

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 45

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Spring/Summer 2015

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

Having just come out of one of the harshest winters in memory, I note how quickly it is forgotten now that the first hot days herald the arrival of summer.

This summer marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival of French explorer Samuel de Champlain in Huronia. There will be many events to celebrate this anniversary and you can learn more about them at www.rendezvouschamplain.ca.

Our current water levels are just slightly above their long term average. That said, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Environment Canada have recently reduced their precipitation forecast and increased their temperature forecast for the summer, a combination which will probably result in lower lake levels. As was the case last spring, these slightly higher levels have lured people and governments into a false sense that the issue with the St. Clair River and our lake levels has gone away. It hasn't.

Restore Our Water International's (ROWI's) ability to fund-raise continues to be difficult as everyone thinks we are fine. We are not fine. ROWI's ongoing lobbying work in Washington costs thousands of dollars a month. In addition, ROWI is trying to get our Canadian government to act, since it has done nothing even though the IJC recommended the installation of measures to slow the flow of the St. Clair River.

ROWI's funding has reached a critical low. Support is desperately needed. Please visit www.restoreourwater.com to keep updated and make a contribution, or contact me if you are willing to arrange a fund-raising event in your area. Georgian Bay water is a resource that we must proactively protect.

Moving from water to land, parking continues to be a focus in Tiny, driven by the concerns of our fire chief about the numerous streets in the township that should be signed "No Parking" as they are too narrow to allow adequate access for fire trucks. This raises safety and liability issues should fire trucks be unable to properly access a fire.

We are pleased to see the collaborative approach our new council is taking with the upcoming Town Hall Meetings which invite input from residents. The first meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. on the evening of May 27 at Tiny's Community Centre, 91 Concession Road 8 East. Please consult tiny.ca for updates about the other two meetings.

Let us know what subjects you would like to see addressed in articles in the next edition of *The Tiny Cottager*. Also, we welcome the energy of new volunteers to help us with various interesting projects, so do get in touch if you would like to help to improve Tiny in an area interesting to you.

Have a great summer!

Tiny Marsh BioBlitz!

June 27 2015, 6 a.m. to midnight

Tiny Marsh, Ontario's first provincially owned and managed wildlife area, consists of approximately 600 hectares of marsh and 300 hectares of field and forest. A recognized Important Bird Area (IBA), it is now managed by a volunteer non-profit organization, the MTM Conservation Association. The Tiny Marsh BioBlitz is part of the biological inventory program and will start at 6 a.m. Saturday June 27 and end around midnight. One- to 3-hour outings will depart the Nature Centre at various times, led by a group of experts with knowledge in different fields – birds, butterflies, pollinators and other insects, amphibians and reptiles, mammals and plants. Participants can come out for just one outing, or several. To register, call Kate Harries 705-322-2545 or email info@mtm-conservation.org. Advance registration (call or email above) will be required; details of the outings will be posted closer to the time at www.mtmconservation.org. No experience or equipment required (binoculars a help).



Jennifer Howard Photo

Ensuring Our Water Quality by Tending to Our Environment

By ANDRÉ BEAUSOLEIL, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR, HABITAT RESTORATION ASSOCIATION OF LAFONTAINE

As an environmental technologist, I have practical experience in water resource management as well as stream habitat assessment and rehabilitation. The long-term goal of the Habitat Restoration Association of Lafontaine, which was formed in 2011, is to re-establish terrestrial and aquatic habitats and improve water quality by reducing phosphorus and nutrient inputs and bacteria (including *Escherichia coli* [*E. coli*]) into our local watercourses and ultimately our bays and lakes.

One way this goal can be achieved in a sustainable fashion is by re-establishing riparian zone (stream and lake edge) setbacks and planting a variety of native trees and shrubs within these areas to act as buffers. This method has two benefits. Firstly, surface water running over replanted land is slowed, reducing erosion and allowing water to be absorbed into the ground and then filtered, decreasing the amount of nutrients and bacteria that enter the watercourse. A second benefit is that naturalized riparian zones provide much needed habitat corridors for all forms of wildlife.

As director of the Habitat Restoration Association, I seek out landowners who are willing to set aside land for riparian zone buffers along watercourses that cross their property. Next comes the search for partners (governmental granting agencies and private donors) and

applications for funding for livestock exclusion fencing where needed, for the purchase of native trees and shrubs for buffer zones, and for ongoing maintenance. Beyond that, there's a need to find volunteers to help with planting and maintenance.

The Habitat Restoration Association, its volunteers and contributing partners have brought several projects to fruition to date. These include:

- Five livestock exclusion fencing installations totalling 4,077 linear feet of high quality fencing.
- The creation of two wetlands within livestock exclusion zones, complemented by riparian buffer zone plantings of native trees and berry-producing shrubs.
- The planting of approximately 9,500 various trees and berry-producing shrubs along with weed suppression mats and stem protectors.
- Completion of eight permanent, riparian-buffer-zone, agricultural set backs totalling over sixteen acres in surface area.
- The stabilization of two eroding banks utilizing such techniques as coco meshing with live willow tree staking and red dogwood shrub plantings.

E. coli inputs to the Nottawasaga and Thunder Bays are not limited to outflow from creeks. Although the

see LAFONTAINE CREEK on page 10

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ONTARIO

2015 Events

For a more complete list including web addresses, please see the 2015 Events page on www.tinycottager.org.

- Quest Art School + Gallery** - a variety of summer programs – see <http://questart.ca>
- MAY**
- 22- June 6
“Squabbles”, Huronia Players, Midland Cultural Centre
- 22-24
Waterfront Festival, Heritage Park, Barrie
- 23-24
Midland Model Train Show, North Simcoe Sports Centre, Midland
- JUNE**
- 3-27
“Snow White: The Panto”, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
- 6
Kids Fishing Derby, Bike Rodeo, Midland Harbour
- 10
Pan Am Games: Torch Relay Community Celebration, Midland
- 12-13
Wasaga Beach Fun Run – Classic Car Event
- 13-14
Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, Midland
- Wheels & Tracks in Motion**, Simcoe County Museum, Minesing
- 19
Party on the Dock, Midland
- 19-21
National Aboriginal Day and Aboriginal Festival Weekend, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
- 20
Camp Simpresca Open House, 51 Simpresca Rd. Penetang
- 20-21
Coldwater & Area Studio Tour

- 26
Golf Tournament, Geo'n Bay Cancer Support Centre
- Midland Golf & Country Club
- 27-28
Wasaga Beach Fest
- JULY**
- 1
Canada Day Celebrations: Penetang Centennial Museum, Little Lake Park, Midland
- Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons, Discovery Harbour, Penetang
- July and August**
- Church in the Pines** (Outdoors) Lefaive Rd off Con 11 Sundays 10:30 am
- 2-18
"Sexy Laundry", King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
- 3-5
Mariposa Folk Festival, Orillia,
- 11
Library Garden Tour
- 16-19
Festival du Loup, Lafontaine
- July 23-August 8
“Legends of Rock ‘n’ Roll”, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
- 23-26
Collingwood Elvis Festival
- 25-26
Family Discovery Day, Discovery Harbour, Penetang
- AUGUST**
- 1-2
Collingwood Arts and Music Festival
- 13 – 29
“Footloose”, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetang
- 21-23
Artwalk, Midland
- 22
Ribfest, Midland
- Barrie Dragon Boat Festival**
- 29
Cycle Camelot, Geo'n Bay Cancer Support Centre
- Penetang,
- 29-30
Wasaga Beach Triathlon Weekend
- 30
“Savour Simcoe” Food Tasting Event
- Simcoe County Museum, Minesing
- SEPTEMBER**
- 12-13
Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre POW WOW, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
- 20
Terry Fox Run, Midland
- 25
Franco-Ontarian Day Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
- OCTOBER**
- 9-12
Thanksgiving Studio Tour, Barrie & Orillia
- 10-11
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons
- 22-24
“Haunted Harbour”, Discovery Harbour, Penetang
- 31
Halloween Spooktacular Penetang Centennial Museum

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July 23 – Aug 8



The Dance Musical

Aug 13 – Aug 29

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Toronto All Star Big Band

July 9th - Midland
The Judgement of Paris

July 10th - Midland ~ July 11th - Meaford
Adam Crossley

July 16th - Midland ~ July 17th - Meaford
Mauro Bertoli & Wolfgang David

July 21st - Midland
New Zealand String Quartet & James Campbell

July 23rd - Midland
Leopoldo Erice - Bach's Goldberg Variations

July 30th - Midland ~ August 1st - Meaford
Wendake/Huronia featuring the Toronto Consort

August 4th - Midland
Festival Ensemble - from The Festival Of The Sound

August 7th - Midland ~ August 8th - Meaford
Jackie Richardson & Joe Sealy - Africville

August 13th - Midland
Sinfonia Toronto & Mauro Bertoli

August 14th - Meaford ~ August 15 - Midland
Susan Aglukark

August 20th - Midland
Ted Baerg & John French

August 22nd - Midland
Bicycle Opera

August 28th - Midland ~ August 29th - Meaford
Sultans of String



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Habitat for Humanity in Action

See What's in Store at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Midland!

