



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,
R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0
Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Jeremy Gawen

Change has become a very popular word in the English language in the past couple of years, partly owing to its overwhelming usage during the recent U.S. Presidential Election followed by Labour's valiant attempt to embrace the concept in the elections in Great Britain. Your Association is always open to new ideas and you surely must be aware of some of the new initiatives that the West Carling Association has recently undertaken in the environmental, regulatory and political fields. In a nutshell, we have intentionally sought to become more proactive in both our thinking and our actions. So change for us is a way of life.

You will notice that the name on the top of this page is different from the Bruce Davidson that you may have come to associate with this office. This change in the President's Office, however, does not reflect a fundamental shift in philosophy but rather recognition that it is always healthy in any organisation to promote new ideas and approaches to the challenges that confront us. Bruce has served WCA with great distinction for a number of years and has provided excellent leadership, for which we are very grateful. He has, however, decided to step down as President but remain as a Director in the interest of keeping our Association fresh and relevant to the changing political scene.

In that regard, we feel that 2010 will go down as the most profound year of change in Carling Township in at least the last generation. Firstly, Mayor Mike Konoval who has served three terms in the leadership position and a decade prior as Councillor, has decided to retire. Mayor Konoval has been a keen proponent of environmental protection in Carling and notably financially

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endorsed WCA's proposal to act in concert with others as stewards of Franklin Island. We thank him for his years of service and wish him well in his new endeavours. Secondly, we expect the long-awaited Official Plan will finally be approved. This document will drive development in Carling for years to come. We have talked at length in this newsletter about our participation in the drafting process of the OP, and will reserve our judgment until the final version crosses our 'desk'. Finally, there is the matter of Municipal Elections, whereby Carling may well end up with a new team whose weighty judgments will affect your tax bills in the years to come, not to mention your possible decisions to rezone, subdivide, or apply for a variance.

As you might expect, West Carling has a commonality of purpose with sister organisations in our Township in seeking to ensure that our elected representatives reflect our culture of environmental stewardship and fiscal integrity. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, for some months now we have been working with the other Associations in the Township to prepare for the October Carling municipal election. We all believe that this is a particularly important election given the changes happening in Carling and want to ensure that we get the best possible Council to deal with the issues. It is particularly important that everyone eligible should get out and vote. We will do all we can to ensure that you have the information to make wise choices by hosting an all candidates meeting at our AGM and by asking each candidate to respond to a list of questions which we believe reflect the values which are most important to the cottagers in Carling. So please join us at the AGM and do plan to vote in October.

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!

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY JULY 25, 2010 10:30 A.M.

The Carling Recreation Centre

on Highway 559

COME EARLY AT 10:00 AM FOR COFFEE

AND CHAT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS

All Candidates Meeting

including our own director, Michael Gordon

This fall is an election year so we will be electing new representatives to the Carling Council.

Please come and find out where the candidates stand on important issues to us, such as:

1. the official plan and resort development (25 metres frontage when we wanted 100) and
2. emergency services such as a fire boat.

Our taxes support 85% of the town budget so we should elect candidates who represent our interests.

In the past election we did not have enough of our WCA members who are eligible to vote, do so, with the result that, in our view, the candidate who best represented our interests did not get elected.

An All Candidates Meeting affords all of us a chance to become informed and will we hope encourage everyone who is eligible to vote in October.

CARLING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL ELECTION, OCTOBER 2010

This is election year in Carling Township and throughout the Province of Ontario. The election of a new council is always an important event in the life of the township but is particularly so this year as we will be electing a new Mayor and likely a number of new councilors. It is therefore critical that eligible voters get out and vote.

West Carling Association has been working with a number of other cottage associations (Deep Bay, North Sound, Pengally Bay and Smiths Bay) to provide our members with detailed information about each of the candidates for office. We have developed a list of questions on the key issues that we believe are facing Carling over the next several years and will be asking each candidate to respond to these questions. The results will be made available to you in the Fall, prior to the election.

We thought it would be helpful to alert you to the election and to provide you with information on such issues as who can vote, how you can vote and campaign funding:

1. Election Date

The election will take place on October 25, 2010 (need to confirm)

2. Who Can Vote?

To vote, you must be a Canadian citizen, at least 18 years of age and either reside in Carling or be an owner or tenant of land there or the spouse of such owner or tenant.

3. How Can You Vote?

You can vote in person at the polling station or, this year, you will be able to vote either by telephone or over the internet. In previous elections, there was also a postal vote; this will not be available this time. You will be advised about the details of voting closer to the election.

4. Campaign contributions.

In order to make a contribution towards a candidate's campaign expenses, you must be an individual living in Ontario, a corporation carrying on business in Ontario or be a candidate or his/her spouse. The maximum allowed as a single donation to a candidate is \$750 with a total to all candidates in the same jurisdiction of no more than \$5000.

