

West Carling Association

SINCE 1921

• GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE CONCERNS •



October, 1984.

Newsletter

In this letter I would like to bring members up to date on the Association's activities over this past summer; it was once again an active season for us!

Special Meeting on Sport Fishing

On July 14 a special meeting of the associations in Carling Township was held at the Recreation Hall to discuss with an officer from the Ministry of Natural Resources various problems associated with angling in our area and to consider possible remedial action. With only 16 people present, attendance was certainly disappointing. However, all three of the active associations in the township--ours, together with the North Sound and Pengally Bay Associations--were represented, and Lloyd Thurston, the district biologist, participated on behalf of the Ministry.

Mr. Thurston reported on various government activities related to improving angling, including its intensive and extensive creel census programs, the creation of fish sanctuaries, identification of sensitive habitats, plantings of splake and lake trout, and the Moon River rehabilitation program. The meeting then turned its attention to possible solutions to the angling problems in our area, and several resolutions were advanced in draft form for consideration by each of the associations at its annual meeting (see below).

Directors Meeting

The annual directors meeting was held on July 22 at Sand Bay Resort and resolutions on several subjects were proposed for presentation to the annual meeting. In addition, the issue of boats dumping gray water at Snug Harbour to the detriment of the quality of the water and local beaches was raised. I subsequently wrote to the Harbour Master about this problem and the issue was referred in due course to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment for resolution. I am still awaiting an indication from the Ministry as to what action, if any, it proposes to take. The directors also decided against the Association's participating in the Wrightman Corporation's real estate scheme (see my letter of February, 1984) and in lobbying efforts undertaken by some groups to urge the provincial government to widen Highway 69 to four lanes to Parry Sound.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held on August 5 with approximately 75 members in attendance. Reeve Reekie was also good enough to attend and participated actively in the discussion of some issues.

i) Shoreline Allowance Application

I reported on a meeting which several of the directors had had previously with the Association lawyer, Joseph Wilson, regarding the state of our group application. By early August, over 90 properties were involved in the application. Preliminary approval of closures had been obtained in most instances and surveying was proceeding satisfactorily. Paul Forth, the surveyor, attended the meeting to answer questions, and indicated that he anticipated that the bulk of the surveying would be complete by the end of the summer. The applications have been divided into several groups to facilitate processing and a summary of the status of each application was circulated for members' perusal. In a few situations, problems regarding closure have arisen. For instance, in cases where a township road crosses the front of a property, the township is not willing to sell the shoreline allowance; applicants in this situation have, therefore, been asked to withdraw from the group. There is a further problem with several properties on the west side of Sand Bay (Group 8 of our application) where a township road encroaches on the rear part of the properties. At the time of the annual meeting, Mr. Wilson was still attempting to reach a satisfactory resolution of this problem with the township.

ii) Sport Fishing

The following motions, arising out of the Special Meeting on Sport Fishing, were discussed and voted upon. A recorded vote was taken on the first two as the results were to be communicated to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Association had been advised that evidence of public support in the neighbourhood of 80 per cent was being looked for by the Ministry before moving towards the implementation of tighter fishing regulations:

a) The Association urges the Ministry of Natural Resources to take whatever action is necessary and deemed likely, from a biological standpoint to be effective to restore the quality of sport fishing along the eastern shore of the Georgian Bay, including the establishment of new creel, size and possession limits, fish sanctuaries, stocking programs, and expanded public education activities. The Association further urges that the Ministry advise it and other concerned organizations of its proposed plan of action in order to elicit public reactions before new measures are introduced. Carried 43 - 0 - 6 (abstentions).

b) The Association urges the Ministry of Natural Resources to improve its capacity to enforce Ministry fishing regulations along the eastern shore of the Georgian Bay, and, if necessary to that end, requests that it increase the size of the staff of the district office in Parry Sound. Carried 43 - 0 - 4 (abstentions).

c) The Association approves the establishment of a committee to explore the feasibility of making an application under the Community Fisheries Involvement Program of the Ministry of Natural Resources to undertake a walleye rehabilitation project on the Shebeshekong River. Carried unanimously.

