



West Carling Association Summer 2017 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Pam Wing

Happy 150th CANADA! We are celebrating our country's birthday. Everyday I look around at where we live and play and the wondrous beauty that surrounds us.

Although I am not sure that summer has quite decided to celebrate with us, but I keep hoping there will be much warm sunny weather soon.

The West Carling Association will be marking this occasion with our Annual Picnic and Regatta. This will be held on SATURDAY AUGUST 5TH at Fitzgerald Bay from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. I know that this is a long weekend and many of you will have family and friends visiting so please bring them along. I do hope to see many of you there.

Our AGM will be held on Sunday July 30th at 10:00am in the Carling Council Chambers on East Carling Bay Road. Our special guests will be the new President of GBA Rupert Kindersley and the Executive Director of GBA Bob Duncanson. There will also be municipal representatives in attendance to update us on the new community centre and other work Council has been doing over the last year.

We are working on a strategy to increase our membership and would like your ideas and input. One of the ways you can help is to speak to your neighbours and encourage them to join and/or come and meet us at the picnic.

Wishing you a lovely summer and see you at the picnic!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual General Meeting:

July 30 (Sunday) @ 10:00 am the Annual General meeting will take place at the Council Chambers. Members and guests are welcome.

The Annual Picnic:

We are pleased to announce our 2017 Picnic and Regatta.

When: Saturday August 5th, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Where: Fitzgerald Bay Beach - 31 Fitzgerald Bay Road

Activities: Sailing, Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Paddle Boarding, & Swimming

BBQ: \$2.00 gets you a Hot Dog/Sausage and a Soft Drink or Water

[RSVP today](#) to help us prepare the right amount food and supplies (include the # of people in your party).

Bring Ropes & Anchors for mooring and a lawn chair if you want.,
All Carling residents are welcome. *Swimming Unsupervised*

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WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION ON CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

By Bill Bialkowski

West Carling Association (WCA) will mark Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation at our annual picnic and regatta on August 5th and celebrate our wonderful country and this gorgeous Georgian Bay shore that we enjoy. Here are a few historical highlights extracted from our website (<http://www.westcarling.com/>) archive. Thanks to our webmaster, Marc Cooper.

The 'Carling Cottagers' Association' (CCA) was formed in 1921, though details of its activities did not survive., and it lay dormant until 1977.

1977

The wake-up call came when a new municipality on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay was proposed. CCA directors Wm. Latimer, Peter Perry and Nyle Diefenbacher on January 3, 1977 put out a petition to the shoreline residents with the following wording:

"We endorse the principle of including the western portion of Carling Township in one 30,000 Islands Bayshore municipality to include the Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril areas. Please sign and submit. "

1978

The Carling Cottagers Association was revived with a board of Directors including: President, Bill Davis of Sand Bay, VP, Dick Jolliffe (Marc Cooper's Grandad), Secretary/Treasurer, Neta Pinnell, and GBA Rep. Bill Latimer. A new name: "The West Carling Association" was proposed and adopted. The Township of the Archipelago was about to be formed, extending from Parry Sound south to Twelve Mile Bay, and also from Carling Township north to Shawanaga. "SIPO", the Shoreline and Island Property Owners, expressed deep fears that the Township of the Archipelago would swallow-up little Carling Township, as this cartoon suggests. In the event Carling Township survived and flourishes today.



1979

WCA started a water testing program spearheaded by Bill Latimer to take water quality seriously, ensure that people do not consume raw lake water, and provide guidelines on water treatment. This eventually resulted in a water sampling and testing program.

Bill Davis of Sand Bay provided the first of many fisheries reports which continued for years.

WCA took the activities of Carling Township seriously at all times and especially during municipal election years.

Franklyn Island Camping issues became an area of concern and stewardship for WCA, and continues to be so today.

1988 Spring newsletter carried this:

One Man Versus Ottawa

Congratulations to Peter Perry, a member of our Association who, over the past year and a half waged a one-man letter-writing campaign against the tasteless choice of location for the Coast Guard's sign at the south of Snug Island. The Ottawa bureaucrat responsible has finally agreed that the sign is to be re-located where it will no longer represent a blot on the landscape at this famous beauty-spot.

Thanks Peter

Muskoka cottage prices soar. Deteriorating Quality of Lake Water for Drinking

1989

Water Levels plunged to 176 meters where they would hover until 2013

A Logo has been adopted – wind-swept pines.

Dick Jolliffe retires as president

A Cottage Pollution Abatement Program was started



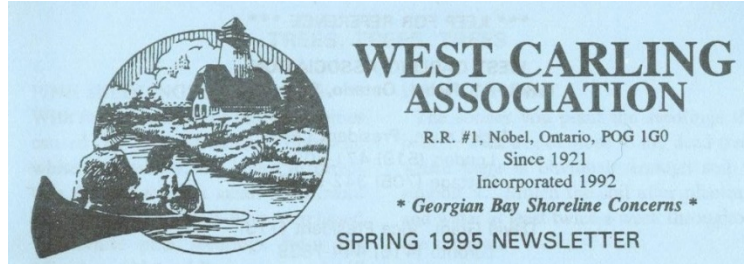
1994

WCA Editor Moira Hoogeveen adopted an 8.5 inch by 5.5-inch paper newsletter format.

1995

A New Logo has been adopted consisting of a canoe paddling towards the Snug Lighthouse.

“Ghosts of the Bay” book published on the shipwrecks of Georgian Bay.



