

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 50A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVEFall/Winter 2017

President’s Message

By PAUL COWLEY

This issue of *The Tiny Cottager* is the 50th issue — our Golden Anniversary. To honour this achievement we have included an article from our first issue (see page 15). It is interesting to note that the topics discussed then are still being discussed today. I would like to give a major thanks to all of the many volunteers who contributed thousands of hours over those years to bring relevant news to Tiny readers.

The cool wet spring weather carried on right through the summer as promised in June by the weatherman. He’s never right! Why pick this summer to be right? While the coolness and wet conditions were not conducive to holidaying they were helpful in maintaining our water levels. Some folks may think current water levels are high, but that is most likely due to their memory of the exceptionally low levels from 2000 to 2013, which were 46” lower than our current levels. Presently we are only 18” above the long-term average and 18” below the all time high of 1986.

A greater concern is that current levels are expected to drop during the next 10 years to below recent lows. We must take action for that eventuality now. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation (GBGLF) has commissioned a second Baird Report to forecast levels until 2050. This study and report cost over \$20,000 and GBGLF needs your support. Once completed, it will be posted on the GBGLF website where it can be consulted by all levels of government as they plan for the impact of changing water levels. See <http://www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com>. Watch for more about this report in our next issue.

This summer’s parking program greatly eased traffic flow while providing safe parking for residents. Council’s continued efforts on improving parking conditions are clearly paying off.

The parking strategy is one of several successful Council initiatives, including town halls and the Mayor’s annual golf tournament. These initiatives serve Tiny well and are to be commended. FoTTSA was proud to be the title sponsor for the golf tournament for the third year running. This year it raised a record \$60,000 for local charities.

If you have a passion for something in Tiny please reach out to us. We need more volunteers to continue the important work we do in Tiny.

I hope we don’t have too harsh a winter and wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving.



Snow Buntings - see Diane Hasley’s article and more photos on page 12

Nitrate Testing 2017: The Results Are In

By JUDITH GRANT & SUSAN PETERSON

This past summer, 113 households in FoTTSA’s member associations elected to have their well water tested for nitrates. This is the third such program managed by FoTTSA. The first two (in 2010 and 2011) were inspired by the concern Greg Athron of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment expressed at FoTTSA’s 2010 Annual General Meeting about the possibility of nitrates leaching into groundwater and then into wells from farm and lawn fertilizers, manure, sewage, or septage spread on farmers’ fields. He pointed out that high nitrate concentrations in drinking water interfere with the blood’s ability to transport oxygen and can be especially detrimental to infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and seniors. You’ve probably heard of “blue baby syndrome”: it is the result of oxygen deprivation from exposure to water high in nitrates in formula or breast milk.

Ten beach associations participated in each of the first two nitrate programs (13 in all). This year 13 took part – Addison, Bluewater Georgina Wendake, Carusoe Bay, Cawaja, Cedar Point, Cleopatra, Edmor-Georgian Heights, Farlain Lake, Kingswood Acres, Nottawaga, Rowntree, Wahnekewening, and Woodland. (Many of our remaining member associations are on township-run water systems, which are tested every three months for nitrates.) Participation caused associations a fair amount of work in the midst of summer vacation time. They had to let their member households know about the program, list contact information for those who chose to participate, distribute supplies, and assemble samples for pickup. Thank you to all the members who helped out on this important FoTTSA initiative.

For its part, FoTTSA supplied information about

- nitrate contamination (with the assistance of the Severn Sound Environmental Association and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit)

- the cost of analysis
- the time samples were to be taken

FoTTSA also created an appropriate form and instruction sheets, picked up the required bottles from the lab, distributed them along with forms and instructions to participating associations, and in due course collected the samples from each participating association, transported them to the lab, received the results, and e-mailed them to each participating household.

Of the 113 samples collected this year, none exceeded the limit of 10 mg/L set in the Ontario Drinking Water guidelines. Better still, the majority of samples (78) tested at <0.05 mg/L meaning that no nitrates or nitrites (which turn into nitrates) were detected. The lowest amount the lab’s analysis method can detect is 0.05 mg/L. Of the 35 samples with nitrates, only one sample had a nitrate count of three mg/L (just 3.01), three samples were in the two mg/L range, and three others registered in the one mg/L range. The remaining 27 measured below one mg/L. Only two households had a nitrite count, and both were under the guideline limit of one mg/L.

Some time ago, regular testing of the township-run water system at Georgian Sands in the 15th Concession caught a gradually increasing nitrate content. The township used the years since discovery of the intensification to look for unaffected sources of water and hold public information meetings about the problem. Eventually the decision was taken to combine this system with another that had acceptable water and thus reduce the nitrates to a lower level. This example suggests that households whose wells have any nitrate content would be advised to have their well water tested every couple of years to see whether the nitrate level is rising and how quickly. If the levels increase, those households should ask the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit for advice.

Inside

Fall/Winter Events	2
Farm Fresh Food Fest	3
Report on Council	4
Chris Figgures’ Cartoon	4
Presentation re: Official Plan	5
A Major War Hero	6
Mayor’s Golf Tournament	7
Closing Your Property	8
Farlain L.: Invasive Species	9
GBGH’s New President	10
Early Days at Cove Beach	11
Parking Strategy - II	12
Snow Buntings	12
Social Media: WhatsApp	13
Bluewater Dunes Wetlands	14
50th Issue of <i>The Tiny Cottager</i>	15

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Fall/Winter Events

September

Huronia Museum Film Series;
every Wednesday, 4:30pm & 7:30pm
Galaxy Theatre Midland
huroniamuseum.com/film-series/
Traditional Leather Beaded Pouch, Sept. 23
Marsh by Moonlight, Sept. 23, 30, Oct. 7, 14,
www.wyemarsh.com
Time Capsule Event, September 25, 11:30am
Champlain Wendat Rotary Park, Penetanguishene
www.pencenmuseum.com
“Pumpkinferno at Haunted Harbour”,
September 28-October 30
Evenings Thurs-Sun
www.discoveryharbour.on.ca/dh/en/SpecialEvents/index.htm
Showcase of Homes Tour, September 30
Midland, Penetanguishene
www.kidsdomatter.com/en/Home/events/showcaseofhomes.aspx
The Bay Studio Tour, September 30-October 1
www.thebaystudiotour.com

October

Elmvale Fall Fair, October 5-7, Elmvale Fairground
elmvalefallfair.com
Images Studio Tour, October 6-9, Barrie/Orillia
www.images-studio-tour.com
Ste. Marie Among the Hurons Thanksgiving Harvest
Festival and Arts & Crafts Show and Sale, October 7-8
www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/SpecialEvents/index.htm

Turkey Dinner, Wyevalle United Church, October 7
5:00 pm or 6:15 pm, tickets at Wyevalle Jug City or
705-322-1451
Spirit Walk, October 13, tours 7:00pm & 8:00pm
Penetanguishene
www.pencenmuseum.com
Murder Mystery at the Museum, October 14
Huronia Museum, Midland
huroniamuseum.com see Events
Saw-whet Owl Banding, October 14
www.wyemarsh.com
Huronia’s 1st Annual History Car Rally, October 21
Huronia Museum, Midland
huroniamuseum.com see Events
Midland Cultural Centre (MCC) GBGH Gala:
Moonlight Masquerade,
October 21, 6:30pm
www.midlandculturalcentre.com
Penetanguishene Centennial Museum 50th Birthday
Bash, October 21
www.pencenmuseum.com
Traditional Moccasin Making, October 21
www.wyemarsh.com
Marsh Monster, October 28
www.wyemarsh.com
Halloween Spooktacular, October 28
Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
www.pencenmuseum.com

November

The Drawer Boy, November 17-19, 23-26, 30-
December 2
MCC Huronia Players, Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca

4th Annual Arts Festivus, November 18
Huronia Museum, Midland
huroniamuseum.com see Events
Traditional Moccasin Making, November 18
www.wyemarsh.com
Midland Santa Claus Parade, November 25, 11:00am
www.midland.ca
Tiny Township Tree Lighting, November 25, 6:00pm
www.tiny.ca see Recreation/Special Events
First Light, November 23-25,
November 30-December 2, December 7-9
Ste. Marie Among the Hurons,
evenings 5:30 pm-9:00 pm
www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/

