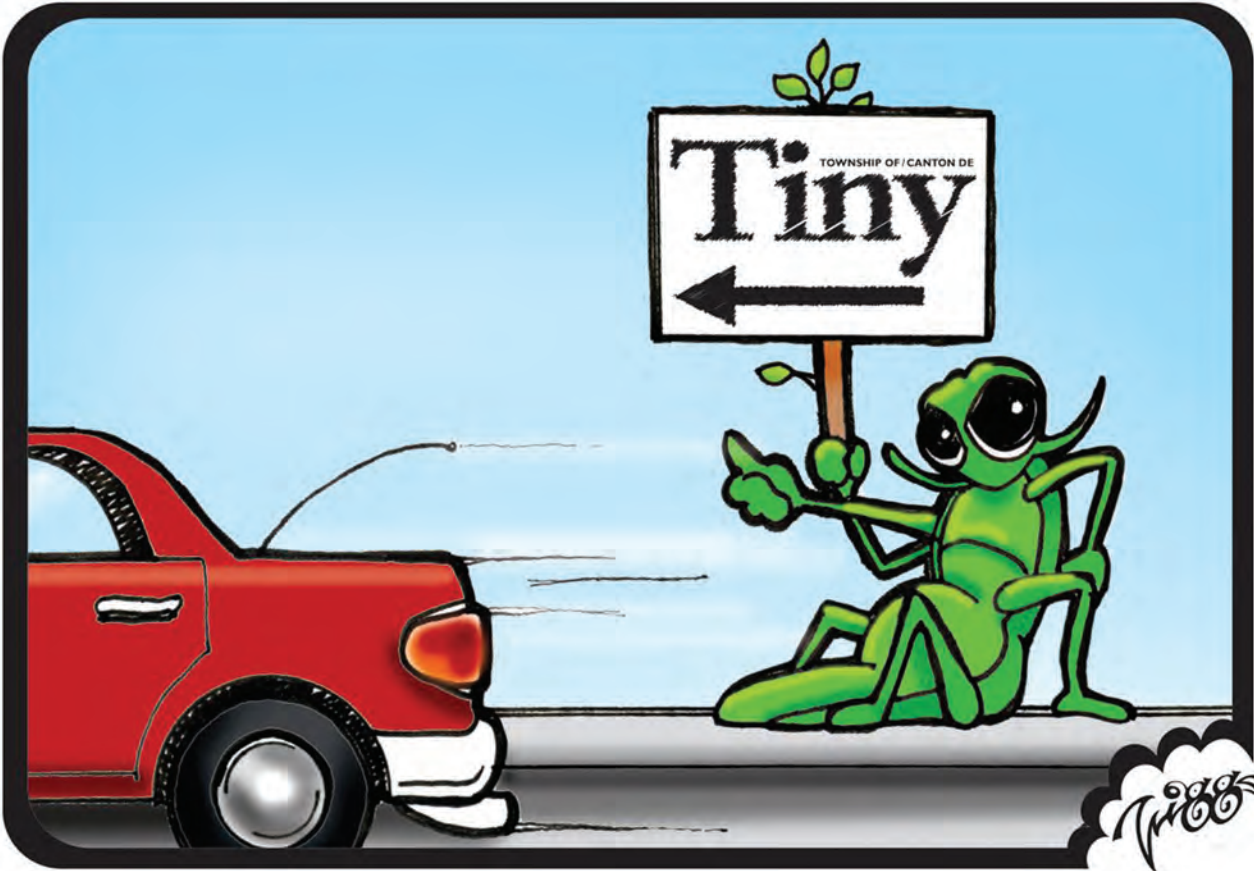
STREET LIGHTING CONVERSION TO LED:

In May, Council decided to convert the township's streetlights to LED. Funding is to come from the Capital Expenditure Reserve. Council also accepted the treasurer's recommendation that the "actual savings" be funnelled "into a 'Climate Action and Energy Plan Reserve' ... for future environmental and energy conservation projects." Subsequently, a thorough audit found 24 additional lights (for a total of 414). Although this raised the original estimated cost of the project by \$39,655, the long term saving is still substantial enough to warrant proceeding with the conversion.

WATER DEPARTMENT 2015-2020 FINANCIAL PLAN APPROVED:

In May, it was reported that the Township has been successful in obtaining and maintaining a Municipal Drinking Water Licence for the next five years. The report regarding the financial plan noted that "while the forecast capital expenditures for Water Department appear to be very modest between 2015 and 2020, there are significant scheduled capital requirements within the next planning cycle (2021-2026)." These are related to the nitrate concentrations in the Georgian Sands/Lafontaine water systems. As a result, water fees are to remain at the usual level.

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued on next page



Emerald Ash Borer an Unwelcome Arrival in Simcoe County

By IRENE WILSON

As much as we welcome company at the cottage, uninvited guests can become a problem. We have a recently arrived one in Simcoe County that is wreaking havoc with our beautiful ash trees. This invasive species has potential for serious devastation. It is the Emerald Ash Borer with its bright green wings -- native to Asia and believed to have been introduced to the United States in the 1990's through packing materials such as wooden crates made of ash.

Ash trees (Fraxinus species) can be identified by the compound leaf pattern containing 5-11 leaflets, directly opposite each other with one at the tip. The leaflets can have smooth or toothed margins (edges). The branches are also directly opposite each other rather than staggered. The seeds, when present, hang in clusters, are dry and oar shaped. Ash trees have been widely planted as street and park trees in many of Simcoe's municipalities.

Horticulturists discovered this non-native pest in the Detroit and Windsor area in 2002, after investigating the death of hundreds of ash trees. This infestation spread quickly throughout southern and central Ontario, Quebec and parts of the United States, killing millions of trees. Both Canadian and American governments consider the Emerald Ash Borer to be a pest of quarantine significance.

Adult beetles are elongated, approximately 1/8 to 1/2 inch in length, with metallic green wings and bronze bodies. As the weather warms in spring, the adults begin to emerge from ash trees with highest numbers in June and July. The beetles live for approximately three weeks, hiding in bark crevices and occasionally feeding on ash



foliage, leaving small holes in the leaves. Higher numbers are normally seen in June and early July when they are busy mating and laying eggs on the bark of ash trees. Females will mate several times and can lay 60-90 eggs in their lifetime. Eggs hatch in seven to ten days producing larvae that chew their way through the bark and tunnel into the cambium layer where they feed, overwinter and pupate in the spring to emerge as the adult beetle through a D-shaped hole in the bark.

Devastation to the tree is caused by the destruction of the cambium layer where the tree's nutrient and water transportation system is located, causing the decline and eventual death of the tree. The first evidence of infestation is usually dying branches or thinning or yellowing leaves at the crown (top) of the tree. Other signs are D-shaped holes in the bark caused by the emerging adult, vertical bark splitting, the result of the feeding tunnels left by the larvae and woodpecker's foraging for the larvae. The death of the tree is rapid, often taking only one to two years. Once the results of infestation are visible, it is often too late to save the tree as the damage is already too extensive.

The Emerald Ash Borer will only travel a short distance on its own, up to a few kilometers per year. The rapid spread has been caused by the movement of infested materials, such as firewood, logs, lumber and woodchips. Restrictions, prohibiting the movement of all ash materials and all species of firewood from the affected sites, are being used by governments to limit the infestation.