BY MEGHAN SMITH

After a long winter, there's something about this time of year that inspires us to throw open our windows and let the fresh breezes in. Spring is in the air and many people feel an itch to start cleaning and "freshening up" their living spaces by renovating or refurbishing their homes. This can be a big undertaking for many people but the North Simcoe Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North can help! The Midland ReStore at 253 Whitfield Crescent accepts donations of a wide range of items from building materials to household goods.

ReStores accept and resell at affordable prices quality new and used building supplies, home furnishings, appliances and décor items. Shopping at a ReStore is a socially and environmentally conscious decision, as the funds generated support Habitat homebuilding and keep donated items out of landfills. In 2014, Canadian ReStores diverted more than 30,000 tons of material from landfill!

The first Habitat for Humanity ReStore was opened in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1990, with the goal of working with the local community to break the cycle of poverty through affordable home ownership. Now there are over 1,000 ReStores worldwide raising funds and organizing volunteer building crews so families can access affordable homeownership. In Canada over 90 ReStores nationwide generated \$47 million in sales in 2014.

The North Simcoe Chapter of Habitat for Humanity Ontario Gateway North, with the help of volunteers and donations from community partners, is currently constructing a sixth Habitat home on Sheridan Street in Penetanguishene.

Not only do the ReStores offer great furniture, housewares, flooring and building supplies at discounted prices, but they give local families the opportunity to fix up their homes on a reasonable budget as well.

Shopping at and donating to Habitat for Humanity ReStores is a decision everyone can feel good about. The beauty of a visit to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore is you just never know what you might find. Items are donated daily, from all over the region. If you didn't find what you were looking for today, you should make sure to check back regularly!

If you are undertaking a home clean-up or renovation this Spring and wish to donate heavy items such as appliances or furniture that may need to be picked up from your home or cottage, by all means contact the Midland ReStore.

To learn more about Habitat for Humanity, ReStores and more, visit www.habitatgatewaynorth.com. Contact the Midland ReStore by calling (705) 528-0681.

www.tinycottager.org

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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

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

SIMCOE PRIDE WEEK TO BE PROCLAIMED IN TINY:

In response to a letter from Brandon Amyot, Secretary, Simcoe Pride, Council decided in January to proclaim July 31 to August 8 as Simcoe Pride Week in Tiny. The motion reverses a resolution passed in March 2007, to the effect that requests for declarations and flag raisings would not be accepted. This Council wants to consider such requests case by case. Mayor Cornell pointed out that this new Council feels it important to demonstrate openness to inclusiveness and equality in the Township of Tiny.

OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION OF GRAVEL PIT:

K.J. Beamish Construction has proposed an expansion of its gravel pit in the area of Darby Road and Hwy 93. A large group of concerned citizens at the public meeting on the matter in January raised concerns about proposed annual tonnage of aggregate removal, noise, truck volume, consequences of washing and water runoff, impact on woodland and environment, soil erosion, possible soil, well, and water contamination, and impact on ground water levels and local wells. There were requests for baseline testing of water quality and for public input similar that that for Site 41. There will be further public meetings regarding this proposed expansion.

PARKING AND SAFETY:

In February, Council referred R.J. Burnside & Associates' report about road width for emergency vehicles to the Strategic Planning Process (see below). (The Burnside report covers all roads from County Road 6 to the western shore of Tiny, and assesses the width required for fire department vehicles to maneuver while fighting a fire under various road conditions – roads with one or two ditches, those with parking on one side or two, and so on. It concluded that most roads in the area under consideration are too narrow to accommodate emergency vehicles and parking.) In March, at the urging of Councillor Hinton, Fire Chief Tony Mintoff was directed to list the 20 Roads of greatest safety concern. (For a detailed discussion of the Burnside Report, see the fall 2014 *Tiny Cottager*, p. 5, available in Issue Archives on tinycottager.org.)

ORAL SUBMISSION/DELEGATION PROCESS SPEEDED UP:

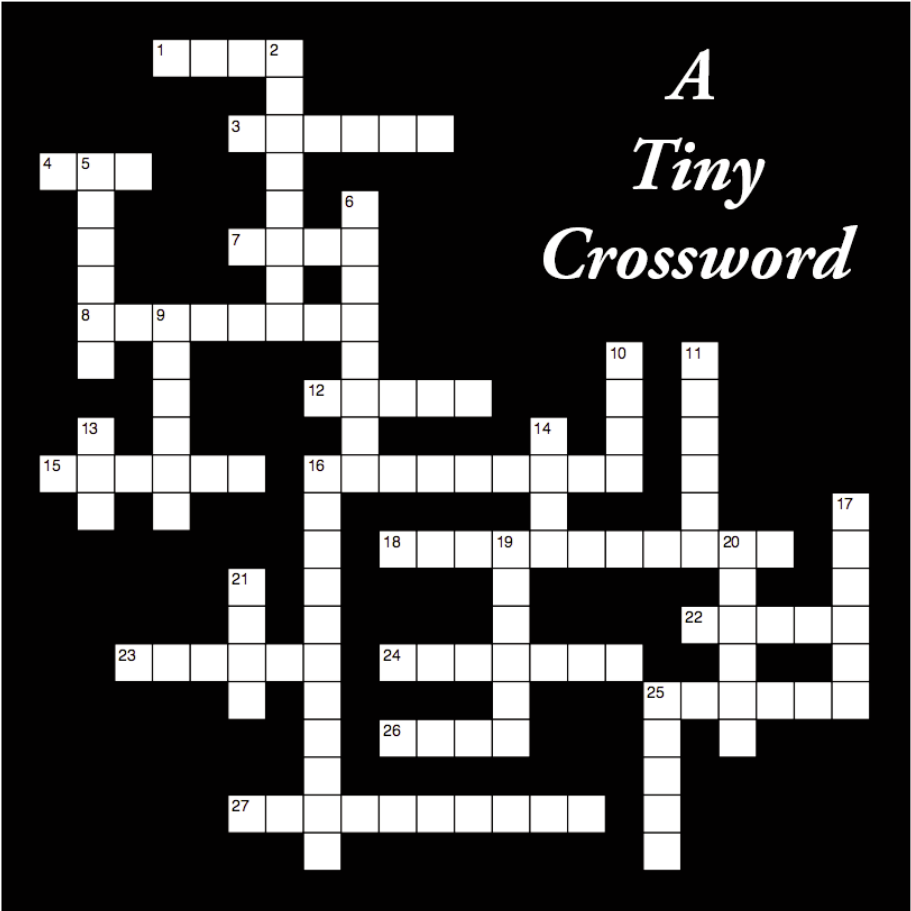
Previously it took 4 – 6 weeks after Council agreed to hear a delegation before it was heard. In February, Council decided to allow individuals or groups to make presentations during the next Council meeting if the clerk's office receives a completed delegation form by noon of the Tuesday before the meeting. Council also set aside the first 20 minutes of each Committee of the Whole meeting for individuals to address them on items in that day's agenda and in meeting minutes included in that day's agenda. The Clerk has the right to refuse any delegation request.

McMAHAN WOODS DEVELOPMENT:

The Ontario Municipal Board's approval of the draft plan for a 20-lot subdivision for part of Lot 23 in Concession 4 West expires at the end of May this year. Council granted the one-year extension requested by West Ridge Development Corporation, agent for the developer.

(Several beach associations and FoTTSA opposed the original 104-lot size of this development, gradually getting it whittled down to 20, concerned about heavy beach use, water runoff, availability of well water, impingement on the green belt and an ANSI [Area of Natural and Scientific Interest], and the precedent it would set for development along the Nipissing Ridge.)

OFFICIAL PLAN TO BE UPDATED:



Across

1. Ointment or Beach
3. Surrounded by Water
4. One of Lady Simcoe's Dogs
7. One of Lady Simcoe's Dogs
8. Fungi of the Woods
12. A Great Place to Go Walking
15. Where Trees Grow in Great Numbers
16. Famous Explorer 400 Years Ago
18. Flying in a wedge formation (6,5)
22. You Paddle This
23. Ste. Marie is Among Them
24. A Town Near Tiny
25. Tasty Bonfire Treat
26. Large Furry Mammal
27. A Board With A Sail

Down

2. Summer Stinger
5. When Leaves Change Colour
6. A Nature Centre (3,5)
9. Beach Season
10. Peaches and Cream
11. "The People Are The City"
13. A Red-Furred Mammal
14. What Beaches Are Made From
16. There are 20 of These in Tiny
17. We are very concerned about Georgian Bay's Water _____.
19. Another Word for Fisherman
20. One Ski
21. One of Lady Simcoe's Dogs
25. In the Night Sky You See So Many

Answers on Next Page

The Clean Water Act, the Strong Communities Act, the Provincial Policy Statement of 2014, the Places to Grow Growth Plan of 2013, the January 2013 draft County of Simcoe Official Plan (OP), as well as changes to the Planning Act all require revisions to Tiny's OP. As the County's OP is approved only in part, Tiny's cannot be fully updated until the end of this year or some time next. It is possible, however, to make changes where the County's plan has been approved. In March, Council directed staff to work with MHBC Planning on those.