December

Hiking & cross country skiing
Mountainview, Awenda Park
Downhill/Cross Country Skiing and Snowboarding
www.wyemarsh.com/trails
www.horseshoeresort.com
www.skisnowvalley.com
mountstlouis.com
www.bluemountain.ca
Wyevalle Parade and Party,
December 2, 6:00pm-9:00pm
Wyevalle United Church
www.tiny.ca see Recreation/Special Events
Penetanguishene Santa Claus Parade & Festival of
Lights, December 2
www.penetanguishene.ca/
Breakfast with Santa, December 16-17
Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
www.pencenmuseum.com

January

Discovery Harbour Skate Trail - Penetanguishene
Snowshoe Ecotours and
Marsh by Moonlight Snowshoe Experience
www.wyemarsh.com

February

Midland Winterfest, February 3
www.midland.ca
The Spitfire Grill, February 9-11, 15-18, 22-24
MCC Huronia Players , Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca
Penetanguishene Winterama Festival, February 16-19
www.penetanguishene.ca
Family Fun Day, February 19
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
www.wyemarsh.com
Carnival d’Hiver, February 10, 6:00pm-9:00pm
Perkinsfield Park
www.tiny.ca see Recreation/Special Events

March

Winter Break Activities, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
www.wyemarsh.com

April

Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, April 28
www.emsf.ca

May

Moon Over Buffalo, May 4-6, 10-13, 17-19
MCC Huronia Players, Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca

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An example of an early ride-on plow in the competition

Farm Fresh Food Fest A Fun-Filled Celebration of Our Local Bounty

By CINDY HASTINGS (PHOTOS BY HAMISH GRANT)

After two years of planning, an estimated 6,000 volunteer hours, 370 meetings/presentations and 400 sleepless nights (many of them mine), Farm Fresh Food Fest finally came to fruition.

From August 18 to 20, hundreds of Tiny residents and visitors strolled every day through this celebration of local food producers and artisans. The event was created to educate consumers about the food we eat through fun, interactive experiences and informative programming. The organizing committee also wanted to showcase our local producers, food entrepreneurs, artists and craftspeople.

Food growers came from within 100 miles to tell their story, teach others about how food is produced, and share their bounty. The event also featured speakers who discussed growing your own food and dispelled myths about modern agriculture. Also on the program: local musical talent.

Saturday featured the 105th annual Simcoe County Ploughing Match, a competition from which winners go on to compete in national and perhaps even international matches. The match also provided a history of ploughing equipment, from teams towing Massey Harris hand-guided plows and on through various stages of mechanization.

Was Farm Fresh Food Fest a success? Absolutely. It accomplished many goals and set the stage for future endeavours.

The organizing committee can be proud of its many



accomplishments even though Mother Nature didn't always cooperate, there were vendor issues and competing events, and mosquitoes declared WW III at dusk.

Each time an obstacle was put in front of the volunteer organizing committee, the members rose to the occasion. One challenge in particular highlighted the resilient spirit of the farming community. As the date approached, we became increasingly alarmed at a lack of raw food vendors. It was an overwhelming season for farmers due to the crazy weather, and many couldn't afford additional staff or time away from their regular markets. The answer? Build our own booth. Our industrious committee got on the phone to their contacts, placed orders and drove all over the county to produce a great sampling from 12 different local farms. Some produce was purchased at wholesale rates while much of it was donated to support the cause. The amazing thing — all done within 24 hours!

Did we connect with our youth? Friday, we had our North Simcoe and Innisfil day camps in attendance. We had a terrific opening performance put on by children from We Are the Villagers, plus a rare visit from the Elmvalle Zoo, indigenous dancers and storytellers, and wagon rides. Youth were able to learn from some great exhibitors about agriculture and protecting our environment.

Did we raise awareness for the local agricultural community? Farm Fresh Food Fest saw approximately 2,500-3,000 visitors through the gates over the three days. All levels of government were represented at the opening ceremonies. The partnership with the Simcoe County Food and Agricultural Charter Champion Awards on Saturday night enabled us to highlight the many businesses, individuals and organizations working hard to create a strong food system in Simcoe County.

Did we promote local business? Vendors and exhibitors were promoted through social media and

please see FFFF on page 14



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THE TINY COTTAGER

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Report on Council

Mayor: George Cornell
Deputy Mayor: Steffen Walma
Councillors: Cindy Hastings, Richard Hinton, Gibb Wishart

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- September-November, Wye River North Bridge Rehabilitation
 - September 29, 2:00 p.m., CBO Park Arboretum Grand Opening
 - September 30, Official Plan Comment Deadline
 - September 30, Parking Program Evaluation
- Deadline
- November 20, Budget Meeting
 - November 25, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Tree Lighting Celebration, Municipal Office
 - December 11, Budget Meeting
 - January 11, 2018, Budget Meeting

STAFF ADDITIONS:

- Harry Patterson, Emergency Management Coordinator
- David Martin, Public Works Superintendent
- Rachel Jaworowicz, Public Works Administrative Assistant

GRAVEL PIT EXPANSION, TINY TOWNSHIP CONCESSION 1:

On May 8, Professor William Shotyk gave a deputation to Council titled "The Cleanest Water on Earth: Is it Worth Protecting?" He pointed out that the artesian water in the Elmvale water kiosk is ultra clean in spite of the fact that it is "young" water — water that originated in the years since atomic bomb testing in the 1950s. Its astonishing purity is the result of soil filtration. Expanding aggregate extraction northward from the Teedon Pit in Concession 1 to remove French's Hill would jeopardize the quality of this water. Shotyk was very nervous about plans to store and process asphalt (bitumen) on an expanded site. Without painstaking research it is impossible to say how much reduction of the overburden above the water table could be allowed. Aggregate extraction and washing of gravel in the original pit had an impact on silt in area wells and on water volume.

As not much testing has been conducted since Site 41, Professor Shotyk indicated that he would be willing to assist with any future testing to establish a baseline and to recognize any changes that might occur.

(We note that the new owner of the aggregate extraction operation is Dufferin Aggregates. Representatives of the company met with neighbours to discuss their concerns on August 8, and again on September 19. FoTSSA will report on developments.)

MASTER FIRE PLAN COMPLETED:

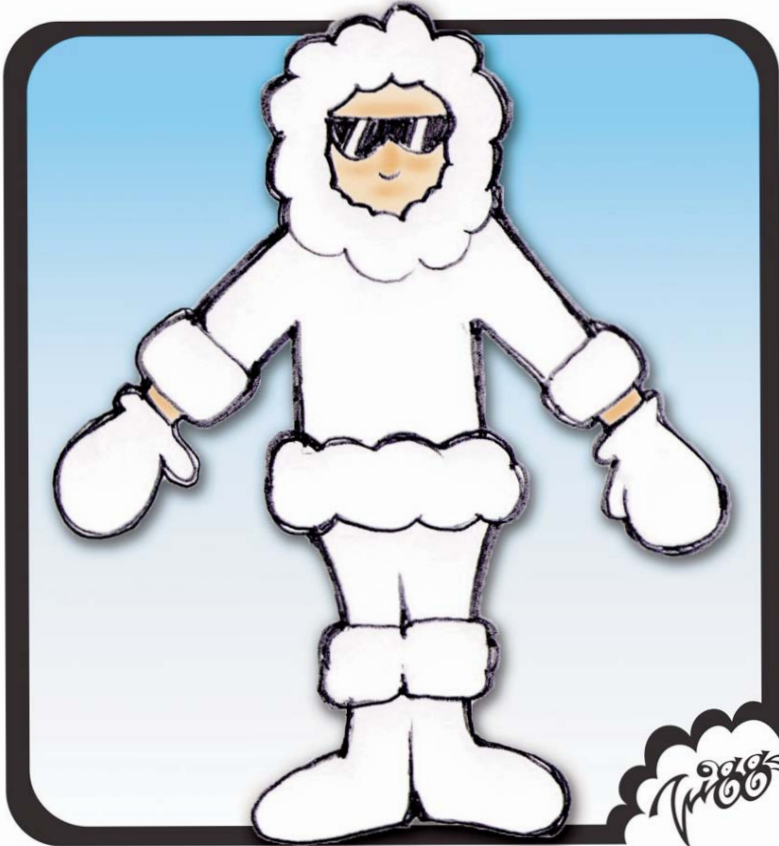
Done by T.J. Wiclawek Consulting, the Master Fire Plan includes 46 recommendations "that can be best described as opportunities for improvement." The consultant found that the Tiny Township Fire Emergency Service provides a level of emergency response, including fire suppression services, that is consistent with the community's risk assessment and meets the expectations for service delivery under the Fire PPA. He also noted that an appropriate training program has been established and that the apparatus and equipment in place is adequate to provide a level of service consistent with the needs and circumstances of the community. The consultant's recommendations are available in the May 29 Committee of the Whole Agenda. See f) Reports of Consultants or Third Parties.

