

THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue NO. 63

Spring/Summer 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, Carusoe Bay

It is with extremely deep concern that I must share with you my troubling experiences with our current council since they took office. Four councillors have consistently demonstrated they are not listening to Tiny Township taxpayers and are marching to their own agenda.

The announced 8.19% tax increase earlier this year and Council's unwavering plan to build a palatial new "administrative centre" have galvanized many residents, including myself, to investigate the details of a spending spree taking place by Council with our tax dollars.

The four councillors are pushing through approvals for the proposed administrative centre, financed by a 30-year debenture, that is estimated to cost with interest over \$50 million. This is for a township with 10,000 dwellings, an annual budget of only \$16 million, crumbling municipal infrastructure that is underfunded by over \$70 million, and the possible need for a multimillion-dollar sewage treatment plant as Midland will no longer accept our sewage.

Council systematically votes 4-1 against any motion to pause and reassess. This pattern was evident at the April 24 council meeting despite a large protest and several deputations urging Council to pause — a request already made before by many, including FoTTSA.

Council's response, on this subject and any other of import follows the same pattern. Deputants present information and the mayor asks if councillors have questions. They never do. Deputants are thanked for coming and that's it. No discussion, no follow-up.

The growing opposition to Council's plans is a township-wide citizens' effort that FoTTSA is wholeheartedly supporting and working on with concerned groups and individuals throughout Tiny.

Petitions with several thousand names, emails to Council and staff from hundreds of residents, a demonstration of 150 residents in January and several hundred again on April 24 have so far been unable to persuade Council to pause and listen.

The only "public participation" was a meeting held in early December with just seven days notice and no seasonal representation.

At the April 24 council meeting I asked by a show of hands how many from the capacity crowd were seasonal. Only six people raised their hands. This reflects the Township's failure to communicate effectively with and involve seasonal residents and involve them in this process. Consequently, we are urging everyone — permanent and seasonal — to make your voices heard before this runaway train, drives the taxes of this generation and future generations through the roof.

DO NOT DELAY. ACT NOW. The following link offers 1) a sample message to Council that you can copy and paste into an email, and 2) email addresses of Council and senior staff. Make your voice heard: <https://tinyurl.com/2nz45xav>.

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Photo: Tara Marshall.

Tiny's New Administrative Centre: Is Council Listening?

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

The strategic plan for the 2022-2026 term of Council states that "We will work hard to engage our community members."* With regard to the Township's proposed new administrative centre, Council appears to have achieved this objective, but perhaps not in a way it intended.

Since December 2023, Tiny residents have expressed their opposition to the proposed centre using virtually every means available to them, starting with three hastily called simultaneous public engagement sessions where participants blasted council members, a public protest on a cold winter night, a petition with over 2500 names,** many deputations to Council, and most recently a letter-writing campaign that has so far resulted in 6,300 messages to Council and senior staff in five days, and a second public protest drawing nearly 300 unhappy residents.

Council's overall response in one word: silence. While Council may have heard residents' concerns — how could they not when concerns have been expressed so often in so many ways — was Council actually listening? They have so far given no indication of deviating from their intended path of constructing a 29,000 square foot building on a remote site in possible contravention of the *Endangered Species Act*.

What's troubling Tiny residents

Concerns vary. For example:

- Do we need a new building rather than renovating and/or expanding the existing building?
- How much will a new building cost?
- Should we be spending so much on this project when the Township is facing other high priority infrastructure projects?
- Is Council's proposed location the most suitable, given it's not in any population centre?
- Will Council conduct a thorough environmental assessment of the proposed location given its environmental sensitivity?

- Is there a better way to manage the decision-making process?

Despite these concerns, Council's response appears to be consistent: push on despite opposition and without apparently taking any concerns or requests into consideration.

Here's a sampling of residents' efforts.

Council meeting April 24, 2004

- **Public protest** outside the municipal office prior to the meeting. Organizer Karen Zulynik opposes the proposed new centre and its impact on taxes.
- **Deputation by Drew Ironstone**, retired manager of facilities and maintenance for Simcoe County, warning Council that "built costs" always exceed projected costs. "Your vote later tonight... is likely the most important decision of your professional lives on Tiny Council. Pause this for now, take a breath and reduce the temperature between Council and its resident taxpayers on this historic decision you are charged to make, and put the Town Hall build on hold for the immediate future."
- **Deputation by Dave Wulff** regarding the many significant financial challenges already facing taxpayers without taking into account the proposed administrative centre, including the looming \$73 million asset management shortfall, due to be officially revealed in July.
- **Deputation by forest entomologist Paul Bell** regarding species at risk at the proposed administrative centre site.
- **Hour-long challenge by Councillor Dave Brunelle** of previous votes by Council regarding the new centre.

Council meeting, April 3, 2024

- **Deputation by Dave Wulff** regarding the three simultaneous "public engagement" opportunities held in December 2023, debt incurred as a result of the project, and the limited opportunity to express concerns. He asked Council to proceed no further without public engagement.

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COUNCIL — continued from page 1

Council response: Mr. Wulff was thanked for his deputation.

- **Deputation by FoTTSA President Paul Cowley** urging Council to change its process for developing a new administrative building. “FoTTSA believes that there has been inadequate, up-to-date information provided to the public regarding the justification and scope of the building project, the priority of the town hall project relative to other essential infrastructure spending demands, the assessment of alternatives, and the rationale for selecting a site remote from any settlement areas.” Cowley also asked Council to answer seven questions (see “FoTTSA’s submission to Council on April 3,” below.) **Council response:** Mr. Cowley was thanked for his deputation and advised that his questions would be discussed at the April 24, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting (CoW). However, they were not.

CoW meeting, April 3, 2024

- **Deputation by Arlene Marchildon** regarding public dissatisfaction with Council governance. Marchildon encouraged Council to 1) continue fostering open communication with the public, 2) seek advice from professionals in the community who can contribute to the administrative centre project, and 3) collaborate with the public. **Council response:** Councillor Dave Brunelle moved that Council direct the Township of Tiny Administrative Centre Committee (TTAC) to pause future actions until a full public engagement session occurs and the asset management plan is completed. Seconded by Councillor Steffen Walma. Defeated 4-1. Moved by Deputy Mayor Sean Miskimins that that Council direct staff to plan a full public engagement session re: the development of the Township of Tiny Administrative Centre. Seconded by Mayor David Evans. Carried 5-0.**

CoW meeting, February 21, 2024

- **Deputation by Karen Zulynik** regarding Council’s failure

to “provide clear and convincing evidence that this new building is necessary and financially viable. There has been no independent engineering reports submitted. There has been no effort made to involve the community in these decisions which directly impact all of us ... The complete lack of public transparency and public consultation is alarming.” In her written submission, Zulynik went on to say, “We want input into this project now, not input into the design features which you have only offered residents ... You called yourselves a UNITY council but instead you have created more divides in Tiny Township than we have seen for many, many years. Your election promises to unite the community have failed. This divide that you have created continues to grow because of your lack of transparency, poor communication and zero public engagement.” **Council response:** Ms. Zulynik was thanked for her deputation.

- **In advance of her deputation, Karen Zulynik** submitted a petition with over 2,100 signatures opposing the construction of a new municipal administration building. Tiny has a permanent population of just 13,000.

CoW meeting, January 31, 2024

- **Question re: resident representation on the building committee.** Councillor Brunelle asked if the administrative centre committee had discussed reviewing its membership at its most recent meeting; for example, including resident representation. Chief Administrative Officer Lamb indicated that it had been discussed and the committee decided to leave the membership as is.

Council meeting, January 10, 2024

- **Deputation by Karen Zulynik** following a public protest outside the Council Chambers by over 150 residents. Zulynik noted she started her petition due to a lack of convincing evidence that a new building is necessary and is financially viable. She also expressed concerns about the lack of transparency, insufficient public information,

the lack of public engagement, and the recent tax increase. **Council response:** Ms. Zulynik was thanked for her deputation. Mayor Evans reviewed the rationale for a new building and advised that “the public will continue to have opportunities for public engagement.”

- **Public protest outside the municipal office, January 10, 2024.** Over 150 protesters — twice the number expected by organizer Karen Zulynik — waved signs, chanted “No new building” and “Transparency” as they circulated in the parking lot. During the subsequent Council meeting, protesters filled the room to capacity.

CoW meeting, December 18, 2023

- **Deputation by Diane Leblovic** regarding a lack of public engagement, citing among her examples the new administrative centre. Ms. Leblovic suggested making building needs assessment committee meetings open to the public and putting the project on hold or even dropping it due to challenging economic times. **Council response:** Ms. Leblovic was thanked for her deputation.
- **Deputation by FoTTSA President Paul Cowley** advising that its member associations are concerned about the proposed tax increase given the present economic climate. Cowley also noted that having held the simultaneous public input opportunities on a weeknight excluded seasonal residents, recommending that future sessions be scheduled to provide for their attendance. Residents need to be engaged in Council’s decision-making on a new administrative centre, he said. **Council response:** Mr. Cowley was thanked for his deputation.

In almost all of these instances, Council members declined to engage with the residents making deputations, neither asking questions nor discussing the issues raised.

* “Executive Summary,” *Township of Tiny Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Term of Council*; tinyurl.com/mtxzahn5.

** This information is believed accurate as of press time.

Excerpts from FoTTSA’s April 3 Submission to Council

March 6, 2024

Dear Mayor Dave Evans and Council of the Township of Tiny, We are writing to urge Council to significantly change its process for developing a new municipal administration building. The development of a new town hall would be a once in a lifetime initiative which, when undertaken, should engage, inspire and unite the residents of the Township.

FoTTSA believes that there has been inadequate up-to-date information provided to the public regarding the justification and scope of the building project, the priority of the town hall project relative to other essential infrastructure spending demands, the assessment of alternatives, and the rationale for selecting a site remote from any settlement areas...

The sessions held on Monday, December 11, 2023, following only one week of notice, were designed to seek public input exclusively on the matter of features and programming the participants would suggest be included in the project. Not only has the approach adopted by the Township constrained the scope of public input generally, but its process did not provide seasonal residents any reasonable opportunity to be engaged. Nevertheless, as you are aware, the public in attendance expressed concern related to many aspects of the proposal...

At a minimum, in the near future Council should commit to provide to the public:

- a valid up-to-date assessment of existing administrative building deficiencies and future facility requirements accounting for the capability of new information and communication technology and its impact on office space requirements
- a preliminary program of proposed building elements identifying those deemed essential and discretionary
- a preliminary estimate of the cost of essential and

discretionary projects, and realistic financing options...

Furthermore, the town hall site selection process should be entirely re-done in a better-informed and fully documented and transparent manner incorporating expert land-use planning and environmental assessment input and including a broad analysis of costs and benefits.

Finally, and most importantly, the Township must engage the public, both permanent and seasonal residents, in much more meaningful engagement with a view to gaining broad consensus and support for this important community building initiative. If a new town hall is really required, then let’s have one that makes the residents of the Township feel proud, not angry.

To achieve this outcome, Council must immediately direct that its staff significantly revise the approach to advancing this project. Be assured that should this request be dismissed, FoTTSA and others will petition the County and provincial government agencies and ministries for their effective intervention.

To be answered: additional questions for Council

- 1) For over a year during COVID-19 the majority of staff worked offsite very effectively, and investment was made by the Township to support remote working and for the residents to access services online. Is working remotely a potential alternative for employees of certain departments instead of constructing new workspaces for them?
- 2) Has consideration been given to relocating certain staff to other areas? Could recreation staff be accommodated at the existing Community Centre? Since the Public Works building on Concession 9 was built to support it, could the construction of a second level space house the Public Works/Water staff?
- 3) If there is a shortage of space for staff accommodation, why does the Township rent office space to Tatham Engineering?

4) Once completed (by July 1, 2024), will the Asset Management Plan for infrastructure assets, and proposed levels of service, activities, and funding be accessible to taxpayers on the website? We feel that a transparent, publicly communicated asset management plan provides a foundation for this council and its taxpayers to understand the costs of providing services. This would contribute to enhanced accountability for decision-making, would open an opportunity for Council to discuss needs, priorities, and financial requirements on a more informed basis, and would demonstrate that public money is being invested responsibly by showing that results are being achieved.

5) What is the scope of architectural service related to the new municipal building which is being requested by the Township and funded by the \$400,000 identified in the recently adopted budget?

6) Is there any way in which the information provided to the public on the dedicated web page could be provided more expeditiously? On March 5, 2024 the most recent internal town hall committee meeting minutes available were from December 18, 2023.

7) How does it make sense to Council that the minutes of the December 18 meeting of the committee indicate that the project consultants have created a functional program while at the same meeting they were directed to update to the building needs assessment study done in 2017? Seems like the cart before the horse. Shouldn’t the functional program of a new building be entirely based on the identified needs?

Interested in Sharing Your Concerns with Council?

The FoTTSA website offers 1) a sample message to Council that you can copy and paste into an email, and 2) email addresses of Council and senior staff. Send the message as is or edit it to convey your specific concerns. Find the sample message here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nz45xav>

E. Coli, Watch Out: We’re Testing Lake Water Again

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach



What summers in Tiny are all about.

With the help of many volunteers, FoTTSA’s biennial testing program for E. coli in lake water kicks off at the beginning of July and continues until the end of August.

