

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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WEST CARLING
ASSOCIATION

Spring 2022 Newsletter

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Presidents Message

Welcome Back to the Bay! Spring is here although summer popped in for a week. This made the leaves come out in their lovely beautiful “spring” green.

I am sure you are all looking forward to being on the Bay this summer and it looks like that will happen. How happy that makes us all!

Our membership continues to grow. We have many more Associate members which is very exciting. Many of these are your children and this gives them the opportunity to understand the importance of our Association so that when we are ready to retire, they can step in. We do have one Associate Member on our Board of Directors, Alison Needham, and she is amazing. She is also our representative at GBA. I am convincing my children to join and I hope you will too.

With regard to GBA (Georgian Bay Association), we are now entitled to have two representatives on the GBA Board. If anyone is interested, let me know.

Your Membership Committee, chaired extremely capably by Donna Tucker, has developed a survey for you to complete to tell us the issues that are important to you. It will be coming out soon. The Committee has also completed an update of our brochure and you can pick up a new copy at the Carling market. This year, WCA will have a table at the market all summer so please stop by. They are also working at developing events for this summer. Some potential events being considered include a boat cruise and photo contest. If you have any ideas you would like to see us undertake let us know.

Your Board is deciding which events we can do this summer. Our AGM will be held on August 6th and we are looking at having an in person meeting so mark your calendars. An email and the website will give you all the details as soon as they are finalized. If you have concerns about an in-person meeting, let me know.

Our Annual Picnic Day is scheduled for July 30th and we will send out the details as soon as they have been finalized.

Carling Township turns 125 this year and a number of events have been planned. Check our website for the list. The kick off is the Carling Market on Sunday May 22, 2022. Carling will host a family picnic on July 23rd and WCA has agreed to run a rock painting contest. The rocks painted will be used to brighten the flower beds at the municipal office. Should be fun!

WCA also wrote a letter of support for Bill 279 that would require washing machine manufacturers to install a lint-type filter in the discharge piping that would trap fibers from clothing.

Finally, as you all know this is an Election year, both provincially and municipally. For the municipal election, you need to be on the voters list and if you are unsure go to Voterlookup.ca which is an MPAC site. Voter turnout generally is around 40% which is very low. We are working on a plan to have all the candidates either respond to some questions which we will put on the website or come to an in-person meeting to present their views. We will do our best to keep you updated on the issues and the candidates. If anyone is interested in running, please let us know. Candidates have until August 19th to commit to running.

Enjoy your cottages this summer and I look forward to connecting with you as soon as possible. Wishing you all the best.

Pam

Chamrock: The Chambers cottage on Snug Harbour

By Bruce Chambers

We decided to name our cottage “Chamrock” when we bought it from Margaret Mason in 1981. Margaret had purchased the property from Adam Brown. Adam of course deserves more than a mere mention, but suffice it to say that he lived to 106! He died in 1968 and his history is documented elsewhere - the Museum in Parry Sound has a good exhibit on Red Rock and Adam Brown. Don Christie plays a significant role in our cottage’s history as he does in so many other cottages in our area and we learned a lot of our history facts from Don. We also learned a lot from our neighbour Glen Parr.

Our “cottage” has three parts each with its own history and its own story. The garage which we use to store fireplace wood and canoes, a small sleeping cabin that we call “Adam’s”, and the main cottage.



The garage was originally a boathouse in the harbour in front of the cottage and the stone footings are very visible, particularly when the lake water levels are low. The story we heard was that one spring the boathouse was “floating in the harbour”. In any case, it was moved up onto the shore to its present location and became the garage.

We had the opportunity to learn the history of the sleeping cabin on a visit with Adam’s daughter, Jessica Phillips, when we invited her to our cottage in 1983. Jessie told us that she first went with her family to Red Rock when she was three months old! Adam was tending the Light at Red Rock at that time. Adam’s family lived on the adjacent “Minks” where a small cabin had been built for Adam’s sister who had TB. Jessie told us that Adam had moved this small Sleeping Cabin to its present location beside our main cottage after he had retired as “Light Keeper”. Jessie vividly recalled that Adam had skidded the cottage drawn by a horse across the ice from its location on the Minks to its present spot. At some point, it was enlarged by Don Christie to its present size of 320 square feet. We also had a short visit in the early eighties with Adam’s other daughter Edith Perks who was living in Parry Sound.



