

Summer 2021 Newsletter

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Summer 2021 Newsletter

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Presidents Message

Summer is in full swing although the weather has been decidedly sunshine sporadic.

West Carling Association is 100 years old this year. Unfortunately, there was not a lot we could do to celebrate other than to say Happy Anniversary!! I think next year will require some special recognition.

As well, the pandemic has put a hold on our events for this summer but I am hopeful that we can get together next year. The board of directors is already putting on their thinking caps to come up with some interesting events for next summer.

The Membership Committee has focused once again on increasing our membership. We have a new brochure and if would like one contact Donna Tucker, our membership chair.

This year we have three board of directors who have given many years of their time to WCA retiring and taking a well-deserved rest.

John Rohr has served 12 years on the board and has always provided sound advice and guidance. John always takes his time and when he speaks it is well thought clear and solid advice. Thank you so much for giving of your time and expertise, we will miss him but he will now have more time for dock repair.

Bill Biakowski has also served on the board for 12 years and has been instrumental in providing advice and technical expertise to the GBA on water levels. He has spent a number of hours working on why we have had low water levels and what are the solutions. He also has taken on the responsibility to archive the WCA information so the work done is not lost. Bill has been a valuable director with his technical expertise and wise advice. We will miss him but I think he is also getting into the dock repair business.

Sheila Tierney is one of the longest-serving members of the board. She has spent 25 years supporting WCA and has served in a number of capacities including the president – once or twice and secretary -once or twice over many years. Shelia was board secretary when I became president and she was simply amazing keeping us all on track and making sure the minutes came out and agendas were sent.

As well, she has an amazing memory for what has happened throughout the years and always had good advice to give. We will miss her and hope she enjoys a well-deserved rest.

Thank you, John, Bill and Shelia, for your strong dedication to WCA.

Finally, we are so happy to welcome the former North Sound Association members who joined us this year. You will remember we indicated last year that we were having a discussion about a merger. This has happened. The North Sound Association dissolved their organization and their members joined with us. This has resulted in a stronger and better organization which will give us a stronger voice when needed.

My sincere thanks to John Rohr and Donna Tucker from WCA and Janis Wade, Sheilah Rowe, and Steve Vokes from North Sound Association. This was a great team that worked through the detail to make this happen.

Once again, a very warm welcome to all former North Sound Association members. We are so happy to have you with us.

Finally, a special thanks to all the directors for their hard work and dedication to WCA this past year.

We also welcome back those of you who have been unable to come to your summer home.

Wishing you all a wonderful rest of the summer!

Franklin Island - The Grand Camp of Carling

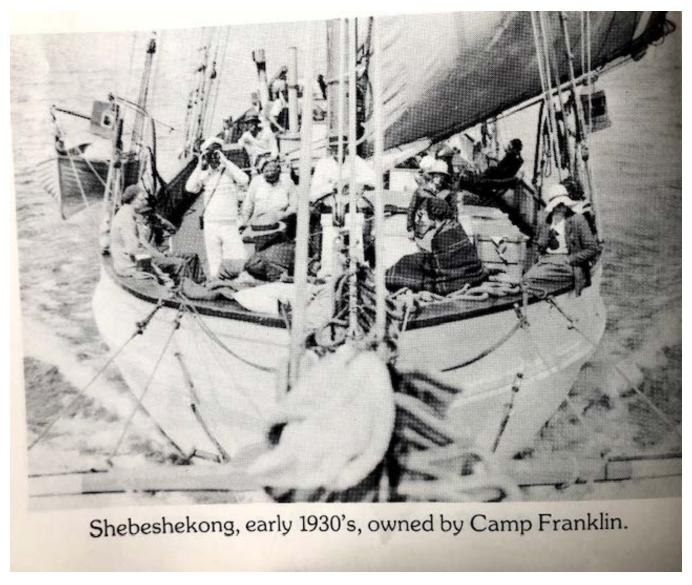
By Carol LeBlanc

It all started as a boys' camp with a group of small tents and a larger one for meeting and dining. From these humble beginnings by Reverend William J Christie, with the help of his brother Peter and board members Franklin became one of the most desirable family and youth camps in Ontario.