1996

Jean Niskanen starts Environmental and Wildlife News in the newsletter. Water Testing in the West Carling Area by Tom Latimer

1997 Carling Township celebrated its Centennial 1897-1997. Camp Franklin Island Picnic, and Remembering Camp Franklin

1999

The Jerry Strickland Award of Merit was presented to West Carling by FOCA for the work by Jean Niskanen and Moira Hoogeveen



2001

Extra! Extra! Extra! Introduced Saw Fly, infestation

2003

In **Memorial Jean Marianne Niskanen**

Festival of the Sound Gala Opening of the Charles W. Stocky Centre

2004

Fish Farming on Georgian Bay.

Georgian Bay Foundation funds Baird Report which finds erosion in the St. Clair River which together with early dredging has lowered Georgian Bay by 20 inches.

2005

Wind Monitoring Station, in Carling proposed for a wind farm near Snug Harbour - local opposition is fierce. The wind farm proposal was withdrawn.

2007

Franklin Island Monitoring Program, Summer of 2007

The IJC Upper Great Lakes Study starts to investigate St. Clair River Erosion

2009

Wasauksing First Nation on Parry Island propose a wind farm. This did not go forward.

2011

Update on Water Levels. The Upper Great Lakes Study is in its final stages, and Bill Bialkowski of WCA has challenged the report conclusions using hydraulic models and US Army Corp data

2013

Unique Perspective on Water Levels a report on water level modeling by Bill Bialkowski

2015 An updated Logo



**WEST CARLING
ASSOCIATION**

9 Christie Street,
R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0
Since 1921
Incorporated 1992
Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

A Picnic and Regatta was held on Point on Franklyn Island

Christy

2016 GBA turns 100

A Picnic and Regatta was held on Christy Point on Franklyn Island

2017

WCA Newsletter goes digital

**CONFEDERATION TRIBUTE:
THE BIRTH OF PARRY-SOUND-THE-GOOD AND OTHER STORIES
By Bruce Davidson**

The relative youth of Canada is nowhere better illustrated than by delving into the early days of Parry Sound. In 1867 the Town was scarcely even a settlement. Maybe not so astonishing when one realises that the newly born Canada consisted of only four provinces in the east and nothing beyond Ontario to the west. It wasn't until 1869 that Canada purchased the vast tract of land extending all the way to the Pacific Ocean held by the Hudson's Bay Company, known as Rupert's Land for the sum of L 300,000 plus land considerations. Imagine: many Canadians have been around for more than half the time Canada has been a Nation!

In this context, we can better appreciate the fact that with no roads into the swampy, rocky Canadian shield of central Upper Canada, what was to become Parry Sound was largely inaccessible to all but the voyageurs and trappers of the time. **The turning point of development, as certainly must have been intended was the completion in 1855 of the Canadian Northern Railroad linking Toronto and Collingwood.** With Collingwood now the focus of western development for Upper Canada, shipping provided access to the eastern shores of Georgian Bay, albeit in the face of some of the greatest number of uncharted rocks and shoals on the planet. (The huge number of ships lost in those early years begat the construction of lighthouses up and down the Georgian Bay in the late 1800's)

Significantly the year following the completion of the railroad a young surveyor named William Gibson arrived in Parry Sound and, recognising the potential of the unlimited pine forests stretching to the horizon, applied for a timber limit and erected a sawmill at the mouth of the Seguin River.

In 1863 businessman William Beatty and his two sons William and James, sailed up to the mouth of the French River in search of timber limits. As one story goes, a storm drove them to seek shelter in Parry Sound whereupon they heard that the Gibson timber limits were for sale. The result was that James and William Beatty bought the 'Parry Sound Estate' from the Gibsons. The estate consisted of a small mill taking its power from the lower falls of the Seguin River, a few cabins and a fifty-square-mile timber limit. (The Beattys also bought the land where the Town of Parry Sound now stands and on May 14, 1867 bought 2,200 acres at the mouth of the Seguin River for \$439.) Perhaps it's surprising that the Beattys didn't change the town name to Beattytown when Confederation occurred just six weeks later.

The Beatty partnership was organized through the J. and W. Beatty Company in 1865. The Beatty prominence became so large in Parry Sound that William became known as the "Governor". In the deed of every building he subsequently sold he inserted a clause prohibiting the sale of liquor. (The "Beatty Covenant" remained in effect until 1948.) Beatty had the site of the Town of Parry Sound surveyed in 1869 and built a store, gristmill, a church, a shingle mill and roads linking his settlement to others in the region. The 'Governor', firmly in control set about creating a Methodist Utopia in subsequent years relegating Catholics and drinkers to the south shore of the Seguin River.

Of particular interest to West Carling members, Beatty was so keen to improve access to his town from Georgian Bay that he agreed to pay half the cost of constructing a lighthouse in the Mink Islands if the government would pay the rest. Not surprisingly, J and W Betty was subsequently contracted to build the original lighthouse on Mink Island, which was placed in operation on November 3, 1870. Almost immediately this structure was deemed inadequate and too far away from the main shipping channel. It was replaced by an octagonal structure on nearby Red Rock Island in 1881. Alas, the engineers of the time failed to adequately consider that during powerful storms the raging seas could break right over the entire structure. So in 1884 the wooden cribs of the base were replaced by a steel cylinder 12' tall and 45' in diameter. The riveted steel plates of the new base were then filled with stone masonry and cement. Finally, in 1912 a 57' tall cylindrical tower built of reinforced concrete was erected on this solid base. Ugly maybe, sturdy for sure, Red Rock Lighthouse housed legendary keeper Adam Brown for 40 years and stands today as a Carling legacy.

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