

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 48

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Fall/Winter 2016

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY

As we slide into a lovely fall, the temperatures and weather continue to be wonderful, following what was potentially one of the most glorious, hot and sunny summers on record.

This amazing weather was especially welcome for the 2nd annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament held at the Midland Golf Club on August 19. Once again FoTTSA and *The Tiny Cottager* were pleased to be the title sponsor for this wonderful event, which was created to help charities in our community.

The 36 golf foursomes were all sold and the delicious dinner (catered by Phil's Catering) was well attended by over 200 people. Frisbee and soccer ball golf added an element of interest to the tournament.

Each year two charities are chosen to receive donations from the event. This year Hearts and Minds (RVH Child & Youth Mental Health Services serving the residents of North Simcoe) and the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre were chosen.

A record \$37,000 was raised thanks to many generous sponsors and participants. Each charity received \$16,000 and, in addition, a \$5,000 Tiny Township Bursary Fund was set up. FoTTSA is proud to be part of such a worthwhile event.

Tiny Council's Town Hall Meetings continue to be popular and have proven to be an excellent way of establishing a close connection between Council and Tiny residents. Both sides have clearly benefitted from a better understanding of the challenges our township is facing. I encourage everyone to attend the next Town Hall meeting.

And finally I would be remiss if I did not comment on our water levels and quality. We are in fact about 13in above the long term average but, with significantly above average water temperatures, we can expect higher levels of evaporation this fall and winter. This water loss will lower the water levels - just how much only time will tell.

McMaster University's Dr. Pat Chow-Fraser tracks the impact of water levels on water quality, the fishery and wetlands. We continue to support her scholarly work: it underlines the need for our government to respond positively to the International Joint Commission's recommendation that Lake Michigan/Huron (including Georgian Bay) water levels should be restored to a healthy range.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a good winter!

Mayor's Golf Tournament Raises \$37,000

More photos on page 11



(L to R) Councillor Cindy Hastings, Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, FoTTSA reps. Doug Kirk & Doug Moles, Mayor George Cornell, Councillor Richard Hinton, FoTTSA reps Mary-Jane Price & Brian Bradstreet and Councillor Gibb Wishart (photo Andrew Chomentowski)

Expanded Greenbelt Would Help Protect our Water Resources

By MARGARET PROPHET, CO-CHAIR OF THE SIMCOE COUNTY GREENBELT COALITION

The Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition (SCGC) represents over 30 ratepayer, naturalist, agricultural and environmental organizations that want to see the Greenbelt expand into Simcoe County. We feel that expanding the Greenbelt into the county aligns with provincial priorities and criteria.

We hope that the province gives particular attention to Recommendation 71 of the Crombie Report, which highlights the potential to grow the Greenbelt beyond its existing boundary based on areas of ecological and hydrological significance. The Report from a panel led by former Toronto mayor David Crombie was received by the Ontario government in December 2015. It made 87 recommendations, including expansion of the Greenbelt to protect more lands from development and tighten controls on settlement expansions.

Simcoe County would make a strong candidate to be a part of Greenbelt expansion, based on the panel's key considerations:

- Protection of areas that sequester and store carbon or protect and improve resilience to climate change: The county has vast wetland complexes of local, provincial and international significance such as Minesing Wetlands, Wye Marsh and Tiny Marsh, which are significant carbon sinks. Natural coverage in sub-

watershed is high compared to every other region in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. This network of forests and ground cover provides a front line defense against climate change.

- Rural Source Water Protection Priorities: The Oro Moraine, which directly supplies drinking water to over 20,000 people, is also the source of numerous water-courses feeding both Lake Simcoe and Severn Sound. The Nottawasaga watershed provides water for daily use for many rural Simcoe communities and irrigation for many agricultural operations. All residents of Tiny Township depend on groundwater for daily use, making it imperative that recharge areas and aquifers are adequately protected through land use policies.

- Protection of adjoining areas of critical hydrological significance, such as important surface water areas, key headwaters, moraines, groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers etc.: A large portion of the Lake Simcoe watershed that is currently outside of the Greenbelt is considered medium-to-high vulnerability for groundwater supply and contains many highly vulnerable aquifers. The Nottawasaga Valley watershed contains many highly vulnerable aquifers especially around the Minesing Wetlands and

see GREENBELT. . .on page 6

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ISSN 1710-9701



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Fall/Winter Events

October

Huronia Museum Film Series
Every Wednesday 4:30pm & 7:30pm
Galaxy Theatre Midland
<https://huroniamuseum.com/film-series/>

1
Showcase of Homes Tour - Midland, Penetang -
tickets available at local businesses and Big
Brothers/Big Sisters Office, Midland
<http://tinyurl.com/hnphzx7>

1-30
Pumpkinferno - Haunted Harbour
Evenings Thurs-Sun
<http://tinyurl.com/gqbwahr>

6-8
Elmvale Fall Fair - Elmvale Fairgrounds
<http://elmvalefallfair.com>

8
Marsh By Moonlight - Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
<http://www.wyemarsh.com>

7 -10
Images Studio Tour - Thanksgiving - Barrie/Orillia
<http://www.images-studio-tour.com>

8-9
**Ste Marie Among the Hurons Thanksgiving Harvest
Festival and Arts & Crafts Show and Sale**
<http://tinyurl.com/jtgggwb>

10
Turkey Dinner, Wyevale United Church - two sittings,
5 pm and 6:15 pm, tickets 705-322-1451

15
GBGH Gala: Las Vegas Baby! 7pm
Midland Cultural Centre (MCC)
<http://www.midlandculturalcentre.com>

Marsh By Moonlight Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
<http://www.wyemarsh.com>

17
Curling begins - Penetang Curling Club
<http://www.penetangcurlingclub.com>
Curling begins - Midland Curling Club
<http://www.midlandcurlingclub.com>

19
A Day in the Life with Brian Mulroney - MCC - 2pm

22
Moccasin Making - Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
<http://www.wyemarsh.com>

Marsh By Moonlight - Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
Picnic of the Living Dead - Huronia Museum
<https://huroniamuseum.com>

29
Paddle Making - Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
Marsh Monster - Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

30
Traditional Corn Husk Christmas Creche Making,
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

November
11-13, 17-20, 24-26
Crimes of the Heart - MCC Huronia Players -
<http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>

20
Traditional Leather Beaded Pouch Making
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

26
Santa Claus Parade - Midland - downtown
Tree Lighting - Township of Tiny Municipal Office
<http://www.tiny.ca>

29
Bluewater Beach Planting, 9am-11am,
705-526-4204 X230 for info
Nov. 24-26, Dec. 1-3 and 8-10
FIRST LIGHT - Ste Marie Among the Hurons
Evenings 5:30pm - 9:00pm

December
Hiking & cross country skiing
Mountainview, Awenda Park, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
<http://www.hardwoodskiandbike.ca/home-page-winter/>
Downhill skiing and snowboarding
Horseshoe: <http://tinyurl.com/huank34>
<https://www.skisnowvalley.com>
<https://mountstlouis.com>
Blue Mountain: <http://tinyurl.com/z9hts7v>

2
Santa Claus Parade & Tree Lighting Festival -
Penetanguishene - downtown

3
Wyevale Parade and Party - Wyevale Church

9
Jingle Bell Skate
Penetang Memorial Community Centre

February
3-5, 9-12, 16-18
Aberhart Summer - MCC Huronia Players -
<http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>

10-12
Winterama Festival - Penetanguishene

11
Carnival d'Hiver - Perkinsfeld Park

March
25-26
26th Annual Sweetwater Harvest Festival,
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

April
29-30
Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival
<http://www.emsf.ca>

May
5-7, 11-14, 18-20
Death by Design - MCC Huronia Players -
<http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>



Running the Tiny Trail

A Big Gem for Runners, Hikers, and Other Outdoor Enthusiasts

By Kristin Kerr

I've been a recreational long-distance runner for many years. I am by no means fast. One of my favourite children's stories is a book called *Eli*, by Bill Peet, in which an aging lion is running from some warriors who are hunting him. A vulture who has befriended him encourages him to hurry and go lickety-split, to which he replies that he can't lickety-split as his top speed is lumpity-clumpity. That's me (minus the warriors). But I enjoy distance running and participating in the occasional 10K, Half Marathon, or Full Marathon, and so inevitably find myself spending many Sunday mornings off on a long run of some distance or other as part of my training for the next big event.

When not up at the cottage this usually means a run down at the waterfront on the Martin Goodman Trail in Toronto where I live. It's wonderful to be able to run along next to the lake, away from the cars and stop-lights. However, at times it can be a busy place, packed with runners, cyclists, people on roller blades, families out for a stroll, and people walking their dogs. Sometimes it's nice to get away from all that and enjoy a bit of solitude during a run.