Minwandum boys camp, Franklin Island, 1921.

With its natural beauty and adjacent Provincial Park, the island was the perfect setting for rest and outdoor activities. Both were plentiful in your choice of sailing lessons, paddling, swimming, and life-saving instruction. Canoe trips, fishing, nature studies and photographic hikes afforded the campers the beauty of their surroundings. There were sports such as tennis, golf, volleyball, badminton and baseball for all to compete in. For entertainment, there was dancing, sing songs and stunts performed by the campers and their instructors.



The staff encouraged the development of what became lifelong friendships. They instilled a love and respect for the natural beauty that surrounded each visitor.

The 50 foot Camp Franklin sailing yacht, Minwandum, offered the campers the choice of a two, three or four-day cruise to acquaint themselves with the 150 miles of our island-strewn region.

One of the most popular trips was to Killarney where campers had the opportunity to photograph or paint the scenic views from this truly beautiful park.

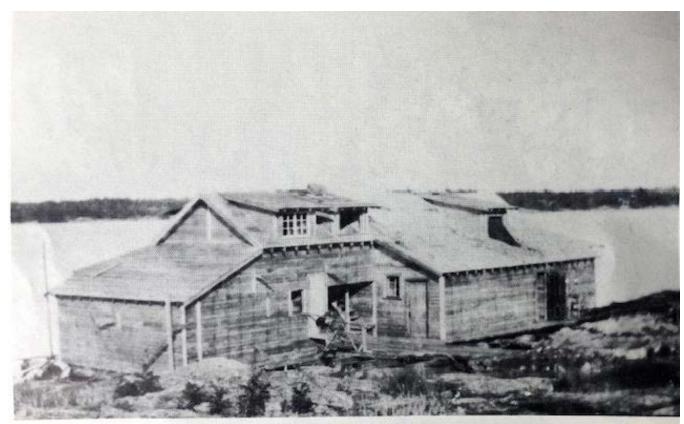
Campers could choose from the five types of accommodations: Type A... American army pyramid style 16 x 16-foot tents on elevated floors for a maximum of five people and a few 10 x 12 ridge tents for one or two people. Type B ... tent bungalows 16 x 16 feet, with wooden floors and four-foot walls with an American army pyramid tent mounted thereon. Type C...Bungalows, wooden construction throughout, floors walls and roof. One spacious room with six large windows that were all wire-screened. Type D...Cabins constructed of dressed lumber with two, three, or four single or double rooms. TypeE ... lodges varying from four to ten rooms. These delightfully situated buildings afforded splendid accommodation.



First cottage on Franklin Island built in 1908 by W.P. Christie.

Cots and beds were provided in all types of accommodations. Some of the cabins and lodges had covered verandas and could be rented with or without bedding.

As time went on there were a dining and recreational hall, stables and various types of courts for games, trails, laundry, vegetable gardens, a boathouse and a large wharf added. The camp had its' own post office, tuck shop and medical attendant.



Camp Franklin boathouse.

The camp was open from June 1st to October 1st. Camp Franklin was run under the Minwandum Camping Association Limited. It was open from 1922 to 1937.

During its years of operation, the camp was a major employer providing passengers to both railways and boat lines in the area. Many Carling residents worked on the island as cooks, dishwashers, instructors, guides, cleaning staff etc. They all have wonderful memories of their time there. During Carling Township's Centennial, the West Carling Association held a very fun and successful picnic on Franklin. It was here that the Milligan Sisters gave me a colourful description of their work and memories as girls. One story shared was that William Konoval began his courtship of Vivian Milligan during one of those glorious summers.



Lakefield at Franklin Island.

After its closing, others tried different ventures but Franklin Island camp was never to see its heydays again. The camp ran when times were simpler and adventure was easily seen in the eyes of those that were lucky enough to go there.

Don Christie and his wife Elinor related how many people would come to reminisce with them about their time at Franklin or that of a dear one that attended the Camp. Therefore it was a delightful surprise for this writer to find my great aunts Frances and Grizilda Bovaird of Brampton listed as members in the 1932 Camp booklet.

