



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

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Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

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SPRING/SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Pamela Wing

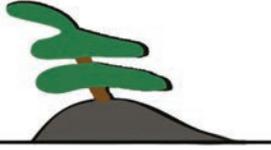
Happy Spring to everyone. I do believe it is finally here. Although it was not as snowy and as cold as last year it seems that we are always anxious for spring to arrive. For those who were here this winter and had a bird feeder to watch all the interesting birds, it is time to put the feeders away until December. The bears are waking up and will eat just about anything right now. So no need to temp them. We had a feeder this year and had many varieties of birds along with squirrels enjoy it. These included the beautiful blue jays, black capped chickadees, white breasted nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, and the list goes on. I actually had to go and get a bird book to identify all these lovely creatures.

But enough of winter – the signs of spring are everywhere. The deer have disappeared back into the bush, the mallards and Canada geese are noisily jousting for mates, the sun is now back setting happily in the west and our dock is askew once again. The water appears to be holding its own and according to what I have been reading may even be a bit higher than last year. This week the ramp went in on the government dock and there were a number of boats out and about albeit everyone was dressed in winter coats and hats.

Now we can really start looking forward to summer and those glorious days on and in the water. It is a time to make lists of what needs to be done, when to get the boat in the water and to organize who has what holidays. This summer the Association is planning the picnic again for Saturday July 30th and if anyone would like to volunteer to assist, please let me know. We are also working on a meet and greet for around July 1st and will find a way to get those details to you once they are finalized. Our Annual meeting will be held July 24th and we hope to have an interesting meeting and to see many of you there.

You will see in the article from Marc Cooper that we attended the Georgian Bay Association 100th anniversary celebration. I spent some time speaking with the representative of the San Souci Association and learned that once they had a 'club house' their membership

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increased as it gave them a gathering place similar to the Ojibway Club in Pointe au Baril. We also may have an opportunity with the Snug Harbour Lighthouse. We will be putting together a small committee to look into the role the West Carling Association could play in the development the lighthouse and its property. I think we have some very exciting opportunities.

I am looking forward to warm sunny days, happy times sitting on the deck with friends and family and to getting to meet as many of you as possible. Enjoy your summer at the cottage!



Update on Carling Council’s Activities

By Councilor Susan Murphey

First there are some new faces at the Council table and in the administration office. Council appointed Gord Harrison as Fire Chief. Sid Larson was appointed to fill the Council vacancy.

CEO, Kevin McLlwain, now has about 8 (very busy!) months under his belt. Welcome to Megan Bonenfant, newly appointed Deputy Clerk and Kim Dixon, Carling’s new Chief Building Official. Hiring is underway for two vacant positions in administration. Lots of changes!

2016 Taxes & Capital Projects: There is no significant change to the tax rate. No major capital works projects are scheduled for 2016, however reserves are being built for road works and equipment replacement in future years. It will be difficult to maintain the “no change” status as costs from outside Boards and Agencies increase. The most notable increase is Ontario Provincial Police services being phased in over 5 years. To date it has increased from \$107,000 in 2011 to \$336,000 in 2016, with one more year of phase in.

Snug Harbour Lighthouse: Acquisition of Snug Light is almost complete. No plans have been developed for use or management of the facility. The West Carling Association had put forward some thoughts a little too early in the process for discussion. Now would be a good time to put ideas together for presentation to Council.

Swimming Pool: Council continues to engage in area discussion regarding a swimming pool in the Parry Sound area. We believe this would be of great benefit. It is too early to know what partners might be involved, what the management model would be, or how ongoing costs might be covered. The discussion has just begun.

Property Purchase: Council has acquired a large parcel of land adjacent to the municipal office. Acquisition of this property was identified as a priority in 1980! There will be future discussion about how the land will be utilized. A group of volunteers is interested in developing a walking trail, another group in building a community garden. In the future the Township will require new Fire Department and Recreation buildings. These are long term objectives and much will depend on the availability of Federal and Provincial subsidy.