Presently, the most effective treatment consists of sys-
see ASH BORER. . . continued on next page



REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued from previous page

FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS:

Fire Chief Tony Mintoﬀ’s report about the roads from County Road 6 to the western shore that pose the greatest safety concern for ﬁreﬁghting operations prompted Council to pass a resolution that the identiﬁed roads be considered for No Parking, and that staﬀ report back on a comprehensive implementation plan. Instead of selecting the 20 most dangerous roads as he had been asked to do in March, Mintoﬀ submitted the full list that had been identiﬁed in the R.J. Burnside and Associates Report of July 14, 2014. All 77 roads are in the ﬁrst 11 concessions. At the end of August, Council decided that the recommended signage is to be installed this fall at a total cost of \$38,125, \$25,000 of which is in this year’s budget, while the balance is to be taken from the Capital Reserve.

HALL’S CREEK STABILIZATION:

One of the oxbows of Hall’s Creek has been eroding its way toward Tiny Beaches Road South and by last year it was threatening the stability of the road in the vicinity of #752. Much the most cost eﬀective option, as the Township’s Manager of Public Works, Henk Blom, pointed out in PWR-05-15 is to relocate the road 10 metres to the west at a cost of \$40,000. Area residents opposed this solution because it would straighten a curve in TBRS and cause an increase in traﬃc speed. They supported “vegetated stone revetment,” a combination of vegetation and stone, which would stabilize the slope of the oxbow.

R. J. Burnside and Associates costed this solution at \$185,000. As the budget for 2015 approved only \$100,000 for this project, at its meeting on June 29 Council agreed that the balance would be taken from the Capital Reserve.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION:

For the last two years, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) has been inspecting the many properties that might potentially aﬀect the quality of water in wells that serve the township’s 16 water systems. There was an Open House supplying information on the subject. In June Council appointed Keith

Sherman and Melissa Carruthers of SSEA as Risk Management Oﬃcial and Risk Management Inspector to enforce the Source Management Plan.

DATES OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR 2016 BUDGET:

These are to occur at 9 a.m. on Mondays, November 2nd, November 23rd, and December 7th, 2015.

McMAHAN WOODS SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT:

This proposed subdivision is to occupy Part Lot 23, Concession 4 West. As the County of Simcoe had received all the necessary clearance letters, Council authorized the Subdivision Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Tiny, the McMahan Woods Development Ltd. (the Developer), and West Ridge Development Corporation (the Mortgagee). The Agreement includes a provision to deed to the Township Block 22 for environmental protection, Block 23 for parkland, Blocks 24-26 for access, and Blocks 28-32 as a 0.3048 metre reserve. Block 21 is not part of this Agreement and remains in the hands of McMahan Woods Development Ltd.

COPING WITH SEPTAGE:

As instructed by Council, R.J. Burnside and Associates contacted the Township’s neighbouring municipalities (Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay, Springwater, and Wasaga Beach) about a partnership for treating Tiny’s septage. All ﬁve expressed interest.

Discussions with the ﬁve and the County of Simcoe were still incomplete in August. Penetanguishene is interested in treating Tiny’s septage only if Tiny is willing to pre-treat it to meet its sewer use by-law. Midland is currently engaged in studying “the capacity of their Water Wastewater Treatment Plant to receive and treat septage.” There had been no meeting with Wasaga Beach. Neither Tay nor the County of Simcoe is a possibility. There is to be a meeting of the Class EA Project Advisory Committee once the preliminary discussions have been completed.

GREEN RIBBON CHAMPION PROGRAM:

In July, Karen Alexander of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC) described the Green Ribbon Champion Program to Council. Its objective is to improve the quality of beach sand and lake water. After registering their desire to participate, individual property owners receive a visit from a LHCCC staﬀ member who completes a beach health review. The resultant report sets ﬁve targets and makes recommendations for how to reach them. A Green Ribbon Champion Award is given to participants who successfully implement all the recommendations. In 2014, there were 25 participants, with six winning Awards. By July 27, 2015, 36 property owners had registered for 2015.

Council decided to support Lafontaine Beach as a priority beach under the Green Ribbon Champion Program and arranged to have the Program advertised on the township website.

WOODLAND BEACH RECREATIONAL [TRAILER] PARK, PART OF LOTS 24 AND 25, CONCESSION 2:

In August, Dr. Donald Stubbs gave a presentation about his Woodland Beach Recreational [Trailer] Park which he began to plan in 1999 to provide outdoor activities for all ages “while preserving and protecting the environment.”

We recall that his original concept included paint ball, occupied prime agricultural land, and made inap-

propriate use of trails on the protected Nipissing Ridge. As a result of opposition from neighbours, the Township, the County, and the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations in the course of a series of pre-hearing sessions before the Ontario Municipal Board, paintball was eliminated, the Ridge was protected, and all activities were removed from agricultural land apart from an access road along the north edge of Lot 24. Holding provisions were imposed until various aspects of the Park were appropriately planned.

The Functional Servicing Report and Stormwater Management Reports prepared for the developer were peer reviewed by R.J. Burnside and Associates. Burnside’s concerns resulted in changes before Burnside was satisfied with the proposed sanitary, water and utility servicing, ﬁre suppression, stormwater management, roads, drainage, and protection of the Nipissing Ridge. Azimuth Environmental Consulting conﬁrmed that the proposed development would not adversely impact deer. Shawn Persaud, Manager of Planning and Development, provided a background report, along with an analysis of the site plan agreement and the holding provisions.

In due course, Council removed the various “holding” provisions and agreed to enter into a Site Plan Control Agreement with Stubbs, so that Phase I can be begun -- 50 seasonal campsites, one comfort station and an in ground swimming pool, but not the lodge (with its assembly hall, 3-bedroom owner/caretaker apartment, pool, laundry room, and tuck shop), nor the recreation hall, vehicle pumping station, group camping area, nor the ﬁve, year-round, two-bedroom cabins. Presumably these elements will be added in subsequent phases.

Phase II involves ﬁve more cabin sites and 50 more tent and trailer sites. Phase III adds a further 100 tent and trailer sites, and Phase IV, the ﬁnal 90 campground sites.

There is no question that this Park will impact the environment, causing the removal of most of the conifer plantation in the area designated for the seasonal campsites, though some landscape restoration is envisioned for the 20m setback from the Ridge.

ANDREW DRIVE TEMPORARY SPEED CUSHIONS:

As a result of a Policing Committee Resolution and in spite of a staﬀ report, Council decided to provide temporary speed cushions and signage on Andrew Drive at a cost of \$7,400, and to ask the Community Policing Committee to do some follow-up to gauge their effectiveness.

PROBLEM GEESE: At the end of August, Enis Mitchell (a Thunder Beach resident) spoke about problem geese. For three years Thunder Beach has acquired a “kill to scare” permit from Environment Canada, whereby two geese can be killed each week provided the dead birds are left on the beach to scare oﬀ other geese. This tactic has been eﬀective.

Council directed Public Works staﬀ to work with interested parties to discuss possible geese management options on municipal property and report back to Council.

