



West Carling Association Fall 2018 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Pam Wing

What a lovely hot summer it was! It seems to me that the wind was controlled - definitely on the day of our annual picnic and regatta when we had sun and a beautiful light breeze. There was the one dark spot with the fire Parry Sound 33 just north of us. I hope the rebuilding goes well.

Now we have to get ready for winter emptying planters, putting away deck furniture, turning off the water and saying a prayer that the docks hang in over the winter. It is a bit sad even with the beautiful changing colours of the leaves. From what I have seen, I think it will be a spectacular display this year.

There were some notable event this year. Our AGM was held in the council chambers and we said farewell to Alex Davidson as he retired from the WCA Board after more than 20 years. We thank him for his years of service and although we are sad to see him go, we know he will continue to be a strong supporter of the Association.

Our picnic was fun and the biosphere joint event was excellent and informative. You can read more about these in the articles in this issue.

Over the winter we will be meeting by conference call to ensure we have some interesting opportunities and events for you next summer.

Have a great winter. I am already thinking about spring.

All the best , Pam

GBA eUPDATE SUBSCRIPTION

By Marc Cooper

One of the benefits of membership in the **West Carling Association (WCA)** is membership in the **Georgian Bay Association (GBA)**. As such you are entitled to receive the GBA eUPDATE by email.

Beginning this October, all paid WCA members related email addresses will be added to the eUPDATE distribution. Our list is maintained separately and will never be used except to communicate about issues relevant to either the GBA or the WCA.

You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link found at the bottom of each email. We hope that you will continue to subscribe to the eUPDATE and receive the latest and important news from the Georgian Bay Association.

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The Local Buzz
By Bruce Davidson

An act of heroism is by definition something that occurs during events that could not have been anticipated in advance. However, if one has a devious mind, the possibility of the attainment of a teensy bit of heroism's luster in the ordinary course of one's affairs can be quite compelling.

So when local cottager Phyllis Dey, a former West Carling Director, phoned me to say that she would appreciate some help in dealing with a rattlesnake caught in a minnow trap, a surge of adrenalin coursed through the veins of yours truly, who thereupon leaped into action. (Actually *leaped* is a bit of a stretch for a guy with a recent double hip replacement, but whatever). Not having a HazMat suit readily on hand, I decided that appropriate venomous snake attire would consist of long pants, long shirt, wellington boots, long sleeved work gloves and tin snips. As it was one of the dog days of July, my overriding concern was that someone would see me heading across the Bay dressed like a refugee from Greenland and conclude that I was either up to some serious mischief or more likely, that I had indeed finally stepped over that fine line that I had been dancing around for several years.

Having girded my loins for battle with a reptilian leviathan in some dark underwater cavern, I was immensely relieved on arrival to see that Ralph (all rattlers bear that moniker) was instead captive in a fairly ordinary minnow trap in the woods. Ever the diplomat, I bit my tongue and skillfully avoided asking Phyllis just exactly what kind of terrestrial minnows inhabited the woods of her island.

Losing no time, I cautiously approached Ralph in my Dan Ackroyd "*Snakebuster*" costume with a view to making friends and assuring him of my kindly intent. To his credit, Ralph immediately let me know that homosapiens were not to be trusted under any circumstances and sounded a buzz so intense that I squashed one of Phyllis's prize blueberry bushes with my derriere whilst startling the amazed onlookers with a howl of pure terror.

Pretending that this display of abject cowardice was nothing other than a deliberate act staged to scare *them*, I gathered up such few wits as I still possessed and liberated Ralph from his prison with the tin snips at arm's length from my quivering body. To everybody's great surprise, Ralph was so enamored of his new freedom that he merely lay there unmoving in the moss and dared anyone to approach...certainly the farthest thing from my mind.

The moral of the story is that we should all take care not to leave hazardous entrapments such as deep pails lying around the cottage. Unlikely as it may seem, lots of critters, some endangered, can find their way in and suffer death by starvation. And by the way, killing a rattler in Ontario bears a maximum \$250,000 fine and/or a year of imprisonment.

Quite a Catch
By Tom Betts

I have spent many hours fishing Georgian Bay during the past 50 years, and I thought that I had seen just about everything. A recent bass fishing trip, however, changed my mind.

On the evening of August 1st I found myself bouncing on the waves in our little 14-ft camp boat, accompanied by my daughter Madison and her cousin Jady. It was a sunny and warm evening, though the gusty wind kept us on our toes and made the fishing a little difficult.

