



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,

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

Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeremy Gawen

As a number of you will have read, there is now very strong evidence that the Eastern Cougar is returning to cottage country here in Ontario. As it is a highly endangered – thought to be extinct – species, this has to be very good news. I knew very little about cougars so did some research on good old Google and thought you may be interested.

The first thing I found is that there is really no such animal as the eastern Cougar. It is identical, genetically, to the western cougar but is different from the South American species. So there is really only one North American Cougar and four South American species. Males reach 2 metres (6.5 ft) in length and weigh over 100 kg (220 lbs); females are a little smaller and lighter and usually have 2 – 4 cubs every 2 – 3 years; cubs stay with their mothers for about 2 years. Cougars are both shy and solitary so the chances of seeing one are fairly slim.

By the late 1800's, their population in the east had declined to almost zero as a result of habitat destruction, killing by farmers concerned about their livestock and the almost total loss of their favourite food, the white tailed deer. The deer have made a major come-back but the Cougar has not. They need large and undisturbed tracts of forest habitat which are not so easy to come by with humans expanding into so many of their traditional hunting grounds. However, they are still reasonably common in the west, though often referred to as Puma or Mountain Lions.

Up until the early 70's, the species was considered to be extinct in eastern Canada and has been declared extinct by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. However, there have been numerous sightings across Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick over the last 35 years. Initially, officials concluded that the animals seen were either domesticated animals which had escaped or been released, or strays from the west. Now, however, there appears to be definitive proof that the animal is not extinct. In 2005, there was a reliable, close-up sighting of a male and a female by a hunter in the Kawartha Lakes area. There have been over 1000 sightings

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since 2002, most of them in the Peterborough, Haliburton and Kawartha Lakes areas. A Ministry of natural Resources scientist was actually able to videotape one such animal. Most importantly, DNA evidence from animal scat and paw marks have definitively established the Cougar's presence here in the east and an MNR scientist, Dr Rick Rosatte, has started a study to determine how many animals there are and their origin. He believes that, since their favourite food is white tailed deer, most will be found around winter deer yards such as those in the Peterborough Crown Game Reserve near Stony Lake. I have not been able to find out if there have been any sightings around Georgian Bay but would not be surprised if they are present given the large number of deer around.

The origin of these cougars is still a mystery; they could be animals which have been raised in captivity and escaped or been released; it is possible they migrated in from the west; or it is even possible that they are the remnants of the significant population from the 1800's which have remained hidden in the vast areas of the northern forests; we just don't know but there is now incontrovertible evidence that they are back, albeit in very small numbers. While it is wonderful to think that these magnificent animals are back, the question obviously arises, are they dangerous? In western Canada, there have been a number of serious attacks, particularly where man has intruded on the cougar's territory. The risk here in the east, is considered to be very low, partly because of their scarcity and partly because of their shyness. In the extremely unlikely event you should come across one, the advice seems to be to treat it like a bear; face it without eye contact and back slowly away. DO NOT RUN; he is one of the fastest animals around! Happy Sightings!

I wish you all a beautiful and safe summer out on the Bay.



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 25, 2010 AT 10:30 AM, CARLING RECREATION HALL

President Jeremy Gawen welcomed the approximately 90 members and guests present.

The directors of the WCA present were introduced. Bruce Davidson, Past President; Michael Gordon, Vice President; Alex Davidson, Treasurer; Sheila Tierney, Secretary; Phyllis Ortved, Newsletter; Bill Bialkowski, Dick Biggins, Christina Caap, Marc Cooper, Doug Malvern, John Rohr, Richard Stark, Dave Turner. (Regrets: Rob Brown, Ken James, David Hume and Sarah Douglas)

Regrets were sent by Mayor Mike Konoval.

Candidates for Carling Council were introduced. For Mayor, Gord Harrison.

For Councillor, Debbie Crocker, Steve Cruikshank, Michael Gordon, Ian Hunt, Sid Larson and Janis MacKenzie.

