



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

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Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

First of all, I hope you all had a very good Christmas and look forward to an excellent 2015, particularly at the cottage.

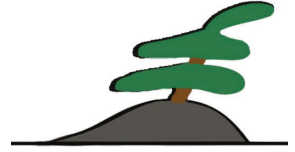
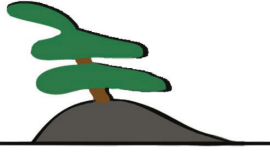
By now you will have heard about the significant changes in the Township of Carling; we have a new Mayor in Mike Konoval, three new Councilors in Gord Harrison, Steve Crookshank and Terry Gilbert (though Steve and Gord have both served before) with Susan Murphy again winning the fourth position. All are to be congratulated.

Unfortunately, we lost two very effective Councilors in Mike Gordon and Sid Larson; I would like to express my personal appreciation for the excellent work these two people carried out; indeed, our thanks to all the members of the last Council who accomplished so much during their four year term.

For those of us who followed the election closely and heard Mayor Konoval speak, it should not be a surprise that the new Council has immediately initiated major changes at the Township, in line with the platform that Mike was elected on. At the time of writing (late December), we have not yet got a clear picture of all the changes but we understand that, as of December 31, 2014, the agreement with the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) will be terminated and that Steve Kaegi, the joint Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) will no longer be CAO of Carling; we understand that an acting CAO, Donna Bessman, will be taking over as of January 1, 2015 until a permanent CAO can be appointed. While we do not as yet fully understand what will happen to the services shared between the two Townships, we understand that most of them will be terminated except perhaps for shared computer systems and telephone arrangements. The shared Public works Superintendent will be terminated by Carling. We do not know how the various terminated shared services will be replaced.

Just a quick update on water levels; each month, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) releases data on the levels of all of the Great Lakes. The latest for Lake Huron/Georgian Bay is that we are about 20 inches above the level of this time last year, about 3 feet higher than the record low of January, 2013 and about 7 inches above the long term average. The extraordinary aspect of this is that the lake level did not decline at all from July, 2014 until December whereas, in a 'normal' year, it generally goes down several inches. It is increasingly evident that there is no such thing as 'normal' anymore; in 2013, we had the lowest level that has ever been recorded in Lake Huron but this was followed by the most rapid recovery we have ever seen, following 14 years of exceptionally low water. We really don't know what will happen in 2015 although

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Photo: Matt Murphy, Cognashene

Preserving our unique archipelago

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the current outlook is for a milder winter with much less ice cover and reduced precipitation - which would normally result in lower lake levels! Who knows! One thing seems reasonably certain: there will be a lot fewer expensive repairs to lower ends and propellers this coming year so here's to a much better and safer boating season. Having just watched the 10 part series on TVO about the changes in the Canadian arctic (a superb series called Arctic Sea from which I learned so much about the conditions of the indigenous people who live there), I was left in very little doubt that global warming is already playing a major part in all our lives, whether we live in the Arctic or around the Great Lakes: the weather has not only become significantly warmer, it has become much more unpredictable. We are going to have to learn to live with the uncertainty.

The latest news from the St Clair River, based on USACE 2012 bathymetry, is that the river still appears to be eroding, although we don't yet have a complete picture. Restore Our Water International (ROWI) is still pressing the US and Canadian Governments to prevent further erosion and install flexible structures to compensate for all the erosion, gravel mining and dredging that has taken place over the last century. This is a long term project which requires the services of a specialized law firm in Washington to advise us how best to achieve this in a very difficult political environment in the US. Should you be interested in ROWI's activities, please look up the ROWI website and, if you feel so inclined, make a donation to help us defray the very expensive consulting fees we are paying out.

I look forward to seeing many of you in 2015; have a great year!

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Edwine “JILL” Noye Kimberly

June 27, 1929 – November 20, 2014

by Dick Marshall

Edwine, known to her family and many friends as Jill, died peacefully at her home on Knox Road in East Aurora, New York, November 20, 2014 with her daughter Charlotte (“Kezia”) at her side. She was 85.

Mrs. Kimberly was born in Buffalo, New York, and spent much of her youth there. In her pre-teen years she and her family lived on a farm in Queenston, Ontario. During that time they began to spend summer vacations in a rustic cabin on Pleasant Island in Georgian Bay. This cottage always remained Jill’s second home and she made many friends there, including fellow artist, Doris McCarthy.

Jill earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Art Education and taught art in a number of public and private schools, bringing the joys of art to numerous generations of young people. On Pleasant Island she pursued her own artistic endeavors. From there she also became involved in the Carling Township Market where cottagers and local residents brought garden produce, preserves, baked goods and crafts to sell in a lively communal atmosphere. She organized many local art projects and became the prime mover in the plan to generate a compilation of local recipes that was eventually published as “The Carling Market Cookbook.” She supplied many of the recipes included and was responsible for all the delightful artwork in the collection.

