

President's Message

by Donna Tucker

Autumn in Carling is a bittersweet time as many of us close down for the season, taking with us the memories of another summer on Georgian Bay. I hope that you and your family took advantage of the exceptional weather we enjoyed this summer and continued to see throughout September.

The West Carling Association held its annual meeting of members on July 26th and we were fortunate to have three informative and interesting speakers:

Counsellor Bruce Kelly provided an overview on a range of topics including:

- the July 7th flood
- Pool Project - see the Carling News Update for further information, page 14
- 2025 Budget - tax increase held to 1.35% while 25% of our tax dollars go to provincial services such as ambulance, health unit, social services etc.
- Capital Projects – *Firehall* - Carling has received $1.9MM grant (50% of cost) and has reserve of $1.2M

see **President**, *page 2*

Musings from the Editor

by Tom Betts

"Ya win some, ya lose some," was a phrase I heard often in my youth, from coaches in various sports. Of course the phrase is never uttered upon *winning*, so I generally associate it with moments that did not turn out as I would have hoped.

Little did I realize then that some 50 or so years later, it would be the phrase that would first pop into my head in the midst of a cottage adventure on Georgian Bay. But no phrase could sum things up better.

I am referring to the time period of September 2 through 8, 2025. This was the one and only week when our working-age daughter would be able to get some time off from her job and spend some quality time at the cottage. Madison was first introduced to Georgian Bay at 8 weeks of age, fell in love immediately, and subsequently spent a great many days of her summers there, up to age 18 when college and eventually graduate school and employment filled her calendar.

But on September 1 of this year, she would fly from Seattle to Pittsburgh, where she would be picked up by parents and a

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- *East and West Carling Bay Road* upgrade on hold until 559 repairs completed by Province
- Noise by-law survey – being conducted by Council
- Council awarded $5000 to Georgian Bay Forever for phragmites control in Carling

Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT)

Janet Brough, Senior Development Officer from GBLT spoke about their Corridor Project.

Animal habitats are disappearing as development moves north. When habitats are fragmented into smaller parts, animals can't move freely and must travel longer distances to access suitable habitats.

The GBLT is working to establish a 62,900-acre protected corridor along the eastern shore of the Bay. The project will join existing protected areas to form a continuous wilderness area and establish a permanent migratory space for 50 species at risk and provide the needed space for over 2000 plants and animals. These lands will remain available for all people to access in their natural state.

Meredith Denning, recently hired into the role of Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Association (GBA), provided an overview of her role and GBA's current projects and issues including dock foam pollution, the TC Energy pumped water storage project near Meaford, invasive species, aquaculture, and Vision 2050 - an initiative to bring together stakeholders to create a sustainable future for Georgian Bay.

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golden retriever who had missed her dearly, and who had missed having her at the cottage. We would drive to the cottage on Tuesday, September 2 and spend the next six days doing what we four love most about summers on Georgian Bay: quiet morning paddles in the kayaks; boat trips to a different magical island each day for picnic lunches and the world's finest swimming; relaxing moments on the cottage deck, reading; evening bass fishing trips with jumping fish and spectacular sunsets; lively evening board games; and so much more.

Nope.

On Wednesday, our first full day, strong south winds kicked in half a day before they were supposed to. Still, we found some protection on the north side of an island and tried to enjoy some island time in the sun. But then the sunshine disappeared half a day before it was supposed to! So a boat trip that seemed to have some hope deteriorated to a mostly cloudy, windy, island stop, with a little bit of forced swimming in unseasonably cool water. In the evening, it rained a little.

The next several days brought non-stop gale-force winds, well over 20 miles per hour most of the time and even into the mid-30s one day! It rained at least a little bit each day. Clouds were so prevalent that we forgot what Georgian Bay sunshine even looked like. And forget the glorious night skies of a billion stars – it was a total blackout. Daytime temperatures dropped 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Oh, and did I mention that the power went out? *The power went out!!* Not once in those four days, but twice! The second outage lasted for 22 hours! C'mon, a person can eat only so many s'mores.

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Following our meeting we were all invited to a barbecue at Cynthia and Bruce Milburn's cottage in Blind Bay. Many, many thanks to the Milburns for a great afternoon!