At the cottage, I always used to do my long runs on the road. Shorter runs are great on the beach or on the short trails in the nearby woods, but longer runs needed more space and fewer obstacles, so I would plan out a road route of the desired distance, make a mental map, and try not to get lost. But I could never really enjoy those runs as much as I would have liked, especially as the distances got longer the closer I got to a race. There was the pounding on the pavement, the lack of shade, and the constant need to be alert for cars, even on the quieter roads. After years of this I was ready for a change.

I always knew the Tiny Trail was there. The former railway right of way runs alongside County Road 6 and

is visible from the road for much of the way. Despite the numerous times I've driven along next to it, I had never really considered it an option for my runs since it would require driving to the trail first, or spending most of my run just getting to and from the trail. However, I finally decided to give it a try anyway, and was not disappointed. What a treat!

The trail goes on kilometer after kilometer, the wide, flat, compacted gravel/dirt path providing a wonderful, easy-on-the-joints running surface, and the trees creating a lovely bird-filled canopy overhead. I felt like I was running through a never-ending archway, with dappled sunlight filtering down through the trees, the branches overhead providing just the right amount of shade. I've seen the occasional small animal on the trail, such as the rabbit that hopped out in front of me once, startling both of us, but I've seen surprisingly few people. There are even outhouses at some of the Concessions it crosses along the way (a real luxury on a long trail run).

The best part for me, though, is how it provides the best of both worlds – the peace and tranquility of a run in the woods on a trail that seems to go on forever, but without ever being far from the nearest road should a twisted ankle or other such calamity bring the run to a premature halt. Plus, whether listening to music, an audiobook, or just the birds in the trees and other sounds of the woods, I can lose myself in the run without ever getting lost.

Access: The Tiny Trail is 22.5 km long and runs south from Penetang to just north of Elmvale, crossing the Concessions along the way. Access points include Penetang Park, Perkinsfield (at Bernie LeClair Park), and Wyevale.

Tiny Trails' Website:
<http://www.ontariotrails.on.ca/trails/view/tiny-trail>

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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
Councillors: Cindy Hastings, Richard Hinton, Gibb Wishart

DEPUTATIONS AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS:

This Council has made it easy and quick for residents to have their say on township matters. A formal deputation can be presented at the next Committee of the Whole, and a brief presentation can be made with very little notice. When many people wish to be heard, Council has scheduled special evening sessions for informal deputations. It has also scheduled special Town Hall meetings on weekends and in evenings when residents who can't attend Monday meetings may address them. This year there was a Saturday Town Hall meeting on May 28 when sixteen citizens raised concerns, and a second one was scheduled for the evening of September 22.

SPECIAL OCCASION PARKING PERMITS:

In April, Council decided that Special Occasion Parking Permits for weddings, family reunions, meetings, and the like were to be issued only in Permit Parking Areas and only on a first come, first served basis, at a cost of \$15 plus HST per day, per vehicle. Residents would be eligible to receive up to five permits, for a maximum of three days per permit, twice a year.

This new regulation was particularly onerous in the Pilot Parking Strategy area where there was no open parking. All summer, Council sensibly granted free special occasion parking permits "if the event is community based and does not include areas signed for emergency access purposes." It also decided "that future Special Occasion Parking Permit exemption requests be received by letter."

COMMITTEE REGARDING TOWNSHIP OFFICE REQUIREMENTS:

In May, after considering the "Municipal Administration Building Needs Assessment Report" prepared by R.J. Burnside & Associates and Ted Handy & Associates in May 2014, Council decided to strike a committee "to recommend next steps in addressing current and future office accommodation requirements." This Ad Hoc Committee includes members of staff, Mayor Cornell and Councillor Richard Hinton.

We note that the Burnside/Handy Report considered only the office space in the municipal administration buildings at 130 Balm Beach Road West, ignoring the space available in municipal buildings such as the Works Department building, the Wyevale Fire Hall, and the Pump House building, assuming that all offices should be housed under one roof. We hope the Ad Hoc Committee will consider space in all Township buildings when arriving at its recommendations. So far this Committee has not reported.

ATVS TO BE ALLOWED ON TOWNSHIP ROADS:

In May, Council decided to allow ATVs to use roads that have been assumed by the Township. In July it emphasized that they must operate in accordance to the rules and regulations of the Highway Traffic Act and municipal by-laws and that they would be permitted on township roads only after a series of concerns have been addressed. We will report on the final wording of the enabling by-law in due course.

BALM BEACH IMPROVEMENTS:

In May the Business Association of Balm Beach asked for a series of improvements, including replacement of receptacles and of boards on existing benches, the addition of three benches, installation of a new community board/kiosk, one time rental of a sand cleaner, and new lower profile curbs for parking areas. Council authorized funds for these purposes and accepted BABB's offer to contribute to the improvements.

TOWNSHIP PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Tiny is an equal partner in the County's Economic Development Program, which is focused on manufacturing and tourism.

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued on next page



JUST RELAXING... IN THE PHRAGMITES

Controlling Common Reed (Phragmites): Wymbolwood Beach Research Project

BY LYNN SHORT, PROFESSOR IN HORTICULTURE, HUMBER COLLEGE

Phragmites australis ssp. australis or European Common Reed is a non-native, invasive, wetland grass. It can be found all around the Great Lakes on shores, in wetlands and in roadside ditches. Once it is established, it out-competes native wetland plants and makes the area inhospitable for the animals that depend on the native plants for food and shelter. In roadside ditches, Phragmites blocks drainage and can damage the paved shoulders at the edge of the road. Standing dead stalks from the previous year's growth present a fire hazard, which can be particularly dangerous near built-up areas.



Robert McBride at the research site before we started

Many Wymbolwood Beach waterfront residents have been successfully controlling Phragmites for several years using a spading technique that selectively removes the stalks, while leaving the surrounding native plants and sand undisturbed. I have been coordinating the Phragmites Removal Project for the past 6 years, connecting students with residents of Wymbolwood Beach who need assistance on their properties.

Over this past year, many colleagues have encouraged me to initiate research to determine the best approach for controlling Phragmites using the manual spading technique that I have developed and utilized on Wymbolwood Beach. This information would be valuable to others interested in controlling Phragmites. I received funding from Humber College, where I am a Professor in Horticulture, to conduct the research on property adjacent to the College starting at the beginning of May, 2016.

I was also encouraged to conduct parallel research at Wymbolwood Beach. Consequently, I made a deputation

to Tiny Council on May 30, outlining my research proposal and asking for support. The Councillors listened carefully and asked relevant questions. On June 15, I received notice that the Council had unanimously resolved to support the research with financial assistance to cover the cost of the soil testing and in-kind support supplying the project with tools on-loan, signage to inform passers-by about the project and regular pick up of the numerous bags of Phragmites that were removed from the site as per the research schedule.

The research needed to be conducted on a site where the Phragmites had not been previously disturbed and that was large enough to create four separate test sections. I obtained permission to use a private property site on Wymbolwood Beach that fit my criteria perfectly. The property owner generously cleared away the existing dead stalks from the previous year's growth to facilitate the project set up, allowed me and volunteers to go on the property throughout the summer to stake out the test sections and selectively remove the Phragmites from particular areas.

The research site measured 10m x 8m and was divided into four side-by-side sections, each 2.5m wide. The first section was the 'Control'. No removal of Phragmites stalks occurred in this section and effort was made to leave it undisturbed throughout the experiment. The sec-



A view of the site, cut sections in the foreground, control section in the background

see PHRAGMITES. . . continued on next page

PHRAGMITES . . continued from previous page

ond section had the Phragmites removed once in July, selectively cutting the stalks 5cm below the soil surface using a sharpened spade inserted into the soil on an angle. In the third section, Phragmites stalks were removed in the same way, once in July and a second time in August. In the fourth section, Phragmites stalks were removed three times, once in June, once in July and once in August. In between cut times, the plants were allowed to grow. Prior to cutting, the number of stalks was counted, and the heights and diameters of the stalks were measured. Data from each section was collected on four occasions throughout the summer.

The study ended at the beginning of September. These are the findings:

- When the plants were allowed to grow undisturbed throughout the summer at this site, they attained an average height of approximately 2 metres with some stalks growing more than 3 metres high and an average density of approximately 160 stalks per square metre. Almost all stalks were flowering by the beginning of September.
- When the stalks were removed once in July, the average height of the stalks was approximately 1 metre and the average density was 60 stalks per square metre. No plants were flowering by the beginning of September.
- When the stalks were removed in July and then again in August, the average height of the stalks was approximately 15 centimetres and the average density was 19 stalks per square metre. No plants were flowering by the beginning of September.
- When the stalks were removed in June, again in July, and again in August, the average height of the stalks was 21 centimetres and the average density was 21 stalks per square metre. No plants were flowering by the beginning of September.