Edwine is survived by her children Charlotte Kimberly-Haag, John Townsend Kimberly and Edwine Danforth Kimberly, as well as two grandchildren, Scott Michael Haag and John Townsend Haag. She was predeceased by her son, William Fiske Kimberly III.

Gifts in Jill’s name may be made to Crossroads Springs Institute (www.crossroadsspringsafrica.org) or The Friends of Knox Farm State Park (www.friendsofknoxfarm.org).

Jill Kimberly – along time member of the WCA Board

by Bill Bialkowski

Jill had a close association with us at West Carling and we mourn her passing. She served for many years on the West Carling Association board as the director from Richards Bay. She contributed numerous articles to this newsletter. Above all she was a driving force behind the Carling Market, and ran it for many years. She gave freely of her time and will be fondly remembered by all who came in contact with her.

All In The Family

By Bruce Davidson

There is a recent publication entitled *The Ancestor's Tale*, which has made the NY Times Science Bestsellers List. Written by world renowned evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins, it traces the evolution of life backwards three billion years to the microbial beginnings of life. Using the latest analytical techniques including DNA sequencing, radioactive carbon dating and molecular analysis, we are introduced sequentially to the 40 great joinings of our evolutionary tree to all the species that are alive today.

What is extremely interesting from a Georgian Bay perspective is the period around 440 million years ago, when our distant lineage was swimming around in an ancient sea with many fishes, including gar pike and bowfin. Now just to pause for a moment and consider how truly long ago that was, North America did not even exist as a separate continent--all the land masses of the earth were joined in a super-continent called Pangaea. Dinosaurs, who dominated life forms for 100 million years would not appear for another 275 million years! And yet the gar pike watched 440 million years of speciation come and go without bothering to get involved. Talk about lazy!

Life must have been pretty good back then, because even the ancestors of our own species took a hundred million years to get enough nerve to crawl out of the lake as lungfish and check out the possibilities for living on land. Turns out, land was a pretty cool medium as well, for those that came ashore never went back. There were, of course, a couple of major catastrophes along the way that our heroes managed to survive. The first, a Permian era fireball about 250 million years ago was known as the Great Extinction, as 95% of all living species on planet Earth were wiped out. Another great meteorite or comet struck about 65 million years ago and destroyed the dinosaurs and more than half of all marine life—but not the gar pike! Meanwhile, our own species moved right along the evolutionary path, first growing arms and legs to better climb trees, before the great leap forward of about 6 million years ago where homo sapiens learned the excellent balancing act of walking upright to finally evolve into the ballerinas, football stars and astronauts that we are today.

Fifty years ago, when I was a kid, a buddy and myself came across a gathering of several dozen gar pike in a shallow muddy pool at the innermost part of the Little Lakes on Franklin Island. We were astonished to see them just floating there, rising imperceptibly every minute or so to breathe oxygen from the tips of their snouts. As it turns out they accomplish the mysterious task of silently rising and sinking by compressing or relaxing an internal air bladder. Imagine our excitement about the prospect of catching these scary creatures, some of whom grew four feet long and sported a long thin snout lined with several rows of razor sharp teeth! Alas, it was not to be. Gar pike are pretty dull creatures. Unlike we humans, who love to procreate (often unintentionally) in the presence of copious food and drink, gars are focused on the job at hand and refused to eat even the juicy live suckers that we proffered. Undeterred by their self-imposed fasting, we returned the next day with nets and showed a couple of gars that we hadn't just fallen off the turnip truck.

Triumphantly, we returned to the cottage with our booty and decided what we really needed was to sport a couple of gar pike heads on our bicycles and really impress our

school buddies back home. Unaware then, as I am now, that gars are our cousins, it seemed only natural to take out our trusty hunting knives (which every self-respecting kid wore on his belt back then) and cut their heads off. But we couldn't. Try as we might, the sharp blade proved useless to the task. Turns out longnose gars have interlocking scales of the hardest enamel imaginable. Slamming the point of the knife into the neck only resulted in a glancing blow which embedding the blade into the dock. Enough was enough. So, obviously inspired by some long forgot tale of the French Revolution, I got my trusty axe out of the woodshed. But to our absolute astonishment the first decent blow with the axe only resulted in the axe bouncing right off! Subsequently with the resolve of teenagers we finally got the grisly job done, but what amazing protective armor they wear! Probably served them well, as protection from the predation of the amphibian dinosaurs and pterodactyls.