Volunteer Register: Watch the Township email list for information about how to volunteer for a variety of activities in Carling Township. You'll be given the opportunity to select your area of interest, provide information about your knowledge & skills, and choose how much time you have to invest.

Nursing Station: Preliminary investigation is ongoing with respect to the feasibility of a nursing station in Carling Township. This has been identified as a need in the community.

Fire Department: Council has approved the purchase of a "Mini-Pumper" in 2017. A compelling reason to move to this vehicle is that it is smaller, making access on narrow roads and driveways much easier. Is this a good time to remind you to check your driveway and/or private road for safe access. The Department continues to respond to emergencies with the Canadian Coast Guard – great training opportunities and a little revenue for the municipality. The Township is collaborating with area municipalities for area emergency response.

Minutes, Agendas and other information: Go to www.carlingtownship.ca to sign up for the Township email list. This will give you notification of agendas, minutes and other news that we think may interest you. It's a good way to keep informed about Council business.

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION IMPORTANT 2016 DATES

Mark your calendar for these important activities.

- JUNE 30 *MEMBERSHIP DUES.* Members who pay their membership dues (\$65) by June 1, will receive a roster of members in June.
- TBA
around July 1 *MEET AND GREET* A special event is planned for members to celebrate Canada Day!
- JULY 24, 10am *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING* Carling Recreation Hall. This is a chance to meet and query your directors and make suggestions how we can better serve you. We also elect the directors for the year. We will need several new directors. The Township Mayor and Councillors are invited to attend and update the membership on issues facing Carling. The Q and A session is always lively and the meeting ends with an interesting speaker.
- JULY 30, 1-4pm *FRANKLIN ISLAND PICNIC* Last year's event was so successful in bringing over 125 members and their guests together that another picnic is planned for this year.



Georgian Bay Association Turns 100

By Marc Cooper

On April 2nd I had the pleasure of attending the Georgian Bay Associations Annual General Meeting, followed by a reception which kicked-off it's 100th Anniversary celebration year. Pam Wing, our WCA President, her husband David and my wife Rebecca were there as well to help represent the WCA.

The reception was attended by 150 invited guests, including Past GBA Presidents, Board members, representatives of GBA's Member Associations, elected officials from all three levels of government and colleagues from other non-government organizations.

Guest speakers included Her Honour, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Elizabeth Dowdeswell and the Honourable Glen Murray, Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

The Georgian Bay Association was formed 100 years ago as an umbrella organization for cottage communities along the Georgian Bay coast. The GBA is largely a volunteer driven organization representing 19 water-based communities and approximately 3,000 families. Its Mission Statement reads, “To work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.”

John McMullen, President of the GBA, concluded his opening remarks by stating, “We think that the *raison d’etre* for the GBA is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. We are well positioned and structured to continue to deliver meaningful benefit to our members. And with the help of those in this room and many who could not be here, we will continue to do our part to protect the Georgian Bay for generations to come.”

John, unknowingly perhaps, set the stage for the theme of the day; one where we all looked back on the past with a sense of pride in what we have accomplished, as well as reflection on what we have not been able to do, but perhaps more importantly where we looked forward to the future to see what we must do for generations to come.

As many of you might know by now, I am a third generation cottager, my grandfather Richard “Dick” Jolliffe came to our area in the 30’s as a camper at Camp Franklin. He fell in love with the beauty of the bay quickly and purchased a lot and built a cottage at the very north end of Carling Township. In the 70’s he was among those that resurrected the CCA, now the WCA, to help represent the needs of residents while balancing the protection of the beautiful piece of Georgian Bay that we all love so much. My mother Susan Cooper later joined the WCA board after my grandfathers passing and years later when my mother could no-longer fulfill her role, I joined the board. I now have two fantastic kids that love the bay and I have no doubt that they too will one day contribute to the WCA and the GBA.

In her opening remarks the Lieutenant Governor concluded by stating, “The Georgian Bay Association sits neatly at the intersection of environmental stewardship and of the role of the Great Lakes in defining the identity of Ontario. As we honour your accomplishments and look forward to what lies ahead I encourage you to continue in your efforts to protect the finite land and water resources of this most magnificent Bay. In the name of the Queen I congratulate you on your dedication and commitment to the land, water and people and I thank you.”