Attendance at the meeting this year was somewhat disappointing. Attendance tends to be low if there are no controversial topics, if the weather is too nice to be inside, or if our members are overrun with guests! We held a debriefing session at our August Board meeting and discussed strategies to improve attendance including changing the timing and format of the meeting. The annual meeting is an important opportunity to connect with you in person. We appreciate any feedback or ideas you would like to share. Please contact us at: info@westcarling.com

For more information on news and current events in Carling Township, please refer to the

Carling News Update

on pages 14-16 in this newsletter

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We all had been looking forward to this trip for months. We had probably checked the weather forecasts a hundred times. We knew things weren't looking good, but we did not expect the fury that Mother Nature sent. And it wiped out most everything that we had wanted to do. I mean who would ever expect that even "playing board games" – the cottage go-to when things turn sour – would become a difficult if not impossible task. It was just early September, right?

Now, when compared to so many things happening in the world today and even to people we know, our week of misfortune is certainly minor and insignificant. It is important, after all, to keep things in perspective. And to that end, I tried, during this week of disappointment, to focus on the words of my dad who, early in our cottaging days, liked to say, "If you're lucky enough to be on Georgian Bay, you're lucky enough."

Still, as we walked down our soggy cottage path, defeated and a full day early in our departure, I couldn't help but think to myself, "well, ya win some and ya lose some."



Loss of the Waubuno

by Bill Bialkowski

The loss of the steamer *Waubuno* is deeply embedded in Georgian Bay and Parry Sound folklore. Named after her is a Channel in the Parry Sound Approaches, a buoy in the outer channel, and a beach. *Waubuno* sank with all 24 souls on board on 22 November 1879, and as no eyewitness survived, her loss remains a mystery.

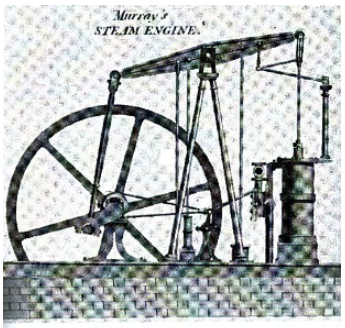
Her anchor and a commemorative plaque (shown below) are located on Waubuno Beach (27 Prospect Street, Parry Sound).

The *Waubuno* was a wooden side-wheel paddle steamer that conveyed passengers and freight.



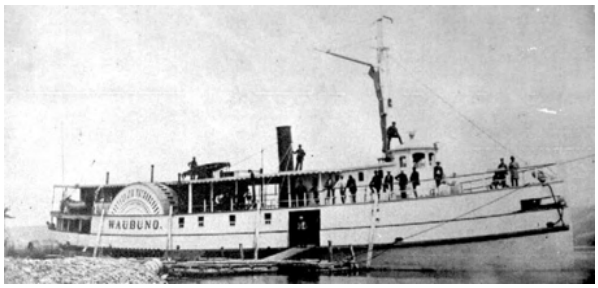


The steam engine, which weighed several tons, was a low-pressure single cylinder of very early 1820 design. It is called a 'walking beam' engine because the beam rocks back and forth much like the walking gait of a person. The sketch to the right shows how the walking beam connects to the cylinder on one side and rotates the paddle wheels on the other.



A simple circa 1820 single-cylinder walking-beam engine.

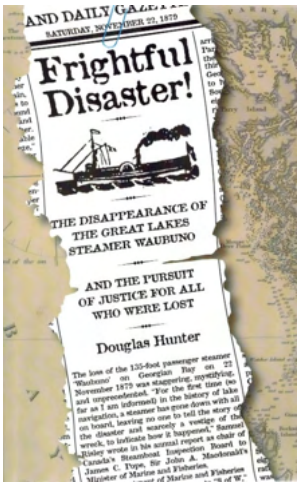
Waubuno was built by Melancthon Simpson at Port Robinson (now Thorold) in 1865 for J. & W. Beatty and Company of Parry Sound to initially help service the massive timber rights the company had purchased on the Georgian Bay east shore. Later it was owned by the Georgian Bay Transportation Company, whose main purpose was to run passengers and freight from the Northern Railway's railhead at Collingwood to places further north, including Parry Sound and Thunder Bay.