Now that I realize that these primitive beasts sprang from the same ancestor as us, I now feel rather badly about my teenage behaviour and wish to make amends. I'll go so far as to say that gar pike ought to be seen as marvelous masters of survival and revered as wondrous throwbacks to a distant era. Maybe I'll surprise them with a nice live fish dinner this summer. Hey, they're great guests: interesting to watch, easy to talk to and don't need any special food preparation. I've just got to remember to keep my toes out of the water.

Working with the Georgian Bay Association

By Bill Bialkowski

As you all know, the West Carling Association is a local chapter of the Georgian Bay Association. There is sometimes debate about what it is exactly that we get from this arrangement? What do we get for our GBA fees? The attached e-mail provides a good example of what exactly GBA does for all of us along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay.

A Report by GBA President Sue Grundy to the Association Presidents including Jeremy Gawen

From: Susan Grundy

Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2014 9:05 PM

To: Association Presidents

Subject: Message to Association Presidents - October 2014

Aquaculture – This fall, the GBA has been active at both the federal and provincial level in raising our concerns about open net cage aquaculture (fish farming) in Georgian Bay and the North Channel.

Bob Duncanson and Claudette Chabot, the Chair of GBA's Aquaculture Committee, appeared earlier this month before a Canadian Senate committee in Ottawa that is looking into the aquaculture industry. They told the Senators that we are very concerned about the long-term environmental impact of the pollution created by the discharge of phosphorus into the water from fish feces and uneaten fish food.

Most of the existing commercial aquaculture operations in Georgian Bay are at the north end of the Bay and in the North Channel. There is also a fish farming operation near Parry Island. Based on their approved feed quotas, we estimate that these operations release 46 tonnes of untreated phosphorus into public waters annually. This is equivalent to the discharge loads from the three largest municipal wastewater treatment plants on Georgian Bay. Another way of looking at this is that it is equivalent to the phosphorus output that would result from 16,000 hogs defecating directly into Georgian Bay.

Recent blue green algae outbreaks in Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay have been fueled by too much nutrient in the near shore waters. Phosphorus has been named as the primary nutrient behind these outbreaks. So having more phosphorus added to the Bay from fish farming operations is a serious issue.

To date the Canadian government and the Ontario government have decided that these operations are acceptable as long as they are located in areas that have good currents to flush the waste and help it assimilate into the public waters. Their attitude seems to be that the solution to pollution is through dilution.

We think this is unsustainable and irresponsible.

In the US, none of the eight Great Lakes states allow or have cage aquaculture operations in the Great Lakes.

The GBA does not oppose the growth of aquaculture in Canada or in the Great Lakes region. We believe, however, that the only way forward for freshwater aquaculture is to transition the open net cage farms to environmentally responsible closed contained systems. These systems would enable the operators to capture and properly treat their farm waste. This would be consistent with all other feedlot operations in Ontario. Such technology is being successfully used in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and in other countries such as Norway and Denmark. We think that, with a little creative thinking between governments and the industry, closed contained technology could be implemented in the Great Lakes region. This would enable the industry and government to achieve their vision for growth but in an environmentally sustainable fashion.

Most of the members of the Senate Committee reviewing aquaculture are from Maritime provinces and the West coast. However at this meeting Senator Nancy Ruth sat in and was an active participant. At the start of the meeting, when all of the Senators introduced themselves and stated which Province they represent, Nancy Ruth proudly introduced herself as "Senator Nancy Ruth from Go Home Bay, Georgian Bay." At the end of the meeting, Nancy Ruth asked Claudette and Bob for additional information so that she could be prepared for a meeting she was scheduled to have with Minister Clement. It was encouraging to have such an engaged and energetic Senator at the meeting.

Bob Duncanson and Gerry Quinn, Chair of the GBA's Fisheries Committee, met last week with Bill Mauro, Ontario's new Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. They outlined the GBA's concerns regarding aquaculture and urged the provincial government to take action to assist operators to convert to the closed containment systems we are recommending. We will be following up with Minister Mauro shortly.

Phragmites - When Bob and Gerry Quinn met with Minister Mauro, they also briefed him about the phragmites problem. They urged him to have the MNR take a leading role in developing guidance for property owners on steps they can take to safely and reliably eradicate phragmites.

Endangered Species - Bob and Gerry also discussed endangered species with Minister Mauro and urged the MNR to take a balanced approach to protecting habitat for endangered species including education, rather than just relying on regulation and penalties. They pointed out that if pushed too far with regulation, landowners might take matters into their own hands and alter habitat before applying for development permits.

Water Levels - The Council of the Great Lakes Region is starting to organize work on the second phase of its study on the economic impact of low water levels in the Great Lakes, building on the initial Mowat Centre report that was released this spring. The second phase study will look at the economic impact of eight proposed solutions for regulating or adapting to extremely low water levels in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River basin. It will also consider political institutional and informational obstacles to identifying effective regional strategies. The GBA will be participating as a member of the steering committee for this project. We will keep you posted.