SHORT TERM RENTALS: After hearing deputations and presentations concerning disruptive short term rentals in the course of the last month or two, Council asked that a report be prepared on the subject. It stated that the current Zoning By-law does not prohibit short term rentals, but that since 2012, the By-law Department

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued on page 14

ASH BORER. . . continued from previous page

temic insecticide injected directly into the trunk of the tree or the surrounding soil. These injections are absorbed and spread through the vascular system of the tree and are ingested by the larvae as they feed. This treatment is most successful when implemented in early stages of infestation. This type of treatment is costly and unrealistic for large numbers of trees in forested areas.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is the lead government agency regulating or managing pests of quarantine significance such as the Emerald Ash Borer. The primary method has been through movement restrictions, which prohibit the movement of all ash materials in designated areas. CFIA also tracks and confirms infestations. The borer was first discovered in Simcoe County in 2013 and by 2014 had been found in nearly half of its municipalities. According to the County, if it is assumed that the Emerald Ash Borer continues to infest and kill trees at its present rate, it will become pervasive over the next 10 years and kill most of the ash trees. The County has created a strategic plan to manage this infestation. More information can be found at: www.simcoe.ca/eab

In June of 2013, as part of a long term strategy, CFIA approved the introduction of 2 stingless wasps as biological controls to combat the spread of the borer. One wasp, *Tetrastichus planipennisi*, was released in limited areas in Ontario by Natural Resources Canada. This wasp is a parasite of the Emerald Ash Borer and drills through the tree bark to lay eggs in the borer larvae which then hatch and feed on the larvae. It was discovered in a search for natural enemies of the borer. There is also a second stingless wasp native to China, the *Oobius agrili* wasp, which is also a natural enemy and lays its eggs inside the eggs of the Emerald Ash Borer. The wasp larvae eat the contents of the borer eggs and then burst forth from the destroyed eggs to search for more eggs. There were concerns that either species of wasp could target species that were similar to the borer, but it was felt that the benefits would outweigh the risks.

As a private landowner, you can identify your ash trees and closely monitor them for the possibility of infestation. If you see Emerald Ash Borer or signs of infestation, call the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources at 1-800-667-1940 or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-800-442-2342 or the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or online - www.invadingspecies.com

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2015 Budget Report

By André Claire

Budget meetings were held on January 19, February 2 and February 17, 2015 - All Members of Council were present: Mayor George Cornell, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, and Councillors Cindy Hastings, Richard Hinton, and Gibb Wishart, as well as the full complement of senior staff.

Note that all references to 2014 budget figures are actual but unaudited.

FIRST MEETING:
Council reviewed the operating budget prepared by staff. Staff proposed a tax rate increase of 4.53%. The meeting was well chaired by Mayor Cornell who encouraged all members to ask questions. Mr. J. Smith, manager of the Huronia Airport, made a presentation concerning the cost of runway repairs and options for dealing with them.

SECOND MEETING:
Council reviewed the capital budget.
As a result of its review of the operating budget at the first meeting, the total net budget was increased by \$35,994.00 bringing the proposed tax rate increase to 4.94%.

THIRD MEETING:
As a result of decisions taken by Council during the second meeting, the operating budget was reduced by \$59,000 and the capital by \$33,000. Consequently at the beginning of this third meeting, the draft tax rate increase had been reduced to 3.89%.

This third meeting was focused on reducing the tax rate increase to 2% by considering recommendations brought forward by staff to reduce the operating budget by \$125,000 (by cuts to the roads and fire departments) and the capital budget by \$83,000.

At the end of the meeting, Council had succeeded in reducing the budget by close to \$165,000 bringing the tax rate increase to 2%.

ITEMS OF NOTE REGARDING THE 2015 BUDGET:
1) Several presentations which were intended to help Council make budget decisions were made during the February 9 Committee of the Whole Meeting, regarding: Hall's Creek Bank Restoration, Parking Strategy, and Municipal Office Feasibility Study.

2) The final budget was presented to the public and adopted on March 23, 2015.

3) The following points might be made:
• **Policing** (Account 201)

The OPP announced in 2013 that it would be sharply increasing the cost of service to municipalities such as Tiny, but that the increase (now estimated at about \$1.1 million) would be phased in 40%-40%-20% from 2015 to 2017. For many years, however, councils have over-budgeted for this cost, and the OPP has refunded the overpayment to the township in the following year, once its actual costs were known. In 2011 Council set up a Policing Reserve to hold these refunds, which has now accumulated to almost \$800,000.

The first 40% of the three-year phase-in would add about \$300,000 to the budget this year. However, the 2015 Budget only includes an increase of about \$125,000 over last year's Budget for OPP costs. This is not because

Council is drawing on the Police Reserve, which is only planned to fall by \$25,000.

Note too that the Council's new Policing Committee will be funded from the Policing Reserve.

• **Septage** (Account 956 – environment / capital)
In 2014, the last Council decided to put on hold the ongoing EA while waiting to see if a partnership with other municipalities would be feasible. Therefore \$297,778 was not spent and was put on hold. By resolution 061/15 Council directed "that R.J Burnside and Associates Ltd. proceed to prepare a 'scope of work' for the Septage Management Class EA to revisit Phase 2 and conduct further work on Alternative #3 and further that all associated works are to be included in the 2015 budget." The previously unused money was used for this task.

• **Parking strategy**
Nothing has been budgeted for the implementation of the study undertaken by the previous Council regarding the ability of roads west of County Road 6 to accommodate both parking and emergency vehicles, especially fire trucks. The cost of additional No Parking signage for any of the 80 problematic roads will have to come out of the capital reserve for roads.

• **Impact of corporate insurance increase**
The Township is facing significant pressure regarding insurance costs. Consequently the cost of liability insurance in the budget increases by 13.33 %, from \$510,000 plus tax in 2014 (actual) to \$578,000 plus tax in 2015 (actual).

• **Salaries**
The general wage increase is shown as 2.0% (\$98,800). However, if vacation pay, benefits, WSIB and overtime are taken into account, the actual wages for 2015 are \$5,040,600 compared with the 2014 budget figure of \$4,756,100 (an increase of 5.9%).

• **Reserves**
Budgeted Transfers:

	2014 budgeted (unaudited)	2015
To General	\$320,324	\$239,236
From General	\$1,738,050	\$1,459,766
To Capital	\$2,245,457	\$2,404,723
Transfer Surplus (unused funds)	\$1,027,977	

The Dec 2014 *Financial Indicator Review* indicates that the Township Total Reserves and Discretionary Reserve Funds as a % of Operating Expenses were at 50.4 % placing the Township as having a low level of challenge (the lower level of challenge, the better is the ability to face future needs / contingencies).

The water reserve is to increase from \$3,177,817 to a projected \$3,696,112. Although the water reserve is only to be used for Tiny residents connected to, and paying for, a municipal water system, this reserve is also used as a measure of the Township's financial responsibility.

It should be noted that the budget plans a decrease in total reserves from \$9,326,941 at the end of 2014 to a projected \$8,382,365 at the end of 2015.

Also, the 2015 Reserves report has been simplified from the 2014 report, which included the previous year transfer details.

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Tiny Township's Use of Financial Reserves

By JOHN GRANT

A municipality builds up reserves – essentially, extra cash balances - over time so that it can pay for large or unpredictable expenditures without requiring a sudden increase in the municipal tax rate. (There are two categories, “Reserves” as such, and “Reserve Funds”; the latter have a more formal status; for example, development charges are required to be deposited in a Reserve Fund before being allocated to some expenditure or other.)

