

West Carling Association

SINCE 1921

• GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE CONCERNS •



December 1986

FALL NEWSLETTER

This issue of our Newsletter is being sent to all West Carling shoreline and island property owners for whom we have an address. We hope that non-members will be interested in our activities and may wish to join us. Approximately half of those eligible are now paid-up members, but our influence and effectiveness will be enhanced by growing numbers.

Although the majority of our members are cottagers, we attempt to represent the interests of both seasonal and permanent residents on the shoreline. Our two groups are interdependent and will be best able to resolve any problems through ongoing communication and cooperative action.

THE MACDONALD COMMISSION AND SCHOOL TAXES

One major issue, now moving to centre stage, illustrates the fact that solutions to Cottage Country problems which are equitable for both permanent and seasonal residents can be found. Sweeping changes in the methods for raising revenue to support our elementary and secondary schools are being studied by the provincial government. The MacDonald Commission on school financing (not to be confused with the federal McDonald Commission on the economy) has recently offered several options for the government's consideration. As the President of York University and the former Deputy Treasurer of Ontario, Ian MacDonald was ideally qualified to chair this task force.

A fundamental feature of the alternatives proposed is the substitution of Income Tax revenue for that part of education costs now carried by property tax. One recommendation advanced would have the municipality continuing to collect school taxes, as now, but with the ratepayer able to recover an Education Tax Rebate on her/his income tax return. This scheme would have the advantage of retaining local responsibility for administration of school systems. It would also correct the long standing inequity of cottagers having to pay twice for a service they can receive only once... but accomplishing this WITHOUT IMPOSING AN IMPOSSIBLE

BURDEN ON PERMANENT RESIDENTS, and WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AVAILABLE.

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) endorses the concept of income tax replacing property tax for school support, citing these additional advantages:

- * It provides a broader and fairer base for generating the required revenue for our school systems. (A constitutional responsibility of the province)
- * It more accurately measures ability to pay.
- * It does not penalize a group who prefer to spend their holiday dollars on cottaging in Canada, as opposed for instance to taking foreign vacations.

Our own Association has not yet had an opportunity to study and to take a position on this issue, but I expect it will be high on our agenda next season. You will be reading more about it in the press, and we will look forward to receiving your input.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROCEDURES UNDER REVIEW

The provincial government is studying another issue of special interest to Cottage Country ratepayers. Draft proposals for amendments to the Municipal Act designed to facilitate greater participation by seasonal residents in the democratic process are being considered. These include:

- * A longer period between the close of nominations and election day. (This idea has already been endorsed by the Carling Township Council.)
- * Elections in the third week of October. This would mean that the obligatory advance poll could be held on Thanksgiving weekend.
- * A broadening of the conditions under which a proxy vote can be accepted.

THE ANNUAL MEETING - JULY 20

The attendance at our Annual Meeting was disappointingly small. If our membership roll were not holding up so well (156 members in 1986), I would interpret the poor attendance as an indication of dwindling interest. Rather, I suspect, it was due to insufficient notification, a change in date from the traditional

Civic Holiday weekend and the lack of any burning issue at the time. Your directors have resolved to hold next year's Annual Meeting on the Civic Holiday weekend (as in past years) and to give better notice.

FRANKLIN ISLAND CAMPING

I reported to you earlier that our recommendation to the MNR for the banning of overnight camping on the west side of Franklin Island was rejected. The issue has been revived by Carling's Natural Resources Committee, a new body appointed by the Township Council last winter. Some of us joined them at an open meeting in mid August where we met with a MNR official to discuss the matter further. The MNR is now acknowledging the problem but claims enforcement of regulations is impossible. The Natural Resources Committee will be submitting its detailed report on the issue to Carling Council in January and asking for its support in further approaches to the Ministry.

MARINE SIGNS

The "NO WAKE" signs that we requested last year for the Franklin Narrows were duly installed by the township. Reeve Reekie invested several hours of his own time drilling the rock and installing the metal posts and signs. Within a short time one had blown down and the other "vanished". Since opinion on the effectiveness and desirability of these signs is not unanimous we are not pressing the issue further.

In the early fall the Coast Guard erected a large new sign near the Snug Harbour Lighthouse to mark the location of its Search & Rescue operation there. I have received two most unflattering reports regarding the size and design of this new feature on the Georgian Bay landscape. Next they'll be erecting a billboard at Peggy's Cove! Apparently the location of the sign is especially ill-chosen because its harsh silhouette is most conspicuous when viewed from the east or harbour side.

