

Winter 2021 Newsletter

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WEST CARLING
ASSOCIATION

Winter 2021 Newsletter

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Presidents Message

Happy Holidays to you all!

This year was WCA's 100th Anniversary but it was decided with the pandemic to celebrate this in 2022. Although we were unable to get together again this summer, I hope you will enjoy this holiday season and 2022 will allow us to celebrate and to enjoy a more normal summer on the Bay.

There is ice on the Bay as I write this, but Craig Groves is still working out in the islands. There seems to be a lot of building happening. Maybe some of you are part of that.

Here are some highlights from this past year.

First many thanks to our Snug Harbour "lighthouse warriors" Bruce Davidson and Peter Pook, with help from Chris and Jessica Moses and entertained by Larry Moses, who worked tirelessly in the heat to paint the generator building this summer. Last summer they painted the boarded-up windows black to look like real windows. Assisting with that was Alex Davidson and Adrian, Autumn, Violet and Ollie Crowe. Peter and Bruce also painted faux windows on the bunker to make it more consistent and more residential. It looks great!!

At our AGM, a Zoom meeting once again, we had a presentation from Carling resident, Robin Plumb, on the proposed Pool and Wellness Centre. It is being recommended as a joint project by Parry Sound and its surrounding municipalities. While there is general support for the concept, the concern lies with the potential for substantial capital and operating costs which will increase taxes. Many of us listened to the presentation by the Wellness Committee to Carling council and we understand that the proposal has been approved with some caveats. This project will be one that we will watch to make sure you know what is happening and what the impact on you will be.

We successfully completed our merger with the North Sound Association and many of their members attended our AGM. We were also lucky that 4 former members have joined the WCA Board. They are Janis Wade, who started the ball rolling, Sheilah Rowe, who worked with Donna Tucker and the Membership Committee, Jay Burford, who has been very active in the Board and Steve Vokes, the former President who was elected Vice President, WCA at our AGM. They are already making a strong contribution to the Board. Please know that you are a very welcome and an excellent addition to the WCA. I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

Our membership committee under the leadership of Donna Tucker continues to do amazing work recruiting new members. They have developed a new brochure that is being used to recruit members and if you would like to give these out to potential members, we have them available for you. With our now larger area, we have 204 full time members and 42 associates. Associates pay \$25 annually and can be anyone associated with a property owner. This can be a great Christmas gift for your children. It is a good way for them to become involved in WCA and prepare them to take over. We also have the ability for you to sign up for auto renewal and have already 11 members signed up. Check the website for information.

This Committees was also responsible for our Flag Contest, our Rock Painting Contest and Our Scavenger Hunt – all of which were fun for those who participated.

Three long serving Board members retired this year. We thank them very much for the over 50 years of time and talent they have given to WCA. We have been very lucky to have them.

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John Rohr has served 12 years on the board and has always provided sound advice and guidance. He always takes his time and when he speaks he gives clear and solid advice.

Bill Bialkowski has served on the board for 12 years and has been instrumental in providing advice and technical expertise to GBA on water levels. He also archived the WCA information so the work done is not lost.

Sheila Tierney is one of the longest members of the board. She has spent more than 25 years supporting WCA and has served in a number of capacities including President and Secretary more than once. As Board Secretary over the past few years, she was simply amazing keeping us all on track. She also has an amazing memory for past events which are so invaluable in the decision-making process.

Finally, I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy 2022 and look forward to seeing us all on the Bay enjoying the wonders of this beautiful location.

Pamela Wing

Looking for a Great Holiday Season Gift for Your Adult Children or Other Family Members?

By Donna Tucker



This year fill their stockings with Georgian Bay!

If you are looking for a unique gift, the West Carling Association may be able to help. We offer an Associate Membership that is ideal for family members sharing the family cottage for only \$25 per person per year. Associate Members receive WCA's newsletters and are eligible for other membership benefits. We encourage their participation on our volunteer board and our committees.