From these results, it can be seen that removing the stalks using a spade has an effect on the density, height and flowering. It appears as though removing the stalks two or three times in the summer season results in a similar reduction of density and height. It was observed,



Results of three removals, lots of native species returning

however, that there was more growth of native species in the test plots where the stalks had been removed three times. It would seem that more frequent removal of the Phragmites stalks may allow for quicker recovery of the native species. Our test plots contained seedlings of Boneset, Joe Pye Weed, Bugle Weed, Iris and Horsetail that germinated on their own. No planting was done.

In my experience, it is not possible to get complete control of Phragmites in one season. Repeated cutting over several seasons is required. I hope to obtain Tiny Township support next summer to repeat this research again on the same site to examine the effects of the spading technique when repeated over consecutive seasons.

This valuable work would not have been possible without the in-kind support of the Township, the support of the property owner who allowed the research on private property and, of course, the generous support of the many volunteers who willingly worked on some of the hottest, most humid days of the summer to remove the Phragmites stalks, and, count and measure them! I would like to thank Ingrid Egner, Councillor Cindy Hastings, Jenna Burrows, Kaitlyn Large, Alyssa Salway and Professor Lynn Short (pictured below), as well as Robert McBride, Niamh Cashell, Cathy Cashell, Jane Pashby, Donna Flemming, Eleanor Bohnet, Karen Alexander, Councillor Richard Hinton, and Jonathan Kanopoulos.



REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . continued from previous page

In our opinion, new factories will pay taxes in Midland and Penetanguishene, only possibly providing employment for residents of Tiny. Tourism is also a mixed blessing for Tiny, costing township taxpayers significant moneys for by-law enforcement, garbage clean up, and the like. We have never seen a financial breakdown of costs versus income generated.

A new factor, which may become a resource for the township's farming community, is agri-tourism.

NEW TOWNSHIP PROCEDURE BY-LAW PASSED:

At the end of June, the members of Council ratified its new Procedure By-Law. This made a number of changes regarding the conduct of its meetings. They decided that meetings would continue to take place on the 2nd and last Mondays of the month, but that motions and bylaws proposed in a Committee of the Whole Meeting would not be passed or rejected that evening. Instead they would be considered on the next meeting day. This would give at least two weeks for reflection. CoW motions and bylaws would appear in a "Report from Committee of the Whole," in the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council. Also, they decided that a single motion could ratify the Report, instead of, as hitherto, three readings, one immediately after the other. If Council wished to change a recommendation in the Report, it could be pulled and addressed separately.

In addition, the "accounts" section of the Committee of the Whole Agenda was eliminated in favour of publication of the cheque registry on the Township website. Also, the number of scheduled deputations was limited to four per Committee of the Whole or Regular Council meeting, at the Clerk's discretion.

For full details regarding these and other changes see Clerk's Report CR-018-16 in the Committee of the Whole Agenda for May 30, under Staff Reports to Council/Administration and Finance.

GEESE MANAGEMENT:

In June, Council decided to accept Manager of Public Works Tim Leitch's recommendation that no action be taken regarding geese management at this time, though he noted that Public Works would continue to look informally for sustainable solutions to the geese problem. In Leitch's view, the current resident complaint volume did not support further investigation.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION FUNDING POLICY (Treasury Report TR-015-16):

There is a new policy for receiving and reviewing applications from non-profit organizations and programs for funding. Applications must demonstrate their alignment with the Township's strategic priorities and core values. The amount of funding to be made available is to be budgeted annually. This policy does not include in-kind/non-monetary requests for support.

LAFONTAINE BEACH PARK MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

This summer the children's play area in Zone 3 and bocce ball courts in Zone 2 were completed, and a volunteer beach clean up was undertaken. Budget \$50,000.

PROPERTIES ADDED TO THE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE REGISTER IN TINY:

In September, these properties were added to Tiny's Heritage Register:

- Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd (built 1909) on Highway 93 in Wyevalle

- House (built 1920) and Barn (built 1900) at 1379 Baseline Road South
- Old Wyevalle Hotel/Boarding House (built 1910), #7 Concession Road 5 West (includes hitching post)
- Barn of J.F. Wildman and Dr. Jennie Gray-Wildman (built 1917), #275 Concession Road 5 West
- Barns at 80 Darby Road (one built in 1939 and the other in 1960)
- Barn (built 1900) and House (built 1956) at 110 Darby Road
- Old Wyevalle Manse (built 1901), 9 Matilda Street
- Home of J.F. Wildman and Jennie Gray-Wildman (built 1916), 420 Wildman Side Road.

Readers wanting information about these sites will find detailed descriptions and photographs in the Committee of the Whole Agenda for Sept 12. See (G) Staff Reports to Council/5/Committees /ii) Heritage Advisory Committee Motion.

WAYFINDING MASTER PLAN PRESENTED:

This concerns a proposed comprehensive system of signage designed to orient Tiny Trail users and to provide clear directional information along the township's network of trails and cycling routes. It is to be aligned with similar signage programs being developed in Bruce, Grey, and Simcoe counties. It includes signage to points of interest in the township including Tiny's five major beach parks.

Council asked for a number of changes, among them that

- there be signage indicating that the trail and adjacent private property be respected
- beach signs be restricted to the trail and not placed on roadways
- signage indicate distance travelled
- there be signs about a trails' code of conduct.

For the complete Draft Tiny Trails Wayfinding Master Plan, see the August 29, 2016, Complete Committee of the Whole Agenda/F) Reports of Consultants or Third Parties on tiny.ca.

LIVE STREAMING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

On September 12, live streaming of that day's Council Meetings was tested and found to be satisfactory. This form of recording is to begin formally on September 26th. This promises to be much more satisfactory than the largely inaudible audio recordings of the past. We expect that there will be information about this new process on tiny.ca.

STILL NO DECISION ABOUT TREATING TINY'S SEPTAGE:

Back in February, a deputation from Tiny spoke to the Minister of Environment at the OGRA/ROMA Conference and got the Minister's commitment to reevaluate the Ministry's field spreading program. In April, the Septage Project Advisory Committee asked the Ministry of the Environment for an update on its spreading program, feeling it should be received before the township proceeded to partner with a neighbouring municipality for treating Tiny's septage. Right now, two locations are approved for hauled sewage waste disposal (septage) in the Township, namely:

- 252 Concession 14 East (approved April 20, 2015 until April 20, 2017), and
- 125 Awenda Park Road (approved Feb. 13, 2015 until March 31, 2017).

see REPORT ON COUNCIL. . . on page 11

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GREENBELT . . continued from first page

areas to the north and west of it (Source: South Georgian Bay Source Water Protection Plan).

It must not be forgotten that a main vision of the Greenbelt was to protect against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and support agriculture as the predominant land use. Tiny Township is rich in productive farmland.

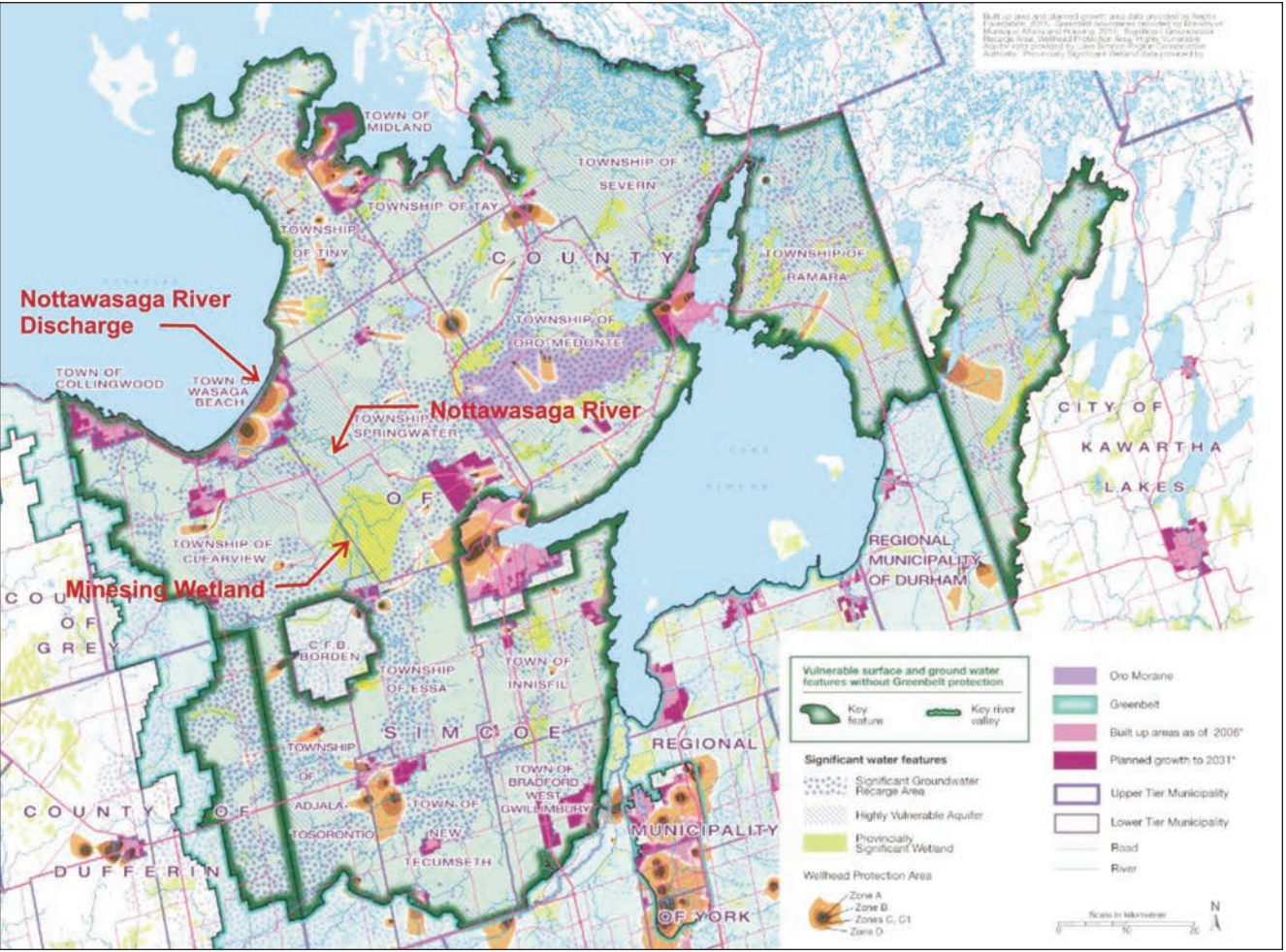
Based on the Crombie panel’s recommendations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is potentially looking at expanding the Greenbelt to protect water features that are “under pressure from urban growth”. This describes Simcoe County. Both the 2006 Intergovernmental Action Plan for Simcoe County, Barrie and Orillia (IGAP) and the 2009 draft amendments to the Places to Grow Act, Simcoe Area: A Strategic Vision for Growth stressed the importance of managing the intense growth pressures on Simcoe County to protect water and environment. But, despite assimilative capacity studies done on the Nottawasaga and Lake Simcoe Watersheds that determined both were nearing their limit to accommodate further growth, even more large-scale developments have since been planned for the region.