Any of us who have visited this magnificent island can close our eyes and envision what Rev. Christie started. Although it is all gone, you can still find remnants of its past throughout the island. Today families can still enjoy this wonderful treasure which still gives its visitors the opportunities to camp, boat, fish, swim, canoe and kayak, hike and picnic. The artist in anyone can capture its beauty in both photos and paintings. Carling is proud of this island's past and the future preservation of her beauty.

Our Cottage on Georgian Bay

By Marjorie Gibson Hagerman

I well remember the day in 1967 when my dad (Oscar Gibson) came over to our home in Brantford Ont. and asked me "would I be interested in a cottage up North????"

I was looking out the kitchen window in into the back yard and instantly thought, "Oh dad, we have just moved into this new home – no landscaping done, 4 little kids." I turned around, took one look at him and said, "I think that would be a marvelous idea dad. What brings this up?"

He went on to tell me about an offer his lawyer had made to him. The lawyer's mother-in-law had decided not to purchase one of three properties, just north of Parry Sound (at the end of the Dillon Road) that our lawyer was buying, and so he was left with two properties, so he asked dad if he knew anyone who would be interested. I guess dad hesitated a bit and then said he would think about it for a little while and run it by me, his only child, and get back to him.

Dad had always loved the outdoors and especially the north, but my mother had always felt skeptical about it, so dad had never pursued a place there. Unfortunately, my mother had recently died and dad and I were really suffering from the loss. She was only 62, far too young to go, but she had suffered badly for five months and we were almost glad to see her go as it was so hard to see her suffer. This was in the 1960's when medical professionals weren't giving pain suppressants unless they had to, which was so cruel. The extremely thoughtless head nurse said she might become addicted when I literally begged for her to give my mother a stronger dose. I said we both knew she is dying so couldn't we make her last hours a little less painful? But she just walked away with her nose in the air! That was a very difficult time in our lives, so when Clark, our lawyer, suggested the land purchase, I guess dad thought it would be something he could get involved in and enjoy, to distract him from his unhappy thoughts. It was quite well priced – \$1100 for almost an acre of land, right on Georgian Bay. So, when he came to see me and I agreed he went ahead with it.

We drove up to the property in early spring, as we were all excited to see what it was like in the Parry Sound area. Neither my husband Bob, nor I had ever had the chance to travel in the north and this was a big experience for us. When we arrived all we could see was rock and water but dad had visited once before. He had been thinking about the lay of the land and where the cottage might look the best so he already had suggestions in his head.

He wanted it away from the road allowance, which was 44 feet from the water, because he was worried about what the township could do if it wanted to. He and Bob laid it out and he had already asked a construction friend in Brantford to put up the outside frame of the cottage, which he and his crew of men completed on a long weekend. Then dad went up by himself and worked away closing in the rest of the building.

We joined dad as often as we could. We were all getting excited about the "home away from home" that we were creating. The kids had always been great at helping with chores they could contribute to, so they seemed happy to join in. As it progressed, dad made a small cement mixer so he could build a stone foundation under the cottage. My son, David, wanted to help so the two of them worked away at it. I decided to go up for the entire summer with the kids as there was far more to enjoy up there, than in the city of Brantford in the summer and the kids were thrilled with that. Bob didn't seem to mind driving up on Friday nights to join us for the weekend and of course, we were always thrilled to see him.

This was the way of our summers for a few years that the kids and I really enjoyed. Sometime in this period, dad started building a small boat for rowing and then a 5 1/2 horsepower motor was added and a second son, Don being about 12, learned quickly to run it. Then Kathy and David joined in. We would try to go fishing as often as possible. Once when we were in Jolliffe's Bay, we lost a good pole overboard and I was

upset but David said he would try to dive down for it as we could see it about 15 feet below. I really hesitated to let him try but he was a very good swimmer by this time (they had all taken lessons at the Y in Brantford). So I let him go and he was able to retrieve it. We were so thankful that all turned out so well. Those were very happy summers. Dad and Bob continued to improve the cottage in any way that was needed.

