

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

### In This Issue:

- Presidents Message
- A Brief History of the North Sound Association
- Dock Foam
- How I Came to Peter Pan Island
- Water Levels Update – Spring 2021
- The Joys of Opening
- Research Project in Killbear Park
- HWY 559 Update
- Membership Update





**WEST CARLING**  
ASSOCIATION

## Spring 2021 Newsletter

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## Presidents Message

Spring is finally here. It has been very slow on the Bay. The leaves are just starting to leaf, the daffodils are in full bloom and my lungwort is beautiful sight.

Unfortunately, the pandemic continues as does the lockdown in Ontario. Cases are decreasing and the vaccine supply is increasing but no one is certain what will happen this summer. We all hope it will be better than last year and cottagers can return to their summer homes. Whether the border will open for our friends outside of Canada is still a big unknown.

I do have some wonderful news – WCA has joined with the North Shore Association to form a larger and stronger association. We welcome these new members with open arms and we know they will make a valuable contribution to WCA. Several of their executive have joined the Board of Directors and are already bringing fresh ideas and opportunities forward. It will be wonderful when we can have a meet and greet and get to know each other.

A very warm welcome to our newest WCA members. Thank you for joining us.

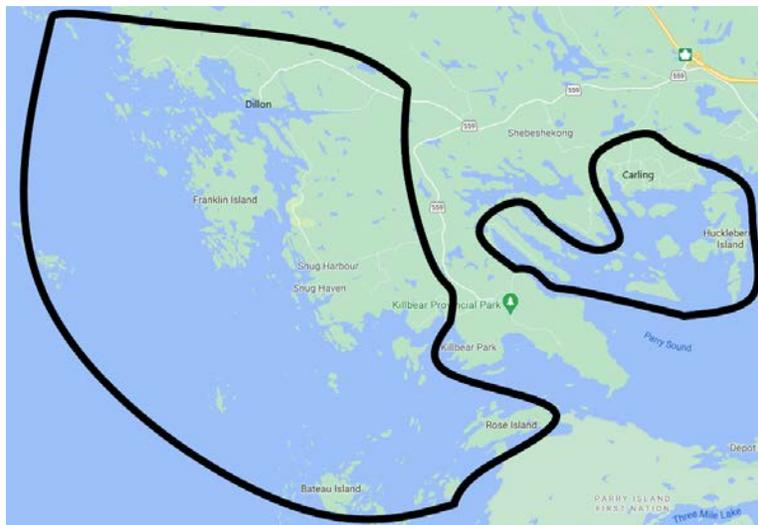
A map can be found at the end of this message together with a written outline of what is now included in WCA.

As for events this summer, it is very unlikely that we can hold anything in person. That means no picnic, no July 1<sup>st</sup> pancake breakfast, no dinner cruise and no children's events. We will still hold our AGM on Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> via zoom. Information on this will be sent out early in July.

Membership Chair, Donna Tucker, GBA representative Allison Needham, and I attended the GBA AGM in April and found it very interesting. GBA is the umbrella organization we belong to and is the advocate for Georgian Bay. This year the Association has been advocating on issues such as safe access for our American members for the upcoming season, working to ensure legislation on septic systems is not harmful to the Bay, and supporting the private members bill on keeping dock foam out of our lakes. The full presentations are included in the GBA May 2021 eUpdate. If you don't have this, let me know and I will make sure to get a copy to you.

I hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy your cottages this summer and I look forward to connecting with you as soon as possible. Wishing you all the best.

Pam



## A Brief History of the North Sound Association

*By Donny Kirby*

In July of 1977, several cottagers came together to discuss a proposal for cottage lot development on Horse Island. Several concerns were raised and it was decided there was a need for an association to be formed to address land use and development in the immediate area. Shortly after, thirty enthusiastic cottagers met to discuss mutual concerns. An association was formed, named, and an executive appointed.

The new association set about looking for legal assistance to deal with the concerns over Horse Island development. Charles Cohen of Deep Bay was brought on board, and over many years he continued to contribute his expertise. The association went to the Municipal Board to discuss the Horse Island development, but matters were too far progressed to have much of an impact. It was recognised that in order to appear before government bodies the association had to become incorporated and Keith Rowe of Muriel Island undertook to write the constitution and articles of incorporation. North Sound Cottagers Association Inc. (NSA) was launched in 1981. The Constitution states that any resident of the North Sound area as defined by Huckleberry Island to Killbear Provincial Park may become a member, and the Association was proud that a good percentage of Township permanent residents were members who made substantial contributions to the Association.

NSA immediately joined the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA), the largest ratepayer group in the province. In 1997, NSA was very proud to be the first recipients of the Jerry Strickland Award for its work in developing and assisting to bring about an Official Plan in Carling Township. This plan enshrines minimum lot sizes, frontages and setbacks for any new development in the area.