Declining watershed health indicators:

As was to be expected, indicators of watershed health have signaled our water resources are increasingly under stress:

- Declining trends in wetland health and forest cover as well as “poor” overall stream health (Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA), 2013 Watershed Health Check)
- Poor to fair surface water quality in sub watersheds that are the most urbanized in Simcoe County (NVCA and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA), 2013 Watershed Health Checks)
- Increasing turbidity and nutrient loading in Nottawasaga River during low flows (NVCA Water Quality Monitoring Report)
- Above-average amount (7) of Level 1 low water responses (NVCA) versus other watersheds (5.5) as well as Nottawasaga Valley watershed enduring those conditions 50% longer comparatively (Conservation Ontario, Low Water Response Data 2001-2013)
- 250% increase in beach advisories for Simcoe County beaches from 2007-2015 (Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit)
- Projections that municipal wells may need to be drilled deeper, new sources of water be found and surface water intake pipes be moved or redesigned to respond to drops in aquifer levels, lake levels and changing precipitation patterns as a result of climate change (South Georgian Bay Source Water Protection Plan: Assessment Reports for NVCA, LSRCA and Severn Sound Environmental Association).
- Historical extent of cool and cold water streams within the Nottawasaga River watershed has been restricted due to loss of forest cover and wetlands and construction of ponds on streams (NVCA Instream Temperature Monitoring Summary). These coldwater fishery habitats support one of the largest spawning populations of wild migratory rainbow trout and Chinook salmon in the Great Lakes Basin (Fisheries Management Plan, NVCA, 2013).

As Simcoe County anticipates at least 667,000 people by 2031, it is likely that these indicators will only worsen. It should also be noted that degradation of the Nottawasaga Valley watershed has continued even with watershed and subwatershed plans in place for almost



20 years. It seems what is missing are rigid policies that better connect land use planning with water resource and natural heritage protection. To the SCGC, the Greenbelt is the best first step in putting these protections in place.

Clear Need for Consistent, Top Level Approach to Water Resource Preservation and Protection

The current governance structure in Simcoe County almost guarantees that water policies will continue to be fragmented. For instance, lower tier municipalities have the authority over water and waste water servicing – decisions that greatly impact water resources and watershed health. Ideally, these decisions should be made on a watershed basis, not just considering local implications of effluent discharge and water taking through an environmental assessment on a project-by-project basis.

Simcoe County Official Plan policies only exacerbate this problem as they encourage municipalities to share water and wastewater servicing if needed. This could result in connecting communities that span watersheds and allow water-strapped inland communities to grow outside of their capacity by connecting with lake-based communities. This has already been realized with the Collingwood/Alliston pipeline as well as recently constructed pipes between Alcona and Bradford. Considering that most of the lower-tier municipalities that are anticipating significant growth also have a water and/or wastewater servicing gap, we can expect more of these types of “solutions”. All this is to say that there needs to be an overarching set of policies that apply to all municipalities and implement strong standards and consistent approaches. Local input is important, but water management goes beyond local political borders.

In conclusion:

Simcoe County is routinely considered a recreational haven due to its Georgian Bay beaches, Lake Simcoe, vast network of trails and forests, green spaces and unique blend of vibrant urban centres and rural vistas. Moreover, rich in prime farmland, Simcoe County

makes a significant contribution to the province’s agricultural economy. Thus, the health of Simcoe County extends far beyond the residents to include cottagers, tourists, hunters, anglers, farmers and the industries that benefit from them.

Our concern is that, as Simcoe is slated to grow immensely, the watershed health indicators will only worsen. Most of our local governments and conservation authorities have finite financial and staffing capacities to properly prepare for and respond to the increasing growth pressures. We wonder how already stressed water resources will fare in the future without significant policy change. It is time to do something bold that will help shape the future of a region critical to the health of the Greater Golden Horseshoe: Expand the Greenbelt to include the entire County of Simcoe and supporting eco-systems.

This article is adapted from a recent submission to Ontario Municipal Affairs Minister Bill Mauro. For more information, go to www.simcoecountygreenbelt.ca and www.greenbelt.ca.

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GBGH: Are Its Troubles Now Over?

By JACK ELLIS

Georgian Bay General Hospital is a true pillar of our regional community, serving the medical needs of some 55,000 permanent residents and the additional 100,000-150,000 seasonal residents and tourists who rattle around this area in summer and winter seasons.

Few of us realize that Midland's first hospital was built in 1905, a 17-bed facility complete with its own garden, chickens and cows! Patients paid 70 cents per day! In 1918, the hospital moved to a large residence on Bay Street donated by local lumber magnate, James Playfair. It was known as St. Andrew's Hospital by his stipulation. After more than a half-century, planning started for Huronia District Hospital on the present site. The Bay Street facility then became a nursing home known as St. Andrew's Manor.

The present Midland hospital opened in 1976 and now offers 24-hour emergency service, in-patient medicine, obstetrics, outpatient day surgery, diagnostic imaging (radiology, ultrasound and CT scan), pharmacy, respiratory therapy, in-patient physiotherapy, ambulatory care, and a 36-bed continuing care and rehabilitation unit serving Muskoka and north Simcoe. A 9-station dialysis unit, Hospice Huronia and the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre are located in GBGH's Penetanguishene site.

Unfortunately, the Midland site is almost splitting at the seams to accommodate the influx of users of its current 105-bed facility. Various expansions over the years have helped, particularly as emergency room visits almost trebled to about 45,000 per year, a volume more commonly found in much larger metropolitan centres, which treat lots of shootings and stabbings.

Organizationally, GBGH's community based Board has had to cope with the demands of successive Ontario governments for changing ways to deliver health care services over wider regions, now known as Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).

Governments also seem to be enamoured by efficiency experts and system studies, and the GBGH almost came to grief after one such report in 2015. It criticized over-spending, and recommended that several services, such as obstetrics, be chopped. This report came right in the middle of a planned major expansion of emergency room capacity. Some pessimists in the community even worried that GBGH might have to close.

The hospital Board, under President and CEO Karen McGrath, reacted swiftly. The once-common operating deficits were turned into a \$284,983 surplus for the 2015-16 financial year, helping to offset a long-term debt of about \$8 million.

Although the hospital continues to grapple with cut-backs recommended by that 2015 operational review,



Karen McGrath told the hospital Board's annual general meeting on June 23, 2016, "I am thrilled to be able to say . . . we saved \$1.3 million in expenses last year because costs were kept under control by the fabulous managers and staff of this hospital . . . and even with the challenges we faced, I am very proud to say we all remained committed to exceptional care."

On the capital side, the first phase of a major expansion of the emergency facilities, a 6,000-square-foot addition was completed in June 2014. The \$5 million cost was funded entirely by the community through the Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation.