From time to time suspicions can arise that a Council may be building up reserves unnecessarily, early in its mandate, so as to give itself political advantage in an election year by drawing them down again, thus keeping taxes low at that time or even cutting them, without having to sacrifice spending. (In actual fact, Tiny's tax levy grew significantly in each of the last four election years, 2003, 2006, 2010, and 2014, so it seems that this was not true of this jurisdiction.)

Even without such questionable practices, there is a question about how large reserves should be. Granted the desirability of smoothing out tax rates from one year to the next, and granted that some expenditures are “lumpy” and hard to spread evenly over a multi-year period, excessive prudence could still lead a Council to build reserves unnecessarily, making tax rates, while the buildup is underway, higher than they really need to be. Sometimes a Council will set up multiple reserves, one each for a variety of programs; while this can appear prudent it fails to account for the fact that when one program spends more than usual, others could well be spending less than usual, so that a single pot of reserves, even though smaller in total, could be perfectly adequate, at lower overall expense to the taxpayer.

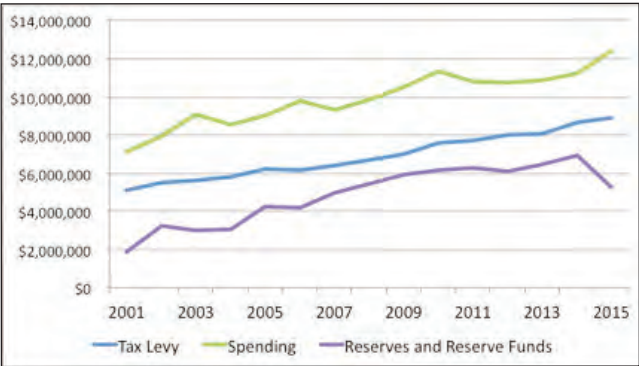


Chart 1 illustrates developments from 2001 to 2015 in the township's budgeted spending, Reserves and Reserve Funds, and taxes. It is obvious that the tax levy has grown at a very steady rate, much more so than spending. It appears that the reserves have successfully been used to offset the swings in spending, generally falling when spending rose and vice versa. In other words, they have performed their key function very well. There is a question, however, relating to their absolute size. The chart makes it clear that they could have been considerably smaller over time and still performed their duty very well.

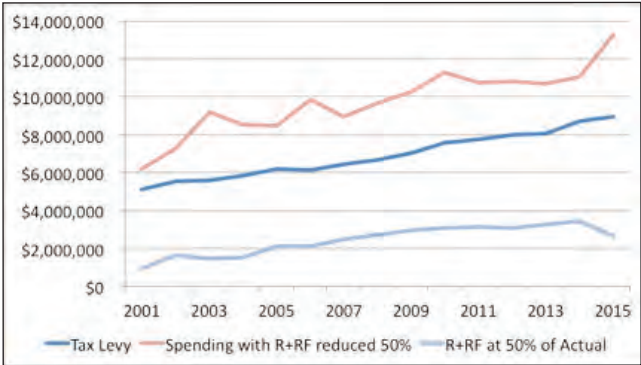


Chart 2 illustrates a hypothetical situation where the reserves were budgeted to be 50% of what they actually were every year. Each year, the swing in the reserves would have been just half of what it actually was, but spending swings would have been reduced by the same amount (since additions to the reserves are a part of spending). And, over the years, the township would have saved over \$ 2.6 million (averaging about \$175,000 a year) which could have been used to reduce the tax levy (or to fund other programs). The tax levy (which is illustrated at the actual levels) could still have been stabilized without difficulty.

(At this point it should be explained that in this article “spending” does not include outlays on the township's water systems, and “Reserves and Reserve Funds” does not include the old Water Reserve or the ongoing Water Reserve Fund, because these are not funded by the municipal taxpayer as such but by a separate charge.) Nor does it include expenditures funded by grants and donations, because (especially in 2009 and 2010) they would probably not have been undertaken in the absence of that funding.

What would be an appropriate level of reserves to carry? There is no simple answer to this, because it really depends on the size of the swings in the spending stream (which, after all, are largely at Council's discretion). It could be pointed out that Tiny has fifteen different categories of reserves (e.g. a Beach Reserve, an Election Reserve, a Police Reserve, a Capital Expenditure Reserve, and so on) and five different Reserve Funds. But swings in election spending, for example, are very small in comparison to total spending: there is no need to keep a separate Election Reserve if the purpose is to buffer the tax levy. (It can be argued that the actual purpose of keeping these separate reserves is to demonstrate that the township is prudently setting funds aside against specific future needs. But the argument is spurious, because the true future contingency relates to swings in total spending. Cash is cash.)

Why not collapse the Reserves into a single General Reserve and manage them in the light of overall net spending swings rather than swings in the individual programs? (Allocations to two of the Reserve Funds are mandated by provincial legislation, but the other three are discretionary to a certain degree.) This would still be eminently prudent, but, just as important, it would seem to be a more efficient use of funds.

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Edmor-Georgian Heights: Past, Present & Future (Pt. 1)

BY DOUG GARDNER (PAST PRESIDENT)

(This interesting history was written by Doug Gardner in advance of the 1994 Annual General Meeting of the Edmor Beach-Georgian Heights Association. While the mentions of individual family names may be of most interest to members of that Association, it is a fascinating account of the early days and development of a Tiny shoreline community.)

It all began in the late summer of 1945 when I became interested in establishing a summer camp for boys, on the sandy shores of Nottawasaga Bay on Georgian Bay. I enlisted the support of my father in the search for, and acquisition of, property.



We sought the assistance of a family friend, Bill Hickling who owned and operated the Allenwood General Store and the Allenwood Beach Store for many years. He was recognized by many for his knowledge of the area. Our conversation led him to reveal that he knew of a property, Lot 26, Conc. 3, that might be suitable. It was next to a 50 acre woodlot parcel that he owned in Lot 25, Conc. 3, and it bordered on the undeveloped Conc. 4 road allowance.

Before inspecting Lot 26, Conc. 3, Bill Hickling made us aware of a few facts.

1. Lot 26, Conc. 3 was a 200+/- acre broken lot (ie. portion of the lot was covered by waters of Nottawasaga Bay) with a sand beach. For the most part it was well wooded, but there was evidence of almost obscured stumps, logging trails and a bush road that reflected tree-cutting and log-hauling activity from many years ago. (Today, these trails contribute to the existing network of snowmobile and ski trails).
2. Conc. 3 twp. Lot 26, 27 and 28 bordered on Nottawasaga Bay, and because they were undeveloped, there was no hydro, telephone, or properly constructed roads.
3. Conc. 4 road allowance had been developed as far as the Deanlea Beach Road. Lot 26 bordered on the undeveloped forested Conc. 4 road allowance westerly some 1 ½ miles +/- distant. It was conceivable that the Township would further extend the Conc. 4 road allowance road to Lot 26 if it was purchased for development.
4. In the interim, if time was of the essence, there

was a partially overgrown bush road that ran more or less parallel to the Conc. 4 road allowance from the County Road 29 to Lot 26 through Conc. 3 twp. lots 24 & 25. With a minimum of effort, it could be restored for vehicle use. It could be accessed easily near where Conc. 4 road presently ended opposite to the Deanlea Beach Road.