NSA joined with West Carling Association and Pengally Bay Ratepayers to jointly disseminate information about the municipal elections. FOCA was instrumental in obtaining the right to a mail-in or phone-in vote for all seasonal residents. Carling Township was very quick to make the mail-in vote available to all its residents and NSA has worked hard to encourage all residents to take advantage of the process.

Over the years, NSA succeeded in influencing the direction of development. There was continued pressure to develop land on Alves Point and together with planning consultants Skelton Brumwell in Orillia, NSA worked successfully with the developers. NSA also met the challenge of a proposed hazardous waste disposal plant in the Industrial Park that is just north of Highway 559 on Highway 69. When the Provincial Government would not guarantee continued inspection of the facility, nor could they say for sure that the burning of dangerous medical waste would not damage the environment, the plan was scrapped. NSA received from the then Provincial Government Minister Ruth Greer a letter expressing gratitude for NSA's contribution, and a new area plan was drawn up for the province.

Membership fees financially supported Township and Parry Sound institutions, with annual donations to Carling Township Fire Department, Township recreational activities, West Parry Sound Regional Hospital and the Museum on Tower Hill, just to name a few. Through a non-confrontational position with developers, NSA continued to be consulted on major development projects within the area.

NSA exec members owe a huge debt of gratitude to all those who have supported the Association with their continuing membership, their generously given time and their input.

## Dock Foam

By Donna Tucker

Ontario Member of Parliament Norm Miller's **Private Member's Bill 228: Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act** became law on May 13, 2021. The Bill requires persons who sell, offer to sell or construct floating docks, floating platforms or buoys to ensure that any expanded or extruded polystyrene in the dock, platform or buoy is fully encapsulated. Now that the Bill has been passed the real work will begin, because the regulations, (an approximately two-year process) will be the prime determinant of how successful we can be in reducing what is the largest source (95%) of plastics pollution in Georgian Bay and, any waterways that have docks.

### So, what is dock foam?

It is large blocks of buoyant polystyrene foam material that support docks by floating them. It's a mixture of chemicals, including benzene and styrene, and comes in two types: expanded and extruded, the more common type being extruded, recognizable by its aqua blue colour.



### Why is unencapsulated dock foam such a problem?

Over time the foam breaks up and gets chipped away into fragments by water action, particularly heavy waves and storms, by sunlight, and by animals chewing it. The fragments range from microscopic to large chunks, which release harmful chemicals into the water, litter shorelines, and break down further into microplastics. Polystyrene foam is a plastic and as such, never really goes away. It poses a threat to aquatic wildlife that could ingest it. These tiny particles accumulate in the food chain and can affect the animals and aquatic life that ingest them, impacting their survival, growth, swimming behaviour, feeding and reproduction.



Broken fragments of dock foam on a shoreline

### What can you do?

Look under your dock – is the foam unencapsulated? If so, make a plan to change it out. It may have been damaged over the winter and/or high water. There are alternatives including encapsulated foam, steel and heavy plastic pontoons. While these alternatives are generally more expensive (by 10% at least) they will tend to last much longer and won't fragment into thousands of litter pieces like unencapsulated polystyrene foam. Unencapsulated dock foam is currently one of the cheapest flotation materials for your docks, but it does not last as long as any of the alternatives. It is estimated that unencapsulated dock foam has a life span of 15 to 20 years. The alternatives (resin-encapsulated foam, 55-gallon plastic drums, encapsulated foam billets, or steel floats) all have longer life spans, some up to 60 years. Comparing unencapsulated foam to alternatives, the amortized cost per year is likely to be lower, or at least comparable, for the non-polluting alternatives.

There is another alternative that could be a do-it-yourself project that uses plastic barrels as floatation devices. For further information on this project and more detail about alternatives please visit this link: <https://bit.ly/DocksPSFoam>

You can also help by organizing a shoreline clean-up with your family and neighbours. Don't forget to include nearby crown land or property of neighbours who can't be at their cottages this year.

## **My Brilliant Career Or how I came to settle on Peter Pan Island and what I've witnessed there**

*By Sheilah Rowe*

I might be a humble two bedroom, no bathroom cottage nestled amongst the trees on Peter Pan Island, but I have a proud and varied history.

I started life as a house for the manager of the cordite factory in Nobel during WWI. When the war ended my services were no longer needed, so I was sold to John Stuart Brown, who promptly loaded me unto the back of a sled and used horses to cart me out over the ice to a nameless island in Carling Bay. John Brown had bought the island in 1919 from a local enterprising land speculator/dentist named Milton Armstrong who had bought a number of islands in the area from the Crown and sold them again as quickly as he could. John Brown paid \$500.00 for the thus far nameless island, and enjoyed five summers there with me providing shelter.