Lake water samples are analyzed for E. coli, a bacteria considered the best indicator of the health of swimming water. Excessive levels increase the risk of ear, eye, nose and throat infections, or gastrointestinal illnesses if water is swallowed.

Each summer the County samples lake water once a week only at five public beaches in Tiny with master plans: Balm Beach, Bluewater Beach, Jackson Park, Lafontaine Beach, and Woodland Beach. Every second summer, FoTTSA supplements this sampling with a more comprehensive program. This could mean up to five additional sampling sites per beach. Participating beach associations help offset the laboratory costs of testing the water.

Results from the 2022 water sampling program reveal that most samples contained E. coli levels of 10 or less per 100

mL, the lowest level for which the samples are measured. However, exceptions occurred. For example:

- July 25 — 8 beaches had counts ranging from 220 to 790 units of E. coli
- August 2 — 6 beaches, 240 to 1130 units
- August 22 — 6 beaches, 400 to 2,000 units.

Simcoe County posts health advisories when sampling results exceed 200 E. coli bacteria per 100 ml of water. High counts often occur immediately after a storm. Heat waves can also lead to high counts.

If your beach association participated in 2022, you can see the weekly results here: tinyurl.com/bddmhcza.

How the program works

Trained volunteers take samples at the same time and location every Monday, noting the conditions under which the samples were taken: rainfall, wind direction, sunlight, wave

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PUBLISHER: Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations

EDITORIAL BOARD: Linda Andrews, Doug Moles, Scott Williams (Managing Editor)

ADVERTISING: Irena Romanko, tinycottagerads@gmail.com; Tara Marshall, bgw.assoc.taram@gmail.com

COTTAGER LAYOUT: Chris Williams, chriswilliams@rogers.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: editor@tinycottager.org

PRESIDENT: Paul Cowley, fottsapcowley@gmail.com (Carusoe Bay Association)

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Judith Grant (Addison Beach Property Owners Association)

TREASURER: Linda Andrews, lindajanea@sympatico.ca (Wahnekewening Community Association)

SECRETARY: Lisa Clark, secretary.fotts@tinycottager.org (Thunder Beach Association)

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The *Tiny Cottager* is published each May/June and Sept./Oct. The Federation's members are associations of property owners in those parts of the Township of Tiny designated as "Shoreline" in the Township's Official Plan.

The *Tiny Cottager* is mailed to the permanent addresses of more than 10,600 Tiny Township property owners (including 7,200 in the shoreline areas of Tiny) and to businesses in the area. It reaches some 25,000 readers. Copyright is claimed on all original articles and on advertisement layout and design created by this publication.

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The *Tiny Cottager* acknowledges that Tiny Township is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture, and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and partnership with all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

REPORT ON COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 2023 - MARCH 2024

By **CHUCK STRADLING**, Lafontaine Area Homeowners Association, and **LISA CLARK**, Thunder Beach

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor: David Evans

Deputy Mayor: Sean Miskimins

Councillors: Dave Brunelle, Kelly Peter Helowka, Steffen Walma

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

DEPUTATION: STRS

Jennifer Heresholtzer expressed concern that the short-term rental (STR) by-law was not being enforced on a neighbour. She indicated that the neighbour is not licensed to run an STR, the property was over capacity and illegally advertised, and her complaint to Granicus did not appear in the Municipal Law Enforcement Report. She further indicated that when she asked by-law staff why charges had not been laid, they indicated following up on her complaints was too much work, and only 10 bad offenders were now being addressed through the courts. This matter was forwarded to the Committee of the Whole Meeting for consideration.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Rebecca MacDonald from Pahapill and Associates Professional Corporation, the Township's new auditor, presented draft 2022 audited financial statements. Unlike with previous Councils, there were no questions asked nor any discussions on addressing the infrastructure deficit. The mayor indicated the Township was planning significant infrastructure spending in the coming years. The Township had a surplus of \$2.4 million in 2022 compared to \$1.03 million in 2021, with no explanation as to why they budget for a surplus. The audited statements were approved as presented.

2024 PUBLIC BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

About 400 respondents participated in the survey: 62% full-time residents, and 38% part-time. Top priorities: road improvements (45%), STR management and enforcement (35%), and beach access, delineation and public beach spaces (31%). The top long-term planning item was Investment in road infrastructure, bridges and drainage (65%), followed by public lands management including shoreline, public beach access and delineation (43%), asset management and financial planning (35%), and investment in trails, beaches and parks (34%). Half of respondents (51%) supported a tax increase of 1-3%; 38% supported no tax increase; 11% supported a higher tax rate to enhance service levels.

PROCEDURE BY-LAW

A proposed amendment to the by-law related to closed session meetings would eliminate the need for the public to leave an already convened open session. This would apply to the Regular Meeting of Council agenda. This meeting will now commence at 4 pm (or a designated time appropriate for a closed session) prior to Council meeting in an open session at 5:30 pm.

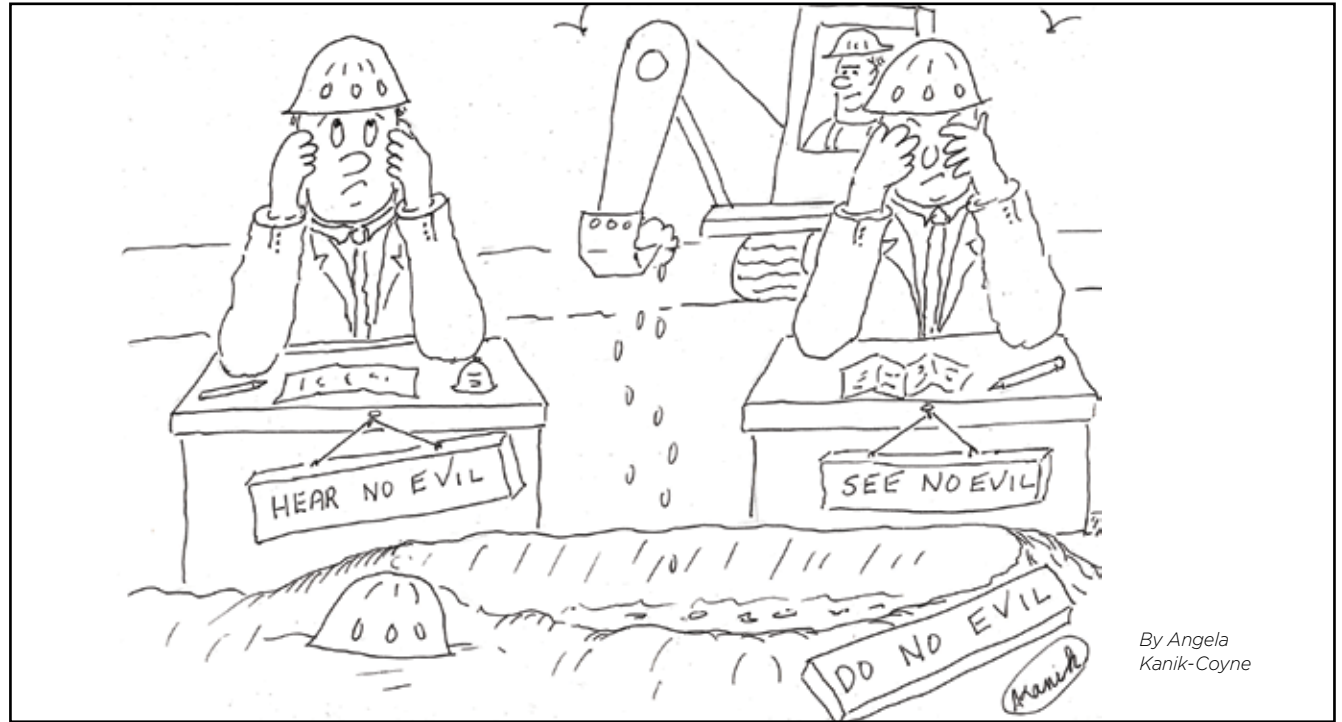
Councillor Walma reopened the issue of electronic attendance at special meetings and recommended an amendment to exclude them from the three-missed-meeting repercussions. Although Councillor Brunelle objected to this being raised at the last minute and without notice, the amendment was approved.

MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS - CIVIC HOLIDAY AND LABOUR DAY ACTIVITY

During the Civic Holiday weekend, 83 complaints were received. The top complaints involved parking (18), STRs (15), noise (12) and roadside debris (10). In the STR category, seven involved occupancy limits; four, noise; three, unlicensed operators. Two charges were laid for STR operators, for noise and for failing to obtain a burning permit. During the Labour Day weekend, 73 complaints were received. Top complaints were for unlawful sign occurrences (21), parking (13) and STRs (9).

LASHA LETTERS TO COUNCIL

The Lafontaine Area Shoreline Homeowners Association (now the Lafontaine Area Homeowners Association) submitted two letters to Council, one for speed signs and bike lanes along Tiny Beaches Road North, and one regarding the new municipal building. LASHA commended Council on its swift action in reducing the maximum speed limit along



By Angela Kanik-Coyne

Another day at the office (Department of Gravel Pit Inspections).

Tiny Beaches Road North between Concessions 15 and 18, and for paving over 80% of the same area and installing bike/pedestrian lined walkways. However, a speeding issue raised previously had not been addressed, and a new concern arose regarding people parking their vehicles in bike/pedestrian walkways. These items were forwarded to Public Works for follow-up. LASHA also expressed concern about the removal of assignment sheets from the Committee of the Whole agenda, leaving the public with no idea of what is under study by staff and when a report will be forthcoming on a variety of matters.

OCTOBER 11, 2023

PERKINSFIELD WATER METERS

The 2023 budget includes the installation of water meters in residences on the Perkinsfield Water System. ARC Plumbing was awarded this contract.

A NEW WELL AT PUMPHOUSE 1, RUE DE PARC

The 2023 budget includes funds for replacing an existing well drilled in 1967. This is part of a larger project that will de-commission the pumphouse and connect the new well to Pumphouse 14. This work is critical given the well contains no nitrates and is used to blend with the other wells to maintain acceptable levels of nitrates in the Lafontaine water system. The project was awarded to Allan Wright Water Wells for \$72,600 + HST.

STATUS OF OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPEAL (STRs)

Sarah Hahn, Barriston Law, confirmed that the Good Neighbours Tiny group has withdrawn its appeals of both the Official Plan Amendment and zoning instruments. As a result, the Township Official Plan is in full force. The portions under appeal are effective as of August 22, 2023. The OLT will proceed with process appeals filed by the Tiny Township Association of Responsible STR Owners.

STR LICENSING UPDATE

At the August 12, 2022 Council meeting, the license fee was set at \$1,500 per year, with 294 applications generating \$441,000. The program's estimated costs appear to be as anticipated and on track to break even. More time is needed to review actual revenue and expenses, and further evaluation is needed to determine if fees must be adjusted for 2025.

Looking ahead, STR applicants will be permitted to operate only after all paperwork, approvals and a licence has been issued. Existing applicants who have not completed all approvals will be prohibited from operating in 2024, will be charged if they do so, and will now need to apply to be on the waitlist.

REPORT ON GEORGIAN HEIGHTS PLAN 943 - JIM MCINTOSH, BARRISTON LAW

Mr. McIntosh outlined work done on investigating the ownership of common areas designated OS1 on Plan of Subdivision 943 in Georgian Heights. The subdivision was built by the late Arthur and Frederick Webster. Their heirs have now been located. It was discovered that no taxes have been paid on the property, which stand at over \$300,000. The Township directed Council to seek a vesting order to assume the property.

SIMCOE COUNTY 2024 DRAFT BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Simcoe County's operating balance has shrunk significantly in the last few years due to modest tax rate increases, which has increased the gap between funding and cost inflation. In addition, cost increases are significant in many areas such as construction, supplies, insurance, and other external factors. Staff requested permission to present a draft budget with a tax levy increase of about 2% for asset management and 3% for operating expenses, for a combined increase of 5% for 2024.

On September 26, 2023 County Council approved the budget assumptions. There will be opportunities to review and recommend changes if desired.

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

DYNAMIC BEACH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COSTING
Council approved a staff recommendation to proceed with Aqua Solutions 5 Incorporated to develop Tiny's Dynamic Beach Management Strategy for a cost of \$160,000 + HST.

At the March 15, 2023 CoW meeting, staff had been directed to investigate and report back on options to manage shoreline alterations, while considering environmental impacts, infringement of traditional beach use, and shoreline alteration by-laws adopted elsewhere. Staff engaged Aqua Solutions 5 Incorporated (AQS5) to develop a review and presentation for Council. The resulting report provided direction for Council to consider for the future direction of shoreline management in terms of preserving dynamic beaches. The next step: developing a cost summary for a two-phase dynamic beach management strategy (DBMS). An interim control by-law to manage dynamic shoreline activity expires in May 2024.

DEPUTATION: STR LICENSING FEE

Ola Kalodij objected to a fee increase given that Tiny charges more than other municipalities. She argued for a more streamlined renewal process and reduced renewal fees, and against the 5% service fee for using credit cards.

Staff advised that an STR program's goals is to ensure the general taxpayer is not subsidizing program administration and enforcement. Staff had recommended increasing the annual fee from \$1,500 to \$1,750. Council approved the increase, with Councillor Brunelle voting against the motion.