OMB HEARING REGARDING BLOCK B AND BEACH LANDS, RP 656:

By passing By-law 17-025, the township asserted ownership of parts of the beach south of Concession Road 1. That move was appealed to the OMB by D. Battaglia. On May 29, Council directed staff to defend the approval of By-law 17-025 should the appeal proceed to a hearing by retaining WeirFoulds LLP as legal counsel.

METIS DEPUTATION:

In June, Jesse Fieldwebster presented a deputation



Summer 2017

that described who the Métis are (descendants of combined First Nations and non-First Nations ancestry), what the Métis Nation is about, and what consultation requirements exist. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Registry lists approximately 18,000 individuals of an approximately 46,000 total. The 19 elected representatives of the MNO represent 9 regions. There are 29 Chartered Métis Community Councils in Ontario. The Ontario Legislature passed the MNO Secretariat Act on December 4, 2015 and the MNO and the Government of Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 3, 2017. The existence of Métis rights, including the right to harvest, was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in September 2003. The MNR recognized the MNO's existing Harvest Card system in 2004.

Mayor Cornell suggested that the Métis Nation be consulted and its participation invited in the updating of Tiny's Official Plan.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

The committee charged with looking into the feasibility of renovating or building a new administrative building reported that there is a need to address both the short and long term accommodation requirements of the Township's staff. After touring and reviewing all existing facilities, and conducting various surveys, the committee found the facilities to be inadequate. R.J. Burnside & Associates put together a substantial report on the matter, which assessed the state of the current building and the cost of renovation and rebuilding options. The committee was given Council approval to focus further investigation on two options:

- renovation of the Township Hall, and
- construction of a new Township Hall.

As neither option would be available for 3-5 years, the committee asked Council to direct staff to begin investigating temporary accommodations for staff until new or renovated space is available.

TINY'S OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE:

On July 10, Kris Menzies, MHBC Planning, spoke to Council about the nature of the current Township of Tiny Official Plan update. It brings the Township's OP into line with the County of Simcoe's OP and with the Province's policy statements and legislation but is not a thorough-going re-conceiving of the OP. Some reorganization was done. The draft Official Plan Update is available at tiny.ca under Official Plan Review & Update. A link appears in the scrolling box directly below the small picture topics.

At the Official Plan Open House on August 25, 4:30 to 7:00 pm, Kris Menzies again made a presentation about the Update to the 35 or 40 township residents in attendance. Residents were then invited to make comments and ask questions. Several people zeroed in on

the expanded scope for secondary residences/garden flats and problems it might create in the shoreline area. In allowing them, the Province thought it was finding a way to create more affordable housing, but the worry along the shore was that such secondary structures could become income generating accommodation aided by Airbnb and the like. Concerns were also raised about the grading and filling of direct shore lots to raise them above the 178m line.

Comments may be submitted until September 30. FoTSSA's assessment of the Update is on page 5. In the fall, the Update will be revised to reflect residents' comments "where necessary and appropriate", in preparation for the required Public Meeting, probably early in 2018, during and after which residents will have a second chance to comment and ask for changes.

PUBLIC WORKS ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW:

On July 10, Tim Leitch, P. Eng., Director of Public Works, presented an update of the Organizational Review originally presented on May 11. The goal of the exercise was "to improve efficiency while maintaining responsible cost control." Particular objectives were to

- Improve morale and work satisfaction
- Reduce reliance on outside engineering
- Maximize resource and asset utilization
- Improve Operational and Capital cost accuracy
- Develop clear lines of responsibility and accountability

- Provide superior resident service.

The review analyzed various aspects of public works — engineering, administration, parks, roads, water — looking at particular positions and responsibilities.

We note that contract employees who have worked for one or more years for the township are to be converted to full-time employees (subject to reviews of performance) and immediately to be given the full Township compensation package. We note too that the Review anticipates the addition of a new Engineering Supervisor/Manager, an Engineer in Training, a Public Works Superintendent, and a Lead Hand – Winter. We are very interested in seeing just how cost effective the new structure will be.

ARBORETUM:

By July, approximately 100 trees had been planted and an additional 50 trees of two species ordered for planting on the east border of CBO (Cawaja, Balm and Ossassane) Park. On September 29 (see Announcements above, the CBO Park Arboretum is to be opened officially) A formal arboretum plan is to be considered during the 2018 Budget deliberations.

POLICE SERVICES BOARD:

In July, Council passed a by-law establishing a Police Services Board for the Township. The Board consists of three members. Council appointed Councillor Hinton to be its representative on the Board for the balance of the current Council’s term.

BROADBAND GAP ANALYSIS:

In July, Council authorized the Township’s participation in the Broadband Gap Analysis Study Agreement with McPhee and Associates, the North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation, the Town of Midland, the Town of Penetanguishene, the Township of Tay, and the Beausoleil First Nation.

KITCHING LANE:

On August 28, there were a number of deputations regarding Kitching Lane (a 10' wide path to the shore south of Balm Beach) and the addition of private property stickers to the signage delineating the extent of township-owned property there. Members of a recently formed back lot association, the Balm Beach Community Association (representing 50 properties), raised points that had already been made in a letter to Tim Leitch, the Director of Public Works, asking when the stickers were added, why they were added, and who authorized them. In reply, Leitch said that Public Works made an operational decision to install the stickers on July 26 on the basis of a series of Public Works reports.

In some deputations, discussion wandered to garbage cans and questions about other places where township signage delineates private property. A waterfront owner spoke in support of private property delineation by the township.

At its first September meeting, members of Council decided not to provide a garbage can at Kitching Lane; they learned that the words “private property” had been added to township-owned delineation signs at three other access points. Their discussion about the private property stickers at Kitching Lane was thorough and thoughtful. In the end, Mayor Cornell and Councillors Hinton and Wishart felt that Public Works had the authority to emphasize the limits of township ownership by means of private property stickers, that the stickers should remain and that people who disputed private property rights should make their case in court, or check the facts at the registry office in Barrie, or seek legal advice. Councillor Hastings was in favour of removing the stickers on the ground that Council is responsible only for township property. Deputy Mayor Walma was absent.

PROTECTING OUR POLLINATORS:

After applying for an Ontario 150 Partnership Program Grant, the township was awarded \$147,000. With the money, Laura Baldwick was hired to be the Coordinator of a Protecting Our Pollinators Program working with four students, Nicole Scott, Zachary Maurice, Alex Vergados, and Andrew Hall. On August 28, all five spoke about the summer’s activities — field trips to gain better understanding of pollinators, outreach to the general public at all major township events, purchase of wildflower seeds, and the creation of educational displays, a biweekly newsletter, interpretive signage, wildflower gardens in township settlement areas and wildflower meadows.

The five members of Council thanked them. They had become fans of the project after seeing the group’s regular strategy meetings and activities around the township and hearing many compliments about their work. The group will be making recommendations and submitting a formal report this fall. There was talk about the possibility of continuing the work in future summers and of taking on other environmental tasks.

ADDITIONAL OFFICE PORTABLE TO BE LEASED:

Council decided to accept the recommendation of Public Works Director, Tim Leitch, to lease an office portable for five years to house his department. The move would free up a trailer for use by the Recreation Department, and that in turn would open some much-needed space in the Township Offices. No decision has yet been taken about whether to build a new administrative building or to renovate and expand the current one.

BALM BEACH PARK TO EXPAND:

At its first meeting in September, Council revealed that it had decided to purchase the Surf Restaurant in Balm Beach for \$1,050,000 with the intention of severing the beach from the building and adding it to the township park. Council is exploring options for the restaurant building. Expanding the heavily used park was a major factor in this move: acquisition of property for township shore parks is an objective in Council’s Strategic Plan. “Council was also concerned that the property might fall into the wrong hands.” The deal closes on December 6.