For his part, Minister Murray threw out a few challenges. “Can we start planning for our grandchildren’s grandchildren? I think that’s the sensible thing to do. Can you imagine politicians and stockbrokers doing that? Can we start to see water as sacred? Would we treat it differently? Would we use it differently if we saw it as having a spirit and meaning and something to be cherished?”

He then offered the ultimate challenge, “To find a way to achieve net zero carbon transportation and net zero carbon communities. What a great way to honour the land and the indigenous people in a real way, real reconciliation.”

When minister Murray spoke of planning for our grandchildren’s grandchildren I could not help but think of where we have come since my grandfather paddled the shores of the bay north from Franklin Island and Dillon to find the perfect spot to build his cottage in the 40’s and how my children will likely be having his grandchildren’s grandchildren in the 40’s of this century. Trees stood where a road and power lines now run, rocks, shrubs and junipers lay where a septic tank, cottages and cabins now sit, and our pristine waters now have docks and boats with motors floating on top. We have done a reasonable job of limiting the impact on the environment this has had, we keep our engines tuned, septic maintained, are slowly returning some land to its natural state, but we know there is still more we can do to ensure that by the time the 100 year cycle of Dick Jolliffe’s grandchildren’s grandchildren arrive that the beauty of our land does not look much different through their eyes then it did through his.

GBA plans to hold other events to celebrate its Anniversary over the year. For more information on these, as well as to see a video and pictures from the April 2 reception, go to www.georgianbay.ca



Pesky Porc Poses Prickly Problem

By Bruce Davidson

My list of critters that I cannot tolerate is really quite small. In fact, given that I respect rattlers, enjoy and build nesting habitats for foxsnakes, and give wide berth to bears and skunks, the list actually consists of just a single creature, which I shall dub porcupinus horribilis.

As we West Carling residents well appreciate, trees don’t grow just anywhere, particularly shade trees. So I developed a dislike of porcupines early on in life, having spent many summers diligently watering a sunburst honeylocust planted in a strategic location by my Dad to afford shade to the front verandah, only to watch it succumb to a hungry porcupine. A red maple transplanted from afar to shade the sleeping cabin was similarly trashed by a porc which broke and ate most of the branches to get to the seed keys in the spring. As well, countless leafy oaks became deformed or killed after having had their bark girdled over the winters.

But my active dislike for porcupines seriously intensified after we acquired our first dog, a yellow Labrador retriever named Lizzie. Her first encounter resulted in forty one

quills in the muzzle, according to Tami Perks, who had the delightful job of sedating Lizzie and extracting the barbs one by one. Fast forward a few years, Lizzie has been replaced by Lola, another yellow lab. Predictably, Lola seems to have the same penchant for self-destruction by way of quill. So the angst remains.

Last year the stakes were raised once again, as porcupinus horribilis morphed into porcupinus floribunda, owing to its newly acquired taste for roses, particularly the nice reddish-green shoots that bud into flowers. Smoke rose slowly from my nostrils as I contemplated the destruction. But the final straw came this spring when my nemesis broadened his taste at the garden banquet to include dahlias and petunias. With that, I declared war.

Drawing on British Common Law from two centuries ago, I concluded that the beast was guilty of criminal conduct punishable by transportation or execution. As the transportation option did not require obtaining a gun permit I decided to purchase a critter trap from Canadian Tire (who else?). But now I had to think like a porcupine to lure him into it. What on earth could I use for bait?

My first few attempts failed miserably, as Mr. Porc had not the slightest interest in heavily salted oak branches, salted zucchini slices, fresh apples nor acorn clusters. Finally, taking advantage of my wife's trip to the City, I raided the floral centrepiece from the dining room table and stuffed the trap with dahlias!