Dad married again in 1969 to Helen Brown, who had grown up in Scotland and had become a Latin teacher at Hagersville High school. They seemed well suited for each other. I had a bit of trouble getting used to the idea but soon realized it was a good idea for dad and he seemed happier. Helen adapted to the cottage very well and they continued to go often.

Dad continued to build items for the cottage including a very useful kitchen cabinet that we placed against the centre wall, painted green and cream. It even had a little collapsible table that could be set up to help with serving items, or as a desk. Karen has it now, repainted a charming white, which she finds very useful in her downstairs sewing room. Two narrow bookcases dad built in 1948 for his house also came in handy as they were purposefully narrow and could hold a lot of books or other items. Karen also has those and finds them useful.

Dad opened up another door for us all by buying a 1968 Polaris Snowmobile. Oh my! As each one of us started to drive it, we really fell in love with the new sport. It was so exciting to discover areas that we had not been able to explore as either the terrain was too rough or uneven or it was someone else's property but with the even snow cover and no one around, we explored and loved every minute of it, of course, being careful not to do damage or be too invasive. We were running on at least one to two feet of hard-packed snow, and usually a lot more, as we got far more snow in those days. The next year Bob and I added a very orange Moto Ski, three-passenger that we found heavy to manoeuver, so we soon got rid of it and started buying Polaris for the next few years. The year Bob retired from the Right House, a department store in Hamilton when it closed in 1996, we went up and traversed1165 miles on the snowmobiles.

One of our favourite jaunts was to explore Franklin Lodge on Franklin Island. It was built in the 1920s and still had a lot of items in it – old beds, pots and pans and a piano, on which Karen, seven years old, and taking piano lessons, played a haunting Indian melody which we all were amazed to listen to as the sounds resounded throughout the huge old structure. Amazingly, lovely old white ironstone dishes had also been left. I still have a large metal mixing bowl that the kids brought back one time. I scolded them but was secretly pleased to get it. Rough linen sheets had been left too and one of those came back one time and it even had the name Franklin Lodge printed on it but it was too rough to use so it was finally discarded. What wonderful experiences we all had in that beautiful setting!

Bob had the Cottage dry-walled sometime in the 1980s as we had put up panelling when it was built but Bob wanted it to have a more stabilized look inside. That did make quite a difference. Now it looks like a regular home. By this time we had acquired a number of good "toys" – our snowmobiles, the rowboat dad had built, a16-foot Chrysler Boat, and a canoe so in 1988 we decided to build a garage to house these items for the winter.

I remember Bob calling me and saying why don't we put an apartment on top of the garage, as there may come a time when we would need more space, so we went ahead and had that done.

Thank goodness we did, as it is where we retired after selling our beautiful big Beamsville house on Merritt Rd on Lake Ontario in 1996.

How hard could it possibly be?

By Bill Bialkowski, Snug Harbour

The last edition of GBA Update featured an article on the need to replace dock foam, following the passage of Norm Miller's Dock Foam Bill, which now makes it illegal to sell new docks using unencapsulated polystyrene foam.

We bought our cottage in Snug Harbour in 2000, and installed three new 16-by-6-foot docks on blue Styrofoam billets. Twenty years later our property is littered with little bits of blue foam along our shoreline, – the need to do something is obvious and urgent for all of the environmental reasons cited in the GBA article. But the article also suggests that the foam can somehow be encapsulated. Even if encapsulating technology was available, this is completely impractical as the foam is disintegrating after 20 years. However, the foam billets can be replaced with fully encapsulated floats, and this has become my 2021 summer project. Some of our neighbours have been muttering – 'what is that crazy guy doing now?' The answer – replacing dock foam! After what seems like countless hours, with help from friends, one dock is finished. You are allowed to slow down and inspect it as you boat by on your way to Gilly's. Check out the photo below.



The outer dock is rebuilt and floating on new black plastic fully encapsulated floats. The wood was salvaged, flipped over, and looks new. The inner dock is original and floating on Styrofoam billets.