*Me amongst the trees*

My long association with Daisy Sutherland began on September 24th, 1924. She bought the island, along with me, for \$1000.00. Daisy named the island I sit upon “Peter Pan”, after the hugely popular book, and used a boat she called “Wendy” to travel back and forth to the mainland.

I mentioned that Peter Pan Island was originally Crown land, but that’s not accurate. The island, and all the 30,000+ islands around me, provided food and shelter to the Anishinaabe Nations people for thousands of years. The Crown obtained these islands via the Robinson-Huron Treaty in September 1850 and undertook a survey; my island was left nameless but the surveyor officially designated my companion island, which is attached to Peter Pan by a small strip of land, “Muriel Island”, named after his daughter. Separate deeds were issued for Muriel and Peter Pan and they remain separate islands today.

## West Carling Association – Spring 2021 Newsletter

Daisy bought Muriel Island in 1926, paying \$150.00 for it with the agreement that a building would be erected within two years. Local members of the Wasauksing First Nation helped build my new neighbour, a boat house with bedrooms overhead. Daisy and her husband John maintained close ties with the contractors for the rest of their lives. Indeed one man acted as pallbearer at John's funeral in 1957.

In 1935 John built his mancave, a large cabin, to act as an offseason lodge for fishing getaways. Not to be outdone, Daisy built onto me an extension to include a fireplace and a wrap around porch. The fireplace is still my only source of heat and is now adorned with a large stuffed Muskie, caught off Muriel Island in the late '20s. For a long while there were the three of us on the two islands- the boathouse, the cabin and me - but we lost the boat house in 1970 when its foundations were destroyed by the ice.



*My fireplace with the Muskie.*

The summers after WWI were very busy and social. The cabin and I provided shelter for the many guests, mainly Daisy's five sisters. Mrs. Jones, mother of long time local caretaker and jack of all trades Lyle Jones, acted as cook each summer. Perks Grocery store in Parry Sound sold groceries at the dock via an old tugboat, the John P, kitted out with shelves to display any number of goods. Perishables were kept in my icebox, cooled by blocks of ice cut from the lake in the winter and kept in sawdust in the ice house, a shed down towards the beach. At the back of the ice house was an enclosed space with a bucket, the one and only toilet.



*Daisy, John and Daisy's sister Caroline relaxing on the dock, c1930.*

But another war slowed things down. The people of Nobel were called upon once again, this time to produce explosives and munitions. I could hear the dynamite blasting all day.

WWII changed what I could see from my perch on Peter Pan. I had looked out upon the buildings at Depot Harbour on Parry Island since I had arrived. Depot Harbour was one of the most prominent ports on the Great Lakes at one time, visited by ships like the Edmund Fitzgerald and boasting a population of 3000, but alternative routes like the Welland Canal and a drop in grain prices in the depression led to its decline. Nevertheless the buildings remained until August 14, 1945, when the elevators caught fire, spreading embers to the freight sheds which still contained cordite. The explosions destroyed everything in sight and Depot Harbour was no more.

There had always been a strip of beach between the two islands, but this was expanded in the 1950's by Shell Oil, that boated a pile of sand over. This was to make up for an oil spill they had allowed to happen. Not a great event, but the beach has been enjoyed thoroughly ever since.



*The two islands are joined by a beach. The rock cribs that supported the boat house are visible under water.*

Daisy, John, their daughter Rosemary (born 1910) and their granddaughter Rosemary (born 1933) continued to enjoy the summers on the islands. Daisy added a few modern conveniences. While kerosene lamps are still used today, Daisy added propane lights, a fridge and a stove in the late 40's and early 50's. Cooking previously had been done on a kerosene stove and a wood stove, and until the 1990's Thanksgiving dinners were cooked with this wood stove until it was decommissioned. Water is still drawn from the lake with a hand pump and when dishes are to be washed water is heated on the propane stove.



*My kitchen as it is today, showing the icebox, fridge, pump, wood stove and propane light overhead.*



*Rosemary pumping water for her cat who enjoys morning baths.*

Granddaughter Rosemary, now married to Keith Rowe, inherited the two islands along with me in 1962. Their three daughters adopted the cabin as their own sleeping quarters, while I was central to their summer family life. The cabin was briefly taken over by the inaugural meeting of the North Sound Association in 1977.

Rosemary and Keith added some modernizations. An outhouse, with a long drop pit, replaced the bucket in 1972. The 1976 Montreal Olympics were watched on a tiny black and white tv powered by the boat battery. A satellite phone was added in 1997, again powered by the boat battery, for brief phone calls when needed. Before this the only phone available was a payphone at Harrison's Landing.

