



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

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

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

By Bruce Davidson

I would expect that there are more than a few among us quite happy to see the end of 2009 and the start of a brand new summer on the Bay. As anticipated this time last year, I think the development and construction slow-down bought us an opportunity to rethink the growth-is-good premise and take stock of where we really want to go in the next couple of decades. Several of your Directors were active in the review and drafting of Carling's new Official Plan and expect to continue providing cottager input in the current year as the draft Plan undergoes comment and revisions after review by the various Provincial Ministries. As we have indicated in past newsletters, the draft in its present form is not entirely satisfactory in our view, but we remain hopeful that the final version will discourage excessive intensity of development, which is our primary concern.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter, that 2010 is Election Year in Carling Township and with Mayor Konoval announcing his retirement, we expect to see some new faces on Carling Council this time next year. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Konoval for his twenty years of dedicated service to Carling Township, including thirteen as Mayor. West Carling Association will be working closely with our sister cottager associations in Carling to ensure that we are of the same mind in terms of supporting various candidates in the fall election. While we see ourselves primarily as an environmental organisation, we are fully cognisant of the burden of taxation on our members, particularly those who are seasonal residents only. And in our new spirit of pro-activity, WCA intends to speak up at Council when we feel our member interests are not being properly served. So

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WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION LIST OF OFFICERS

Bruce Davidson, President
e-mail: dbdavidson@rogers.com
Cottage: 705 342-1034 (I-257)
Toronto: 416 932-0030

Michael Gordon, Vice-President & Membership
e-mail: mgordon003@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 238-9465 (185)
Orillia: 705 326-7553

Jeremy Gawen, Vice-President & GBA rep
email: : j.gawen@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-9192 (254)
Toronto: 416 481-7538

Alex Davidson, Treasurer
e-mail: alex@jclark.com
Cottage: 705 342-5129 (I-257)
Toronto: 416 484-9480

Phyllis Ortved, Newsletter
e-mail: phyllis.ortved@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 647 868 6163 (I-263)
Toronto: 416 920-6163

Sheila Tierney, Secretary
e-mail: tierney@niagara.com
Cottage: 705 342-1653 (099)

LIST OF DIRECTORS

(001) Marc Cooper e-mail: mcooper@agency59.ca	342-7470	(365) Christina Caap e-mail: sofiefred@yahoo.se	342-7301
(I-311) Robert Brown Home: 416 488-0070 e-mail: brown@ospreybay.ca	416 561-6342	(261) Bill Bialkowski Home: 905 884-7330 e-mail: bialkowski@rogers.com	342-7354
(101) Dave Turner Home: 905 823-1778 e-mail: david_turner@sympatico.ca	342-7211	(367) John Rohr e-mail: jandprohr@yahoo.ca	342-7781
(I-254) David Hume Home: 905 815-0060 e-mail: davidhume@cogeco.ca	905 466-2877	(177) Dick Biggins Home: 828 299-9128 e-mail: rbgbiggins@aol.com	342-7187
(I-229) Ken James Home: 416 485-8400 e-mail: kenj587@gmail.com	416 587-5000	(122) Doug Malvern Home: 519 759-7717 e-mail: doug.malvern@sympatico.ca	342-9102
(310) Richard Stark Home: 416 693-2578 e-mail: collaborative@bellnet.ca	342-5158	267) Sarah Douglas e-mail: sarahandboys@hotmail.com	342-5552

it is critical this year to vote and to vote for candidates whose values are consistent with our own. We have a real opportunity to craft a legislative body that will seek to preserve and protect Carling's wonderful legacy.

I believe the presence of students extolling the virtues of good camping practices on Franklin Island over the past couple of years has made a difference to the behaviour of certain groups. It would be naïve to think that we can turn hooligans into model citizens once darkness falls and no-one is watching. Nevertheless, I am of the firm opinion that the number of instances of flagrant abuse of the environment has been diminished since the Franklin Island Stewardship Program has come into effect. Your Association is proud to have been involved in this undertaking from the outset, and intends to continue to provide funding to allow its continuance. Thank you to all involved in the field.

