



Summer 2023 Newsletter

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WEST CARLING
ASSOCIATION

Summer 2023 Newsletter

LIST OF OFFICERS

Donna Tucker, **President**
tucker6493@gmail.com
(416) 414-8833

Richard Wilson, **Vice President**
richardjwilson1@rogers.com

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

Steve Vokes, **Treasurer**
stevevokes@bell.net
(519) 373-7510

Craig Johnson
craig@berkeleycounsel.com

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

LIST OF DIRECTORS

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

Dr. Adrian Crowe
accrowe@hotmail.com
Toronto: 416 587-5000

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

Tom Betts
tcmbetts@gmail.com
(724) 599-5998

Bruce Milburn
BMilburn@srlawpractice.com
(416) 459-9919

Cynthia Milburn
cynthiamilburn@gmail.com
(416) 605-6863

Katherine Yantzi
nigellamora@gmail.com

Presidents Message

The West Carling Association (WCA) held its annual meeting of members (AMM) on July 29. Mayor Susan Murphy provided updates on the new transfer station, the proposed Parry Sound Pool, proposed new firehall, proposed Nurse Practitioner Clinic, communication with residents and, boat docking and parking for water access properties.

Nicole Carpenter from Georgian Bay Forever provided an overview of the invasive plant phragmites and reported on some recent mapping of phragmites stands that she carried out with WCA Board Member, Richard Wilson.

Year in Review

Daryle Moffatt, Co-president reported on Board activity since our last AMM which includes:

- Advocated on your behalf on critical issues such as Morlock Island, Bill 23, and the invasion of Floating Cottages
- Attended and reported on Carling Council meetings
- Hosted an all-candidates meeting ahead of the 2022 Municipal Election
- Conducted a member survey with 50 per cent of members participating
- Development and sale of logo merchandise as a marketing and recognition initiative
- Meeting with the presidents of other Carling ratepayer associations to discuss mutual concerns and issues
- Published three newsletters a year, and frequently post relevant articles and updates on our website
- Participation on Georgian Bay Association Board and committees
- Events included a boat cruise on the Chippewa, a virtual photo contest, and a table at the Carling Market on Sundays.

Plans for the Year Ahead

The survey we conducted in 2022 provides a clear road map for the next few years. Our members have told us that they are most concerned with:

- Protection of the natural environment from over-development (e.g., water quality, invasive species)
- Maintaining an open, working relationship with the local Municipal government to maintain basic services and prudent use of tax dollars.

Although events and social activities ranked lower in the survey responses, 53 participants in the survey showed interest in attending events.

Donna Tucker, Co-president spoke to our priorities for the coming year.

Nature and Environment

- Working with Georgian Bay Forever on waterfront phragmites eradication in Carling Township
- Task group working on replacement of Osprey Nest platforms

Municipal Affairs

- Continuing attendance and reporting on Carling Council meetings. There is streamed access to meetings. We would like to see meetings recorded and available on YouTube or similar

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- Lobbying for Council agendas to be sent out earlier (currently agendas are sent out on Fridays before a Tuesday meeting providing little opportunity to react or ask questions of our Councillors prior to the meeting)
- Following up on recommendations from the meeting re: Morlock Island (e.g., use of drone technology to monitor building sites)
- Continued monitoring of the Parry Sound pool project, proposed firehall, proposed nursing clinic and integrated transfer station
- Forming a task group to work with Carling Council to address docking and parking for water access properties
- Forming a task group to work with Carling Council to address waterfront recreational activities in Carling (e.g., docks on the Pancakes, Huckleberry Island and Franklin Island)
- Lobbying for improved by-law enforcement
- Meeting with other ratepayers' association in Carling to share mutual concerns and solutions

Board Governance

- Succession planning to involve a younger demographic
- Revision of by-laws to become compliant with the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act by October 2024
- Implementation of a policy for reserve funds

Events

We have planned another cruise on the Chippewa on August 17 and we will begin planning for next year's events early in 2024.

Financials

Murray Hogeboom, Treasurer presented the financial statements. Currently we have approximately \$17,000 in cash with some unpaid additional expenses that will come in before year end. In 2022, we ran a deficit of nearly \$1500. For the year to date we have a net surplus of nearly \$1400 with some outstanding expenses that will likely place us in a small deficit position by year end.

