

Nov '79
Archipelago

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION
Formerly Carling Cottagers

TO: Association Members, and others who have shown interest.
FROM: Your Association Executive.

In co-operation with the four other Shoreline & Island Associations in Carling Township, we are circulating the enclosed "Archipelago Facts" sheet and are asking you to respond to the accompanying questionnaire.

Many of you are familiar with the issue surrounding the creation of the new Georgian Bay Township. This new municipality results from the effort of cottage owners in the 30,000 Island Area to create a municipality comprised of and governed by property owners devoted to the recreational needs of the 30,000 Island vacationland.

Upon the completion of Phase II and Phase III of the new township, all of the 30,000 Island territory from Honey Harbour to Manitoulin will be united in one community, -- all, except for those properties presently in Carling Township. Our exclusion is mainly due to the efforts of permanent inland residents of Carling who, understandably, do not wish to lose the substantial tax base represented, and who feel threatened by the larger municipality.

Although Carling Township Council is becoming more attentive to the needs and concerns of its seasonal residents (for example the recent moves toward planning) there are many such residents who feel that their interests would be better served by joining with the new Archipelago Municipality.

At the Annual General Meeting of the West Carling Association, held in the municipal hall on Aug. 4, 1979, the members voted to instruct the executive to pursue, as a long term objective, our inclusion in the new municipality. Our first step now is to canvass your views and to assess the degree of your support.

We ask you to take the time to read the enclosed facts sheet carefully; to seek information from fellow cottagers, if needed; and to complete and return the questionnaire before December 7.

YOUR OPINION, PLEASE !

SHORELINE AND ISLAND ASSOCIATIONS
OF CARLING TOWNSHIP

ARCHIPELAGO FACTS

A number of years ago a call went out from the Ontario Government to all municipalities and organizations in the District of Parry Sound to the effect that the provincial government would like to have input from them on how the District could better be organized and governed more effectively.

Very few of those contacted responded in any way, but the Georgian Bay Association, founded in 1916 as an umbrella association for several long established seasonal residents groups on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay hired, at their own expense a Planner Professor Norman Pierson, and working together with him, developed a response to the "Parry Sound Local Government Study" for an Archipelago Municipality to encompass shoreline and islands on the eastern shoreline of Georgian Bay -- essentially the 30,000 island area.

The initial report was presented to the then Treasury, Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs Ministry in 1977 and received with much enthusiasm. Some revisions were made - i.e. the government rejected the suggestion for a postal vote in Municipal elections such as is now done in New Zealand -- as being unworkable at present in Ontario. There were other compromises made, but essentially the Ontario government felt the Archipelago to be a unique and workable government.

It is at this point that your Carling Township Shoreline and Island Associations entered on the scene, as Pengally Bay Association and West Carling Association were members of the GBA, and in the original submitted plan would have become part of Phase I of the new Archipelago Municipality. North Sound Association newly formed, and requesting admission to GBA, learned of the Archipelago Municipality and found they would not be a part of it as the "Sound" area was not included.

It is at this point that Carling Township began to take an interest in the plan and to become very possessive of its Shoreline and Island Ratepayers, and as a result of their actions no part of Carling Township is presently included in the first part of the Archipelago Municipality.

Phase I comes into being January 1, 1980, having first elected its Municipal Council of 10 members in November 1979. Phase I runs roughly from San Souci to Carling Township -- with a gap -- then north from Carling Township to Bayfield Nares.

please read on.....

Phase II (Honey Harbour to San Souci) is now underway with no apparent opposition from the Muskoka area. The most serious problem to be worked possibly, is compensation for tax losses which will affect Muskoka district from a diminished tax base. Phase II will likely be completed in 2 - 3 years.

Phase III (Bayfield Nares north to Manitoulin) will commence on completion of Phase II.

Spread over a large area, the Archipelago Municipality is made up of taxpayers with common interests. The Archipelago Municipality is NOT an additional layer of government. It is NOT the establishment of a second tier of government, but the redrawing of boundaries of local government to create a unique water-based community. It will take its financial base and pivot point from its Shoreline and Island property owners.

As things are now proceeding the Shoreline and Island residents of east Georgian Bay (the 30,000 Islands) will eventually be one municipality with the exception of the Carling Township Shoreline and Island residents, who will be excluded. We do have strong reason to believe that any application we might wish to make for entry into the Archipelago Municipality would be supported actively by other Shoreline and Island residents of the new Municipality.

It is logical that Carling Township boundaries will at some future date be redefined. The idea of joining with McDougall Township has been considered by local politicians. It is also obvious that Carling Township is a bedroom community for industrial and commercial Parry Sound, and that the interests of its permanent residents quite correctly lie in that direction.

We should expect a more relevant use of our tax dollars, but not necessarily a reduction in our taxes should we become part of the new Municipality. We should also expect a greater opportunity for input by both permanent and seasonal residents, into decisions taken by the new Municipality.

The Archipelago municipality is committed to conservation of those elements which maintain and attract the people who form its tax base.

The five Shoreline and Island Associations of Carling Township are asking you to express an opinion on this very important matter.

An indication of your interest in joining the Archipelago Municipality is NOT -- we repeat NOT -- a mandate to request entry into the Municipality. We do not have that power. We are seeking some guidance from you that we may bring to any future deliberations.

We request your co-operation in returning the questionnaire promptly with your opinion and comments -- whatever they may be.

You may rest assured that your individual opinion will remain confidential.

November 1979

QUESTIONNAIRE

AFTER you have read the preamble to this questionnaire, please answer the following questions and mail this sheet before Dec. 7 to the West Carling Association, c/o Sand Bay Resort, R.R. 1, Nobel, Ontario, POG 1G0.

1. With the creation of the new Archipelago Municipality, do you feel, as an island or shoreline property owner, that you will be better served if Carling Township were to become part of the Archipelago Municipality?

YES _____ NO _____

2. If your answer to the above question was YES, should the inland property owners decide not to join the new municipality, would you wish, as an island or shoreline property owner, to leave Carling Township, and become part of the Archipelago Municipality?

YES _____ NO _____

3. In either case, in the event that Carling Township is unable to remain as it is presently constituted, would you wish to become part of the Archipelago Municipality?

YES _____ NO _____

I am a resident ratepayer _____

I am a non-resident ratepayer _____

We would like your comments, opinions and expectations:

Your Signature: _____

Lot & Concession Number: _____

Island Number: _____

P.S. Have you sent in your '79-'80 membership fee of \$10?