As you undoubtedly realise, WCA is but one of more than twenty cottager associations working hard to preserve the health of the environment under the umbrella of the Georgian Bay Association. Your Directors are intimately involved in issues which have the potential to impact the quality of life in Carling, even though the immediate issues fall outside our boundaries. Congratulations to WCA Director Richard Stark on his recent appointment to become President of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. We intend to continue to monitor and critique as necessary proposals to construct wind farms and fish farms,, and proposals that would destroy wetlands, degrade water and air quality, alter lake levels etc., wherever they occur on the Georgian Bay. We know we have your support. What we continue to need is your constant vigilance. Our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are printed on this newsletter for a reason. Let us know your concerns. It's how we make the Bay an even better experience.

Have a great summer!

(705) 342-9631	
<i>Larry's Marine & Small Engine Repair</i>	
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**RENEW YOUR
WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
FOR 2010 NOW!**

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN
THE ENCLOSED MEMBERSHIP FORM TODAY**

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

As promised in the fall newsletter, you will find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the West Carling Association Membership Directory. Our plan is to issue an updated directory every spring for people who were members the previous year.

The directory is organized based on the Map Numbers from the West Carling Association map. If you do not have a copy of the West Carling Association map, please contact Doug Malvern and he can arrange to get you one. Our hope is that this listing will enable you to look up the number for a cottage on the map and then refer to the directory to quickly find the name and cottage phone number of the owners (if they are members of the WCA and have consented to have their personal information included).

Please take a moment to look at your own information and ensure it is correct and contact Doug Malvern with any corrections/changes (contact details are on pg. 2 of this newsletter).

**Thanks to Marc Cooper, one of the WCA directors,
you can renew your membership online today!**

Visit our new website at www.westcarling.com, read past issues of our newsletter, browse the list of helpful resources and links, and even check the local weather. While you are visiting take a minute to renew your membership by clicking “**Become a Member**”. It’s as simple as providing your West Carling address and your credit card payment information in two easy steps.

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Gilly's

*Terry, Nathan & Parker
Gilbert*

SNUG HARBOUR
RESTAURANT & MARINE

138 Snug Harbour Road

CARLING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ELECTION, 2010

Just a reminder that in October this year we shall be electing a new Mayor and Council

in Carling. There is a great deal going on in the Township at the moment, including the finalization of the Official Plan, and proposals to replace our Municipal Offices and the Town Garage. We badly need a really capable Council to effectively manage these issues. Michael Gordon, one of our WCA directors, will be running.

We are in the process of setting up a good governance committee with representation from each of the ratepayer associations in the township so that we can get as much information for you about each of the candidates for Mayor and Councilors to allow you to make informed decisions on your choices. We will also be encouraging **everyone who is eligible to get out and vote!**

We believe that there are some excellent candidates preparing to run so we should expect to elect a very effective Council. But we will only get a good Council if we support good candidates and **get out and vote**. This year, voting will be in person, via email and by telephone. The postal vote will no longer be available

You will be hearing more from the Committee in due course.

KAYAK EXCURSION TO SANDY ISLAND

Saturday July 11th 2009

The Georgian Bay Land Trust is planning an afternoon Kayak excursion to Sandy Island. For more information, contact info@gblt.org or call Amanda at 416 440-1519 x3



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

July 25th & 26th, 2010

10:30 a.m.

at Gilly's

Snug Harbour Restaurant and Marine

138 Snug Harbour Road

Come early at 10:00 am for coffee and chat with your neighbours

WETLAND EVALUATION RESULTS

Good News! Following the wetland evaluation work completed last summer the Shebeshekong (West Bay) and Rennie Bay wetlands have been designated as provincially significant. This gives these wetlands protection status through provincial and local planning policy. The evaluations of Hailstone Lake and Deep Bay wetlands are still in process, more news to come.

TAKE A SHOT ON THE ROCKS

The GBLT is holding a photo contest focused on the rocks of Georgian Bay. You can submit photos of the unique stripes, colours, bands, folds, and swirls that characterize the rocks of Georgian Bay. A panel of photographic and environmental experts will select the top 25 photos to be featured in a 2009 "Rocks of Georgian Bay" poster. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, September 15th, 2009. TO learn more about the competition

visit www.gblt.org/rocks.html ,
call 416 440-1519 x3 or email rocks@gblt.org



**serving unique properties along the eastern shore
and North Channel. Join with us in protecting
the natural beauty and character of
Georgian Bay.**

**For more information visit,
www.gblt.org or call, 416-440-1519**

Minutes from 2009

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 26, 2009

Gilly's Restaurant

President Bruce Davidson welcomed the approximately 55 members and guests present. The directors of the WCA present were introduced.