We were doing what we usually do ... trolling small lures along rocky shores and shoals, expecting to be entertained by an assortment of small bass and hoping to bump into a few of their bigger brothers. Action had been slow, and we decided to change locations.

After motoring across some open water, I slowed near a likely looking shoal and told the girls to let their lines out. Moments later, Maddie's small rod doubled over and she excitedly uttered something like, "Ooh, hey, I've got one! Whoa, I've got a big one!"

But after just a few seconds had passed she began to doubt herself. "I think I'm snagged," she said sadly. "It feels like the bottom."

As a careful observer, I thought otherwise. Through some sophisticated physics and calculus, I had determined that the boat had been moved a substantial distance by the wind and that Maddie's line had moved with us! "You are not snagged," I countered, "you have a big fish!"

This had happened to us before ... an innocent shoreline troll for smallmouths turns into a big pike, for which we are ill-prepared with no net, no wire leader, etc. Now, as Maddie held on to a slow moving line, I assumed she had a hold of one of these wandering big fish.

Very gradually she gained back a little of her 6-lb test line, and I could tell the fish was coming near the surface. When I noticed a patch of white just under the surface of the wind-broken water, my thoughts quickly changed. "Oh my gosh," I shouted, "I think you have a huge walleye!" Now that would be an amazing and rare catch for us!

About this time I could see the fish more clearly, and I realized that it was neither walleye nor pike. In fact, as Maddie delicately eased the huge fish to the boat, I uttered a confession to my curious fishing crew: "Girls, I have no clue what we are looking at."

We hoisted the fish into the boat, easily removed the tiny barbless hooks that had held onto him, and then gazed awestruck at something we had never seen before. "What is it?" the girls said in unison? "I ... I ... I don't know," I admitted, a little embarrassed. After years of plying the waters of Georgian Bay, I was experiencing a "first."

Eager for a successful release, we snapped a few quick pictures and then gently placed the unknown creature from the not-so-deep back into the water. A casual flick of a big tail sent him back down into the dark water.

We were in the dark too. But suddenly an image popped into my mind, an image I had seen somewhere at some time. "Look up freshwater drum," I suggested to Maddie, and a minute later, thanks to the cell phone technology that is so often close at hand, Maddie confirmed my thought: "That's what it is," she proudly announced, "a freshwater drum!"



At that point we knew nothing about the species, and we even entertained the idea that it might be a Great Lakes invasive. But further research has given us a much better understanding. The freshwater drum is the only North American freshwater species in the family Sciaenidae, and the solo member of genus *Aplodinotus*. Many saltwater relatives exist, including the famous red drum that attracts anglers to North Carolina's Outer Banks each fall.

The freshwater drum, often referred to as sheepshead, is in fact native to the Great Lakes, including Georgian Bay, though they seem to be very rare in our area. They feed on macroinvertebrates and small fish, and there is evidence that larger individuals may consume invasive zebra mussels. And they can be large – the world record tops 54 pounds! Males can make a grunting sound, although the reason for this is unknown. Freshwater drum can be good table fare if prepared properly, though Maddie's fish returned to the cold waters of Georgian Bay, hopefully to eat some zebra mussels.

Our bass forays are always memorable, but certainly the evening of August 1 will rank high among unique cottage moments. I never expected that an hour of bass fishing would result in a once-in-a-lifetime experience, but that is very likely what it will be. In a way, the night of the freshwater drum is a reminder to me of what fishing is all about ... and that is that a line in the water is a connection to an unknown world, a silent world of mystery and magic.

Happy as a Clam, er Fish
By Bruce Davidson

If fish could smile, I think there would be some pretty wide grins being seen in the Bay this year. And a good piece of the piscatorial mirth can be attributed to one single factor—the recovery of water levels since the disastrous lows of 2013.

Having canoed and paddled among the various inlets and inland lakes of southern Franklin Island every summer for about sixty years, I have seen some mighty changes in the fishery, some produced by the hand of man and others caused by fluctuating water levels. Concerning the hand of man, when I was a kid, not only was the entirety of Franklin Island a fish sanctuary, but the prohibition against fishing extended for a fair piece offshore as well, something like a quarter of a mile. The idea was to invigorate the larger fishery in the Georgian Bay by protecting the spawning habitat locally. Needless to say it worked miraculously and it was quite a treat to encounter vast schools of fish swimming in and out of the channels that connected the back bays to the larger fiords.