Membership

Allison Needham, Membership Director reported that we have 176 members as of the AMM which includes 140 Primary Members and 27 Associate Members which is tracking closely with 2022 given that we gain and lose members each year. We continue to be active in recruiting members through our presence at the Carling Market, email communication about events and activities and personal follow-up with individuals that express interest. We have added 11 new members this year.

The West Carling Association has some unique opportunities and challenges in terms of recruiting and retaining members. We have a large geographic area spread across numerous access points, both road and water access properties with differing needs and a wide range of age and interest demographics among members and potential members.

Similar to other associations we face the challenge of attracting the middle and younger generations that are now part of the multigenerational properties in our catchment area. We developed an Associate Member category to address this and have seen some growth in this category.

Election of New Board Members

We have had an overall change of 6 Board Members with the following Directors retiring as of our AMM as below along with Pam Wing and Bruce Kelly who left the WCA Board in October, 2022 upon their election to Carling Council—many thanks to these dedicated volunteers who shared their time and talent.

Retirees:

- Christina Caap
- Bruce Davidson
- Murray Hogeboom
- Daryle Moffatt

We welcomed 4 new Board Members and look forward to a productive year ahead.

Incoming Board Members:

- Tom Betts
- Bruce Milburn
- Cynthia Milburn
- Katherine Yantzi

Retiring Board Members

Many thanks to all of our retiring Board Members who have demonstrated their caring for Georgian Bay through the generous contribution of their talent and energy to WCA.

Honouring Pam Wing

Pam Wing retired from the West Carling Association Board last November when she was elected as a Councillor for the Township of Carling. Born and raised in Parry Sound, Pam was a cottager in Carling until 2014 when she and her husband David moved to Snug Harbour permanently.

Pam served ably as the President of the West Carling Association from 2014 until last November, leading us through Covid and a merger with the North Sound Association. At the same time, Pam was juggling a busy role as the CEO of the Foundation of a large Toronto Hospital. As the story goes, at Pam's first WCA Board meeting, when the call went around the table to see who would like to become President and everyone else had declined, she took up the challenge and jumped right in. We are grateful for the time and energy that Pam brought to the role. She tells us it was a great experience and, that she enjoyed her time as President and the opportunity to meet wonderful people and dedicated volunteers who care about Georgian Bay.

Tribute to Bruce Davidson

By Peter Pook

I had a chat with Bruce the other day about his pending retirement from the WCA Board and he commented, "Peter, you know your priorities and ambitions have changed a tad when you are thrilled at

the prospect that your new pontoon boat, when lightly loaded, might just put you in danger of exceeding the 8 km. speed limit of the inner harbour.”

Bruce joined the WCA Board in 1998 at a time when breakfast meetings were held in Directors' cottages on a voluntary basis. Environmental issues were pretty much at the top of the agenda, partly because of an amazing gal called Jean Niskannen who entertained the group with stories of how to control the white pine rust disease and encouraged the outlook for gypsy moth infestation. There wasn't much discussion about Carling Council issues, taxation and the tourist pressures on infrastructure that trouble us today. Kayaks were for Eskimos (using the language of the day). The meetings would break up with somebody volunteering to have the next one at their place.

Bruce assumed the Presidency in 2002 and held it for 8 years before turning it over in favour of his good friend Jeremy Gawen in 2010. Bruce is reluctant to take credit for things accomplished during his tenure, but admits to being a strong supporter of the Franklin Island cleanup efforts and having WCA provide modest funds for the construction of 'thunder boxes'. For several years Bruce was responsible for collecting water samples on a regular basis from locations in the area subject to heavy boat traffic. As a personal commitment he constructed several fox snake 'nests' on Snug Island in conjunction with the Biosphere Reserve as well as bass nests in surrounding waters. To this day he actively deconstructs fire pits emplaced on pristine granite and collects garbage whenever encountered.

He was a guiding sage to the WCA through his long commitment and will be very much missed.