I look forward to hearing further comment from you early next season before we determine what action, if any, we should take.

ROAD SIGNS

At our Annual Meeting a suggestion that cottagers' signs should be limited in number or required to meet specified standards was discussed at some length. Although it was recognized that this is a problem at some spots, there was general reluctance to

discourage self expression and individuality unnecessarily.

The Township has a bylaw banning all unauthorized signs on its roads, but it is apparent that they hesitate to enforce it unless complaints are lodged.

It was pointed out that some township roads are not adequately signed. Reeve Reekie was requested to have the Remy Bay Road signed and this has since been done.

Another suggestion was that for those intersections where many names must appear the individuals concerned collectively request the Township to install a post with uniform "finger signs" on an "at cost" basis for each party involved.

SAND BAY & DILLON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Many of our current West Carling Association members formerly belonged to the Sand Bay & Dillon Conservation Association which has been dormant for quite a few years. Some may remember that a principal activity of this group was buying and maintaining a fire pump for the Sand Bay and Dillon Dock area. Over \$1,100.00 remains on deposit to the credit of the old organization and it would appear that our Association is the logical successor to the old one.

The bank's records indicate that Shirley Green and Chuck Wilson were the most recently authorized signing authorities. Chuck Wilson no longer lives in Carling and Mrs. Green, quite understandably, is unwilling to sign the money over without authorization by a majority of all former Sand Bay & Dillon Conservation Association members who can be reached. She has agreed to cooperate with us in circulating a ballot early next summer. Only former members or their family successors will be eligible to vote on this matter.

Ownership and stationing of the old Association's fire pump (located at Dillon Cove Marina in recent years) is also at issue. The existing arrangement provides a service supplementary to the official Carling Fire Department with the advantage of proximity to many locations.

We recommend that your first call in an emergency should be to the official number, 746-4443. Dillon area water access properties can also benefit from the early response of our Dillon Cove service, which can be contacted by telephone (342-5431) or C.B. radio.

SHORELINE ROAD ALLOWANCES

It is now three years since we launched our project of group applications for the purchase of our respective shoreline road allowances. We all know that the wheels of officialdom turn slowly, especially when there are several branches of officialdom involved. Also, there are extra problems inherent in a group action. A small difficulty with one property can stall an entire group's progress.

The following groups have "jumped all the hurdles" including the required advertising and the passing of a bylaw. Their files are now in the hands of W.D. Russell of Orillia, Carling Township's solicitor for "completions" ... whatever that means.

Group #1 - Stevens/Aikman/Parsonage/Williams/Milburn

Group #3 - Young/Pullen/Ellenor/Morgan/Duliban/Christie

Group #5 - Hinds/Coates/Dixon

Group #6 - Davis/Jeckel (Weightman withdrawn)

Group #10 - Mott/Patterson/McCrea/Grysiewicz

Group #11 - Van Suylekom

Group #13 - Alderson/Duncan/Humphrey/Coulter/McKenzie/Coutts
Guenther

Group #14 - Morrison/Williams

The following groups are stalled by problems with Hydro and/or Bell Telephone easements. The bylaw for each cannot be passed until these problems are resolved.

Group #2 - Wing/Berry/Chambers/Fulciniti/Miller (Laurie withdrawn)

Group #7 - Oldfield/Jolliffe/McNeely/Love/Westcott/Manwaring/
Jones/Vanderbeek

Group #8 - Lockhart/Clement/Deinas (MacDonald & Banderob withdrawn)

Group #9 - Williams/McCarthy/Luz/Smedley/Anderson/Dixon/Yusko/
Dullege/Glover/March/Dudas

Group #4 - WITHDRAWN (North/Boyce/Alleway/Astley)