By mid-2016 GBGH got the go-ahead to finish the final two phases of the ambitious ER project. The remaining \$9 million cost will be covered 90% by Queen's Park. Construction will begin this fall and take an estimated 18-24 months to complete. When finished, the ER will include a state-of-the-art trauma room, private treatment rooms, a four-bay ambulance garage, secure areas, waiting rooms and staff communication centres.

McGrath commented ". . . the government is not going to commit \$9 million to a hospital that is closing . . . government sees a role for GBGH into the future, and so do we."

Local mayors agree. On August 5, 2016, Tiny's Mayor George Cornell participated in a funding announcement at the hospital. GBGH received \$627,000 from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund to help keep it in a state of good repair.

- How can you help? There are several ways:
- You or your beach association can donate to the GBGH Foundation
 - You can volunteer your time to serve in one of the many GBGH volunteer programs
 - You can participate in one or more of the many fund raising opportunities supporting GBGH.
 - You can write to your Queen's Park MPP to emphasize the importance of the GBGH's service to the whole Huronia region

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A History of Cedar Point

By JAMES STUART

The beach named Cedar Point runs along the shore from the north-west corner of Tiny eastward towards Mark's Point. It looks out to Christian, Beckwith and Hope Islands. The point was known as Pt. Etondatratus in the 1600s and Glover Point on Bayfield's map for the British Admiralty in 1864. The present name is found on maps as early as 1880.

In 1899, avocational archaeologist A.F. Hunter reported the remains of a Huron village on a "...high lake terrace or plateau...with Beckwith Island just opposite." He noted this site as a possible location of Toanche, the village where Samuel de Champlain first stayed upon his arrival on the shores of Huronia in August 1615. Later archaeologists, Rev. A.E. Jones (1908) and C. Heidenreich (1970) suggested that this was the location of a later village named Tondakea dating to 1634-1638. In the Huron or Wendat language, Tondakea means 'where the land disappears.' Regardless of the name or precise date of this village, the archaeological records indicate that Cedar Point and its environs played a role in the early history of Huronia as recorded by Champlain, the Recollect friar Gabriel Sagard, and in the Jesuit Relations.

After the Iroquois drove the Wendat out of Huronia in 1649, the area remained relatively uninhabited until the early 1800s. With the arrival of the Midland Railway in 1870s, the peninsula north-west of Penetanguishene was extensively settled with farms, and the timber rights along much of the shoreline of Cedar Point were held by either the Georgian Bay Lumber Co. or C. Beck Lumbering Co.

In 1934, 16 acres of Lot 20 were sold to the Dominion of Canada by Charles C. McGibbon from Penetang. He purchased it from Alexander Brunelle, whose family lived at Thunder Beach and fished Nottawasaga Bay and the islands. This land is now part of the Beausoleil First Nation's land and includes the wharf where the ferry runs to Christian Island. The remainder of the shoreline to the east was divided up into 10 diagonally oriented lots by Brunelle and the first was sold in 1947.



Original Richardson Farmhouse

In 1916, Tom Lynn, a butcher originally from Toronto, purchased 117 acres of Lot 19 from Wm. Richardson, a farmer. He moved his wife, Jean, and infant daughter, Jessie, to Cedar Point. In 1923 he purchased 63 acres of Lot 17 and in 1929 he added 69 acres of Lot 18. By this time, the Lynns owned at least half of the shoreline from Cedar Point to Mark's Point. Tom and Jean opened and operated the only general store in the area in the original Richardson farmhouse for the convenience of the natives, locals and early cottagers by providing basic goods such as milk, butter,



Lynn's Rental Cottage

flour, bread and penny candy for the kids. Ice was cut in the winter and hauled up to the ice house beside the store. The ice was stored in sawdust and delivered to the early cottagers twice a week. In 1936, they began subdividing the shoreline. As well as running the store, Tom and Jean built six rental cottages; most of which still remain today and by 1938 he had sold about nine lots privately. The first actual store and the ice house are still standing.



Conacher Cottage

In 1939, Tom sold Lionel Conacher about a mile of shoreline. Over the next six years, Lionel commissioned Tom Pilon from Penetang to build five large, squared log cottages for himself and his wife, Dorothy, and their friends to use. Some of the logs were from older buildings in the area, some were from trees on the property and some were brought across the ice in winter from as far away as Victoria Harbour.

Most of the remaining shoreline lots and rental cottages were purchased between 1941 and 1949. Some of the other early property owners include: Hal and Una Watson, Dave and Lulu Scully, Tommy and Effi Lytle, Bill and Joan Shelly, Fred and Lena Brown, George and Alva Johnson, John and Mary Gifford, Bill and Beatrice Austin, Bob and Helen Stuart, Jessie and Ed Culligan, Jack and Velma Deschamps, Jock and Connie Porter, Don and Lilyan Morgan, Fred and Dot Lyon, Doug and Ivy Cosford, Bill and Olive Saunders, J.M. McGee, George and Edith Hammond and Dick

and Betty Pearce.

Being at the end of the line, the beach was very isolated with no electricity until 1950. Wood stoves were used for heating and cooking and oil lamps provided light in the evening. During the war years, men car-pooled and they always tried to leave at least one car at the beach for emergencies. The roads from the beach to Penetang were all gravel and if a cottager went for provisions, that person always shopped for several cottages. Fresh produce was sold to cottagers by local farmers, Wilf and Estelle Pauze and, at that time, lake trout were plentiful in the bay.

Tom Lynn died in 1949. A year later, the Cedar Point Store was built on the site of a community baseball diamond by Pete Deschamps. His son Jack and wife Velma ran the store with Pete (aka PD) and his wife Alice's help. Jean Lynn continued to summer at Cedar Point with her daughter Jessie Culligan and grandsons in the original Richardson farmhouse located beside the general store she and Tom built. She was often seen rocking in the summer sun wearing a full length black Victorian dress and leather boots. Jean died in 1958. In the same year, postal service arrived at the Cedar Point Store eliminating the need to travel to the post office in Penetang. 'The Store' was operated by a number of couples over the years: Deschamps, Hibbs, Lediard, Gregoire, LeBlanc, Trudeau, Robitaille and Lacroix. The post office and store officially closed around 2012.

By 1968, the last of the Lynn property had been sold by their daughter, Jessie. The area has changed very little in 70 years. Descendants of many of the original families are in the same cottages and presently about 65 cottages make up the community of Cedar Point.



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Swimming Water Quality Reassuring Thank You Volunteers!

BY JUDITH GRANT

Many individuals contributed time and effort to make this summer's volunteer investigation into the quality of swimming water in Tiny Township a success. Brenda Armstrong, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Safe Water Program Manager attended the training session at Balm Beach at the end of June, and provided insightful answers to queries. Susan Peterson (Kettle's Beach) distributed each week's results to participating associations and managed invoicing in September; Linda Andrews (the Federation's Treasurer) kept financial records; Judith Grant got in touch with associations about participation; and several captains picked up the sample bottles from volunteers' coolers and refrigerators along the shore and transported them to the Township Offices (Stan and Pat Seymour of Carusoe Bay; Linda Andrews, Mike Bradley, and Klaus Beecker of Wahnekeewening; and Linda Rudics at Thunder Beach). As it has for a number of years, Tiny Township's Water Department kindly transported the large coolers of sample bottles from the Township Offices to the Laboratory for analysis.

All along the shore, volunteers from roughly twenty beach associations waded into sometimes very chilly water first thing on the morning after the weekend to collect samples according to the Health Unit's protocol:

Addison – Shan Atkins, Christine Dow, Hamish Grant, Judith Grant, Heidi Lauridsen, Sally Martin, Rebecca Rice

Ardmore – Jane Hellyer

Bluewater Georgina Wendake – Ian Ferguson

Carusoe Bay - Rick Bennett, Tyler Doyle, Kyla Dolan, Lesley Kerr

Cawaja – Richard Hinton

Cedar Point – Jan MacIntyre

Deanlea – Christine Gaiotto, Carlotta Lee

Edmor/Georgian Heights - Anette Krajewski

Farlain Lake – Bill Sweenie

Kettle's – Jim Alexander

Kingswood Acres – Al Taylor

Maurice Point – Bill Stoner

Nottawaga - Lynne Archibald, Elizabeth Sawyer
Pennorth - Noel Coates, Mary Ellis, Charlene Lowes, Barbara Roberts

Sand Castle – Thom Henrickson

Thunder Beach – Devon Mitchell, Sara Lankshear, Barbara Trubic

Woodland Beach - Denise Gardian, D. Hancey, Linda Lockyer

Wymbolwood – Jeff Conron, Patricia Dorman, David Henderson, Steve Himel, Robert McBride, Jane Pashby

Clearly shore associations had different strategies for recruiting water samplers: many depended on a single individual, others mustered a series of volunteers as cottage occupants shifted week by week or month by month. The palm for the greatest number of samples taken by one individual from a long stretch of shore goes to Devon Mitchell who sampled swimming water and streams along West Shore Drive and the full extent of centre beach at Thunder Beach every one of the nine summer weeks, taking a total of 68 samples. The prize for the greatest number of volunteers goes to Addison, whose four samples were taken each week by a succession of seven individuals, each turning out once or twice, just nosing out Wymbolwood, whose single sample was taken by six volunteers.

