

Spring 2023 Newsletter

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WEST CARLING
ASSOCIATION

Spring 2023 Newsletter

LIST OF OFFICERS

Daryle Moffatt, **Co-President**
email: darylemoffatt@hotmail.com
darylemoffatt@hotmail.com
416-500-3451

Donna Tucker, **Co-President**
tucker6493@gmail.com
(416) 239-6493

Dr. Adrian Crowe, **Vice President**
accrowe@hotmail.com
Toronto: 416 587-5000

Murray Hogeboom, **Treasurer**
mhogeboom@sympatico.ca
Home: 905 889-3645
Cell: 416-316-0613

Janice Wade, **Secretary**
janiswade@icloud.com
(416) 505 8291

Steve Vokes, **Vice President**
svokes@planmac.com
(519) 373-7510

LIST OF DIRECTORS

Jay Burford
jaysburford@gmail.com
416-226-4600

Christina Caap (365)
sofiefred@gmail.com
705 346-4047

Bruce Davidson (I-257)
dbdavidson@rogers.com
Cottage: 705 342-1034
Toronto: 416 932-0030

Carol Hodson (95)
hqbd42@gmail.com
(416) 214-1608

Allison Needham, **Membership**
allison.needham@rogers.com
(647) 824-2922

Peter Pook
peterpook@bell.net
(905) 334-4884

Nanci Wakeman, **Newsletter**
nanci.wakeman@gmail.com
Cell: 905 399-6706
Toronto: 905 823-2564

Richard Wilson
richardjwilson1@rogers.com

Presidents Message

Now that we have had a glimpse of summer with some unseasonably warm weather in April and spring has soundly arrived, our thoughts turn to summer in the West Parry Sound area in anticipation of enjoying the natural beauty of the Bay and reconnecting with friends and neighbours.

Your West Carling Association's (WCA) Board has been very busy over the winter keeping in touch with the activities and decisions of the Township of Carling (Carling) Council. Co-presidents Daryle Moffat and I met with Mayor Susan Murphy and Kevin McLlwain (Carling's Chief Administrative Officer) to gain further insight into the Morlock Island decision. Information on this meeting is posted at:

<https://westcarling.com/morlock-island-meeting-with-carling-council-january-23-2023/> on the WCA's website. Further, several Board members have attended Carling Council meetings, provided input into Carling's 2023 budget and its process and are monitoring the progress of the West Parry Sound area pool project.

The WCA is pleased to announce that Craig Johnston, whose family are long-time residents on Huckleberry Island, has joined the Board. Craig's background is in business law. He is particularly interested in water quality and access for Carling residents on water access properties. There are two vacant Board positions that the WCA hopes to fill at our annual meeting in July. If you would like to join us and contribute your ideas and knowledge and hone your governance skills, please get in touch with Daryle or Donna to indicate your interest.

On a personal note, the Board is small and needs the engagement of its members to continue to fulfil its mandate. We encourage all our members to step up, volunteer and get involved because the WCA will only be stronger. As the saying goes "Many hands make light work" and the Board cannot do it alone!

The WCA's Social Committee has planned some great events to generate some fun and bring us together. Mark your calendars for our annual meeting on Saturday July 29th and watch for announcements of a cruise on the Chippewa in mid-August, a fishing derby, an art event for kids and a self-guided tour of the shipwrecks of Carling. Also, we urge you to join the White Squall Franklin Challenge on Sunday June 25th. The proceeds go to the Outer Islands Project.

Many thanks to those of you who completed our on-line members' survey last year. We received 108 responses – an excellent return rate. Your answers have provided valuable information that affirms the WCA is headed in the right direction as an organization that values being responsive to its members. There is a full report on the results of the survey in this newsletter.

The WCA is greatly saddened by the loss of Don Clement, our friend and valued Board member who passed away in December. Don was a dedicated volunteer who worked tirelessly not only for the WCA but contributed greatly to the Carling community at large. Don was a true nature lover and delighted in telling his stories not only of the colourful characters of Carling Township but also of his wildlife sightings. In Don's honor, the WCA is commencing a project this summer to refurbish some osprey platforms in the area that have fallen into disrepair.

We hope to see you at the WCA events and around the community and encourage you to recruit your Carling friends and neighbours to become members of the WCA. We value your ideas and feedback. You can reach us at: info@westcarling.com or as below.

Daryle Moffatt, Co-president (416) 500-3451

Donna Tucker, Co-president (416) 414-8833

Hewers of Wood, Catchers of Fish

By Bruce Davidson

While it may be flattering to our egos to attribute our near-pristine Carling shoreline to responsible planning and development, the reality is that it is a lucky accident of history that settlers were so late getting here. Next time you walk around your cottage, one that has been in the family for decades, think about the fact that you may be walking on a particular piece of turf more frequently than any other man or beast in history! Imagine if you can, how incredible that concept would be to the average Egyptian where hundreds of generations may have trod on the same plot of land over the millennia.