LAPSE OF DRAFT PLAN APPROVALS:

There has been concern about the possibility that subdivisions approved many years ago might be built, given that regulations have been tightened considerably in the intervening years. The last Council made the necessary moves to eliminate three of these. In March, correspondence revealed that three draft approvals had lapsed at the end of January:

- the South Part of Lot 22, Concession 5 (Sokol/Downer, approved in 1990)
- Lot 18, Concession 16 (Ontario Potato Distributing, approved 1997) and
- Part of Lot 21, Concession 5 (Montebello Developments Limited, approved 1993).

MONITORING OF PUBLIC BEACHES IN 2014:

In April, Council learned that the Health Unit had monitored only six of Tiny's "public" beaches in 2014 -- Woodland Beach Park Concession 2, Jackson's Park Concession 8, Balm Beach Park Concession 10, Concession 13 West, Peek-a-Boo Trail Concession 16E, and Thunder Beach – and that all six had been posted at one time or another. (The Health Unit has varied which beaches and how many of them it monitors in the years since the volunteer water sampling program began in 2001, rising to 15 in 2004, then gradually sinking back to the number it was checking in the years immediately prior to 2001 – six.) Councillor Wishart asked that Lafontaine Beach be added to the list.

SEWAGE SYSTEM REINSPECTION PROGRAM:

CC Tatham reported that this program is now in its 13th year. Reinspections are done on a six-year cycle, except for the 427 properties within municipal wellhead protection areas, which are inspected every five years as required by the province. Of the 1341 inspections completed last summer, 142 revealed deficiencies (and more may be found once outstanding septic tank reports are submitted). Chief among the problems were root intrusions (45), vehicles parking on or driving over the septic tanks or leaching beds (24), and eaves troughs draining onto the sewage system (17). This summer, Thunder

Beach and Silverbirch, Giant's Tomb Island, and Balm Beach are be reinspected, along with those wellhead protection properties due for reinspection this year.

INFORMATION KIOSK AT ANDREW DRIVE PARKETTE, FARLAIN LAKE:

In response to a presentation by Peter Andrews, Vice President of the Farlain Lake Community Association, Council directed staff to work with the Association as an information kiosk regarding the dangers of invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil is erected in the parkette. (Watermilfoil is spread by watercraft, and boats are launched into Farlain Lake from the Andrew Drive Parkette.) Funding for construction, a sign, publications, displays and the like is coming from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. For information about controlling this invasive weed, see Andrews' article "Pulling Together to Fight Eurasian Watermilfoil" in the fall 2014 issue of The Tiny Cottager, available on tinycottager.org under Issue Archives.

ROGERS TELECOMMUNICATION INSTALLATION AT 843 CONCESSION ROAD 18 W:

This 70 meter tower will provide wireless voice and data services for subscribers to the Rogers network. It is to be located in a field some distance south of Concession Road 18 West.

CONSULTANT CHOSEN TO GUIDE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:

Planning Solutions Inc. has been selected to guide the preparation of a five-year strategic plan for the township. The cost is \$35,000. There were 26 responses to the Request for Proposals for a committee comprised of Mayor George Cornell, Councillor Cindy Hastings, Treasurer Doug Taylor, and CAO Doug Luker to consider. A number of large ticket items have already been referred to this process.

2015 TAXES: Since the three components of the taxes invoiced to Tiny's residents by the township each year have now been passed – the budgets of the township (up 2% over last year), the county, and education – tax bills can now be finalized. The total amount to be levied is a little over \$26 million.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS BEGIN: Council has decided to hold three town hall meetings each year: spring, summer, and fall. The first one is to take place from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27 in the Township's Community's Centre, 91 Concession Road 8 East. The second, on the recommendation of Councillor Richard Hinton, will take place on a Saturday in July to accommodate seasonal residents.



Restore Our Water International



By MARY MUTER

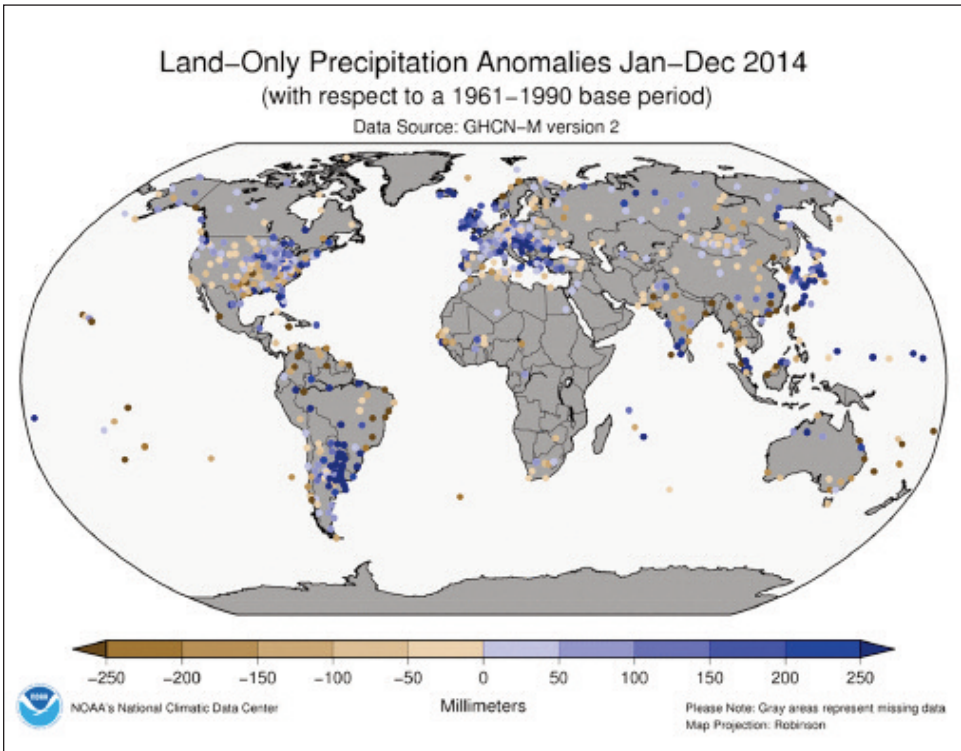
Think the low water levels concerns are over? Think again.

Yes, right now our water levels are up significantly, due to the very cold and wet weather around the Great Lakes for the past two years. In fact while the rest of the world was setting a new record warm and dry year for 2014 there was an important anomaly – around all the Great Lakes - as seen on these two world maps.

So what came with the very cold winter? Heavy ice cover, that resulted in Canadian and US icebreakers having to operate throughout the winter. In the St. Clair River, which forms the outlet for Lake Huron/Michigan and Georgian Bay, they also had to break up ice jams so ships could pass through.

Many ship captains reported the ice was layering up to 20 feet thick due to the high flow conditions, and posted YouTube videos to show this.

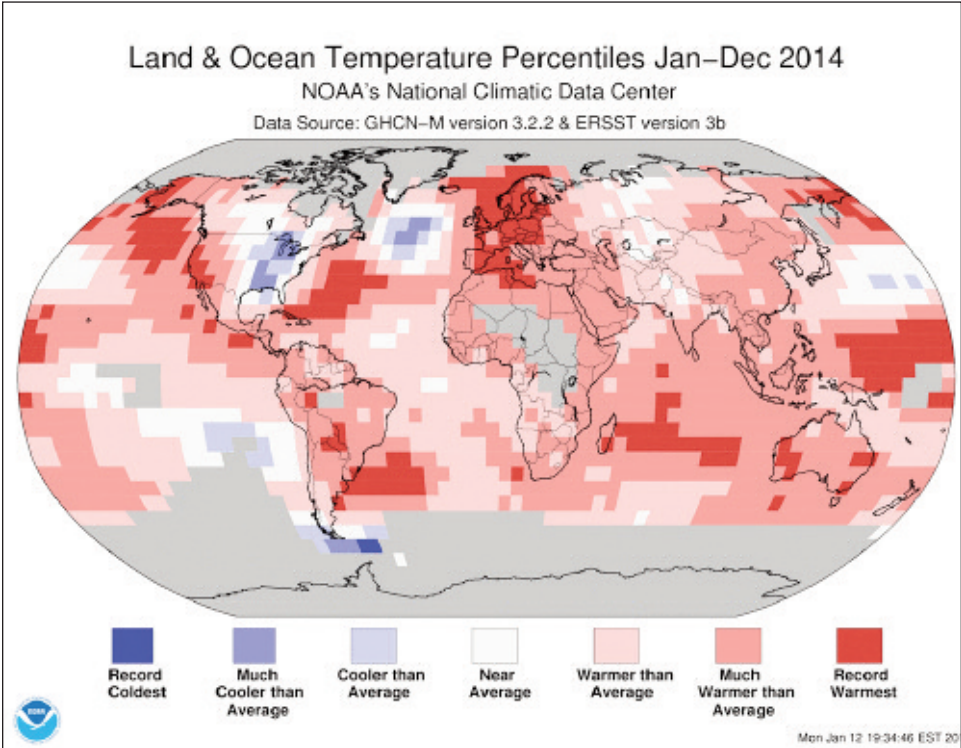
What happens to a 30-foot deep soft sediment riverbed when there is 20 feet of ice passing over it? The high pressure of the ice likely has caused some further scouring of the riverbed. If these scoured sediments accumulate downstream and result in less than 30 feet depth, dredging may be necessary to maintain the channel's required depth. This in turn will increase the conveyance capacity and likely the flow of the river.