Approval of Minutes of the 2009 AGM

Moved by Christina Caap and seconded by John Rohr that the minutes of the July 26th 2009 AGM, as circulated and published in the Spring 2010 newsletter be approved. Carried

Approval of actions of the Board of Directors

Moved by Bruce Davidson and seconded by Doug Malvern that 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 hereby approved and confirmed. Carried

President's Report: The President thanked Bruce Davidson for his service to the WCA as director and President.

The Official Plan has still not been approved by Municipal Affairs and Housing. Conforming Bylaws await approval. Minor variance applications have been sent to President by Carling staff for comment if necessary.

Franklin Island supervision is working well. A treaty with a First Nation group is required before Franklin can be designated a Conservation Reserve. Huckleberry Island use is an ongoing concern.

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Wind farms: Most wetlands in Carling have been designated provincially significant and wind farms cannot be built in those areas. 85% of Eastern Georgian Bay is covered by wetlands, parks or conservation reserves. Parry Island is an exception but a proposal there is presently on hold. A proposal at Henvey Inlet is proceeding very slowly. Offshore is next area of concern.

Water Levels: The study team's recommendation is to do nothing in the St. Clair River.

Treasurer's Report: Alex Davidson presented the March 2010 Financial Statements and Operating Budget for year ending March 31, 2011. Revenue was down because membership targets were not met and expenses were up due to the work done on the official plan. There is a small deficit now but hope to be in the black by \$2000. Moved by Peter Dey and seconded by John Rohr that the Financial Statements and Proposed budget be approved. Carried.

Membership Report: Michael Gordon reported that last year's membership was up by 20 from 2008. 2010 presently is 188 members renewed or are new. In response to a question regarding GBA membership fee of \$40, it was noted we are committed to this levy as members of the GBA. **Action:** The issue will be discussed at a directors' meeting. WCA will be circulating election information to members which hopefully will attract new members.

Nominating Report: Sheila Tierney reported that Richard Stark had resigned from the Board. The slate of nominees was presented.

Bill Bialkowski, Dick Biggins, Rob Brown, Christina Caap, Marc Cooper, Bruce Davidson, Alex Davidson, David Hume, Sarah Douglas, Jeremy Gawen, Michael Gordon, Ken James, Doug Malvern, Phyllis Ortved, John Rohr, Sheila Tierney, Dave Turner

Nominations from the floor were called for 3 times. Moved by Dave Turner and Richard Stark that nominations be closed. Carried.

Moved by Marc Cooper and Richard Stark that the slate be approved as presented. Carried.

Biosphere Reserve: Christina Bossart reported that there are 500 Biosphere Reserves in the world, 15 of which are in Canada including 4 in Ontario of which the Georgian Bay shoreline is one. In this area there are 35 species at risk. The GBA has produced **Life on the Bay Guide** to encourage property owners and visitors to reduce their footprint. Stewardship Parties are proposed to spread the word. The office is at the Parry sound Museum and the guide is available at GGGR.ca.

Presentation to Mike Konoval: Bruce Davidson displayed a fish plaque which will be presented to Mike Konoval for his service to Carling Township and the WCA. The plaque was made by Dick Biggins.

New Business: Members and guests are invited to a Pancake Breakfast August 29th, 10:00 to 11:30 at Gilly's. Cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. (Directors' meeting will be at 8:30)

There will be a silent auction of a fish plaque donated by Dick Biggins with proceeds to the West Parry Sound Hospital Foundation

Adjournment: Christina Caap

Election: Candidates present spoke about their platforms and asked for support. A lively question and answer period followed.

West Carling Association

Annual General Meeting
July 24th, 2011
10:00 a.m.
at Carling Recreation Hall

Come early for coffee and chat

ROWING AT SNUG HARBOUR

By Bill Bialkowski

On a typical summer's day, Snug Harbour is crowded with kayaks and canoes, setting out for Franklin or the Snakes. One can enjoy the rhythmic dipping of their paddles, and ponder how the America Indians invented the canoe, and the Inuit the kayak. Lost among this throng are a few stalwart rowboats and sculls. These few include Bruce Davidson, Jeremy Gawen, Ginny Merringer, Irma Hamill and me - but more on these people later. When these vessels come into view one notices immediately that unlike the canoe and kayak, whose inventors were keen to see where they were going, the rower faces backwards! When the inhabitants of the Americas first saw white man rowing ashore, their first thought was - these weird people must have eyes in the back of their heads.