Our membership year runs January to December. Payment can be arranged in two ways. You can pay by credit card directly on our website by going into your profile and adding your family member as an Associate or by downloading and completing the membership form from our website and mailing it along with your cheque.

We have provided a gift certificate below for your convenience.



West Carling Association Gift Certificate 2022

Congratulations!

Your Associate Membership for 2022 has been prepaid by:

We welcome your participation and look forward to meeting you

The Georgian Bay Association Coastal Protection Advisory Committee

By Pamela Wing

The Coastal Protection Advisory Committee is a committee under the Georgian Bay Association. Its mandate is to provide advice and guidance to the GBA Board on GBA coastal protection projects and other coastal protection matters. It will liaise with other member associations and municipalities to seek input on these projects and other coastal protection matters. West Carling Association is a member of this committee and the president is the representative. Other member Associations include Key River, McGregor Bay, San Souci and Copperhead, Cognashene, Wah Way Taysee.

Currently, the projects that have been undertaken or are pending include:

- Review of Official Plans and Zoning By-Laws
- Planning Policies and Regulation Guide
- Planning Consultants and Expertise Database
- Septic Management and Maintenance Guide for Members
- Municipal Septic Inspection Guidelines

We are working with the Township of Carling to provide a municipal representative to this committee. Also, there is a request to Carling to join in the Official Plan and By-Law Review project that is currently underway. An intern, Cossette Shipman has been hired to undertake the work on this project so there should be minimal participation required from the municipalities. Those municipalities already involved in the project are the Township of the Archipelago, Township of Georgian Bay, Municipality of Killarney, and North East Manitoulin and the islands. Carling has yet to approve this project.

This project will prepare an overview of the official plans and key principles in the environmental planning of our coastal municipalities focusing on the environmental standards and main differences among them. It will also look at zoning by-laws with a focus on Georgian Bay coastal requirements which include land use and restrictions, lot coverage, minimum island size, docks, etc., all from an environmental point of view.

I will continue to update you on this project and others as they move forward.

Divert and Capture Microfiber Project

By Donna Tucker

In July 2020 we reported on the *Divert and Capture Project* being conducted in Parry Sound by the Rochman Lab at the University of Toronto and [Georgian Bay Forever](#). The two-year project was designed to divert microfibers from entering the Great Lakes. Ninety-seven volunteers from the town of Parry Sound had a Wexco 180 Filtrol filter (photo below) installed on their washing machines. The filter captures microfibers that would otherwise end up in Georgian Bay. Data collection for the study began in August 2019.



Why is this study important?

When we wash our clothes hundreds of thousands of microfibers (less than 5 mm in size) are shed into our wastewater and end up in treatment plants (WWTPs). While many fibers are caught at treatment plants, billions get through to water bodies like Georgian Bay daily. The microfibers from our clothes and the chemicals they bring with them are pollutants that can end up in the environment and the food chain. Laboratory studies have shown that filters on washing machines can capture 85% of fibers at source. To gain support for change and prompt solutions to reducing this pollutant, it is necessary to show that filters will work outside a laboratory setting.

Septic Systems

Most cottagers rely on septic systems to serve as mini WWTPs. Like large scale, municipal facilities, most individual septic systems are not designed to capture pollutants such as microfibers, which eventually end up in the environment. Thirty to fifty percent of wastewater treatment is completed in the septic tank. Although some microfibers may get trapped in either the sludge or scum, their size and weight mean that they can also remain in the wastewater which flows out of the tank and, eventually, into the leaching bed. A septic bed is composed of porous materials, such as gravel and sand, which act as filters between the liquid and the surrounding ground water system. Fifty to seventy percent of wastewater treatment is completed in the septic bed where any remaining particles are removed from the water. However, because they are often too small to be filtered out by gravel and sand, microfibers can flow right through and follow the water into the surrounding environment, including into surface and groundwater.