Honouring Christina Caap

Christina has been a part of Carling since 1998 when she and her husband bought their property on Conservation Drive near the Pengally Bay Marina. She took a year to design their home based on the idea that it would be a meeting point for their two children – a son and a daughter. The house has worked well for Christina's children and grandchildren who love Georgian Bay and are regular visitors, building many good memories. Her home is built for all seasons and although she and her husband spend most of the year in Carling, they take time to explore other countries and cultures.

Christina joined the West Carling Association in 2002 at the urging of one of her neighbours when she moved to live in Carling on a full-time basis. She was elected to the Board in 2007, ably representing the Richard's Bay area just west of the Killbear Marina. Christina's involvement in the West Carling Association has been mostly in membership and activities related to the environment and nature. This includes water testing, collecting rattlesnakes for Killbear Park research studies, information about pine rust to protect our pines and most recently gathering information on the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve's project on Conservation Drive regarding turtle and snake research.

Christina says that her time with the group at the West Carling Association has been very enlightening and that she has learned a lot over the years from all the members.

Tribute to Murray Hogeboom

By Bill Bialkowski

Murray and his wife Susan bought their cottage near Dillon Cove in the late 1990's. It is located on the Shebeshekong River slightly up from Dillon Cove Marina. It tends to be shallow there during low water and hard to bring a boat in. Murray solved this problem by buying a Sea-Doo, which he learned to maneuver like a pro. He and Susan had a great time exploring our beautiful area on their jetboat.

Murray, a professional accountant, volunteered his skills to become WCA's Treasurer in 2012 and continued until 2023, when he retired from the WCA Board. He served on the WCA board table for many years and had a steady hand on the tiller of WCA's finances until his retirement this year. Murray was a quiet presence on the Board but when he commented, his remarks were thoughtful. He will be missed by WCA.

Honouring Daryle Moffatt

Daryle Moffatt joined our Board in 2021 bringing expertise from his role as a Councillor in the Township of Seguin and experience on the Board of the Federation of the Ontario Cottagers' Association. Daryle is a Chartered Professional Accountant with a practice specializing in assisting clients with tax compliance and finance functions. We have been fortunate in having his financial expertise and knowledge of municipal affairs. Daryle is also a member of the Coastal Protection Committee of the Georgian Bay Association. Many thanks to Daryle who stepped up to the role of Co-president last November.

Honouring Bruce Kelly

Bruce Kelly, joined our Board in 2020 and retired last November when he was elected as a Councillor in the Township of Carling. Bruce took on numerous roles and activities on our Board serving on the membership committee and, in the role of Board Secretary. He became increasingly interested in Carling Township politics during his WCA Board tenure while working on the review of Carling's Official Plan in 2021.

Bruce was instrumental in the development and analysis of the WCA membership survey completed last year. Bruce's love of Georgian Bay started with visits to his grandparents' Carling cottage when he was growing up. He now resides in Carling full-time with his wife Jennifer.

West Carling Association Fee Increase for 2024 Approved

A motion for a membership fee increase was approved at the Annual Meeting of Members held on July 29, 2023 as below:

- Annual membership fees for Primary Membership be raised from \$70 to \$100 effective January 1, 2024.
- No increase in fee for Associate Members, remaining at \$25.

The West Carling Association (WCA) currently collects an annual fee of \$70 per Primary Member and \$25 per Associate Member. We pay the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) the major portion of that fee. Of the \$70 membership fee we receive, the WCA keeps \$20 per Primary Member. We do not pay the GBA for Associate Members, retaining the full \$25 fee.

Georgian Bay Association Fee Increase

In April 2023, the GBA raised its membership fee from \$50 to \$65 per member largely due to inflation. Their last increase was effective January 2016.

The GBA is very active in its advocate role focusing on **issues that our members have identified as being very important to them**, (e.g., water quality, species at risk, boating safety, coastal protection and invasive species) working both at a federal and provincial level freeing us up to focus on local concerns.

West Carling Association Increase

Why does WCA need the fee increase?

After we pay the new GBA rate of \$65, WCA would retain only \$5 per Primary Member from the current rate of \$70 resulting in **total income from membership fees of approximately \$1,500 annually**. For 2023, our fixed costs alone to cover insurance (\$950), Zoom meetings (\$226), and bank charges (\$350) total **\$1526**, leaving little room for other expenditures. We receive some additional donations from members but this is not consistent or predictable.