Guests introduced included:

Mayor Mike Konoval, Councillor Hans Muysson, Steve Kaegi CAO and Joe Ryman, Carling Works Superintendent.

Bruce Davidson, WCA President acted as Chairman, and Sheila Tierney, WCA Secretary, arecorded the minutes.

Approval of Minutes of the 2008 AGM

Moved by Sheila Tierney and seconded by Jeremy Gawen that the minutes of the July 27th 2008 AGM, as circulated and published in the 2008 Fall newsletter be approved. Carried

Approval of Actions of the Board of Directors

Moved by Pam Wing and seconded by Peter Taylor, all acts, contracts, bylaws and proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted by the directors and officers of the WCA since the date of the last general meeting, as the same are set out in the minutes of the Board of Directors, or in the annual reports and financial statements submitted to this meeting, be and the same are here by approved and confirmed. Carried

Report from Carling Council

Mayor Mike Konoval thanked the WCA for being allies in protecting the environment. Some Carling activities mentioned included:

Additions to Staff: CAO Steve Kaegi and a new receptionist.

A bigger and better boat for fire protection for water access properties and a bigger and better truck for mainland properties. Narrow laneways continue to be a problem.

Carling was successful in obtaining a \$2 million dollar grant from the Build Canada Fund. Reserves are healthy. The Township has applied for money to build a new township office.

An invitation to Minister of Natural Resources Cansfield to visit Franklin Island resulted in an opportunity for her to learn first hand from Joe Ryman and the 2 summer students who monitor the Island, concerns about Franklin Island. The site for a proposed windfarm was pointed out which did not impress the minister favourably. The students are active at the Minks and the McCoys as well as Franklin Island.

In response to a petition to have the Carling Council Agendas and Minutes sent by email, the Mayor promised that that process would be reinstated.

All were invited to the Volunteer Appreciation Night, September 19th.

Steve Kaegi, the new CAO shares his position with the Archipelago. He stated that he sees opportunities to share services as well. He has a one year contract and then the arrangement will be reviewed.

Regarding the Official Plan, Kaegi hopes that the final draft can be agreed upon, ready for

adoption in the next couple of months. There are about 75 revisions that have been proposed to the original draft. A new Zoning Bylaw will follow the OP, and may take a year or two to complete.

Concern was expressed about increased commercial development in general, although there no developments active at present.

Editor's Note: *West Carling, in concert with three other ratepayer groups made a number of recommendations for changes to the OP, few of which were adopted. In particular we were unhappy with the density and frontage provisions as they relate to the redevelopment of commercial resorts. While we accepted that some relief might be accorded from the tough 100 meter severance standard of residential, we felt that the Township was far too lenient in recommending a 30 meter shoreline frontage requirement.*

In response to a question regarding changes after the OP is approved, substantive changes must go through a formal OP amendment process, while minor variances can be dealt with by the

Committee of Adjustment. However, there are no members of the public on this Committee. Guests from the Carling Township were excused at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Alex Davidson presented the financial statements and the budget forecast. Documents were available for members. The statements showed a small deficit because of a drop in membership.

Moved by Peter Dey and seconded by Christina Caap that the Treasurer's report be approved. Carried

Membership Report

Michael Gordon displayed the new membership brochure and urged those present to circulate to neighbours and friends to help build WCA membership. There are about 680 shoreline properties in West Carling. Our current WCA membership stands at 210 and the goal is to get to 300. Municipal elections will take place next year and we may wish to make our views on candidates known to the membership. Thus it is essential that we have as many e-mail addresses as possible to keep the membership informed. The Township has assisted with mailing to non members.

Nominating Committee Report:

Sheila Tierney reported that Jill Kimberley and Scott Tomenson had resigned as directors. All other directors had indicated their intention to continue. She called 3 times for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, moved by Jill Kimberley and seconded by John Rohr that nominations be closed and that the present slate of directors be elected. Carried
Re-elected: Rob Brown, Christina Caap, Marc Cooper, Alex Davidson, Bruce Davidson, Sarah Douglas, Jeremy Gawen, Michael Gordon, David Hume, Ken James, Doug Malvern, Phyllis Ortved, Dave Rapson, John Rohr, Richard Stark, Sheila Tierney, Dave Turner.