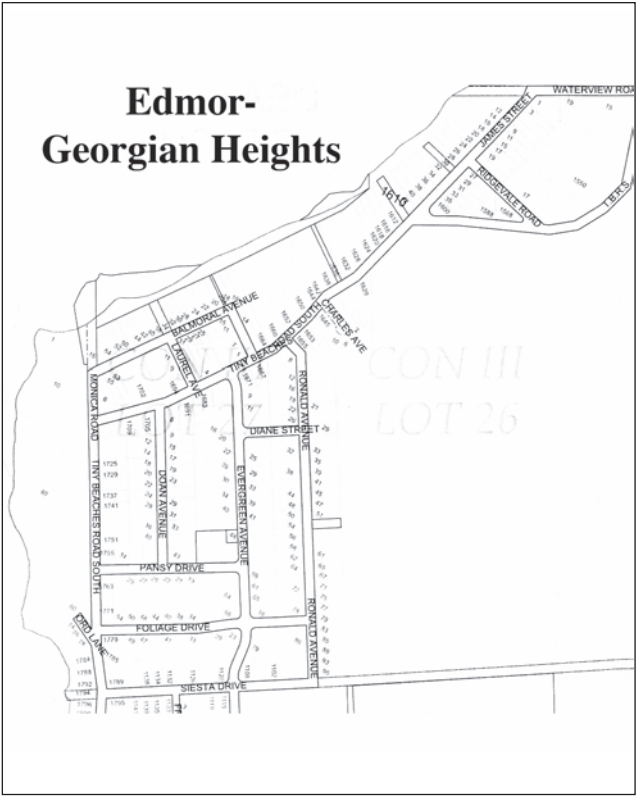
5. Conc. 3 road allowance, and an old almost impassable fishing road from Woodland Beach to the south westerly edge of Lot 27, Conc. 3 were not feasible or recommended for access to Lot 26.

Of interest, Charles Eberhart (who I knew) of Wasaga Beach used the old fishing road when he went fishing off Spratt Point. In 1947-48 John Pye of Edmor Beach recalls the old fishing road because he went up to the axles when he tried to use the road, and had to get pulled out by a team of horses. Bill Collett of Edmor Beach recalled this road when he had a cottage at Woodland Beach. Farmers used it to drive cattle to the water's edge of Nottawasaga Bay.

With Bill Hickling as our guide, we drove down to Conc. 4 road allowance to where the road ended, and parked the car. We entered the Conc. 3 bush at this point, located and walked the abandoned bush road westerly to Lot 26. Bill Hickling pointed out old survey stakes and tree blazes enabling us to establish the property lines.

Inspection of the property confirmed Bill Hickling's previous description of Lot 26. Additionally, there was evidence of natural reforestation growth. Some pine trees were estimated to be well over 100 years old and that would take us back in time close to the 1822 original survey of Tiny Township. Lot 26 had great potential. My father and I entered into an ownership agreement, and purchased the property Sept 12/45. The previous tree cutting, logging operations in Conc. 3 fascinated me. My interest was further aroused when the 'Line of the Wood' issue became a concern to all of us at Edmor Beach and Georgian Heights. In 1991, 1992, I chose to do a little research. I discovered that the Archives for the Province of Ontario possessed at least three early surveys of the Township of Tiny that were done after the 1822 'Line of the Wood' survey. Some of these surveys did not recognize this 'Line of the Wood'. I displayed these surveys at our 1992 Annual Meeting.

Further to my research, I met with Win Horsfall (widow of Bill Horsfall) because she had assembled considerable historical facts for the Conc. 3 area. Their son Mike was a graduate surveyor, and one of his professors in Surveying Science was providing evidence against the 'Line of the Wood' for Rowntree Beach in its court case with the Attorney General for Ontario. At her suggestion, I contacted the professor. He was unaware of these other surveys, and at his request, I obtained copies for him. John Pye, Treasurer for our Association was authorized by the Executive to reimburse me for the cost of the surveys. Our Association should feel proud of the fact that these surveys may have played a role in the outcome of the Rowntree case.



Win Horsfall's historical records confirmed the log cutting activities in Conc. 3, and the existence of a sawmill with piles of lumber in Conc. 3, Lot 24. Her records also showed that the sawmill operator was a Chicago Lumber Co. based in Penetang. They brought in barges, and anchored them just below Spratt Point off Conc. 3 & 2. The barges were loaded with cedar logs cut from Conc. 3 & 2 and transported to Chicago to make corduroy roads. The logs were eventually covered with asphalt. To substantiate this fact, some years ago roads in Chicago were being repaired and repaved, and when the old asphalt was being removed, the cedar logs were exposed bearing the stamp or marks of the Chicago Lumber Co. Penetang.

Further intrigued, I wanted to know when the logging and barge activity took place. Win Horsfall gave me some names of long established families who had settled in the westerly area of Conc. 2. Contacting them, they recalled their parents/grandparents speaking of the logging activities, burning of slash, and anchored barges being loaded with cedar logs,

Perhaps the Chicago Lumber Co. was located in Penetang around 1856 when Penetang was more settled after the war of 1812.

The original Township of Tiny survey of 1822 reflected Land Claims being made, probably by individuals in the Survey Crew, for payment of services rendered. Crown Patent in 1866 for Lot 26, Conc. 3 shows title being given and registered to a William Beatty from the Crown with no consideration (money) involved. Beatty sold it in 1869 to a John Cowan for consideration of \$300.00. Records for the next seven years reflect considerable activity in change of ownership involving lumber companies with timber interests, eg. Georgian Bay Lumber Co., Collingwood Lumber Co. My guess would be that the lumber and barge activity probably took place between 1872 – 1876. I would be grateful for any confirmation of that.

(to be continued in the Spring, 2016 edition of The Tiny Cottager)

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The New Member-Driven Priorities for Our Federation

By DOUG KIRK

The lyrics of Bob Dylan's seminal 1964 song, "The Times They are A-changin'" still ring true 50 years later. Times are certainly a-changin' here in Tiny Township with the election late last year of a new Council to govern the affairs of the Township, including a new Mayor, a new Deputy Mayor, and two out of three councillors new to the job.

As is customary following any election, the Federation has reviewed its direction and reset its priorities. It is committed to understanding its members' priorities and ensuring that its resources are tightly directed by those priorities. Also, the Federation executive set as a high priority getting to know the members of our new Council and establishing a good working relationship with them.

I Priority Review

To initiate the process, on Saturday April 11th the Federation hosted an open forum entitled "New Directions". Executives of the FoTTSA member associations were invited to participate in an unstructured "round table" discussion of what was important to their associations. Approximately 2 hours of discussion encompassed a "venting" session by members and a resulting articulation in broad terms of top of mind concerns by Federation members.

Afterwards, in a May 6th meeting, the record of this open and candid April discussion was thoroughly reviewed by the Federation's Board. One outcome of this meeting was to significantly reshape the Federation's Annual General Meeting from the "push" content approach of the last few years to a "pull" input from the Members to help clarify the priorities and activities of the Federation.