The last fee raise was in 2017. The new fee rate raises the WCA portion of the overall fee from \$20 to \$35. Inflation alone accounts for a large portion of the fee raise.

Concurrently, the WCA has engaged paid communications services. The communications role was instituted in 2021 in recognition of the need to communicate more frequently and effectively with our members, requiring a time commitment beyond that of a volunteer. To be able to continue to purchase these services and cover other expenditures necessitates a fee raise of the WCA portion. Not raising our membership fees for 2024 will impair our ability to communicate effectively with our members, fund other projects and cover fixed expenses.

Comparator Organizations

Our Membership Director completed a recent survey of comparator organizations, largely within the umbrella of the GBA. The range of fees for Primary Members runs from a low of \$70 (WCA) to a high of \$120 for Primary Members and \$50 for Associate Members. The average fee for Primary Members in the comparator group is \$97.

Cottage Story Competition

WCA is stealing an idea from the Pengally Bay Association. Our Fall edition will feature entries to a short story competition with a prize for the winner. The story can be “brave, heroic, humorous, good deeds, bad deeds etc.” It can be fiction or non-fiction and cannot be longer than 3 pages.

Our president and the newsletter editor will be the judges. The prize will be a coveted article of WCA Swag!

Check our website: westcarling.com for more information about deadlines for submission.

Important Message to All American/International Cottage Owners

Under-used Housing Tax <https://georgianbay.ca/underused-housing-tax/>

American owners are required to file, although there are at least a couple of exceptions (no winter access, etc.) that will apply and eliminate any payment.

More information can be found in GBA's March e-Update.

Below is another link provided by Rupert Kindersly.

<https://georgianbay.ca/news/underused-housing-tax-form-for-non-canadian-property-owners-now-published>

Bay Invaders of the Worst Kind

By Richard Wilson

Although you may or may not know what Invasive Phragmites Australis is, you have definitely seen it. With a seemingly benign appearance, having them described to you doesn't conjure quite the same scary notions as hearing about "Killer Hornets" or "Wild Boar". But we should all be concerned, very concerned, about this invader.

Now thriving along most stretches of provincial 400 highways in Eastern and Southern Ontario, and equally dispersed along many secondary roads, these stands of massive (as tall as 15 feet) reeds, seem almost tranquil as they sway in the breeze. What lies beneath however is a nightmare. Thick roots, potentially the size of your wrist, can grow horizontally as much as 10 feet in a single season. Plants spread with rhizomes, stolons or seed transfer. The plants can thrive on dry land, or in water up to a metre deep. They grow so tall and dense, that in a matter of a few years, a wetland can be completely choked. Reptiles such as turtles can no longer penetrate their mass. Native bird species can't nest in them. Surface water completely disappears through build-up of biomass and transpiration through the plants. Recreational use of infested harbours becomes a thing of the past.

The purpose of this article is not to educate you about phragmites (known as "Phrag" by many). For that please use a simple web search. The Province of Ontario and the Canadian Invasive Species Centre are two notable sites. In just a few minutes, you will read enough information to be just as worried about this threat as I am.

Southern Georgian Bay has been particularly hard hit by the infestation. Several municipalities and associations have taken up the battle, notably Georgian Bay Forever, which has been operating a phrag management and control program since 2012. Coastal stands of phrag can be combatted by cutting their stems, just below the water surface, which effectively drowns the plant. Several years of repeated cutting has been shown as an effective method to eliminate a stand.

WCA was not aware of any active phrag management underway in our area, so with assistance from Georgian Bay Forever, we conducted a thorough survey of the Carling Township Coastline in mid-June, looking specifically for the presence of invasive phrag. Special shout out to Bruce Davidson who was able to use his decades of experience in the area to help us avoid most of the rocks around Franklin Island.

Striking to me, was the huge number of wetlands contained within our coast. A fantastic part of the ecosystem, they are also prime growing sites for phrag stands to sneak in undetected.

