

A MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE
RESIDENTS OF THE GEORGIAN BAY
SHORELINE AREAS OF CARLING
TOWNSHIP INCLUDING THE
DILLON CENTRE AND SNUG HARBOR
SERVICE AREAS

PRESENTED BY:

CARLING COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

MAY 15, 1977

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History of GBA
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15 MAY 1977

TO THE PERMANENT AND SUMMER RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERN PORTION
OF CARLING TOWNSHIP FRONTING ON GEORGIAN BAY.

In early January 1977 the enclosed information was circulated to as many interested parties as could be located through winter mailing addresses. Close to 100 residents were contacted to my personal knowledge and close to 75 responses indicated extreme concern with the prospect of our area being incorporated into the Town of Parry Sound.

Some concern was expressed about the ability of a shoreline community to provide essential municipal services. A sheet has now been added covering this question. The Georgian Bay Association has reliable assurances that what is proposed is viable and likely to be more effective in providing services than anything we have known in the past.

In January it was believed government action on the subject was imminent and we were told that any comment must be in the hands of the government by February 1, 1977. Subsequently the time limit was extended to July 1, 1977. And now, as we learned this past week with a provincial election intervening it can be assumed that no action will take place until a new government is settled into office after the June 9th. election. It is not too much to assume that other more urgent matters will engage the next government's attention in first months in office.

HOWEVER, YOUR OPINION ON THIS MATTER IS IMPORTANT AND IN ORDER TO HAVE THAT OPINION MEAN SOMETHING WE NEED WRITTEN EVIDENCE.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO US, WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSALS SUGGESTED.

WRITE IF YOU WISH OR SIMPLY USE THE ATTACHED COUPON AND REPLY ENVELOPE - - - BUT PLEASE ACT THE MOMENT YOU RECEIVE THIS.

Wm. H. Latimer
for the Carling Cottagers Association
c/o Latimer Limited
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AN APPEAL TO CARLING TOWNSHIP SUMMER RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT
THE CARLING COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION AND THE GEORGIAN BAY
ASSOCIATION IN ENDEAVOURS TO AVOID TOTAL ANNEXATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP INTO THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND

If this subject is new to you we can explain only briefly that for the past two years the whole District of Parry Sound has been the subject of a government organized study under a provincially ordered study group headed by Mr. D. K. Martin.

In April 1976 Mr. Martin issued a "Research Report". In October 1976 he issued a "Final Report and Recommendations". And in early December he issued a detailed and elaborate "Atlas" of the area. The publications are available from the government bookstore on Bay Street in Toronto for those who wish hundreds of pages of detail at a cost of \$2.50 for the final report. (We don't suggest buying the Atlas at \$20.00).

The final report is a recommendation to all levels of government as to how the whole district should be managed in future. While it is not yet government (provincial) policy it may well be accepted as policy in the near future if we do nothing.

The recommendation most seriously affecting most of the summer residents of Carling Township is that Carling be incorporated into an enlarged Town of Parry Sound; the major community in the whole district and the one community scheduled for intensive permanent residential and industrial development.

The Georgian Bay Association, established in 1916, is an association of the roughly dozen cottager and islander groups between Honey Harbour and Key Harbour. It is an association of associations within the 30,000 Islands of Georgian Bay which has traditionally concerned itself with problems of mutual interest to summer residents of the bayshore and islands.

Among the member groups has been Carling Cottagers Association, dating back to the early 1920's when the father of Mr. Allan Acres was a most active member and was instrumental in having Franklin Island reserved from sale; a wise move all of us can appreciate to-day. The group has waxed and waned in size and activity in direct relation and proportion as problems have appeared in our area requiring group action.

The Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril groups within GBA, in particular have actively represented shoreline interests during the course of the District Government Study. Their ideas have resulted in

final recommendations to the Ministry of Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs for the creation of distinct but separate local municipal entities in each area.

While this is a major step in the right direction the GBA, including Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril, as well as all Carling individuals with whom it has been discussed, agree that what is needed is one continuous shoreline community from Honey Harbor to French River in which all of the existing summer groupings would be represented as wards of the whole municipal entity.

Carling would be geographically the centre of such a municipality and for that reason alone it is essential that Carling, or the whole of it, not be included in the Town of Parry Sound.

As a start and as a minimum, we want Carling, or at least the western shoreline and islands off Carling, to be part of one community of like interests extending from Sans Souci through Pointe au Baril and the Bayfield Nares Inlet area. We ask your strong written support for this.