Rowing goes back to at least the Egyptians, and is well recorded in Egyptian history. Unlike paddling, which uses the power of the arm, rowing employs the much greater strength of the human back. The Egyptians past rowing onto the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Romans, and the Vikings. Their galleys and ships roamed the known world and even further. The medieval galley found that even greater power was available from slaves if their backs were whipped in time with a beaten drum. Eventually rowing became a sport and by the 1800's at Oxford and Cambridge, boat design evolved dramatically to the modern racing shell with sliding seats. Now not only was the power of the back employed, but the even greater power of the legs.

If you Google "rowing and sculling" you learn that 'rowing' is performed by an oarsperson holding one oar with both hands, as opposed to sculling where one person holds two oars, one with each hand. So technically Bruce Davidson sculls his beautiful 1923 vintage Snug Island skiff with his faithful dog Lola sitting serenely in the stern while making for Gilly's every morning to buy his newspaper. This boat was bought by his grandfather for Snug Island on the recommendations of a member of the Toronto Rowing club for its stability and seaworthiness. Bruce rows, or sculls in classic style with an occasional casual glance over his shoulder to ensure he is still going the right way. Before the days of the Evinrude and Yamaha outboards, that was the only way cottagers got around on the water.

Bruce's boat is not the oldest at Snug Harbour. Thanks to Bruce's historical snooping, Milton Pierce of Bon-Aire bought a boat in 1914, which was later acquired by Don Christie and is now owned by Ginny Merringer. She can be seen rowing in Snug Harbour on occasion. Almost as old, is a 1918 boat owned by Irma Hammill of Snug Harbour who has just finished restoring it to its former glory, and we hope to see Irma rowing in Snug Harbour this year.

I learned to row as a boy and took up rowing in Snug Harbour by buying a 16 ft canoe conversion kit from George Rossiter, which consisted of a sliding seat and 10 ft oars.

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My trusty 16 ft canoe converted into a fantastic rowing machine. With it I was able to do a morning row from our cottage in Snug Harbour to Franklin Island and back via the back channel behind Snug Island, all in aid of keeping fit. Bruce Davidson and I egged each other on by organizing a couple of long distance rowing events - a circumnavigation of Franklin Island, followed by casual row out to Red Rock Lighthouse and back.

Having no eyes in the back of our heads can cause embarrassing moments, and especially with the onset of age induced hearing loss too. One day while rowing briskly westward through the North Gap between the lighthouse and Middle Island something made me look over my shoulder. There was Bruce Davidson rowing briskly on a collision course and only feet away. It was a close call that made for a good laugh. You will note that some of us are now attempting to solve this problem with fancy arrays of mirrors placed strategically to provide at least some forward view while rowing.

In 2009 I saw an advertisement in Cottage Life which was truly irresistible and resulted in an instant sale. It was for a rowing catamaran scull called a "Tom Cat", which had 18 ft long needle thin hulls with razor sharp bows. Mine is a bright yellow and can be seen every morning heading for Franklin. In spite of its futuristic look, on trials with a hand held GPS I got it up over 5.5 knots (10 kph) and no more. No matter how hard I tried the Tom Cat refused to go faster. Something to do with hydraulics and "hull speed" - but that explanation is for another time.

My sliding seat canoe conversion kit went to Jeremy Gawen who now rows his 16 ft canoe daily to Gilly's for his Globe and Mail. Yet a story about rowing at Snug Harbour cannot be complete without mention of Adam Brown, the last Red Rock lighthouse keeper. Google "Adam Brown Red Rock Lightkeeper" to learn of his harrowing 1903 near death experience. Adam used to row from Red Rock to Parry Sound for supplies! He retired in 1934 and built the white cottage on the south side of Snug Harbour, now owned Bruce and Eleanor Chambers. He died in 1969 at the age of 106. Bruce Davidson as a young man remembers seeing Adam rowing in Snug Harbour. So when you come across a rower or sculler in Snug Harbour please respect all that history and give them lots of leeway - they are not looking where they are going! If you want to live to 106 take up rowing.