Which leaves us with the other key variable: fluctuating water levels. To understand why a meter of water makes such a huge difference, it is necessary to visit some of the spawning sites of Franklin to fully appreciate how shallow the connecting channels are at the best of times. One great example is the chain of lakes emptying at the southeast corner of Franklin, unimaginatively called *Little Lakes* on some maps. Five years ago these lakes were totally cut off from the Georgian Bay, virtually devoid of fish, dark brown and stagnant. In early June this summer in contrast, I managed to slide a small aluminum boat fairly easily through two constrictions that had been dry for about a decade to witness northern pike, longnose gar pike and smallmouth bass happily cavorting with their mates in fairly clear waters. At another location on southern Franklin where field grasses, shrubs and even small trees had grown up in historical marshland, Mother Nature had completely turned the tables and re-established the swamps so critical to certain species of fish. What a delight to see that the mere presence of a couple of feet of water could kill the herbaceous invaders so effectively.

When water levels go well below their historic norms, habitat is not generally just shifted...it's lost. Just try to go out into the open Georgian Bay and shove a rowing oar a meter or two into the mud, the way you can in some of the interior lakes. (By the way, it's always fun trying this demonstration with visitors on board to hear their gasps of surprise at the vast bubbles of swamp gas that are released from the mud.) There is also the water temperature issue. Waters in shallow inland bays warm up quickly in the spring to coincide with optimal spawning cycles. It's been 12,000 years since the glaciers retreated and all those sediments and nutrients are an integral part of the ecosystem. Reproduction strategies are impacted when water levels get out of whack.

So if you're really into nature, get into your kayak or canoe and drift over the spawning habitat of the back bays next spring and see if you can just spot that subtle little smile from the big fat smallmouth bass cruising around its nest. Don't get me wrong, I've got nothing against bivalves. It's just that they get undeserved credit for happiness while the really entertaining beasties generally get none.

Picnic and Regatta -Saturday, August 5
Bill Bialkowski

Our Picnic and Regatta on August 5 was a great success. The weather was perfect, and Fitzgerald Bay Beach was perfect too. About forty people came and were fed hotdogs and sausages cooked by David Tool, with drinks dispensed by Murray Hogeboom. Not enough boats came to allow much of a regatta, but as always Adrian Crowe organized swimming races and beach games which kept everyone laughing. The kids swam a race out to the red float, while the adults sawm a race all the way to the swimming platform. The highlight of the afternoon was a game of 'water balloon', where participants throw a water billed balloon to each other, at ever increasing distance. When the balloon breaks it is over.

Here are some photos:



Children’s Water Festival - a Great Success
By Nanci Wakeman

On Saturday August 18, WCA held a water festival in partnership with GBBR (Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve) at Fitzgerald Bay Beach for children ages 6 to 12. Both the eighteen children and the parents that attended the event were fully engaged in the learning and fun.

Three GBBR staff Delaina Arnold, (Education and Stewardship Co-ordinator), Katrina Krievins (Conservation Program) and Dana Stephenson (Education Program) led the children through activities focused on learning about stewardship and the ecosystem of The Bay. At the turtle station, the children learned about the natural habitat of turtles, had turns holding the turtles and learned about different types of shells and how to rescue turtles safely. Two other stations focused on learning about pollution, and the microbiological creatures that live in Georgian Bay, along with some ever-popular frog catching. The “Dripial Pursuit” station, led by Donna Tucker (WCA) was a friendly quiz about what the children had learned. While the children were involved in hands-on activities, the parents had an opportunity to meet each other.



Given the success of this inaugural event, we are planning to hold another similar children’s event next year and hope that as soon as the date is set, WCA members will put it into their calendars.

Many thanks also to WCA board members Adrian Crowe, Sheila Tierney, Bruce Davidson, Pam Wing and Bill Bialkowski for coming out to support the event and special thanks to our on-the-spot photographer Nanci Wakeman.

**Carling Township Election
Questions for the Candidates**

To help our members get prepared for the upcoming municipal election we asked all of the registered candidates to answer a few questions we thought would be of interest to our members. Here are their responses:

1. The population of the GTA is projected to grow by about 100,000 people a year for the foreseeable future. Some of those people will want to come to the Georgian Bay. What measures, if any, would you support to accommodate this pressure? Would you favour increasing the shoreline density by way of changing the Official Plan and/or the Carling zoning and building by-laws?

Mike Konoval

In my view, the shoreline of Carling Township is fully developed and therefore I would not be in favour of increasing shoreline density or changing the Official Plan and Zoning By-law to provide future development. Council is mid way in an Official Plan review and is considering back lot development which would take the pressure off water front property with regard to taxation and density.

