

West Carling Association

SINCE 1921

• GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE CONCERNS •



February 13, 1984

NEWSLETTER

New Year's greetings from the Association! The following is an up-date on several matters we have been pursuing over the last few months.

Shoreline Allowance Application

Many of you, I know, are anxious to learn what has developed regarding our group application. Unfortunately, things have been moving rather slowly at this initial stage. However, in a telephone conversation with our lawyer, Joe Wilson, on February 3, I was assured that all of the informal applications have now been organized by the surveyor, Paul Forth, into groups for ease of presentation to Council for tentative approval of the closures and for subsequent surveying purposes. Mr. Wilson is just about ready to contact everyone involved for their formal applications and deposits; he advised me that the amount will be very close to the estimate in the Association letter of last September. It would, of course, help to speed up the process if everyone responds quickly after receiving Mr. Wilson's letter, and if anyone who decides in the end not to participate in the group application so advises him promptly. At the moment, 83 members of the Association have indicated they wish to participate. Mr. Wilson does not feel, despite the delays at the outset, that in the end we shall lose much time in getting the application through Council.

Summer Student Employment Scheme

In December, the Parry Sound district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources finally offered to support our proposed summer conservation/clean-up project by the provision of a boat and engine for next season. However, the Ministry was unable to give us financial support. I recently completed an application under the Summer Canada Works Program of Employment and Immigration Canada for a grant to hire three students for an eleven week period this coming summer, only to discover that the costs associated with our project exceeded the limit on expenses for such projects by about \$1,300 (this is principally due to the high costs of operating an outboard engine daily throughout the project period). I was advised by the Employment Development Branch of the department that no exception to the expenses ceiling (\$35 per man week) would be granted for a scheme of the nature proposed. I then approached Environment Canada for a grant under its Environment 2000 program "to restore and preserve our natural heritage for tomorrow", but was advised our plan did not fit its project specifications.

Our latest initiative proposed by Bill Davis, is to apply for a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources under the Community Fisheries Involvement Program to undertake an intensive creel census in our area of Georgian Bay (i.e. the collection of data on the size and species of sport fish catches per angling hour). Such a project, if approved, would provide valuable information on the state of the fishery in our area in support of our on-going efforts to improve the management of this resource for the benefit of us all. Ancillary to this project, we should at the same time be able to fulfill some of the objectives of the original scheme -- e.g. the distribution of an Association pamphlet on the broad theme of conservation and the identification of locations where the dumping of refuse is a problem. Here's hoping that we meet with some success this time!

The Sport Fishery

Last August, the Council of the Archipelago Township adopted a resolution proposing the establishment of five fish sanctuaries in Ward 4 of the township. In October, a motion was introduced at a meeting of the Carling Township Council by Councillors Lawson and Plowman supporting the Archipelago resolution. Concern was expressed by Mr. Plowman that the Ministry of Natural Resources wanted more time to determine the feasibility of establishing sanctuaries, whereas the Archipelago Township felt that action was required urgently. Unfortunately, the Lawson/Plowman motion was defeated.

In the autumn of 1983, the Georgian Bay Association, a federation of associations on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay (of which we are not currently a member) developed a number of recommendations for inclusion in a proposed brief to the Minister of Natural Resources regarding the sport fishery. These included, inter alia:

- i) given the decline in Georgian Bay fish populations, the setting of "minimum level" quotas for commercial fishermen under the new Modernization Program for Commercial Fishing in Ontario;
- ii) considering the size of the area served by the Parry Sound office of the MNR, a strengthening of the staff of the fishery branch of this office so that the district biologist can devote more time to the specific problems of Georgian Bay;
- iii) the introduction of an experimental trap net program in the sensitive area of the Archipelago Township between McCoy Islands and Lookout Island in depths of water under 30 feet, with the release of all walleye, pike, bass and perch caught in this zone;
- iv) besides the proposed fish sanctuaries in Ward 4, the possibility of establishing small fish sanctuaries in spawning areas elsewhere along the Georgian Bay shore;
- v) the undertaking of research to determine, over a period of time, the value of sanctuaries as a way of improving bass and pike fishing.

These strike me as the kinds of solutions (along with others) that we should carefully consider for our area of the Bay at the proposed joint meeting of the Carling Township Associations on sport on sport fishing next summer (see the Newsletter of October, 1983).

Boat Traffic Problems

In November, the Coast Guard at Parry Sound replied to my letter regarding the problem of excessive boat speeds at three locations in our area of the Bay (see the October Newsletter). It indicated that the Coast Guard does not have the authority to govern the speed of pleasure craft, and that while it used to place "No Wake" signs at some locations, these did not have the backing of the law. The Coast Guard stated that the most appropriate way to deal with this problem would be for the Township Council to make an application through the Ministry of Natural Resources for a restriction to be placed on the waters in question under the Ontario Boating Restriction Regulations. If the restriction were granted, the Council would then be responsible for posting the appropriate signs, and the Provincial Police would have the power to lay charges against those contravening the restriction. I subsequently wrote to Reeve Reekie asking that the Council give consideration to making such an application. At its meeting on January 3, Township Council decided to defer discussion on this matter, pending the receipt of further information requested by Council from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Association Map

Dick Jolliffe has now completed the laborious task of filling in the missing properties for the Association map, and it should be ready for distribution in late spring or early summer. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for taking on what has proven to be a much larger task than any of us anticipated at the outset.

Special Real Estate Arrangement

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (of which we are a member) has made an arrangement with a firm called the Wrightman Corporation that provides for a modest saving in the real estate fees associated with the sale of cottagers' properties, including homes, businesses, etc. Under the scheme if a member of any of the associations in FOCA sells a cottage or other property through the Wrightman Corporation or its sub-agents throughout Ontario, the vendor will be charged 90 per cent of the usual real estate fee. Member associations as well as FOCA also benefit through a modest credit on each transaction. Please note that our Association is not at this time a participant in the plan. In order to register, we must first provide the Wrightman Corporation with certain information, including a list of the real estate companies which we feel best service our area. The question of whether or not the Association should participate in this scheme will be placed on the agenda of the next Annual Meeting.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

As many of you are no doubt aware, for the last few years our Association has been a member of FOCA. I thought, therefore, that you might be interested in reading the enclosed article from the July, 1983 issue of The Ontario Cottager which gives a good summary of recent FOCA activities in support of the interests of its member associations.