Margaret Mason bought the property in 1953, but she made an agreement with Adam Brown enabling him to use the Sleeping Cabin as long as he wished. To this day, we call it “Adam’s”.

Margaret made several improvements to the main cottage including the addition of a fireplace with a fieldstone frontage, an extension that created a master bedroom, a complete bathroom and a stair to upper bedrooms. The living room is paneled with knotty pine. As was the case with many other cottages, Don Christie did most of the modifications and upgrading. We painted the exterior of the cottage for a few years, but in 1996 we installed new windows throughout and clad the cottage, garage and the sleeping cabin with vinyl siding. Memories of Adam’s handiwork remain in the form of several small tables, a wooden decoy, and wall ornaments made from cedar roots.

Margaret was a retired schoolteacher and spent most of her summers at the cottage. Margaret made an agreement with Don Christie to extend the road leading to Glen Parr's property through her property and on to the Laurie and Miller properties.

Glen Parr remembers Margaret walking on a trail to Flynn's Resort where she left her car. Glen thinks Adam bought the property from the 1939 "Flynn's Survey".



Glen Parr of course has many more recollections because he lived there through many of the changes. The Parr cottage was built by Don Christie for Mr. & Mrs. Bishop from Cleveland in 1947 and Glen Parr bought the property in 1967.

The Laurie property to the west of us was settled by Peter Laurie's grandfather Dr. William Harwood, who had purchased a lot from Adam Brown, and passed it on to his daughter Willa (Peter's mother).

Peter Laurie remembers walking with his Mom to Margaret's cottage before the road to the Laurie cottage was built. Peter thinks this was in 1976 or 77.

The Parr and the Laurie histories both deserve their own separate reports.

Fall Election

By Carol Hodson

Happy Spring! Almost time to start those summer projects mentioned in our last newsletter, especially your possible involvement in civic government....!?! This is election year in Ontario... our opportunity to evaluate what has been done in our municipality over the past 4 years and decide it's great! so no change, OR that there is room for improvement And it is OUR job to make sure that happens! It would be to everyone's benefit to have a council that represents ALL residents of Carling. Calling everyone eligible to run for office to do so... or work together to encourage the right person to put him/herself forward. Past elections in Carling have been online, giving no excuse for not making your position known and your vote counted. Let's make this vote one that moves Carling forward! That means YOU!!! VOTE on or before October 24, 2022!!!

Vote for Your Future

By Daryle Moffatt

2022 is not only a provincial election year, but also a municipal, including school trustee, election year. We will go to the polls on October 24, 2022, to decide who will represent the residents of the Township of Carling (Carling) for the next four (4) years. We know that Susan Murphy, currently a Councillor, has thrown her hat into the mayor's race and the balance of candidates will be rounded out in short order. Before we get to October, there is a lot of ground to cover and consider before placing an "X" in that box.

Carling has put a lot of information on its website at this [link](#) but one of the most important things to remember is that "Anyone can vote in a municipal election who, on the day of the election is:

- 18 years of age or older,

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- A Canadian citizen, and
- Either a resident of the municipality or a property owner or tenant or the spouse of same sex partner of an owner or tenant in the municipality during a specified time just before the election.”

A lot of folks do not believe they can vote where they have seasonal property but that is not the case. Also, you do not have to go a polling station to vote because Carling will be using Internet and telephone voting to conduct the election starting at 10:00 am on Tuesday October 11, 2022, until 8:00 pm on Monday October 24, 2022. Therefore, if you have Internet or a telephone, you can vote.

Critical in voting is ensuring you are on the voters list. Here is the [link](#) to the website to check that and if you are not on the voter’s list, please take the necessary steps to get yourself, and others permitted to vote on the voter’s list.