FoTTSA Presentation on Tiny Township’s Official Plan Update

FoTTSA submitted the following presentation at a public open house held on August 27 in the Council Chambers. The open house provided an opportunity for the township to consult with the public on the review and update of its Official Plan.

On behalf of the Federation, thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Official Plan Update.

We appreciate the challenge of bringing Tiny’s Official Plan into conformity with the province’s policies and legislation and the county’s Official Plan. We commend Kris Menzies of MHBC Planning for developing sensible strategies to resolve conflicts between what exists in the township and what superior levels of government are directing the Township to have in place, such as full municipal water supply and sewage management. Nonetheless, we have concerns in three areas: the environment, the placement of population growth, and aggregate extraction.

Our first serious concern is the **overall dilution of the current Official Plan’s Environment First thrust**. The phrase used in the OP Update is “Environmentally Focussed,” a phrase that allows blurring. In almost every case where environment is to be protected, the protection is not firm, but rather “when possible.” Environmental issues throughout the Plan usually appear not first but considerably down the list. We urge re-ordering of points and sections and re-introduction of the words “Environment First” to emphasize the priority given to the environment. We wonder why additional environmental features can be identified only through review of a development application requiring an amendment to this Official Plan Update or an amendment to the Zoning By-law. (See pages 21 and 22.) By the time a development application has been made, protecting such environmental features is something of a rearguard action.

Our second major area of concern is **placement of population growth**. Both the County and the Province have repeatedly emphasized that, in future, additional population is to be directed to the Township’s five settlements, and especially to the three that are most complete — Perkinsfield, Wyevale, and Lafontaine. Also, the County has identified parcels of land currently in Tiny Township’s Shoreline designation to become part of its Greenlands system, parcels that include Significant Woodlands, Regional Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and Other Wetlands 2 hectares or larger. The Provincial Policy Statement requires the Township to provide for the population growth anticipated during the next 20 years.

However, the settlements do not, at the moment, have sufficient available lots for the projected growth, and no change can be made to their boundaries until the County of Simcoe undertakes a regional Municipal Comprehensive Review that is to direct growth to the provincially identified Primary Settlement Areas (Midland/Penetanguishene, Collingwood, Alcona, Bradford, and Alliston).

The proposed solution in the OP Update is to retain the

shoreline parcels proposed for the County’s Greenlands system “in the shoreline designation while the Settlement boundaries remain static.”

This goes against the requirement that population be focused in the settlements. We note that the regional study should be completed long before the 20-year framework of the Update, so there may well be enough settlement lots for that period without calling on the shoreline.

Also, allowing building in parts of the Shoreline designation that have Significant Woodlands, Regional ANSIs, and large Wetlands runs counter to the Environment First requirement of the current OP and of the County’s Greenlands system. Scarcity of new building lots in the Shoreline designation could well be useful in forcing infill building on and coalescence of the many lots of record in the shoreline. In sum, we think that the shoreline parcels designated for the County’s Greenlands system should become part of our township’s Greenlands immediately.

Our third serious concern is about **the unchecked promotion of aggregate extraction**. This is the result of directives in the Provincial Policy Statement. The PPS declares: “Mineral aggregate resources shall be protected for long-term use,” “Demonstration of need for mineral aggregate resources, including any type of supply/demand analysis, shall not be required,” “Mineral aggregate operations shall be protected from development and activities that would preclude or hinder their expansion or continued use or which would be incompatible for reasons of public health, public safety or environmental impact. Existing mineral aggregate operations shall be permitted to continue without the need for official plan amendment, rezoning or development permit under the Planning Act.” However, Tiny Township’s current OP is an Environment First Plan. Every advantage should be taken of the resources in the PPS. Item 2.5.2.2 – “Extraction shall be undertaken in a manner which minimizes social, economic and environmental impacts” and qualifications b) and c) to item 2.5.2.5 which permits development and activities adjacent to known deposits of aggregate if “b) the proposed land use or development serves a greater long-term public interest; and c) issues of public health, public safety and environmental impact are addressed.”

Environmental concerns related to various aspects of aggregate extraction should be dealt with first. And, ideally, there should also be an argument against the granting of any new extraction areas, and a clearly articulated requirement for sensitive handling of current extraction activities and remediation. Also, since the Ministry of the Environment appears to do little checking or monitoring, backup strategies need to be found.

Finally we have several questions about specific issues:
Lot size.

p. 34, B.4.7.1 – Why is the size of new lots in the Shoreline designation created by Consent or by Plan of Subdivision to be 4,000 square metres? Why is this lot size

please see OFFICIAL PLAN on page 15

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Mayor's Golf Tournament Raises \$60,000 for Local Charities

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ANDREW CHOMENTOWSKI

Friday July 14, 2017 began as an overcast day. The weather networks predicted a 75% chance of rain for much of the day. Golfers arrived with hopes that the weather would improve. They were not disappointed. The sun broke through by the end of the day. The golfing was good; the fundraising was even better.

The 2017 Township of Tiny Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner, at Brooklea Golf & Country Club, was an amazing success. After expenses, more than \$60,000 was raised and designated to 10 charities that serve the Township of Tiny and surrounding area. Over 60 sponsors and donors contributed, including anonymous supporters who contributed \$13,000. Silent auction items ranged in value from \$13 to "priceless".

The *Tiny Cottager* was again the first organization to come forward and has been the title sponsor of this event for three years in a row.

Other major sponsors include The Remington Group, RJ Burnside & Associates, Pfaff Auto, and Scotiabank.

Silver Sponsors were Power Workers' Union, Cawaja Pines General Store, Waste Connections Canada, Cawaja Property Owners Association, C.C. Tatham & Associates Ltd., and Barriston Law.

An interesting feature was the "Beat the Councillor" competitions. Members of Council competed directly with participating golfers. This was an excellent chance to have some fun and to interact, one on one, with the Councillors. Councillor Gibb Wishart said the prayer before dinner.

Prizes were distributed that evening. Brooklea provided an appealing venue and an excellent meal. Richard Hinton ran the evening's program efficiently. A highlight of the evening and a wonderful example of generosity occurred when the winner of the 50/50 draw gave her winnings back to the tournament.

This tournament is an example of what can be accomplished when local businesses and residents work with seasonal residents toward a common goal.

Visit www.tiny.ca for a complete list of over 60 tournament sponsors, to learn more about the 10 local charity recipients, and to view photos.

The success of the 2017 Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament is thanks to the generous sponsors, anonymous donors, golf participants, dinner guests, volunteers, and silent auction, gift bag and prize donors.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner on Friday, July 13 at the Brooklea Golf and Country Club. Can't wait to see you there!



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18 Tips for Closing Your Property for the Season

Cottages and seasonal homes are most vulnerable to property crime during fall, winter and spring. Here are some tips for protecting your property, your home and yourself against crime, based on advice from the OPP Southern Georgian Bay Detachment and the Electrical Safety Authority.

- Security**

 - Consider using motion sensor lights to illuminate the exterior of your residence/cottage.
 - Eliminate objects from around your property that could be used to break in.
 - Take photos and record serial numbers of anything of value left behind.
 - Know which OPP detachment police force patrols your neighbourhood.
 - Secure windows and doors with shutters.
- Preventing loss**

 - Store all extension cords in rodent-proof containers or consider storing them at home where they won't be subject to freezing temperatures, which can cause them to crack.
 - Avoid posting information on social media advising of when you will be away or any vacation plans.
 - Trim trees and shrubs so doors and windows are visible from the roadway.
 - Remove valuables (tools, electronics, personal items), food and alcohol from property.
 - Don't leave firearms or weapons at the residence/cottage.
 - If you are leaving vehicles, make sure they are winterized, secure and disabled. For snow machines, remove track and hide keys. Ensure boats are covered and locked and outboard motors locked and slightly disassembled. Disable ATVs. Leave nothing on trailers unless they are locked or disabled.
- Monitoring**

 - Look into remote control systems that operate security lighting, control thermostats, and monitor for flooding, freezing and fire.
 - Arrange for a permanent resident or keyholder to check your property.
 - Consider an alarm system.
- Power**

 - Inspect your property for trees growing too close to overhead powerlines.
 - If you are shutting off the main power switch, shut off the branch circuit breakers or unplug appliances first. This will help protect your major appliances including your pump and hot water tank when you power up in the spring.
 - If you are leaving your electricity on over the winter, switch off the breakers at your main panel for the circuits that supply power to your major appliances including your pump and hot water heater or unplug these major appliances.
 - Avoid the temptation to rely on space heaters in the pump pit for water systems that can't be completely drained.