The Island Princess started passing by in 1978, and later the larger Island Queen took over the route, reminding us everyday that it is 11:20am, time to jump in the lake to meet the waves.

Further changes were afoot when Daisy's great great grandchildren came along. Two outhouses were installed in 2011, using new fangled technology (composting). Solar power was added to me so Rosemary and Keith could read by a light bulb and charge up their laptop. Later the cabin had solar powered lights installed in 2009.

I've been busting at the seams for weeks at a time throughout the new century, and I hope Daisy's great great grandchildren bring their children to run around on my creaking floorboards. Covid has slowed visits down, but I look forward to the future with a full house once again.



*Some of Daisy's great grand children and great great grand children at a birthday on my porch.*

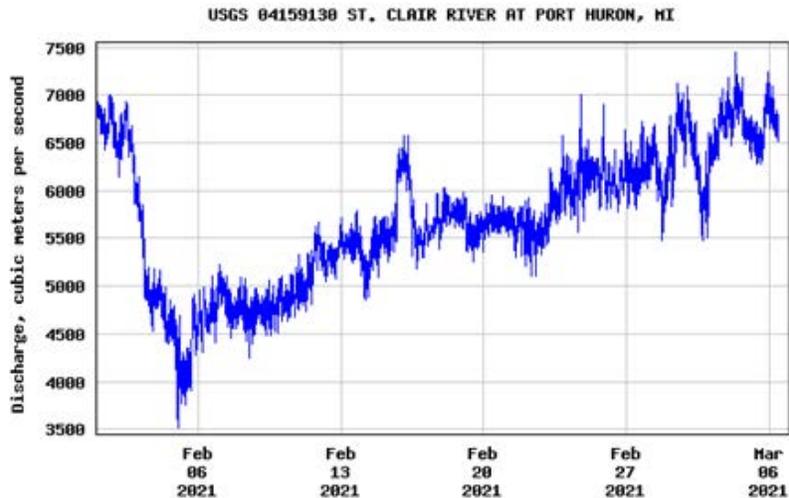
## **Water Levels Update – April 2021**

*By Bill Bialkowski, Snug Harbour*

Water levels have finally started to come down from last year's near record-breaking high, and we hope that the super high-water period, which started in the spring of 2014, is finally abating after seven years. Water levels this summer are predicted to be a foot lower than last summer's. This extraordinary high-water period came on the heels of fifteen years of unprecedented low water on Lake Michigan-Huron and our Georgian Bay, when some people could not even get to their cottages by boat, and wetlands dried up. Water levels last August almost exceeded the all-time record high established in October 1986, of 177.5 metres above sea level. In October '86, the water flow in the St. Clair River set an all-time high record of 6,740 cubic metres per second. To make these numbers more meaningful, a cubic metre of water weighs a metric tonne - that is a lot of water flow each second! Imagine the force behind that water when it is moving at nearly 5 feet per second. It was during such an incredibly high flow in 1986 that the last known serious erosion of the St. Clair River bottom occurred. That winter, with such high flow rates, an ice jam caused a sudden reduction in flow of nearly 50%. Ice jams tend to scoop up bottom material, which is then deposited down-river and causes navigation problems. The US Army Corps then embarks on navigation

dredging, which increases water conveyance. Those 1986 events enlarged the St. Clair River conveyance capacity and contributed to the very low water we experienced between 1998 and 2013.

During the high water of August 2020, the St. Clair River flow reached an unprecedented flow rate of 7,340 cubic metres per second, breaking the 1986 record by 9%. Again, it appears that St. Clair River erosion has occurred, although this cannot be confirmed until the USACE completes its bathymetry (depth) surveys. This winter, after ice formed, a St. Clair River ice jam in early February caused the flow rate to plummet from 7,000 cubic metres per second to 4,000 (a 43% reduction). See below:



St. Clair River Ice Jam February 2021 flow restricted from 7,000 to 4,000 cubic metres per second

These events are almost identical to those of 1986 and will likely further exacerbate our next period of low water.

The report above quickly updates the water-level events in the physical world of hydraulics and water depths. However, there are also man-made events to report. Last October, GBF's David Sweetnam and GBA's Rupert Kindersley jointly organized a 4-hour water levels webinar. They invited speakers from Environment Canada (EC), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and academia. Mary Muter and I (Mary chairs the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, GBGLF, and I am a director; we are both directors of Restore Our Water International, ROWI) were asked to provide input. We prepared slides for this purpose. However, during the webinar, with no notice to us, we were completely excluded and not allowed to present. For clarification, in 2003, it was Mary's leadership, then at GBA, that resulted in early modeling of water levels, which led to a GBF-funded water levels investigation by Baird and Associates, and the Baird Report in 2005. It exposed previously unknown St. Clair River erosion as a major contributing cause of the low water levels we were then experiencing. When this report was presented to the IJC, the response was the launching of the 2007 to 2012 International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS).