I have noted previously in a Confederation Tribute article that the Town of Parry Sound was barely established in 1867. There may have been the odd corduroy logging road in Carling at the time but possibly not even that in view of the superior timber to be found around the Seguin River. So our Carling shoreline must have looked much the same as it did to Champlain—some rocky outcrops, some scattered beaches and little else. The harsh terrain interspersed with muskeg and swamps would have presented a formidable challenge to anyone attempting an overland approach from the south on horseback. Waterfront property, devoid of soil by glaciation and supporting only stunted trees was considered worthless and would remain so well into the twentieth century.

To refresh our memories, it was the completion of the Canadian Northern Railroad linking Toronto to Collingwood in 1855 that first provided ready access to the eastern shore of the Georgian Bay for sailing ships. And it was in the following year that surveyor William Gibson applied for a timber limit and erected a sawmill at the mouth of the Seguin River. The Beatty brothers, William and James, bought out the Gibson timber limit in 1863 and the lands whereupon the Town now sits in 1867, the year Canada became a nation.



This 1896 photo of the commercial fishing camp at the Bustard Islands, off Britt, offers a glimpse of what life may have been like at the Mink Islands fishing camp some 40 miles south. While Charlie Parr had a steam tug when he went to the Minks in 1930, his father Sandy Parr, fished from a sailboat similar to these when he worked out of Collingwood and at the Umbrella Islands. The steam tug, at right, would haul the fleet of sail boats to and from the fishing grounds, where fishermen would null the nets in by hand.

I had the pleasure this past summer of chatting with fourth generation fisherman Glen Parr who retired in 2004. There are some incredible photo albums in his Snug Harbour residence and a great deal of memorabilia. I feel I absolutely must share with you a photo I took at Glen's of a commercial fishing camp at the Bustard Islands, near Britt in 1896 (credit Parry Sound Public Library). Now consider that Glen's great grandfather was fishing out of Wasaga Beach and Collingwood at the time. Check out the ladies' dresses and bonnets!

Some of us in the Snug Harbour area remember Glen's fancy custom-built fishing boat named the Andarlin (a contraction of his children's names) which docked for many years at the Government Dock. (I even managed to go out on it one time courtesy of legendary fisherman and Marina owner Bryan Perks with Glen agreeing on the condition that I stay the hell out of the way). Glen reminded me that the Government Dock was purpose built by the Federal Government as a service to the local commercial fishery. He also reminded me that there were two other fishermen families working out of Snug in my youth and no posh

cottages at all, just rustic cabins. For most of its history, Snug was a fishing port a few hours sail away from a sawmill, nothing more.

Several years ago I visited Glen's Aunt, Verna Parr, in residence at the Belvedere in Parry Sound at the ripe old age of 100. The nurse on the floor told me that Verna was the only person allowed to have a sewing machine in her room, because it was considered too dangerous for her much younger 80-year-old friends on the floor. But not for Verna who sewed for the gift shop and told of summers spent on the Mink Islands in the



1930's and 40's. In its heyday there were well over 100 fishermen and family members living on the Minks, albeit with few amenities other than a church and schoolhouse. In the interview, I stupidly asked what the island folk did on their days off. Verna glanced at me with what I imagined was a quizzical look, paused for a moment, and then answered evenly "We didn't have any." I understand the fishermen came ashore from the Minks around 1950 when hydro arrived in Snug Harbour and refrigeration made the old ice houses out on the Minks redundant.

What's the point of this reminiscence? Well, simply to point out that Carling Township was remote up until the middle of the last century with fishing and forestry being the economic lifeblood of the few scattered residents. So, when we contemplate zoning changes that would provide for increased density around our shoreline, or proposals that violate our Official Plan, never forget the legacy that has been bestowed on us by our forefathers. Be very, very careful in embracing change, for once enacted, surely there is no going back. The precious wilderness that remains has been entrusted to us to preserve for future generations. It's a burden we should gladly shoulder.

I think it's important that we remember that and be thankful that we have the opportunity to preserve much of what is precious.

Remembering Don Clement

By Bruce Davidson

It's never easy saying goodbye to a friend, but in the case of Don, it's downright painful. It wasn't supposed to happen this way....just as he was looking to turn a new chapter and do some cool things that that damn knee held him back from. Why he even had a shiny new pontoon boat and a new floating dock set up to launch him on his water-based activities where he could step ashore wherever he wished in our magnificent archipelago. In anticipation of his new mobility, Don did some serious warm-ups last summer cruising around the Mink Islands and points farther south. He also volunteered to assist Peter Pook and myself in finding a suitable location for an osprey platform in the Snake Islands and I can easily visualize him lending his new pontoon boat to the materials transportation cause.



One of the things that set Don apart from the crowd was that he was a giver. That's a pretty scarce commodity in today's society and really appreciated. When we asked Don whether he could lay his hands on some old pictures of the boats that ferried patrons to the old Camp Franklin, he rummaged around in the proverbial attic and lo and behold came up with a fabulous painting of the Mindwandum, circa 1930. Not content with that gem, Don went in to Parry Sound and checked with the gals at the Museum. Generously, Don was the first guy to raise his hand when the West Carling Association were looking for volunteers to vet the draft of Carling's Official Plan. Who other than Don would give unstintingly of his time for decades attending Carling

Council meetings on behalf of WCA?