Surface water includes any freshwater that's sent into wetlands, stream systems, and lakes. Groundwater exists in subterranean aquifers that are situated underground. Most groundwater is obtained from snowmelt and rainfall that gets into the bedrock via the surrounding soil. Surface water, often a source of drinking water for cottagers, may be contaminated with microfibers, making unsuspecting cottagers susceptible to this type of pollution.

Even if septic beds are successful in trapping microfibers, this is not a complete solution because microfibers are detrimental to the overall health of the system. Fibers that are removed during the filtration stage remain in the septic bed which, in time, will become clogged and will have to be dug up and disposed of. Septic bed waste often ends up in a landfill and, if not done properly, the disturbance of the sand and gravel can lead to further microfiber pollution.

What were the results of the Parry Sound study?

Filters can catch a significant amount of microfiber/plastic pollution at source (i.e. the washing machine) before this pollution goes to WWTPs.

- lint samples from the Parry Sound study filters revealed an average weekly lint capture of 6.4 g, equivalent to 179,200 to 2,707,200 microfibers
- at least 22.8 kg of lint equating to 639 million to 9.7 billion microfibers were diverted during the study. These results came from the 63% of the study participants that provided lint samples. Projecting this result up to the 97 study households with washing machine filters, it would equate to roughly 1.2 to 18.2 billion microfibers diverted over the 487-day study period
- researchers estimate that for a period of one year for the households in the study, 934 million to 14.1 billion microfibers were diverted from WWTPs. Scaling this up to a large city like Toronto or

Los Angeles and assuming all households had washing machine filters, the annual microfiber capture could be in the range of 12 to 166 trillion microfibers for Toronto or 30 to 468 trillion for the county of Los Angeles

Filters led to a significant decline in pollution in the effluent (what goes out to water bodies after treatment).

- post installation of the filters, an average of 41% less fibers were found in the effluent in Parry Sound, resulting in fewer microfibers entering Lake Huron

The researchers were surprised at such a large decrease in microfibers at the treatment plant, since filters were only installed in 10% of homes in the area. The researchers suggest that a possible explanation for such a substantial result could be related to behavioural change. Local recruiting efforts and microfiber awareness campaigns (as part of the Georgian Bay Forever Divert and Capture program) may have had indirect effects. For example, if awareness campaigns led to changes in washing habits (i.e., washing less, washing with cold cycles, using a washing bag), this could contribute to further microfiber emission reductions. To test whether applying filters in a community can lead to indirect reductions in microfiber emissions from modified laundering practices, future studies could focus on whether community-wide pilots impact behaviour.

Microfiber pollution from washing clothes is synthetic AND is also plant-based (cotton for example). Both are of concern.

- both natural and synthetic microfibers were found in the study wastewater samples, although natural fibers that have been chemically treated were by far the most common material type. These fibers come from textiles that have additives applied during production to give them desired properties like enhanced durability. There is growing concern over microfibers that have had chemical treatments.

Front loader washing machines better than top loaders in terms of limited shed of microfibers from clothing

- filters from top loader washing machines in the study captured one and a half times more lint per week than front loader washing machines equating to an additional 70,000 to 1,057,500 microfibers per week. This suggests that top loader machines result in the shedding of more fibers and should receive filters first when retrofitting is done.

Although the study results show that filters on washing machines work to reduce microfiber/microplastic pollution from getting into wastewater, hardly any households have these filters.

What can I do?

1. Write your Ontario MPP immediately saying that you support Private Member's Bill 279.

This Bill will prohibit the sale or offering for sale of washing machines that are not equipped with a specified microplastics (microfibre) filter and provide for corresponding penalties in case of non-compliance. Legislation like this will make washing machines with filters more easily available in the future to everyone who purchases a new washing machine. Find information about writing your Ontario MPP at: <https://georgianbayforever.org/support-bill-279-2021/>

2. Reduce your own microfiber/microplastic waste.

Whether you are on a municipal wastewater system or a septic system consider buying a filter for your own washing machine.