At right is the latest design from Bill Bialkowski, our engineer who is continually researching for the best design option for flow control structures in the St. Clair River. The foil gate design in his drawing would fall down naturally in high flows, when holding back water would not be needed or desired.

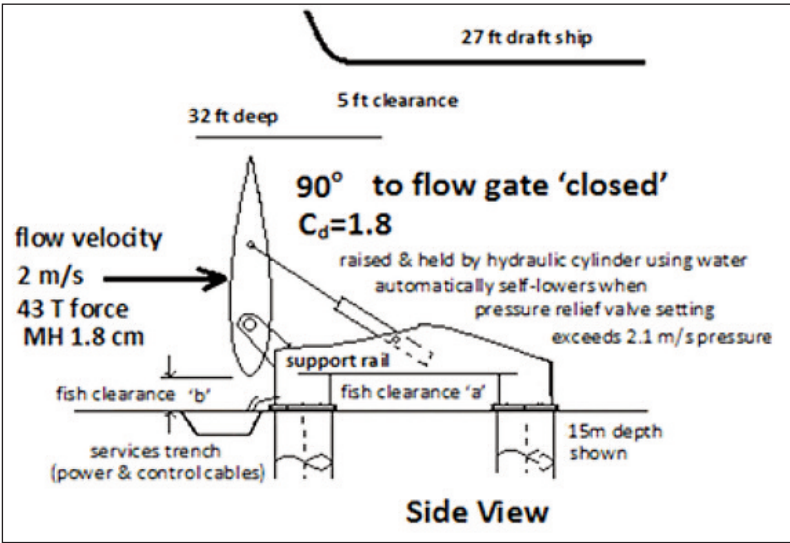
We have word that Canada has funding set aside to determine the best flow compensation design. We will continue our efforts in Washington to get matching American funding. But ROWI still urgently needs your donations to keep the design work going and to hammer away at the need for action by both countries! Please do what you can to help.

For the latest information and for information about how to donate see www.restoreourwater.com



The impact on our lake levels will not be known until the very cold weather subsides. And what is the long-term weather forecast for this summer? Warmer and dryer weather is predicted. The maps above will have to change if that happens.

So it is still too early to tell, but don't be surprised if the levels begin to fall, and in a year or so we are right back to where the levels were two years ago. If the out-flow through the St. Clair River has increased again don't be surprised to see a new record low level on Georgian Bay. Stay tuned for the next phase and don't forget to donate so we can continue to lobby until compensation measures are placed in the St. Clair River.



The Big Pull at Tiny Marsh

By KATE HARRIES

Garlic mustard is a perennial problem in Tiny Marsh! Please come out and help get rid of this aggressive weed that is invading the understory in a few areas of Tiny Marsh, pushing out the beautiful native flora.

You have your choice of four mornings - 9 am to noon, on Saturday May 30, Sunday May 31, Saturday June 6, Sunday June 7.

Park at the Nature Interpretive Centre on the Tiny-Flos Townline (between County Rd. 6 and Crossland Rd.) and follow the signs.

The plants are easily pulled, no equipment is necessary, but you might like to wear gloves. Also wear long sleeves, long pants, closed boots, a hat - and bug spray. For more information, call Kate Harries at 705-322-2545 or email info@mtmconservation.org.

FoTTSA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Please Support the Federation: We Keep You Informed, And We Work for Good, Fair Government and for Protection of the Environment –

- WE MONITOR TINY COUNCIL • WE PUBLISH THE TINY COTTAGER NEWSPAPER & MAINTAIN OUR WEBSITE • WE RUN A WATER TESTING PROGRAM • WE ARE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY

WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

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Thank You, Your Support Is Very Much Appreciated.

Answers

- | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 19 ANGLER | 9 SUMMER | 26 BEAR | 15 FOREST | Across |
| 20 SLALOM | 10 CORN | 27 WINDSURFER | 16 CHAMPLAIN | 1 BALM |
| 21 FLOS | 11 BARRIE | | 18 CANADA GEESE | 3 ISLAND |
| 25 STARS | 13 FOX | Down | 22 CANOE | 4 TAY |
| | 14 SAND | 2 MOSQUITO | 23 HURONS | 7 TINY |
| | 16 CONCESSIONS | 5 AUTUMN | 24 MIDLAND | 8 MUSHROOM |
| | 17 LEVELS | 6 WYE MARSH | 25 SMORES | 12 TRAIL |

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BY JOHN GRANT

1: TAXABLE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT vs. TOWNSHIP SPENDING

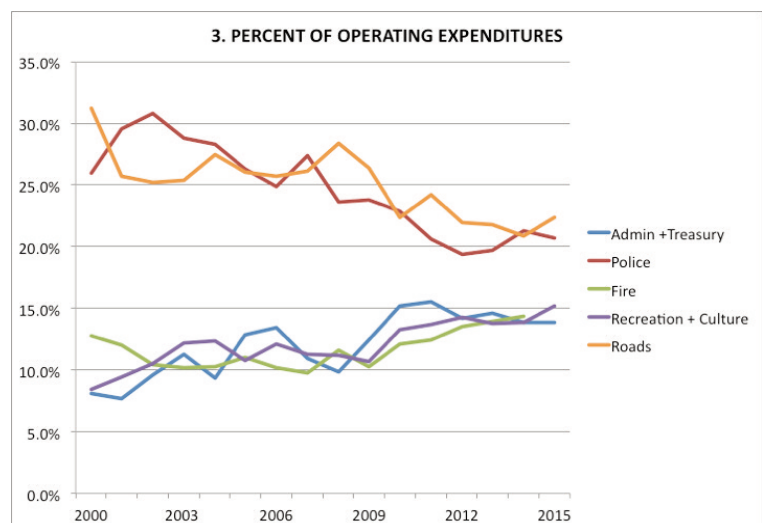
Year	Total Taxable Assessment (LEFT SCALE)	Taxable Residential Assessment (LEFT SCALE)	Total Spending (RIGHT SCALE)	Municipal Tax Levy (RIGHT SCALE)
2000	\$1,700,000,000	\$1,600,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$5,000,000
2001	\$1,750,000,000	\$1,650,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$6,000,000
2002	\$1,700,000,000	\$1,600,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,000,000
2003	\$1,900,000,000	\$1,800,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,000,000
2004	\$2,250,000,000	\$2,150,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$7,500,000
2005	\$2,200,000,000	\$2,150,000,000	\$9,000,000	\$7,500,000
2006	\$2,700,000,000	\$2,600,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$7,500,000
2007	\$2,650,000,000	\$2,600,000,000	\$9,500,000	\$7,500,000
2008	\$2,650,000,000	\$2,600,000,000	\$9,500,000	\$8,000,000
2009	\$2,900,000,000	\$2,800,000,000	\$15,500,000	\$8,500,000
2010	\$3,100,000,000	\$3,000,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$8,500,000
2011	\$3,250,000,000	\$3,150,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$8,500,000
2012	\$3,350,000,000	\$3,250,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$8,500,000
2013	\$3,400,000,000	\$3,300,000,000	\$12,500,000	\$8,500,000
2014	\$3,450,000,000	\$3,350,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$9,000,000
2015	\$3,450,000,000	\$3,300,000,000	\$14,000,000	\$9,000,000

The lower two lines on the chart illustrate the township's spending. The higher of the two, total expenditures, has an interesting bulge in 2009 and 2010, basically because senior governments poured in capital funding (mainly on roads and parks) at that time to stimulate the economy. The lower of the two lines shows the part of township spending that is borne by the municipal taxpayer (the "Tax Levy"). When you read about the municipal "budget", this is what is meant. The tax levy pays for the sum of the operating and capital budgets, whereas the rest of the township's spending is mostly paid for by grants from the senior levels of government and by non-tax revenues such as fines under the Provincial Offences Act, donations, fees and licenses.