Returning to the GBF/GBA webinar, after reviewing all of the input, opinions, questions and answers, GBF/GBA have jointly adopted a position on water levels, the gist of which is. Climate change has changed everything, and will lead to higher highs and lower lows. All past data is useless for predicting future trends. The primary driver for water levels is the ever-changing, and uncertain net basin supply. Governments and the agencies: IJC, USACE and EC have very little ability to influence the outcome. There is no evidence that the agencies are not doing a good job, and no significant improvement can be made.

## West Carling Association – Spring 2021 Newsletter

So, stop complaining to the IJC, EC and USACE when water levels are not to your liking. Regarding high water, there is nothing that can be done to lower high water levels.

Really? Let's look at high water first, and then low water and level cycles.

High Water. Nothing can be done to lower high water? Actually, two modest improvements can be made during high levels.

First, the Long Lac and Ogoki water diversion from the James Bay watershed into Lake Superior has raised Lake MH by 11 cm (4 inches) for the benefit of OPG's power generation in northern Ontario, and the many generators downstream, but without any consideration for water levels downstream. You would think that that IJC, under the powers given it by the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty, could negotiate a reduction during high water, as was done during high water in the '70s, '80s and '90s. During high water, this diversion reduction might lower MH by 2 inches.

Secondly, the water discharged from Lake Superior into MH is governed by Regulation Plan 2012, which is supposed to 'balance' the water levels between the two lakes. We have been complaining to the IJC that this 'balancing' does not appear to be working effectively, and the IJC has confirmed that it has now started a review of Plan 2012. This re-balancing might be able to lower MH by a further few inches.

Low Water and Water level Cycles. The biggest concern is during low water levels, which are going to return soon enough. Recently, GBGLF commissioned Baird and Associates (authors of the 2005 Baird Report) to complete an analysis of water-level cycles that they had started during the Baird Report work in 2003, but could not complete due to unknown St. Clair River conveyance changes. (The IJC's Upper Lakes Study later confirmed a St. Clair River conveyance capacity increase of 5% in 1986)

It has long been known that Lake MH levels tend to vary as a combination of a various 'Quasi-periodic' cycles. Roughly, water levels are a combination of a 160-year cycles and 30-year cycles. More accurately, these are all a combination of: 80-year and 11-year sun spot cycles, 30-year precipitation cycles, 5-to-10 year North Atlantic and Pacific El Niño cycles, and finally the annual cycle. Some of these drivers are likely influenced by climate change, but sun spots are not. Shown below is a graph (Fig. 4.4 from the Baird III Report) from 1850 to 2100, which compares actual water levels (thin black line), to cycle-based predictions (red and blue). Actual measurements end in 2020, with only predictions beyond 2020. As you can see, the predictions line up with reality almost perfectly up to 2020. The same calculations have been used to predict future water levels. This analysis has been compensated for the conveyance changes in the St. Clair River that in 2020 were known to have occurred.

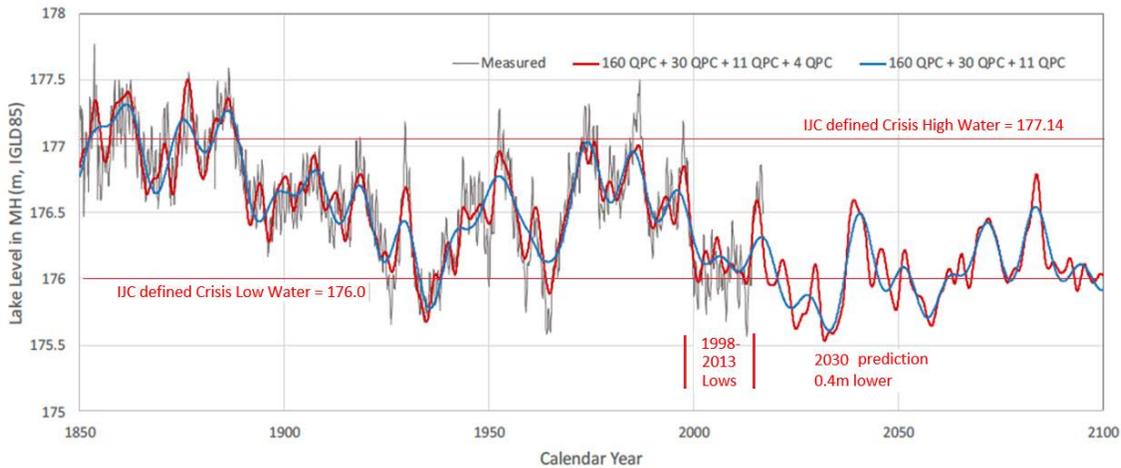


Figure 4.4: Comparison of measured annually-averaged lake level in Lake Michigan-Huron with lake levels predicted by using the 160-year quasi-periodic cycles, the 30-year quasi-periodic cycles, the 11-year quasi-periodic cycles, and the 4-year quasi-periodic cycles. Black thin line, measured lake level. Red and blue line, predicted lake level with portion of cycles.