There are different filters on the market. The U of T Rochman lab tested two outside washing machine filters. Both the Lint Luv'r and the Wexco Filtrrol 160, were tested and were found to be 87 to 89% effective at capturing filters. Both are available in Canada and cost approximately \$180 to \$220.

Follow these tips to reduce microplastic/fiber pollution.

Avoid over consumption of clothing, decrease your laundering and use cold water for laundry.

Note: The researchers are currently recruiting three hundred households in Collingwood, ON to volunteer for a free washing machine filter and to participate in a follow-up study. For further information on the Parry Sound study and the planned study in Collingwood, go to: georgianbayforever.org

Winter Ruminations

By Carol Hodson

So the summer is over and we're all snuggling down to face the Canadian winter ahead... But already we're planning.... dreaming... dare I say, plotting, the projects to be done next summer at the cottage in Carling. Something to improve our summer experience and that experience is certainly impacted by how our larger community/township is run.

Do I know who the councilors/Mayor are? What are the big issues in the West Parry Sound area? Are there projects afoot which may affect my taxes? Maybe my neighbor would be a good candidate for the new council? Maybe **I** would be a good candidate (oh my goodness!!!)

One source of information on municipal activity in Carling is the agenda/minutes of Council meetings, available on request from the town office (705-342-5856).

All food for thought on a snowy evening.... Happy holidays and pleasant planning for ALL improvements to our cottage experience!

Franklin Island Calendar

By Jay Burford

A neighbour of ours in Toronto, Ralph Grose, has been preparing an annual desk calendar containing award-winning photographs (see his note below). He and a group of friends enjoy going on field trips to new places for their photography. Recently this group went on a five-day photo workshop field trip to our much-loved Franklin Island.

From this trip Ralph has taken a selection of excellent pictures of Franklin Island and created a 2022 desk calendar. The individual calendar pages, each with a picture of a spot on the island, sit in the self-standing CD case for the display of each month.

I thought some of our members would possibly be interested in purchasing this item. It would make a terrific Christmas present or hostess gift for anyone who loves our beautiful part of the world.

To order calendars and arrange for pick up or mailing, please contact Ralph at:

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rcgrose@sympatico.ca



Hi Everyone

Time is passing quickly as we approach the new year of 2022. The subject for the 2022 calendar is FRANKLIN ISLAND GEORGIAN BAY. This island, north of Parry Sound, has classic Georgian Bay scenery.

For the last three years, I have produced calendars for the Toronto Camera Club, with images from a competition for the calendar. This must mean that the photos are popular with people! I have added an extra page to the calendar this year for memos.

The price remains the same at \$20 each. Most customers enjoy the personal use of the calendars on their desk. I am trying to promote recycling of the cases. If you do not require a case, let me know and I will supply the calendar without the case.

I look forward to hearing from you soon so I can reserve your calendars.

This year has been unusual and I hope everyone has now been vaccinated. Hopefully, we will not have a problem with another wave.

Kind Regards
Ralph

How Our Warming Climate May Affect Our Fishery

By Bruce Davidson

In early November of 2021 at the climate talks in Glasgow, the world was presented with some convincing evidence that global warming was very real and expected to persist. Whether or not one agrees with the premise that humans are responsible for the rising temperatures (something that is beyond question to most attendees) we Carling folk just experienced the warmest Georgian Bay waters on record this fall. As a lifelong cottager on the Bay, I personally opened at the earliest date ever, closed at the latest date ever, and swam (arguably in the view of my wife) at the latest date ever. Get used to it. This warming climate is going to have consequences for our fishery, so I did a little research to see what they might be.