Much to my surprise Mr. Porc could not resist the dahlias on the very first night. Not only did he 'race' into the trap, but he ate every morsel of the bait while in it. Only a few petals remained by morning. By allowing himself to be trapped I concluded that he had volunteered for transportation. So off we went in the aluminum boat to Franklin Island to join much earlier transportees castor boathousus destructus and rattler proxima. They should make a fine family, albeit a little dysfunctional.



From Newsletter Editor to Crusading Water Levels Warrior

By Bill Bialkowski, Snug Harbour

Monday morning, April 18 and I am to send the newsletter to the printer. It is not happening as three key articles are still missing. A ROWI e-mail announces a teleconference for today, so it is time to don my 'Crusading Water Levels Warrior' hat, and forget the newsletter. Why not write up this story & create another article for the newsletter?

Restore Our Water International (ROWI), is a bi-national organization fighting to restore water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron (MH). I am ROWI's 'engineer' responsible for the hydraulic designs, and models which represent our case. Roger Gauthier, retired US Army Corps hydrologist is our chair, and the unstoppable Mary Muter is our vice-chair. Jeremy Gawen and I are founding directors.

We want to compensate for the past dredging of the St. Clair River, which lowered Lake MH by 20 inches, and prevent future low water levels as we experienced for the 14 long years up to 2013. But some people are deathly afraid of high water, and anything that raises water is ENATHEMA. The Great Lakes Coalition for Shoreline Protection (GLCSP), at Saugatuck on the south end of Lake Michigan, built their houses on top of eroding bluffs. During the record highs of 1986, some of their homes toppled over the edge. Their litigation was behind the Upper Great Lakes Study's 'DO NOTHING' recommendation in 2012.

For the record, in 1965 while still a brand new engineer in the Canadian Navy, I built my first hydraulic model. I had to rent the only computer in Halifax to do it. Now I have half a century of experience, with the last decade dedicated to Georgian Bay water levels, with GBA, then GBF, Sierra Club and now ROWI.

ROWI's design holds back water in the Upper St. Clair, by using hydrofoil gates raised to their vertical position. These cause Lake Michigan-Huron to rise by 20 inches. Should levels rise above 580 feet, we declare a 'high level alert', lower the gates to their 'down' position and stop holding back water.

At the same time as lowering the gates we also deploy the International Joint Commission (IJC)'s 'crisis response measures' that were defined in the IJC's 1993 report. These include: cutting back the water diverted into Lake Superior at Long Lac & Ogoki; increasing the water diverted out of Lake Michigan at Chicago; and installing booms to prevent ice jams in the St. Clair during winter months. Taken together, this design would have raised water levels by 20 inches between 1999 and 2013 - a win for Georgian Bay, but also would have lowered the extreme 1986 high water by 9 inches – a win for Saugatuck.

The design has been presented to the IJC, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), who are 'on board'. In 2013 the IJC recommended that the governments consider structures in the St. Clair River that will restore low water levels, but not at the expense of high water levels. Our influence is clearly visible. But, there are holdouts among government actors, and Roger and Mary are in Washington as I write, attempting to influence the US State Department, which is not on side and is stopping the USACE from design re-evaluation.

The April 18 ROWI teleconference with GLCSP occurred as our delegation was heading to Washington. It followed-up on our meeting in Saugatuck in October, in which GLCSP's starting assumption was that ROWI wanted to raise water by 20 inches over '86 highs, and were hence 'the enemy'. They quickly learned that we actually wanted to reduce '86 high water levels by 9 inches. That changed everything. We now hope that the group who torpedoed previous attempts to achieve political consensus is on-side.

On May 12 a ROWI delegation (including Jeremy and I) is heading to Sarnia to meet a Canadian group that is vociferously opposed to any action. The 'Friends of the St. Clair River' in Sarnia, ask: "Why make changes in the St, Clair River? Why mess with nature?" Here is the answer they will hear.

