

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

Summer was wonderful even though it started very slowly. It seemed to me that it flew by but I enjoyed every day. I hope all of you had lots of opportunity to enjoy our beautiful Georgian Bay.

West Carling kicked off the season with a Pancake Breakfast on July 1st at the Killbear Marina restaurant. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet some members who we had not met before. We plan to do that again on Wednesday July 1st 2020 once again at Killbear Marina. We are looking at having a speaker along with our pancakes and will keep you posted on this. But mark this on your calendar.

Our AGM was held at the new Carling Recreation Centre and Kenton Otterbein spoke to us about two of his favourite snakes – the Massasauga Rattlesnake and the Fox Snake. It was extremely interesting, and I think we all learned something more about our neighbour reptiles.

The annual picnic was held once again at Fitzgerald Bay Beach. Everyone enjoyed great conversation, tasty hot dogs and sausages. The kids had a wonderful time with paddling and swimming contests. We will also do that again in 2020. Save Saturday August 1st, 2020 with a rain date on the Sunday August 2nd. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our membership committee has been focusing on increasing our membership over the past two years and our membership has increased by more than 20%. They have worked extremely diligently to accomplish this and their success has been incredible. They also arrange other opportunities for members and their children to attend interesting events. These are all posted on our website so keep checking during the summer.

Conversation has been held with the North Sound Association about a potential merger of the two Associations and we will be pushing this over the following months. There appear to be many similarities between the two groups and a merger could bring benefits to both organizations.

Now as we put the canoes, kayaks, boats and the other toys of summer away and close up for the winter, I hope you have a happy winter either in snow or sun and sand and soon we will be back on our wonderful Georgian Bay.

All the best,

Pam

Mark Your Calendars for 2020

WCA's events for 2020, which we hope you will be able to attend:

JULY 1 – Canada Day Pancake Breakfast

AUGUST 1 – Picnic and Regatta (rain day August 2)

JULY 25 – Annual General Meeting

TBD – Second Annual Chippewa Dinner Cruise

Check our [Events Calendar](#) for an up-to-date list.

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An argument with a sparrow – winning is not easy!

By Bill Bialkowski – Snug Harbour

Prime Sparrow nest real estate under a roof overhang

Our cottage in Snug Harbour has a 3-foot roof overhang – this was designed to limit sun heating in mid summer. What we did not appreciate was sparrows would rate the downspout that curves under the overhang as ‘prime-real-estate’ simply for the reason that it is fully protected from the rain. This spring as in previous years sure enough, there is a sparrow’s nest just above our outdoor shower. Both Judy and I are quite interested in nature and wish the sparrows every advantage. BUT when we realized that our outdoor shower area was being badly spattered by sparrow droppings – something had to be done. Sadly, we decided to take the nest down. Out came the ladder and down it came! This was the start of a long argument!

Immediately, a very agitated sparrow went to work, and half an hour later a new nest replaced the old one. But now the war is ON. Down came Nest #2. Half an hour later Nest #3 was up.

To discourage it, I installed a piece of red shock chord one inch above the downspout to prevent nest #4 being built. Half an hour later I found the sparrow sitting on the shock chord looking at me with disdain. I climbed the ladder to find that the base for nest #4 already under the shock chord.

What about science? I wonder if sparrows have ultra-sound hearing like mice do – as I have an anti-mouse device that emits an ultra-sound squeal. An extension cord and my anti-mouse device was hung from the down spout. It made no difference, nest #5 went up. A google session confirmed that birds have similar hearing to us humans, so the ultra sound was useless.

What about chemistry? Try some cayenne pepper where nest #5 used to be. Half an hour later nest #6 was in place but 6 inches further along the down spout.

Finally, try engineering analysis and design! Obviously, the primary design goal is to deny the sparrow a fairly flay surface area on which to build a nest. Obviously, then we need to design a structure that only has vertical surface available for the birds. And so, a wooden frame was designed that sat on the sloping downspout, following up the wall, and under the roof overhang. On both sides of the frame a fine mesh screen was fitted and stapled. The result was that only vertical surface was left. The sparrows have not been back. There is no Nest #7.



