



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,

R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0

Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I'm sure you all know by now, this is Municipal Election year in Ontario with all municipalities voting in new councils for the next four years. This is our special **election** issue of the WCA Newsletter. I suppose that all elections are pretty important. However, **I really believe that this October's election in Carling Township is a critical one for all of us who have property there.**

First of all, there is an unprecedented number (eleven) of candidates running for the four Council seats which can make choosing the right people that much more difficult. Secondly, the new Council will be facing some very important and potentially expensive issues:

- ❑ The new Official Plan (OP) should be approved very shortly by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The new Council will then have to approve the bylaws which implement the OP; these will govern the Township for many years to come and it is essential that we get them right.
- ❑ The current Council has proposed major capital projects to improve the infrastructure of the Township, in particular, a new Municipal Administration Building and Garage. These will likely involve **multi million dollar expenditures** which should only be made after the most careful consideration by staff and the new Council.
- ❑ The pressure for continued development can only increase as the new Highway 400 is completed right to our boundaries. It will take a wise Council to manage these pressures effectively so as to preserve the Township as the semi-wilderness that we have all come to enjoy.

With these issues in mind, WCA has joined forces with a number of other cottagers' associations – Deep Bay, North Sound, Pengally Bay and Smith's Bay – to provide information about each of the candidates and then an assessment of who we believe might serve us best on Council. We believe that the issues facing the new Council are such that we really need people with the right blend of relevant experience, financial skills and the ability to communicate effectively with ratepayers.

Candidate Assessment Process

A team of 6 people from the Associations met to design a questionnaire which was sent to each of the candidates for their responses. We then prepared a summary matrix of their answers which is included in this newsletter. (The full questions and responses may be found on the West Carling website at www.westcarling.com). Each of the candidates was then interviewed by members of our team to provide them the opportunity to expand on their answers and open up a dialogue. We then took all the information gathered and rated

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**WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION
LIST OF OFFICERS**

Jeremy Gawen, President & GBA Rep
e-mail: j.gawen@aympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 705 342-9192 (254)
Toronto: 416 481-7538

Marc Cooper, Vice-President
e-mail: mcooper@agency59.ca
Cottage: 705 342-7470

Alex Davidson, Treasurer
email: alex@jcclark.com
Cottage: 705 342-5129 (1-257)
Toronto: 416 484-9480

Sheila Tierney, Secretary
e-mail: tierney@niagara.com
Cottage: 705 342-1653 (099)
Home: 905 468-2200

Phyllis Ortved, Newsletter
e-mail: phyllis.ortved@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 647 868-6163 (1-263)
Toronto: 416 920-6163

LIST OF DIRECTORS

(I-311) Robert Brown
Home: 416 488-0070
e-mail: brown@ospreybay.ca

416 561-6342

(365) Christina Caap 342-7301
e-mail: sofiefred@yahoo.se

(101) Dave Turner
Home: 905 823-1778
e-mail: pottturn@hotmail.com

342-7211

(261) Bill Bialkowski 342-7354
Home: 905 884-7330
e-mail: bialkowski@rogers.com

Michael Gordon
e-mail: mgordon003@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-7463 (185)
Orillia: 705 326-7553

367) John Rohr 342-7781
e-mail: jandprohr@yahoo.ca

(I-254) David Hume
Home: 905 815-0060
e-mail: davidhume@cogeco.ca

905 466-2877

(177) Dick Biggins 342-7187
Home: 828 299-9128
e-mail: rgbiggins@aol.com

(I-229) Ken James
Home: 416 485-8400
e-mail: kenj587@gmail.com

416 587-5000

(122) Doug Malvern 342-9102
Home: 519 759-7717
e-mail: doug.malvern@sympatico.ca

(310) Richard Stark
Home: 416 693-2578
e-mail: collaborative@bellnet.ca

342-5158

(267) Sarah Douglas 342-5552
e-mail: sarahandboys@hotmail.com

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

each candidate against a set of criteria that we believe essential to be an effective member of Council.

The Candidates

For Mayor: GORD HARRISON (long time Councilor)

For Council* (in alphabetical order):

- **LUCY ARABIA** (past Educational Assistant and resident of Bayview subdivision)
- **HELEN CRAWFORD** (long time councilor in Carling, resides in Parry Sound)
- **DEBBIE CROCKER** (small business owner and volunteer; resident of Shebeshekong Lake)
- **MICHAEL GORDON** (ex business consultant with large international consulting company; cottages near Franklin Island and long-time VP of WCA)
- **IAN HUNT** (retired GO Transit employee; resides at Dillon)
- **MIKE KONOVAL** (current mayor and long term member of Council)
- **SID LARSON** (Manager with MNR, lives at Dillon)
- **JANICE MACKENZIE** (volunteer with Carling Fire Department, resides at Pengally Bay)
- **SUSAN MURPHY** (long time Administration Head for Carling Township, resides at Snug Harbour)
- **BERT REEKIE** (ex-Reeve of Carling Township, retired many years)
- **LOIS RICHIE** (long-time Carling resident; insurance agent, Parry Sound).
Lives at Shebeshekong.