In order to better understand the subject, it helps to appreciate what happens to the waters in our beloved Bay over the course of a year. Under ice cover the water temperatures are pretty much the same from the surface right down to the bottom. These waters can circulate freely, which provides uniform fish habitat. Once the ice melts a thin layer of oxygen-rich water develops at the surface that draws fish into the shoreline shallows. Because water has the interesting property of reaching maximum density at +4C, a remarkable phenomenon known as the **spring turnover** occurs in early spring when surface water reaches this temperature. Surface water, now at maximum density sinks and, aided by mixing from winds, creates a uniform column of water at the same density and temperature. Fish can be anywhere at this time. Things start to get really interesting again in early summer. Water starts to segregate into three distinct layers. The warm oxygenated surface waters now well above +4C are light and strongly resist mixing. Beneath these waters now lies the thermocline, a layer where temperatures decrease rapidly with depth (as you will quickly discover when you dive down to retrieve the anchor which you stupidly tossed overboard before tying it to the boat). Below the thermocline is the hypolimnion, a layer of deep, cold water that remains relatively undisturbed but now has limited oxygen replenishment. To complete the picture of a dynamic system, later in the year things go into reverse. Firstly, as the surface waters cool, they increase in density, sink, and start to erode the thermocline. Eventually surface waters get back to +4C when we experience the **fall turnover** with mixing occurring throughout the water column at uniform temperature and density. Finally, when the surface waters go below +4C they become lighter once again and float on the warmer deeper water before ultimately freezing.

Thermal stratification in a lake is important because it affects the distribution of temperature-sensitive fish. When things get really warm cold-water species not only have to be able to find cooler temperatures in deep water, *but there has to be enough oxygen there as well*. As we have learned above, in late summer there is not much mixing in the waters and the hypolimnion may have lost much of its oxygen. So cold water fish may face the tragic dilemma of death by temperature or death by oxygen starvation.



Bottom line: As our climate warms, cold water fish such as lake trout and brook trout and whitefish will decline, particularly in southern Ontario. Cool water fish such as pike, muskellunge, walleye and perch will fare somewhat better for obvious reasons and may also be able to move farther north to extend their range. The good news is that warm water species such as largemouth bass are projected to benefit from these changes with both increased habitat and a more productive ecosystem. Smallmouth bass like somewhat cooler water but will likely flourish with increased availability of food as well. So, any Carling fishermen expecting to be pursuing their passion in the decades to come might want to consider trading in their downriggers for bass boats with spinning gear. I will, of course, be watching from my chaise lounge partially immersed in the nice warm waters of the more temperate Georgian Bay.

Membership Update

By Donna Tucker

We have grown! Our membership for 2021 stands at 252 members comprised of 212 Primary Members and 42 Associate Members. In 2020 we had 142 members comprised of 134 Primary Members and 8 Associate Members. Our value is in our voice and our voice grows stronger as our membership numbers grow. Thank you to each of you for continuing to provide your support to WCA by maintaining your membership. Although our membership numbers continue to increase overall we lose about 8 to 10% of our membership year over year. That is to say that although we are signing up new members, we are not retaining all of our members. Some of this loss can be attributed to loss of contact with members due to mailing or email address changes or sale of the property. We urge you to keep your profile updated, especially your email address.

Our current practice is to send out three membership reminder notices starting in January. There is usually a flurry of sign-ups following these reminders demonstrating that we all need reminders to renew our membership. We hope to cut down on the number of renewal notices in future. For your convenience, **optional automatic annual membership renewal** is now available. This option can be cancelled easily, at any time. We urge you to consider this option to help us with our “paperwork”.

How to sign up for automatic renewal

We will be sending out a membership reminder notice in January. After you login to our website go to your "Profile" and then "Make Payments". You will see a prompt to "Set up auto renewal" which will require you to provide a credit card number. After you have paid your \$70 fee and checked this option, automatic renewal will commence in January 2023. You can cancel out at any time before January 1st each year. WCA was established in 1921. Please help us to keep our numbers strong to carry us through the next one hundred years by encouraging your neighbours and family to join.