Starboard side view of Waubuno. Note the side paddlewheel box, and just forward is a tilted beam, "the Walking Beam" that is part of the steam engine.

see **Waubuno**, *page 5*

Waubuno, *from page 4*



I have just finished reading Douglass Hunter's excellent new book *Frightful Disaster*, which sheds light on the *Waubuno*, her operation, eventual loss, and the shipping trade which flourished between Collingwood and Parry Sound in the 1860's and 1870's including the government, legal and business dealings under the Sir John A. MacDonald's conservative government at the time.

Great Lakes steamers at that time were called "Canallers" due to the need to negotiate canals, such as the Welland. They were slab sided with high freeboard of which the *Waubuno* is an early example, and the *Asia* shown below is a later example. By today's standards they look top heavy and unstable.



In 1870, Canadian shipping was up in arms when the Plimsoll Line legislation was introduced in Britain. It required a clearly visible loading line to be painted on the side of the ship with the aim of preventing accidents due to overloading. Ruin of Canadian great lakes shipping was predicted, as they would have to stop overloading as a regular practice. The Plimsoll Line was not adopted in Canada until 1876.

Although not discussed by Douglas Hunter, in 1879 we are still at least 50 years from a time when ship design considered ship lateral stability. Today ship design must ensure that the ship will recover after healing over (a positive metacentric height is needed) for any reason and to ensure a return to an even keel with ease. From the look of the *Asia*, she looks ready to topple over. On September 14, 1882, *Asia*, heavily loaded and with 125 passengers (she was registered to carry 100), capsized off Lonely Island in Georgian Bay with a loss of 123 people – only 2 people survived. One lifeboat with 17 people was launched, but it overturned. After 18 hours in open water the two survivors were Christy Ann Morrison (18) and Duncan Tinkis (18).

Both the *Waubuno* and the *Asia* were overloaded, had unsecured deck cargo, were leaky and had water in the bilge – all conditions which exacerbate stability. It is thought that both met their fate by capsizing in a fierce gale on Georgian Bay, which can be as treacherous as the Atlantic in a gale.

George Plumpton Burkitt became the captain of the *Waubuno* in the spring of 1877. His experience was limited. He had served as wheelsman, a stores man and a second mate of other steamers. He was familiar with the *Waubuno*. But the owners of the *Waubuno*

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Waubuno, *from page 5*

were free to appoint anyone they wanted. No qualifications were required.

Shortly after the sinking, remains of her hull were found off what is now called Wreck Island. No bodies and no engine were found.

In 1959, scuba divers found her anchor, windlass, steam engine 'walking beam', paddle wheel and anchor chain, in the vicinity of Burkett Rock (named after the captain).

It is surmised that George Burkett arrived at this point, at 10 AM on November 22, 1879. He was facing a fierce southerly gale, which would have put the wind and waves on his port side, causing her to heal to starboard and roll with the heavy swell. It is thought that he dropped his anchor with the hope of riding out the gale, bow into the wind.

There was a report that at about this time, that *Waubuno's* steam whistle was heard screaming over at nearby Moose Deer Point. It was surmised that this was George Burkett's distress call.

Evidently the wind was so strong that windlass and anchor broke loose, and the *Waubuno* broached and capsized. The boiler was never found.

This is speculation only, but a hot boiler suddenly dropped in cold water could theoretically explode. Such an explosion would have shattered the boiler and likely killed all on board. With the hull upside down, the steam engine and all heavy equipment broke free and sank to the bottom. All victims drowned. The overturned hull was swept downwind to Wreck Island.

These locations have been identified on a segment of Chart 2022, sheet 3, shown below. The centre of the chart is 2 km SE of Frying Pan Island, Sans Souci, and 2 KM NW of Moose Deer Point, Twelve Mile Bay. Burkett Rock with anchors and steam engine debris is at the bottom of the page, while Wreck Island with the *Waubuno* hull is at the top.