Another fine attribute of Don is that if he didn't have the answer, he always knew someone who did. And that was because he spent his lifetime in Carling and made a point of getting to know all his neighbours and everybody else that shared his love of the Bay. And I guess that's what hurts the most. I can't pick up the phone any more and simply say "Hey Don, have you got a minute?"



Boating Safety

Cold Water Survival

As the weather warms up, Canadian waters are still cold. The Canadian Safe Boating Council (CSBC) has designated **May 20-26 Safe Boaters Week** and a key message at this time of year is being cold-water safe. More than 60% of boaters who drowned did so in water less than 10C, and 43% were less than two metres from shore.

The first thing that happens when falling into cold water is the gasp reflex, it's called the cold shock response. When the cold receptors in your skin are stimulated suddenly it causes an involuntary gasp and, for about a minute after that, then hyperventilation and rapid breathing. Your blood vessels automatically constrict in the cold to protect your brain and organs from a rush of cold blood. The sudden restriction in flow means that you must work much harder to get oxygen into your lungs, and you immediately feel like you can't breathe. Testing by the CSBC determined that you have one minute to get your breathing under control, 10 minutes before the muscles in your extremities begin to lose function and an hour before hypothermia sets in and you lose consciousness.

How to increase your chances of survival in cold water.



- Wear a life jacket.
- Try to remain calm and get control of your breathing. Take breaths that last as long as 12 seconds. Breathe in through your nose slowly for 5 seconds; hold for 3 seconds; breathe out through pursed lips for 7 seconds. Doing this will help your body balance its carbon dioxide levels again and should prevent you from further hyperventilating.
- Hold onto something or stay as still as possible until your breathing settles down.
- Focus on floating with your head above water until the cold shock response abates.
- Keep your clothes on to help retain heat, including a hat if possible. Clothing can help trap air and increase your ability to float for longer periods of time. Even shoes or boots can help insulate your feet from losing heat.
- Assume the HELP (Heat Escape Lessening) Position (much like the fetal position) as above to conserve heat and facilitate floating.
- Keep movement to a minimum and stay calm.
- If possible, climb onto something to get as far out of the water as you can to conserve heat.
- Huddle with others, if possible, to conserve heat.

Most important – wear a life jacket!



Engine Cut-off Switches

Transport Canada has opened public consultations on installing and using engine cut-off switches on certain recreational vessels. The consultation period closes **May 19th** and the public is invited to share their views on potential new regulations. More information on how to do that can be found at: letstalktransportation.ca

An engine cut-off switch stops the propulsion system when the operator is unexpectedly ejected from the vessel. The safety feature protects operators from the spinning propeller and stops the vessel from moving through the water uncontrolled. The switches are usually “linked” to the operator via a mechanical lanyard or a wireless connection.

Currently, cut-off switches are only required on personal watercraft in Canada. The U.S. has required them to be installed on recreational vessels less than 26 feet (8 metres) since 2019, and in 2021 made it mandatory for boat operators to link themselves to their boat’s cut-off switch.

Canada is considering similar legislation to the U.S., and now is the time to make Transport Canada aware of your views.

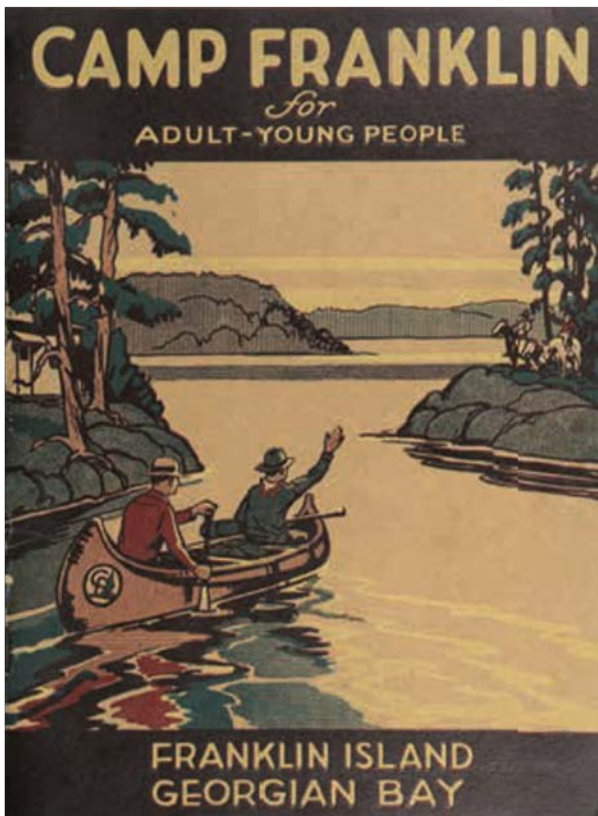
No Wake Signs

Are you interested in purchasing a No Wake sign? The signs are designed to be used where boats should have their bows down and putting out no wake, which is 30 metres from shore, swimmers, other boats or docks.

Safe Quiet Lakes is selling 24”x 24” signs that are sturdy yet light and can be easily affixed to a dock or post. They cost \$20 and can be ordered by emailing: outreach@safequiet.ca.

Camp Franklin: “Nature's Playground for Adult-Young People”

By Allison Needham



In 1922, the Minwandum Camping Association established Camp Franklin, a youth camp located on the shores of Franklin Island where “goodwill, friendship, hearty laughter and unselfishness” were the main ideals of staff and campers.