2. Operating and Capital Expenditures, 2000 - 2015

Year	Capital Expenditures	Capital Budget	Operating Budget	Operating Expenditures
2000	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,600,000
2001	\$2,500,000	\$2,200,000	\$4,600,000	\$4,800,000
2002	\$1,800,000	\$2,100,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,300,000
2003	\$2,000,000	\$2,400,000	\$4,800,000	\$5,500,000
2004	\$1,800,000	\$1,700,000	\$5,500,000	\$5,800,000
2005	\$2,300,000	\$1,700,000	\$5,800,000	\$6,200,000
2006	\$3,400,000	\$1,900,000	\$5,400,000	\$6,600,000
2007	\$3,000,000	\$1,900,000	\$5,600,000	\$6,800,000
2008	\$3,400,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,600,000	\$6,300,000
2009	\$8,300,000	\$1,700,000	\$6,000,000	\$7,000,000
2010	\$7,000,000	\$1,600,000	\$6,800,000	\$7,800,000
2011	\$3,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$7,400,000	\$9,100,000
2012	\$3,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$7,300,000	\$9,000,000
2013	\$3,000,000	\$900,000	\$7,600,000	\$9,200,000
2014	\$3,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$7,600,000	\$9,100,000
2015	\$4,200,000	\$1,100,000	\$8,000,000	\$9,600,000

Chart 3 shows the breakdown of total operating expenditures among the major departments. Although many people think that the cost of policing has been rising as a share of the total, this is not the case – its share has actually fallen significantly (although not since 2012). Roads maintenance, too, is absorbing a smaller share of spending than it used to. The three major areas of relative growth are the fire department, “recreation and culture” (which is mostly parks) and



Tiny's New Council

By MARY JANE PRICE

It has been such a delight to observe the positive energy of the new Council. Mayor George Cornell has set a tone that encourages open and honest discussions. This ensures he gets the best input from members of Council and staff. Both are encouraged to come forward with new ideas and thoughts.

Thus far Council has passed bylaws to:

- reduce requirements for deputations;
- initiate the development of a strategic plan;
- start work on procedures for Town Hall meetings (taking into account the needs of the seasonal population);
- initiate planning for a Mayor's Golf Tournament and a Community BBQ to open interaction between Council and the Community.

Town Hall meetings will be held in various venues to move the opportunity for engagement throughout the Township.

Mayor Cornell is using his business skills on the County's Economic Development Committee for North Simcoe and as the North Simcoe Rep on the Simcoe Economic Development Sub Committee. The challenge as he sees it is to retain established businesses while attracting new ones. He acknowledges that we have the quality of life and lifestyle here but lack internet capabilities. Coverage, cost and reliability are still issues. It's not only larger businesses that benefit, but if more people could work more reliably from their homes in Tiny they might move their businesses up here.

The budget process was handled in a businesslike manner and over \$300,000 was trimmed. There was a serious commitment to balancing fiscal responsibility with the needs of the community. The process brought up the need to find non-government avenues for funding, grants (which are dwindling) and cost sharing opportunities with other municipalities.

Mayor Cornell wants Tiny to be an age-friendly community where Seniors can be active and involved in the community.

Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma brings a younger perspective to the table. When I say that I don't mean naivety. He researches issues, finds out what other municipalities are doing, and asks such questions as "What if?" "What about?" "Have you ever thought of?" He brings to this job the study skills that put him in the scholarship ranks at university. This is fortunate since Councillors increasingly require grey matter horsepower to grasp the complex issues facing Tiny.



Councillor Steffen Walma, Councillor Gibb Wishart, CAO Doug Luker, Mayor George Cornell, Councillor Richard Hinton, Councillor Cindy Hastings

Steffen sits on the County Affordable Housing Committee, which is trying to provide 1300 more units of housing with 66% less money. Are Garden Suites a possible solution? Steffen thinks out loud which can be disconcerting to some who assume that his question is a statement of position. He wants to see more transparency and community involvement and pushed for Town Hall meetings. He also pushed to adopt a model that County and other municipalities use where a motion is debated at the Council of the Whole but the vote is delayed for two weeks to allow residents to provide their input.

Simcoe County's Committee of the Whole asked for a staff report on the bursary program and donations to post secondary institutions. Steffen's goal is to see a small increase in the funds available to redefine the application qualifications and to allocate the funds across the County so that recipients are both A and B students and are located throughout the County. He feels that everyone deserves a chance at an education. He is himself starting a Master's Certificate in Municipal Leadership at the Schulich School of Business at York.

Steffen is well aware of the cost constraints facing Tiny and will be looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations to stretch resources for the five Committees he is sitting on.

Councilor Cindy Hastings grew up in Wyevalle and left to pursue a career in Toronto for twenty years. While growing up she spent her summers at Balm Beach with her grandparents. This has given her a love of the shoreline as well as the inland. Her varied experiences have led her to desire greater respect and consideration between the geographic areas, age groups and cultures. To her it's the only way that this township will flourish.

Cindy is no stranger to civic duty. When she returned

to Tiny from Toronto she stepped up to help revitalize recreation activities in Wyevalle. She found affordable locations and expanded programs. Cindy is excited about community engagement; about reaching out to the community. She was pleased to discover from staff that there were a higher number of residents volunteering for committees this term and some of the new faces are younger. She is also happy that staff and Council are excited about the Strategic Plan. Both groups will have input, know the direction the Township is moving in and then everyone will be on the same page. Cindy, George, C.A.O. Doug Luker and Treasurer Doug Taylor have been given the responsibility for choosing a consultant. Of particular interest to the selection committee will be the consultant's approach to public involvement.

Cindy is sitting on the Septage Committee and will be exploring the possibility of working with other municipalities in greater detail. She is keenly aware that treatment is only one piece of the puzzle. There is also the question of where the solids and the liquids will end up after they are treated.

Councillor Richard Hinton comes to Council with entrepreneurial experience, a valuable skill in times of fiscal restraint. The first budget gave members of Council some understanding of where Council is going to have to cut but the next year will give them a clearer picture.

Richard is delighted to have people from all the constituencies of the township on Council because it brings a fresh perspective: inland and shoreline, young and old, seasonal and full time.

Richard is pleased with the conversations that are happening on Council and that they are happening because of a mutual respect for the job and each other.

Richard asked to sit on the Heritage Committee because he is interested in history and he wants to support the community's heritage. He recognizes that it is a struggle to make good decisions that are financially responsible to voters. These decisions can bind voters to long-term financial obligations for restoration and maintenance. Richard wants to honor those committee members who donate their time and hearts to the issues.

Richard is pleased with the changes that are being introduced. It will be easier to do a deputation to Council. The time for the process will be reduced from six weeks to one week. If a resident submits his application by the Tuesday before the Committee of the Whole it can be presented the following Monday.

He finds that the meetings have a positive energy because five people have read the materials; they come with ideas and are ready for debate. Everyone is listened to with respect.

He and Steffen would like to see the regeneration of Lafontaine Park go forward. Clean it up and provide facilities so that it can become a destination beach for Tiny residents.

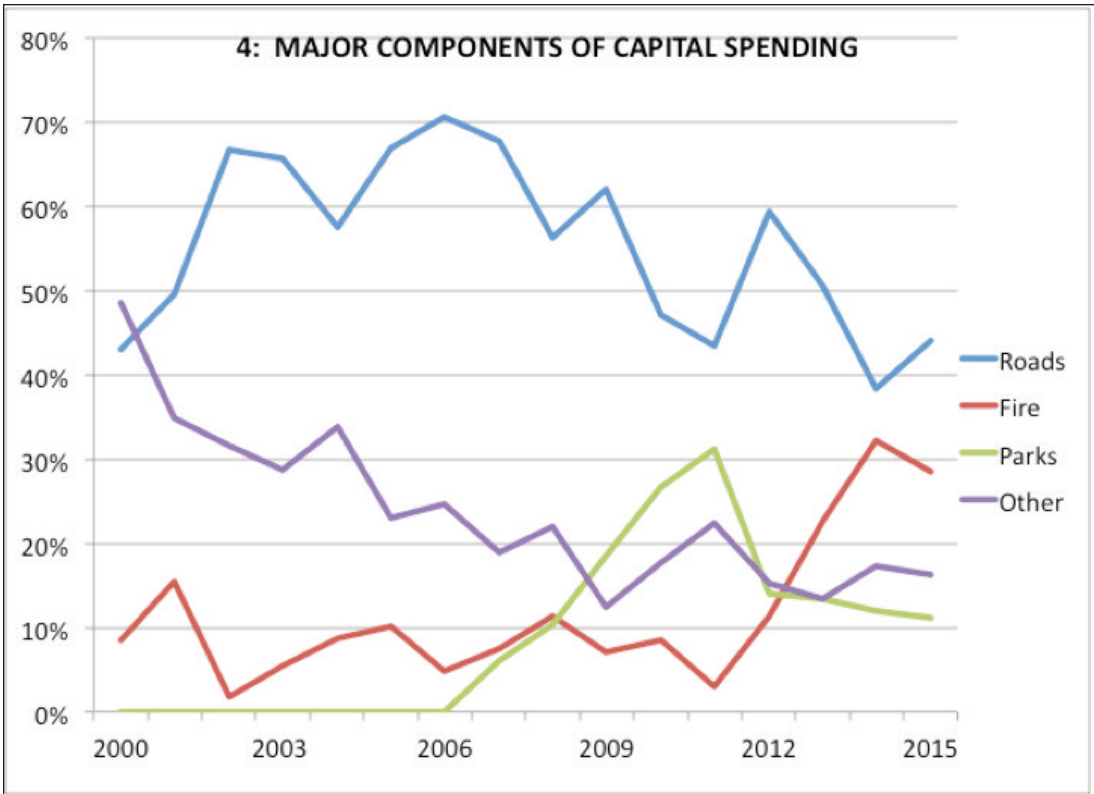
Councillor Gibb Wishart's background is farming and the rural community. He is delighted to be working with this Council; when you disagree you discuss. He feels that this Council will move a lot of business through expeditiously. Gibb is a fan of involving the public, of engagement, since both produce the feedback that leads to a mutually satisfactory resolution.