Carling Market

by Janet Allin

In 2015 the Carling Market will be celebrating its 36th season. It is held each Saturday morning rain or shine from late June to the Labour Day weekend at the Carling Recreation Centre. Despite the rainy weather last summer we experienced increased number of visitors and a record number of Vendors, featuring a wonderful variety of handicrafts, produce, baked goods, and second hand items - each week bringing a different selections of items. New vendors are always welcome to participate. It's a great opportunity to have a garage sale, sell craft or hobby items or produce from your garden. If interested please check out the Vendor Information pages on our website noted below.

For many of our regular visitors the market site is a popular place to meet neighbours and friends while browsing the various stalls. You never know who you will meet. We often witness long lost friends reconnecting. Maybe the Market is a crossroads for all. In addition to long-time residents, and cottagers, many of our visitors are tourists, staying at local resorts or Killbear Park, discovering the Market while exploring the Carling area.

We anticipate holding several special event days, again this season, which have proven to be very popular. In the past, these have included Dogfest, Quiltmania, Safety Day, and our Thanksgiving Charity event. Proceeds from this last event are donated to a different local charity each year.

Over the years many West Carling members have helped us out... as volunteers on special

event days, for which we are very thankful, and Jane Whitwell who served several years as President. One of the longest participants was Jill Kimberley who ran the Market for many years, steering and guiding it through some tough times, as well as being the creator, artist and co-ordinator of the very popular Carling Market Cookbook which helped fund Market activities. We will always be grateful for Jill's hard work and dedication. She will truly be missed by us all.

We hope you will join us often during the coming season. In the meantime you can visit our website to learn more about the Market, our activities during the season and browse the photos to see some of the many items available each week.

Time...Saturday 9am - 12 noon

Dates...Season opener...May 16th (Victoria Day Weekend)

Weekly Saturday Market...June 27th to Sept 5th

Thanksgiving Charity Event...October 10

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/carlingmarket> (This will soon be shortened)

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Ode to Joy –Celebrating the Festival of the Sound’s 35 Years

by Bill Bialkowski

Many of us spend our summers on the beautiful shores of Georgian Bay to enjoy the astounding natural beauty of the surroundings. Yet most of us also have some appreciation for music, which has been with us as long as we humans can collectively remember. Musical instruments have been found dating back tens of thousands of years. Yet no one knows why we love music, or what function, if any, it serves. Darwin believed that music was a way to woo. Others believe that music is a ‘social glue’ that helps bind us together. Regardless, we in West Carling have a unique advantage over many other humans. Each July and August, we can drive half an hour to the Charles W. Stocky Centre, and enjoy a cornucopia of the very best music the world has to offer, from classical to jazz. The opposite page contains a collage of some of the venue and some of the talent.

Who would have thought that Parry Sound would one day be a venue for some of the world’s very best musicians? Parry Sound, a small Ontario town is some three hours north by car from Toronto, which is not the world’s biggest city. Parry Sound’s claim to fame is that it is the home of Bobby Orr, and the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame is also housed in the Stocky Centre.

It was the natural beauty of Georgian Bay that drew world renowned pianist, Anton Kuerti to buy a cottage near Parry Sound in the summer of 1979. That summer he organized three concerts by outstanding Canadian musicians. The enthusiastic response inspired him to propose an annual concert series. Local residents accepted the challenge, and the Festival of the Sound was born with Anton Kuerti as Artistic Director. In 1985, world renowned clarinetist, James Campbell, became the second and current Artistic Director. Performances were held in the Parry Sound High School’s very hot and stuffy gym. In July of 2003, the Stocky Center opened, and its Festival Performance Hall with its excellent acoustics became the permanent venue. The Stocky Center advertises itself as “There is no place like this place anyplace”. Yes indeed, as it houses both the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame on the right side of the lobby, and the Festival Performance Hall on the left.

At 2:30 PM last August 10th July and I took our seats for the close of the Festival of the Sound’s 35th year. James Cambell introduced the program by saying that he had long wished to celebrate the Festivals 35th year with Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, “The Ode to Joy”. And so it began. Conductor James Sommerville, from the Boston Symphony, raised his baton to lead an all-star orchestra of Festival musicians, the Elmer Iseler Singers, Leslie Fagan, soprano, Marion Newman, mezzo-soprano, Michael Colvin, tenor, and Russell Braun, baritone. We were swept away by Beethoven’s remarkable celebration of fellowship and joy of the human spirit – the Ode to Joy. People come from all over to simply ‘camp’ in Parry Sound for the duration of the Festival. We in West Carling are so fortunate to have such a wonderful attraction each year to round-out our summer enjoyment. If you have not attended before, I urge you to give a try.



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