Debbie Crocker

In regards to increasing the shoreline density, NO, I do not agree with accommodating this pressure. One of the upcoming tasks for new council will be updating the Official Plan, followed by the Zoning bylaws. I will be keeping a very close eye on this moving forward.

Steve Crookshank

The question indicates the need for a 50 Year Plan to be a part of The Township's Official Plan. It, with public input, would be reviewed and amended every five years along with the Official Plan. This would see The Township being proactive rather than reactive to bigger issues such as world wide population growth. A Fifty year plan would address The Township's population capacity. Population pressures are coming and will continue to come from the GTA and elsewhere. I support and agree with the current 100 metre frontage policy for new waterfront development.

existing waterfront properties, the zoning bylaw and the minor variance process responsibly addresses usage.

The building code is provincial regulation that chief building inspector, Kim Dixon, properly enforces.

However, for numerous reasons, The Township needs to focus more closely on non-waterfront properties.

Referencing good quality cottage vacation time and dealing with frustrations of sourcing

support people whether it be a dock installer or a church minister, development of internal properties in The Township could create attractive noteworthy housing opportunities for young families that in turn could address (as baby boomers retire) a shrinking workforce in particular the workforce that lives in The Township.

Sid Larson

Not in favor of decreasing shoreline density. Increased shoreline density might provide a higher tax revenue base for the Township but would detract from the aesthetic value of the Carling shoreline. A host of other negative impacts would include but not be limited to potential environmental impacts (vegetation clearing, shoreline development, run off, possible septic issues, etc.), increased by law enforcement, etc.,. Property valuation could be negatively impacted near areas of higher density development. Primarily in my view is the social concern that the quality of the Georgian Bay/Carling area experience is what most people in Carling are attracted to. This quality of life should not be compromised to accommodate a higher demand, but preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Also, an important consideration never to be overlooked is the impact on the supply of mainland parking and docking facilities that water access properties require.

Roy Milligan

I would like council to stay with the existing Official plan. Our waterfront is beautiful now and I would like to keep it that way. I would hate to see more density on the shoreline.

Susan Murphy

I do not favour changing Carling's Official Plan or Zoning By-law to increase shoreline density. The direction toward decreased density was taken many years ago and was strongly supported by most, including the West Carling Association and the North Sound Association. I don't see the benefit of going back to smaller lots. With respect to growing population in urban areas, including the GTA, I would hope people wishing to visit this area would take advantage of the many opportunities for accommodation and activities in the area. There has been a healthy supply and demand in the real estate market for those wishing to purchase Georgian Bay property.

2. Are you in favour of the Township being actively involved in measures to monitor and improve water quality?

Mike Konoval

Council for many years has been involved in a water-testing program conducted by volunteers who have done an excellent job. I am in favour of extending this program to the future and consulting with experts from time to time as we have in the past.

Debbie Crocker

Yes, I feel it's very important to be involved with water quality. A few years back I did the testing here on Shebeshekong Lake. I myself have concern for our lake.

Steve Crookshank

As a member of past councils, I have represented council on The Water Quality Committee. Having seen first hand the dedication of these volunteers, I have a great regard for The Committee and their work and I absolutely support their ongoing work. They have collected valuable data about our water quality. Regarding new development, The Township strongly encourages iron rich and aluminum rich septic system beds which captures phosphates. A dolomite add on downstream from the tank has a ongoing history of capturing phosphates. Council has explored the issue of mandatory septic system inspections. Council meetings with three major installers revealed their unanimous belief that there would be very little benefit by enacting such a bylaw. I support this position.

Sid Larson

Yes I am in favour of continuous future monitoring program. At this point in time the ongoing monitoring has not indicated any requirement for human mitigation measures. However there does appear to be an increase in the occurrence of blue green algae blooms across the entire Parry Sound area including Carling Township. Where there are no obvious threats in the area that pose a disastrous potential impact (factories, oil wells, etc.) the cost of continual monitoring is minimal and well worth the potential benefit.

Roy Milligan

Yes I am in favour of the township being involved in measures to monitor and improve our water quality Water is an important part of Carling and we must make sure it is up to proper standards.

Susan Murphy

Yes. The Township has been involved in water quality monitoring for many years, and our Water Quality Monitoring Committee partners with other agencies in the collection and distribution of testing results. Our annual newsletter always information about the program.