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Invasive Species Management Success Story: Farlain Lake

PETE ANDREWS



The (Green) DASH at work (background) Photo by Daryl Andrews

To paraphrase Colin Powell, retired United States Army four star general, success is the result of hard work, learning from failure, and persistence.

While Tiny Township residents are becoming more familiar with issues surrounding the invasive wetland plant Phragmites, most residents are not aware of the aquatic invasive plant Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) because this submerged plant for the most part is “out of sight, out of mind.”

Simply stated, EWM can quickly cover the entire surface of smaller lakes, ponds, and rivers. This invasive plant crowds out native plants that are needed to support a healthy diversity of fish and other aquatic wildlife, and will make boating, swimming and fishing impossible.

EWM wasn't a priority issue for the Farlain Lake community until the invasive plant was introduced to the lake. Since its discovery in 2012 during an aquatic plant study by the Farlain Lake Community Association (FLCA), managing EWM has become an ongoing commitment of time and money. In 2014 the first hand harvesting project was undertaken: contracted commercial divers hand removed approximately 1300 invasive plants from the original one-acre infestation, which was located at the south end of the lake. The following year approximately 2,670 lbs of EWM were hand harvested over a two-day period.

No hand harvesting was undertaken in 2016 as experimental jute benthic mats* were deployed to suppress the growth of EWM in the pioneer colony. A secondary infestation of approximately 200 EWM plants was observed in a secluded bay at the north end of the lake; this infestation was likely caused by plant fragments being transported to the area by a boat.

This year, the FLCA undertook a multi-pronged approach to manage EWM. As the availability of funding from granting foundations is difficult to obtain, the FLCA spearheaded several fundraising initiatives to raise the necessary funds to support a three-year EWM management effort.

The FLCA also undertook an experimental EWM control project using a DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) system that has been applied in the United States for the past decade but never implemented in Ontario. The DASH system is simply a more expedient method of transporting targeted invasive aquatic plants that

are hand harvested by commercial divers. Rather than filling a collection bag with hand removed plants and surfacing with the filled bag, the diver feeds the aquatic plant into the end of a suction hose after hand removing the entire plant, including the root mass, from the sediment. The plant biomass is transported to a floating work platform through the suction hose and is separated from the water where the plants are collected in suspended onion bags. The filled onion bags are transported to shore where the EWM plants are disposed of in a compost pile to “dry and die.”

The hand harvesting/DASH project at the pioneer colony and traditional hand harvesting of plants in shallow water at the north end of the lake was a team effort between contracted commercial divers and volunteer FLCA Weed Warriors.

So what did we accomplish in 2017? We learned from our past mistakes and undertook a new approach. We focused on removing each individual EWM plant with the root mass intact and minimizing fragmentation during the hand harvesting project. Purchasing and installing a floating containment curtain that confined the whole work site helped to prevent the dispersal of any plant fragments inadvertently created during the control project. We removed approximately 5,200 lbs. of EWM from the lake over a two-day period using the hand harvesting control method augmented by the DASH system. Compared to the 2015 control project results, an additional 2,530 lbs. of EWM were extracted using the DASH system over the same period of time.

We also undertook fundraising initiatives that far exceeded our expectations for the first year of our three-year campaign. Money raised from various fundraising initiatives enabled the FLCA to purchase the mechanical equipment required for the DASH system. We will continue to perfect the DASH system and use it in our ongoing EWM control methods. We will also be promoting the effectiveness of the DASH system to other organizations in Ontario that are involved in the management of invasive aquatic plants.

With the results we had this year, I am optimistic that we can manage EWM so it doesn't become more problematic. Managing EWM in Farlain Lake will continue for years. The amount of time and money will decrease proportionally with each year's removal of invasive plants. I attribute this year's success to the great work of FLCA volunteers, the support of the Farlain Lake community, and our new approach to hand harvesting invasive aquatic plants.

I am also realistic that EWM will always be present in the lake since it can't be eradicated once established. We can't put the invasive genie back in the bottle; we can only remain persistent in our efforts to manage EWM in the years to come.

* Benthic mats are installed at the bottom of a body of water to prevent or inhibit the growth of aquatic plants. It consists of a dark fabric or material that blocks sunlight and is held against the bottom by weights. Without sunlight, plants cannot photosynthesize and do not grow.



Volunteers selling FLCA Calendars – Photo by Elizabeth Di Chiara

How Farlain Lake Raised Money to Combat Eurasian Watermilfoil

BY PETE ANDREWS

Managing invasive species is akin to operating a small business. Thanks to the many volunteers who give their time freely, money is not required for salaries to support the business of combating invasive species. However, funding is required for administration, capital and operating expenses, and for contracting outside services.

As there is no Ontario Government financial assistance available and funding from grant foundations is limited and difficult to obtain, the Farlain Lake Community Association undertook a fundraising campaign to raise \$80,000 by 2019.

Initiatives undertaken in 2017 included the printing of a 2018 FLCA calendar, which features images of the four seasons of Farlain Lake. Eighteen hundred dollars of the \$3,000 goal has been raised to date through preliminary sales. Calendars, which sell for \$20, can be obtained by emailing inquiries@farlainlake.ca.

A Save Our Lake direct mail campaign targeting FLCA community residents and friends of Farlain Lake was undertaken to raise \$11,000 in 2017. Over \$34,000 has been raised to date. The direct mail campaign is ongoing until 2019.

An innovative EWM Chain Gang initiative was undertaken to raise \$1500; over \$500 has been raised to date. Chain gang donors write their name on a paper link containing an invasive species message; the link is connected to other signed links forming an ever growing paper chain. The ultimate goal is to form a paper chain around the lake to “lock up” the invasive aquatic plant EWM.

With the support of Tiny Township Council and Township staff (tip-of-the-hat to Bonita Desroches, Director of Recreation), an Aquatic WeedFest Event was held at Toanche Park.

The event featured a WingDing BBQ, live music, a silent auction (items donated by local businesses), a children's creative zone, a JunkTique sale (vendors rented spaces to sell ‘treasures’ from the trunk of their vehicle), and educational displays. Although Mother Nature intervened with a brief downpour, the Aquatic WeedFest was deemed a success as over \$3500 was raised through the event.

We surpassed our fundraising goal for 2017, having raised over \$40,000 to date. This represents 50% of our long-term goal of \$80,000. Although we raised enough in 2017 to cover EWM control project expenses for 2017 and 2018, we still need to raise money next year to fund the EWM control and educational efforts in 2019 and beyond.

Our fundraising accomplishments would have not been possible without the support of donors who care about Farlain Lake, the business community which supported our efforts, the Township of Tiny, the Severn Sound Environmental Association, and the many volunteers who have made the 2017 fundraising project a success.

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Meet GBGH’s New President Gail Hunt

By Scott Williams



Gail Hunt, Georgian Bay General Hospital’s new President and CEO, was formerly CEO of Services de santé de Chapleau Health Services in Chapleau, Ontario. *The Tiny Cottager* spoke with Gail on September 12, just one day into her new position with GBGH. Here’s what we talked about.

What about your new position appeals to you?
From a professional perspective, GBGH faces many of the same challenges as Chapleau Health Services, but on a larger scale. The demographics are also similar, so I was familiar with those issues. For example, a large percentage of the population in both communities is elderly.

Another thing that appealed to me was how committed the community is to the hospital — how much it supports the foundation in fundraising, and how many volunteers there are. Not all communities are as committed and supportive. It’s refreshing to see.

On a personal level, being close to the water, and to larger amenities. There is so much going on here.

What challenges is GBGH facing?
The immediate focus for the hospital is the redevelopment of the Emergency Department. We’re almost halfway there, and we’re putting a lot of energy into providing the same level of services and access for our patients.