Our findings were encouraging. There is certainly phrag present on our coastline, but less than we would have suspected. The stands all seem to be contained and of a size that can still be managed. In all we spotted six stands, with Franklin Island, Bateau Island, and interestingly, Deep Bay being the host locations. Bear in mind, that this was only a coastal survey. Roadside growth is definitely present in our township. Please add your voice to ours and ask your respective council, MPP and MP to take a proactive stance against what is currently considered the most threatening invasive plant in our province. Should you spot a stand in your area, please report it to the appropriate jurisdiction. You may also consider downloading the location onto a popular phone app EDDMapS, which is used by many researchers to gather data on this invader.

As for us, we are working with GBF to secure funding that would cover the costs of sending a team into our area for a few days this summer, to do eradication work on the stands that have been identified. We have not yet approached our council to help fund the effort but will do so in the next budget cycle. Any assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated.

The coastline survey will need to be refreshed in June 2024. I intend to map out some assigned areas, which can be completed in a few hours each, and engage some of our members in training on phrag identification. Should this be of interest to you, please reach out.

In closing, I would ask all to educate themselves on this plant and the ensuing risk it poses to our part of the bay. Please follow all the guidelines you find for stopping the spread and add your voice to supporting efforts for active eradication of this invader of our bay. On Wednesday Aug 18th we will be departing Snug Harbour with some GBF guides to do seasonal cutting of the phragmites stands on Franklin Island. If you would be interested in helping out, we have room for a few volunteers to come along. Some light physical work is involved, likely on the shore or in shallow water. Bring a life jacket, a sharpened spade shovel and work gloves. Space is limited so please reach out to the author richardjwilson.one@gmail.com if you are interested.



Photo of Invasive Phragmites Australis growing in Deep Bay. Note the beige coloured stems. The native species of this plant does not grow as dense, is typically shorter, and has more reddish brown One of the tricky things is that you have to get a tax number (ITN) before submitting the UHT form and that can take a number of weeks.

The Eagles Have Landed

Photos by Bruce Davidson



Giving Back To The Bay

By Bruce Davidson



Giving back to the Bay can take many forms for different people. WCA Director Peter Pook found a novel way to give over the Civic Holiday by painting the bullseye marking the channel on the south end of Franklin Island.

This task has apparently been done by fisherman Glen Parr for many years. As you can see from the photos attached it's not a job for super seniors unable to kneel on solid rock. But then again nobody told Peter that.

Inspired by many accolades received by recently painting the black stripe down the front of Snug Lighthouse, Peter decided that if someone could get him onto the rock that damn bullseye that has been there for generations was gonna get painted come what may.

The author assisted in the effort by skillfully manoeuvring his pontoon boat onto the leeward side and then set about the arduous task of picture taking while Peter got all the fun painting. Bear in mind that I had to wait forever for him to finish the job and then pick him up, so it's not like it was easy.

For boaters wondering who's responsible for making the safe passages visible from great distances you need look no farther than our fine Bay stewards Glen Parr and Peter Pook. We owe them a hearty voice of appreciation.



Chippewa Boat Cruise 2023 – August 17



Join us for an afternoon of fun on the water and an opportunity to meet your fellow WCA members.

The boat holds 64 people (with 30 spots reserved for WCA members). Let's try to fill the boat with WCA members!

Date and Time: Thursday, August 17 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm allowing everyone to get home before dark, stay in town for dinner or put together an "apres event." Boarding will begin at 3:15 pm from the Parry Sound Harbour.

Cost: SPECIAL WCA RATE of \$35 per person plus HST (You can pay a 50% deposit – to hold your space). Balance can be paid at booking or at embarkation.

Route: Depot Harbour, North Sound, Huckleberry Island and Hole in the Wall

There is a full bar on board (spirits, wine and beer for purchase). There are also snacks available for purchase.

There is a covered deck open to the air and a washroom on board.

To Book:

Call 705 746-6064 and be sure to mention that you are with WCA to get the group rate. *If you book online you will not get the group rate.*

Book early as this sailing is open to the public. For further details and parking information click on the link below

[Cruise Boat in Georgian Bay - Parry Sound cruise lines \(mvchippewa.com\)](http://mvchippewa.com)

Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Hodson at hqbd42@gmail.com