Georgian Bay Land Trust:

Wendy Cooper announced that Sandy Island, which had been under threat of subdivision, had instead been acquired by the GBLT. Credit is due to a number of dedicated individuals as well as the Nature Conservancy of Canada. The 400 acres acquired comprise many special ecological and environmental features. GBLT's Stewardship Committee will monitor this new territory.

Michael Gordon spearheaded an initiative to evaluate the extensive wetlands in our Township, largely on Crown land. A pilot project with the Nature Conservancy of Canada resulted in the environmental and species mapping of 3 distinct wetland areas, with a fourth nearing completion. These studies have been submitted to the Ministry of the Environment for consideration as "Provincially significant". If adopted, the new designation will provide considerable protection from development.

The Land Trust has acquired 12 new properties doubling the acreage under GBLT control. These areas need management plans. The friends program is running the second photo contest. The subject is rocks this year. It was trees previously. Posters are produced and sold to raise funds for GBLT.

Species at Risk:

Glenda Clayton works for the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. She reported on several species at risk in our area.

The snapping turtle is of special concern because they are killed crossing the roads. Of 8 species of turtles in Carling, 7 are at risk. Michael Gordon requested Carling Township to install "Turtle Crossing" signs in certain areas and that has been done, although approvals have yet to be obtained for sign installation near Raby Lake. If residents notice where turtles lay eggs, water the site to reduce the scent, or cover with chicken wire for a couple of weeks, to deter predators from digging up the eggs.

The whip-poor-will is also threatened.

Rattlesnakes are at risk. The cool summer meant that on warm days people and rattlesnakes sought the sun with the result that snakebites increased. Parry Sound Hospital needs funding from the Province to provide anti-venom serum for the area.

Fox snakes are endangered. You can help them by building nests of decaying matter where they can lay eggs in July. Temperature must be 30degrees for eggs to survive.

At the mouth of the Shawanaga River there is a bald eagle platform.

Report what you see or hear, the site, a GPS location if possible, or your name, phone number and lot number.

New Business:

Jeremy Gawen reminded the gathering that 2010 is an election year, be sure to vote and urge your neighbours to do so. There will be telephone and electronic voting this time. WCA will keep you informed of the issues and the candidates running.

Adjournment: Moved by Jeremy Gawen



UPDATE ON WINDFARM ISSUES IN ONTARIO

By Jeremy Gawen

As many of you will be aware, last summer, the Government of Ontario passed into law Bill 150, the Green Energy Act. On September the 24th, the Regulations were published. The Act covers a range of environmentally sustainable power generation technologies, including hydro, biogas, biomass, wind and solar energy. It provides a number of significant incentives for investment in these technologies:

- A "feed-in tariff" ranging from 13.5 c/kwh for wind to 80.2 c/kwh for solar, which provides 20 year contracts at these rates to the developer
- A streamlined approval process which eliminates any local government involvement
- First Nations are encouraged to participate via partnerships
- Hydro One must connect the power source to the grid (within reason)
- The Niagara Escarpment which was formerly protected from these developments, will no longer be protected

Our concerns have been and continue to be about wind turbines. The Regulations establish that a wind turbine cannot be less than 550 metres from a dwelling place and 120 metres from such features as wetlands, Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. Wind farms may not be located in either of the latter. The Georgian Bay Association prepared a formal brief to the Government asking among other things, that UNESCO Biospheres such as Georgian Bay be made off limits to wind farms and that the minimum distance to wetlands, Parks and Reserves be raised to 550 metres but to no avail. We had hoped that the Endangered Species Act would prevent construction in our most sensitive areas but it appears that this can also be superseded.

Where are we now in Ontario? At this stage, there are some 16 wind farms in Ontario, 10 in operation and 6 under construction. The largest number is along the shores of Lake Erie (6). Each farm has a number of turbines, usually 300 to 400 feet high, with the largest number at Melancthon, north of Shelburne with 133 turbines. Overall, 1084 MW of capacity is in service with another 492 MW in construction. Many more are in the planning stages with at least three proposed for Georgian Bay, all on First Nations land at Parry Island, Henvey Inlet and the eastern most part of Manitoulin Island. The most advanced of these is Parry Island but this is now on hold because the developer, Skypower, has gone into bankruptcy protection.