Fishing in our waters:

The newsletter asked Bill Davis, our fishing reporter, as to what to look for on the Bay when searching out a fishing spot say for bass.

Needless to say, Bill does not want to give away specific spots for fear they get overfished. But since catching a fish is more and more difficult Bill agreed. He hopes our members and their children develop a respect for the environment through loving to fish.

Fishing is more and more difficult for a number of reasons, in his view:

1. overfishing by the commercial fishery. He lobbied long and hard to move the nets out of the habitat for pike and walleyes. The government's response was to buy the commercial licenses.
2. The lack of top predator species, like pike, walleyes and lake trout, but many small fish, set up our ecosystem for cormorants, and their numbers exploded before the fishery could recover.

Bill, his brother and three sons all learned to enjoy fishing by catching rockbass and sunfish from their docks which provided endless entertainment for the children. They learned conservation by catching a pailful, showing them off and releasing them. His grandchildren have learned to like fishing because they have parents, and a grandparent who still know a handful of places where the fishing is good enough to get them excited. This spring, in just a few days after the ice went out, Bill landed a 4 lb rainbow trout, two lake trout 11 & 12 lb., and two walleye about 7 & 8 lb in the last three days. He releases any large lake trout. He says that this is the only time of the year when he can find a walleye.

His best strategy for finding bass: trolling rocky areas with a Husky Jerk or any small lure that looks like a minnow. Bass usually hang around in groups, so when you get one, circle back and try again. Bass schools "wear out quickly". There may still be lots there even after you can't catch them anymore. Then you have to try different lures to fool them some more. You have to cast in places that are too small to troll. Unfortunately, if he tells you the exact lure and colours that he uses, Walmart will always be sold out when when he has to replenish his supply.

Bill wishes you the best of luck.

He also suggests that you may be able to encourage bass production by obtaining bass nest gravel from the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council. The MNR coordinator is Eric McIntyre. Contact him by calling MNR Parry Sound office to see if the programme is still on.

A view from Carling Council – June 2011

By Michael Gordon

Since my first report in March, Council has met 6 times in April, May and June. The major issues that we have focused on have continued from the last report, specifically:

- Launched a new website in early June to allow for greater transparency by posting full agenda packages for Council meetings and enabling property owners to sign-up for email updates when new items are posted (by RSS).
- Still working on updating the Zoning ByLaw – with the new Official Plan approved, we are consolidating and updating the zoning ByLaw to bring it into conformity with the new Official Plan. A letter was sent to all property owners in early June with dates for 2 workshops (in July and Aug) and a public meeting (in Sept) for property owners to ask questions and provide input.
- Finalized the 2011 budget - the final budget reduces the tax rate slightly from last year. With an average assessment increase (phase in) of 6.6% the taxes on the average property will rise by that amount. The budget does not include any capital spend on new municipal buildings at this point.
- Developing a plan to update our Municipal Buildings. The new Council has retained an architect (Duncan Ross) to review the previous work, help Council develop a low-cost plan for renewal, and help facilitate a public meeting scheduled for June 18th at 10am. I encourage everyone to attend and give your input.

I am always happy to speak with anyone who has questions or concerns about anything relating to Carling Council. You can reach me at mgordon003@sympatico.ca

The WCA directors encourage all our members to attend the workshops and public session on the Zoning ByLaw referred to above. It is important to hear comments on all aspects of the Zoning ByLaw (a draft of which is on the new township website).



Fire Safety

by Robert Brown

Carling's Fire Chief Kevin Hutton is pleased to report that the Township has a new fire boat that will be stationed at the government dock at Dillon Cove Marina. The boat features an inboard fire pump which means it can be used for both water and road access cottages. The new 26' boat will work in tandem with Carling's other fire boat that is stationed at Harrison Landing. Both boats will also be used for medical response. The Dillon boat is expected to cover north of the Killbear Peninsula while the Harrison Landing boat will handle emergencies to the south.