* Note that Bob Van Veen's name will appear on the ballot but he advised us after nominations close, that he is not running.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis we have done we believe that the following candidates for Council best fit the criteria we established and will give us the most effective representation:

MICHAEL GORDON

MIKE KONOVAL

SUSAN MURPHY

Mike Konoval and Susan Murphy are both life-long residents of Carling. Mayor Konoval, a respected politician, will provide important continuity to a revamped Council while Susan Murphy has unmatched insights into the intricate challenges of running and staffing our municipal government effectively. Michael Gordon brings a unique planning and financial background with a strong waterfront perspective.

We believe that these three strong and complimentary candidates will provide the right blend of skills and experience for an effective Council in Carling and the balance needed to represent all our residents.

. WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU VOTE. Remember, you do not have to vote for all 4 Council positions; strategically, it's best to only vote for those you really want to win.

Who can vote?

You must be:

- A Canadian citizen – my apologies to our non-Canadian members; we would love you to vote but it's just not allowed.
- At least 18 years old.
- Residing in Carling Township *or* an owner or tenant of land in Carling or the spouse of such owner or tenant.

How can you vote?

You will be able to vote either by telephone or using the internet; the postal vote will no longer be available. **A PIN number will be mailed to you October 6, 2010. You will be able to begin voting on October 18 and continue until 8 p.m. on October 25 (election day).** If you do not receive your PIN number by October 15, please contact the Township office at 705 342 5856 ext. 22.

If you are unsure whether you have been correctly enumerated, you may go on line at www.mpac.ca or you can go to the Township's website and download the application form to Amend the Voters List. This must be signed and the original mailed to the Township of Carling, 2, West Carling Bay Road, RR 1, Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0 or faxed to 705 342 9527.

PLEASE, WHEREVER YOU ARE, WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, DO TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE; IT'S YOUR TOWNSHIP AND YOUR COUNCIL!



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FRANKLIN FIRE

It is ironic that after writing an article in the last news letter about Franklin Island fire protection that I would get a first hand experience putting my research into action. On the morning of Saturday, August 7th I was taking my daughter waterskiing when I noticed smoke coming from Franklin Island in an area where we had seen campers the previous night. My first reaction was that it was their morning campfire but by the time we finished our ski I could sense something wasn't right. There was a lot more black smoke than you would usually see for a typical campfire. I drove our boat to the end of the bay so that I could walk around the island to see where the smoke was coming from. My heart sank when I saw that a large area of the woods was on fire. Thankfully I had my cell phone handy so I immediately called 911. I confirmed that I was speaking to the Parry Sound dispatch centre and advised them of the location of the fire (when using your cell phone it is important to make sure you are speaking to someone local and not a Toronto based call centre). What happened next was a blur. I ran the boat onto shore grabbed our fire pump and buckets which thankfully were stowed by the water's edge for this exact moment. I was quickly joined by our friends' 19 yr old son Devon who happened to stop by for a visit along with our 10 year old son Carter. My wife Fran alerted our neighbour Todd who conveniently happens to be a fire fighter living in Collingwood. We powered our boat around the point with Todd right behind us. As we got close to shore our hearts sank. This fire was way too big to be put out with buckets. The fire pump was going to have to start. Thankfully it did. Todd worked the nozzle, Devon ran the hose and Carter and I got the pump working. Within minutes people starting showing up from all around; kayakers, fisherman, cottagers and boaters and they all formed a bucket brigade that had to be 50 feet long. There were at least 30 people who jumped in to help and it was incredible to witness so many unselfish people working together and acting so swiftly. In the end, it took 1.5 hours to get the fire extinguished and by that point the Carling volunteer fire department had arrived. They spent the next 3 hours doing the post fire clean up and made sure the fire was really out.

By chance later that afternoon we found the campers who started the fire. We told them what they did and what amazed us is that they did not apologize. Their only response was that they were sure their fire was out. We told them to go back to check for themselves and they promised they would. But we doubt they did. It was clear to all of us that that they really didn't care about the destruction they had caused or about the 30 people who had to drop what they were doing to deal with their act of carelessness.

We are so grateful to all of the people who helped put the fire out. It was an awesome display of team effort and community spirit. In the aftermath we learned a lot; the importance of having a fire fighter for a neighbour and how invaluable it is to own a fire pump (more on this in our next newsletter). It was also a case in point about why the Franklin Island land stewardship program is so important to Carling.

MAY 24, 2010 POINTE AU BARIL FIRE

by Phyllis Ortved

What Happened:

6 acre island near Ojibway with 3 cottages, being prepared for 2010 season. Propane was delivered and propane hook-ups to fridge, lights, stove, checked. Shortly thereafter a fire started.