Originally an all-boys camp under the direction of Reverend William J. Christie, it soon expanded to offer girls programming and coed camps for children and young adults. Family programs were also offered during busy seasons. The camp became so popular that camps in October and November were added with different themes and outdoor skills — one of which was learning to hunt. The camp operated each summer from June to October, until its close in 1937.

Billed as a getaway from the rush of the city, Camp Franklin was an opportunity to learn valuable outdoor skills while enjoying the fresh air. The staff encouraged the development of what became lifelong friendships and instilled a love and respect for the natural beauty that surrounded each visitor.

Activities included horseback riding, canoeing, swimming, various sports, rowing, sailing, nature study, fishing, photography, and much, much more. There were sports such as tennis, golf, volleyball, badminton, and baseball for all to compete in. In the evenings, campers could relax by the fire, participate in dances or masquerades, and even attend exclusive parties held on the grounds.

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The 50-foot sailing yacht, Minwandum, offered campers the choice of a two, three, or four-day cruise to acquaint themselves with the 30,000 Islands. One of the most popular overnight trips was to Killarney where campers had the opportunity to photograph or paint the scenic views of the park.

Camp Franklin had five spacious lodges, four to 14 rooms each, with cozy living rooms, cheery fireplaces, and spacious verandahs, all picturesquely situated among the pines facing the Shebeshekong channel. The cabins and tent bungalows, dotted here and there, provided quiet and serene sleeping accommodations. As time went on, a dining and recreational hall, stables, and various types of courts for games, trails, laundry, vegetable gardens, a boathouse and a large wharf were added. The camp had its own post office, tuck shop, and medical attendant.

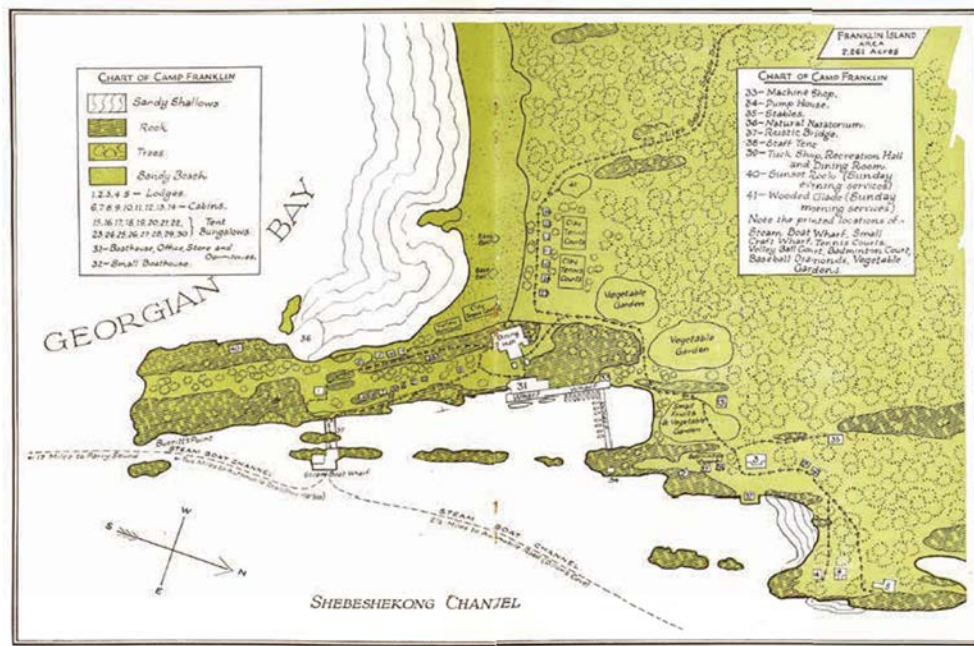
During its years of operation, the camp was a major employer and provided passengers to both railways and boat lines in the area. Many Carling residents worked on the island as cooks, dishwashers, instructors, guides, and cleaning staff.



The Dining Hall



“There is Health in every mouthful.”



With its natural beauty and adjacent provincial park, the island was the perfect setting for rest and outdoor activities. Walter C. Cain, Ontario Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests, wrote: "This island has many long, deep, narrow bays, which are the spawning beds of many kinds of fish, and numerous varieties of waterfowl haunt its shores. In addition, the island contains 11 small lakes most beautifully situated and surrounded by exceptionally well-wooded shores. These woods are the homes and nesting places of a wonderful variety of birds and the breeding ground of deer and other small game animals. Of the thirty thousand or more islands in the Georgian Bay, Franklin is described as the most attractive."

Although it is all gone, those of us who have visited this magnificent island can still envision what Reverend Christie started. You can still find remnants of its past throughout the island, and Franklin remains a special place that draws people back, time and time again.