Chief Hutton explained the importance of providing his department with as much information as possible when making an emergency call including if possible your fire route number, island name and property owner's names. The new boat also features a GPS unit so providing the latitude and longitude of your location will be helpful. In many cases, Chief Hutton said they rely on local assistance to get to remote properties where navigation may be difficult. This summer the fire boat is scheduled to visit cottagers to promote the fire department's "Alarm for Life" and "Survive for Five" safety programs.

Avro Arrow Drive

As you drive past Nobel instead of through it on the 'new' highway there is a sign for Avro Arrow Drive. The Newsletter asked David Hume who has been both a member of our community since he was born plus involved in the airplane business why the designation on that particular exit. Local legend has it that the Avro's engines were actually tested at a sight close to the intersection of Avro Drive and what is now the Old 69 in Nobel . He has heard that the foundations of the testing building are still visible but like everything else connected to the Arrow, the Chief had the building destroyed. Some say one of the engines is buried on the property. As well, close-by is Parkway Ave. In its time Parkway and a couple of other nearby streets formed what the locals call even today: "The Village". Apparently many of the engineers working in the testing facility were housed there. When the Avro program was killed, many of those highly trained and sophisticated gents were picked up by Nasa which is perhaps why there has been a strong Canadian presence and history within the Nasa programs .

The real truth about the sudden cancellation of the Avro program and the directives to destroy virtually any and all materials, prints etc. etc. has been highly suspect for all this time (since 1959), with possibly serious political motives.

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One local whose grandfather had a connection with the Avro, told her that when the announcement of the cancellation of the program came down, many of the workers stuffed prints and whatever they could get their hands on into their socks and pants to exit the plant. The West Parry Sound District Museum does have a travelling exhibit, some artifacts, albums etc. if anyone is interested.

Incidentally Nobel, originally named Ambo, was renamed after Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. CIL produced its first explosives there in 1914, quickly changed production to munitions in 1916 to support the WW1 war effort and by 1940 , the employee population had grown to approx. 4,000 with facilities on both the east and west sides of # 69.

Shortly after the Second World War , in 1946 , A.V. Roe of Canada Ltd. later known as Avro Canada took occupation of many of the CIL buildings located on the east side of # 69. Then, Orenda Engines Ltd. a division of Avro Canada, leased the site as an engine testing facility for what would be known as the CF-105 Arrow. Much fundamental work was completed and materials evaluated at the Nobel facility .

Fence Along New Highway

David Hume also provided a bit of research on the new fence along either side of the new highway. In case you are wondering why it is there: the approx. 800 metres of reptile fencing is intended to keep species at risk off the highway. The fencing directs the reptiles and small mammals to culverts where they can cross to the other side of the highway. Provincially funded environmental studies determined the wetlands which flank the highway in that immediate area needed this protection. If you need a gas stop, take the old # 69 into Nobel. From the intersection of #69 & 559 up to the CIL road, you get quite close and personal with the snake fence . So next time you are up, take that route and check it out .



High Speed Internet or HSI

by J Bunsch

There appear to be a number of options. The ability to receive HSI efficiently seems to depend on location.

- a) The stick: some people are using the Rogers/Bell stick
- b) Wireless: others that have line-of-sight (e.g., from aerial on roof) to the tower on Hermann Rieper's property (eg. S Auld) or Netspectrum's tower off West Carling Bay Rd. (eg. me/J Bunsch) are able to get quite good speeds via wireless. When I signed up with Vianet, there were 3 hi-speed internet providers recommended by Mr. Kannen (of Netspectrum): Vianet, Netspectrum & Ontara. (I understand that Vianet and Ontara are "channel partners" of Spectrum Group. If they get an order, they send Spectrum the work order, and then the Spectrum people do the installation and maintenance and route the traffic to Vianet or Ontara's ISP for administration and billing.) Seasonal arrangement was available. Basic terms for Vianet service (which I use) are: \$49.95 /month, Equipment rental included, Always-on service, Speeds Up to 1.5 Mbps downstream, up to 512 Kbps upstream, One time Install charge of \$250.00 . If one has any questions on this, contact Vianet 705-746-2222 & 800-788-0363. To apply for Vianet's high Speed Wireless Internet service, Google http://vianet.ca/wireless_central_on.php to get to it & then go to Sign Up Now: By Fax If you prefer another wireless provider see ... <http://www.netspectrum.ca/>