II The Annual General Meeting

The Federation's June 20th Annual General Meeting focused on members' input regarding the future direction of the Federation. Fourteen member associations submitted surveys indicating their 3 most important priorities and/or activities. The tally of the submissions is as follows:

1. Environmental Issues- including invasive species on land or in water, water quality (13 citations) 33%

2. Monitoring/Oversight of Township Council – including representations to, policing, reporting on meetings (9 citations) 22%

3. Parking- including traffic enforcement (6 citations) 15%

4. *The Tiny Cottager* - including discount program for local businesses (4 citations) 10%

5. Septage- (3 citations) 8%

6. Other Concerns noted in 5 citations- the most important one related to Official Plan reviews & development/rezoning questions

Secondarily, members were concerned about maintaining good communications between the executive and members, as well as our charitable work in the community

Conventional wisdom likely would have predicted these topics as members' top choices. However, validating the Federation's priorities and expectations with this primary polling evidence is tremendously reassuring and useful.

III Recent Activities

The above-noted exercise in re-prioritizing is only useful if it results in tangible action!

Since the Federation's AGM in June, two major initiatives have been undertaken to enhance its relationship with Council.

1. This summer on August 21st, *The Tiny Cottager* was the lead sponsor of a highly successful Mayor's Golf Tournament that raised much appreciated funding for Georgian Bay General Hospital and Rosewood Shelter.

2. The Federation Board proactively encouraged its members to participate in The Township's Strategic Planning Review Process which closed on September 20th. We now expect we have at least 10 members submitting their comments and priorities for the Township to consider in its review.

In conclusion, the Federation's Board has recently sharpened its focus on the activities of importance for the upcoming year and at the same time has established better communication of our priorities to the Township, thus benefitting all of our members.

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Fire Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility

By FIRE CHIEF TONY MINTOFF (CO-WRITTEN WITH MARY JANE PRICE)



Fall is a time when we gather with family in the brisk, invigorating air to clean up the yard, rake the leaves and burn them in a fire pit. As the smoke increases, we and our neighbours start to wonder whether this was such a good idea.

In response to the large number of complaints, changes have been made to the open burning by-law. A new provision prohibits any fires that create a large volume of smoke, or that create a nuisance or discomfort to neighbours.

In addition, effective January 1, 2016, the burning of leaves will be prohibited in Tiny, as is the case with almost every other municipality in Simcoe County. Leaves can be disposed of through Simcoe County's spring and fall leaf collection; by dropping them off at a transfer station for free; or by composting or mulching them. The decision to ban leaf burning was made because the fire department has encountered numerous unattended fires, and some structure fires that have been caused by unattended burning leaves migrating to other vegetation and structures or by burning leaves being blown over to other combustibles.

Residents will still be able to roast their marshmallows over an open fire or burn clean material. Please remember that open fires in Tiny Township require a valid burn permit which you can purchase at the Jug City in Wyevalle and Toanche, the Township Office, R&P Gas Station at Hwy 92 and Crossland Road, and the Esso station at County Road 6 and the 16th Concession, to name a few locations. On the back of the permit are the conditions and requirements for a fire pit and fire. Outlining just the major requirements, fires cannot be more than 1 meter in diameter and height so huge bonfires are out. It has to be at least 3 meters from anything combustible and that includes overhead wires. Fires are not allowed on windy days. If you start a fire you need to make a commitment to stay and watch it as long as it is burning. You can't go off and do something else. A garden hose or pails of water need to be beside the fire in case it suddenly gets out of control. With fires things can happen far too quickly. If you need to leave the fire it has to be completely extinguished. Coals can stay

alive overnight and reignite combustible material. Ditches are municipal property so fires cannot be located in ditches.

If you don't comply with the requirements listed above you will be fined for by-law infractions and, if the fire department has to respond to extinguish the fire, a cost recovery fee will be charged to the property owner.

Given the large geographical area that Tiny covers and the fact that all of the fire fighters are volunteers, the fire department relies on individuals to take responsibility for their fire safety. With this in mind, over the past two years, the Township of Tiny Fire and Emergency Services Department has dramatically expanded its public education outreach program to have more direct contact with Tiny's residents and visitors and to educate individuals on the appropriate actions to take if there is a fire in their home or cottage. Our department would be pleased to attend any group or cottage/shoreline general meetings to provide more detailed fire safety information. One of the things we go over is the operation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. We would be delighted to receive your requests for speakers at our administrative office in the Wyevalle fire hall, at (705) 322-1161. We are also creating a contact/ mailing list to enable us to send fire safety messages and related information such as product recalls as soon as they are produced. If your organization wishes to be added to the list, please contact us with a phone number and e-mail address.

We launched our Home Fire Safety Audit Program this spring. When we receive a request from a resident, a team of two firefighters visits the applicant's home or cottage to conduct a free fire safety inspection. This inspection will identify any fire safety issues; offer advice as to how to eliminate or correct them; and check to determine if all required smoke and CO alarms are in place, properly located, and in working order. If they aren't in working order these devices will be installed at a much lower cost than retail prices. This program has been developed with the support of the Penetanguishene Rotary Club, which has donated some funding to permit us to install free alarms for those who

lack the financial resources to do so.

As part of our public education outreach program, in the spring *Tiny Cottager* we will discuss how to prevent fires from occurring and what actions need to be taken quickly in the event of a fire. Knowing can make the difference between life and death and although the number of fires in Ontario is declining, the number of fire fatalities is on the rise and children and seniors are the most vulnerable groups.

In closing I would like to mention how proud I am to lead such a committed and professional group of firefighters. Please keep safe and we'll see you in the spring.



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Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament 2015

PHOTOS BY ANDREW CHOMENTOWSKI

The first annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament and Dinner was held at Balm Beachway Golf Club on August 21st, benefitting the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation (CT Scanner) and La Maison Rosewood Shelter - Working to End All Violence Against All Women. The Federation was title sponsor, reflecting a \$3,500 combined donation to the event. The dinner



Paul Cowley (FoTTSA President), Dave Hobson (GBGH Foundation Board Member), Dave Turner (GBGH Foundation Board Member), Karen McGrath (President & CEO, GBGH), Township of Tiny Mayor George Cornell, Doug Kirk (FoTTSA), Roger Goddard (GBGH Foundation Board Member)

was held at the Tiny Township Community Centre on Concession 8 East. FoTTSA purchased a table and several board members attended. All told the Tournament raised over \$25,000 for the charities and everyone involved enjoyed themselves immensely. The Federation looks forward to being similarly involved in the 2016 Tournament!