Like all election, there will be door-to-door meetings, all candidates’ meetings, and the like, so there is a lot of opportunity to engage with your potential next municipal council. During that engagement, you may want to consider some of the following:

1. How well did the current Council members engage with you over the last four years? For example did you hear from them back in 2018 (just before the election) and then only again in 2022 before the upcoming election? Is that enough? How could the candidate engage with you on a more regular basis?
2. How were you informed of the comings and going at the Carling Council table over the last four years?
3. If you do not live year-round in Carling, do you feel part of the community? How would you better feel part of the community?
4. Where do you stand on these issues:
 - a. The environment,
 - b. Property taxes, keeping in mind that school taxes represent a portion of the overall municipal property tax rate,
 - c. Water quality,
 - d. Parking,
 - e. By-law matters,
 - f. Zoning matters,
 - g. Are you aware that Carling is updating its Official Plan? Can the candidates speak to the proposed changes? Did the candidate engage you in this review, if not, why note?
 - h. Shoreline development, including tree clearing,
 - i. Roads,
 - j. Waste,
 - k. Policing,
 - l. New wellness centre/pool complex,

m. Etc.

Where does the person knocking on your door stand on the issues that are important to you?

5. Can you have a conversation with the person standing at your door, on the dock, on the street about the weather, a sport? Can you find a common topic that he/she can speak to as if you are old friends?
6. The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations has information at this [link](#) "Vote for your Future".

There are many other things to consider but hopefully the above has got you thinking and will engage you in this process before Election Day, October 24th.

Here is your chance to shape Carling for the next four (4) years.

Adam Brown

By Donna Tucker

Adam Brown is best known for his lightkeeping duties for forty years at Red Rock from 1897 to 1937 and simultaneously at Snug Harbour for six or seven years starting in 1908. He eventually became the general supervisor of the Parry Sound shipping channel. Red Rock light is perched on a magnificent chunk of rounded granite exposed to the full force of Georgian Bay storms during which, at times, waves can be seen breaking over the top of the lighthouse at 50 feet.



Adam Brown was born in Holstein, Ontario in December 1862. He came to Parry Sound in 1886 to work as a butcher and later on as a fisherman. He travelled by train to Gravenhurst where he transferred to a stagecoach. However, the roads were so bad Brown and the other male passengers were obliged to walk most of the way from Gravenhurst while the ladies and freight rode in the coach.

Despite his forty years at Red Rock, Adam's job wasn't always secure. Lighthouse keeping jobs were subject to the whims of political appointments. When the political winds changed, a local contender came after his job. When the new recruit arrived at Red Rock to take over Adam had a surprise planned. He opened an air valve just a crack such that air rushed out with a terrifying screech causing the usurper to plunge down the tower ladder. When Adam went to search for the unwelcome visitor he found him crouching in a six-foot bank of ice that had been cut for the water line. Brown assured him that all was clear but the would-be contender declared that he wanted no part of lightkeeping.



Life on Red Rock wasn't always tranquil. Occasionally Adam was called upon to help with rescues. When the Seattle went down in 1913 just off Green Island in the nearby Minks chain, Adam took his boat to the site and helped survivors off the stranded wreck.

During his 40 years on Red Rock, Adam encountered many challenges, even with seemingly simple duties. One harrowing event occurred when he was painting the upper story of the lighthouse while suspended from a bosun's chair. The rope securing the chair wasn't properly set, causing the chair to drop and jerk him out of the chair. Ever resourceful, Adam grabbed an iron rod jutting out of the tower and crawled along the roof that was 40 feet up and crawled through a window to safety.

Brown managed another narrow escape in December of 1903 when he was supposed to be taken off Red Rock for the close of the season. Rather than be stranded in the ice-covered tower over Christmas, Adam decided to set off alone by boat, rowing to the mainland through the icy waters. Initially he made good headway but eventually became trapped by ice so he set off on foot across the ice. In a heavy snowfall, just as his energy and hopes faded he heard voices nearby. He was fortunate that some fishermen in a nearby shanty heard his whistle for help and assisted Brown to get to shore.