Sheila Tierney has provided us with the following obituary:

Howard Coutts

Howard Coutts long time owner operator of Dillon Cove Marina and Resort passed away after a lengthy illness February 2, 2011.

Howard and his family moved from Toronto to Dillon in 1969 to purchase the small marina and built the business into what it is today. Previously Howard was a car mechanic and studied to become a marine mechanic eventually teaching others the trade at the marina.

During his 42 years at the marina, Howard served many people looking after their boats and engines. He touched the lives of many in the community, locals and seasonal residents alike. He will be missed, particularly at the coffee shop, where from his special seat, he loved to greet everyone and pass the time with them.

Sue, Howard and Marion's daughter, worked with her parents and will carry on running the marina and resort with help from Marion.



Those Were The Days

By Bruce Davidson

There are a few characters around from the old days who remember quite a different life on the Bay, when power tools were unknown, outboard motors in their infancy, people scarce and fish plentiful. In many ways it was more difficult, having to split firewood for the cooking stove, carry buckets of water from the lake and haul blocks of ice to the shed for refrigeration. But there were compensations.

One such character (and I know he would chuckle at the term) is Don Christie of Fitzgerald Bay. Don recently celebrated his 90th birthday in the company of more folks than I even know at his cottage. Funny thing that you can sell the Snug Harbour Marine business in the early 70's and still be remembered by so many locals. Don was and still is larger than life. Among his many skills can be counted Contractor, Fishing Guide, Woodsman, Hunter, Father, Proprietor, Mechanic, and perhaps most amusingly Raconteur.

It is this last skill that I wish to speak about as Don said to me at his party "Did I ever tell you about catching the musky in the punt?" While I lack Don's storytelling talents, here is a summary of yet another Christie exploit.

So my buddy and I were rowing back from Franklin around the shoal off Acres cottage in kind of a hurry, because we had some chores to do when we got to Snug. But not in so much a hurry as to neglect having the handline trailing out behind, just in case. Now in those days we used those old flat bottomed punts which were great for loading up with stuff, but not so great for keeping out the water. So my buddy was rowing and I was bailing, not a bad arrangement so long as there were no surprises. Well wouldn't you just know it, we hooked the biggest damn fish in the bay and he was having none of it. As you know, a handline requires quite a bit of attention because you have to try to keep tension on the line by winding the line manually over the wooden spool, or letting it off. So as I fought the beast, bailing went by the wayside and water got deeper and deeper in the punt.



G & B McNabb Lumber Co. Ltd.
22 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, ON P2A 1B1
Tel. (705) 746-2147 & Fax (705) 746-2186
1-800-810-0156 & email: garymc@mcnabblumber.ca

Gary McNabb
Owner / Operator

* Open Sunday 10am - 3pm (during summer)

Dillon Cove Marina and Resort is hosting a fundraiser for the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation

**" Dinin' at Dillon"
August 20th, 2011
5pm Tickets \$75
Pig Roast and Homemade Pies**

for tickets call 1-888-262-0436 or 705-746-4540 ex 3348

Photography Contest

The Georgian Bay Land Trust is having its 3rd photography contest. It will feature the top 25 photo submissions in its 2011 Birds of the Bay poster to be unveiled November 4, 2011 at the Bayscapes Auction at the Capitol Event Theatre. Please go to their site for details.

RENEW YOUR WEST CARLING MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011 NOW!

Visit our website at www.westcarling.com.

Click '**Become a Member**'.

It is as simple as providing your West Carling address and your credit card payment information in two easy steps.