Here are some of the pros and cons we considered. Our initial reaction was to simply buy three brand new docks. Costs range from four to five thousand dollars without installation or disposal costs of the old

docks, which are destined for landfill after they are cut-up, for which there is a disposal fee. Yet most of the wood has been floating out of the water and is probably sound. We were upset at the thought of such waste. So how hard could this possibly be to replace the Styrofoam with encapsulated floats? I decided to have a go at it. I quickly realized that I could not do it all myself, and invited friends to the cottage with the lure of swimming followed by martinis on the deck.

Here are some practical details. Premium Dock & Marine Systems in Parry Sound (corner of Oastler Park Drive and Bowes Street) sell fully encapsulated foam filled black plastic floats. For about a quarter of the cost of a new dock, you can buy eight 4-by-2 foot by 8-inch floats ('AP8's). Four of these fit each side of a 16 ft dock and provide 2000 pounds of floatation, which is more than the narrower and thinner foam billets. Premium Docks recommend that the old dock should be flipped upside down before work begins. It was easy enough to haul the old dock out of the water onto a gently sloping rock ledge. But all attempts to flip the dock over failed. Not surprising, since the weight is pushing 1500 pounds, given submerged and now water-logged wood and cracked foam billets. So, the decision was made to strip the deck boards off with a crow bar and put them aside. Then a spare 16-foot dock was used as a flat construction platform. The main 2-by-10 lumber was removed from the old dock, and if completely sound, was re-assembled on the construction platform, using sturdy steel corner brackets from Premium Docks. While the new structure was taking shape, the remnants of the old dock were demolished. The old foam, after drying out was hauled to the Killbear Dump for a dumping fee of \$10. Three people were able to push the new dock structure carefully off the construction platform onto the rock ledge. Here, the eight new floats were carefully screwed into place on the 2-by-10 dock structure.

The same three people were able to inset three 12-foot 2-by-4's under the finished dock structure with floats attached, and were easily able to lift one side and tilting it past the vertical towards the water, allowed the new dock to plop into the water the right way up. All that remained was placing the deck boards 'new-side-up' and screwing them down with deck screws. Three weeks later one dock is done.

Easy! Not much work ha ha.

The Supply Boat: Lifeline of the Pioneers

By Bruce Davidson

Mention the words *supply boat* to anybody in the Georgian Bay community today and you will almost certainly be greeted with a blank stare. And yet, just a few generations ago, it was the weekly event that whole routines and schedules revolved around. If one was planning to go fishing that day, better be sure to get back before the Supply Boat comes around or do without for the next week.

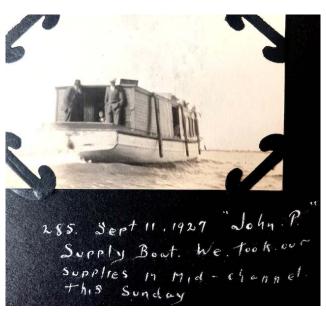
You see, back in the early part of the twentieth century, the town of Parry Sound was still a fairly rough and tumble logging village, notwithstanding that alcohol was prohibited within the town boundaries. There were no stores selling more than the most rudimentary of goods and, naturally, no supermarkets. In fact, Snug Harbour, Dillon and all the tiny shoreline communities were only accessible by logging roads cut through the wilderness in support of horse-drawn sleighs used to transport fallen logs over the snow down to the water's edge.

Enter the *John P.* better known as the *Supply Boat*. Every week on roughly the same schedule, it would wend its way north from Parry Sound to Pointe au Baril announcing its pending arrival to shoreline residents by giving two toots of its horn just as it came into sight. Joyous residents would pour out onto their docks and stock up on milk, eggs, flour, meat and vegetable. But the industrious John Perks, related of course to our own smoked fish maestro Bryan Perks, seeking profit wherever it may be had, loaded his boat up with all manner of hard goods as well.

The reason the story resonates with me so well is that virtually everything in the cottage I grew up in came from the Supply Boat...the dining room table and chairs, the wicker rocking chairs, the porcupine quill sewn trivets, the lamps, the blankets and so forth. I was repeatedly told that the source of much of this marvellous fare were the local Indians, who paddled their canoes down to the town docks of Parry Sound and traded their goods to the merchants of the day.