Carling Township is one of the most vulnerable to the positioning of a major wind

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farm on Eastern Georgian Bay because so much of the land is owned by the Crown which, unlike most of the rest of the eastern shore, has not been designated a Conservation Reserve. WCA is working hard to designate it as such but it requires time and money. One of our Directors, Mike Gordon, has been instrumental in getting a number of our major wetlands designated as Provincially Significant and this should certainly help a great deal but we really need to get Conservation Reserve status to fully protect us.

Recently, I was invited to be one of five speakers at the inaugural meeting of a group at Meaford concerned about wind farms being built in their area which encompasses part of the Niagara Escarpment and is very beautiful. One of the speakers has done a great deal of research into the potential health affects of living too close to these giant turbines. The most common complaint is sleep deprivation brought on most likely by the low frequency noise which can be heard at a distance of up to 2 km. This has reportedly resulted in depression, anxiety and other psychological and physiological illnesses.

So far there have been no definitive, independent, peer reviewed studies of these problems in North America. The US and Canadian wind industries recently released a study which concluded that there were no problems but the study was neither independent nor peer-reviewed. In our own Province, the owner of the 133 turbine Melancthon wind farm has reportedly bought out 6 families which were suffering from these ailments and is housing other families in motels because they can neither live in their homes nor sell them. Similar situations have been reported on Wolfe Island and on Lake Erie.

In France, in December, 2009, the Rennes Court of Appeal ordered turbines there stopped between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. because of sleep disturbance due to noise. The Japanese Government has just announced a four year health study with particular reference to low frequency noise. Here in Canada, the Parliamentary Information and Research Service of the Library of Canada has reported that “visual and noise pollution are the two most significant problems with wind power and have drawn criticism even within the environmental community”.

We believe that the Ontario Government should have employed the Precautionary Principle and carried out the requisite health studies that the anecdotal evidence is demanding, before they approved so many wind farms close to human habitation. It is not too late. There are already 50 municipalities that have written to the Government requesting a moratorium on any more approvals until independent peer-reviewed studies are carried out on the potential affects of living close to industrial wind turbines. We plan to ask Carling Township to also ask for a moratorium. If you want to have your voice heard, please write to the Premier and your local MPP stressing both the potential health affects and the likely cost to local tourism, particularly in a UNESCO Biosphere surrounding the “most beautiful fresh water archipelago in the world”.

Advice to US Residents who Cottage in Georgian Bay

Over the past few months the GBA Boating Committee has reviewed the rules and regulations around boat ownership and boat operations in Canada. The rules that apply to US residents who cottage in Georgian Bay, particularly those who have boats that they have brought into Canada over the years, are strict. The Canadian authorities are increasing the enforcement of these rules. Given this the GBA has put together a document which outlines the rules around boatownership and boat operation for US residents. It is posted on the GBA web site and referenced in the spring edition of GBA Update. If one of our WCA members has a specific question, information numbers are included in the document.



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Gary McNabb
Owner / Operator

Disappearing Marinas and Tourist Resorts

By Bill Davis

The May issue of Cottage Life magazine contains an article describing how marinas are disappearing, and how this is a calamity for water access property owners. The description of this disappearance process could have been lifted from mine for the disappearance of tourist resorts from West Carling.

Adanac, Ardaugh Island, Isle of Pines, Silver Birch Beach, Brooks Landing, Graham's Cottages (part of which became Dillon Cove Marina), Hi-Lyn, Camp Louise, Franklin Camp, Snug Harbour Resort, & Jack Knife. all once were in operation in our area, and with the exception of Ardaugh Island, which was gone before I got here, have disappeared in my life time.

I know the biggest cause for the disappearance of resorts, because I once owned one, and it is the mismanagement of the sport fishery. In this area resorts can depend on good business, from families, during July and August. Counting some time at the end of June and in September before Labor Day, we expected a 10 week season most years. Resorts farther north from the markets that boasted good fisheries had May and June as their strongest season, September and October next and July and August were their slow season. These resorts were always much more profitable than here, even if their cottages were much more primitive. A good sport fishery would have given us a solid season from ice out to ice in (if we wanted it to be that long). We could have almost tripled our gross revenues with little increase in costs.