Georgian Bay Association Fee Increase

On April 15, 2023, the Georgian Bay Association (GBA), passed a resolution at its Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) to increase GBA's annual fees by \$15 per member effective January 1, 2024. GBA will continue to send its UPDATE magazine to all West Carling Association (WCA) members three times a year. The mailing costs associated with these newsletters will now be covered by the membership fee increase. Previously, this was an additional out of pocket cost, on average, of \$5.34 per member paid by member associations such as WCA. Hence, the net increase in the GBA fees is \$9.66 per member representing a 17% increase. The GBA last increased its annual membership fees in 2016, which were effective January 1, 2017. As a GBA member, the WCA pays an annual membership fee to the GBA each January based on the number of WCA members the previous year.

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As a result of the GBA decision, the WCA is reviewing its annual membership fees and as a minimum will be proposing to increase its fees by \$15 per member at the upcoming July 29, 2023, AMM. The WCA is reviewing the fees of other GBA member associations but a range of fee increases (on top of the \$15) are being considered. The WCA last increased its annual membership fees in 2016, effective January 1, 2017. Further information will be provided at least ten days in advance of the AMM.

The WCA Board is fully aware of the current economic situation that its members are facing but the WCA is also facing increasing costs across the board and must act accordingly. We look forward to the continued support from WCA members regarding the proposed annual fee increase along with the support and advocacy work of the GBA on our behalf.

WCA Events

Date	Event Title	Time	Location/Details
May 21, 2023	WCA at Carling Market	11 am – 2 pm	Carling Community Centre
June 1, 2023	A Photo Journey through the Seasons of Carling with Ted Krug	7:30 pm	Photos of birds and animals in summer and winter Carling Community Centre
June 15, 2023	Carling Community Dinner	Cocktails 5 pm Dinner 6 pm	Carling Community Centre \$20.00 each Tickets at township office & Carling Market May 21
June 25, 2023	Franklin Challenge to support the Georgian Bay Biosphere Outer Island Fund presented by White Squall	Padding begins at 8:30 am	Snug Harbour/Franklin Island
July 16, 2023	WCA at Carling Market	11 am – 2 pm	Carling Community Centre
July 29, 2023	WCA Annual Members Meeting	10 am – 12 pm	Carling Community Centre
August 13, 2023	WCA at Carling Market	11 am – 2 pm	Carling Community Centre
August 17, 2023	Chippewa Cruise	3:30 – 5:30 pm	Parry Sound Town Dock Join us for an afternoon of fun on the water and an opportunity to meet your fellow WCA members. Cost: \$30 per person (plus HST). Route: Depot Harbour, North Sound, Huckleberry Island and Hole in the Wall
October 8, 2023	Thanksgiving Charity Market	11 am – 2 pm	Carling Community Centre
November 12, 2023	Christmas Charity Market	11 am – 2 pm	Carling Community Centre

Other Upcoming Events

Georgian Bay Forever

Shoreline Cleanups

Starting June 6, weekly Tuesday cleanups at Sunset Point in Collingwood from 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Contact: ashley.morrison@gbf.org

Sunday August 13, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., David Johnston Park, Meaford
Contact: alyssa.bourassa@lakehuron.ca

Sunday August 13, 2:00–4:00 p.m., meeting behind Bayshore Community Centre, Owen Sound
Co-hosted event with Lake Huron Coastal Centre
Contact: alyssa.bourassa@lakehuron.ca

Georgian Bay Biosphere

Event details can be found at gbbr.ca/events

May 17:
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Webinar: EV Infrastructure 101

June 10:
10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Native Plant Fundraiser

June 14:
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Webinar: Dispelling EV Myths

July 15:
Naiscoot Lake
Explore Our Shores: guided paddle

July 16:
PaBIA Naturalists Speaker Series, Ojibway Club
State of the Bay: perspectives on ecosystem health & fisheries

August 16:
7:00–8:00 p.m.
Webinar: Owning an EV in the GBB Region

Georgian Bay Land Trust

Join the Georgian Bay Land Trust for a series of fun and educational events this summer!
Visit gbt.org/events for more information and to register.

June 17:
Bioblitz at Sandy Island, Sans Souci

July 5:
Cyanotype Sun Print Workshop, Gunn Island, Wah Wah Taysee

July 16:
Nature Walk at the MacCallum Reserve, Go Home Bay

July 24:
Nature Walk at Fairies Dancing, Pointe au Baril

July 26 & August 27:
Yoga at American Camp Island, Wah Wah Taysee

July 30 & August 17:
Yoga at The Lizard, Cognashene

August 2:
Nature Paddle, Bayfield Inlet

September 16:
Fall Bird Migration Walk, Roberts Island, Honey Harbour

September 17:
Walking for Wilderness, Parry Sound

WHO DOES WHAT ON GEORGIAN BAY?

Your Guide to the GB4 Organizations Working to Protect the Bay

By Allison Needham
WCA Director & GBA Board Member
Editor, GBA UPDATE

As a member of the West Carling Association (WCA), you are also a member of the Georgian Bay Association (GBA).

GBA and its sister organizations, continue to get *frequent* questions from WCA members and other Georgian Bay cottagers about the specific roles of each organization. Why are there four groups and what is the difference in their roles? Simply put, who does what on the Bay? Here is a quick summary:



Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is an advocacy umbrella group representing 17 community associations and their members – approximately 3,000 families comprising over 30,000 individuals, on the east & north shores of Georgian Bay. **Its mandate is to** represent the interests of our member associations to all levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal, first nations and regulatory authorities) and others to preserve the unique characteristics, and ensure the careful stewardship of Georgian Bay.