Adam Brown with a heron on his shoulder taken in 1937.

Despite the challenges of life on Red Rock, there were some lighter times. There are reports of lively dances and parties at the fishing station nearby on the Minks.

Adam earned a reputation as a friend of nature. The insects that buzzed around the tower light attracted birds that became blinded by the bright light beam. Numerous birds were injured after striking the lantern. Brown turned the lighthouse into a bird hospital, nursing scores of birds back to health each year.



Left - Adam Brown standing beside the Fresnel lens in the top of Red Rock Lighthouse in 1937.

Right - Adam Brown leaving Red Rock taken in 1937 going back to the mainland for the last time. George Johnston is manning the boat taking Adam to the lighthouse tender ship, the St. Helier's (seen in the background) that will take him to the mainland.

After a full and colourful life, Adam passed away at the age of 106 in 1968.

Images courtesy of the West Parry Sound District Museum: Dave Thomas Collection

Now Live! The West Carling Association Online Survey



Our Online Survey is now available – and we want to hear from you!

The survey was developed to provide an opportunity for both members and non-members in our community to share their views on the West Carling Association (WCA).

Your responses will assist the WCA Board in determining what we should ***keep doing, start doing and stop doing.***

We want to hear from as many people as possible. We encourage you to share the survey link with your family members and neighbours.

The survey is anonymous. Only summary data will be shared. Results will be posted on our website and shared via email.

To access our on-line survey go to: <https://forms.gle/UHC2VtPYosahR71f8>

Nature Sure is Amazing

By Tom Betts

During the past week, several times when I was in the outer waters in my boat I had the pleasure of witnessing some amazing optical illusions that apparently are not all that uncommon on the Great Lakes.

Many folks may know more about this than what I've discovered in a small bit of research, but apparently this "land stretching" is termed "Fata Morgana." According to a source on the Internet, it occurs "when a warm layer of air rests over colder denser air, forming an 'atmospheric duct,' which acts as a refracting lens."

Within are four photos. In what is labeled Pic 1, you are looking south toward Snake Island and Bateau Island. In Pic 2 you are seeing the outer edge of Franklin Island, which appears to have impressive vertical cliffs. In Pic 3 you should be seeing a vast expanse of water between where I am and Franklin Island, with one small shoal in between. Instead you see the shoal close up and a mirage of a stretch of land, which doesn't even exist there! In Pic 4 you are seeing two small rocks a long distance away from me between where I am and the Jones Island lighthouse. They are barely above the waterline normally, but Fata Morgana works magic on them.



Pic1



Pic2



Pic3



Pic4



Maamwi Anjiakiziwin
Together • Renewal • Land • Life

Community Update:

Road Ecology Project with Georgian Bay Biosphere

Summer is right around the corner, and so are we! This summer, we are looking forward to continuing our road ecology surveys throughout the Biosphere. We have a large team this year which allows us to focus on four local roadways, including Conservation Drive.



In teams of two, our staff will be biking the length of the roadway every week to identify species of reptiles that are seen alive or dead on the road, including nesting turtles! This information will identify any “hotspots” or common crossing points of reptiles along the route. This helps us to locate sensitive areas where we can recommend future improvements to better protect reptiles in the Biosphere.

Please keep an eye out for our staff who will be biking Conservation Drive on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from May-September, especially when driving over hills and around corners. Our team will always be wearing high-visibility vests and may frequently stop whenever we encounter a reptile on the road.

As we all travel through the Biosphere this summer, we also ask that drivers keep an eye out for wildlife on the road, and please be a cautious and attentive driver at all times of the day and maintain a safe speed that will allow you to stop for any animal on the road. We would LOVE to see what you can find around the Biosphere (not only reptiles!).

Participation in this project can be done by submitting photos of wildlife or plants to our INaturalist project. More information can be found here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/georgian-bay-biosphere>



Thank you! Miigwech!