From a regional perspective, dealing with ALC patients is putting a lot of stress on the entire health care system. [Alternate Level of Care patients are ready to be discharged but remain in hospital because they cannot access the post-acute care they need.] From my time with Chapleau Health Services I know what it looks like when things flow really well together, right from your family health team all the way to your hospi-

tal and long-term care. It’s about working with your partners to provide the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

What’s a top priority for you?
Getting the strategic planning process up and running. This process is going to help us define our priorities for the next three to five years and for the longer term after that. The Board of Directors had already started the process, but put it on hold until a new President and CEO was in place. I’m very interested in listening to the community and GBGH staff. I already know the staff have a lot of great ideas and the hospital is committed to being a centre of excellence.

Right now, I think staff would like to see progress on the goals that we’ve already set, like the mental health expansion and a revitalized obstetrical program.

We’re all excited about pushing forward on a proposal to re-allocate 20 mental health beds from Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care. We already have a high number of mental health visits in Emerg, and this will help us provide these patients with proper care faster than we currently can.

As for the obstetrical program, we’re putting a lot of resources into making sure we are able to provide quality-based obstetrical services to residents in this community so that they don’t have to travel. For instance, recruiting more specialists so that the program can grow. Our new chief of staff, Dr. Nancy Merrow, is very committed to it.

How challenging is it to create a strategic plan when funding is set by the province?
The most challenging part can be recognizing that you’re not going to be able to do all the things that you want to do. It’s an ethical responsibility to not take on things that you may not be able to sustain in the future. You have to work within your means. You can’t do it all, so you have to figure out what you can do and do it very well.

At Chapleau Health Services, we had to do a lot of advocacy to get the level of services needed. Even when you don’t have a large population base, patients and the community still deserve access to services. We did a lot of work integrating and offering a spectrum of services, to maximize the opportunity for the community and also for the staff. This experience is something I’m bringing with me to GBGH.

What Chapleau Health Services Says About Gail Hunt

The following is from a posting on Services de santé Chapleau Health Services’ website announcing Gail Hunt’s departure earlier this summer.

“During nearly a 17-year tenure, Gail has made tremendous contributions towards the success of SSCHS and is highly respected across the various health organizations where her input was sought on numerous health organizational concerns. Gail’s continuous dedication and commitment to quality, staff education and patient safety has ensured our community receives high standards of care as conferred by Accreditation Canada.

“Gail joined the hospital in 2000 as the Director, Finance and Corporate Services, then subsequently in 2002 was appointed as Chief Executive Officer. Under her leadership SSCHS was able to achieve numerous accomplishments, such as the expansion of the umbrella health services, the establishment of the Chapleau District Family Health Team, a four-physician salary model, recruitment of three permanent physicians, nurse practitioner funding, aging at home services, upgrading of medical equipment and furniture, a much needed new roof, brought the hospital to a higher degree of technology, brought energy saving changes, and resolved the long-standing funding inequity.”

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Early Days at Cove Beach

STORY BY PETER CALAMAI PHOTOS COURTESY GLEN ROSS FAMILY

A gentle indentation known as Cove Beach on the shore of Georgian Bay at the end of the 17th Concession West has provided generations of summer enjoyment.

Glen Ross and the Cove Beach development were born in the same year — 1955 — and grew up together. Glen's maternal grandparents, the Taylors, bought Lot 7 of the initial 14 lots registered in a new June 1955 subdivision, which arced along the shoreline of the secluded cove. The house they built in 1956 still stands at 1630 Tiny Beaches Rd. N. and a roadside tree carries a wooden Taylor name sign, along with the names of other grandchildren who once shared the house. Since 2013 Glen and his wife Marlene John have been the sole owners.

"I've been coming up all my life," Ross said in an interview. "I still think there's a fair amount of calmness and tranquility up here even though it's a lot more built up and a lot busier than it used to be.

"I can't be sure about what I remember. You think about what your earliest memories are and I think it's just because you've been told them so many times."



For some things there's photographic proof. A faded print from August 1956 shows young Glen in a wheelbarrow held by his grandfather Alvin Edgar ("Ab") Taylor. In the background is the first house on the Cove, built on Lot 9 belonging to Romeo Asselin. It's now 1624 Tiny Beaches, the home of Ken and Jan Popple, residents since 1975.

Asselin was a local realtor who created the subdivision and whose name persists in Asselin Point. Asselin also erected an identical building to his, next door on Lot 10 (1620 Tiny Beaches Rd. N.). But the similarity isn't evident until you look at the second floor of the Popple residence, which was jacked up in 1977 to insert a new ground floor.

Ross remembers a hectic pace of building. By the early 1960s, he says, cottages dotted all 10 lots to the east of the public access path that runs alongside what is now 1640 Tiny Beaches Rd. N.



Back then the Cove was brimming with activity, children and adults frolicking in the water and, on shore, constant ball games plus occasional corn roasts and fish fries. It was a different era socially, Ross notes, because not as many women worked outside the home. So those stay-at-home moms came for the summer with their children while the fathers drove up on the weekends from jobs in the city.

"When I was growing up everybody was up here for the whole week, pretty much the entire cove," he says.

Both man and nature have reshaped the Cove. The original owner of Lot 8, Les Hunt, built large docks off the end of Gidley Point, the remains of which can still be seen underwater. According to local lore, in the late 1950s or early 1960s Hunt also brought in earth-moving equipment and scoured the Cove bottom to deepen it. Evidence of such work supposedly remains in a ridge of repositioned boulders that transects the Cove.

Greater remodelling of the Cove has been accomplished by natural forces, both dramatic high water surges and the continual pounding and sucking back of waves, even moderated as they are by the sheltering topography.

Says Popple: "When we moved here in 1974, the shoreline was a bank. It went out straight and then it dropped down."

Now, thanks to wave action and some storms, the slope is far more gradual in much of the Cove.

In 1986, many houses along the Cove found water lapping almost to their doorsteps, thanks to a combination of high lake levels and prolonged onshore winds. One legacy of that era is waterfront bulwarks, like the limestone-filled wire baskets at the Popple dwelling.

I must make a special mention of Lot 4, which was the last empty lot left of the original 14 in May 1976 when Bud Donald came looking. Donald was from Copetown, west of Hamilton, and decided to buy the lot. Then he acquired a small four-bedroom house that had to be moved because of construction on Highway 400 at Coldwater. Bud, his four sons and son-in-law Jim Rooney collapsed the house roof so it would fit through an underpass near Martyrs' Shrine. The flattened house was trucked to Lot 4, where a local contractor jacked it up onto a new cement block ground floor. Working flat out, the family crew raised the roof and made the house, now with six bedrooms, habitable by June. In the process of digging a well, the root system of a large white pine was disturbed and the tree leaned 30 degrees before it could be shored up.

So Frances Donald, Bud's wife, named the dwelling Wounded Tree Cottage. The name stuck and the cottage — and the now even more steeply leaning tree — can still be seen at 1640 Tiny Beaches Rd. N.

The author, a retired newspaperman, is married to the oldest Donald daughter, Mary.



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Parking Strategy – Round II

By JUDITH GRANT AND RICHARD HINTON

Last summer’s successful pilot parking strategy moved Council to apply its principles to the shoreline area west of County Road 6 and Chemin Du Loup Road from May 15 to September 15 this summer. At least part of the reason the strategy met with acceptance by most township residents was that they could express concerns in writing until September 30 and argue for modifications the following year.

Most township residents have welcomed this summer’s broader application of the parking strategy because it has been effective and because, once again, adjustments can be made in the fall. One area that may receive some tweaking is the point on some concession roads where the strategy takes effect. An aspect that may not be tweakable is the need for shore area residents to report parking violations if they occur between visits from by-law staff. After all, staff can’t stake out a single area all day. In general, however, regular monitoring and ticketing by staff resulted in reasonable numbers of users on township-owned beaches and less intrusion onto private property.

Not surprisingly, given the conversion of open parking

in the shoreline area to permit parking, parking permit sales increased this year. Where in 2015, 3,107 were sold and in 2016 3,806, this summer 4,658 were bought. The 150 permits that can be purchased by residents of Penetanguishene, Midland and Elmvale were all sold in 2015; only 117 went in 2016, while this year all 150 were sold in spite of the chilly weather. Full summer residents of the township’s two trailer parks (like other township residents) have been able to buy two parking permits per trailer every year since 2006. Those at Camping Lafontaine/Lafontaine RV Resort bought 25 in 2015, 45 in 2016, and 43 in 2017, while similar residents at Camping at Wasaga Dunes Cottage & RV Park bought 79 in 2015, 99 in 2016, and 79 in 2017. Occupants of trailers who rent space for a weekend cannot buy parking permits.