DEPUTATION: SHOOTING RANGE

Georgian Highlands resident Dr. Jon Cooperman made a deputation about a shooting range at the end of Raven Hill Drive, adjacent to homes. Since Tiny Township has no by-laws setting out guidelines for firearm discharge, discharging a firearm in a residential neighbourhood is technically "legal." Dr. Cooperman requested Council adopt by-laws similar to those in Midland, Penetanguishene and Orillia, submitting a petition from over 30 neighbours endorsing this motion. He was advised that Council will await a staff report prior to addressing further on November 22.

DOG PARKS

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee committee requested staff review the potential for dog parks throughout the township. The resolution was approved.

CAMSAFE PROGRAM

CAMSafe Program, a partnership among the police, the municipality, and the public, creates a database of private (residential and commercial) security cameras in communities, which can be used as a resource when investigating crime. The program is voluntary, and registrants can withdraw at any time. Council endorsed the program. Further information can be found at <https://camsafe.ca>.

SEVERN SOUND FARLAIN LAKE ALGAE STUDY

Severn Sound Environment Association (SSEA) provided a study update. Blooms are likely to increase with climate change and continued nutrient inputs, making shoreline stewardship essential for controlling bloom severity and duration. Council requested that SSEA update the report to include recommendations on mitigating these issues.

GPS VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM

The current system, installed in 2016, cannot provide telematics from plows and other heavy equipment, such as the application of sand/de-icing material, quantities, where plowing was performed, etc. Council approved a proposal from Northern Business Intelligence costing \$24,949 plus HST.

NOVEMBER 14, 2023

During a special CoW meeting (budget), Council received requests for funding in 2024 from 11 associations totaling just over \$450,000: Huronia Seniors Volunteer Care Team (\$5,000); Community Reach (\$7,500); Alliance in the Heart of Georgian Bay (\$12,500); Economic Development Centre of North Simcoe (\$73,854); Business Association of Balm Beach (\$4,000 per event plus in kind contributions); Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation (\$20,000); Southern Georgian Bay Physician Recruitment (\$12,000); Severn Sound Environmental Association (\$257,349); and the MTM Conservation Association (\$9,000). Regrets were sent by Huronia Airport Commission (\$34,716) and the Southern Georgian Bay Airboat Rescue (\$16,726), although their presentations were received. These funding requests are earmarked for the 2024 Draft Budget.

2024 LIBRARY SERVICES

Mayor Evans noted that Penetanguishene had found a governance glitch preventing them from allowing Tiny Council to appoint a representative to the Penetanguishene Library Board. Rather than correcting the glitch, the town assigned its own Tiny representative. Tiny Council termed this a breach of contract and requested it be corrected in January 2023. Penetanguishene agreed to address it but not right away. Although library services were still provided to Tiny residents in 2023, the Township withheld the final two quarterly payments due to inaction on the matter. Apparently the first two quarterly payments were made by mistake. Council requested these payments be refunded and Penetanguishene refused.

Council reviewed a letter from the library board requesting the last two quarterly payments for 2023, and again refused

to approve payment. The Town of Penetanguishene is now taking legal action to recover the outstanding amount.

NOVEMBER 22, 2023

TINY BEACHES ROAD DESIGN

The 2021 Transportation Master Plan identified the limited potential for multi-use lanes on Tiny Beaches Road between Concessions 8 and 11 due to narrow road allowances. The 2024 budget includes \$58,660 to survey the road allowances, review existing road geometrics and sizing of critical drainage culverts, report on options for adding active transportation along that corridor, and prepare schematic design drawings. This will include reviewing the possibility of converting portions of Oliver Drive, Second Street, and Tiny Beaches Road to one-way traffic.

TOWN HALL OCTOBER 19, 2023 - REPORT

Staff reported a summary of issues that members of the public raised, including library services, clear cutting for new builds in Woodland Beach, short-term rentals, road and traffic concerns, beach delineation status in Balm Beach, infrastructure deficit concerns, the poor state and lack of washrooms at Wyevale's outdoor rink, the state of repair of washrooms at the baseball diamond, the cost of a new administrative centre including library / public input, and the increase in tax rates.

FIREFIGHTER TAX CREDIT

Council approved supporting a letter from the Municipality of Wawa calling on the federal government to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the *Income Tax Act*, which would increase tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000 and reduce the 200-hour requirement to 150 hours.

DECEMBER 13, 2023

DEPUTATION: AIRPORT ACTIVITY

Craig Jewell, Manager, Huronia Airport Commission, presented a 2024 budget request and provided an update on airport activity in the past year and future plans. The budget request was received as information.

DRAFT 2024 BUDGET

During a CoW (2024 budget) meeting on December 4 and 5, Council reviewed the draft budget, including a summary overview, anticipated assessment base and taxation revenue summary, operating salaries, capital and reserve budgets, and asset management and funding gap proposals. Council recommended that staff present the proposed final budget as discussed with a targeted blended tax rate increase of 5.1% at a December 18 budget meeting.

TINY LIBRARY SERVICES

This item was added to the agenda following community backlash after agreements for library services with neighbouring municipalities were cancelled at Council direction. A

motion was passed directing staff to negotiate agreements with Penetanguishene, Springwater and Midland, with costs billed to the Township.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Julie Cayley, Executive Director, SSEA, presented the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative WEGE Award to the Township for its Asphalt to Food Project. The award recognizes projects that balance economic, social and environmental aspects for protecting water quality that could be used as inspiration for other cities. Tiny will also receive a US\$3,750 contribution towards expanding de-paving activities at Wyebridge Park.

DEPUTATION: LIBRARY SERVICES

Janice Murton recounted residents' concern about a new library, referencing residents' comments, local media coverage, and past quotes from councillors regarding the importance of the existing library services. She advised that citizens want to restore Tiny's positive relationships with all the libraries.

Ms. Murton asked Council to follow the standards of the Strategic Plan — delivering efficient and extraordinary municipal services, transparency, fiscal responsibility, open governance and commitment to building an informed and engaged community — and revisit the library situation.

DECEMBER 18, 2023

DEPUTATIONS: LACK OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Diane Leblovic expressed concerns about Council's lack of public engagement, citing the strategic planning process, the new administrative centre and library services. She suggested opening proceedings of the building needs assessment committee to the public, putting the project on hold, and assigning a preliminary \$400,000 architect's fee towards the asset management program.

FoTTSa President Paul Cowley expressed concerns about the proposed tax increase given the present economic climate. He commented that timing of the December new township hall engagement sessions excluded seasonal residents, and, requested future sessions provide for their attendance.

2024 DRAFT BUDGET

The draft budget was updated following the December 4 and 5 budget meetings. Council approved the revised budget. Staff will report back to Council following year-end 2023 with recommendations to incorporate any 2023 surplus or deficit into the draft budget before Council adopts the 2024 Final Tax Rate By-law.

JANUARY 10, 2024

DEPUTATION: NEW ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

Karen Zulynik spoke about her petition with 897 signatures opposing the proposed new centre, indicating Council had failed to provide clear and convincing evidence that it is

— continued on page 16

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TINY'S GROUNDWATER

Auditor General Blasts MNRF's Management of Aggregate Resources

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach



A gravel truck being loaded at the Teedon Pit hillside
Source: saveourwatertiny.com

Ontario's Auditor General recently released a value for-money audit that is highly critical of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's management of aggregate resources. In summary, the report found that the ministry "falls far short of its responsibilities under the Aggregate Resources Act to inspect aggregate operations, enforce compliance, and ensure sites are promptly rehabilitated and returned to productive use, after extraction is complete. Furthermore, the ministry lacks accurate data on the supply and demand for aggregates. This has not stopped the province from continuing to approve new aggregate operations whether there is an actual need for the aggregate or not. ("For more on audit findings, see "Where the ministry falls short," below.)

These findings are particularly significant for FoTTSA and Tiny Township residents because the ministry is responsible for ensuring compliance with strict conditions imposed by the Ontario Land Tribunal on the controversial Teedon Pit, located in the southeast corner of Tiny.

Among a number of conditions, the negotiated measures require the pit owner, CRH Canada Group Inc., to

- install an impermeable liner in a re-circulation cell as part of the site's aggregate washing operation — a first for any such operation in Ontario
- install more monitoring wells and document the results
- provide employees and contractors with a spills response plan and comply with its requirements.

How the conditions came about

In 2021, FoTTSA applied for and received permission from the Environmental Review Tribunal, now the Ontario Land Tribunal, to appeal a permit to take water that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks had granted to the pit owner. The permit allows CRH to draw 1,641,600 litres of water to wash gravel every day for 180 days of the year.

FoTTSA was not alone in its opposition to the permit. Nearby residents, Aware Simcoe, the Council of Canadians, the Green Party, Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, Tiny's farming community, and Wellington Water Watchers were also raising serious concerns about the operation, the permit, and potential environmental consequences.

Opponents feared that the gravel washing operation could cause irreparable damage to a deep aquifer, as well as groundwater that supplies local wells, irrigates crops, and sustains Orr Lake, the Wye River and the Wye and Tiny Marshes. The aquifer contains the world's purest water known to science.

During the appeal process FoTTSA was represented by hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland and lawyers from the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), a non-profit legal aid clinic. Receiving leave to appeal led to negotiations with CRH and a settlement with conditions in fall 2022.

Given the potential risks posed to Tiny's groundwater if CRH fails to comply with the settlement, FoTTSA first wrote to the ministry in June 2023 requesting permission to attend its site inspections. FoTTSA received no reply other than an acknowledgement of receipt. On April 30, FoTTSA submitted a second request. No response to this second request had been received as of press time.

Ministry responsibilities under the act

Under the *Aggregate Resources Act*, enacted in 1990, anyone wishing to extract aggregates must obtain from the ministry either a licence (to extract on private land) or a permit (to extract on Crown land).

Approval holders must inspect their operations and self-report on their compliance to the ministry annually, and must pay an annual extraction fee on a per-tonne basis. Approval holders must also fully rehabilitate their sites once they have finished extraction.

Where the ministry falls short

A fact sheet published by the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition

(RGMC) summarizes the Auditor General's main findings. A sampling of findings appears below.

RGMC is a growing coalition of a dozen residents groups directly affected by aggregate operations. It helps local groups defend their communities from harmful and unnecessary gravel mining, with the long-term goal of winning regulatory and legislative reforms that safeguard health, water, and nature, guarantee community participation, and honour treaties and obligations with First Nations.

The most recent study of aggregate supply and demand indicates a significant oversupply; improved studies are needed to provide accurate and complete information

The MNR's most recent study (2016) suggests that existing reserves in the Greater Golden Horseshoe region are more than adequate to meet future demand. The MNR has not proven there is a need for new pits and quarries. The MNR's 2023 study on aggregates supply and demand is not reliable and must be improved.

The MNR is failing to adequately inspect aggregate operations

Rates of MNR inspection are shockingly low, with 75% of the offices reviewed inspecting less than 5% of aggregate operations in their district annually. Inspection rates decreased 64% under the Ford government. There is a systemic shortage of qualified aggregate inspectors.

Violations are widespread in the aggregate industry

Of the low percentage of sites inspected, 48-64% were not compliant with regulations. From 2018 to 2022, inspectors filed 1,750 inspection reports identifying non-compliance.

The MNR is failing to enforce aggregate regulations

Among the low percentage of violations reported, less than 1% were referred for further investigation that could lead to a charge. From 2018 to 2022, the number of outstanding annual violations grew 74%, to a total of almost 1,700.

Industry self-reporting is failing

Twenty-five percent of the approval holders reviewed failed to submit an annual compliance report. Legislation stipulates that failure to submit a compliance report should result in immediate suspension of operations, but the MNR did nothing to enforce this beyond sending a notification letter. Nearly 15% of reviewed approval holders that did not submit reports were still operating a year later.

There is no guarantee of rehabilitation of pits and quarries

There are no processes in place to ensure that pits and quarries are rehabilitated, nor to ensure that the rehabilitation that does take place is effective. Pits and quarries amounting to a land area the size of Brampton have sat dormant for 10 or more years with zero rehabilitation efforts.

Auditor General's recommendations

The Auditor General made the 18 recommendations. FoTTSA believes the recommendations below are critical to minimizing the potential risks posed by the Teedon Pit to the aquifer and Tiny's groundwater:

1. Address serious aggregate inspection staffing and training problems.
2. Require districts to develop and implement inspection plans.
4. Review and standardize policies for enforcing compliance; this should include adopting additional enforcement tools, charging interest for overdue fees, and improving fine payments to municipalities.
8. Develop and implement procedures for assessing rehabilitation.
10. Implement processes to obtain, report, and update detailed data on aggregates supply and demand.
13. Work with other agencies to review aggregate applications in view of their negative impacts.
14. Develop a framework for considering cumulative impacts when making decisions on aggregate approvals.
18. Develop a framework for evaluating MNR's aggregates program and regularly report results.

Notes

1. For example, the audit identified three companies that extracted over 1000% of the permitted volume but were never referred for investigation.
2. As per the Auditor General, the MNR does not know the full amount of unpaid annual aggregate extraction fees. At the end of 2022, over 432 aggregate sites had failed to pay annual fees to the MNR, with 41 of these having paid no fees at all since 2018. From 2018 to 2022, the MNR issued only 2 fines (totaling \$1,230) for unpaid fees.
3. In comparison, the U.K. has fees that are 14 times higher than Ontario's, and a rate of use of recycled aggregates that is more than three times higher.