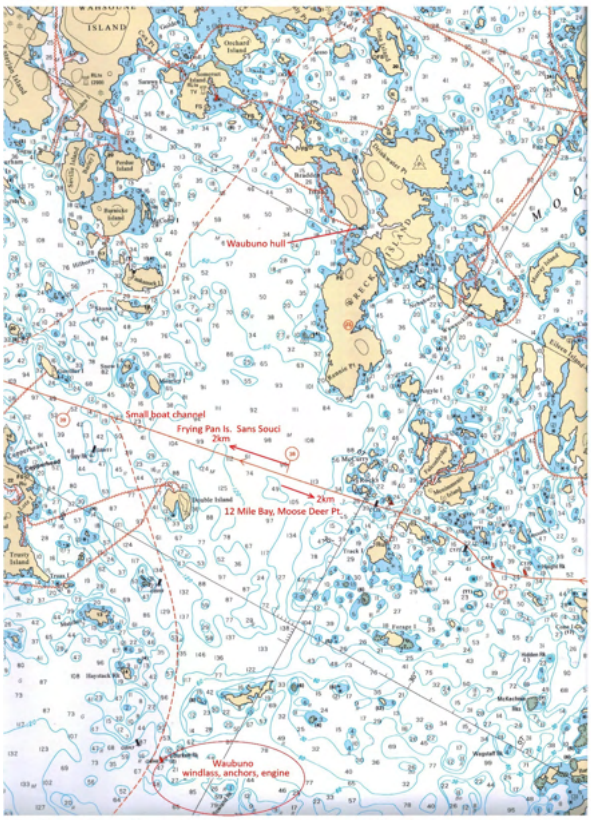


CHART 2202, Sheet 3 between Flying Pan Is. & Moose Deer Pt.

How to Maximize Your Quality Time at the Cottage

Article and photo by Bruce Davidson

I don't know about anyone else, but I personally find it somewhat offensive when someone refers to me, a retiree, as being a time millionaire. It's as though you have more time than you know what to do with. The implication is that it doesn't matter how you spend it because you have so much of it. Definitely not the case for me and most guys I know. Whether you're working like a Nubian slave in the City all week and finally having a little time for relaxation or refinishing the old rowboat, you want to get the best value from your available time, not wasting it doing stuff you don't want to do.

Now I just happened upon a totally excellent stratagem for guys (sorry gals, this article is boring, skip to something better elsewhere) which I'm going to share for the simple reason that I've carelessly blown my cover so I've no longer any vested interest in keeping my secret private. Time to scatter the pearls among the worthy, as it were.

So, here's the deal: *It's all about shopping*. Think about it. Any of you guys enjoy hanging around Walmart checking out the chicken gizzards instead of hitting balls, casting a line in your favorite bass hole, or sipping a margarita or two on your deck? I didn't think so. Well, I'd like to share with you a simple trick guaranteed to get you out of any food store in Parry Sound super-fast (and save money too)! How good is that?

It all starts with a plan. As in any well thought out plan, execution is key. Assuming your sweetheart is the reason you are on this dreary shopping trip in the first place, you must first procure the shopping cart yourself upon entry. Sole possession of this weapon is mandatory. Gallantry often works, but use whatever excuse or persuasion you can think of to *get the cart*. You then suggest in a sugary sweet manner that why doesn't she wander over to the specialty cheeses and condiments (light items requiring some time to choose and that can be easily carried) while you take the cart over to the fruits and veggies and meet up in the meat department?

As soon as her back is turned you race over to the big crate of Mississippi watermelons on sale for $14.99 each and look for the Hindenburg of all melons. The one that would make Goodyear proud. Having located the monster melon, you then position your cart alongside, brace your foot on the bottom platform and roll the behemoth carefully into the cart taking care not to bust the metal bars on the bottom on impact nor to topple the cart.



Next comes the disguise. Corn cobs, frozen pizzas, cereal boxes and loaves of bread are great fillers for covering up Mr. Big quickly. But it all depends on location as you obviously can't be seen dashing around the store like the madman that you are, looking for fillers. Once you have completed this most difficult part of the plan in a reasonable amount of time, you then casually saunter over to the meat department. Naturally your wife will be perusing the choicest cuts but

see **Quality Time**, *page 8*

Quality Time, *from page 7*

unable to grab any because she has an armful of goudas and pesto sauces.

After she deposits them into your bulging cart you casually observe: *"You're right dear, those New York strip steaks on sale for only $49.95 a pound are a heck of a deal. I just don't know where we're going to put them…the cart's almost full as it is."* CAUTION: If you don't look crestfallen while saying this, it may be all for nought as most wives will be suspicious. But if you rise to the occasion with a genuine concern for space to accommodate the items yet unpurchased, those strips will be sacrificed together with tons of other needless items leaving room only for a few incidentals before checkout and freedom. Constant vigilance should continue to be practiced to prevent 'window shopping' of course, but the margaritas on the deck should now be virtually within grasp.