If Council decides to modify the parking strategy in light of this year’s input from residents, there will be a report on the changes in the relevant Council meeting minutes on the township’s website — tiny.ca — and, in due course, in the Report on Council that appears once a month on FoTTSA’s website — tinycottager.org

Snow Buntings: Watch for These Winter Visitors

By DIANE HASLEY



Snow bunting (summer plumage)



Snow bunting (winter plumage)

Snow buntings are birds that breed in the summer in the high Arctic, farther north than any other land bird its size. They nest in fissures in rock piles on the tundra and in crevices or holes in man-made structures. In the summer, their diet consists of insects and seeds; in the winter, they can survive on seeds alone. In the late fall, flocks of snow buntings fly south from their breeding grounds, searching for food in order to survive the winter. They’re a regular winter resident in Tiny Township, if you know where and what to look for.

In their summer breeding plumage, snow buntings are white with black and white wings and tail feathers. In the fall and winter, when we see them, the birds are whitish with cinnamon markings on the head and breast and cinnamon and black on the back, wings and tail. In flight, the birds dart and swirl, displaying so much white plumage that they look like giant, wind-blown snowflakes, hence their nickname — Snowflakes.

The migrating birds are attracted to the seeds of plants in open country. Every year these birds can be seen foraging in the native vegetation on the dunes in Tiny Township. If there is snow on the ground, it is easy to spot the tracks of the birds, which walk or run from

one plant to the next with a shuffling gait. This is a clue that the birds are present, and it is just a matter of watching for them. Once the seed supply has been depleted, or if the grasses become completely covered with snow, the birds move on to other locations.

Snow buntings can also be seen foraging on farm fields. The birds at the back of the flock rise up and fly forward, landing in front of the rest of the group, creating an undulating motion. This makes it easy to find flocks of snow buntings. In addition, these birds often fly up along the sides of roads when a car approaches, particularly on concession roads with adjacent farms. Snow buntings have also been seen on the wide-open spaces of the Midland/Huron Airport.

Maybe you will see them in Tiny Township this winter.

Send us your photos!

If you take photos of snow buntings in Tiny Township this winter, let us know: editor@tinycottager.org. We’ll post them on our website and, space permitting, publish them in the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *The Tiny Cottager*.



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Bridging the Generation Gap @thecottage with Social Media: What Is This App Called WhatsApp?

BY LYNNE ARCHIBALD

In the last issue of *The Tiny Cottager*, we talked about Instagram and how it lets families and friends share photos and videos (available online at tinycottager.org). With the start of the academic year and family members travelling and studying far from home, I wanted to focus on a more utilitarian smartphone social media app called WhatsApp because it lets people stay in touch and save money.

According to its website, WhatsApp is “fast, simple, secure messaging and calling for free,* available on phones all over the world.” The asterisk is important because although people use WhatsApp on their smartphones, the system actually uses the Internet. Wherever you have WiFi, it's free but if you need to use extra data, you might be charged by your service provider (Rogers, Telus, Bell, etc.). In this context, “texts” are short written messages sent between two or more cell phones.

WhatsApp was launched by two friends (and former Yahoo employees) in 2009, and the name was supposed to sound like the phrase “What's up?” with the spelling “app” because it was for iPhones. “App” is short for application and describes software programs (everything from games to fitness trackers to message services) that were designed for use first on iPhones and now also Android phones and other mobile devices.

Initially successful as a text messaging service, WhatsApp was purchased by Facebook in 2014 and later added voice calls and other features. Around the world, 1.3 billion people use WhatsApp today.

Features and benefits

Though early versions required a small annual payment, WhatsApp is now totally free, making it an important means of communication in places with expensive cell phone service or for families spread around the globe. As long as you have WiFi, it's free!

WhatsApp also has end-to-end encryption. This means messages and calls are secured so only you and the person you're communicating with can read or listen to them. This is an important feature for citizens of countries fighting for civil rights and freedom of speech. Because of encryption, China partially blocked WhatsApp in July of this year.

Unlike an old-school phone call, one of the great advantages of WhatsApp is that it lets you send photos and videos as well as text messages. And while WhatsApp isn't the only way to make long distance calls for free, it lets you make video calls, which is a fantastic way to really see how things are and connect with the people you miss.

Another plus for families is that WhatsApp lets you create groups. In our family, there are lots of configurations — the whole family, just the kids, just the adults. With one click, I can send a picture of the best pumpkin pie at the Wyevale Thanksgiving Supper to my whole family. But just my family! Unlike Facebook, which is a notice board where everyone I am “friends” with can see the pictures I post, WhatsApp is a more direct means of communication.

Each message has a sender and designated recipients.

Before cell phones, no news really was good news most of the time. But now sending a message and not getting an answer can spiral quickly into dread. For me, one of the most important features added to WhatsApp is the delivery and read receipt system. When you send a message, a grey tick appears in the bottom right corner of the message box. This means your message has been sent but hasn't been delivered to the recipient's phone. If your cottage has dodgy WiFi, it may take a while for this first tick to show up. When a second grey tick appears beside the first, you know the message has been delivered but hasn't been read. Once both ticks turn blue, you know that the message has been delivered and read, and only now can you start to expect a response. Unlike email, most users of WhatsApp get a notification on their screen as soon as a message comes in. This means the chances of a quick response are higher, particularly for younger users who may only check their email irregularly.



How to start using WhatsApp

1. On your smartphone, go to the App store (iOS for iPhones or Android for other phones) and download the WhatsApp app for free. Download the right app for your phone. iPhones use the iOS operating system. Other phones use Android.
2. In your phone settings, add a profile photo. It will appear as a tiny image that lets recipients see at a glance who's reaching out.
3. Add friends and family to your WhatsApp “chat” list of contacts by sending a message to their phone number. Both



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Return of the Bluewater Dunes Wetlands

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KATE DEWEY

Over the past few decades, as human activity destroyed much of the Marram grass that serves as an anchor for the sand, Bluewater Dunes has been eroding.

ATVs, dirt bikes, footsteps (it takes only 22 footsteps on Marram grass roots to destroy the plant), playing ball, climbing up, rolling down, walking dogs, sun bathing, lighting fires, tobogganing, and driving snowmobiles all contributed to the disintegration of this precious, unique dune and its wetlands. Referred to as “the swamp” by long-time cottagers and residents, the Bluewater Dunes are located at the south end of Bluewater Beach, just north of Deanlea Beach.

I have spoken to some of those who have memories of the dunes prior to a multi-year restoration project begun in 2007. They told me that, as well as the above activities, the 40-50ft (12-15 metre) back dunes had also been used as a shooting range.

A species of small birds, believed to be swallows, nested in part of the back dunes and also in an area on the edge of Deanlea Beach.

By 2005, when I moved to the Dunes, extensive erosion had already occurred, with sand constantly blowing over the back dunes, invading adjacent properties, and piling up on Nicole Boulevard. The beach was mostly pebbles. Wildlife consisted mainly of gulls and dancing Monarch butterflies.

As a member of the Dunes Restoration Advisory Committee, I attended a Sierra Club seminar to inform myself about the dunes environment. The presenter was a professor who had been working with students at the Severn Sound spawning area. Since she was so involved in wetlands issues, I asked her if it was likely that the wetlands might return once the dunes were restored. She said it was possible, which made me hopeful that this would happen.

After several years of restoration through strategic placement of snow fences and the installation of boardwalks to reduce human impact, the dunes are remarkably healthy and the wetlands have gradually returned. Even during the 2016 drought, more water became evident. This year the rain benefitted the wetlands to such an extent there were thousands of tadpoles, and now many frogs and toads are there as well as water plants.

There has even been a sighting of a pair of sandpipers, and the mid-dunes have had fox dens for three or four years. These signs of more wildlife, combined with the return of the wetlands, are very encouraging.

The grasses and native plants are also thriving. In the future, watch for interpretive signage along the boardwalks. This is the final stage in the Bluewater Dunes restoration project.

...FFFF continued from page 3

had their company profiles on the website.