The mission of the GBA is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment



Georgian Bay Forever (GBF) is a science and education charity focused on water issues in the whole of Georgian Bay. GBF funds and supports scientific research and education that protects and enhances the waters of Georgian Bay, as part of the Great Lakes.

GBF's mission is to protect, enhance, and restore the aquatic ecosystem of Georgian Bay by funding accredited research on water levels, water quality, and ecosystems; by educating the public and

governments on issues regarding the environmental protection of the Georgian Bay area; and by enhancing the public's appreciation for their environment.

We believe that water is a common heritage and a fundamental human right that is essential to life. It should be preserved and made accessible to all, today and in the future. We value the concepts of transparency, integrity, creativity, trust, and sharing. Everything we undertake is done with respect for the members of the varied communities we serve.



[Georgian Bay Land Trust \(GBLT\)](#) acts to protect wilderness lands and species along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay and the North Channel and its near watershed, through strategic conservation planning, land securement, stewardship, research, and education.

GBLT's vision is an eastern Georgian Bay and North Channel whose islands, shores, and inland watersheds are connected and strengthened by a network of protected natural lands and habitats, where native species thrive, and people interact with the natural world.



[Georgian Bay Biosphere \(GBB\)](#) is a **charity that promotes the aims of the UNESCO biosphere** on the east coast of Georgian Bay to actively nurture the balance between human activity and the ecosystem. To facilitate cooperative action in support of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development through education and public outreach, that will foster a shared responsibility for the GBB for the next seven generations.

Situated within Anishinaabek territory, Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere is a region of global ecological significance that makes an ongoing commitment to the United Nations to strive for sustainability. Here, people are inspired to live and work in harmony with nature. GBB partners with First Nations and Indigenous peoples to care for our shared air, land, and water.

WCA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2022 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES AND THEMES

Many thanks to all of you that participated in the West Carling Association’s online survey. We received an impressive 108 responses from our membership between May and October 2022. The survey was created to determine what our members value the most about the West Carling Association and their views on what issues and activities we should focus on.

OUR DEMOGRAPHIC

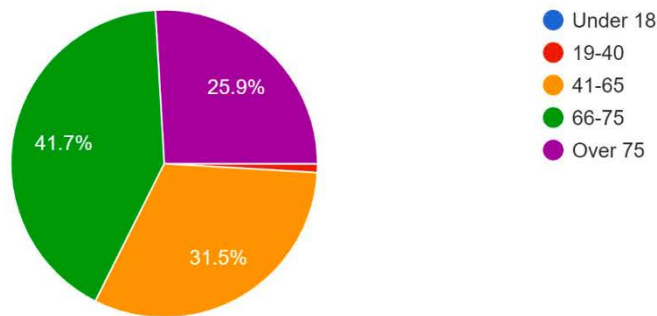
What do we know about those who filled out our survey?

Age of the Respondents:

- 26% were over 75 years.
- 42% were 66 to 75.
- 31% were 41 to 65.
- Only a few respondents were under 40 years of age.

Demographics your Age

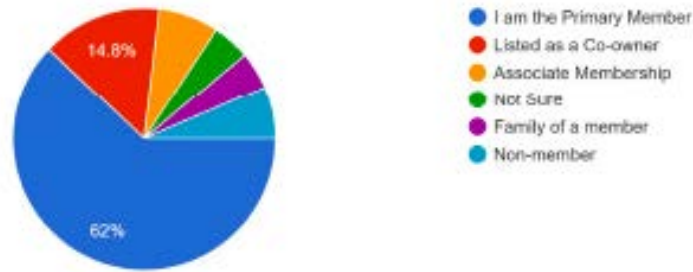
108 responses



OUR MEMBERSHIP

- 62% of respondents were primary members.
- 15% were co-owners.
- 14% were not sure.
- 5% were not members.

What type of membership do you have with West Carling?
108 responses



Length of membership in the WCA or the North Sound Association:

- More than 20 years: 39%
- Six to 20 years: 32%
- Less than five years: 29%

YOUR PROPERTY

When do you use your property?

- 12% are permanent residents.
- 17 % use it during four seasons.
- 47 % use it during three seasons.
- 24 % use it only in the summer.

Where is your property located?

We divided the map into four arbitrary zones for the purpose of general location. There was equitable representation from all areas of the WCA catchment.

ACCESSING YOUR PROPERTY

How do you access your property?

- It was an even split between road and water only access.

For water access properties where do park your boat and car?

- Boats: most are parked at commercial marinas or private arrangement.
- Cars: most at marinas but a good number at municipal lots or private arrangements.

If you park at a municipal lot, is there adequate space for your car?

- No 35 %
- Yes 65 %

If your property is water access, is there adequate space to dock you boat?

- No 35 %
- Yes 65 %

Comments

“There’s no handicap parking for those of us with mobility issues - required under Ontario rules.”

“Boat docking is becoming harder to access, and far more costly. We are fortunate to have a spot at a marina, but every year we worry about the permanence of our arrangement.”

“On busy weekends there is not enough car parking at the marina or at the municipal lot.”