Flush with success as you will be following flawless execution of the plan, may I suggest that you pass on the tip as a service to your fellow man? Next time you see your neighbour slouching off behind his wife to the No Frills on Saturday morning with a look of abject resignation on his face, stop loading your clubs in your car, casually wander over to him and whisper just out of her hearing: *Don't forget the watermelon trick.* Best way I know to make a lasting friendship with your neighbour.

Have a great summer photo of your days on Georgian Bay in 2025? The snow will be flying when the next issue of *Shorelines* appears, so send in those photos – readers will be happy for a reminder of the lazy days of summer.

Wildflower Wonders – The Pink Lady's Slipper

Information and photo by Tom Betts

Certainly one of the most beautiful of all the spring wildflowers in cottage country is the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). It can be seen blooming in May and June.

Fond of pine forests and often found growing in humus mats covering rock outcrops, this striking member of the orchid family is rather common throughout much of Canada and the eastern United States. Its odd, slipper-like petal appears to be inflated, and the pink petal is veined in deep crimson.

Bees are common pollinators, attracted to the flower by its scent. They enter the pouch-like flower, and, feeling trapped, must contact the pollen on their way to the exit.

Lady's slippers are difficult to transplant and should be admired where they are found.



West Carling Girl – Sarah Crookshank – Makes Her Mark Nationally

by Larry Moses

It is certainly understandable that many seasonal cottage owners rarely turn their heads away from the beautiful Georgian Bay to look inland toward the support businesses and year-round residents for whom this area is home.

But for me, part of the Georgian Bay experience has been getting to know the local people, and to learn from them.

I wonder if I would be exaggerating if I said that I have visited the Killbear Mall store in Carling Towhship, for cottage supplies, for over fifty years.

I was always pleasantly surprised in the early years – maybe 30 years ago – to enter the very popular and needed store to see Steve Crookshank, the owner, standing right where I had last seen him the year before and the many, many years before that. The shocker was that he was always looking precisely the same age and always wearing the same style of hat!

Over the years, I met his son Mike, who was at that time taking on more responsibility with the store, and just like his dad he always had time for a friendly chat.

Recently Mike mentioned that his daughter – Sarah Crookshank – had been training diligently for the woman's 100 meter dash, and that she was developing quite a skill as her times were steadily improving.

Little did Mike know that I had been a track and field writer at university and was a super fan of the Hundred Meter Run and had also followed the careers of Usain Bolt, Ben Johnson, Donovan Bailey, and Andre Degrass.

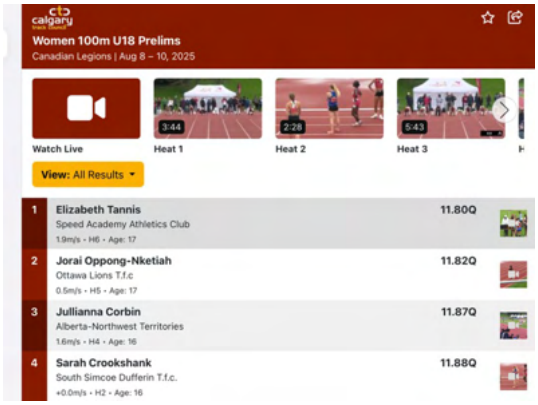
So, when he mentioned that Sarah, his daughter, had run in the "2025 Legion Nationals in Calgary" I became very interested.

Sarah apparently is not only academically a front runner but is also a West Carling phenomenon with her running.



Fortunately, with the power of the internet I could not only research the Calgary games but also watch the preliminary qualifiers and final race of 100 meters for women under 18.

Certainly, Sarah Crookshank held her own in the qualifiers and final race against 18-year-olds. Sarah is only sixteen years old, so she could become a dominant Women's 100-meter competitor in near future. After all, placing 4th in the country at this level of competition is a major accomplishment.



see **Crookshank**, *page 10*

A Shoe Tree? The Mysterious Shoe Thief of West Wind Trail

by Donna Tucker

On July 7th Carling residents woke up to flooded basements and washed-out roads and driveways. Between 4 and 6.5 inches of rain had fallen in about 2.5 hours. Just after the flooding abated single shoes began appearing on West Wind Trail in Snug Harbour. A neigbour hung the shoes on a tree in case the owners were looking for an orphan shoe. Over the next six weeks more orphans appeared on West Wind Trail and in our driveways. We saw sandals, crocs, and flip flops in a range of sizes from kids to adults.