Did we bring the community together? We had an army of volunteers from all different areas of our township as well as our neighbouring municipalities. Sunday morning accomplished its goal of building community. The sun was shining and those who came out enjoyed a wonderful breakfast. Father Michael and representatives from four other faiths created a beautiful service that gave thanks for the land and its stewards.

Did we build a solid foundation for future events? There is a fully built website, a great following on all social media, a recognizable name and logo, contacts, safety protocols and site plan.

Did we have fun? Farm Fresh Food Fest was a wonderful way to celebrate Canada’s 150th and all the things that make Tiny Township great. We had exceptional local musicians, Frankie Flowers, a dog show, petting zoo and wagon rides. The 100 Mile Dinner was served to 200 guests seated along beautifully decorated harvest tables under a tent lit with strings of Edison bulbs. A perfect setting for a meal and then dancing to the timeless music of the Desotos.

Did we get our message across? We wanted to give farmers a chance to connect with those they feed and tell their story. Our speakers and agricultural exhibitors did a great job. While some were accustomed to talking to the public, for others it was a new experience. They worked hard to provide meaningful information for the public and volunteered their time in the middle of one of the busiest times of the season. Our Township of Tiny pollinator group handed out seed packets and did an excellent job educating the public on the importance of pollinators to agriculture. Looking forward, the Economic Development Corporation of North Simcoe is using the event and many of the participants to produce a film highlighting agriculture in North Simcoe.

So, was it a success? Absolutely. Anyone who has tried to host an event, raise money for charity or start a community group knows it takes time and perseverance to build it into something great. Applaud this group and all others like it for caring enough to try and make a difference in our community. Celebrate their accomplishments, provide some good suggestions, and offer to lend a helping hand.

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HEALTHY TIGER

Issue No. 1 A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE Summer/Fall 1992

Why a Newsletter

We all come from Georgia Bay for peace and tranquility, "to get away" from the pressures of the city.

But things are changing. Today there are some real threats to the way of life many Tiny Township property owners enjoy. But instead of getting angry about individual issues, let's get organized! Together we can do a great deal to protect our interests as

cottagers and Georgian Bay area property owners.

This newsletter, written by volunteers from the Tiny Beaches community, is intended to share knowledge and developments that affect us, and outline how we can deal with them individually, and collectively, as active supporters of beach community associations. It will link up beach communities, raise awareness of the needs of municipalities, and is doing so on behalf of ALL cottagers and inform us as Provincial residents affecting

us. It's also a place for associations to share news and publicize upcoming events.

As we'll see from these newspapers, strong and well informed tax payers' organizations can be a force to be reckoned with in the decision-making process at municipal and provincial levels. Support your local beach community association, or organize to create one. You can help the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations.

GYPSEY FEAST

Gypsy Moths
Devouring
Cottages
Property Trees

- The gypsy moth has infested nearly all properties along Georgian Bay in Tiny Township. The Ministry of Natural Resources states that a woodlot infested with gypsy moths will lose 1200 egg masses per hectare. Properties in Tiny have 300 egg masses per hectare. These years of this level of defoliation will kill a forest.
- Gypsy moths prefer oaks and poplars, but also eat pines, birches, maples and even grasses.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources has withdrawn all funding for spraying programs. Your Federation of shoreline associations has negotiated a 50% favourable rate with a private spraying company for participating associations that are interested.
- The natural virus (non-chemical) spray is harmful only to the gypsy moth caterpillar and the least effective. PF does not harm other insects, birds, animals or humans.
- We've explained to report that many beach communities had spraying done in May or June this year. This was organized through beach associations and assistance from the Federation.
- For more information, and assistance in organizing your spraying in May, 1993, call Al Taylor at (466) 274-1359 or (705) 533-4261 at Kingswood Acres.

TINY - An Experience in Uniqueness

The following comments were abstracted from remarks made by Jack Ellis, the President of the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations, at the Simcoe County Study Committee in October 1990. Most of us would share his views of the uniqueness of Tiny.

"We would definitely like to make a case to you that Tiny is unique. I realize that there are 33 municipalities in the county and that they all have a distinctiveness to them. You do have to have a very special combination of distinct features to make a community 'unique'. Certainly, if you look at Tiny, it is unique environmentally, it is large in the extent of its land area. Its unique in its situation on the Bay, in its beaches and inland lakes.

Although the upland areas may not be terribly different from those in other municipalities in Simcoe County, they are certainly present in Tiny. The shoreline is unique in its proximity to the beaches, shorelines and wetlands, all of which are very important to the community. The agricultural and forest lands are well combined.

On the cultural side, Tiny has a very unusual

mix of shoreline communities and inland lakes, sufficiently unusual to be called 'unique'. The shoreline communities are more and more recreational based and here is a diversity and distinctiveness from one to another.

I would be happy to show you that diversity and just what it is. It varies through the whole spectrum of resort communities. However, we do all go to the crowded, 'Tosno Island' type resort on the high rise condo type. But every thing beyond that, to the end of the wilderness is encompassed in the Tiny shoreline communities. Who can deny that the history and heritage of Tiny is unique. When you think of Tiny, you think of Thwaites, when you think of Thwaites, you think of Horvath, with the addition of sites in Midland and Peninsula and the lakes populated by the Indian nations which were the subject of events in the 17th century and onward.

Certainly the rural hamlets and villages like Lafontaine, Wyevalle, Parkfield and others are significantly unique in their pastoral settings. The whole package does make Tiny much deserving of the term, 'unique'.

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Beautiful custom Cape Cod 4 bdrm home, spectacular
vistas superior sandy beach! Quality & Comfort exudes.



\$1,000,000
MLS#1702300
55 West Shore Drive, Tiny
Fabulous sunsets! Waterside home with waterfront
property - Over 1.4 acres! Pride of ownership.



\$759,000
MLS#1719945
122 Green Point Rd., Tiny
Stunning Log Beauty! Open concept design, W/o to decks
with seasonal water views. Insulated garage with loft.



\$699,000
MLS#1716344
518 Silver Birch Drive, Tiny
Enchanting Georgian Bay sunsets! 2 WF building
lots, inc 3brm cottage with classic granite stone t/p.



\$649,000
MLS#1714234
245 West Shore Dr., Tiny
Classic 2 bdrm cottage on large lot. Thunder Beach-
WF parcel across the road with sand beach & dock.



\$599,000
MLS#1714210
21 Bow Rd., Tiny
Spectacular 4 season recreational or permanent home
on Southern Georgian Bay! Quiet WF location.



\$529,000
MLS#1717188
7 Rue de Parc, Tiny
Stunning area of Southern Georgian Bay! Waterside 5
bdrm home/cottage nestled in majestic pines.



\$299,000
MLS#1720172
111 Centre Beach Road, Tiny
Charming cozy 3 bdrm all season cottage - the
Heart of Thunder Beach! Direct access to beach.

Melissa Lane
MLS#1713424 & MLS #1707984
WF lots Southern Georgian Bay
\$589,000 - \$699,000

Cedar Point Rd.
50 Acres! MLS#1713803
\$329,000

Thunder Beach Rd. Lasalle Tr.
MLS#1715434 MLS#1716089
Build your dream cottage/home
\$49,900 - \$88,000

49 Belcourt Cres.



MLS#1718974 Asking \$349,900
Log Home in Thunder Beach - 2+1 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 gas fireplaces,
country sized kitchen, hardwood floors, covered deck, finished walkout
basement, beach access, large lot ++++



158 Acres in Tiny

MLS#1708395 Asking \$1,550,000
Western views to Blue Mountain and Thunder Beach
Build your very own Country Estate Manor here on this hilltop, with
views of Blue Mountain, western view to Thunder Beach offering
breathtaking sunsets and memorable fall scenery, mixed farmland, in-
cludes 8 acre treed parcel, 4 acre bush lot, gently rolling terrain, conifers,
access from 3 municipal roads, many other permitted uses,
one-of-a-kind property



In Touch Realty Inc., Brokerage
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9293 Hwy. 93, Unit 100
Midland, ON L4R 4K4

1-877-526-4271

705-526-0361

104 Andrew Dr.



MLS#1719950 Asking \$415,000
Farlain Lake - Adorable and well maintained 3 bedroom, 4 season lakefront
cottage with walkout to deck, patio area, gas fireplace, gas wall furnace,
outdoor shower, bunkie, nice view ++++



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