Funny thing, but as a kid, I had little curiosity as to the authenticity of this legend, but as I grew older I wondered what the boat looked like and who was the entrepreneur behind it. Recently I had the immense good fortune to discover an old photo album that survived a catastrophic fire by virtue of it having been removed to another building. As we can see from the photo attached, the John P. featured function over form, and it was not always able to land apparently. The message merely states we took our supplies in mid-channel this Sunday (Sept 11, 1927). We will never know why this was necessary, but perhaps the water was too rough to attempt a landing.

In any event, it gives me immense personal satisfaction to finally see the old John P. just as it looked almost one hundred years ago.



West Carling Association at 100 Years

By Bill Bialkowski

Here are some records of West Carling Association activities.

West Carling was formed in 1921 as the Carling Cottages Association. No newsletters survive from that far back. The Association became active again in 1977 during the formation of the Township of the Archipelago, changing its name to The West Carling Association in 1979. It has had an active board led by a president. At some point a newsletter editor was responsible for producing three newsletters each year. Although not the most important member of the board, the newsletter editor has left the record of the past. For the record the names are as follows:

Year	President	Newsletter
1977	Wm. H Latimer	
1978	Bill Davis	
1980	Dick Jolliffe	
1982	Terry Keenleyside	
1985	Dick Jolliffe	
1989	Pat Dundas	
1994	Jack Laurie	Moira Hoogevee

1995 David Grant

1998 Bob McKay

2000 Sheila Tierney Ginny Merringer

2002 Bruce Davidson

2010 Jeremy Gawen Bill Bialkowski

2016 Pam Wing Nanci Wakeman

2021 Pam Wing

One of the most frequently recurring themes was sports fishery. Here is an archive extract from 1982



The State of the Sport Fishery on the Georgian Bay

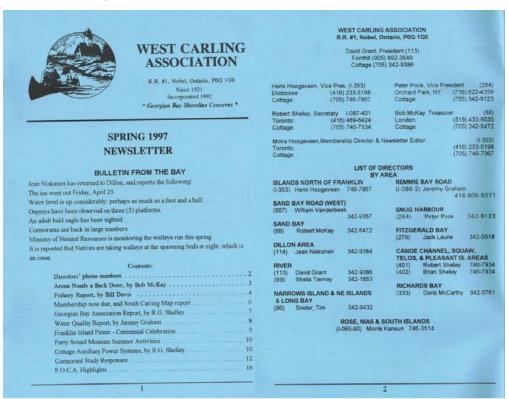
An Appeal for Your Support

If you have done much fishing along the coast of the eastern Georgian Bay over the last few years, you have doubtless been frustrated by your declining luck. It's not, however, your skills that are slipping. The sport fish simply are not there in the numbers they were ten years, let alone a generation ago. A 1981 survey in our area of the Bay indicated that it took an angler on average 20 hours to catch a walleye, nine hours to catch a pike and 1.5 hours for a smallmouth bass. The 1982 figures would doubtless be still worse. Perch fishing as well is down as anglers shift their attention to this fish in the face of the depletion of other stocks. The decline in the success rate of anglers has also meant that they have lowered their standards and are now keeping smaller fish and intendively fishing nursery areas. As a result, studies indicate that 90 per cent of the sport fish caught are too small to have yet had an opportunity for a single spawning, a factor that is obviously contributing further to the deterioration of the sport fishery.

The principal cause of the current problem has been identified by scientists as the commercial fishery. First, in this respect, it must be pointed out that walleye, the most sought-after of all game fish, is also classified as a commercial fish by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Years of setting too high a quota for walleyes has meant that this marvellous sport fish has virtually vanished from our area. Second, pike, too, are viewed as an acceptable catch by commercial fishermen when taken outside the present, far-too-limited sport fishing line. Since pike, like other sport fish, move in the summer to the cooler, deeper waters outside the protected zone, they have over the years been taken by the commercial fishermen in such large numbers that their current population is estimated at less than a tenth what it was ten to fifteen years ago. Third, permits have been issued to the commercial fishermen to fish within the current restricted zone for commercially accepted species. Such fishing, as well as that outside the restricted area, is conducted with gill nets, and over the years large numbers of sport fish have been caught and killed by this form of commercial fishing both within and outside the current zone. Fourth, since the population of the principal commercial fish, white fish and chub, has been down (at least until very

1.