Safe Quiet Lakes – The Results Are In

By Allison Needham

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Safe Quiet Lakes survey: *Your Lakes, Your Views*. Close to 6,000 community members responded, providing some interesting insights on how you and your neighbours enjoy the Bay. Responses were received from lakes and rivers all over the Muskoka region, Georgian Bay, and many other areas of Ontario, demonstrating that the lake community is deeply engaged with boating issues. The main concerns have been consistent: wakes, noise and speed. The data also reveals that there has been an increase in support for education about responsible boating, regulations, and enforcement.

The Decibel Coalition

Established in November 2019 by Safe Quiet Lakes, the Decibel Coalition is working to have Transport Canada enhance the current regulations for boat motor mufflers to include sound performance standards measured in decibels. It also wants easy, efficient, and effective enforcement procedures. More than 40 lake associations and eight municipalities have joined the Coalition or publicly support its goals. These associations represent more than 90,000 lakefront property owners across Canada. The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) was one of the early members and continues to be a strong supporter.

Excessively noisy boats and floatplanes are a persistent, pervasive, and growing problem on many of our waterways. The results from the survey will help these organizations work together for safer and quieter lakes – fuelling programs, and helping to advocate on behalf of lake users in the region.

How Can You Help?

The Decibel Coalition has launched a petition that you can sign to individually articulate your specific noise concerns. You are encouraged to add comments in the "why you signed the petition" section, as providing context around individual boat noise experience will be important to the Coalition's success with Transport Canada. The petition can be found <https://tinyurl.com/t448cv9x>

Survey Results

The scale and scope of this survey is immense and covers trends over the past eight years. The insights from these responses will be used by local and federal governments and by lake associations as a basis for developing programs and strategies. The results from the survey, which included Georgian Bay for the first time, clearly indicate that lakefront property owners are definitely concerned about boat noise and peaceful enjoyment of their downtime on the Bay. The research report has eight practical recommendations. Check out the results, review the findings and read the comments submitted:

Summary: <https://bit.ly/3FQsbL1>

Full survey: <https://bit.ly/3ITVvIJ>

Key Findings

- A large increase in the use of paddle boards (up 33%) and kayaking (up 16%) is strongly correlated with evolving views on education, regulation and enforcement
- Paddling brings a unique appreciation of risk and vulnerability, and this decreased sense of safety on larger lakes has increased openness to regulation and enforcement
- There was 71% support for no wake zones to protect people and nature
- 70% support for stronger enforcement of boating while under the influence
- 67% support for establishing decibel limits on noise made by boats

Top Pleasures

Three activities hold almost universal appeal. Interestingly, none of these activities involved a boat!

- 95% - relaxing on the dock or near the water
- 96% - swimming
- 92% - enjoying nature on the lake or by the shore

All other major lake activities are based around a boat of some kind – the top core pleasures are:

- 86% - paddling, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, and paddle-boarding – also the largest group of boaters
- 68% - cruising

Also rated as important:

- 57% - visiting friends and neighbours by boat
- 54% - transportation/getting things from A to B

Top Concerns

Top problems associated with unsafe and inconsiderate boating:

- Boat noise, especially from personal watercraft and sound systems
- Boat wakes
- Boats operated at high speeds, especially when close to shore

Here are the final GBA survey participation numbers broken down by association and showing the percentage of their members who did respond with a completed survey. There were 5,951 complete responses, 1,111 from the Georgian Bay Area with 975 GBA members. There were many more partial responses. Overall great GBA participation!

Association	2020 members	12-Jul	% of GBA Members
Bay of Islands	71	9	12.68%
Bayfield Nares	188	14	7.45%
Blackstone Lake	21	62	295.24%
Cognashene	372	161	43.28%
Deep Bay			
Honey Harbour	266	140	52.63%
Key River	53	72	135.85%
Mad Club	144	15	10.42%
Manitou	41	35	85.37%
McGregor Bay	153	16	10.46%
Northern Georgian Bay	32	20	62.50%
Pointe au Baril	631	65	10.30%
Sans Souci	394	108	27.41%
South Channel	95	40	42.11%
Twelve Mile Bay	14	33	235.71%
Wah Wah Taysee	38	25	65.79%
West Carling/North Sound	211	112	53.08%
Woods Bay	50	45	90.00%
Total GBA membership	2774	972	