5 Ways to Improve the Pit Approval Process

By PAUL COWLEY, Carusoe Bay



These signs proliferated throughout the township as opposition to the Teedon Pit grew. Source: Save Our Water Tiny; tinyurl.com/sj5rv3w2

The Auditor General's damning report on Ontario's failure to manage our aggregate resources reflects on a provincial scale what we've experienced here in Tiny. Specifically, a failure to appreciate the potential consequences of gravel mining on Tiny's pristine groundwater.

FoTTSA first got involved in protecting Tiny's groundwater during the "Stop Site 41" years. Site 41 was the working name given to a planned 30-hectare (50-acre) landfill site for municipal waste located on the Elmvalle Clay Plain in the southeast corner of Tiny. Experts fear that the Teedon Pit and nearby Sarjeant pit pose the same threat to Tiny's pristine groundwater as Site 41, which was finally cancelled in 2009 after widespread public opposition.

FoTTSA participated in Stop Site 41 rallies, supported a Beausoleil First Nation encampment next to the site, and went on protest walks. This supporting role provided an invaluable education when FoTTSA stepped up to oppose the Teedon and Sarjeant gravel pits before the Ontario Land Tribunal, and in Teedon Pit negotiations during which FoTTSA was represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA).

Through these experiences, we've learned much about shortcomings in the province's ability and willingness to protect the environment. Here's a sampling, mostly drawn from previous reports in *The Tiny Cottager*, about what could be improved.

Understand what you're dealing with

The French's Hill area, where the Teedon and Sarjeant pits are located, serves as a "recharge area" that filters water entering shallow aquifers, which provide water for wells, crop irrigation and local watercourses. The filtered groundwater is also believed to percolate down into a major aquifer which extends from Georgian Bay to the Oak Ridges Moraine.

What makes French's Hill and the clay plain below it unique, says Dr. John Cherry, an internationally recognized hydrogeologist, is the variability in sediments. This variability helps explain conflicting conclusions in groundwater consulting reports. They don't agree, he says, because a comprehensive hydrogeology study has not yet been done.

"We know that recharge areas occur in small pockets throughout the clay plain, the slopes up the hill, and the hill itself ... What we don't know is how all of this works." This lack of understanding severely handicaps the province's ability to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

Improve a flawed approval process

Flaws first became apparent locally when the province's Environmental Assessment Board rejected the Site 41 application, despite it having passed many ministry approvals, including the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Environmental Protection Act*, design and operations plan approval, and a permit to take water.² In its rejection, the board cited flaws in the methodology for selecting potential landfill sites. Simcoe County cancelled the proposed landfill site in 2009.

Since then, the ministry appears to have learned little. During the last provincial election, Simcoe North incumbent Jill Dunlop told *The Tiny Cottager* that the ministry "will only issue a permit [to take water] if the comprehensive and scientific-technical review demonstrates that the water taking will not have adverse effects on the environment or other water users in the area."

Sounds good, but Dr. Michael Powell, an adjunct professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources, notes that "there are currently no results from any study commissioned by any permit granting agency that address the scientific issues related to, or controlling, the evolution of the pristine water that bubbles up or flows through the Wye River watershed ... Further, the original studies done to allow permitting have been challenged by subsequent reports which disputed their findings."³

Powell speaks from personal experience. "The consulting

firms that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks used to evaluate CRH Canada Group Inc.'s application [for a permit to take water] said there wouldn't be any harm, but they've also said there is no water in French's Hill. This is incorrect. I've seen water standing in a well at the very top of French's Hill. I've seen water seeping out of the main slopes into the terraced areas. Where do they think this water is coming from? They've never walked those slopes ... this groundwater supplies all the water for two major marshes — Tiny Marsh and Wye Marsh — and the Wye River. All three are delicate ecosystems."⁴

The upshot: "None of the studies that have been done can tell us whether or not gravel taking on French's Hill is going to impact the actual quality or quantity of the water."⁵

Such shortcomings are not unique to Tiny. Dr. Cherry warned Tiny Council in 2021 against relying on the ministry to make the right decisions regarding any permits to draw water because "professional engineers and hydrogeologists don't author the decisions that come out of the ministry purporting to be based on groundwater knowledge. It's a failure of the Ontario system," he said.

"You need to protect yourself and your environment from the Ministry of the Environment," he warned Council. "That's my opinion, and I state that opinion at public talks, and any time the ministry wants to debate this with me I would be happy to debate it."⁶

Dr. Powell and Dr. Cherry, Distinguished Professor Emeritus,

Hydrogeology at the University of Waterloo, are members of the Elmvale Water Project, a proposed 5-year study that aims to understand why the groundwater bubbling out of the Elmvale Clay Plain is so pure. The project team also includes Dr. Bill Shotyk, University of Alberta professor and Bockock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment, and researchers from the University of Alberta, University of Guelph, University of Ottawa and the Geological Survey of Ontario.

Apply best practices, not political expediency

Dr. Cherry contends that the aggregate operations on French's Hill already violate a general rule of environmental science: quarry operations must not be located in a recharge area. "Government organizations that break this rule are deemed to be irresponsible. There are no shades of gray on this, this is a matter of right vs. wrong."⁷

Seek community input only if you're prepared to listen

Several years ago Teedon Pit owner CRH Canada Group Inc. tried to curry favour with the local community by setting up the Teedon Community Liaison Committee. CRH attempted to allay community concerns by bringing in its own experts, but would not allow independent experts to participate. Many discussions ended in an impasse. The committee eventually disbanded.⁸

Give provincial ministries resources

The Auditor General's report takes the province to task for underfunding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, which is responsible for inspecting gravel pits and enforcing regulations. For example, the report indicates a significant shortage of experienced aggregate inspectors, which contributes to low inspection rates, high levels of non-compliance, and few charges for violations.

Paul Cowley is President of FoTTSA.

¹ "Do We Want Aggregate in the Short Term, or Pristine Water Forever," *The Tiny Cottager*, Spring/Summer 2021, p. 1; tinyurl.com/mrydrky4.

² "North Simcoe landfill (Site 41)," Wikipedia; tinyurl.com/sty5hd6c

³ "Protecting this resource, or potentially destroying it," *The Tiny Cottager*, Fall/Winter 2022, p. 5; tinyurl.com/4n773bx8.

⁴ "5-Year Groundwater Research Project Poised to Expand," *The Tiny Cottager*, Spring/Summer 2023, p. 11; tinyurl.com/vyynbpr7.

⁵ "Groundwater Research Project Could Fill Essential Info Gaps," *The Tiny Cottager*, Spring/Summer 2022, p. 8; tinyurl.com/ssfv8uf3.

⁶ "Do We Want Aggregate in the Short Term, or Pristine Water Forever," *The Tiny Cottager*, Spring/Summer 2021, p. 1; tinyurl.com/mrydrky4.

⁷ Ibid, 1.

⁸ Ibid, 9.

⁹ "Summary," *Value-for-Money Audit: Management of Aggregate Resources*, Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, December 2023, pp. 1-2; tinyurl.com/v5ka2x57.

SAVE OUR WATER TINY



A Save Our Water rally at Queen's Park on World Water Day in March 2022. Photo by Andrew Chomentowski.

Tiny boasts a remarkable natural treasure: the cleanest known water source in the world. This accolade, backed by research conducted by esteemed experts like Dr. William Shotyk, Dr. John Cherry, and Dr. Michael Powell,* underscores the significance of the region's pristine water.

The journey to understanding this invaluable resource began decades ago, when Dr. Shotyk first shared his findings with Simcoe County Council in 2006. Since then, groundwater sampling wells have been installed, and an interdisciplinary team of scientists has been assembled to delve deeper into the mysteries of these aquifers.

However, this research hasn't been without its challenges. The presence of aggregate extraction companies threatens the integrity of the groundwater. Despite widespread public support and past successes in environmental protection, such as halting Site 41 in 2009, the battle to preserve Simcoe County's water is ongoing.

In response to this looming threat, concerned citizens mobilized under the banner of the Save Our Water Tiny (SOWT) initiative, originally spearheaded by FoTTSA. Their mission: to draw attention to the peril facing the region's water and to raise funds for legal action against the aggregate operators.

Protecting Huronia's Precious Resource

By Erik Schomann

FoTTSA's tireless efforts raised awareness and garnered support from both local and international communities. With a successful legal victory under their belt, SOWT has now entered a new phase of action, aiming to expand its organization and implement a multifaceted approach to protect the water source until research can be completed.

The strategies employed by SOWT encompass various fronts:

- **community engagement and education** — SOWT is actively engaging with local communities, educational institutions, and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of preserving the water source. Public meetings, informational materials, and social media platforms serve as tools for mobilizing support.
- **legal action** — SOWT is exploring legal avenues to challenge the current gravel extraction activities. This has and will continue to involve filing legal actions and petitions based on environmental laws and regulations.
- **political advocacy** — lobbying local, provincial, and national policymakers is crucial for enacting laws or regulations that protect the water source. SOWT actively participates in public hearings and advocates for policy changes.
- **media campaign** — a robust multimedia campaign will ensure that the issue remains in the public eye. Op-eds, press conferences, and social media engagement help generate pressure on businesses and government.
- **direct action** — non-violent direct action tactics, such as protests or blockades, may be employed to physically prevent or disrupt extraction activities if necessary.
- **collaboration** — working with other environmental organizations, indigenous communities, and stakeholders amplifies SOWT's efforts and increases impact.
- **alternative solutions** — proposing alternative solutions for gravel extraction while preserving the water source

fosters consensus and support for protecting the site.

- **long-term sustainability planning** — advocating for sustainable development practices ensures the long-term preservation of the water source.

Through these concerted efforts, SOWT aims to halt gravel extraction activities at French's Hill until the Elmvale Groundwater Study can be completed. While the discovery of the cleanest known water source may have been made here, the implications resonate globally. Water is a fundamental element that sustains all living beings on our planet.

We stand at a pivotal moment, where our actions today will shape the world of tomorrow. By accepting responsibility for the conservation of this pristine water, we demonstrate our commitment to future generations. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to ensure that they inherit a world where clean, fresh water is a birthright.

For more information and to learn how you can get involved in securing this vital resource for future generations, visit saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com and/or write today to info@saveourwatertiny.com.

Erik Schomann, a seasoned promoter of environmental causes, proudly resides in LaFontaine. As a respected community and political advocate, he shares his expertise teaching communications studies at the School of English and Liberal Studies at Seneca Polytechnic.

* Dr. Shotyk is a University of Alberta professor and Bockock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment. Dr. John Cherry is Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Hydrogeology at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Michael Powell is an adjunct professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources and project manager of the Elmvale Water Project, which aims to understand why this local groundwater is so clean. The project team also includes researchers from the University of Alberta, Guelph University, University of Ottawa and the Geological Survey of Ontario.

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TINY'S GROUNDWATER

Ontario Communities Taking on Gravel Mining Operations

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

With support from the Reform Gravel Mining Coalition (RGMC), the groups listed below have been opposing gravel mining operations in their communities. RGMC helps environmental and community groups develop strategies to raise awareness of their concerns and challenge applications for permits. In turn, the groups help support RGMC's DAMN! (Demand a Moratorium Now!) campaign, which is seeking a moratorium on all new approvals for gravel mining in Ontario. The goal behind the moratorium is to allow time for a broad consultation process on a new path forward.

RGMC has a number of concerns with gravel mining. For example:

- the provincial government has authorized the gravel mining industry to extract 13 times more gravel each year than is required to meet average annual consumption
- Ontario's current application process for gravel mining favours aggregate operations over municipalities and organizations trying to protect the natural and built environment
- the application process also doesn't meet requirements for free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Nations, as guaranteed in the Canadian constitution.

RGMC suggests a broad consultation process could

- determine the total amount of licensed supply in Ontario's 5000-plus pits and quarries

- propose criteria and processes for determining and demonstrating the need for new gravel mining sites
- define limits on "virgin" aggregate extraction, and set targets for aggregate reprocessing that would ensure sustainable management of Ontario's gravel resources
- propose revisions to application procedures that honour Indigenous Nations' treaty rights
- recommend updated policies and restrictions for gravel mining below the water table to reflect current groundwater sciences
- propose methods that increase the weight given to municipal and community perspectives in gravel mining decisions
- recommend approaches to ensure that gravel mining sites are not allowed to transform themselves in significant ways after initial approval. This would include changes to progressive or final rehabilitation plans
- recommend a fair levy for gravel mining that includes compensation for the full social and environmental costs of extraction
- recommend approaches to gravel mining oversight to ensure full compliance with all regulations and license conditions.

FoTSSA has endorsed RGMC's call for a moratorium. Learn more: www.reformgravelmining.ca.