The following is a list of candidates who we understand will be running for office as of the date of this newsletter:

For Mayor: Gord Harrison (long time Councilor)

For Councilor (4): Helen Crawford, Incumbent
Steve Crookshank, Incumbent
Mike Gordon, West Carling Association Director
Ian Hunt, retired GO Transit employee from Dillon
Sid Larsen, retired MNR employee from Dillon

Mayor Mike Konoval has decided to retire after 20 years service to Carling, first as Councilor and then as Mayor. I'm sure you will join me in thanking Mike for these many years of excellent service and wishing him well for the future – I don't think he's going to retire!

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR
WEST CARLING MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010
IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO
YOU CAN RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE OR AT THE AGM**

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.

We have a new section for announcements; for example, some foreign students of a resident who would like to stay with a family in West Carling during the summer to practise their English.

(705) 342-9631



LARRY LASHBROOK
Proprietor

P.O. BOX 179
NOBEL ONTARIO P0G 1G0

CARLING EMERGENCY SERVICES – FAQs

**Carling township is serviced by 911.
if you require emergency services call 911
from your land line phone or your cell phone.**

- Land Line Phones: If you call 911 from a land line phone, your civic address information should be linked to your phone number and be maintained by BELL 911 and printed out immediately to the 911 call taker. If you want to check on the correctness of your land line phone information, call your phone company.
- Cell Phones: if you call 911 from your cell phone, your civic address information is not linked and immediately displayed for the 911 call taker. It is important to know this because it means you must know your property location, civic address and the municipality you are in. Also, when you call 911 from your cell phone your call may end up in a 911 call centre in Toronto, North Bay, Thunder Bay etc... another reason you should know the proper information. According to Kevin Hutton, Carling's Fire Chief, cell phone companies are now equipped to provide 911 call centres with GPS tracking information that can locate your position within 1000 metres. This is good news for island property owners but there is still no substitute for knowing your location and being able to describe it to a 911 operator.
- 911 Calls originating from Carling are transferred to the Parry Sound Ambulance base for dispatching. The Carling Fire Department is tiered with ambulance for all medical emergency calls.



- The Carling Fire Department is a volunteer department. According to the Carling Fire Chief the volunteer staff is organized into crews that shift based on their availability to be on call 24/7. They have one 21' Stanley boat equipped to fight fires on properties accessible only by water. The boat is stationed at Harrison Landing Marina near Huckleberry Island in the south end of Carling. The Fire Department has made a proposal to the township for a second boat that will service the northwest region of the township;
- MNR Fire Protection – fire protection to some of the more remote forests and Crown Land islands located within Carling Township is also provided by the MNR regional base in Sudbury. The MNR has 2 heavy water bombers and 2 light water bombers on standby depending on their availability. The direct line to the MNR fire is 310-FIRE. However, the Carling Fire Chief recommends that you still call 911 first because they may be able to respond faster and more appropriately than the MNR's air based approach.
It is also important to note that MNR fire protection is not provided at night and does not engage cottages or any structures. It is a forest and brush fire protection service that will dispatch water bombers based on availability.
- OPP Marine Unit – The OPP patrol the waters of West Carling and their primary focus is the enforcement of the criminal code and other marine infractions. The OPP may be dispatched to an emergency call should they happen to be patrolling in the immediate area.
- Canadian Coast Guard - The nearest Coast Guard station to Carling is located in Britt. They have two crews that are available 24-7 from the May long weekend until Labour Day. The crews consist of University students with various levels of experience. Their primary job is search and rescue to boaters/islanders who are in distress. They also provide first aid and a means of getting someone who is sick or injured from a boat and/or island to an ambulance on the mainland. All of their emergency calls are coordinated through their call centre in Thunder Bay (Channel 16 on VHF, *16 on your cell, or 1-800-267-7270). They always recommend that you know the "lat & long" wherever you are.



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FRANKLIN ISLAND

by Rob Brown

Franklin Island and its environs represent one of the most important treasures in West Carling. Once a closely guarded secret, it has now become a favourite destination of campers and boaters from all over Ontario. Franklin's shores and islands are sensitive to this increased use and all of us have a vested interest in protecting this area for future generations. I have been fortunate to spend countless summers exploring the island, first as a young boy with dad and grandfather who took me on fishing trips to secret inlets and bays, later as a teenager camping under the open skies and most recently kayaking and shore lunching with my wife and 3 children. In 2004, I was fortunate to become an island owner on the north side of Franklin. Thanks to low water levels you might say that my connection to Franklin is stronger than ever -- we can now walk directly onto Franklin from our island.