3. How do you feel about spending more money on facilities and Township services if it increases the level of taxes?

Mike Konoval

I would be in favour of increasing taxes if required however, keep in mind that in the last five years increased taxation has come from outside boards such as the OPP.

Debbie Crocker

I am a tax payer that is also concerned about keeping our tax levels to a minimum. In regards to township services and facilities, if it improves our quality of life, or our community, and makes economic sense, i.e., preventative maintenance, saves money in the long run it must be taken into account.

Steve Crookshank

The seven West Parry Sound Area municipalities plus two area Native communities have each placed a representative on an area AdHoc pool committee.

The committee in turn has instructed senior staff from each community to meet and produce a report showing the capital/operating costs and the revenue stream of a facility operated by the YMCA and to what extent each community could be involved.

Although I believe that ' you have to give a little to get a little ' if such a facility were to result in an unreasonable and unacceptable Carling Township tax increase, I, as a Carling Township cottage owner and as a Carling Township business owner would not support the project. The Area on the provincial stage is quite negatively distinct in that few if any Ontario areas are without a pool complex. Carling is a contestant in a quiet but very intense competition as communities compete for a workforce to replace the large retiring baby boomer demographic. Most Carling property owners have experienced the frustration of acquiring a necessary service. An amenity such as a area pool complex will help attract a young workforce to Carling Township and to the Parry Sound Area

Sid Larson

In my view, facilities and Township services are divided into two groups: needs & wants. On the 'need' side includes roads/bridges, waste disposal, emergency fire & rescues services, municipal administration, boat launches, etc., and non-discretionary budget items dictated by other governments (social services, schools, OPP, etc.) On the 'want' side is a host of other items which include expensive recreational facilities. All communities faces the dilemma that everyone will have to pay but not everyone will use these facilities equally. However there are valid reasons why these facilities are a municipal responsibility. Provincial legislation dictates that certain funds be allocated to recreation in the interest of healthy communities throughout the Province. Also, some funds become available with a recreational condition (Provincial/Federal grant funds, Henvey Inlet Wind Power fund).

My goal is to limit any increase in taxes to at least 1% below the Cost of Living Index. Currently, due to fiscal responsibility and aggressive funding applications, the recreational facility improvement projects have had a minimal impact on the taxes paid in Carling.

Roy Milligan

No I do not like what the present council is doing. I don't understand why the council is the front runner in this pool project. I think spending \$420,000.00 dollars with the town of Parry Sound on property for this pool is like putting the cart ahead of the horse. I have talked to about 150 people on this and 2 are for the pool and 148 are against it and not one person has said they would buy a membership to it. I think having a pool would be great but not when it would put my taxes up for only a hand full of people that might use it. I believe taxes dollars should be spent on things all the ratepayers can use like Roads , Waste, Health and rescue, Fire, I think the council is a way out of line on this one.

Susan Murphy

It is important to have the infrastructure that is needed to operate the municipality and provide the community with the facilities it needs.

If facilities are not maintained and upgraded they will deteriorate. If carefully done and well planned there should not be significant tax increases. Many of the services we provide (particularly roads, fire protection & building) are now required to operate at levels mandated by the province, with a corresponding increase in cost. The cost of OPP policing has increased tremendously since the current term of council began.

4. Do you believe that Carling Township has good procedures in place regarding enforcement of bylaws (such as noise, fire, boat speed/wake)? If not, what improvements would you recommend?

Mike Konoval

I do believe we have good procedures in place regarding enforcement. In fact, this past year we have moved by-law enforcement to the Fire Chief and his Department which should give us better service at a lesser cost.

Debbie Crocker

I am not aware of any concerns regarding the existing enforcement procedures that are in place. As your councillor I would be open to hearing your concerns.

Steve Crookshank

Currently, the Carling Fire Department has trained some members for bylaw enforcement. It would appear that this relatively new in house program is working well. Previously, the service was acquired from the Town of Parry Sound. Enforcement is reactive and depends on public input or complaint regarding non compliance. The system is a cost efficient and effective one. Other than housekeeping tinkering, I support the status quo. Speeding boats or large wakes are OPP jurisdiction. Carling Township bylaw officers could provide educational assistance regarding evidence collection.

Sid Larson

Yes, I think Carling has good procedures in place regarding enforcement of Bylaws. The Emergency Services in Carling are currently taking responsibility for bylaw enforcement and the building inspector is also actively involved. This strategy is proving to be an improvement and provides other benefits including greater coverage, increased contact between community and municipal employees, and disbursement of funds within the township organization vs contracting to Parry Sound. I believe the overall cost has been reduced and the service level has increased.