Organization	Community	Operator	Perceived Threat	Status*
Action Milton www.actionmilton.ca	Milton	James Dick Construction Ltd.	Underwater blasting from the proposed Campbellville (Reid Road Reservoir) Quarry, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> contamination of groundwater and a highly sensitive aquifer lower water levels for adjacent wetlands loss of habitat for endangered and threatened species loss of significant woodlands 	First of three public information meetings held in December 2023
Advocates for the North Shore Water and Environmental Resources answercommunity.ca	Township of the North Shore, Algoma District	Darien Aggregates Inc.	Operation of a below-the-water-table aggregate pit east of Lauzon Lake, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> destruction of habitat for 5 at-risk species: Blanding's Turtle, Snapping Turtle, Painted Turtle, Whip-poor-will, Myotis Bat degradation of provincially significant wetlands and significant moose aquatic feeding areas water contamination from residual explosives 	Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) case conference took place March 24
Core Burlington www.coreburlington.com	Burlington	Nelson Aggregates Co.	Expansion of Mount Nemo quarry, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> negative impacts on prime agricultural land, provincially significant wetlands, woodlands, and private wells loss of habitat for the endangered Jefferson salamander 	OLT hearing to begin in 2025
Friends of Ball's Bridge and Little Lakes www.littlelakesroad.org	Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township, Huron County	Lobo Sand and Gravel/Van Bree Enterprises	Below-the-water-table extraction from a new pit, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of agricultural land damage to the Maitland river and neighbouring woodlands, including an old growth forest loss of at-risk species 	An OLT hearing was scheduled for September 2023
Friends of Burnt Lands tinyurl.com/3rzt24m	Ottawa	Thomas Cavanaugh Construction Ltd.	Expansion of the Burnt Lands quarry next to Burnt Lands Provincial Park, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of unique alvar flora and fauna significant drawing of water affecting local groundwater supply, a nearby creek, and local wells 	Friends of Burnt Lands has asked the City of Ottawa and Ontario government to reject the application
Friends of Lanark Highlands tinyurl.com/5n8dpwid	Township of Lanark, Lanark County	Thomas Cavanaugh Construction Ltd. • Arnott Bros Construction Ltd.	Operation of a below-the-water-table gravel pit encroaching Barbers Lake, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possible contamination of well water and drinking water destruction of wildlife habitat uranium contamination caused by disturbing the Barbers Lake Pluton 	Arnott Bros has applied for a zoning by-law change from Rural to Aggregate Extraction and from Mineral Reserve to Aggregate Extraction
Friends of PitSense www.pitsense.ca	Caledon	Blueland Farms Limited	Below-the-water table extraction from an expanded McCormick pit, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> possible loss of habitat for endangered eastern small-footed bats, eastern wood pewee, and other significant wildlife groundwater changes that could harm Warnock Lake 	OLT case management conference scheduled for September 2024
Local residents	Niagara Falls	Walker Aggregates Inc.	Operation of a new below-the-water-table gravel pit next to a residential area that would require altering a watercourse and could affect air and water quality	Niagara Region held a public meeting in October 2023; City of Niagara Falls plans to hold a public meeting
Local residents	Petersburg, Wilmot Township, Regional ...Municipality of Waterloo	Petersburg Sand Company Inc.	Operation of a new above-water-table gravel pit, potentially causing excessive traffic, noise and dust. The proposed pit would be the seventh on the same road	Wilmot Township Council approved an application to rezone from "agricultural" to "extractive industrial"
No Muskoka Mega Quarry http://nmmq.ca	Bracebridge	Fowler Construction Ltd.	Expansion of the Child's Pit and Quarry on Bonnie Lake Road, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> loss of forested areas and wetlands increase in the "filthy air, noise and unsightly endless huge truck traffic"*** 	OLT hearing in May 2024
Private citizen	Township of Oro-Medonte, Simcoe County	The Sarjeant Company Limited	Application to draw up to 655,000 litres of water per day, 200 days a year for 10 years, which could harm three 3 local watersheds in the Oro moraine. The application notes "water takings are anticipated to have the highest potential for causing unacceptable impact and interference."	Appeal filed with OLT in December 2023
Ramara Legacy Alliance	Ramara Township, Simcoe County	Fowler Construction Ltd.	A new below-the-water-table quarry next to the existing Fleming Quarry, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blasting and flyrock within 80 m of homes and 220 m of waterfront excessive noise impact on drinking water loss of habitat for endangered species 	OLT hearing found in favour of Fowler Construction Ltd.
Saugeen Preservation Society tinyurl.com/2s3kednd	West Grey, County of Grey	JT Excavating Ltd.	Two new aggregate extraction license applications and an expansion of the existing Redford aggregate operation, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts on the Saugeen River watershed and fisheries dust from excavation and truck traffic elimination of a significant groundwater recharge area 	Requesting 1) a public meeting on aggregates in West Grey, and 2) an environmental assessment and impact study based on the cumulative effect of 2 pits and a 3rd pit expansion in the same area
Save Our Water Tiny tinyurl.com/sj5rv3w2	Tiny Township, Simcoe County	CRH Canada Ltd. • The Sarjeant Co. Ltd.	Expansion of the existing Teedon Pit and the development of a new pit, both in the French's Hill area, leading to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> elimination of a significant groundwater recharge area, which could affect local wells and watercourses possible contamination of what has been tested to be the purest water in the world 	Negotiations re: a CRH application for a renewed permit to take water led to the installation of a gravel wash pond liner, monitoring conditions, and more • Sarjeant is installing a liner of its own volition
Springwater Township	Springwater Township, Simcoe County	Galibier Materials Inc.	Expansion of Lewis Pit, potentially causing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> impacts on local water quality increased noise, dust and air quality, impact on property values and impacts on the vegetation and wildlife of a heritage trail 	OLT case management conference was scheduled for April 2024

* The stated status of these campaigns was determined by reviewing media coverage, publicly available reports and Ontario Land Tribunal records. Some campaigns may have progressed further than indicated.

** Resident quoted in "Controversial quarry expansion in Bracebridge likely headed to tribunal," Muskoka Region.com; tinyurl.com/5n6syrfp.

Water Testing — continued from page 3

action, waterfowl presence, water clarity, and presence of algae. All these factors are taken into consideration when assessing the results.

If the sampling finds high levels of E. coli, FoTSA informs the related beach association by end-of-day Tuesday. Public Health releases its results one or two days later, and only through Tiny Connect, the Township's emergency alert service.

What you need to know

- The testing assesses water quality for recreational purposes only (e.g., swimming).

- Rain is the biggest factor affecting water quality because it washes contaminants into watercourses. The County advises against swimming for 24-48 hours after heavy rains, especially near a stream.
- E. coli also exists in shoreline and lake bottom sand, which wave action can stir up. If you can't see your feet while standing waist deep in water, E. coli levels may be higher.
- You can help maintain the quality of our water by keeping your septic system in good working order and stooping and scooping after pets.

These Three Projects Will Advance Health Care at GBGH

By NICOLE KRAFTSCIK



Today, Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH) is on the brink of some of the most exciting and impactful projects in our hospital's history.

Philanthropy, generosity and investment from our entire community will make these three plans a reality:

- **bringing MRI technology to GBGH.** Construction will begin in 2024, and the new MRI is expected to be operational in early 2025. This will bring advanced imaging technology closer to home for nearly 4,000 patients each year.
- **adding a 48,000 square foot acute mental health program.** GBGH has been advocating for acute mental health beds and a hospital day program for many years, and in 2023 a proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Health to move the project forward. This will provide

faster access to acute mental health services for more than 1,700 patients each year.

- **building a new hospital facility.** The GBGH Foundation has acquired land adjacent to the current hospital site, where construction of a new hospital facility will eventually take place. This will help to address the significant growth in population — seasonal and permanent — that is already underway.

While expanding services is vital to the future of our hospital, we also continue to invest in the critical equipment and technology that is saving lives today. In 2023, our donors funded a complete renovation and modernization of the X-ray rooms at GBGH; purchased a new ultrasound for the hospital; and provided new diagnostic tools and stretchers for the emergency department.

Every year, donors make a meaningful impact by investing in updated equipment and new technology for our hospital. We rely on the generosity of individuals, businesses and community groups for this funding because the government does not pay for equipment and capital expansions. This year, you can make a difference for your family, your neighbours and your friends by investing in life-saving equipment for GBGH. Your gift will ensure a strong, well-equipped hospital today and into the future. Learn more about the ways to help by visiting gbghf.ca/current-needs.

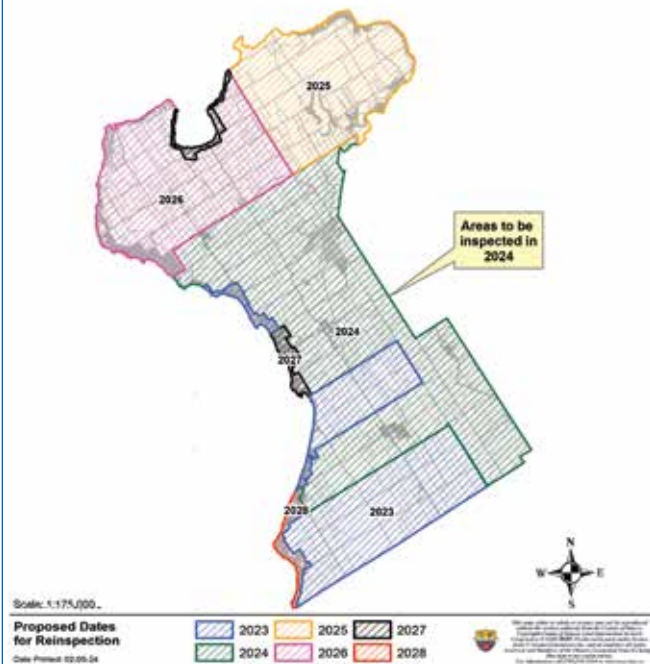
Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the future of health care on Georgian Bay.

Nicole Kraftscik is CEO, Georgian Bay General Hospital Foundation.

Annual Sewage System Inspections Underway

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

2024 Proposed Areas for Sewage Reinspection



This map indicates when your property will next be inspected. Source: Tatham Engineering.

The Township of Tiny's annual sewage system re-inspection program gets underway this season, with visits taking place in the rural areas of Concessions 1 O.S., 2 O.S., 4 to 15 including Wyevale, Wyebridge, Perkinsfield, and the south half of Lafontaine.

Inspectors check only those systems more than 10 years old. If your system is scheduled for inspection, watch for a notification letter in the mail.

Managed on behalf of the Township by Tatham Engineering, the program takes about six years for inspectors to work their way across the township before another cycle of inspections begins. The program helps protect the quality of surface and groundwater by identifying potential sewage problems and ensuring they are corrected.

The two-stage program begins with a visual site inspection by Tatham Engineering field staff. The second stage requires property owners to have their septic or holding tank pumped out by a licensed sewage hauler and submit by October 31, 2024 a report of the condition and size of the tank. Pumping out is not required if this was done in 2022 or 2023. However, owners must still submit a written report by October 31. Tatham Engineering follows up with all property owners who do not submit pump-out records or have not responded to deficiency notices from the previous years' programs.

What inspectors look for

Tatham Engineering's field staff keep their eyes out for the following items:

- type of system(s) on the property (dimensions, number of runs, etc.) and units served
- type of tank(s), size, condition, location, and pump chamber(s)
- visible signs of sewage effluent and/or odour
- evidence of erosion on any part of the system
- surface water flow directed toward or around the system
- sewage system component setbacks and separations
- excessive plant growth in the leaching bed area
- trees, structures or driving in leaching bed or tank area
- lots with a high groundwater table

What Tatham Engineering found in the 2023 inspections

Last year, inspections took place in the Wendake, Cawaja and Wahnekewening beach areas, plus the rural areas of Concessions 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7. The last time this area was inspected was in 2017.

Tatham completed 1,257 inspections and 120 lots (10%) were found to be deficient. Additional deficiencies will be identified when the outstanding septic tank reports are submitted by the property owners. Among the 120 initial deficiencies were the following:

- 49 properties with root intrusions into the leaching bed area
- 17 properties with no erosion control over the leaching bed
- 11 properties with an outdoor sink or shower with a drain discharging onto the ground
- 10 properties that required septic tank lids be raised level with the surface of the ground
- 8 properties with downspouts directed towards the sewage system
- 6 properties with indications of vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed
- 3 properties with unknown pipes leaving structures that needed confirmation of their purpose
- 3 properties with a sewage system being repaired without a permit
- 3 properties with a deck being supported by the septic tank
- 2 properties with fire pits dug into the surface of the leaching beds.

Visit the township website to learn more about the sewage system re-inspection program: tinyurl.com/2sx8ye7j.

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Oak leaves showing signs of wilt.

Caused by a fungus, oak wilt starves trees by reducing the flow of water and nutrients. Red oaks, common throughout Simcoe County, are particularly vulnerable and in severe cases can die within two to six weeks of infection.

Canadian experts first detected oak wilt last year in Niagara Falls. It was subsequently detected in Niagara-on-the-Lake and, closer to home, in Springwater Township. Oak wilt has already been found in 24 U.S. states.

Arborist Kyle Payne, with Shades of Green Tree Service here in Tiny Township, urges residents to watch out for signs of oak wilt whenever walking through your property and your neighbourhood, or on a forest trail.

"The recent outbreak of spongy moth *Lymantria dispar* has already weakened and killed a lot of trees," says Payne. "Now they're facing this new threat. Oak trees provide habitat for animals and insects. If we lose our oak trees, we will lose a big part of our ecosystem."

What to look for

The not-for-profit Invasive Species Centre explains that the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum* forms swellings of white, grey, or black fungal mats, or "pressure pads," just under the bark on tree trunks or large branches. These mats often appear in late fall or early spring. They may cause the bark to split, and sometimes emit a fruity smell.