Snug Harbour Lighthouse Update

By Peter Pook and Bruce Davidson

Sadly, our federal government, the caretaker for Canada's lighthouses, has declared many lighthouses across the country redundant owing to new navigational capabilities enabled by the global positioning system. Ottawa seeks to convey ownership of these lighthouses to townships or to caretaker organizations like the West Carling Association. Amazingly, within the waters of Carling Township there remain three functioning lighthouses as well as three functioning and one decommissioned light station. In days of yore a stand-alone light, or light station, was erected in front of a proper lighthouse, tended by a keeper, so that

an approaching ship would turn when the two lights came into alignment. Carling may have more lighthouses and light stations than any other town or township on the Great Lakes. Challenge: Can you name all of them? (A list appears at the bottom of this article.)

Carling Township decided to assume ownership of the Snug Harbour Lighthouse in 2016 and received \$90,000 from the DFO for future repairs. Fortunately, Snug Lighthouse is clad in aluminum siding and is well preserved. It was built in 1894 and much later had a kitchen added to the back of it. So far it is the only lighthouse on Georgian Bay that has been given historical status by the federal government.

Over the years the original boathouse and dock on the south side of the lighthouse were destroyed by the elements, although the dock cribs can still be seen. Two sheds east of the lighthouse have also disappeared with the passage of time. Around 1956 Snug Light was electrified with a small backup generator building being built nearby. Some time in the 1960's, a new boathouse was built on the more protected east side of the lighthouse along with a cement pier, a railway track and electric hoist capable of bringing a motorised lifeboat onto drydock inside the boathouse. A massive radio tower standing over 40 meters high was added around 1970 and subsequently removed in 1996. Other modifications made were the pouring of a concrete helipad as well as the addition of a newer, larger generator building. Snug Light remained tended by a keeper until the mid 1970's. For a number of years thereafter the Snug Light served as the search and rescue station for Central Georgian Bay, staffed by Coast Guard Cadets. Local lore has it that some of these cadets were only too happy to demonstrate the capabilities of their high-speed zodiac by conducting frequent searches for potential damsels in distress... notwithstanding calm waters and brilliant sunshine. After another round of federal budgetary cuts the summer intern program was cut. For several decades now the lighthouse has been unattended and largely neglected.



A few years ago, in an effort to secure the premises from potential vandalism, the Township shuttered the ground floor windows with plywood panels painted a solid red. Two summers ago a group of WCA members calling themselves “Friends of the Lighthouse” saw an opportunity to improve the shuttered appearance and approached the township about painting the shutters to appear like windows again. When Carling gave its approval, a work party was quickly organised and a marvellous transformation undertaken with great enthusiasm from all. Flushed with that success, last year we asked Carling if we could paint the horrible dirty gray generator building to match the lighthouse with white sides and a red roof. That task turned out to be somewhat more than we bargained for, but was accomplished without scaffolding using a little ingenuity and plenty of grit and paint. In addition to painting the generator building in colours matching the lighthouse, faux windows were added to the east side of it as well as the adjacent building. With the inclusion of the boathouse we now have four buildings on site matching the historical appearance of the lighthouse.



Also during this past summer, following a request from WCA’s *Friends of the Lighthouse Committee*, Carling Township replaced the old wooden flagpole with an aluminium one. The Township flag now flies under the Canadian flag. In addition the Township installed a new floating dock on the east channel closer to the lighthouse. A gravel path from the dock to the lighthouse is apparently in the works for next summer. This October the township installed a large granite boulder engraved with the lighthouse name, construction date and the Township logo next to the lighthouse.

With the aesthetics of the buildings now greatly improved, the task of *Friends of the Lighthouse Committee* has now largely become one of ensuring that that the grounds are well maintained, and the buildings secured from vandalism. Visitors can access the history of the building on the Carling Township website.