Local resorts fell into the same downward spiral described for marinas. There was never enough money to provide proper maintenance, or to upgrade. Business would decline to the point where the land they occupied was more valuable than their business, and they went private. Although not all the resorts that I listed operated with fishing as important, subsequent owners might have been able to incorporate fishing to create a viable business.

I don't know how much a good fishery would improve revenues for a marina, but I would expect it to lengthen their season also. I know that our guests did a fair bit of shopping at the local marina, especially those needing fuel for their own boats. And they were here at times of the year when the cottagers that replaced the resort guests have not yet opened their cottages. The lack of a good fishery may be making a significant contribution to the demise of marinas and the huge problem faced by water access property owners.



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FISHERIES REPORT 2010

By Bill Davis

EVEN IF YOU DON'T FISH

Based on the number of anglers that I see when I am on the water, only a very small percentage of our shoreline residents fish. I have used the fact that even these individuals should be concerned with the health of our fishery and aquatic ecosystem as an underlying theme for this report.

MONEY

Recreational fishing in Ontario, is enjoyed by 1.7 million anglers, who spend more than \$2.5 billion annually. (source OFAH). The U.S. Great Lakes fishery is valued at \$4.5 billion annually (widely quoted in articles on the asian carp invasion). I saw one quote that said Michigan's fishery is worth \$7 billion. Our local recreational fishery is still enjoyed by a few local anglers, but look around, how many tourism \$ do you see on the water, or ice here? A few years ago my son Chris and I were hunting for salmon south of Red Rock, he looked around at the lake, devoid of other anglers as far as the eye could see, and said, "And this should be the most sought after sport fishery in the world", (Chris and his wife, Heather, are both area fishery managers in Alberta).

As the setting for a sport fishery, Georgian Bay has it all. There is habitat for a very broad range of sport fish, walleye, pike, musky, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, lake trout, salmon, rainbow trout, a wide variety of pan fish, and a few less sought after species. Many other locations have strong year-round tourism based on good fisheries for only one species of fish. This fishery is not in the shadow of a power plant, the smoke stacks of industry, or a sky scraper. It is in the shadow of granite islands and windswept pines. The Thirty Thousand Islands offer a unique combination of safe, sheltered, waters and unparalleled beauty. This area is close to the major population centers of eastern North America, and now with 4 lane highway access.

Our province is struggling with huge deficits and the prospect of cutting much needed services in an attempt to bring down this deficit. Those of you who are residents of this province should consider this. Whether you are an angler or not, the mess that this government has made of this recreational fishery is costing you, ... lots, because when money moves, governments make money. Pst, GST, income tax., the new HST. and they save on social costs like welfare and unemployment insurance. I have no idea how to estimate the amount of money that should be churning through the local economy because of the recreational fishery, but it should be well into the 10's of \$millions. (As I write this the government has just announced that they are paying \$81 million for 750 jobs at an auto plant in Windsor) So, as you feel your wallet getting thinner because a desperate government is raising your taxes, or finding new ways to tax you, why don't you consider calling your M.P.P. and ask him why this water. is being wasted.

GOBY

I noted the article in the last news letter that it's writer was impressed by the rapid increase in the numbers of Round Gobies. I checked some of my past fishery reports and noted that as far back as year 2000, I was concerned that because cormorants had stripped our aquatic ecosystem of native fish that would eat , or compete with, invasive species such as goby, we should expect their numbers to explode once they arrived.

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My son Chris gave me a first confirmed sighting of goby off the west side of Franklin Is in 2007. We noted that gobies were the primary food of bass in many locations from Hertzberg Island to Corbman Bay in 2008. Another son and his family do a lot of snorkeling, and reported gobies plentiful at the Limestones, the McCoys, and the shoreline of our property on Sand Bay in 2009. I saw swarms of them on the bottom in Corbman Bay in 2009, put on a small hook, and quickly caught several to give friends a close look. Looks like an explosion to me. And judging from reports on gobies elsewhere, we haven't seen anything yet.