Yes Virginia, There Really Was An Ice House

By Bruce Davidson

I would venture to say that there are very few people that have seen a real ice house—one that actually was used for several decades—still standing. And yet as the photo above will attest, that odd beast that was so common in this area a century ago, proudly sits today in the bush behind the family cottage on Snug Island. The irony of the situation is that it is the sole structure that survived the great fire of 2015 (see photo). The deadly lightning strike on Sunday night of the Civic Holiday totally consumed the original cottage from 1923, burned or scorched beyond salvation a couple of dozen huge pine and oak trees in the surroundings, as well as the old wood shed quite a distance away. But it spared the icehouse, the building that was useless, insect-infested, full of rot, an obvious fire hazard, and abandoned since the 1950's. How's that for irony?

My sister Janet, always the sentimental one, decided to have it painted after the fire as a measure of respect and so that it would retain its historical prominence. I can assure you that it did not look that pretty in my grandfather's day. My one regret is that I didn't buy stock in Sherwin Williams when I heard of her decision. Those old pine boards

took a quick glance at the one gallon paint bucket swinging from contractor Smith's (a pseudonym) hands and whispered *"I know that guy's a local, but is he nuts? We're going to suck down that paint so greedily, he won't know what's hit him"*. And so it came to pass. Mr. Smith, a thirty-year painting veteran, vastly underestimated the thirst of that old icehouse and sheepishly had to scramble back to town for more paint. We don't talk about the budget for the job any more.



But look closely at the two objects hanging on the outside wall in the photo. The topmost is the twisted remains of the 5 ft. two-man crosscut saw presently *sans* wood handles. The lower object is the ice tongs that were used for many years. Both objects were on the *antiques wall* of the old cottage when it burned down and somehow survived thousand degree temperatures that melted the aluminum siding into small liquid pools and turned our kitchen appliances into blackened shells. That they survived, albeit in twisted shape, attests to their amazing strength and resilience. Not only do they not make them like that anymore, they don't make 'em, period. Kids today have no idea what they are, or what they were used for.

Now speaking of ice tongs, there are a couple of things that you have to get right in order to carry off toting a block of ice



properly. Firstly, there are appearances. Old John wrote the book on appearances. The first order of business is not to shave for a week or so, and to smell like something the cat wouldn't go near, let alone drag in. Bloodshot eyes behind bent wire spectacles are a nice touch. You've also got to be missing a digit or two and walk with a pronounced limp. A dirty red shirt fresh from the gas docks trash pile is de rigueur dress code as are torn britches held up by suspenders, using bent nails for fastening clips. And the carry technique? Easy. Only one hand is allowed. Never, ever be seen using two hands. That's sissy. Firmly grasp the single tong in one hand and deftly hoist the 75 lb. block, using gravity alone to tighten the tong's grip on the ice, while simultaneously shifting your body off the bad leg onto the good one. Then limp slowly up the path to the ice house with a soggy cigar butt firmly clenched between brown stained broken teeth.

Sure do miss Old John—but we do have a pretty green ice house still standing in mute testimony to his backbreaking labours. Wouldn't he be pleased!

First Annual WCA Chippewa Cruise

By Carol Hodson

Ahhhhh..... Georgian Bay at sunset on a beautiful summer evening...a dinner cruise on the Chippewa III.... lovely! A little history about the Chippewa III -- she is the first steel-hulled boat in the Maid-of-the-Mist fleet and began life in the Niagara River in 1955... Now she introduces the world to the wonders of the 30,000 Islands!



West Carling Cottagers Association enjoyed a leisurely tour around the shoreline of Parry Sound, passing Huckleberry, Goat and Grave Islands, with the added excitement of kids cliff-diving at Hole in the Wall!

Captain Greg, a most accommodating gentleman, made us all feel welcome, with commentary on the passing scenery. The staff – Sandy, Karaliina and Emily- delivered bar and meal service with great charm and efficiency... interspersed with their naval duties of embarkation, fending off, tying up etc!! Fantastic service! Country Gourmet, located on James St in Parry Sound, was the provider of the feast! From Crudités to Strawberry Short Cake— a beautiful confection— it was a treat for the eyes as well as for the tummy!