Tianna Burke, Conservation Biologist

PO Box 662
gbr.ca



Do you have a deep appreciation and respect for Georgian Bay and recognize that it is a special and fragile place? Do you care enough about Georgian Bay to base your actions, decisions, and behaviours, in favor of long-term health and sustainability of the Georgian Bay ecosystem?

For so many of us, Georgian Bay is a special place representing family, history, nature, memories, and the hope of renewal that arrives with each new season. That is a bond and a legacy worth protecting and preserving. The GBA Board and its volunteers work incredibly hard for you, but as we move forward, we could really benefit from some extra help.

The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is looking for an additional Director to represent the West Carling Association on its Board.

What is the Georgian Bay Association?

The GBA is a not-for-profit umbrella advocacy organization, representing 17 community associations along the eastern and northern shores of Georgian Bay – that’s more than 6,000 families. The GBA advocates for real action to all levels of government that benefits us all. The GBA dedicates itself to preserving the incredible, yet fragile, wilderness and waterways that make the Bay so enjoyable for your family and friends, and future generations.

Who Belongs to the GBA?

GBA’s membership is defined as its 17 member associations. The interests of all members of these associations are represented by GBA, and a portion of the annual fee paid to local associations goes to GBA in support of its many initiatives and projects.

How Does the GBA Operate?

GBA’s activities are run by a volunteer Board of Directors selected based on GBA’s desire for regional representation as well as the need for a broad range of interests and experience. The Board oversees all GBA day-to-day operations, fundraising, communications, and marketing activities. The GBA Executive Director works closely with Board members to assist them in implementing GBA’s strategic priorities and action plans.

Why Join GBA’s Board of Directors

Contribute your skills, provide support, collaborate with a group of motivated professionals who share your passion for the Bay - and learn about the issues we face (development creep, high/low water issues, an increase of new boaters on the Bay, noise pollution, growing

environmental challenges) are getting bigger, more complex, and increasingly expensive to challenge with each passing day. No formal board experience is required, just the desire to make a difference!

Responsibilities & Duties

- Support the vision and mission of GBA, and actively participate in promoting its strategic objectives
- Be knowledgeable and responsible regarding the issues we face and provide creative ideas and solutions during challenging times
- Attend and participate in monthly Board meetings; contribute to discussion and decision making by sharing your expertise and experience. (Currently, all meetings are conducted by zoom. In total, there are nine Board meetings per year
- Be willing to serve a few hours per month for additional subcommittee meetings and tasks, these committees include:
 - Aquaculture
 - Boating, Safety & Emergencies
 - Coastal Protection
 - Communications
 - First Nation Liaison
 - Fisheries
 - Governance
 - Lands & Forests
 - Membership
 - Water levels and water quality

We know how much Georgian Bay and your cottage mean to you. After all, we're cottagers too. It is this shared passion and commitment to the Bay that gave rise to the GBA in 1916 – and continues to thrive today, thanks to a group of dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to help protect the Bay and its environment.

If you are interested in learning more about this position with the GBA and how you can make a difference on the Bay, please contact Allison Needham at allison.needham@rogers.com.



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

2022 WCA Digital Advertising Opportunities

If you would like to support the West Carling Association, help fund our efforts to protect the Bay and reach our members, you can take advantage of our new **digital advertising package** with:

- **Email Newsletter** - provides information on issues affecting Carling and Georgian Bay, distributed three times a year to our membership
- A listing in our **online membership directory**
- **Facebook**
- **Website Advertising**
- And a sponsorship call-out with your logo in our ad hoc email communications

Publishing Dates

WCA publishes its newsletter three times each year:

| Issue | Publication Date |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Spring | May/June 2022 |
| Summer | July/August 2022 |
| Fall | October/November 2022 |

Our Rates (Plus HST)

Our rates are as follows:

| Ad size | One ad | Three ads |
|--------------|--------|-----------|
| Full Page | \$150 | \$125 |
| Half Page | \$125 | \$100 |
| Quarter Page | \$75 | \$50 |

Inquiries about space and ad specifications should be directed to:

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WCA Director
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Tel: (647) 824-2922