The statistics gathered this year differ somewhat from those in earlier years. As always, the samples were analyzed for E. coli, a useful indicator of water quality, not because it is dangerous itself (only rarely is that the case), but because its presence indicates the possible presence of dangerous pathogens. However, the upper limit of the numbers of E. coli counted precisely was much higher this year because the Aquatic & Environmental Laboratory uses a different method of analysis than the laboratory we used to use. Where in earlier years, the range went from <10 to >600 (less than 10 to more than 600), this year it went from <10 to >1500 (and, occasionally, higher). This gave much more precise information about modestly polluted streams whose E. coli counts fell between 600 and 1,500. In the

past, when such streams showed a count of >600, we had no idea whether the actual number was 605 or something dramatically higher.

As soon as the Health Unit and Awenda Park release their sampling results for public beaches and Tiny's Provincial Park, a spreadsheet of this year's numbers will appear under Water Reports on tinycottager.org. There you'll see that most of the summer's high E. coli numbers occur in streams, not in the bay or lake, a useful reminder to steer clear of such streams as they arrive at the shore. Since children love to create dams, diversions, bridges and the like in creeks on the beach, they should be reminded to wash their hands before touching food.

Also noticeable in the spreadsheet is the fact that E. coli numbers in streams are immensely variable – and, as samplers will have noted (since they record conditions at the time they take samples), they are often highest when it has rained recently, since rain washes pollutants into creeks and streams. Since residents at a beach might well wish to know just how long after a rainstorm stream numbers remain high, a beach association might choose to sample its stream every day for a week or two after a major rainfall. Now that our laboratory is relatively close (on Horseshoe Valley Road at Highway 93), this wouldn't be impossible, even if volunteers had to drive the samples there.

A noticeable aspect of Lake and Bay samples is that high wind and waves usually produce high E. coli numbers. Sunday August 21 was such a day at many points along the shore. Even the next day, a sampling Monday, those areas directly affected (some in protected areas weren't affected) had much higher counts than usual.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note that a comparison of the geometric means of E. coli numbers in samples taken at particular points along the shore in 2001 (the first year of the water program) with those taken in 2016 reveals that this year's results were generally better.

For an overview of the Federation's water sampling program see "Time to Check the Quality of Our Swimming Water! The Volunteer Water Program Has Brought Us Many Benefits," *Tiny Cottager*, No. 43 (Spring/Summer 2014), p. 3, 17. That article, along with a series of reports on the water program from 2002 to the present is available in "Issue Archives" on <http://tinycottager.org>.

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The War on Invasive Species

By PETE ANDREWS

Know The Enemy: Invasive species are non-native species to Ontario whose introduction by different means causes or is likely to cause harm to the natural environment, human health, or the economy.

Invasive species have become problematic by the way they spread, grow, and adapt. Before the concept and impact of invasive species was understood, early settlers to Canada brought many of their favourite plants, such as Queen Anne’s lace and dandelions to the new world. Some invasive species are a result of deliberate choices –notably Asian carp to filter water in fish farms– while other invasive species, like Asian long horned beetle, zebra mussel and non-native Common Reed, arrived accidentally without our knowledge in wood packing material, ballast water in ocean freighters, and many other modes of travel. One of the newest migration pathways is mail order shopping through the internet.

Plan Strategically: The Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan was released by the Ontario Government in 2012. The objectives of the plan are to 1) prevent new invaders from arriving and surviving in Ontario, 2) slow and, where possible, reverse the spread of existing invaders, and 3) reduce their harmful impacts.

Wage War: One of the key actions in the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan was to address legislation, regulations, and policies pertaining to invasive species. The Invasive Species Act (ISA) was approved by the Legislative Assembly November 2015 and will be implemented November 2016. The focus of the ISA will be on the possession, transport, purchase, and propagation of prohibited and restricted species. The Act ensures compliance through inspection and enforcement measures. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Conservation Officers will be the only ISA enforcement officers for the present time.



Attack Strategically: Implementation of the Invasive Species Strategic Plan and the enforcement of the Act will rely on the collaborative efforts of the Canadian and Provincial governments, municipalities, partners, stakeholders, interest groups, and individuals.

The Ontario Government is responsible for regulation, policies, enforcement, monitoring, research, outreach and education.

The MNR, the lead Ontario agency for the Invasive Species Act and the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan, will be aided by its partners, including the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Ontario Invasive Plant Council, Forests Ontario, Invasive Species Centre, Ontario Biodiversity Council, and Ontario Federation of Cottagers’ Associations, in monitoring, research, outreach, and education efforts. Academic institutions are members of one or more partnering organizations.

As conservation authorities, municipalities, and First Nations are major landholders in Ontario, they are being encouraged to develop comprehensive, science-based invasive species strategies. The focus of the strategies will be on 1) Prevention, 2) Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Containment, 3) Management of Invasive Species, and 4) Leadership and Coordination. The strategies will encompass terrestrial and aquatic species, identify the highest priorities for funding and

management activities, and identify costs for managing their forests and woodlands, water bodies, public parks, and natural areas.

Regional and locally based strategies should embrace a proactive working relationship between the municipalities and businesses, property owners, volunteers (who are typically affiliated with associations), and other forms of organizations, enabling them to act collectively, efficiently, and effectively in the best interests of the lands and waters they represent.

Mission Assessment: The Province has taken a ‘carrot and stick’ approach to combatting invasive species in Ontario. The new Invasive Species Act is the enforcement stick. The Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan is the carrot. According to MNR the strategic plan provides a “conceptual framework for tackling Ontario’s invasive species problems.” The Environmental Commissioner’s Office is concerned that “the laudable goals of the Strategic Plan will go unfulfilled without adequate funding.” MNR has limited finances, staff, and expertise to effectively meet its current mandates.



As well, there are not sufficient resources, capacity, and knowledge at the local municipal level to implement a multi-pronged invasive species strategy.

In addition to a lack of a Provincial funding strategy, there is no Provincial mechanism to ensure that the goals, actions, and tactics outlined in the Strategic Plan are implemented and evaluated. Ironically, successful volunteer organization applicants for grants such as the Ontario Trillium Foundation are required to provide a detailed work plan consisting of expected outcomes, planned activities, quantitative and qualitative performance indicators.

There is a diversity of organizations and people involved with minimizing the impact of invasive species. While various not-for profit organizations share the same mandate of connecting stakeholders, imparting knowledge, and undertaking projects to help preventing the introduction and reducing the spread of invasive species, there appears to be no use of shared databases to track invasive species initiatives, effective control methods and academic studies. There appears to be no efficiency of scale due to the lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities. There needs to be coordination at the Provincial and County levels to reduce duplication of efforts, increase cost effectiveness, and improve capacity to better address invasive species issues.

Organizational deficiencies that currently exist need to be resolved. The fact remains that there is a war on invasive species underway and it must be fought in a collaborative manner.

“It is possible for municipalities to develop successful strategies based on case studies and examples of others, like the City of London, City of Mississauga, etc. The challenge is funding, but the municipalities need to begin to incorporate funding for invasive species into to their regular budget from this point forward. I think our best bet is to work together more collaboratively between municipalities and NGO (non-government organization) partners to undertake a strong approach to this issue.”

Kellie Sherman
Coordinator, Ontario Invasive Plant Council

“At the present time there are four known invasive plants in Tiny Township: European Common Reed (Phragmites), Eurasian Watermilfoil, Garlic Mustard, and Dog-Strangling Vine. A fifth invasive plant, Giant Hogweed, was discovered in an isolated location and eradicated.

It is inevitable that new discoveries of the known invasive plants will be made on municipal and private properties as well as public waterbodies. Given the diversity of invasive algae, plants, invertebrates, and fishes, we also anticipate new invasive species being introduced to the Township in the future.

The biggest challenge facing the Township is the lack of financial and staff resources, and the expertise to address the invasive species issue. Any financial support of invasive species projects involving private land and public water currently comes from a small budget established to support community engagement. The Township also supports volunteer group efforts by donating equipment and staff time.

It is our position that collaboration between municipal governments in the Severn Sound watershed will result in a coordinated, cost effective, and cohesive effort to prevent, control, and manage terrestrial and aquatic invasive species. On July 15, 2016 the Township of Tiny submitted a letter of intent to the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) Board of Directors proposing that the SSEA become the hub of invasive species planning, communication/education, research, and technical guidance. We have also proposed that a dedicated invasive species position be created within the SSEA organization and that the salary and operating costs of the position be shared by the nine SSEA partners. All Severn Sound municipal partners have approved the proposal in principle. Although the role and responsibilities of the invasive species coordinator will need to be defined, we expect the position will provide guidance on the development of individual municipal invasive species strategic plans, technical training for municipal staff, and other services pertaining to invasive species.