What is suggested is that the part of Carling Township east of Killbear Point be incorporated in the Town of Parry Sound while the western portion be joined to a single new shoreline community. Logic supports this. Parry Sound must expand and the area of expansion should be controlled for its end use, permanent residential and, perhaps, some industrial growth. On the other hand logic does not support treating the bayshore portion of Carling differently from the shore to its south and north. To do so would be to inflict the problem of urban sprawl on the whole area.

The question of appropriate and useful lowest level government stems from community issues, interests, needs and problems. While a long narrow shoreline community of primarily summer residents may at first glance seem inappropriate, it is a fact that 95% of the population of this shoreline is represented by summer people. Or, put the other way, there is virtually no permanent population and because of winter inaccessibility there never will be. Meeting needs means meeting needs of summer people and hence this kind of community in this particular situation makes a great deal of sense. There is incompatibility, however, between the reasonable urban expansion desires and needs of the Town of Parry Sound and the almost purely environmental, conservative and limited development potential problems of the Georgian Bay shoreline and islands (which we term the bayshore area).

We think the 30,000 Islands Bayshore area is at least as important as the Niagara Escarpment as a unique area of Ontario, indeed, as an area unique in the whole world; and worth every effort that can be made to preserve its values for future generations as well as for our own future years and for the tourists and visitors to Ontario who learn to know us through this unique geography.

We think a long narrow community of mutual interests closely in touch with the provincial government in the most direct manner provides the best way to preserve and protect the 30,000 Islands Bayshore.

You will ask "What can I do about it?" and it is a fair question. Individually none of us can do much. Governments represent people and they incline to do what numbers of people want them to do. The first thing you can do is assist us to enlarge the Carling Cottagers Association into a more fully representative group. Carling Township is most affected by potential changes but up to now has presented the smallest amount of input into the local government study group.

By letting us have your name and your written support along with the names of every Carling Summer Resident you can think of, by phoning and digging out others in Carling who you think share a concern for having effective, minimum, protective municipal government for the whole 30,000 Island Bayshore area you will be doing what is necessary . . . giving support to sensible proposals that will determine (very soon) what kind of local government we will all have to live with in the future.

We will supply as many copies of this as you can use effectively but unless we know who you send them to and have written response the whole effort will be wasted.

January 3, 1977

A COMMITTEE OF CARLING COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

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HOW WOULD THE CONCEPT OF A 30,000 ISLANDS BAYSHORE
MUNICIPALITY AFFECT PERMANENT RESIDENTS?

Were a shoreline community of primarily summer residents established, permanent residents may well ask how such a community would work for them. Consider these points.

There is little question about schools. They are now, and would remain, under the jurisdiction of a central school board for the whole district. School taxation is on a district basis and we are all entitled to education services.

In the matter of roads, a shoreline community would contract for construction and maintenance services, in our area probably with the Town of Parry Sound or the Ministry of Transport (Highways). We would contract for police protection with the Ontario Provincial Police. Library, senior citizens, welfare are, like education, dealt with as district services for which we are taxed now and would be taxed in future on a district basis. Fire protection, now purely volunteer and with our own equipment, might be improved by having the new community spot equipment to better advantage; certainly such service as is possible would better match needs.

Thus, most every service we need and through which permanent or summer residents benefit, would be obtained through purchase or contract with the most appropriate supplier. Whether those suppliers be private or branches of other governments, the system should be both economical and practical.

A major concern of a bayshore community would be environmental protection. This would surely mean building and development control under a unified system. In Carling, particularly, we should want close control over permanent residential development. It will be clear, however, that urban style zoning control and building restrictions suitable for new subdivisions in Parry Sound are not likely to suit environmentally fragile shoreline locations with particular problems and limitations.

A shoreline community would probably be managed for the most part by permanent residents who have an understanding of as well as attachment to the qualities that make the 30,000 Islands unique. Clearly, such a community would not be a summer only proposition. The summer resident majority would want to vote and would want their interests looked after but beyond that the summer people are on vacation. The real objective with a shoreline community municipality, as with any government, should be to meet the minimum required reasonable needs of the people of the community with the least amount of hassle and expense and in the most direct manner possible.

CARLING COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

February 1977

(If you wish to use this form as your response to our request for written opinion, please make certain that one form only is used for each registered parcel of property, or lot or island as the case may be. Make additional copies if you have more than one assessed property or if you have friends or neighbours who would like to express their opinion concerning property they own in Carling Township).

"We endorse the principle of including the western portion of Carling Township in one 30,000 Islands Bayshore municipality to include the Sans Souci and Pointe au Baril areas (and other areas to the north and south should they wish to participate)."

Signatures _____

NAME (Please print) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

Summer Resident _____ Permanent Resident _____

Location in Carling (general area or by lot and number, if known)

OTHER COMMENT: (attach separate sheet if you wish)

Mail to: Wm. H. Latimer
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