“Parking is so crowded you cannot leave your spot on weekends without fear you won't be able to find another one. Likewise, it is often impossible to find space at government docks in part because of use by work boats and some boats tying up where it is illegal.”

“Government dock at Dillon does not let us leave a boat there long enough to go to town or to any appointments.”

“Gilly’s has more boats wanting to park than available and same for Carling parking lot on many days.”

“There are a lot of non-residents using the parking.”

“Municipal facilities are full.”

“A long-term plan is required to ensure that islanders will have continuing access to the mainland.”

COMMUNICATION

West Carling Newsletter - how often do you read it?

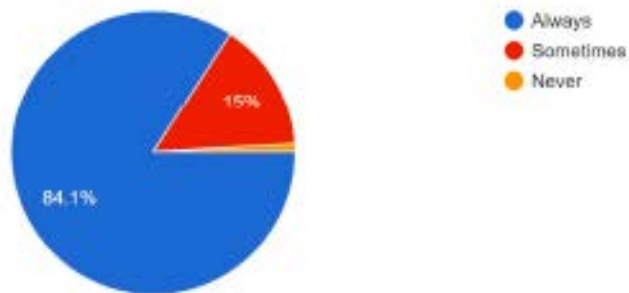
- 93% of respondents always read the newsletter.

GBA Newsletter - how often do you read it?

- 84% of respondents always read the newsletter, and 15% only sometimes read the GBA newsletter.

How often do you read the GBA Update newsletter (email or print)

107 responses



How often do you go to the WCA website or Facebook page?

- The website gets used more than Facebook, most respondents said they do not go to Facebook unless there are posts.

Comments

“It would be helpful if the website differentiated between membership renewal and becoming a member. It should be a simpler process to renew my membership.”

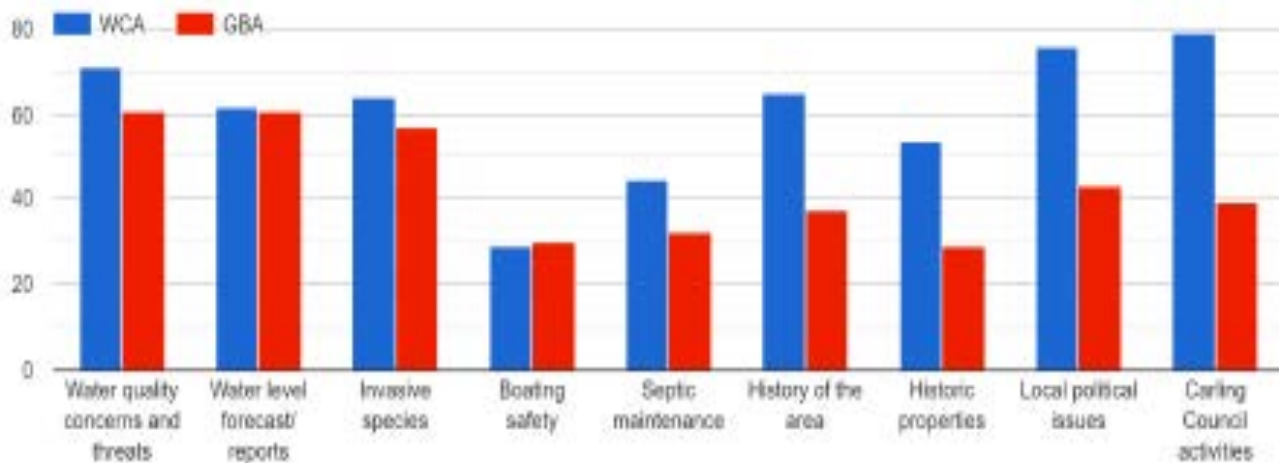
“Promote more - didn't know we had a Facebook page.”

Which of the following topics would you like to receive more information about from either GBA or WCA?

- WCA – water issues and local political activities ranked highest, but members expected a broad number of topics to be covered.
- GBA – Water issues and less on local politics.

Which of the following topics would you like to receive more information about (from either GBA or WCA)?

Please check as many as you wish.



Comments

“Please indicate the map locations of defibrillators.”

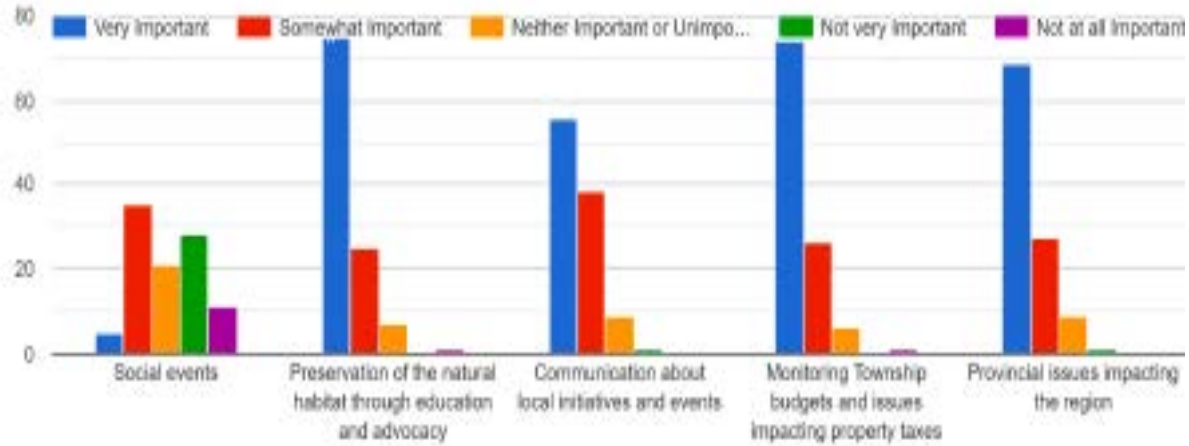
“Information on Township hearings and zoning, docking etc. changes prior to enactment.”