Over the course of the six weeks we saw about 10 more and then there were no more fresh sightings. Some shoes had chew marks…….hmm….. was this a clue to the culprit? Who was the mysterious shoe thief?

The local sleuths have weighed in. We may never know the true perpetrator but the popular theory is that our resident fox is the culprit.

In family discussions our granddaughter reminded us that there was a character in the popular kids' show Dora named Swiper – a wily fox known for stealing belongings. Did we have our very own Swiper in Snug Harbour?

Further sleuthing reveals that foxes are indeed known as shoe thieves. In the Foreward of the *Secret Life of Foxes (Petrylak, 2023),* Dr. Jane Goodall notes that foxes have a shoe fetish. Goodall cites worldwide instances of vulpine shoe thefts. One particularly enterprising fox in Berlin amassed a store of some 100 shoes in Berlin – most of them crocs in every colour. A pair of foxes near Tokyo pilfered 40 pairs of

see **Shoes**, *page 11*

Crookshank, *from page 9*

The purpose of this article has been to familiarize you with the name "Sarah Crookshank," and to make you aware of her talents.

It could be very enjoyable to follow her running career through university and possibly to the Canadian Women's Nationals in the future.

Yes, and all of this is going on right here in "West Carling," right on the beautiful Georgian Bay. Imagine that!



A Call for Articles, Artwork, and Photos

The Winter edition of Shorelines will appear in early January of 2026. Articles, artwork, and photos are welcome and should be submitted no later than December 10, 2025. Share your Georgian Bay experiences with the West Carling community. Send materials to tcmbetts@gmail.com.

Shoes, *from page 10*

sandals.

While no scientific studies have attempted to answer why foxes steal shoes the answer may lie in a combination of sensory curiosity, play behaviour, adaptability, and collecting known as caching. While it seems like mischief to us, these behaviours are part of the fox's instincts and its ability to thrive in a rapidly changing loss of habitat.



Photo by Karen Campbell

So why do foxes steal shoes?

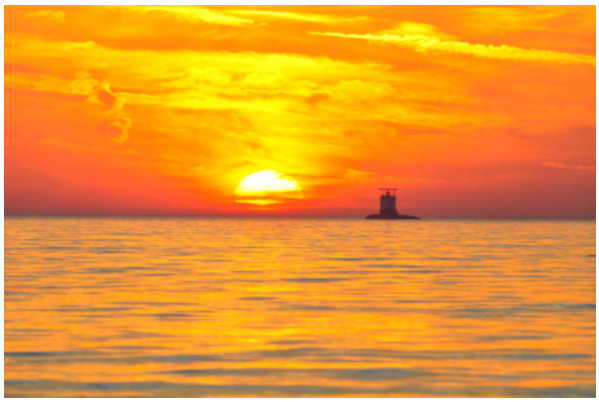
Play and development of survival skills. Foxes are known to be playful and play is known to boost cognitive development and physical coordination. Catching and handling new objects is thought to mimic handling of prey.

Scent and exploration of the environment. Foxes explore their habitat through their sense of smell, helping them to identify threats and locate food. It is thought they may be attracted by the scent of human sweat on the shoes and that they may associate that scent with food.

Type of Material. Apparently foxes are drawn to soft manipulable materials like leather or plastic that they can sink their teeth into.

Caching. Foxes are known for collecting objects they find interesting or useful, possibly as a trophy or to be saved for use at a later time.

We are privileged to share our spaces with wildlife but if you insist on leaving your shoes outside you may want to protect your footwear by tying a helium balloon near your shoes. Foxes don't like the movement of the balloon. If all else fails you can always stand and shout "Swiper, no swiping" at the bushy-tailed bandit.



Close-up-Eve Sunset, 2025
photo by Tom Betts

Phrag 3.0

Article and photos by Richard Wilson

This year marked the third year of phragmites busting on Franklin Island with a community cut event hosted by WCA featuring oversight from the professionals of Georgian Bay Forever.