This analysis predicts that our next low water will be in about 2030, and the level will be about 0.4 metre (about 16 inches) lower than what we experienced between 1998 to 2013. Having lived through the previous low water, we feel that does not sound good.

Low Water Remedy. The IJC has acknowledged that when a river emptying a lake has been dredged, hence increasing its conveyance capacity, this action permanently lowers the lake level, especially during times of low water. Accordingly, in the past, whenever such a river’s conveyance capacity had been increased, the IJC required conveyance compensation structures to be built in order to restore the natural conveyance capacity of the river and the level of the upstream lake. After the Seaway was built, in 1962 the conveyance of the Detroit River was restored by building a compensating dyke. Work started to compensate the St. Clair River also, but high water occurred before it could be finished, and the project was abandoned. The IJC confirms that past dredging and the 1986 erosion have combined to lower Lake MH by 50 cm (20 inches). What might it be now, given evidence of recent ice jams and erosion – 55 cm (22 inches)? We don’t know.

The last 2012 IJC International Upper Great Lakes Study was led by a retired US Army General, who told Mary Muter, that “nothing will be ever be done in the St. Clair River in my lifetime”. Indeed, in spite of the fact that the study confirmed a Lake MH lowering of 50 cm (20 in.), it recommended that “nothing be done in the St. Clair River”. During the 2012 public review of this study, public pressure (at the Parry Sound, Midland and Collingwood meetings) convinced the IJC to reverse its recommendations. This resulted in the IJC’s 2013 recommendation to governments (Canada and US) that flexible structures that would hold back water only during low water periods be considered for the St. Clair River. Unfortunately, both governments have ignored this IJC recommendation for nine years now.

This raises the question: are the governments and agencies really doing a perfect job on water levels? You decide.

## The Joys of Opening

*By Bruce Davidson*

At long last winter has loosened its icy grip. Birds are chirping, the grass is growing, forsythia is blooming and water lines are dripping. What an idyllic picture! Wait a minute. Did I just say water lines are dripping? Oh no! Not again. Bloody hell, as the Brits would say.

After more than fifty years of opening up the cottage in the spring, I have learned that there is one more certainty in life along with the inevitability of death, and taxes. And that is the gnashing of teeth that invariably accompanies the discovery that Mother Nature has done me in yet again with a capricious plumbing sabotage. With an unerring instinct for exacting maximum misery, she always waits until swarms of thirsty black flies have blackened the very air in the crawl space under the deck, and only then springs the plumbing trap. It's as though an unseen hand were operating every year whose sole purpose is the creation of the greatest inconvenience to the most people for the longest period of time.

Last year was a real beauty if anguish is your thing. Nothing less than a triple whammy. In the finest tradition of treachery, Mother Nature first tossed a couple of land mines at me, which were a huge inconvenience and a pain in the butt, but ultimately fixable by your average idiot, which of course, is where I come in. The key to any good treacherous performance, however, is firstly to create a high level of angst, followed by luring the victim into a false sense of security. Annoy the hell out of him. Make him whack his head a few times on the overhead beams. Hide the insect repellent. Have him slip into some slime or fall into the lake. Get him to have to go into Town a couple of useless times to get a repair part that doesn't fit. For best effect, give him a triumphant moment, and then slam him down hard with a malicious chuckle. Man, whoever knew that Nature had such a fine sense of humour?

So here goes with a summary of last spring's plumbing delights, which incorporate all of the above for good measure. Why not start off by having a breaker switch in the electrical panel triggered every time the power to the water pump is turned on? Perfect. That will keep him cursing for quite a while trying to figure out what's going on. Well why not look in all the wrong places for a start? Having now wasted several precious hours on the first day when there is so much else to do, yours truly finally figures out that he had better follow the electrical cable down to the lake. Who knew that with record high water levels and a fierce November storm, the cable to the submersible pump had rubbed against the rocks so fiercely that the insulation had been completely stripped off in three places, leaving gleaming copper wire running into the water. Calling upon my immense grasp of electrical phenomenon learned by having my hair stand on end at the Ontario Science Centre, I concluded that a couple of bare wires sitting in water just might cause a short back up at the breaker panel. But this is a problem that defies the employment of duct tape, my go-to solution for just about everything. So off we go to Parry Sound as the sun sinks ominously towards the horizon, only to encounter a long lineup at Home Depot. After all, there's a pandemic going on, don't you know? Act one goes on for a few more days as I rig up a fancy new elevated waterline support to prevent a recurrence. And all this effort is being expended just to get back to where I should have been when I first arrived. The plumbing battle hadn't even begun yet, as I was about to discover.