A contractor with a family cottage nearby saw smoke and called the volunteer fire brigade (Payne's Marina).

Mike Payne immediately sent out volunteer fire brigade with fire boat. There within 1/2 hr. The fire boat, funded through donations, has water cannon hoses that shoot way up in air so water can reach the trees. Firemen do not have to go on the island, ie can stay on the boat on the water and avoid danger of exploding propane tanks.

Fire put out just in time to prevent tall pines catching fire and consequent burning of the 2 other cottages on the island and all the trees and vegetation, not to mention spreading to nearby islands.

It is estimated that it would take 75 to 100 years to restore the island to how it looked, if it had burned.

No-one was hurt.

One cottage burned to the ground; the rock around it cracked from the heat and then cold of water.


Basically an inferno.

Insurance Co sent a forensic investigator but burnt so badly that no evidence to prove that fire was caused by propane.

What we can learn:

1. Make sure that your propane is supplied by a bona fide propane dealer, installed by a certified gas person and that all hook ups are checked annually or whatever the dealer (and insurer) recommends. All hook-ups should be upgraded to current code. The cost may be a few hundred dollars but is well worth it. The owner of the island now uses Georgian Bay Propane. The owner has converted as much as possible to hydro. (Apparently fridges are also vulnerable to spiders somehow causing carbon monoxide release; lights that are close to wood walls are another risky use).

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2. Make sure your insurance:

- (a) has a high limit, ie replacement value, as construction of a new cottage is always way more expensive then anticipated when buying a policy, and
- (b) covers building to the current code and not the code at the time of construction of the buildings being insured.

The owner uses Chubb; is very happy so far; and is about to start rebuilding.

3. Vote for a Councillor who will give priority to emergency services.

The fire boat that is kept at Payne Marina for Pte au Baril was key. Note that the boat was not that close to the island where the fire occurred. It was at Payne's, fairly near the Station, and the island was near the Ojibway 1/2 hour away. The fire boat was funded through donations and is operated by locals so that it can be called into service when cottagers are not there. The water cannons are a key part of the boat.

The WCA catchment area has some fire service, for example, through the good will of Killbear Marina.

There is limited service for Franklin Island (or the vicinity), which is particularly at risk. (Please see article by Rob Brown for fire there this summer and how cottagers were left to their own resources, that is carrying their own pumps over to Franklin, with none of the advantages of water cannons that a fire boat would have provided.)

Clearly we need a fire boat with powerful hoses. And if possible a local (ie no more than ½ hour away if possible), trained, volunteer fire brigade. One positive outcome would be the fostering of good relations between summer and year-long residents. Cottagers would have to have a lot of respect for locals who trained and risked their comfort to fight a fire on an island.

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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

Blasting in Our Backyards

by John Rohr

The monumental core of the Canadian "rock" Shield is something that bonds all of us Bay residents together, both physically and spiritually. It's rugged nature generally inspires us with its undisputed beauty but also occasionally presents some very real and practical obstacles, specifically in the tasks of establishing building sites, new or improved roads and driveways, and even establishing harbours and waterways,

Historically residents of our community have largely accepted the terrain as a given, with the result being many a winding and undulating road and driveway and irregularly perched cottages along our rocky shorelines. In recent years there has been a trend to larger, more expensive year round cottages/homes as well a growing preference on the part residents as well as the township for upgraded year round roads (and driveways).

The result has been a greater demand for blasting or simply put, "dynamite", to reconfigure our beloved exposed bedrock. I am not here to take a stand either way on this trend; in fact I think the increased use of explosives around us is probably inevitable and in many cases desirable (we stand guilty here ourselves). What concerns me is the lack of any oversight regarding this blasting especially on private property. The Township of Carling has chosen not to deal with "blasting" in its recently completed Official Plan. When several of our neighbours recently undertook a "significant rerouting" of a driveway access road through a rock mound within several hundred yards of shoreline homes often pinned onto bedrock, we received no advanced notice and when the township's inspector was asked for information with regard to this work , the concerned resident was told that our township has no jurisdiction over the use of explosives on private property. This is where some of us begin to have a problem.

Reasons for concern:

- risks to existing stone or concrete foundations
- risk to concrete slabs(and in floor piping)
- risk of disrupting underground reservoirs for existing drilled wells.

As things stand currently, it appears the prudent and safe use of explosives in Carling is totally in the hands of the engaged contractor. And while I am anything but an expert in this area , I do understand that blasting can be done aggressively with large charges and larger diameter holes, or it can be controlled through use of smaller, multiple or sequential blasts which tend to have lower impact on neighbours but may also come at a higher cost and require greater expertise.

Perhaps a second look at whether municipal building department approval for blasting work is desirable should be encouraged here.