I have communicated the first two resolutions to the Hon. Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources. The composition of the committee for the

Shebeshekong River rehabilitation project was determined at the meeting, and the committee met later in the summer to begin its work.

iii) Boating Regulations

The directors' meeting in July reconsidered the decision taken at the 1983 annual meeting to seek the introduction of speed limits at three locations in our area of the Bay because upon reflection it was felt that speed limits would not in all instances be the most effective action to take. After considerable discussion, the directors decided to recommend the establishment of a speed limit in the Ukuwaube Channel where there is deemed to be a safety hazard, while the Association itself would look into the feasibility of erecting "Reduce Wake" signs in the particularly narrow stretch of water between Franklin and Narrows Island, where the problem is more one of wake than safety. Since the Department of Transport apparently no longer erects such signs, the Association itself would have to take the necessary action in this instance. In the case of the entrance to Snug Harbour, it was decided that the existing "No Wake" signs were preferable to the establishment of a speed limit, and it was thus decided to drop the 1983 proposal for new signs at this location. These proposals were considered at the annual meeting, and the following motions were passed:

a) The Association recommends the establishment of a speed limit of 8 k.p.h. under the Boating Restriction Regulations of the Province of Ontario in the Ukuwaube Channel and in Canoe Channel. (the underlined section represents an amendment adopted at the meeting.)

b) The Association is authorized, should it prove financially and administratively feasible, to prepare and post "Please Reduce Wake" signs in the particularly narrow stretch of water between Franklin and Narrows Island.

I am now in the process of attempting to obtain from the province the necessary approval for restrictions under the provincial boating regulations to cover the first two locations and from the township the approval required before Association signs can be erected in the Narrows.

iv) "The Ontario Cottager" Magazine

It was moved that the membership fee of the Association be increased by \$5.00 in order to enable the Association to provide all paid-up members with subscriptions to "The Ontario Cottager", the magazine of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA). The motion was defeated. I shall however, endeavour to inform members of items in the magazine that I think may be of particular interest to residents in our area.

v) Association Map

A copy of the new Association map was posted at the meeting to enable members to make corrections and/or additions. Anyone who did not have an opportunity to do so on that occasion is invited to write to the Association at our usual address. Several people commented favourable on the map and there was a consensus that it was worth considering the publication of a new and improved edition next year.

vi) Environmental Matters

There was a brief discussion of the problems associated with launching a clean-up project under a Summer Canada Student Employment grant. However, a voluntary clean-up was arranged for the week following the annual meeting and garbage bags provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment under the "Pitch-In 84" campaign were distributed to members willing to take part. Complimentary copies of a new Association environmental poster, entitled "Yours to Protect" were also handed out to all who attended the meeting. Additional copies will be available next year for anyone who would still like one.

A motion from the floor was introduced and carried, requesting the President to forward a letter to the Minister of the Environment, indicating the Association's concern about the problem of acid rain. I have written to the Minister in that regard.

vii) Township Road Issues

Three motions were introduced on the subject of discouraging the Township Council from making road improvements that may not be desired by the residents affected:

a) that Council be asked to notify the users concerned before undertaking a local road improvement. Defeated.

b) that Council be asked to indicate the comparative costs of alternative road surfacing in such projects. Defeated.

c) that Council consider designating certain sections of roads in the township as "Heritage Roads" on the request of local property owners. Carried.

The subject of the intersection of Highway 559 and the Dillon Road was raised and it was suggested that the placement of the STOP sign which gives the right-of-way to vehicles on the secondary road is anomalous and represents a potential hazard. It was moved that the Association bring this matter to the attention of the township to consider if there is a reasonable solution. The motion was carried.

viii) Financial Report

The Treasurer's financial report was read and received. It indicated a bank balance of \$2,133.85 as of the beginning of August, and a current membership of 145, approximately 50 per cent of the potential membership. It was decided to maintain a membership fee of \$10 for 1984-1985. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary were authorized to sign cheques on behalf of the Association, with any two of the above officers' signatures required for each cheque.

ix) Board of Directors and Executive

All current directors were re-elected subject to their willingness to continue on the board. In addition, the following new directors were

elected:

Don Clement
Maria Jeckel
Aeneas MacDonald
Doris McCarthy

Jean McCrea
Darlene Quartermain
Bob Sherbo
Bill Sutherland

Immediately following adjournment, the directors met briefly to determine the executive for 1984-1985. The officers are as follows:

Terry Keenleyside
Bill Davis
Dick Jolliffe
Jean McCrea

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Once again, I think we have had a productive year. It was encouraging to see a number of new individuals ready to serve on our board of directors and on the committee exploring the possibilities of a Shebeshekong rehabilitation scheme. I hope we can count on your membership and active support in 1985. If you have not already paid your membership fee for 1984-1985, please fill out the form below and send a cheque for \$10 at your earliest convenience.

With best wishes,

Terry Keenleyside

Terry Keenleyside
President