The preservation and protection of Franklin Island remains a top priority for the WCA. This year I was given the opportunity to be the WCA's point person for all things related to it. So I thought I would start off by sharing with you some of the things that are happening with Franklin Island:

Carling Crown Land Stewardship Program

The Carling Crown Land Stewardship Program will be entering its third year this summer. It is a great program that features a team of 2 summer students who patrol Franklin Island from July 1st to Labour Day. The students monitor and inspect campsites, remediate damaged sites and promote minimal trace camping ethics and practices to visitors encountered during their work. Data collected from their travels is summarized in an end of summer report. The program is managed by Carling Township. Funding is provided by Carling and by donations from White Squall, the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, the Georgian Bay Land Trust, the West Carling Association, the North Sound Association, and the Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association. It is a collaborative effort that is unique for the protection of crown lands. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the websites for some these organizations you should

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Fire Protection

Record low snowfall over the winter and a dry spring has elevated forest fire concerns for the region this summer. Franklin Island is no exception. We are always hopeful that visitors to Franklin will honour Carling Township's fire bans but it is not always the case. Our summer students do monitor the situation and work to dissuade campers from having open fires. In addition, the WCA has been working with Carling Township to have new fire warning signs installed at the government docks at both Dillon and Snug Harbour where most campers leave to access Franklin.

This spring the WCA decided to get to the bottom of how fire protection is provided to Franklin Island and other crown land islands. We learned that it falls under the responsibility of the Sudbury Regional offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources. In the event of a forest fire on Franklin the number to call is 310-FIRE. It is a direct line to a regional duty officer who is available 24/7 to take your call. According to the Sudbury Fire Supervisor they have 15 – 4

person fire crews, 1 helicopter, 2 heavy water bombers and 2 light water bombers on standby. When you call 310-FIRE you will be asked a scripted set of questions to determine the location of the fire and the type of response required. You can help them by knowing your latitude & longitude or proximity to a major landmark.

MNR fire protection does provide coverage to some of the privately owned islands in Carling. But be forewarned, this protection is not intended to put out a cottage on fire. The MNR has a policy to not engage structures. In fact, according to the fire supervisor you should be at least one half a kilometer away from one of their water drops because the impact can knock down trees and structures. Only on a rare occasion will they drop water near a structure to prevent the spread of a fire. If your cottage is on fire you should still dial 911.

One of the more interesting things we learned from MNR was that their fire protection has no nighttime capabilities. They will not launch their planes if they can't get to the fire within daylight hours. If you report a fire after dark, they will dispatch their planes as soon as possible the following morning. The bottom-line is that prevention is still the best way to protect Franklin.

Future Status

Finally, as camping activity on Franklin increases over the next decade the WCA will continue to explore ways to protect it for future generations. Franklin is still subject to a land claim by the Wikwemikong Nation of Manitoulin Island. It is expected that this land claim will be settled in the near future and that Franklin will not form part of the settlement. At that time Franklin Island will either become a Conservation Reserve or a Provincial Park as defined in the Provincial Park/Conservation Reserve Act. According to MNR officials, a Conservation Reserve is the far more likely outcome because the Provincial Park Service currently does not have an appetite for new parks. The WCA will continue to monitor the situation on behalf of the membership. In the meantime, it is up to all of us to keep an eye on this very special place. Enjoy your summer experiences on Franklin!

**Pancake Breakfast
at Gilly's
Aug 29th. 10-11:30 am**

**The WCA is having a social and fundraiser
for the Parry Sound Hospital.
Come out and meet your neighbours
and give support to our Hospital.**

**Aug. 29th. Breakfast is between 10 -11:30.
Adults \$10.00 kids \$5.00.**



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WEST NILE VIRUS

Here is a link to a Ducks Unlimited web site that has very good information on the status of the West Nile virus.

<http://www.ducks.ca/conservation/issues/pdf/fact2010.pdf>

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY STILL MAY NOT COME,

by Bruce Davidson

In the continuing saga of Jessica and Jebadiah, you may recall that Glenda Clayton and I built a fox snake nest last year in great habitat--plenty of vegetation, seclusion and next to a frog pond. The hope was that we could entice our local residents to relocate to a better neighbourhood with improved security. You understand, of course, that fox snakes lay eggs as opposed to live birth, so the eggs are prone to raids by raccoons, mink and foxes. The nest we built was of hardware wire big enough to allow an entry by a good sized snake, but small enough to exclude predators. Several layers of corn stalks and leaves made for a nice cosy home, we figured.

Alas, such proved not to be the case. During the fall inspection we uncovered no evidence of occupancy by any critters, fox snake or otherwise. One possible reason for this disappointment came from the temperature profile as recorded by a thermocouple buried in the nest (can you believe it?) Because last July was unusually cool and wet, the temperature in the decomposing medium only hit 80F three times during the whole month. That was simply not good enough to allow incubation. It was remarkably similar to the Florida experience for many this past winter.

In any event, we are giving it a go again this year in the hope that the weather will co-operate. In the meantime, Jessica has been spotted lounging around her traditional home under the steps, while Jebadiah has escaped detection thus far. Maybe it just goes to show you the limits of mankind's ability to improve on Mother Nature's works. Stay tuned--Glenda is persistent and not easily discouraged.



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