Act one finally concludes in a moment of pure unadulterated joy as the sound of water gushes through the pipes amid a chorus of triumphant congratulations and high fives all around. What a perfect time to spring a trap, so why not simply take the toilets out of service? Hey, great idea. Why not have the float in the septic holding tank stick in the down position so the septic pump does not turn on. But even better, don't let anyone know there is a problem. So with the passage of a few days, I start to hear complaints of an awful smell coming from under the cottage. The first day of the complaint, I choose to dismiss it as fantasy, not having much of a sense of smell myself. That's another great outcome for the misery perpetrators. For

## West Carling Association – Spring 2021 Newsletter

by waiting one more day the small problem suddenly becomes quite large. The evidence is now everywhere in plain sight even for those with no sense of smell. Time now for the old rusty bolt trick. Once I washed down the holding tank so that I could even approach it with a clothes peg on my nose, I quickly learned that the bolts to the tank had severely corroded, defeating even the almighty WD-40. Scuppered again. Toilets down for many days while a new tank gets ordered, delivered by boat and installed. Let's give Mother Nature a big high five. Got me good with that one and cost a fair chunk of change too.

Which brings us to the most devastating and insidious blow of all. Unbeknownst to all, the water inlet valve on the built-in dishwasher has cracked during the winter and is literally pouring water onto the sub-floor. But I have a cork laminate floor in the kitchen and regular laminate in the living room and water sure does like to spread wherever it can. So there I lay contentedly sprawled out on my rocker recliner thinking what a tough opening it was, when I imagine I hear just the faintest trickle of dripping water. Damn. Must be the garden hose not shut off properly outside. Something that can wait until tomorrow for sure, as Happy Hour has pretty much taken away any appetite for repair today. Once again another's day delay has really ratcheted up the severity of the damage, not to mention my blood pressure. I can actually feel the wetness of the laminate floor walking in socks in the kitchen the next morning. Emergency water shut off required. Water is now dripping from a dozen seams under the cottage. Yikes! What a great time to ratchet up the pressure even further. Let's cause the dishwasher to be absolutely stuck under the counter! And why is it stuck? Because yours truly laid the flooring in the new cottage after the appliances were installed. Now it is impossible to yank out. Brilliant. So I have no choice but to rip up some of the flooring in front of the dishwasher, only to find that it is completely saturated and there is water everywhere. Time for another project. Up goes all the flooring from the kitchen to be carried out to dry on the rocks (A few days later I discover that every piece is so warped that a banana would look straight by comparison. Ruined flooring now has to go by boat and car to the dump, but that is another story.) Back to the dishwasher. Should pull out ok now that I have ripped out all of my precious cork flooring, right? Wrong. The standing water has been absorbed by the particle board surrounding the machine and has expanded. No way in hell will it come out, at least by this septuagenarian. Solution: take a chisel and destroy and remaining integrity of the supports. Having finally wrestled the ornery machine out into the middle of the kitchen I pleadingly ask: Honey, do you happen to remember where the parts manual for the 2008 dishwasher is? Really. Are you sure? When was that? Why didn't we just use newspaper?" Well, good thing for the internet as I wait another several days for the FedEx truck to deliver a tiny \$129 plastic fitting, which, of course I have to go and get from a friend's place. Eventually I manage to install the new valve on the dishwasher, order new flooring for pickup at Home Depot, load it into the car, into the boat, onto the dock and up to the cottage. Installation is a barrel of laughs as I lie down to measure using a flashlight, go outside to cut, kneel down again to find that I have cut the tongue end rather than the groove end after all the other notches have been finally done just right. One great idea I can share for grey haired "do-it-yourselfers" is to put a kitchen chair nearby for support because you will have to get up or down about a thousand times owing to a combination of forgetfulness, mistakes and the occasional correct emplacement. What a fun time. And it was only for six weeks or so that we had to wear shoes in the kitchen lest sharp pointed staples from the old underlay exact a truly savage extra penalty from the otherwise just dirty damp plywood floor.

As I pen this recollection, my thoughts go to this year's much anticipated opening day. Can't wait.