Gibb sits on the Airport Commission and will bring its position and feelings on issues back to Council. He feels his job is to make Council aware of and clarify issues, to bring information forward so that Council can make informed decisions. His role is not to tell Council what the decision should be. Gibb feels strongly that Council members should not chair Committees because it looks like they are steering the Committee. He feels that the budget process made it clear to Council that they need to be careful to determine if a large expense is something that the municipality cannot do without. Otherwise it should be excluded.

The new Airport Commission is looking at installing solar panels on three acres of land and producing power for the grid. Council heard about the plan and is wondering if there are advantages to Tiny using solar power in certain applications.

Gibb also sits on the Septage Committee. Going forward he would like to take a different approach with Burnside Engineering. Their role is very narrow as it stands. Once Council comes up with ideas, Burnside puts a process into place, which is pretty cookie cutter. He would like to see the engineers think outside of the box and shorten the process of consultation to save money.

Something must be working because with the new Council Gibb feels he is receiving fewer phone calls challenging Council positions.



administration.

Finally, chart 4 gives a breakdown of the township's capital spending into its major components. The "lumpiness" is obvious, as is the gradually rising relative weight of the three major areas: roads (construction and renovation of roads and bridges), parks and fire (replacement of vehicles and equipment).

In summary, there is good news here for municipal taxpayers, although a better picture of the current situation will be obtained by referencing the township's website and reading the treasurer's budget presentation at <http://tinyurl.com/oju42jc>. Later this summer we will be updating our Budget Database on FoTSA's own website, which will give a detailed breakdown of the figures and, in addition, an analysis of the changes in the township's financial reserves from year to year.



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Volunteer Efforts to Combat Aquatic Invasive Species Recognized

By HERB HUCK



Pete Andrews, MPP Garfield Dunlop & Keith Sherman, SSEA Executive Director

At the annual Partners Gala held last November, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) recognized the outstanding achievements of individuals, groups, organizations, and projects that have made a significant contribution to the environmental stewardship of the Severn Sound ecosystem.

Pete Andrews, Vice President of the Farlain Lake Community Association (FLCA), was the recipient of the 2014 Bob Whittam Environmental Award. This award is one of SSEA's highest environmental tributes. The award, named in honour of the first recipient Bob Whittam, recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and made notable, voluntary contributions to protecting and enhancing the Severn Sound environment.

Pete was recognized for his work for controlling and preventing the spread of the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). An article Pulling Together to Fight Eurasian Watermilfoil appeared in the Fall/Winter 2014 edition of *The Tiny Cottager* describing the lake community's accomplishments in managing the EWM infestation and preventing the spread of the invasive aquatic plant. In addition to being recognized for his project coordination achievements, Pete

was recognized by the SSEA for his work in writing a guide to hand harvesting invasive aquatic plants; the guide will benefit other organizations planning to control invasive aquatic plants.

Pete was honoured to be recognized by the SSEA. He indicated that he accepted the award on behalf of the FLCA Board, members, and partners who richly deserved recognition for their collaborative efforts in protecting Farlain Lake's ecosystem. While much was accomplished last year, Pete is not resting on his laurels. He is currently planning the 2015 hand harvesting projects and developing education/outreach initiatives aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

This is the second year in a row that a representative of the Farlain Lake community has been awarded the Bob Whittam Environmental Award. Bill Sweeney was recognized in 2013 for his ongoing lake stewardship efforts.

The FLCA is a strong supporter of the Severn Sound Environmental Association. Even though the SSEA has no enforcement powers, it can accomplish its goals through the use of technical data, information, and citizen stewardship to influence decisions made by local municipal, county, and provincial agencies. Each year the SSEA recognizes the incredible efforts of its partners that do much to ensure the future of our natural resources.

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Green Ribbon Champions Demonstrate Wise Coastal Stewardship

By Karen Alexander



launched the Green Ribbon Champion program during the summer and fall of 2014.

The Green Ribbon Champion program is an awards program designed to recognize landowners carrying out excellent coastal stewardship practices along the Georgian Bay shoreline. 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 the shorelines are numerous and include improvements to the water quality, sand management, reduction in invasive species, as well as increasing property values.

In 2014, 27 shoreline properties registered for the program through the Coastal Centre's website (www.lake-huron.ca). Once registered, each participant received a site visit, a personalized beach health report, and several different print resources on beach-dune stewardship.

Five participants were found to have high quality, healthy shorelines and immediately qualified for a Green Ribbon Champion award. Four Green Ribbon Champions were from Woodland Beach, and the fifth was from Wymbolwood Beach. The remaining participants were provided with recommendations on how to improve their properties to meet the criteria of the Green Ribbon Champion awards program.

Those who were interested in learning how to improve attended demonstration workshops in the fall to learn how to properly install sand fencing, how to harvest and plant local beach grasses, and how to properly design an access path through the dunes. Thanks to Environment Canada, qualifying participants received free sand fencing, t-posts, and dune conservation signs for their property.

The Green Ribbon Champion program also hosted several workshops throughout the summer, including two workshops that demonstrated how to manually control invasive *Phragmites australis*, a plant that can have detri-

With support from Environment Canada and the Township of Tiny, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (Coastal Centre) successfully



planting beach grass

mental impacts to local beaches and should be immediately controlled once identified.

The Green Ribbon Champion program is now open for 2015 registrations. Interested residents should sign-up by the end of July. Site visits will occur during the month of August. Restoration materials and demonstration videos and other resources will be distributed to qualifying participants in September. Please be aware that the program has limited resources and will accept registrations on a first come – first serve basis until the program is full.

Non-shoreline residents are encouraged to participate by either working with their neighbours who are directly on the shoreline, or by working to protect, and/or restore, local access paths.

The Green Ribbon Champion program is available for a limited time; the program is funded by Environment Canada until March 2017. If you are interested in learning more about how a beach works, how to properly care for your beach, and how you can help protect and improve water quality in Georgian Bay, we encourage you to register for the program.

For more information, or to register to the program, please visit the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation's website at www.lakehuron.ca, (click on the "What We Do" tab at the top of the page, then "Community Programs," and finally "Green Ribbon Champion") or email coastalcentre@lakehuron.ca, or call us at (226) 421-3029.



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Phragmites Alert!

Phragmites australis is invading again! Strong winds and relatively high water this past fall caused fragments of *Phragmites australis* roots to break away and wash out into the bay. As a result there was a significant scattering of roots all along the shore.

Please be on the lookout for these nasty invaders when walking along the beach, and destroy thoroughly any you may find.



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Recommended Summer Reading

Welcome to the 2015 edition of the Tiny Cottager Recommended Summer Reading column. Whether your beach chair beckons or your leg is providing a cushion for the chin of a favourite four-legged friend curled up with you on a cottage evening, we hope you will enjoy these readers' suggestions.

From Linda Andrews, Wahnekewening Beach
Recollections -- A History of Tiny Township
The Township of Tiny Heritage Advisory Committee has issued the second edition of **Recollections**. To quote from the Township website:
"This new edition is deemed even more enriching, thorough, accurate and entertaining than the original publication of 20 years ago. The document is an effort to preserve our past and provide a historical perspective for generations to come. Les membres du comité sont aussi très heureux d'offrir **Recollections** en français sous le titre de **Souvenirs**. Copies are for sale at the Township office."
Highly recommended.

From Joe Martin, Addison Beach
The Summer Game by Roger Angell
This is an old book (published more than 40 years ago) about major league baseball, more particularly the playoffs and World Series from the early 60's to the early 70's. So, if you like baseball and if you like nostalgia, this is the book for you. It is a well-written book, as one would expect from Roger Angell, long-time editor and writer for *The New Yorker*.

If you were a Montreal Expos fan, it tells about their arrival on the scene and how Montreal brought bilingualism to baseball: *lanceur, partie, premier but*. Not surprisingly, Fergie Jenkins, Blenheim, Ontario's pride and joy, gets a few mentions. The creation of the Houston Astrodome, which inspired Toronto's Skydome, is described.
And there is a chronicle of changes: from the height of the pitcher's mound, to the expansion of the league to two 12 team leagues with four divisions. But, most of all, there is the excitement of those fall classics told by a master storyteller.