Paul Cowley joins the La Mason Rosewood team as Executive Director
Kathy Willis accepts a cheque from Mayor George Cornell



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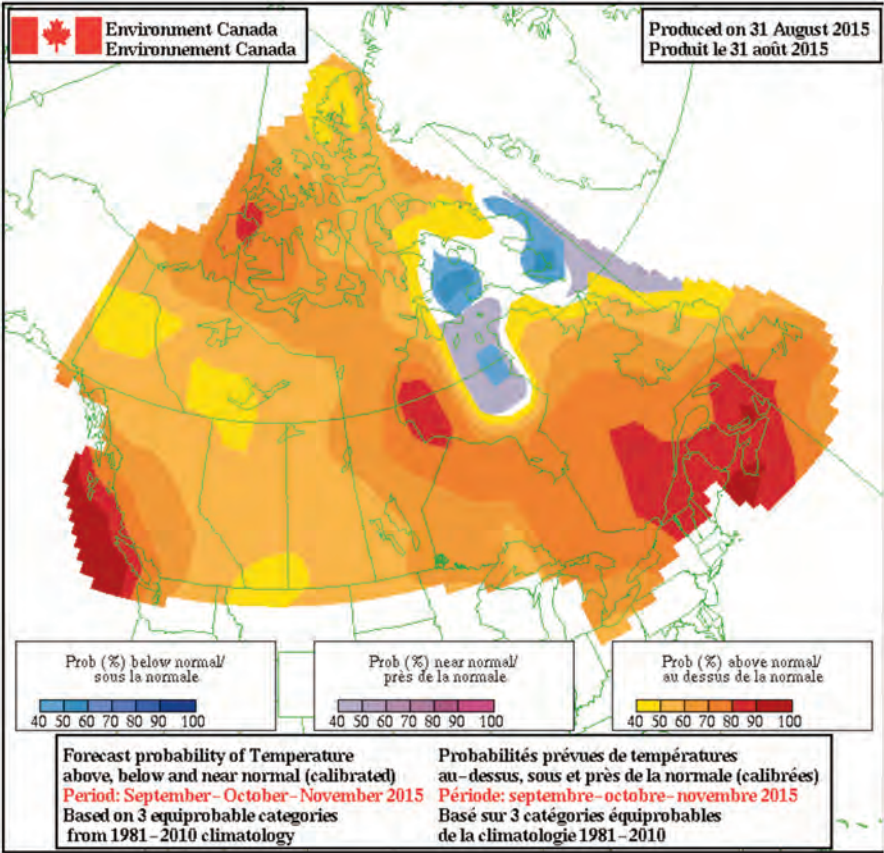
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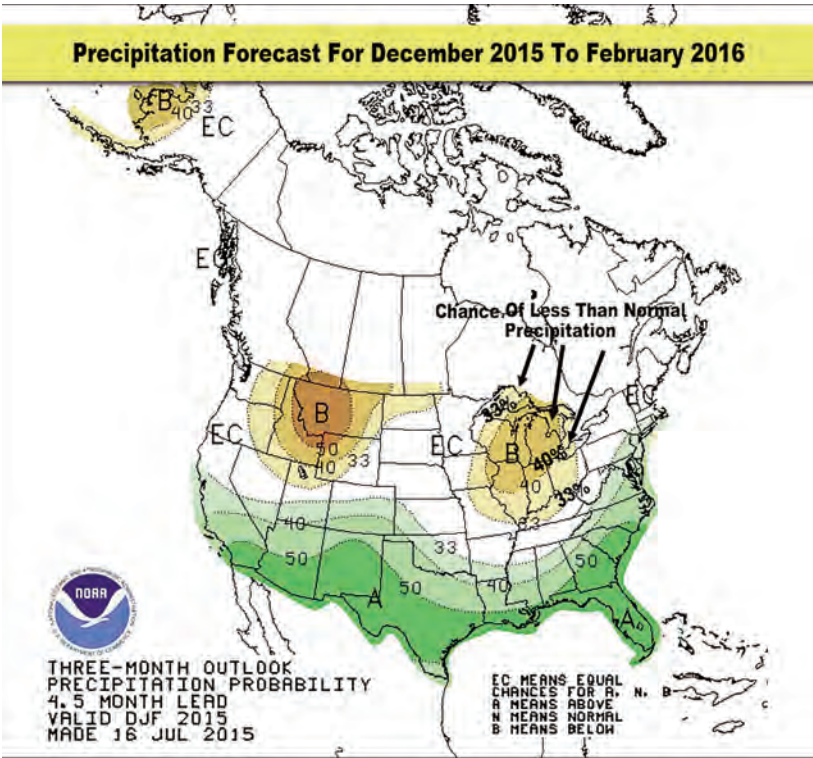
By MARY MUTER

This winter, El Nino could make the Great Lakes not so wintry – and what does that mean for water levels?

El Niño is in full force and could have big impacts on the Great Lakes’ winter 2015/2016. El Niño is an ocean condition marked by warmer than normal water temperatures in part of the Pacific Ocean. The warmer-than-normal water can alter weather patterns in many parts of the globe. El Niño can have a big impact on both winter temperatures and amounts of snowfall. A look back at the strongest El Niños shows there is a tendency for warmer-than-normal winter temperatures and less-than-normal snowfall.



The image above is a temperature forecast for September through to the end of November. Most of the middle Great Lakes have a greater chance of warmer-than-normal temperatures. Each El Niño is a little different, and we could still have some cold weather. It's just the odds are stacked against severe cold and extensive ice cover like we had for the past two winters.



What about snowfall?

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecast map above is the precipitation forecast for December 2015 through February 2016. The brown areas show there is a tendency for drier conditions. The winter dryness during El Niño is caused by two conditions. First, there is a tendency for the southern U.S. to be very stormy during El Niños, and the storm track stays down south. Second, as you might, expect the warmer air over the lakes cuts down on lake-effect snow.


In summary, we can expect less ice cover as a result of warmer air and water temperatures. When air temperatures are lower than water temperatures, increased evaporation results, and this year, that could last throughout the winter (such as happened in several winters between 2000 and 2012). If this prediction holds true, the result will be lower water levels come next spring.

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Progress Towards a Strategic and an Updated Official Plan for Tiny

By JACK ELLIS

A Sound Environmental Base

Tiny has endured several years of waiting....waiting ...waiting for the County of Simcoe to overhaul the Simcoe County Official Plan. A slew of appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) have delayed even partial approval of the County Plan, but now the Township of Tiny can finally devote its formal planning efforts towards making our own Official Plan consistent with the County's.

The "planning hierarchy" is as follows:

Provincial Policies

Provincial Policy Statements, Growth Plan, Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, Greenbelt Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan

County of Simcoe Official Plan

Tiny Township Official Plan

Zoning Bylaw

The County's Official Plan (OP) process actually began in 2004, and County Council passed it in 2008. It did not take effect, however, since some 135 appeals to the OMB were launched. Also, Ontario's Provincial policies kept being changed and added to between 2005 and 2014. Most notable of these were policies to protect Lake Simcoe and to allocate growth throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe. *(Are you surprised that all of Simcoe County, right up to the Severn River, is considered part of the "Golden Horseshoe"? I was.)*

In 2013 the County passed a second version of its Plan, but even now, the OMB has only approved some portions of it, including population and housing growth forecasts; settlement boundaries and expansion; transportation; and waste management.

Still to emerge from the OMB process are several aspects of critical relevance to Tiny, including protection of agricultural land; preservation of rural character; greenlands and natural heritage preservation; sustainable management of water courses, floodplains, shorelines and fish habitat. OMB hearing dates on these aspects were set for May and July, 2015, and the decisions will come out..... whenever.

Meanwhile, Tiny Township has taken two major steps of its own:

- The previous Council (2010-2014) commissioned a comprehensive report titled Evaluation of Natural Heritage Conditions in the Township of Tiny that was delivered in March, 2015;

- The current Council (2014-2018) has set up a Strategic Planning Process to guide planning efforts and involve taxpayers more closely in setting goals for the longer-term future.

The Natural Heritage report is an extremely comprehensive inventory and evaluation of the natural environment and features of the Township. It was prepared by a team led by staff from the Severn Sound Environmental Association; and including MHBC Planning, the Township's OP consultant; and Tiny's planning staff under Shawn Persaud, Manager of Planning and Development.