In July and August, the leaves of infected trees turn dull green and start wilting and browning from the edges inward before dropping off.

The fungus spreads in two ways:

- above ground by bark beetles, which feed on these fungal mats and carry spores from the infected tree to healthy trees. The fungus can survive on the infected tree for up to one year after the tree has died.
- below ground through natural grafting of tree roots. "If one tree in a stand of oaks becomes infected," says Payne, "they are all likely to become infected because their roots often graft together, sharing nutrients and water." Fungus below ground can survive far longer than than fungus above ground.

How to prevent the spread of oak wilt

Kyle Payne offers these suggestions:

- If you think you see it, report it. Contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by completing an online submission form: tinyurl.com/wcvmmeek. Alternatively, send a photo to a local arborist.
- Don't harvest, trim or wound trees between April and November, when beetles that may be carrying the fungal spores are active. If you must prune, spread a thin layer of wound paint or shellac on the wound immediately.
- Don't move firewood since it may contain live fungal spores.

Check out these resources:

- "Oak Wilt," Invasive Species Centre, tinyurl.com/Sabfvmtb.
 - The centre prevents the introduction and spread of high-risk invasive species in Canada by connecting stakeholders with knowledge and technology. Its website offers a wide range of resources to help manage invasive species.
 - "Oak Wilt," ISA Ontario; www.isaontario.com/oak-wilt.
- The Ontario chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture promote the care and benefit of trees through education, research and awareness.

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Our Calendar of Events Is Now on Page 18

We're publishing more events than ever. To make room for them all, we've moved them to page 18. Take a look. There's a lot going on



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Everyone's Welcome at the 2024 Mayor's Golf Tournament

Photo by Kindel Media at Pexels

The 2024 Tiny Township Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament takes place on Friday, June 14 at Midland Golf & Country Club. Signing up for a round of golf promises fun, fresh air and financial support for local charities helping those in need. Not a golfer? Reserve a place for dinner. Since 2015, the tournament has raised over \$436,000 for more than 40 local charitable organizations.

3 ways to participate

- Join in any or all of these opportunities:
- 1. Come play golf.** Register as a single up to a foursome. Includes an 18-hole round with cart, lunch and snacks, dinner, silent auction and raffles, and on-course competitions and prizes. Space is limited on a first-come, first-serve basis. \$200.
 - 2. Come for dinner.** Starts at 6:00 p.m., where you can network and socialize with guests; \$85. Space is limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

3. Sign up as a sponsor. A variety of opportunities remain, from donations to the silent auction and raffle draws up to event and activity title sponsorships. This year's fundraising goal of \$55,000 will directly benefit these 17 local organizations:

- Angels with Backpacks
- BGC North Simcoe
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe
- CLH Foundation
- Compassion Place
- Friends of Awenda
- Gateway Centre for Learning
- Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre
- Georgian Bay Food Network
- Georgian Shores Swinging Seniors
- Hospice Huronia
- Huronia Community Foundation
- Independent Living Services, Simcoe County
- Quest Art School + Gallery
- Scientists in School
- Sistema Huronia Music Academy
- We Are The Villagers

As in past years, FoTTSA's *The Tiny Cottager* continues as founding sponsor. "Community initiatives like this tournament help so many in our area," says FoTTSA president Paul Cowley. "We are proud to support it and encourage everyone to join us."

Find out more about all of these opportunities: tinyurl.com/3bapcbp4.

Befriending the Wildlife at Tiny Marsh
 By KATE HARRIES



Back in the '90s, as government cutbacks sliced into the operations of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the plan was to cease operation of Tiny Marsh and two other wetlands. The lands would stay open but all structures — buildings, signs, boardwalks, bridges — would be removed.

A group of citizens stepped up and volunteered to take care of the properties. That was the start of the Marl-Tiny-Matchedash Conservation Association (MTM). Almost two decades later, the organization carries on, ensuring that trails remain open, invasive species are controlled, and the wetland provides a welcome haven for wildlife.

MTM has no core funding and no staff. From time to time, grants are obtained for specific undertakings, as happened recently with the three-year Phrag-Free Tiny Marsh project aimed at controlling invasive Phragmites spreading through the marsh, funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) with support from the Township of Tiny and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC).

We discovered that what we thought might be done in three years will take one more year. ECCC doesn't extend its funding; Tiny Township has kindly renewed theirs, as has DUC, but more is needed so MTM is beating the bushes to get the money to finish the job and get the phrag under control.

In the future, monitoring will enable us to pounce if there is any resurgence of the invasive reed, which threatens the wetland's quality and usefulness for wildlife.

This will be among the many jobs undertaken by volunteers to maintain Tiny Marsh as a welcoming haven for resident and migratory wildlife. The work includes:

- **turtle nest protection.** Aggregate material in the dikes traversing the marsh is perfect for turtle nest building. In June females dig a hole in the gravel, where they lay up to 50 eggs. Few eggs result in turtle hatchlings because many creatures appreciate the nutritious resource they represent — raccoons and mink being the leading contender. So, for all of June and into early July, turtle team members patrol the dikes, mark the spot where they come across a laying turtle, and when she's done put a nest protector in place. The hatchlings emerge in July, with one or a few exit holes indicating a successful nesting, which volunteers record. A failed nest, evident from a scattering of broken eggshells where the nest has been dug up to get at the eggs, is also recorded.
- **salamander monitoring.** Salamander cover boards were installed in 2023. Monitoring takes place from April to June and again from September to November. We lift the boards and if a salamander is sheltering underneath, we get an idea of presence/absence, species and numbers.
- **bluebird box monitoring.** Fifty boxes were erected last year. Preparation for the breeding season begins in April.
- **garlic mustard control.** There's an annual effort to control this very annoying invasive weed. Clubs and organizations schedule a couple of hours in mid-April to early June. The outing can be a pleasant way to enjoy being serenaded by birds before the mosquitoes come out. There are a couple of public events as well as individuals who pull garlic mustard when they have time to spare.
- **pheasant hunt.** If you're a hunter, you can help with this important fundraising activity.

Last but not least, consider becoming a member of the MTM board of directors. We need people to help make decisions about this important provincial resource. Our AGM will be held at the Tiny Marsh Nature Centre on Monday, May 22. For more information, or to let us know you'd like to join us in this rewarding work, visit MTM's website: www.mtmconservation.org Or mtmconservation@gmail.com.

Kate Harries is president of the Marl-Tiny-Matchedash Conservation Association. Last year, Kate received the Severn Sound Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship Champion Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership, creativity and innovation in forging sustainability in the watershed and ecosystem.

7 Fun Things to Do at Tiny Marsh



Enjoy, experience, observe, and learn — all these opportunities are waiting for you at Tiny Marsh. Open to visitors year-round, this provincial wildlife area comprises 8.5 square kilometres of marshes, open water, bog, and upland forest.

Follow 15 kilometres of trails through a forest, along dikes and a boardwalk, up two observation towers, and on a marsh viewing mound. An interpretive centre, with displays of the marsh and its flora and fauna, is open by appointment.

- In addition to **hiking**, you can also go
- **canoeing and kayaking**, but take extreme caution during the nesting season — April to June — to avoid spooking wildlife breeding on, above and near the water. Nests could be abandoned if you go too close.
 - **angling.** Fishing off the Trotter and Carolina dikes can be good for northern pike, bullheads and carp. Because the waters of Tiny Marsh



A convenient resting spot.

Photo: Kate Hennes

are shallow, most fish are small. The best access for fishing is via Tiny Township Concession 2 West or from the main parking lot. Take all bait containers, food wrappers and fishing line home with you. Discarded fishing line poses a significant threat to wildlife. Learn more about the threat in "How to Keep Fishing Line from Becoming a Hazard," See below.

- **hunting** in season. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting are the most popular forms here. Waterfowlers will need a canoe or small boat. Chest waders are essential gear and a retrieving dog is an asset. Obtain migratory bird and pheasant hunting permits from the Marl-Tiny-Matchedash (MTM) Conservation Association: www.mtmconservation.org/permits. Other species that can be hunted include deer, grouse, rabbit and woodcock.*
- **fur trapping** in late fall and early spring. Licensed trappers help control problem wildlife. They must have training and a license to trap.*
- **cross-country skiing and snowshoeing**. Don't be just a

warm weather visitor. Tiny Marsh is open all year.

- **volunteering**. Check out "Befriending the Wildlife at Tiny Marsh," page 12, where you'll find many opportunities to support the not-for-profit volunteer organization that manages Tiny Marsh and two other important wetlands.

How to get here

From County Road 6 turn west onto the Tiny Flos Townline. Or, from County Road 29, turn east onto the Tiny Flos Townline. Parking is free at the main parking lot (500 Tiny Flos Townline), at a smaller lot closer to County Road 6, and another off Concession 3 West.

* All provincial and federal laws and regulations apply to hunting, fishing and trapping at Tiny Marsh. See the current Ontario Hunting Regulations Summary tinyurl.com/bdzj6zyb or Ontario Fishing Regulations Summary tinyurl.com/4jm22v2j for applicable details.

Sources: MTM Conservation Association www.mtmconservation.org and Ontario Trails tinyurl.com/bdhktpyk.

How to Keep Fishing Line from Becoming a Hazard

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach



A dead screech owl that couldn't free itself from fishing line.

Cut, broken and discarded fishing line is a hazard to wildlife, swimmers and boaters. While we can't fish without it, we can prevent damage and injury by properly disposing of it.

Start by knowing what you're dealing with. The most common types of fishing line are monofilament (one long filament made from nylon), braid (several extra-strong, thin fibres such as nylon or Dacron), and fluorocarbon (fluoride resin extruded into a single line).

While all three types will break, they take decades and even centuries to break down. Here are five examples of the damage discarded line can do:

- it may wrap around fish gills or bird beaks, at best preventing them from feeding, at worst causing amputation or death
- tangled strands and shorter clippings of lines may be eaten by a variety of animals, leading to blockage, malnutrition and even death
- swimmers and children playing in the water may become tangled or be cut
- beachgoers may trip on fishing line tangled around branches or rocks
- boat engines may be damaged by line wrapped around the propeller, leading to hefty repair bills.

What to do with unwanted fishing line

- recycle monofilament and fluorocarbon line annually. Otherwise, it becomes brittle and may break. DO NOT place in your household recycle bin. Instead, seek out one of the 15 receptacles Georgian Bay Forever has already installed in southern Georgian Bay. For locations, visit tinyurl.com/bdd83rb2. Alternatively, ask your local bait and tackle shop if it accepts used monofilament and fluorocarbon line.
- dispose of braided fishing line when it starts fraying or sustains visible damage. Cut the line into 15-30 cm (6-12 inch) segments. Place them in a garbage bin, along with other fishing trash, such as lures. They can't be recycled.
- avoid future recycling and disposal challenges by replacing monofilament, fluorocarbon and braid lines with biodegradable lines.

To learn more about efforts in southern Georgian Bay to eradicate derelict fishing gear and other marine debris, check out Georgian Bay Forever's "The Critical Catch" program: tinyurl.com/3by3a2s2.

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16 Ways to Protect Your Property from Wildfires

By IRENE WILSON, Wendake Beach



The landscaping on the left is "FireSmart," unlike the landscaping on the right. Source: "FireSmart Landscaping," Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; www.ontario.ca/page/firesmart-landscaping.

In 2023, wildfires broke records across the country. By October, 18.5 million hectares had gone up in flames. That's 8 times the 25-year average of 2.3 million hectares. Areas such as Nova Scotia, which has historically faced low risk, suffered a devastating loss of homes and wildlife habitat, and the disruption of countless lives.

Traditionally wildfires are most often caused by lightning, which is Mother Nature's method of housekeeping by burning dead or decaying matter, killing invasive species and forest pests, and making room for new growth between stands of trees. However, traditional patterns are changing.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that 2023 was the world's warmest year since record keeping began in 1849. This global warming trend, accompanied by changing weather patterns, high winds, intense storms and drought, is creating new high-risk scenarios.

Now add the human factor: Natural Resources Canada reports that over half of wildfires are started by human activities such as open burning (campfires), fireworks, outdoor flame lighting (citronella torches, flying lanterns), discarded cigarettes, industrial activity, vehicle and engine use, and arson.³

According to Denis Maurice, Division Chief of Fire Prevention & Education for Tiny, Ontario may experience more than 1200 wildfires in any given year, which can threaten communities and destroy homes and cottages.

Tiny Township is one many Canadian communities with an extensive "wildland-urban interface," a zone where human settlements meet or intermingle with wildfire-prone natural ecosystems, like forests and grasslands. The extensive forested areas in Tiny such as Awenda Park, Simcoe County Forests and privately held properties attract residents and visitors to our area to enjoy some greenspace that is rapidly disappearing from our urban centres.

This greenspace is a valuable asset that needs to be respected and protected for future generations. You can protect your property from wildfires in four ways:

- adhere to municipal guidelines for open burning
- apply FireSmart landscaping and maintenance practices
- ensure access for emergency vehicles
- utilize fire resistant materials when renovating or building

Follow open air burning rules

Open air burning is regulated in Tiny under By-law 15-027, which requires an annual permit for campfires, chimineas and outdoor fireplaces. It can be purchased at several local stores, the Township office, or online.

Before planning a fire on your property, check whether burning restrictions are in effect. Fire hazard ratings are posted along roads throughout the municipality, and fire bans are posted on electronic signs in Wyevalle, Perkinsfield, outside the municipal offices, and on the Township's Facebook and social media sites.