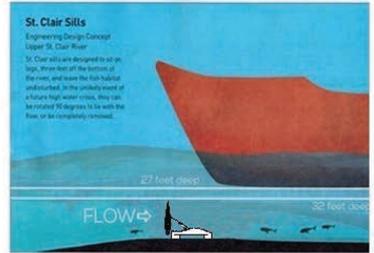
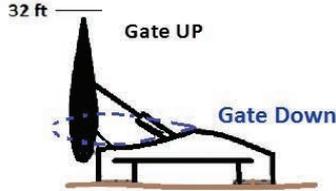
Since 1865 the St. Clair River was mined for sand and gravel to build roads. It was deepened for navigation to 20, 25 and finally to 27 feet. 39 million cubic yards of bottom material were removed, which triggered erosion, and deepened the river even more. Each event caused Lake Michigan-Huron drop – a total of 20 inches.

The Detroit River was also deepened, but compensating works were built to restore water levels as per normal practice. Compensation for the St. Clair was started in 1977, just as a wet spell caused water levels to surge until they peaked in 1986. Sarnia was flooded. The St. Clair compensation project was forgotten.

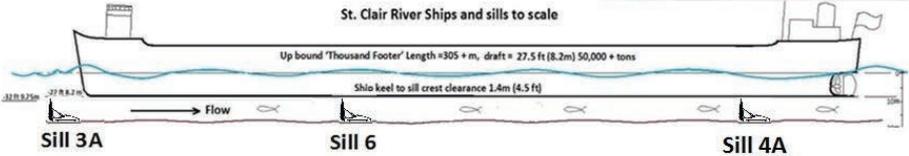
The cost of sustained low water? Ships light load, hydropower is cut, people can't use their boats, marinas close, wetland dry up, and fish die. But, there is an even greater problem when water levels are high - there are floods, beaches erode, bluffs collapse, and houses are lost.

Mother Nature in the St. Clair River has been tormented for 150 years, but with no action to compensate the damage. Finally now the IJC has recommended structures to compensate the St. Clair – action that was guided by our group's earlier work.

To finish the story on an upbeat, water levels are four inches higher than last year, and the unexpected and welcome surge since the all-time low water of January 2013 continues for now, even though the long term prognosis is for more low water. Also: "There is some good news in the budget funding for waters levels in Lake Huron/Georgian Bay," said Mary Muter "It's gratifying that the Canadian government is moving forward following the IJC's advice to help protect and restore the finite waters of the Great Lakes. Our team has been working on this since 2002.

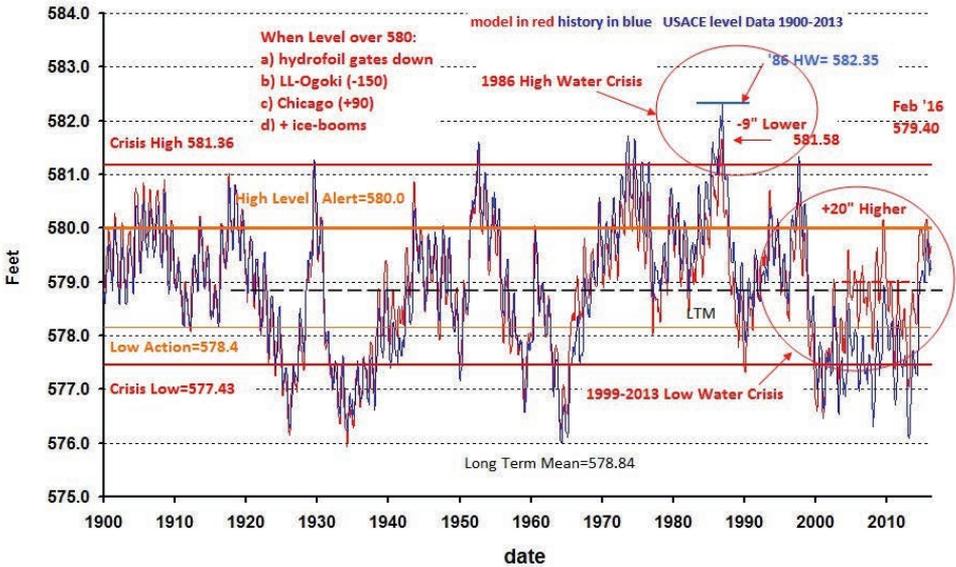


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