This report contains over 100 pages of text, tables and maps. It includes both descriptions of the various natural features, and a score relative to each category. You can look up details of woodlands and watercourses near your property, as well as wildlife habitat and forest cover in major areas of Tiny. It inventories shoreline and other topographical features, and scores each feature according to the level of detail of the data available.

Shawn Persaud notes that they are already using the Natural Heritage report to draft relevant sections of the revised Tiny Township Official Plan. These include the natural heritage protection measures and the source water protection policies for the Township's water systems.

You can get a copy of the report either directly from the Severn Sound Environmental Association at 67 Fourth Street, Midland, or you can download it in .pdf format from <http://tinyurl.com/nc15yud>

Meanwhile, the Mayor and Council of Tiny decided early in their term of office to initiate a Strategic Planning initiative that would run in parallel to the Official Plan revision process.

Mayor George Cornell sees the Strategic Plan as having quite different objectives than the Official Plan (OP). The OP is a statutory requirement that prescribes details about land use and many other issues and forms the basis for the Zoning By-Law. On the other hand, the Strategic Plan would outline a long-term vision for the Township and point out strategic initiatives that could achieve the vision.

The Mayor wants the strategic plan process to be an open and public dialogue, where taxpayers are encouraged to articulate the kind of future they see for Tiny and the characteristics of Tiny most important to them. He emphasizes that the Strategic Plan will not be developed by the Township of Tiny Council, Staff or the Consulting Team in isolation: it will be developed with the community.

The challenge is to look 20 to 25 years into the future and consider issues such as:

- What are the current strengths of the Township of Tiny? What should stay the same?
- What challenges are facing the Township of Tiny?
- What specific strategic priorities should the Township of Tiny focus on?
- What needs to change? What actions can we take to make this change happen?

Mayor Cornell and Council have set late November, 2015, as the time to adopt the Strategic Plan. That will enable the 2016 Budget discussions to include initial steps toward achieving the strategic vision statements.

Both Council and township staff have put a lot of thought and effort into setting up the interactive process of consultation on the Strategic Plan. All organized groups in the Township have been contacted for input, and all households invited to send in a feedback form, also available on line. There has even been a children's art contest to record their visions!

Council set up a series of consultation initiatives:

- There was a Town Hall Meeting on May 27 at the Township of Tiny Community Centre on Concession Road 8 East. Of the 120 attendees, thirteen spoke about a wide range of subjects: the township's invasive species strategy, dropping shoreline water levels, assistance for Giant's Tomb cottagers with barging costs for septage, the best type of septic tanks, a survey to spark interest in bicycle trails, the potential impact of the Darby Road quarry on noise and on the aquifer, the potential impact of gravel extraction on Tiny's water and farmland, Council's position on agritourism and the promotion of small businesses, implementation of Wyevalle Park plans and interest in plans for Stott Park, concerns about the noise by-law, parking issues at Pine Forest, and noise from Wasaga Beach..
- Then, on July 11 at the Wyebridge Community Centre, there was a Community Visioning Challenge and Interactive Workshop. At it the audience engaged in small group discussions about their visions and went on to share their ideas – in written or graphic form – with the other attendees. This seemed to work quite well, and the number attending was reasonably satisfactory for a summer Saturday morning. A record of the event is available online as a Newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/pcdk5ty>

- The second Town Hall Meeting occurred on August 15 in the Perkinsfield Park Pavilion. Council, staff and community organizations pulled out all the stops for this superbly organized meeting. Each Council member spoke, and then the 30 individuals in attendance, who were encouraged to share comments, addressed a broad range of subjects. More than 60 participated in the fun events and BBQ that followed.
- A third Town Hall Meeting is planned for Saturday, November 14, 9:00 a.m. to noon, again at the Wyebridge Community Centre. For details see the President's Message on Page 1.

- Mayor Cornell and Council announced in Spring 2015 that they intend to continue holding three Town Hall forums each year in future, so watch for these.

You can get more information on the Strategic Planning process in a FAQ document online: <http://tinyurl.com/owhafof>

In any event, please make sure that you have in one way or another contributed your visions and suggestions to help shape the future of our beloved Tiny Township!

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Editor's Note

The author of the Habitat for Humanity (HfH) story in the spring 2015 issue of The Tiny Cottager would like to point out that Habitat Ontario Gateway North did not submit the accompanying photo which shows volunteers on scaffolding not wearing proper safety attire. The photo was taken from the website of the Vermont chapter of HfH. The Tiny Cottager regrets the error.

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REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued from page 5

has instituted a system of escalating heavy fines for repeat offenders, and, where offences continue to occur, of warnings and charges against property owners. The Report noted that the Town of Wasaga Beach prohibits rentals of less than 31 days in single family dwellings, while the Town of the Blue Mountains has imposed a Short Term Accommodation Licensing By-law to regulate premises rented for 30 days or less. Owners must obtain a licence and renew it bi-annually, and may have their license suspended or revoked for failure to comply with the provisions of the By-law.

Council opted for zero tolerance of current by-law infractions by short term renters (i.e. no warnings) "where evidence supports a charge against the landowner and the renter" and decided that the OPP is to be contacted "to add patrols to include short term rental property issue areas and report back to Council with the results."

PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER:

This wireless telecommunication installation at 843 Concession Road 18 West is to be 70 metres (230 feet) high and sited within a 16.5 metre (54.2 feet) by 18 metre (59 feet) compound. Rogers proposes to install 850 MHz and 1900 MHz HSPA, and LTE antennas, and to reserve space to accommodate future technology and co-location by other licensed carriers. At this stage, the tower will serve subscribers to the Rogers network only. It is too tall to be camouflaged.

Dismayingly it is to be located on agricultural land which is protected by the Township's Official Plan. Shawn Persaud, Manager of Planning and Development, argues in his report to Council that the desire of many township residents for affordable high-speed internet access over-rides the agricultural safeguards of the OP. Maps showing the area served by this tower are included in the Committee of the Whole Agenda for 31 August. See F / Reports of Consultants or Third Parties.

Council decided to have CAO Doug Luker prepare a Letter of Concurrence so that the tower can be built next year.

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER:

The Heritage Advisory Committee recommended that the Township create an official list of heritage properties (as required by Section 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act). A Register increases the amount of time it takes to get a demolition permit from 10 business days to a maximum of 60 business days. Council approved the creation of a Municipal Heritage Register.

To date Tiny has three designated heritage landmarks: St. Patrick's Church in Perkinsfield, the Concession Road 2 East Railroad Bridge, and the Copeland Creek Cemetery. Two already have heritage plaques, and Council agreed to that the Committee might fundraise to purchase a plaque for the third -- the Concession Road 2 East Bridge.

VOLUNTEERS REMOVE PHRAGMITES AT WOODLAND BEACH:

This year (supported by the Community Stewardship Program instituted by the previous Council), the Woodland Beach Property Owners Association removed Phragmites for the third year running. This year they scheduled three phragmites digs (helped by township machinery) involving 130 volunteers who removed a total of 379 bags for the Public Works Department to carry off and burn. Other instances of the Community Stewardship Program in action, will be described in the Spring 2016 *Tiny Cottager*.

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