Editor’s Note: We were delighted to see the Coast Guard repainting Red Rock Lighthouse this summer. Hopefully they will restore the Jones Rear Lighthouse next or Carling could consider assuming ownership of that as well.

*CARLING LIGHTHOUSES : 1) Snug Harbour Lighthouse, 2)Red Rock Lighthouse and 3) Jones Island Lighthouse.

CARLING LIGHT STATIONS: 1) Snug Harbour front light station, 2) Jones Island front light station, 3) Spruce Island light station (decommissioned) and 4) Killbear light station.

Carling Christmas Market 2021

By Jay Burford

On Sunday, November 14, 2021, I drove north to attend the Carling Christmas Market being held that day, and to close our cottage later in the week. We had left the closing of the cottage in the hope -weather permitting - of being able to attend the Christmas Market.

As I drove by the Community Centre I was impressed with the amount of traffic. Cars were parked in a long line on West Carling Bay Road and on both sides of Highway 559. The parking lots were all full; however, the helpful members of the Carling Volunteer Fire Department were on hand to ensure the safe flow of traffic in and out, as the many shoppers arrived to enjoy the market.

My daughter Jessica came over from the island in Loon Bay to meet me at the Blind Bay Dock and we proceeded to the Carling Community Centre. The market was indeed popular, in part I am sure, because of the promise of 50+ vendors attending the event.

As we approached the buildings the whole area was full of activity. A photo with Santa in his workshop was set up in front of the Township Offices and right beside that was a large bus with staff operating the mobile vaccination clinic (a great idea to have it in attendance at this function).

There were vendors in front of the rink, including one mobile walk-in trailer to allow shoppers to see the display inside of clothing on sale. A delightful group of young people were stationed at the front entrance of the rink to remind everyone to sign in and to use hand sanitizer. The floor of the rink was packed with festive booths and displays. There were hand made crafts, paintings, jewelry, food items, books, information centres, photos, soaps, candles, iron work, and much more. Passion was palpable, as each vendor spoke eloquently about his/her products and was keen to connect with the shoppers. Many of the gifts you could wish to put under the Christmas tree for others, or to find there for yourself, were available.

Hot food and drinks were being prepared in front of the Community Centre. The aroma of the French fries was everywhere and they were so popular that they sold out quickly. However, there were a number of other items available and no one went hungry.

There was lots of good cheer and energy throughout, spilling right out into the parking lot and onto the roadways as people wished each other a very Merry Christmas. The Carling Christmas Market was a great way to start the holiday season and have the Christmas spirit instilled. It was a wonderful outing and Jessica and I sang Christmas carols (with me off key) all the way back to the island. We are looking forward to future Carling Christmas Markets.

Winter Township Dock Closings

By Jay Burford

In another article I wrote about coming up to attend the Carling Christmas Market and to close the cottage. When we closed up our water access cottage on Wednesday following the Christmas Market, we did receive one surprise. When we returned to Blind Bay Dock on Wednesday, November 17, to pick up our vehicle, we found that the ramp to the dock had been removed. We tried to bring the fiberglass boat up to the shore, but couldn't get close enough to get onto the land without getting soaked. With difficulty because of a strong wind, I nosed the boat close enough to the cement platform for my daughter to jump up to get the vehicle and drive around to town to meet me. We were unable to unload the boat at Blind

Bay. As there were three or four cars still parked in the Blind Bay parking lot, I have to believe that a number of other water access residents also got a surprise.

Before we left, we drove around to Sawdust Bay, one of the other Township docks and boat launches, to find that the ramp there had also been removed. Perhaps, the ramps had been left in to facilitate water access residents being able to attend the Christmas Market or perhaps it was just deemed to be the right time to remove them. I may have missed a notice, but I checked the Carling website and the calendar and could find nothing to indicate the date when ramps would be removed.



Perhaps with the longer more moderate fall weather, we could approach Carling Council to leave the docks accessible until later and to post a date when they will be removed.