“More sharing, short, more regular posting via other lake associations activities.”

What should WCA focus on?

- Preservation of the natural environment, monitoring Carling Township and provincial political issues ranked highest.

What should WCA focus on?



Comments

“Need to work together with more associations.”

“It is important that any association work with Council.”

“By-law and zoning enforcement.”

“Development in the area.”

“I would like the WCA to act more like a ratepayer’s group, while at the same time having an environmental and social component.”

“There is a property near me (Morlock Island) where construction has proceeded without a permit and what has been built is not compliant with local by-laws. I would like to see the WCA play a more active role in leading opposition to such a flagrant violation of local by-laws. If the building is allowed to stand it will set a very bad precedent for the township.”

“Stricter rules with regards to cruisers dumping gray water in channels.”

“10-year inspection on septic tanks/holding tanks which will include gray water disposal on islands and monitoring outdoor showers to ensure no leaching into the Bay.”

“Please no short-term rentals. Air B and Bs would be a sure-fire way to accelerate the destruction of what we have and are trying to preserve, in terms of the environment, noise, shoreline erosion, etc.”

“Floating Transient Cottages, PWC /boat speeds and operation.”

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Social activities ranked lower but in follow up questions, responses for 53 participants showed that there is interest in some social activities.

If you indicated social activities are important to you, what would you like to participate in? (53 respondents)

West Carling Association – Spring 2023 Newsletter

- Expert speakers, family picnic and boat cruise were popular requests.

With respect to Carling Township how important are the following activities?

- All options offered were important: monitoring Carling activities, attending Carling Council, providing input on zoning matters, input on budgets.

Of the following topics, how important is it that WCA be involved?

- Water quality, shoreline development and invasive species were all highly ranked.

GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION

What did we learn about overall satisfaction with the WCA and the Georgian Bay Association (GBA)?

- 76% reported satisfaction with WCA for value for money with 22% neutral and 2% not satisfied.
- Respondents were slightly less satisfied with value for money for GBA with 65% neutral and 10% not satisfied.

There was an option to add additional comments at the end of the survey. We heard the following:

A small number of respondents commented that they were unclear about the activities of WCA and GBA.

“Unsure what GBA is doing for WCA for \$50.”

“I don’t feel that our contribution to GBA is good value at this point. We do appreciate their newsletter.”

“There is not sufficient transparency as to what GBA is doing for its membership fee.”

“I would be willing to pay \$100.00 yearly with it divided equally between WCA and GBA. I am an Associate Member.”

We received accolades and expressions of gratitude.

“Thank you for your advocacy!”

“I am always pleased to receive the newsletters and other info. Well done.”

“I appreciate the opportunity to complete the survey, Well Done!”

“Thank you for volunteer leadership”!

“Thank you to all the members on WCA for their time and commitment to the Association over the years. We appreciate all you do.”

“Appreciate your work. Love learning and seeing issues presented.

We heard about other concerns.

“No sea planes in congested areas (Snug Harbour)”

“Noise from boats and PWCs

“Boating etiquette”

Our respondents shared some ideas to consider.

“Suggest partnering with Parry Sound Power and Sail Squadron to advocate for safe boating and navigation skills.”

“Would like to see the public docks at the Pancakes and Huckleberry Islands rebuilt. These are wonderful destinations and the docks have been broken for a few years now.”

“I would like to see "walking trails" on Franklin Island! Perhaps this could be an association project? I would volunteer!”

“Appreciation presentation for the people who are there always for us, i.e., reuse centre, volunteer firefighters, etc.”

“Would appreciate access to a webcam of various parts of West Carling to monitor conditions like they have in Deep Bay.”

What is the WCA doing with the information that we learned from the survey?

The WCA Board has developed an action plan for 2023/2024 that focuses on the priorities identified from the survey including:

- We have formed a “Watchdog Team” that is monitoring Carling Council agendas and are attending Council meetings, paying particular attention to shoreline development.
- We are lobbying to have a residents’ finance committee to work with Carling Township staff to provide greater transparency regarding municipal budgets and spending.
- Establish a working group to advocate on behalf of residents with water access properties and work with Carling Council to find long-term solutions for car parking and boat docking.
- Support and work with the Georgian Bay Association to continue its advocacy and activities related to water quality, coastal protection, boating safety and invasive species.
- Increase the visibility of the work of the West Carling Association and the Georgian Bay Association through our newsletter, timely email communication and a presence at the Carling Market.

If you have any comments or questions about the survey results, please contact us at: info@westcarling.com