Before lighting that match, read the safety guidelines on the back of your permit. Fires must be at least 3 metres (10 feet) from any building, structure, hedge, fence, vehicular roadway, overhead wires, or combustible materials, including trees.

Apply maintenance and use best practices

FireSmart Canada, a national program that helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire, categorizes residential wildfire prevention into three zones.

Priority Zone 1 encompasses the first 10 metres surrounding your home or other buildings. In this zone,

1. remove wood mulch, leaves, pine needles, fallen branches and dead trees at least twice a year
2. check the health of your trees for pests (e.g., emerald ash borer) and disease (e.g., oak wilt)
3. keep your lawn watered and grass cut short to stop grass fires from spreading
4. landscape with fire resistant materials such as stone, gravel, concrete and interlocking pavers
5. keep the area under and around your deck free from flammable material

6. move garden beds away from the house.
7. replace evergreen shrubs, vegetation and trees with more fire-resistant deciduous varieties.
8. store firewood at least 10 metres away from a fire-resistant covering.

Priority Zone 2 extends 10-30 metres from homes and buildings. In this zone,

9. prune trees to a height of one to two metres to inhibit the spread of groundfire up a tree
10. reduce the number of evergreens
11. ensure treetops don't touch.

Priority Zone 3 extends from 30 metres to 100 metres or more. In this zone, reduce or manage combustible fuel sources such as dead trees, woody debris and thick shrubbery that might allow fire to climb into the canopy and spread from treetop to treetop.

Provide access for emergency vehicles

Here are three essentials:

12. ensure your driveway is wide enough to accommodate a fire truck or ambulance
13. clear flammable vegetation and debris from either side of the driveway
14. if the access road is not marked, post a sign with reflective lettering that can be seen from the road.

Utilize fire resistant materials

Building or renovating? Choose firesafe materials:

15. Consider safer siding such as brick, stucco, aluminum, steel and concrete, and roofing materials such as steel, asphalt and fiberglass shingles.
16. Install double or triple glazed energy efficient glass, which provides insulation and reflects radiant heat from a wildfire. Single pane windows will not prevent radiant heat from igniting interior curtains.

For more information, check out these resources:

- FireSmart Canada's comprehensive list of prevention actions for homeowners; firesmartcanada.ca/homeowners
- FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment Score Card, a do-it-yourself tool; tinyurl.com/246pe7sp
- FireSmart Landscaping, an Ontario government website with homeowner tips, including a handy list of FireSmart plants; www.ontario.ca/page/firesmart-landscaping

Could 2024 see even more wildfires? With the global El Niño weather system continuing into 2024, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) forecasted this past January a below-normal snowpack in all provinces and territories, leading to drier conditions in the summer.

1. *National Fire Situation Report*, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Inc., October 6, 2023; ciffc.net/situation.
2. "2023 was the world's warmest year on record, by far," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; tinyurl.com/ba3c8nh6.
3. "Fire Behaviour," Natural Resources Canada, tinyurl.com/32r5nf6a.
4. FireSmart Canada, founded in 1993, helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts; firesmartcanada.ca/about-firesmart

2023: A Tumultuous Year for Tiny's Piping Plovers

By HARRISON SPILAR



The 2023 season began with great promise for Flash and his partner Pepa, and despite loss, heartbreak, and betrayal, ended with success and hope for the future.

Piping Plovers, a small, sand-coloured shorebird, are an endangered species across Canada. The Great Lakes region has a population of only about 200.

Since his first breeding season in 2019, a Piping Plover named Flash had been nesting at Woodland Beach. By the end of the 2022 season, Flash had successfully raised seven chicks to "fledge." In early 2023, Flash paired up with a new mate, Pepa. Together, they laid a clutch of four eggs on Woodland Beach. Then, Flash disappeared.

A Merlin, a small falcon, had been seen in the area a few days prior and is suspected of having taken Flash. Pepa, very experienced at 11 years old, was seen incubating her eggs alone, with no mate to take over when she got hungry. Eventually, Pepa grew tired of incubating alone. Knowing she would be better off flying to another beach to look for a new mate, Pepa left, leaving the four eggs alone on the beach.

Birds Canada staff quickly jumped into action, and under a special permit collected the four eggs from the beach. With the help of the Toronto Zoo, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the eggs were transported to the Detroit Zoo for captive rearing.

While all of that was unfolding, two other plovers — Nancy, a 12-year veteran, and Gotawsi, a first-time nester — were pairing up at Wasaga Beach, just five kilometres south of Pepa's nesting site on Woodland Beach. Nancy and Gotawsi laid four eggs together before Gotawsi was ob-

served not-so-secretly mating with Pepa.

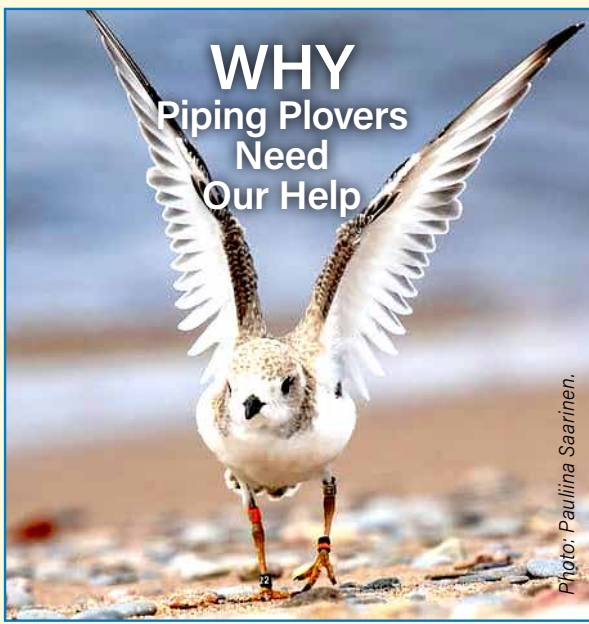
Nancy, rightfully jealous, abandoned her four eggs. Pepa, who had established a new nest of three eggs with Gotawsi, also abandoned these eggs as she watched Gotawsi run back to Nancy. These seven eggs were also collected by Birds Canada and taken for captive rearing at the Detroit Zoo.

Following all the drama, Nancy and Gotawsi established another nest together at Wasaga Beach where they successfully raised two chicks to fledge.

Among the eggs at the Detroit Zoo, one chick from Flash and Pepa's first nest at Woodland Beach was released in New York State, and two chicks from Gotawsi and Nancy's first nest at Wasaga Beach were released in Michigan.

Will any Piping Plovers return to southern Georgian Bay in 2024? As of press time it's too early to say but there is hope. One of Flash's offspring from 2022 spent most of last summer at Wasaga Beach but did not find a mate. Another offspring of Flash's that hatched in 2021, nicknamed Ollie, has now bred on Georgian Bay in 2022 and 2023. It appears that, much like people, these birds feel a longing and connection to return to these beautiful shores each year. To find out which birds return in 2024 and for all the juicy updates, tune into @ontarioplovers on Instagram, X (Twitter), and Facebook.

AUTHOR'S CREDIT: *Harrison Spilar was the 2023 Piping Plover and Outreach Technician with Birds Canada;* www.birdscanada.org.



Piping Plovers are one of North America's most endangered birds, numbering under 8,000. The biggest challenge they face is finding beach and dune habitats in which they can feed and build nests without being disturbed by people, pets, predators, and shoreline development.

The Great Lakes is home to the smallest of three main breeding populations in North America, with an estimated 200 individuals. The other two main populations are in the Prairies and on the Atlantic coast, each with an estimated 2000 individuals. In 2023, Ontario hosted only eight breeding pairs of Piping Plovers.

Piping Plovers returned to Ontario's Great Lakes shores in 2007 after a 30-year absence, and nest at only four to six beaches each year. The plovers' survival depends on support from volunteers, countless partner organizations, and individual action.

How you can help

Support the plovers' return to the Great Lakes by volunteering with Birds Canada. Volunteer opportunities begin when plovers start nesting, in mid to late May, and continue until they leave in late July and early August. Shifts are usually 2-4 hours long, and timing is flexible. You can sign up for as many or as few as you are able to commit to. You'll be able to sign up for times that fit your schedule, whether on a weekend, or evening, on a weekday. Breeding locations change from year to year, but recently plovers have nested at Woodland Beach, Wasaga Beach, Toronto Island, Presqu'île Provincial Park, Darlington Provincial Park, and several other locations.

As a volunteer, you'll spend most of your time near a plover nest, observing a pair of plovers while they incubate, or observing a family with chicks while they forage on the beach. Your main jobs may involve

- outreach and education, explaining to curious beachgoers about the plovers, and helping them understand how their actions make a difference.
- nest monitoring and data collection. The data you collect help track the plover population, health, threats and disturbances. These data are used to make management decisions on the beach, and track the success of outreach efforts.

Find out more about the volunteer program here: tinyurl.com/yeutnryp.

If you spot a Piping Plover, report the sighting to Birds Canada: ontarioplovers@birdscanada.org; or call 519-766-7553.

Include as much information as you can, such as exact location, date and time, number of plovers observed, a description of their behaviour, leg band colour combinations, leg bands, photos (if possible), and your contact info. Please avoid disturbing the plovers and gather these details from a distance, using a zoom camera or binoculars if possible.

Find out more about the program here: tinyurl.com/yeutnryp.

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We didn't realize 30 years ago how important that phrase would be. The recent COVID crisis has made it our focus to ensure that our families, employees, customers and friends are kept as safe and well as possible. This approach has sustained us through this difficult time and we will continue to do everything we can to be of help and support to anyone in our community.

We are heavily invested in our community as well. From the beginning Midland Toyota has believed in the "Shop Midland" culture. It's our aim to use local trades, local goods and services with the long term view that the relationships we build will be of value to the community. Still today, we have relationships that have lasted more than 25 years from local businesses that helped us build our store to our first customers that purchased vehicles from us.

From our owner Jim Koch on down our goal at Midland Toyota is to make sure you have the best new or used vehicle experience possible. After all, you have invested your money with us and we believe it is our responsibility to look after you to the best of our abilities.

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2024 Summer Events

June is Parks, Recreation, and Seniors Month	Month of June
Senior Symposium	Tuesday, June 4, 2024
Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament	Friday, June 14, 2024
Pollinator Week	Week of June 17 to 23, 2024
Busk til Dusk (Balm Beach)	July and August (Thursday evenings)
Community BBQ	Saturday, July 13, 2024
Festival du loup	Saturday, July 20, 2024
Movies in the Park	July 19, August 2, and August 16, 2024
Farm Crawl	Saturday, August 24, 2024



Receive alerts about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for Tiny Connect.



www.tiny.ca/events

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Report on Council continued from page 5 —

needed and financially viable, that no independent engineering reports had been submitted, Council has made no effort to involve the community in these decisions, and there had been no public transparency or meaningful consultation. She noted that Council raised property taxes by 10.82% in 2023 and will increase them by 8.19% in 2024.

PROCEDURE BY-LAW

Staff proposed an efficiency review of the current deputation process. For example: instead of making an immediate decision on a deputation, refer the matter to a subsequent meeting for consideration. Staff also proposed that the Procedure By-law outline the potential course of action re: deputations, including referring the matter to staff for a report or for future budget deliberations, or taking no action / receiving as information. Council directed staff to proceed with drafting the new by-law.

JANUARY 31, 2024

DEPUTATION: NEW PROCEDURE BY-LAW

Nicholas Leblovic voiced concern over the reduced amount of time allocated to public deputations and suggested 1) eliminating deputations at CoW meetings, 2) at each regular council meeting allowing up to 4 scheduled deputations no longer than 10 minutes each and up to 8 open deputations no more than 5 minutes each, and 3) allowing open deputations to address agenda items of Council and CoW meetings. Councillor Walma indicated he was in favour of increasing the time dedicated to deputations.

COUNCIL REMUNERATION

Current and proposed base remunerations (overall 2% increase), are as follows: mayor, from \$42,231 to \$43,075; deputy mayor, \$31,674 to \$32,307; councillors, \$27,450 to \$27,999. These amounts do not include billable expenses.

SEPTAGE TREATMENT

Midland will no longer accept septage from other communities because of capacity issues. Midland accounts for only 12% of septage loads, whereas Tiny accounts for 59%. This change will affect 1) holding tanks pumped out in winter, 2) porta potties, marina waste, which cannot be processed on field applications any time during the year, and 3) septic tanks with issues during winter months that require pump outs. In warmer months, septage can be spread on approved fields. Tiny Council will seek a three-month extension on accepting Tiny septage. This will allow staff to investigate solutions, and report back to Council.

DEPUTATIONS: TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Council heard from Melissa Chalmers (resident); Frank Clegg, chairman and CEO, Canadians for Safe Technology; Marg Friesen, Director of Environmental Health Association of Manitoba; and Sheena Symington, Director of the

Electrosensitive Society, on health and environmental issues regarding the proposed tower at 1445 Cedar Point Road.

A staff report indicates the proposed tower meets location and siting requirements. The federal government, not municipalities, approves installations. Mr. Lewis will provide a presentation to Council on electromagnetic frequency health concerns prior to the February 21, 2024 council meeting.

NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Councillor Brunelle asked whether the New Township Hall Building Committee had discussed including resident representation. CAO Lamb indicated that it was discussed and left as is. Councillor Brunelle asked why the public was not invited to committee meetings. CAO Lamb and Councillor Walma indicated involving the public in a working committee was inappropriate.

FEBRUARY 21, 2024

DEPUTATIONS: TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Irene Lowe expressed concern with Council's lack of consideration for expert deputations on health impacts, and the speed with which Council is making a decision. She requested Council reconsider all factors before signing a letter of concurrence.

Arlene Marchildon noted the proposed tower was on the path of an Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trail and falling ice could cause serious injury, the proximity of the tower to a residential property, and the need for adequate liability insurance. She requested that health and safety concerns be further investigated.

Councillor Brunelle proposed deferring a decision pending further investigation. In a subsequent motion with 3-1 support, Council directed staff to provide FB Connect with a letter of concurrence confirming completion of the local consultation process for telecommunications towers.

VEHICLE PURCHASES

Public Works submitted a request to purchase the following vehicles: Roads, 3/4 ton pickup truck, \$88,000; Administrative vehicle, \$42,500; Building, AWD Hybrid Crossover, \$50,000; STR Oversight, AWD Hybrid Crossover, \$50,000; Water Department, pickup truck, \$60,000; Recreation, minivan, \$40,000. Council approved the purchase.

MARCH 13, 2024

DEPUTATION: TC ENERGY PROJECT

Former Councillor Gibb Wishart voiced opposition to the proposed pumped storage project on Georgian Bay near Meaford. The project calls for pumping water from the bay to an elevated reservoir during off peak hours. When electricity is required, the water would be released, powering turbines before returning to Georgian Bay. Wishart ex-

pressed concern about the size of the reservoir (375 acres), the water shafts for taking in and releasing water, which are large enough to carry a subway train, and the impact on the biosphere and local fisheries.

The project will be one of Canada's largest green energy projects, generating 1,000 megawatts of electricity that could power up to 1 million homes over an 11-hour period. The project would be located on Department of National Defence land in partnership with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

After discussion Council decided, as there was insufficient information to make a decision, to receive the correspondence as information and refer it to the SSEA for review.

PUBLIC WORKS WATER SYSTEM ANNUAL REPORT

Rebecca Raymond, Water Supervisor and Christy Cooper, Water Compliance Coordinator presented the 2023 annual summary and management review for the 16 drinking water systems. The report is available at tinyurl.com/5hbk2vv.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON COUNCIL REMUNERATION

Including benefits and expenses, 2023 remuneration was as follows: Mayor Evans, \$60,413; Deputy Mayor Miskimins, \$47,945; Councillor Helowka, \$43,805; Councillor Brunelle, \$46,952; and Councillor Walma, \$47,419.

CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON COUNCIL REMUNERATION

CAO Lamb presented draft terms of reference for the new Ad Hoc Citizen's Committee on Council Remuneration, comprising three voting members of the public and two non-voting members represented by a council member and the CAO. The committee would report in Q2 2025 with recommendations for the 2026-2030 term of Council.

Lamb recommended sending a letter to the provincial premier, Attorney General, the Ministers of Labour, Skills, Training and Development and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and others that seeks legislation providing job security/protections to elected municipal officials in their full-time jobs so that they could carry out municipal business. After discussion the recommendations were approved.

LIBRARY SERVICES - PENETANGUISHENE

A draft contract from the Penetanguishene Library Board would require Tiny to pay outstanding invoices for the last two quarters of 2023. The board would then provide library services and allow for a Tiny-recommended board representative. The annual cost: \$15,000 plus \$200 per household.

Mayor Evans stated that "\$15,000 to me is punitive and childish. It has no justification, no basis, it's in excess of the current agreements we have in place. To me, it's totally untenable." Councillor Helowka and Deputy Mayor Miskimins agreed. Councillor Walma requested Council reach out again, but CAO Lamb and Deputy CAO Leblond indicated that attempts by staff to reach out failed to achieve a response. Council agreed to reject the contract and write off the previous \$31,000 in paid invoices.

MICROSURFACING PROGRAM

The 2024 budget includes these microsurfacing projects: Concession 6 from County Rd. 6 to Baseline Rd.; Marshall Rd. from Ellery's Sideroad to Downer's Rd.; and Tiny Beaches Rd. South from Lawson Rd. to Foliage Drive. Duncor Enterprises Inc. was awarded a contract for \$201,192 + HST.

DUST SUPPRESSANT TENDER RESULTS

Da-Lee Dust Control Ltd was awarded a contract for \$165,240 + HST.

INTUS SMART MUNICIPAL ACCESS AGREEMENT

Intus Smart Network Solutions is seeking approval to place telecommunications infrastructure within road allowances and other municipal properties. Intus is currently installing infrastructure in Elmvale under the name Swoop Fiber. The company plans to extend this network up County Road 6 using the Tiny Trail and into Wyevale later this year. It was recommended that staff draft a by-law giving Intus municipal access.

BALM BEACH PICKLEBALL COURTS

A contract for converting one of three tennis courts at Balm Beach Park into a pickleball court worth \$129,924 +HST was awarded to Powcon Inc., includes repaving and resurfacing all courts.

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The card is available at no cost to members of shoreline associations that belong to FoTTSA, as well as any Tiny resident who makes a donation of \$20 or more.

It's a win for everyone. You save, and local businesses have an opportunity to build customer loyalty and gain a competitive advantage through greater visibility. Participating businesses include:

- Aimsweep
- Christine Marshall Wildlife Galley
- G & S Computer Services Inc.
- Grandma's Beach Treats
- JenniFER's Grooming
- Midland Furniture

- Peggy Worthen, Broker, Re/Max Georgian Bay Realty Ltd.
- Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives
- RONA and Lowe's, including all locations in Canada
- Templeton Windows
- Wasaga Adventure Park Home of Wasaga Paintball

Check the Tiny Cottager website for program details, including a list of all participating retailers:

www.tinycottager.org/retailers-discounts.

Discount cards are distributed by each shoreline association to its members. If you're not an association member and wish to receive a discount card by making a donation, see "FoTTSA Needs Your Support!" on page 13. Shop local, show the card, and let business owners know we appreciate their involvement.

If you are a business serving Tiny Township residents and would like to participate in the program, please contact us: secretary.fotts@tinycottager.org.

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SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Before attending an event, please visit the event website for possible updates.

MAY

Marl-Tiny-Matchedash Conservation Association AGM, May 22, Tiny Marsh Nature Centre
tinyurl.com/4cb5pwsk

Tea & Tarts, May 23, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Barrie Waterfront Festival, May 24-26, Centennial Park
www.barriewaterfront.ca

Quest Art Drive for Art Gala, May 25, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/2p9sjca9

Midland District Railroad Club's Annual Train & Hobby Show, May 25-26
www.facebook.com/midlanddistrictrailroadclub/

Dan Hill and Andy Kim: In Story and Song, May 26, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/tpzpk5uv

Hospice Huronia Hike for Hospice, May 26, Little Lake Park
hospicehuronia.ca/events

Georgian Bay Gals Give Spring Social, May 27, Brooklea Golf and Country Club
www.gbavgalsgive.com/events-1

Downtown Historical Walking Tours, May 30, July 25h Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Indigenous Collaborations with Sultans of String, May 31, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/mjxx4xjb

JUNE

Georgian Bay Secondary School 2nd Annual Car Show June 1, Midland
<https://wasagabeachcruisers.ca/events>

Kids Fishing Derby, June 1, Midland Harbour
tinyurl.com/57kdkdup

Seniors Symposium, June 4, Township of Tiny Community Centre
tinyurl.com/m7erkarc

Rock of Ages, June 6-June 30, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/5ahnkycb

2024 Bayside Summer Soiree, June 7-August 30 (Friday nights), Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3xn7mbxk

Music Changes the World (choir concert), June 8, Midland
www.baysound.ca/events/music-changes-the-world

Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, June 8, Midland
tinyurl.com/5yjdaywd

Portfolio (exhibition of juried Grade 12 artwork), June 8, Maclaren Art Centre
maclarenart.com/exhibition/portfolio-2024/

Art in the Marsh: Hand Printmaking, June 9, Wye Marsh
www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh

Green Drinks Midland Meet-Up, June 11, and the 2nd Tuesday of every month, Midland.
www.greendrinks.org/ON/Midland

Yes You Can Hand Drum Workshop, June 11, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Rotary Champlain Wendat Walking Tour, June 13, July 11 Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Brookside Music Association: Ensemble Vivant, June 14, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/3f48dj87

Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, June 14, Midland Golf and Country Club
tinyurl.com/3bapcbp4

MCC Presents: Be Pozzy! (puppet show), June 15, Midland Cultural Centre
<https://tinyurl.com/546rv2wc>

Wasaga Beach Kites and Castles (formally Waterfront Festival), June 15-16
tinyurl.com/yck5rvzu

Lindsey's Legacy Cabaret: A Birthday Gift, June 20, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/ye275usz

National Indigenous People's Day, June 21, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
tinyurl.com/nhdm5ucm

Wasaga Beach Cruisers Poker Run and Fun Run, June 21-22
<https://wasagabeachcruisers.ca/events>

Tay Canada Day Celebration, June 21-22, Victoria Harbour
taycanadaday.ca

Coldwater & Area Studio Tour, June 22-23
coldwaterstudiotour.com

Classic Lightfoot Live: The Gordon Lightfoot Tribute, June 23, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/49r8cn37

Downtown Historical Walking Tours, June 27, July 25, Aug. 16, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Chicago Transit Canada: Tribute to Chicago, June 30, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/nuf6sby4

Fascinating Fungi Workshop, June 30, Wye Marsh
tinyurl.com/mr3pcstt

Moth Embroidery Beginner Workshop, June 30, Wye Marsh
tinyurl.com/bdpyrnsd

JULY

Canada Day Midland, July 1, Little Lake Park
tinyurl.com/342v3568

Mariposa Folk Festival, July 5-7, Orillia
www.mariposafolk.com

Busk 'til Dusk (Thursdays July 7-Sept. 1), Balm Beach
tinyurl.com/4ffzr56y

Church in the Pines (interdenominational gathering on Sundays), July 7-Aug. 25, Cawaja Beach
churchinthepines.tiny@gmail.com

Rotary Champlain Wendat Walking Tour, July 11, August 15, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3xpnjkue

Steel Magnolias, July 11-July 28, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/b4ybw8yz

Tiny's Annual Community BBQ, July 13, Perkinsfield Park
tinyurl.com/3bkax9h

Jazz in the Park, July 16 and every Tuesday until Aug. 13, Wasaga Beach
tinyurl.com/kmwze4wj

Movies in the Park, July 19, Aug. 2 and 16. Location TBD.
tinyurl.com/mryycvrr

Festival du Loup, July 20, Lafontaine
www.festivalduloup.ca

Wasaga Beach 50th Birthday Bash, July 27
tinyurl.com/8tj9h7tw

Movies at the Beach, July 31, and every Wednesday until August 21, Wasaga Beach
tinyurl.com/5n93v76y

AUGUST

Kempfenfest, August 2-5, Barrie waterfront
kempfenfest.com

Pirates of the Bay, August 3, Discovery Harbour
discoveryharbour.on.ca/events/pirates-of-the-bay

The Essa National Draft Horse Show, August 3-4 Essa Agriplex, Thornton
www.facebook.com/ECNDHE

Jersey Boys, Aug 8-Sept 1, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/kcadfv9m

Ships & Sails, August 10, Wasaga Beach
tinyurl.com/bddxwnkf

Poison Pie, Other Fungi, & Parasitic Plants, August 11, Wye Marsh
www.wyemarsh.com/fungi-workshop

Georgian Bay Garden Tour, August 10
<http://tinyurl.com/2s3ynm8j>

Midland Ribfest, August 16-18, Harbourside Park
northernheatribseries.ca/midland

Tugboat Festival, August 16-17, Midland Harbour
tinyurl.com/yjx2yz4e

Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, August 17
tinyurl.com/22ymhvh7

Georgian Bay Cycle for Hope, August 17, North Simcoe (6 routes)
gbcancersupportcentre.ca/upcoming-events

The Barrie Fair, August 22-25, Essa Agriplex, Thornton
www.facebook.com/EssaAgriplex1

Mayor's Charity Golf Challenge, August 23, Wasaga Beach
tinyurl.com/mr32dac9

Farm Crawl, August 24, North Simcoe
tinyurl.com/54f2bmxk

Wasaga Triathlon and Duathlon, August 24
www.multisportcanada.com/wasagabeach

SEPTEMBER

Memories of Summer Festival, September 1, Wasaga Beach
tinyurl.com/uks7nne

Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival, September 13-15
wasagabeachblues.com

Art in the Marsh: Fluid Acrylics, September 14, Wye Marsh
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/fall-events>

A Tribute to Grease, September 15, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/46jsdpd2

Terry Fox Run, September 15
www.facebook.com/GeorgianBayTFR

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
tinyurl.com/4uyepysx

OCTOBER

Art in the Marsh: Making & Playing with Creative Moulds, October 5, Wye Marsh
www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh

The Almost Hip, October 5, Midland Cultural Centre
tinyurl.com/5ccnwuwa

The Bay Studio Tour, October 5-6, Tiny Township and Penetanguishene
www.thebaystudiotour.com



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