As the focus of the municipal invasive species strategy will be on municipal properties and waterbodies adjacent to municipal lands, we also need to develop a collaboration framework that will foster partnerships with volunteer groups, businesses, and private landowners regarding invasive species prevention, education, control, and management efforts.”

Steffen Walma
Deputy Mayor, Township of Tiny

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Volunteer Mike Jones mapping watermilfoil infestations

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PHOTOS BY ANDREW CHOMENTOWSKI



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REPORT ON COUNCIL ... continued from page 5

The Committee is still waiting for a response from the Ministry."

TINY'S OFFICIAL PLAN STILL NOT UPDATED:

Council had hoped that a start could be made on bringing the Township's OP into line with the County's and with various provincial documents. Indeed, it sent its Planning Consultant off to get started on those sections of the County's Plan that had received provincial approval. However, as changes continued to be made, the decision was taken to wait until County's whole plan had been approved. According to Shawn Persaud (Manager of Planning and Development) a start may be made this fall while serious work will be undertaken in 2017.

REVISED BUDGET MEETING DATES:

These are to occur on November 21, December 5, and December 19, 2016.



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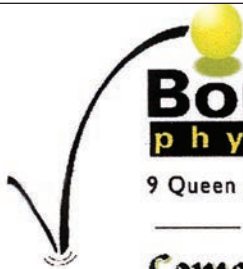
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The Pilot Parking Strategy To Date

BY JUDITH GRANT

On the advice of Councillor Hinton, ever since Council heard open deputations about parking issues in shore areas in January, the Township's Parking Strategy has been on every agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting. Staff prepared background reports, and the Pilot Parking Strategy was put in place from Concession Road 8 north almost to Concession Road 12, roughly from the Nipissing Ridge to the Shore. Residents have been encouraged to communicate their views to Council on this initiative by September 30. They have done so in presentations and reflections and requests.

Mindful of the declared deadline for submissions, Council has almost always refrained from making decisions about the Strategy until the fall. Nonetheless, when, at the end of May, the Business Association of Balm Beach asked that 30 minute parking and permit parking on Balm Beach Road West and on Oliver Drive should be converted to “pay parking”, Council agreed to the change. It also took a position on the Balm Beach Tavern’s request for additional parking as its location presents a safety hazard. A second area that got action was Carusoe Bay, which lies on either side of Concession Road 9. When the President of the beach association in that area, Chris Tulley, raised a series of safety concerns, Council agreed to more No Stopping signs on Sand Road, the creation of a loading/unloading zone on the south side of the 9th Concession, the opening of an access at the north end of Sand Road, reduction of the speed limit on the 9th Concession, installation of pedestrian crossing signs and markings, and the addition of No Parking Anytime signs on Centre Road.

Kitching Lane, a heavily used 10-foot lane just south of Balm Beach that provides access to the beach for swimming, was the subject of scheduled and open deputations by residents, both direct shore and backlot, which expressed many perspectives. Prior to the presentation of deputations on August 8, Mayor Cornell read a statement regretting the acts of theft and vandalism at Kitching Lane, referring to ongoing major beach park enhancements, and appealing for patience while Council worked “its way through the issues.” (See the Report on Council, pp. 4-5, for Improvements undertaken this summer at Lafontaine Beach and at Balm Beach.)

From time to time, Members of Council reported on concerns about various walkways, and about heavy, inappropriate use of Bluewater Beach Park (tenting and

the like).

A deputation by the Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association in August was typical of protests from several stretches of shore that regretted their exclusion from the Pilot Parking Strategy area and felt the impact of increased use of open parking places in their area. In the case of Bluewater Dunes, such parking in the subdivision behind Bluewater Park resulted in heavy use of the beach that undercut the community's efforts to protect its dunes from Deanlea to Trew and undid the work of the expensive Management Plan prepared by consultants in 2006. Jessie Garland, speaking for the Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers, asked for "no parking with limited permit parking" in their community. She presented a petition, signed by 200 community members (names, addresses, signatures), asking that Council implement the Township Parking Strategy at Bluewater Dunes Beach.

The Bylaw Department noted that the number of parking tickets issued on the Civic long weekend increased dramatically over the previous year, as did the number of complaints, largely due to the Pilot Parking Strategy.

In response to a proposal that permits be issued to backlot owners to give them access to the beach, it was determined that Council does not have the authority to provide access to privately owned beaches. At one point Council asked that "an education session related to beach ownership issues be scheduled for its members including appropriate background information." The date for this session has not yet been set.

On August 30, Council authorized a Press Release titled "Kitching Lane Beach Access." It appears in full on [tiny.ca](#) under News & Events/Press Release. It expresses disappointment about acts of vandalism at Kitching Lane and reminds residents and visitors that "Tiny's shoreline is a combination of municipal and private shoreline" and that the Township's jurisdiction "only extends to property owned by the Township." It invites "all residents and visitors to enjoy our municipally owned beaches and parks" and declares: "This Council is dedicated to improving the enjoyment and access to municipal beaches in Tiny."

Full discussion by Council of the many issues raised in deputations and the like regarding the Pilot Parking Strategy is to be delayed until after the end of September deadline for submissions.

Keep Wild Animals Wild

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY STEPHEN SUCHARZEWSKI, FISH AND WILDLIFE TECHNICAL SPECIALIST, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY

Garbage strewn about! Screen door ripped down the middle! Pet food in bowl outside demolished! Feeding wild animals directly or indirectly almost always turns out badly for both animals and humans!

Wild animals should always be appreciated from a safe distance. Normally wild animals are wary of people and this helps keep both animals and people safe. If animals become dependent on people for food, they lose their fear of humans and forget how to find natural food.

Tips for discouraging wild animals from approaching your property:

- keep all garbage indoors until collection day or put it in a strong animal proof container
- keep BBQ grill clean
- keep all pet food indoors
- keep pets indoors or leashed if wild animals are in your area
- keep wild animals wild by not approaching, feeding or attempting to pet them

Feeding wildlife threatens people by

- increasing the risk of property damage
- increasing the risk of motor vehicle accidents
- habituating animals to become more aggressive
- risking exposure to rabies (for people, livestock, pets), mange (pets), and distemper (for unimmunized pets) from infected wild animals

Feeding wildlife (including shore birds) threatens animals by

- disrupting their normal travel and migration patterns
- encouraging dependency on an artificial, often unhealthy, food source



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Woodland Beach Celebrates Launch of Its History Book

BY TRACEY PRICE & MARG ROBERTSON

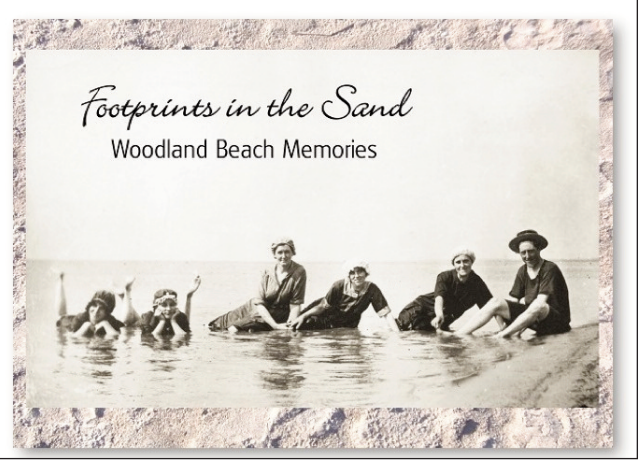
The bright red Woodland Beach fire truck, decorated with celebration balloons, could be seen driving around the Beach announcing "everyone out of the sack" reminding many of how it announced the Property Owners' meeting day in the 1950s and 60s. Thus, everyone was invited to attend the 2016 Woodland Beach History Celebration Weekend and Book Launch.

The Woodland Beach Property Owner's Association (WBPOA) and its History Committee hosted the first History Day in August 2014 and invited residents to enjoy the photo displays, bring their photographs and memorabilia, and visit with family and friends. The turnout was outstanding, with an estimated 400 guests coming not only from the Beach but travelling from out of town to attend. The success of the day resulted in the decision to document the Woodland Beach history in a book before it was lost. The History Committee then began sifting through the pictures and shared stories. Over 100 families were interviewed to capture memories for the Beach history. The plan was to launch the book in the summer of 2016 with another History Celebration event.