What will be the impact of this invasion. I can visualize them being so numerous that they will even overwhelm the smallmouth bass who like to eat them, especially since MNR appear to have chosen to ignore my suggestion for a maximum size limit on bass to give them a chance. Even though bass guard their nest with ferocity, I am afraid that gobies will be so numerous that they be able will be able to distract the bass by sheer numbers and gobble their eggs. I expect the gobies to spread out in a wave from a location like this where the ecosystem has been damaged by cormorants, to places where it has not, like the Big Sound. I hope I am wrong, but our aquatic ecosystem may face a bleak future. And all of this before the Asian Carp get here. Although our original complement of native, top predator fish might have been able to slow asian carp, I don't like our prospects now. Articles on asian carp are full of stories of boaters, users of personal water craft, and water skiers, etc. being injured by flying carp. One guide on the Mississippi R. said that he considered going boating to be risking his life. Eventually all of this ecosystem mismanagement will take all of the fun out of Georgian Bay, and a lot of the value out of our real estate. Google asian carp to keep track of the situation. The last I saw was that asian carp DNA has been found in Lake Michigan and they are now searching for actual fish.

CONTAMINANTS

There is the possibility that gobies will increase contaminant levels in their predators, such as bass. Gobies filter enormous amounts of water while feeding and consequently could be loaded with contaminants. The contaminants would be greatly magnified in fish that eat them. When this thought occurred to me, I asked Dave Reid, our fishery manager, and he agreed, and said they were planning to monitor this issue. Since gobies are very recent, bass will have, until now, been able to eat them for only part of their lives, and so this contamination will be less severe now than in the future, and as with any such concern, will be proportional to the amount of fish that you eat. Testing to date has not yet shown an increase in contaminants. Watch for reports on this issue

DEER

There was a caution about lyme disease in the last newsletter. The writer was right to raise this alarm. Lyme disease is nasty, with a wide variety of mysterious symptoms. As described, the vector is a tick carried by deer. Deer have changed their habits. When I first started hunting deer here in the 1960's the farther back one hunted from roads and people, the more deer there were. In the last few years this has changed, and now they live near us, even choosing to have their fawns on islands with cottages. This appears to be predator avoidance behaviour. There don't appear to be any more wolves, and in fact there have always been wolves back a mile or two in our area. There are now a few coyotes around, but they don't seem any more abundant than the wolves. Some bears become very proficient at hunting newly born fawns, and since the cancellation of the spring bear hunt, this could be a factor. Some people like to watch deer, and put out attractants, like salt. The salt does appear to

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be an excellent attractant , so that is a likely factor (deer need sodium ions to excrete toxic tannin molecules, etc. found. in the brush they eat). There are deer feeding programs in the winter, so deer could lose their fear of people, and identify them with food. Some people, like my wife and I, have gardens and the deer give us fits with their fearless assaults. As I said, this is a recent problem. We had flower and vegetable gardens at our resort for decades without any problems. Although I do remember my Dad chasing horses out of our garden in the '40s

In the past, all deer left this neighborhood in the winter, and went to yard up at Kilbear. Our winters are much less severe as a result of global warming, so the deer are now here all year. In the last two years deer have discovered all the cedar on the islands north of Franklin. I have not passed an island, while skiing here this winter, that has not had large numbers of deer out to its cedars.

Take your pick. of the possible reasons why lyme disease is now a threat, but, be alert to the possibility of acquiring an infection anywhere. This is especially important for parents, or grandparents, of children who play where there may be ticks.

NEW STUFF

I delayed finishing this report in hopes of getting info from our fishery manager on any worthwhile upcoming management strategies. I did not get much yet, except that there may be a more detailed strategy coming for lake trout. (I hope that I like it at least as well as the one I suggested.)

I also talked to one of the biologists who told me that the forage base of Lake Huron - Georgian Bay is only 6% of normal. This is a startlingly low level. I still intend to check that number to be sure that I heard it correctly. It makes me resent even more any of that forage base that I see being eaten by cormorants.

The government has performed a reorganization of various departments to separate policy from management. This makes me very nervous, because, if I understand it correctly, it sounds like something the Sea Lamprey Control Program tried at the time that I left the organization. That change resulted in far more lamprey loose in the lake. Something that apparently did not matter because no one understands the program well enough to complain that it could be done much better. I may try to explain just why organizational structure can be so important sometime in a future report, when I understand this new reorganization better. I am concerned that this new arrangement should make it even easier for political influence to trump science, as if that isn't a huge problem already.

Bill Davis 20 / 4 / 10

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