From Jack Ellis, Rowntree Beach
Rise to Greatness: The History of Canada from the Vikings to the Present by Conrad Black

If you are looking for a book to keep you company for a month or two this summer, Conrad Black has one for you. I picked this one up off the deep-discount rack because I was intrigued by both the super-ambitious title and the author's controversial reputation. I wasn't disappointed in either. The over 1,000-page narrative is salted with facts and peppered with Conrad's inimitable perspectives, which inevitably both intrigue and annoy.
The book actually gives short shrift to the Vikings and early Aborigines, and the "history" stops at 1987, which is a pity, but Conrad's brilliance and erudition, along with his well-known arrogance, feature throughout. Highlights of the early chapters include his perspectives on the French contribution to Canada, contrasting their treatment of the Indians with that of the Americans. He covers Champlain and his adventures in Huronia, and the rest of the pre-1800 period is densely chronicled.

The pace of the narrative really picks up when he addresses the 19th century, explaining the rise of responsible government and our struggle to remain distinct from our southern neighbour. He is perhaps at his pithy best when covering 20th century events, where his arch-conservative perspectives on political events and persons are most likely to stimulate your own views and/or biases. Just don't fall out of your hammock when Black praises Maurice Duplessis and Brian Mulroney and trashes Mackenzie King and Pierre Trudeau!

Red Notice by Bill Browder
This is an important book, a thrilling read, and a real page turner! Run to your favourite bookstore or library right now and get it!
Once this book is in your hands and you have started on the first few pages, you won't want to let it go. For a day or two, forget about being sociable or barbecuing -- you will offend friends and burn the steak.

Laying out the goings-on in Putin's Russia today in 382 pages of detail, this amazing book gives you precise chapter and verse on the state of political economy, kleptocracy and murder now prevailing in Russia. It shows exactly how unpretentious Russians could become billionaire oligarchs. It shows how the Russian apparatus shelters itself under Putin, who may well now be the wealthiest person on this planet.
Bill Browder is a truly unusual investment banker. His grandfather was Earl Browder, the leader of the Communist Party U.S.A. in the 1930's and 40's. His father, uncles and siblings won PhDs in their early twenties and became brilliant mathematicians and physicists. Bill rebelled against his left-wing roots and became an ardent capitalist.

He explains how he became the first investor in the uncharted financial morass of post-Soviet Union Russia. His fund, Heritage Capital, eventually grew to \$4.5 billion in assets and was one of the most profitable in the world until events overtook him.

The tale starts in the middle, in 2005, when Browder was detained at Moscow airport for 15 hours and expelled from Russia with no explanation. It then flashes back to describe his path from very modest beginnings to great financial heights. After deportation, Browder faced trumped-up tax claims and hired Russian lawyers to fight them. One of the lawyers, Sergei Magnitsky, uncovered fraud involving Russian tax officials. He was charged, tried and imprisoned in 2009, then tortured and killed while in detention.

Bowder fought back from abroad, leading a crusade for justice that eventually brought about an act of Congress in 2012. The Magnitsky Law placed sanctions on 18 individual Russians who were involved in the Magnitsky affair. Russia responded in kind, sanctioning 18 Americans, and stopping U.S. adoption of Russian orphans.

After the timeframe of Browder's book, as Putin annexed Crimea and started incursions into eastern Ukraine, Western sanctions and other measures have escalated and may become the most effective way to inhibit Putin's raw geopolitical expansionism.
In March 2015 the Parliament of Canada passed an initial motion to create a law similar to the U.S. Magnitsky Law. Don't delay in reading about what started it all!

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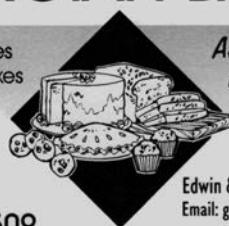
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photo by Mikel Manitius

Two Snowbirds in a Florida Village

excerpts from a Deanlea Beach memoir

BY ROSE RUBINO

I was overjoyed when my Father announced that we would build a cottage for the whole family, which consisted of our Mother, my brother Frank and his wife Betty and their three children John, Linda and Rick and my husband, Lew, and our two children Ann and Bob.

It was a hot, sunny Saturday afternoon when, tired but ever hopeful and after much searching, we found some available beachfront lots a short distance from Wasaga. It was through my friend Julie Dako, who told us about the cottage that Betty Kacsor and her husband Al had built, and she thought there were some lots for sale there.

Weariness left more quickly than it came when we looked out at the water and the long sandy shoreline. The children sat and snuggled into the sand and their bodies said, ‘we’re home’ as they picked up handfuls of the sand and let it fall through their fingers. We couldn’t believe our good fortune. As luck would have it, the price was reasonable. It seemed the new developer was anxious to sell the lots and recoup his investment. We found our lot, our place in the sun on a beach called Deanlea.

Every year, forty-forty years now, when I first enter the cottage I find a charmed calmness and I breath in happiness.

The large windows looked out onto my Mother’s small but fruitful vegetable garden; it was July and the tomato plants were a good size. Pink and white petunias bordered the cement patio that our Dad built in 1962. Everyone pitched in but my husband Lew was the chief architect and builder of the cottage. The evergreen trees marked the end of our property in the front, and just beyond, twenty-four sandy steps away, were the waters of Georgian Bay.

It wasn’t long before the children played in the water and they would be especially happy when the waves had white foam crests since it meant it would be a good day for body surfing. Tomorrow was sure to be a nice day: last night the peach and red streaked sky forecasted it to be so as the earth turned away and the sun took its evening dip.

Summers at the cottage included many climbs up the nearby big hill, a thirty-four foot sand hill near Bluewater Beach. The view was spectacular. It was reward enough for reaching the top. We were at eye level with the tree-tops and the birds as they hovered in flight; even the sand was finer at the summit. The children raced up the hill to see who would be the first to reach the top. Then they’d run down and then up again. If it was a clear day, we could see Christian Island in the distance.

One early evening I picked up a small, old, dented, over-painted white metal table from the front patio. My fingers on my right hand felt something soft and large underneath the rim, probably a large icky bug I thought in disgust and immediately set the table down onto the cement floor. The table was to hold the bag of marshmallows and several roasting skewers at the bonfire site near the beachside lot line. I gingerly looked underneath the

table to see what abomination my fingers had contacted. And there it was, the jewel of all chrysalises, the pupa stage of the monarch butterfly. I recognized it from a children’s book *Monarch Butterfly* by Bill Ivy that I had read to Kayla.

I was seventy-three years old and had never seen a real one before. It was emerald green with gold spots and a gold line and had an oval shape with a pointed top. Why hadn’t a jeweller ever made a locket or charm that shape: it was bound to be popular? It was glued to the table’s under side by thin white strands. The covering was strong and thicker than I would have had imagined. I touched it carefully and felt life inside. There was some movement, some activity, just barely perceptible. It was the womb of the butterfly where the miraculous transformation, the metamorphosis of the wormy, crawling, caterpillar would change into a delicate, magical, flying insect - the monarch butterfly.

We watched as the water rushed to the shoreline, and pushed the bathers as they jumped with the foam whipped waves, those sounds mingled with the cries of the bathers and their intermittent laughter, the joyful “whees”, “ohs” and “ahs” to become part of the continuum of captivating memories, this one of the day at the beach.

The beach was just some sand and water under the sky and yet it provided the grandeur of a Monet as viewed through our cottage windows. Mostly the view was the focal point and then it became the backdrop when it was peopled with family members going to or coming back from the beach, playing badminton, digging in the sand, blowing bubbles, or shooting hoops. Framed picture-perfect scenes always seemed available as the afternoon sun’s rays strained through the sparse weathered branches of tall evergreens. It looked serene in the morning, afternoon or evening light - and it had such a hold on me.

Lately, Lew complained more frequently that the maintenance and the grounds required more and more effort and expressed his dissatisfaction with the cottage.

Shawn, Bob and Magdalena’s oldest was the only one of the children who hadn’t fallen under the spell of our summer place. He chose not to come for the past eight years since he was twelve. But I thought maybe one day he would again be drawn to it, probably when he’s a parent himself.

“Don’t sunsets do anything for you?” I asked.

“No, not a thing,” he said. And he meant it, difficult though it was for me to believe.

“You think high voltage transmission lines are more beautiful don’t you?” I asked.

“I feel the same way about them as you do about sunsets,” he said. “If it’s sunsets you want, I can probably get you movies of sunsets from all over the world and they would probably even be better ones,” he said.

“Maybe you can get movies of high voltage transmission lines and you can view them at the cottage,” I said.

He never liked cottage life. I tried to explain that this was as close to my idea of paradise as I would ever get, that this small part of Canada gave me the quiet protected solitude that brought me joy bordering on reverence.