Families and friends gathered once again at the two-day Celebration Weekend on July 16th and 17th, 2016 to celebrate the book launch and pick up their eagerly-awaited copies of *Footprints in the Sand, Woodland Beach Memories*. The photographs were once again on display, together with a tearoom where everyone could sit and visit. The raffle table was popular with its prizes for Saturday and Sunday draws. The Wasaga Cruisers provided classic cars and guests enjoyed a barbeque in the garden of the former Ship-A-Hoy dancehall, now the Bayshore Seniors' Club, complete with locally provided music. Both the Fire Hall and the Community Church held open houses on Saturday. The Church celebrated its 90th anniversary with a Family Music Night and a special Sunday Service. Sunday also featured a well-attended walking tour along the "Main Drag" led by Peter and Don Whitfield. The tour highlighted heritage locations -- Harry Tripp's icehouse, the Woodland Riding Academy, long-ago businesses. It proceeded past Sunset Lodge, Quinn's Store and around the corner to where the first cottages were built. The celebration was a huge success with over 700 attending. The event brought the community together.

The limited edition book was offered for sale initially to members of the WBPOA and to families interviewed. All 500 copies were sold by early Sunday morning. A second printing of 112 books filled the requests for



those who missed the first order. Although copies are no longer available for sale, *Footprints in the Sand, Woodland Beach Memories* is available for reference at the Elmvale and Midland Libraries, the Huronia Museum and Simcoe County Archives.



The History Committee (L to R) consists of Sheila Ryan, Marg Robertson, the late Rhonda Smith, Tracey Price and Gail Shives. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this project a success. Carolyn Olds Mikels, granddaughter of the Reverend W.G. Aldridge, one of the Beach founders, travelled from Florida to bring twenty-one photographs from her Grandfather's files depicting early days at the Beach. We were thrilled to have Carrick Publishing on our team to guide the finished product through to completion. We appreciated the financial support of WBPOA membership and the many personal donations that gave us the confidence to go forward. Thanks to local businesses and individuals who supported the raffle and to the volunteers who contributed to the huge success of the weekend. The History Committee's commitment to replace eleven original trail signs in time for the book launch and the History Celebration Weekend was made possible when Tiny Township staff got them installed.

From the interviews it was evident that we all share many of the same memories of Woodland Beach, from playing on the beach, the sunsets, to the nightly trips to Whitfield's Store for ice cream cones or the hamburgers with fried onions at Frank's Grill. It was a privilege to share everyone's memories and love for Woodland Beach. We hope all of you enjoy reading the family stories and Woodland Beach history and go on to make your own Beach memories.

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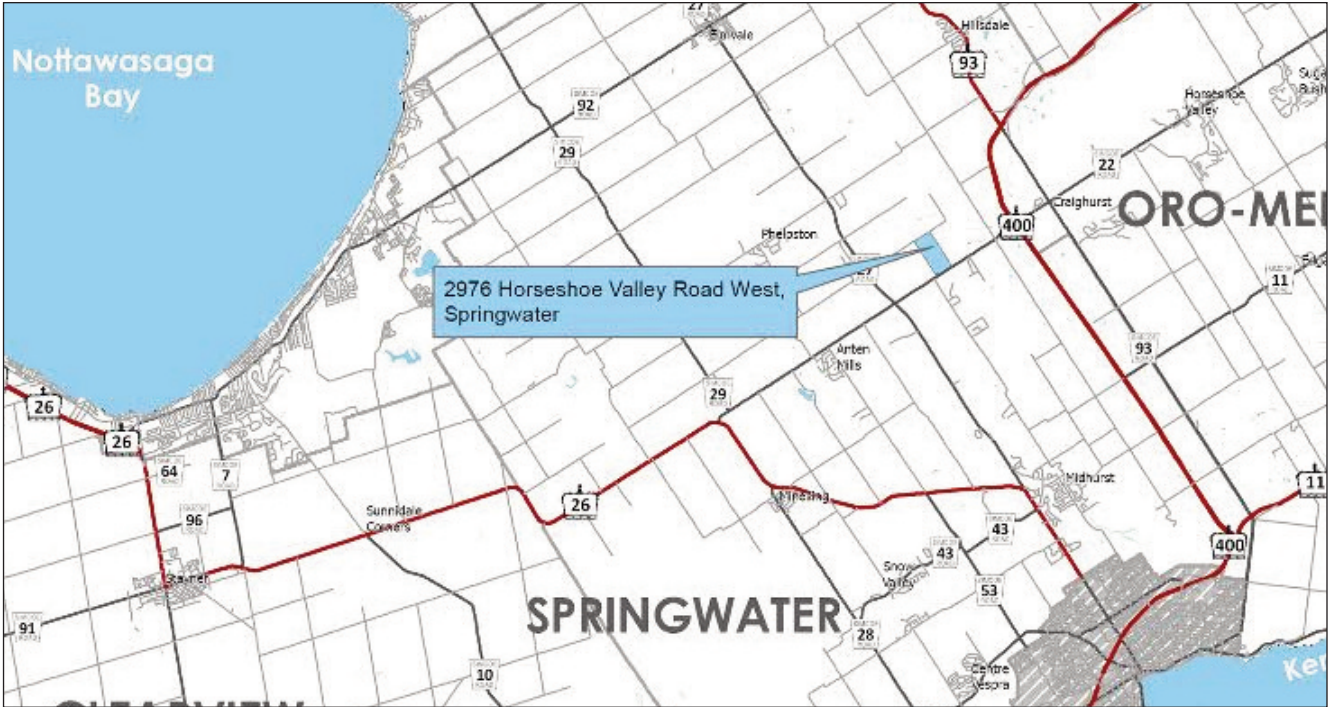
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Where does our Organics Recycling Go?

By LINDA ANDREWS

Have you ever wondered just where your green bin waste goes when the Simcoe garbage truck heads off to your neighbour's place?

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Yes, that's right: Hamilton. Every year the County of Simcoe hauls 10,000 tonnes of our green bin material off to a facility in Hamilton. The cost of all this trucking is significant, and of course generates diesel emissions that gobble up a significant chunk of the environmental benefits of having a green bin program in the first place.

Back in 2009, the County of Simcoe realized it needed to do a better job managing our solid waste, and began to develop a Solid Waste Management Strategy for the next 20 years. The green bin program itself was one of its first results. The Strategy focuses on the overall need to reduce garbage, increase the diversion rate, and manage our own transfer and processing capacity.

In 2012 a viability study for an Organic Processing Facility (OPF) to manage our green bin material locally was presented to County Council. A consultant was chosen, a Community Engagement Committee was set up and several public information meetings were held.

Serious consideration was given to combining an OPF facility with a new Materials Management Facility (MMF) where waste would be transferred and recycled in order to reduce costs.


Building a local Organic Processing Facility could:

- increase diversion to the green bin programme of materials like diapers and pet waste
 - shorten hauling distances and reduce emissions
 - produce valuable compost (in addition to the compost from 15,000 tonnes of leaf and yard waste which is processed annually)
 - increase local employment opportunities
 - provide environmental leadership
- Building a Materials Management Facility would, in addition:
- save on contracted transfer costs
 - utilize secured funding (approx. \$1.15 million) from the Continuous Improvement Fund

In late August 2015, after evaluating more than 500 sites, a short list of seven possibilities was announced, five of them suitable for a joint OPF/MMF centre.

Each site had to meet environmental criteria regarding air quality, odour, noise, surface and ground water, agriculture, and species of special concern. Social criteria were also considered such as impacts on residential and recreational areas, current land use and zoning, transportation infrastructure and neighbourhood traffic, visual appearance and buffer zones. Also, the facility must fully comply with the Ontario Environmental Protection Act.

In March of this year, the site at 2976 Horseshoe Valley Road West in Springwater Township was recommended. A primary advantage of this site is its central



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location and its proximity to major highways. Its large useable space allows for design flexibility and possible expansion. Only 5% of the treed property would be required for the facility: the remaining forest would act as a visual screen. There is good separation from nearby homes and sufficient space to ensure that there would be no impact on ground or surface water. Broad public, Aboriginal and stakeholder consultation supported the valuation process.

A lively County Council meeting preceded the vote to keep the process moving forward. Some wanted more information, others a solid business case. Destruction of part of Simcoe's forest was another concern. Nevertheless Council voted to move forward with engineering and environmental studies, further public information meetings and discussions about approval and procurement.

The MMF will be commenced first due to its straight-forward design. A decision still has to be made about the OPF design – aerobic composting as initially planned or anaerobic digestion.

County Council has a lot of complex decisions to make. Before submitting Requests for Proposal (RPF) to potential vendors, it must select a design. It must also decide whether to go with a design-bid-build or design-build-operate delivery method. Vendors would be more able to provide solid costing if they are given comprehensive site information, clear project details and timing, and if amendments to the Official Plan and the Zoning By-Law are in place.

A recent complication is the emergence of a group called Friends of Simcoe Forests which wants to have the site location reconsidered. This group is questioning the need for an organics processing facility and the "flawed site selection process."

For more information visit <http://www.simcoe.ca/opf> or <http://www.simcoe.ca/mmff>

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