## Proposed Research Project in Killbear Provincial Park

Dr. Chris MacQuarrie, a research scientist with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is involved in a research project proposed for Killbear Provincial Park among other sites. The project involves the release of up to three species of biological control agents against the emerald ash borer. The biological control agents released as part of this project may become resident in the park and may expand their range outside the park boundaries; thus NRCan is seeking approval of OMECP (Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks) to include Killbear in the research project.

The emerald ash borer is a beetle that eats ash trees. The larval stage of the beetle eats the wood immediately beneath the bark of ash trees. This disrupts the flow of nutrients within the tree and eventually causes it to die. As the ash borer is not indigenous to North America, it has been successful because it lacks predators and parasites. In its home range (Asia) the beetle is prey for a number of other insects and it attacks ash trees that are able to defend themselves from feeding by the insect. The combination of these two factors helps keep the population of emerald ash borer small. When the insect was introduced to North America its predators were not introduced as well, and North American ash trees were not able to defend themselves from attack by the beetle. Without either of those features contributing to suppressing the insect it was able to increase its numbers and spread, resulting in significant tree mortality.

The biological control agents are parasitic wasps imported from Asia. They have been successful in the U.S. in controlling the ash borer. The wasps do not pose a threat to other species in N.A. and they pose no threat to humans.

If you have more questions about the project, contact [Christian.Macquarrie@Canada.ca](mailto:Christian.Macquarrie@Canada.ca)

## HWY 559 Update

*By Christina Capp*

Kevin McLLwain provided this update on Hwy 559.

The project for the new Hwy 559 is in progress. So far, all the designs are completed, and all the money has been allocated for the project. The new 559 is going to be a fully paved highway, including shoulders on both sides.

This year, the work will start on the section of the 559 between East Carling Bay Road and Hwy 400. Improvements will be made to the entrance to East Carling Bay Road with the addition of a streetlight at that intersection. This work is now out for tender.

With the new design of HWY 559 some properties are encroaching on the Hwy. The plan is for MTO to solve that this year.

The full construction will start 2022 and probably go into 2023.

## Membership Update

The West Carling Association is growing! We are pleased to report that year to date we have 209 paid members. Ninety-nine members from the former North Sound Association have joined WCA (68 Primary and 23 Associate). To date, 96 WCA Primary Members and 12 Associate Members have refreshed their membership. In addition, we have nine new Associate Members and three new Primary Members.

Please speak to your neighbours about joining. As we grow, we strengthen our voice. If you would like copies of our updated brochure to share with your friends and neighbours, let the Membership Committee know. Our organization is 100 years old this year. Encourage your children and grandchildren to join as Associate Members (\$25 annual fee) to continue the WCA tradition.

There are some new developments in relation to paying your membership dues. It is now possible to set up automatic annual renewal by providing a credit card number when you renew. This has been established for your convenience and can be cancelled at any time. The other feature available now is e-transfer. You can access this by sending your payment to [payments@westcarling.com](mailto:payments@westcarling.com)

Your Membership Committee (Adrian Crowe, Carol Hodson, Bruce Kelly, Sheilah Rowe, Sheila Tierney, Donna Tucker and Steve Vokes) has met several times over the Spring to prepare for the coming season. We are planning some virtual events. We are in search of individuals who are willing to give an informative talk, lead a discussion about a topic of interest or do a musical performance virtually. Our members have many talents. Do you know someone who has a particular expertise that would be willing to share their knowledge and talent? Please get in touch with us through the website at [info@westcarling.com](mailto:info@westcarling.com) or call Donna Tucker at 416 414-8833 if you would like to suggest a speaker or assist in organizing these events.

### How to Pay by e-Transfer

1. Login to the [westcarling.com](http://westcarling.com) membership portal and verify that the information we have on file for you is correct, including the name and email address of the primary membership holder as well as any co-owners and associate members related to the account. This is an important step so we can match your e-transfer to your membership.
2. The payee for the e-transfer is [payments@westcarling.com](mailto:payments@westcarling.com)
3. Include in the “optional Message” section of your e-transfer the full name of the primary account holder, and if making a payment for anything other than your annual membership renewal (\$70) please include a breakdown of the payments, including the names of any associate memberships and any additional contributions to the WCA or GBA as applicable. For example, for a \$125 e-transfer the note may look like **“Jane Sample - Primary \$70, John Sample - Associate \$25, WCA \$15, GBA \$15**
4. NOTE: If you don't include the breakdown will result in us applying the first \$70 to your primary membership for the calendar year in which it is received and any additional money as a WCA contribution for the year in which it is received. If you have already paid your membership for the calendar year, all the funds will be attributed as a WCA contribution. Please also note the WCA and the GBA are not charitable organizations and cannot issue tax receipts.

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