The beach just north of Regatta Bay had previously been 80 percent occupied with thick stands of this nasty invader; however after three years of cutting, the stands are less than half of what they were. The beach, previously impassable, is now clear enough to use for recreation.

The team from Georgian Bay Forever spent a week in our area and tackled stands on Bateau Island, Depot Harbour and Gower Bay as well. Their time here was made possible by a grant from The Township of Carling, so please be sure to thank our Council members the next time you see them.

Shout out also to the 20 WCA and Pengally Bay volunteers who helped get the job done!





West Carling Board of Directors for 2025/2026

by Donna Tucker

At our annual meeting of members held on July 26, 2025, we confirmed the following individuals as our Board members for 2025/2026 and appointed our officers at our Board meeting held on August 13.

Donna Tucker	President
Richard Wilson	Vice President and GBA Board Member
Steve Vokes	Vice President and Treasurer
Janis Wade	Secretary
Tom Betts	Newsletter Editor
Allison Needham	Membership, Communication, and GBA Board Member

Board Members-at-large

Jay Burford	Carol Hodson
Tim Keenleyside	Bruce MacKay
Bruce Milburn	Cynthia Milburn
Peter Pook	Katherine Yantzi
Briana Zur	

Welcome to Briana Zur and Tim Keenleyside who are new to our Board. Briana Zur and her husband Daniel raised their three daughters sailing on Georgian Bay and are now concentrating on nurturing this love of the Bay with their six grandchildren. They chose their cottage in the Sand Bay area nine years ago because they loved to sail in Carling. She lives half time in Carling and half time in Waterloo. Briana tells us she is busier in retirement than when she was working and is looking forward to contributing to the good work of the WCA Board.

Tim Keenleyside's grandparents purchased Rocko Island in Carling in 1958 and Tim's father Terence was president of the WCA in the 1980's. Tim spent every summer of his childhood at Rocko Island and now owns his own family cottage on Langhorn Island in the Dillon area. Tim is an avid fly fisherman and spends his summers in Carling with his wife, Anne, and teenage daughters Shine and Phoebe. Tim's career in advertising led to him co-running his own agency. In 2013, Tim combined his shared passions for marketing and Georgian Bay by co-founding Georgian Bay Spirit Co, which sells spirits and canned cocktails across Canada. Tim's interests lie in preserving the region's unique environment and delicate ecology for future generations.

Retiring Director – Craig Johnston

Craig Johnston joined our Board in 2023. Craig was instrumental in shepherding WCA through the process of revising our bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to be consistent with the Ontario not-for-profit Corporations Act and assisting us with parliamentary procedure for annual meetings.

Craig consistently brought sage advice and enthusiastic support to our activities. Many thanks to Craig for sharing his knowledge and the many volunteer hours he devoted to WCA. We will miss his wise counsel and wish him continued enjoyment of his Huckle-berry Island cottage.



Carling News Update

Information provided by Donna Tucker

Tamarack North Centre – West Parry Sound Pool Project

Fundraising activities for the pool stand at $2.83MM (as of August 31st) relative to the fundraising target of $5MM for capital funding. This is a combination of a current balance of $1.23MM and future commitments $1.6MM based on sponsorship and naming rights (Source: Pool Board Agenda September 10, 2025).

Carling's interest free loan to the Pool Board last year of $157,500 to support cash flow has been repaid as donations have been providing some assistance. Tamarack North has donated $1.5MM over a 10-year period for naming rights. The Pool Board has just signed an arrangement with the Simcoe Muskoka YMCA to operate the Centre. As part of the agreement, the YMCA will gift the Pool Board with their vacant property on Smith Crescent. Proceeds from the sale of the property will then be directed to support the pool. The Pool Board reports that the project remains on track to finish within the $39.5MM revised budget (originally $32MM). Ongoing fundraising remains necessary as an additional $5MM is required for a debenture to fund the operation of the two extra swim lanes. This is on top of the original projected annual deficit of $300,000. The pool is slated to open in the spring of 2026.

The status of the lawsuit launched against the Township of Whitestone for not breaching contract remains unknown to the public. Whitestone had advised the Board that they would not provide their share of costs as the requested study of the financial viability of the project did not meet their contractual requirements. The Township of McKellar informed the Pool Board they would not be providing additional funds to the project beyond their original commitment and do not attend meetings.