Many thanks to Donna Tucker, WCA board member, for her organization of the event. We hope this will be the beginning of an annual tradition.... we're going next year... watch the newsletter for next year's date so you can come too!!!

2019 Picnic and Regatta

Bill Bialkowski

On Saturday August 3, under a gorgeous sky with light breezes, we all gathered between 1 and 4 PM at Fitzgerald Bay beach for our picnic and regatta, and had a wonderful time. People came by boat and car and we filled the beach nicely. We had a dozen kayaks for racing events. In spite of the very high-water level, the beach was just fine for both swimming and boating. At 3PM – the peak, a headcount revealed 72 were present. There were lots of kids. Murray Hogeboom and Don Clement sold tickets for food, drinks and a raffle. Sausages and hot dogs were \$2 each, while drinks were \$1 each. Raffle tickets were \$2 each, or three for \$5.

Pam Wing and most board members and families were there. By luck, Jeremy Gawen, our past president, was present as he was a weekend guest at our cottage. Jeremy and I came by boat towing a couple of extra kayaks for the races.

A special thanks goes to Graham Tucker who took on the task of West Carling Press photographer and the accompanying photos are his work.

Bruce Davidson and David Tool did yeoman service BBQ'ing hotdogs and sausages which were promptly devoured by a ravenous crowd which lined up many deep in front of the BBQ. Adrian Crowe with megaphone in



hand, outdid himself and organized swim and kayak races. New this year was 'musical boats'; Adrian's impromptu invention. Twelve kids stood in the water and near 12 kayaks, while Cathy Crowe played music over the megaphone. When the music stopped, each kid would grab a kayak and sit on it. But on each

turn, Adrian removed one kayak, and so someone had to be ‘out’ on each turn. The winner was the last person sitting on a kayak. It was a hoot.

The picnic ended with the raffle draw at 4PM – raffle tickets having sold briskly. To my complete embarrassment I was the winner of the raffle and did not even know it! As luck would have it, at the time of the draw I was busy preparing the boat to tow kayaks back, and missed the actual raffle draw. I have never won a raffle in my life! To my astonishment, Joe Tucker, our cottage neighbour, stopped at our dock at about 5PM and said – hey Bill – here are all the goodies you won in the raffle!! Suddenly it rained goodies from heaven. The haul included – a delux folding chair complete with drink holders for each fist, a bottle of Georgian Bay Gin (for the left hand perhaps?), a coupon for free samples from Norse brewery (for the right hand perhaps?), a coupon for a jar of Crofters jam, and a video. And after all the drinking and eating is done, the video “Alone in the Night” is a history of lighthouses on Georgian Bay, Manitoulin and the North Channel, so we can relax and learn a bit of the Georgian Bay’s past. As a suggestion for future raffles it may be worthwhile to designate first, second and third winners and spread the wealth more equitably, than winner takes all.

Register for H2O in Toronto on Sat. Oct. 19

Join **Georgian Bay Forever** and the **Georgian Bay Association** for a half-day info and educational session with an over-all theme of climate change impacts and mitigation solutions for Georgian Bay.

Why You Don’t Want to Miss This:

1. Great speakers and content lineup
 - [David Sweetnam – Climate Change and Georgian Bay](#)
 - [Rick Esselment – Status of Septic Systems in Georgian Bay](#)
 - [Terry Rees – Seasonal Residents, Electricity Pricing Changes](#)
 - [Mike Brigham – Solar Installations, Ins and outs](#)
 - [Peter Brown – Impacts to Municipal Waste Water Systems](#)
2. The event has great history! Last year’s event got a 93% mark from online survey responders for content. This event is set up to get another ‘A’ from attendees.
3. Join people you know, and meet others who all share a love of Georgian Bay. There is time to chat with light refreshments and a light lunch.



Seating is limited and tickets are \$20 each. We hope to see you there.

Register Today – visit www.westcarling.com for a link.

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