

West Carling Association

SINCE 1921

• GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE CONCERNS •



November 1985

NEWSLETTER

Terry Keenleyside, who has provided outstanding leadership to our Association for the past three years, has had to withdraw from the presidency, and the Board of Directors has appointed me to assume that responsibility. I would consider this a great honour, were it not that no one else could be persuaded to allow his/her name to stand! R.C. (Dick) Smith and Bill Davis are our vice-presidents, Mrs. Jean McCrea continues as treasurer and Tom Latimer is taking over my former responsibilities as secretary.

AN INVITATION TO NON-MEMBERS

Two years ago, because of the rapid escalation of postal rates, we restricted our mailing list to paid-up members and recently lapsed members, but for this issue of the Newsletter we are sending copies to all potential members, with a cordial invitation to join our ranks. Our membership already represents 60% of the potential roll, and our influence and effectiveness will be further enhanced as additional members join us.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS - AUGUST 4, 1985

Although attendance was disappointingly small, our August general meeting was quite productive. (The Board of Directors recommends that next year we meet on a Sunday morning in mid July.)

Copies of a report on the status of the shoreline allowance applications were distributed and the surveyor, Paul Forth, answered questions. An updated report will be found on another page.

Overnight camping on Franklin Island has led to some problems, due to the "squatters' rights" attitude of some campers and due to littering. Trees have also been destroyed. A large majority voted to recommend to the Ministry of Natural Resources that the "outside" shore of Franklin Island from Corbman's Point to Regatta Bay should be designated as a "wilderness area", with no overnight camping permitted.

Another recommendation to the Ministry of Natural Resources was advanced in a resolution concerning the ban on ice fishing in the Big Sound. This has led to a concentration of the winter sport just outside the Sound and the consequent depletion of stock in the area off our shores. Our resolution simply advocates a consistent policy of ban or no ban for the entire area of the Sound.

On the recommendation of our treasurer a decision was made to change our fiscal and membership year to coincide with the calendar year. Accordingly, 1984-85 memberships were extended to December 31, 1985 and the 1986 memberships are now due and payable.

Last year we set up a committee to explore the feasibility of rehabilitating the walleye spawning beds at Dillon Rapids. Bill Davis, chairman of that committee, reported that cutbacks in the Ministry of Natural Resources budget for re-stocking programs along with indifferent support from cottagers and residents have led the committee to recommend that we abandon the concept, at least for the present.

Reeve Bert Reekie reported to the meeting that the C.I.L. plant at Nobel was being shut down permanently. He is a member of a committee which will propose recommended uses for the property (which includes miles of shoreline on the Sound) and our Association's input was invited. Our directors subsequently took the position that we are not qualified to make specific suggestions but will definitely wish to be kept informed of draft proposals before planning and zoning decisions are made.

Resolutions were adopted to renew our affiliation with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers (FOCA) and also to rejoin the Georgian Bay Association. Both are actively involved in the acid rain campaign.

TOWNSHIP ELECTION RESULTS

Bert Reekie was re-elected as Reeve with a large majority. Terry Little, his challenger, will be replaced on council by Arthur Hailstone. The other incumbents, Crawford, Lawson and Plowman were re-elected, as was Alice McIntyre, trustee.

Our directors had hoped to submit a set of prepared questions to the candidates in order to report their responses to you before the advance poll. This plan proved to be impracticable time-wise. My inquiries at Thanksgiving (October 14) turned up no more than rumours of who might be running. Nominations closed nine days later, and the advance poll came ten days after that.

My personal view is that our Council has been performing competently and is certainly more sensitive to the needs and views of seasonal residents than some of its predecessors. I do not sense any current friction between permanent and summer resident attitudes.

"NARROWS ISLAND" OR "LONG ISLAND"

Cottagers on Narrows Island were surprised last year to find that recent printings of the navigation charts and some other maps had designated it as "Long Island" instead. Bill Latimer initiated a protest to the Nomenclature Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and I canvassed the views of all the other property owners. They unanimously endorsed "Narrows Island". The joint federal-provincial nomenclature committee has now ruled that we have had a Narrows victory by a wide margin.

SHORELINE ROAD ALLOWANCE APPLICATIONS

It is now two years since we launched our group application program and progress has been exasperatingly slow. During the past two months significant headway appears to have been made, but now everything will be at a standstill until spring, because the advertisements that must appear in the local press regarding "road closings" are invalid in the winter.

Our group plan was organized with a view to saving money for our members in both survey and legal work. It appears that in this respect our program should be successful. The drawback in a group action is that one small problem in regard to a boundary, a title, a deposit, an unrecorded birthdate, can hold up finalization for an entire subgroup. (The recording of birthdates on deeds is a recent provincially imposed technicality.)

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE NEWSLETTERS INVITED

I am inviting members to submit "letters to the editor", news items or short articles for inclusion in our Newsletters. For a start, we are enclosing herewith Bill Latimer's report on his water testing project this summer (with samples taken from locations both inside and outside of Franklin Island) and on his suggested methods for water purification.

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Best wishes for a joyous holiday season! May your "Happy New Year" include many days at Georgian Bay!

Sincerely,

Dick Jolliffe

R.O. (Dick) Jolliffe
President