It was at the cottage in September when Lisa told me the news. Lisa, our first granddaughter was having her first baby in April and presenting us with our first great grandchild. Hugs were followed by tears of joy.

"You're not supposed to cry, Nanny," Lisa said.

"I'm so pleased. These are happy tears."

"I want to bring the baby to the cottage like my Mom did with me," Lisa said.

"That will be great," I said.

"I get a year off from work," she said as she looked at me as if trying to read my thoughts.

What I thought, but hesitated to ask, was what was the plan after that?

Mostly all I could think of was a new baby, my Lisa's new baby to cradle and love and help with the mothering. What bliss!

If you can prejudge couples' parenting skills by the way they look after their pets, in Lisa and Shawn's case their two cats, then I had no doubt that they would be great parents.

The following season I tried to remember to look out the window more often to watch the sunsets and not take them for granted - and when I did, delightful pleasures were awarded such as discovering a pale blue sky streaked with peach, white and pink clouds dallying around a golden apricot sun.

Lisa wanted to be an only child when she was younger: she never wished to have a sister. What seemed like insurmountable hassles in Lisa and Stephanie's teen years over wearing each other's clothes without permission disappeared when Lisa married and moved away from home. Then their friendship blossomed into best friend status.

And when Lisa had her baby, Steffy helped with the vacuuming, changed diapers, and coped admirably with Bradley's overflow spills. But it was Stephanie's exuberant joy with the baby that was a delight to observe.

It was a dull day as I looked out the cottage window: it looked like it might rain. The water and sky were mingling today. They were the same colour, a dingy blue grey as they became one. The water was now the sky and the sky was now the water; the horizon was gone.

Then Bradley came and brightened up our day. Bradley, our first great grandchild, born on April 13, 2005 and now three months old. Lisa brought him to the cottage just as her mother had done with her thirty years before. She bathed him in the same enamelled large child's tub. It was delightful watching her mothering wee Bradley; it seemed as if every cell in her body was in tune with her baby's needs. Her husband, Shawn handled the baby with confidence and with the same care and devotion.

Like his mother before him, our Bradley was a little colicky but not as colicky as Lisa had been. My arms were needed again to cradle and comfort one of our babies.

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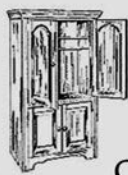
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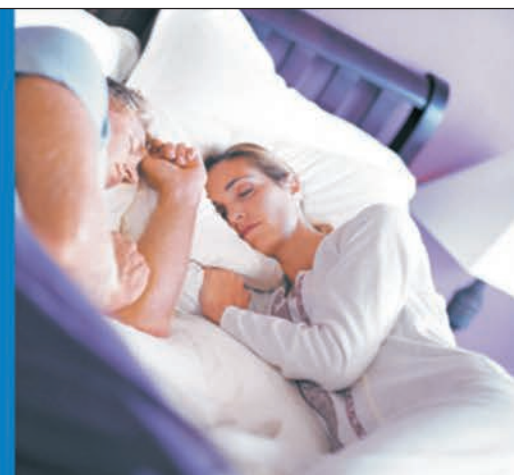
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The Midland Drive-In

By IRENE WILSON

Dating back to the 50's, the Midland drive-in is a long-standing landmark and tradition for many cottagers as it provides an affordable evening of entertainment for the whole family or a carload of teenagers. Drive-ins sprang up in the 1950's as car ownership became common and affordable for the average family. The start-up was simple and fairly inexpensive as all you needed was an empty field near a main road. They are becoming rare in Ontario as the conversion cost to new technology for digital movies caused some, such as the Elmvale Drive-In to shut down. The high value of land near major cities has converted many to new housing developments. The advent of cable, satellite and high speed internet provided a spectrum of new entertainment options such as Netflix, HBO and YouTube as easy, convenient alternatives.

A night at the drive-in would begin long before dusk, as you lined up along Angela Schmidt Foster Rd. to arrive early enough to compete for the best locations. Some enterprising youths were known to squirt ketchup on windshields while you waited in line, followed by a co-conspirator who arrived with squeegee and water to clean it off, for a price. There was the familiar crunch of gravel underneath the tires of your car as you navigated to find the perfect spot to watch the movie or to cuddle with your date. Children would arrive dressed in their pajamas ready to doze off in the back seat as the night wore on. Many a teenager has snuck in, hiding in the trunk of their friend's car or under a blanket on a folded down back seat.

Familiar faces staffed the entrance booth and confectionary stand for years. A man named Art was the long term projectionist who would occasionally doze off, leaving a blank screen between feature films. Long weekends such as Victoria Day, Canada Day and Labour Day were "dusk till dawn" events where movies ran all night, often featuring classic horror movies. In the early days before wireless, a speaker, which hooked onto the edge of your car window and was directly wired onto a post, provided you with the soundtrack of the movie. A groggy customer would forget about the speaker and drive off, tearing the wiring out. The window of your car could not fully close which provided access for the thousands of mosquitoes, lying in wait, or they would also find their way in through your car's venting system which had to be left open in order to run the defroster for fogged up windows.

Creative inventions would pour out of the trunk to enhance the enjoyment of the evening: window screening and magnets to thwart the mosquitoes and portable fans to reduce the condensation. Lawn chairs, coolers, blankets and children would tumble out as patrons readied themselves for dusk and the start of the movie. Since it was important to get there early, swings and playground equipment were available for children to burn off some of their energy. It was also a gathering place to socialize with your friends and a hangout for the teenage crowd. Thursdays are still \$8-a-car night, so this summer, load up the car and head to the Midland Drive-In for a nostalgic experience while we still have the opportunity.

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Bell LTE Wireless Internet

A Huge Disappointment in Tiny

By JACK ELLIS

"Blazing fast internet..." , "everything you do using Bell LTE will be faster and better..." , "LTE is the gold standard in wireless communication..." .

Or so it goes in the ads. Sadly, the reality in Tiny is that the new "wonder" wireless service is hopelessly overloaded right when everyone wants to use it. Speed? Forget about it!

The Bell service on their "old" 3G wireless service has gotten quite good in recent months. They expanded the net and customers no longer have problems such as I described in my previous article on the subject in the *Tiny Cottager* 'way back in the Fall/Winter 2011 issue. But unfortunately my older 3G Turbohub device died this summer and I was devastated.

After many calls to the technical helpers, I was informed that as a long-term loyal customer, I might be eligible for a "hardware upgrade". I hustled off to the Bell Store and got what I presumed would be the delight of my internet desires: a brand new LTE Netgear Turbohub, and a better internet tariff plan to boot! (starting at just \$10 for 100 MB/month).

The store tech tested the download speed as 12 Mbps (Millions of bits per second!) That's fast! I bounced out of the store with the package under my arm and rushed home to set it up. I was in heaven, I thought.

At home that evening the speed test showed about 5 Mbps, and the websites loaded just about as fast as they did on my deceased 3G device. I was still happy.

But the next day (a Saturday) – disappointment! Everything was sluggish, to the point of reminding me of the old dial-up services. How many of you go back to the 1990s when dial-up internet was all that was available? That "screeeech" sound when you connected meant at least that you had a usable individual connection.

Sometimes, evidently when lots of customers come to this area and fire up their smartphones, etc., the device wouldn't connect at all!

Reason: when there are more people using the network than it can handle, devices located farther from the towers get their download slowed down, or even dropped off! Just like in the early days of the 3G service up here.

It's not fair! Bell promotes bandwidth-gobbling video and surfing packages with seemingly little regard to whether their service can actually deliver, which it can't, in this area! For example, they offer a TV-to-smartphone pack for 10 hours of viewing (about 10 GB download) for just \$5/mo. What kid wouldn't love that? (But why would anyone want to watch TV on a 4" screen? Even in the 1940s, when TV first came in, 7" sets were soon made obsolete by 10" ones, and so on!)

Another example is a package where you can get students in your family 300 GB for \$39.95/mo. With no contract! No wonder the LTE service is in such huge demand that Bell can't keep up!

Or can they? Well, Bell has a big secret system, one that they have carefully kept hidden – underground – for many months. If you ask about it at the Bell Store they just look funny, and say "whaa?".

About a year ago, Bell ran many kilometres of nice thick fibre optic cable along the County roads and down almost all Concession roads. On my Concession, this expensive stuff comes to less than 200 m from where we live.

Fibre service is now available in most urban areas already. It offers the possibility to get phone, TV and internet packages that are reliable, consistent, and reasonably priced. My daughter in Ottawa has it and is delighted.

Why can't Bell get busy in Tiny and connect all this expensive fibre optic cable to the phone hubs they have all over that place? I and most of my neighbours - seasonal and permanent – would go for this service in a heartbeat! Reliable phones, never a snow-clogged or rained-out satellite dish, and consistently fast internet! Like you've died and gone to heaven!

C'mon Bell! Do the right thing and lace up that fibre! Don't let it keep moldering in the ground like it has been all these months! Get on with it! Your customers will repay you many times over!



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