Here is an excerpt from 1997



Candidate Positions

The following eight candidates are running for the Carling Council elections of 27 October, 2014. Mike Konoval is running unopposed for mayor. Seven people are running for the four seats on council. Running for re-election are: Michael Gordon, Susan Murphy, Sid Larsen and Gord Harrison (who served as Mayor for past four years). Also running for council are: Steve Crookshank (also ran in 2010 election), Terry Gilbert, and Jim Smith. WCA President Jeremy Gawen invited all of the candidates to state their positions on the 9 issues listed below. The six responses received to date are transcribed below in the order they were received. The AGM minutes also contain a synopsis of the candidates' positions from the all-candidate meeting (Bill Bialkowski Editor).

In the Fall of 2014, much of the newsletter was devoted to the upcoming municipal election and each candidate running for Carling Council was asked to answer a list of questions. The attached gives the flavour:

5

QUESTION 1: What is your vision for Carling going forward?

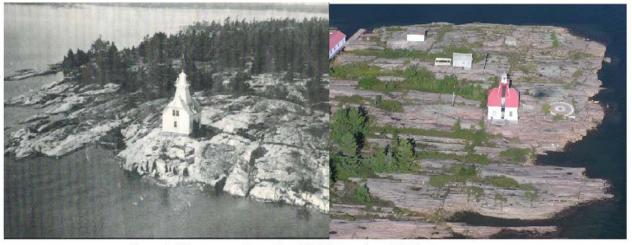
MICHAEL GORDON (running for council)

- My vision for Carling is to maintain and enhance our world-class natural wilderness and recreational assets.
- b. As such, the focus is mostly on Planning issues and draws directly from the Official Plan goal "To protect and enhance the natural environment". Specifically I would seek to avoid overdevelopment of the waterfront areas, preserve the natural features of our shorelines, and preserve water quality. As the OP and Zoning ByLaw documents already support this position, the critical item is how Council responds to variance and rezoning requests.

In the summer of 2015 was the first picnic and Regatta in Fitzgerald Bay:



West Carling Then and Now



About 1940

Snug Island Lighthouse from 500 feet

2021



1941 Snug Haven Cottages 2021



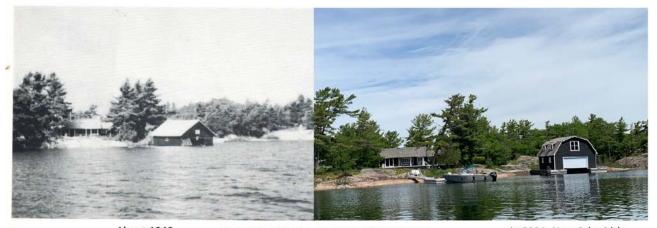
Snug Harbour Marine About 1940 Now Gilley's 2021



2 West Wind Trail, Nobel, Ontario, POG 1G0 - www.westcarling.com Since 1921, Incorporated 1992 - *Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns*



First Lighthouse on Red Rock. Red Rock Lighthouse



About 1940

C. A. Acres Boathouse north of Snug Island

in 2021 Now Schmidt's



About 1940 2021 Dillon

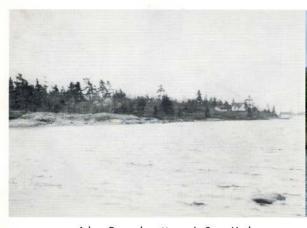




Bon Aire Pearce Cottage 1

Now Paul Ariemma 2

2021





Adam Brown's cottages in Snug Harbour About 1940

Now Chambers in 2021





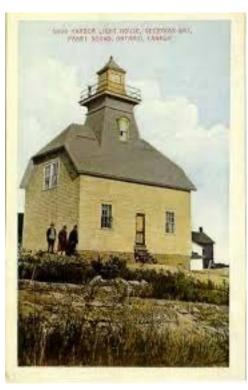
1908 Ophir Channel 2021

100 years of West Carling Association – A Pictorial History









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