Roy Milligan

I think our bylaw enforcement is a joke I have called them for the last 5 years about the parking at the Dillon bridge in the spring when the Natives are here spearing pickerel and no one has

ever come up to do anything or replied to me. I was told by a past building inspector that they don't work nights or weekends. I think there should be 2 enforcement people in each area of the township like 2 in Snug harbour 2 in Dillon 2 in Bay view and so on. They could be paid while they are trained and then payed on a mileage and so much a call when they are needed.

Susan Murphy

Yes, we have good procedures in place. The Township previously contracted with the Town of Parry Sound for by-law enforcement services. It was a good and relatively inexpensive relationship. However, Parry Sound restructured its by-law department and was no longer able to provide the service. After looking at options it was decided to expand the role of the Fire Department to include By-law Enforcement. This is working quite well. Please note that the Township has no jurisdiction over boat speed/wake. That would either be provincial or federal, depending on the situation.

5. There are many stakeholder groups in Georgian Bay that are active or reside in Carling Township, including First Nations communities, community (cottage) associations, Georgian Bay focused organizations, other environmental bodies, and provincial and federal government agencies. Are you satisfied that Carling Township is doing enough to work together cooperatively and productively with these stakeholders, or do you believe that improvements are needed? If so, what improvements would you recommend?

Mike Konoval

In this past term the seven local municipalities have not worked as well together as they have in the past. However, this election is bringing changes to many councils and I will be seeking on behalf of Carling Council the opportunity to re-establish better cooperation.

Debbie Crocker

As I'm not sitting in a councillor position at the moment, I can only state that I'm interested in attending stakeholders meetings, as I feel it's important to have a presence, and learn firsthand the concerns. There is always room for improvement. I myself, have questions regarding the townships handling of environmental issues on my lake.

Steve Crookshank

The Council being the political arm of The Township will always try to do the politically correct thing as it deals with the various local Carling Township stakeholders. The Township is governed by the Municipal Act and must and does have a regard for all Provincial Policies. They are all incorporated into The Official Plan. The Carling Township staff is very aware of all the stakeholders and always makes every effort to acknowledge and support them in every way that it can. The web page is informative and current. The email list continues to grow as people learn that Township emails regarding various issues are available. There is an informative newsletter sent with the tax bill. If a stakeholder wanted more publicity and support regarding a matter, with staff assistance/review, the newsletter and the web page could be used. While

having a regard for stakeholders, the Staff administers the Council policies and has to have a regards for those policies.

Sid Larson

Other government funding is a key issue in most municipal business decisions. Federal and Provincial governments, when applying due diligence include in the approval process, a scoring criteria for the demonstration of municipalities to work co-operatively on a Regional level. This includes not only adjacent municipalities but all governments, aboriginal communities, public, agencies, stake holders and any other interest group (GBA, Cott. Assoc's, Land Trusts, etc). This demonstrates a municipality's ability administer their legislated responsibilities under the Municipal Act in a cost effective, efficient and responsible manner. This is one of the biggest advantages to procuring good council and staff.

Carling Township boundaries are in close proximity to the aboriginal communities of Wasauksing to the south and Shawanaga to the north. Aboriginal governments are structured differently than typical municipal governments and generally Provincial Legislation does not apply to First Nation lands. However, there is significant interaction with our indigenous neighbors just as there is with any other municipality in the area. Examples of this might include water purchase to supplement higher demand due to mechanical issues in a water purification plant or shared emergency services responses. An important factor with indigenous relations is to recognize and respect the legal right to practice inherent rights within treaty areas which include portions of Georgian Bay.

There is always room for improvement but in my opinion at this point in time Carling is involved in a good number of co-operative ventures on several different levels within the Parry Sound District and elsewhere. I am open to any suggestions as always.

Roy Milligan

I can not voice an opinion on this. The staff at the township are not allowed to give us any information until after the election. So if your members can help me get elected then I would make sure that we are working with everyone.

Susan Murphy

It is important to respond positively to the broader community. I think the current council has positive relationships with ratepayer's associations and I hope this would continue in the future. We have built relationships with other levels of government on matters that affect us. We have been able to get a commitment from the Province to upgrade Highway 559. We continue to seek federal and provincial funding for important community projects which might not come to fruition without financial support from other levels of government. As with anything else, there is probably always room for improvement. I would focus on keeping an open mind and inviting dialogue.

Please note, at the time of publication Terry Gilbert had not provided a response to the questionnaire.

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