

CARLING COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION MAY 1978

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DIRECTORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Government to create new "Archipelago Municipality"

During the last week of July you probably read in the press that the Government announced intention to introduce legislation establishing a new Georgian Bay Archipelago Municipality including the islands and shoreline from Twelve Mile Bay in the south to the Naiscoot River 37 miles north. Carling, however, is not included for the present. It was emphasized that a final decision in that regard is yet to be made.

Carling Cottagers' Association Revived

The Carling Cottagers' Association, which has been inactive for some years, was revived at an open meeting at Sand Bay Resort on May 22, 1978, and a Board of Directors appointed. This group has since met three times and has elected the officers named below:

President	W.A. 'Bill' Davis
Vice-President	Dick Jolliffe
Secretary/Treasurer	Neta Pinnell
G.B.A. Representative	Bill Latimer

New Executive studies Archipelago and Alternatives

As directed by the open meeting, we have concentrated our efforts on studying the implications of the new municipality with a view to recommending in favour or against our inclusion in it.

Keeping Carling "the way it has always been" appears to be a desirable objective but we doubt that it is a realistic one. Mainland Carling is increasingly coming within the Parry Sound orbit. For instance, the number of permanent Carling residents has jumped from 500 to 800 in the past two years. Many of the newcomers have settled on our inland roads. The Carling cottagers, who represent 85% of the Carling assessment have good reason to view this with concern, because scattered "strip development" is well-known to be uneconomic and a source of future problems.

Our Township Council has committed us to participating in the District Industrial Park (north on 69) and in the Parry Sound District Planning Board. We believe that both of these involvements are incompatible with our objectives and interests in west Carling.

How would Taxation be Affected?

Figures from the Government's recent study indicate that our municipal taxes would be significantly less in the new township, but because most of our taxes go toward education, and those costs would remain constant, our total tax bills would be only slightly lowered.

A more important consideration is what will happen to our taxes if Carling continues to develop as a suburban community; annexation to Parry Sound could result from such development. Lake Simcoe cottagers 20 miles from Barrie are now within that towns limits with disastrous effects on their taxes.

Your executive recommends that Carling should become a part of the new municipality which will be almost exclusively recreation-oriented with adequate planning to preserve its unique character.

Political Action Planned:

The other cottagers' association in Carling (The North Sound, Bayview and Pengally Bay Associations) appear to be coming to the same conclusion that we have, and talks are underway to co-operate in a political campaign this Fall at the Township election. The Minister has hinted rather broadly that he would like to hear from Carling Council again in the new year. We think we should accept the challenge and elect at least 3 councillors who represent our point of view.

We do not wish to quarrel with our long-time neighbours, the permanent residents of Carling. Indeed we would be pleased to see them campaigning for the inclusion of all Carling - or at least that part west of the C.P.R. line - in the new municipality. Carling would be the logical centre or hub of the new township, their almost inevitable alternative is annexation by Parry Sound.

Four Unfounded Fears:

Some illogical anxieties have been circulated by those opposing the new municipality. It is suggested that this is a form of regional government. We cannot see any resemblance. If anything, it is a step in the opposite direction and should give at least the seasonal residents a much more direct voice in the issues that concern them.

Secondly, it has been suggested that we would be at great expense to acquire the equipment for road maintenance, etc. Carling owns only a grader and a chain saw. Most of the work is performed by local contractors who would be available to us on a similar basis. Most of the costs of rural projects are funded by provincial grants, for which we would be equally eligible.

Another worry is that the "manager" who would be engaged to administer the routine operations would have too much authority. The status of such an individual would be not different than that of any other township clerk or employee in relationship to Council's authority.

Perhaps the strongest fear cited is that this is all a sinister plot by some wealthy islanders for their own ends. Actually the chief promoter of the Archipelago concept has been the Georgian Bay Association, a long-established group of conservationists (including some of our members) whose primary concern is the preservation and protection of these shores and waters. Your executive basically shares these same objectives.

Where do we go from here?

First, we solicit your support as paid-up members. Please forward your fee of \$5.00 to Mrs. Neta Pinnell, Secretary/Treasurer, at R.R.#1, Nobel, Ontario. POG 1G0. Cheques should be made payable to the Carling Cottagers' Association.

Secondly, we must prepare for the Fall municipal election. The advance poll will be held on Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. We have already talked with good candidates favouring our position who are prepared to run.

Where do we go from here continued

During the next two months we will keep you posted regarding further developments. Meanwhile, please make plans to visit you cottage (and vote!) on the week-end of November 4. Chartered buses may also be made available from Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener. Please advise us if interested.

Change of Name Planned

Your executive recommends that we change the name of our Association. A more accurate title would be "The West Carling Association," your comments are invited.