Septic Systems Approval

The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority has jurisdiction over septic approvals and inspections. In August, Council passed a resolution to bring this process "in house." There was no business case presented to accompany the discussion. WCA sent a letter to Council asking about the rationale for the decision including availability and cost of training, risk of liability and whether the service could be on a cost recovery basis.

Administration Monetary Penalty System

Currently Carling can set and collect fines for by-law infractions but if there is an appeal to the fine by a resident the case goes to provincial court and requires Carling to have legal representation. The plan is to have appeals handled within Carling by having an internal review that would then go to a designated third party (likely a lawyer) who would adjudicate. Concern was expressed that there would then be no further appeal process if the first appeal was turned down and that there would be no separation between the municipality and the fine process. This topic will be brought back to Council.

continued ☞

Additional Staff for By-law Enforcement and Planning

Carling has filled two staff positions approved in the 2024 and 2025 budgets. One position will be supporting by-law enforcement and the planning department, and the other is a role to assist with communication within Carling.

Jones Island and Snug Harbour Lighthouse

Sadly, Carling received notice from the Department of Fisheries and Coast Guard that they will be tearing down the Jones Island lighthouse as it has been deemed beyond repair. We asked Carling to let us know how the $65,000 reserve fund for the Snug Harbour Lighthouse is being used to ensure preservation of this heritage property. We learned that there is a challenging parade of critters (rodents, carpenter ants, etc.) but that the Township has programs in place to manage this. There are also some WCA members that volunteer to help out as needed. Carling's Chief Administrative Officer noted that a fundraiser or some other revenue program would help to ensure preservation of the lighthouse.

Carling Audit 2024

KPMG presented a clean audit. Carling's total surplus was $25.2MM, consisting of $18.3M in tangible capital assets, (roads, gazebo at community centre, playground, pool, cat loader). There was $4.9MM in reserves: Working Funds - $1.4MM, Modernization -$411K, Municipal Buildings, Firehall - $849K, Snug Lighthouse - $66K, Waste site - $285K, Roads - $1,033K, Outdoor Rink - $63K, Community Centre - $133K, Long-Term Care - $75K (Belvedere Heights), Election - $10K, Legal Contingency – $41K, Henvey Inlet - $231K, Recreation and Planning - $42K, Computers - $26K

The auditors stated that because the budget does not consistently use actual results from previous years adjustments must be made when actuals are known. Although adjustments are made eventually the concern is that should the budgeted amount be higher than the actual, the next year's budget will be based on that higher amount, which determines taxation and unused funds end up in reserves. WCA expressed concern about this during the 2025 budget process.

Resident Request to Allow Second Building with Living Quarters

This request was supported although the zoning by-law that allows a second building is not amended as yet. The property is not on waterfront. The decision ties into the push for more affordable housing. This is not permitted on waterfront property. The minimum size of living quarters in Carling is 593 square feet.

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Pancakes Islands Docks

Despite the West Carling Association's letter writing campaign and meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Carling and Graydon Smith over a period of several years we were disappointed to learn that the MNR does not support the rebuilding of the tops of the crib docks on the Pancakes and would prefer to take them out at great cost. At present the cribs are intact but don't provide a safe landing spot to access the picnic park. If there is continuing interest in pursuing this we would need to work with the new Minister of the MNR, as Graydon Smith has changed portfolio.

Vision 2050

The Georgian Bay Vision 2050 Project aims to protect the natural environment of the eastern and northern coastal area of Georgian Bay. The goal is to develop a discussion paper that identifies concerns and opportunities and a plan for enhanced protection by bringing governments, First Nations and local communities together. Councillor Bruce Kelly has been named as Carling's representative on the Committee.

Phragmites

WCA continues actively working to keep invasive phragmites out of Carling, led by Board Member, Richard Wilson and partnering with Georgian Bay Forever. This highly invasive plant can completely take over a waterfront area in a short time. We are grateful to Carling Council for the $5000 grant that will be administered through Georgian Bay Forever to be used for phragmites control in Carling. WCA held a cutting expedition in August and Richard has provided education to the Bayview, Deep Bay and Pengally Bay Associations regarding phragmites. Georgian Bay Forever staff were also active in cutting phragmites in Carling this past summer.

If you would like to see this kind of news update in future newsletters, please let us know.