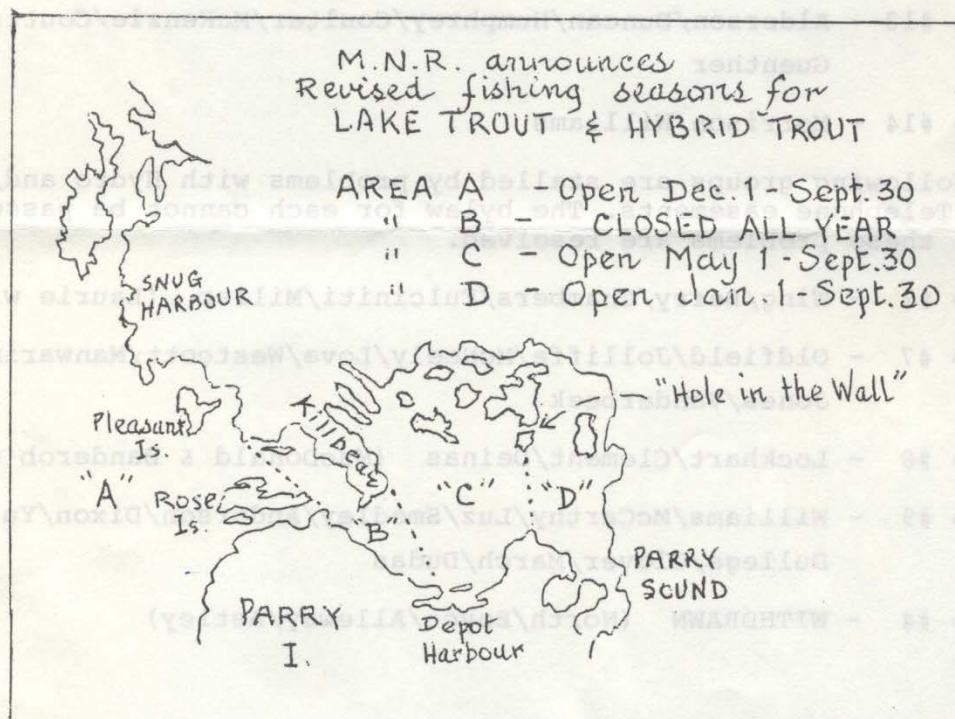
The Narrows Island group (#12) deals with the MNR instead of Carling Township. With both the Toronto and Parry Sound MNR offices involved, I have had difficulty determining the status of these applications. At least the surveyor assures me the field work is complete. (Deller/Forrester/Gillard/Hall/Hessel/Latimer/Phillips/Phorson/Raven/Vernon/Wood/Young)

SEASONS AND AREAS FOR TROUT AND SPLAKE AMENDED

Our recommendations to the MNR last year regarding ice fishing inside and outside the Big Sound have been accepted, in large measure. We felt that the former banning of ice fishing inside the Sound was causing over exploitation of the waters closer to us.

The new fishing seasons established by the MNR are set out on the map below. Bill Davis, our resident sport fishing authority, considers these changes a positive move, but cautions that they will lessen our catches in the short term in the vicinity of Pleasant Island.

Individual angling licences are back ... \$10.00 for Ontario residents. The revenue produced is earmarked for fisheries improvement.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

A special issue of "The Cottager", the magazine published by FOCA four times annually, will be mailed to all of our paid-up members next spring. This complementary issue is FOCA's invitation to you to become a subscriber. I believe you will find its contents to be of considerable interest.

Terry Keenleyside, our past president, is on sabbatical leave from his post at the University of Windsor and is living along with his family in the south of France. Knowing Terry, I am sure that he is doing a great deal more than getting a tan.

C.I.L. has sold two large parcels of their shoreline property on the Sound, one of them in Carling. The new owners have not yet disclosed their plans.

The subject of the increasing number of satellite dishes along the shoreline was raised from the floor at our Annual Meeting. One suggestion made and well received was that dark coloured wire mesh dishes are much less conspicuous than white ones.

At their August 31 meeting our directors approved a donation of \$156.00 (\$1.00 per paid up member) to the Acid Rain campaign in response to an appeal from FOCA.

Once again we are issuing an invitation for contributions to our Newsletters. It does not need to be a feature article! It might take the form of a letter to the editor, a comment for or against policies we are pursuing, problems we should be addressing, or just a bit of news from your bay.

The biggest current problem many of us face ... and there isn't anything we can do about it ... is the still-rising water level.

All of our executive officers were reappointed for another year.

President - Dick Jolliffe
Vice Presidents - Dick Smith & Bill Davis
Secretary - Tom Latimer
Treasurer - Mrs. Jean McCrea
Directors for 1987 are - Maria Jeckel
Aeneas McDonald
Doris McCarthy
Terry McCrea
Bill Sutherland
Lloyd Davis
Bob Sherbo
Hank Hoogeveen
Terry Keenleyside

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Membership fees for 1987 are now due and payable. If there are errors or omissions in our mailing list or on our Association map, please note them in the space provided on the next page. Prospective new members please note that our map, identifying shoreline property owners, is free to all paid members.

Sincerely,

Dick Joliffe

R.O. (Dick) Joliffe
President