

West Carling Association

SINCE 1921



• GEORGIAN BAY SHORELINE CONCERNS •

May 1986

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Another season of summer-cottaging is about to begin! I'm sure there is none among us too old to feel a quickening of the pulse as we anticipate blissful days ahead at Georgian Bay! We cheerfully accept the burden of routine maintenance and the drudgery of housekeeping chores (minus state-of-the-art equipment) in return for the soul-healing balm that envelops us on our beloved shores.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The responses that we received from the Ministry of Natural Resources in reply to the two resolutions that we submitted last fall were somewhat discouraging, but I am confident that we will not have to accept them as the final word. You may recall that one issue concerned camping for extended periods on Franklin Island, and our recommendation that over-night camping on the "outside" shores be banned. The second request was that the ice-fishing ban in the Big Sound be extended to include a wide area west of the Killbear light (or, alternatively, that there be no ban in either area). The rationale for each of these recommendations was explained in our Newsletter last fall.

Perhaps the next step for us is to organize a delegation for a personal meeting with the M.N.R. officials during the summer. One encouraging point to note is that M.N.R. did, without our prompting, undertake a fairly comprehensive survey of Franklin Island last summer, including interviews with campers they encountered. At least we share a concern regarding the problem, if not the solution.

ACID RAIN REPORT

I recently attended the annual spring seminar of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA) with which we are affiliated. The key-note speaker was W.G. Davis, reporting on his recent assignment as Canada's envoy in the negotiations with the U.S.A. regarding acid rain. The former premier was obviously touchy about the Canadian media's largely critical reaction to the joint report, but he did succeed in highlighting two significant accomplishments in which we can take some satisfaction. The U.S. government

has finally and officially acknowledged the reality of the acid rain problem. Also, the substantial funding promised by the President is not for further "studies", but for the development of new technology for controlling emissions.

It is clear that we have a long way to go yet in the campaign to bring acid rain under control. The problem in Georgian Bay is not yet as acute as in the inland lakes due, in part, to the buffering of the acidity by the limestone shores of the Bruce Peninsula, but our forests, fish and water will all be threatened if more is not done to combat the problem.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

I am pleased to report that Carling Council has recently established a Natural Resources Committee. Issues it is likely to tackle include Crown land camping, recreational boating, fishery matters, wildlife problems, etc. These concerns closely parallel those of our own Association. Thus it appears that we will have a logical channel through which to communicate our points of view, and to work co-operatively with permanent residents who share our concern for the preservation of our environment.

It is not surprising that the Township Council has appointed Bill Davis Chairman of this new Committee. His expertise and his commitment in this field are widely recognized.

THE C.I.L. PROPERTY

Reeve Reekie has advised us of a modification in C.I.L. intentions respecting their huge land holdings in the Nobel area. They have now decided to retain the magazine operations along with a "danger zone" surrounding it, but two sizeable parcels (one of them in Carling Township) are being put on the market. We appreciate being kept advised, and will be monitoring any re-zoning moves that may be sought by a prospective new owner.

OUR FEATURE ARTICLE

This issue's feature article, which is enclosed was contributed by our own Bill Davis. Even a non-fisherman, like myself, found "West Carling's Recreational Fishery" fascinating. His prescriptions for restoration of the fish population in our area deserve our attention. Bill's background includes a Master's degree in Fish Biology, several years' employment in the lamprey eel control program, and a leading role in the Georgian Bay Sport Fishing Association.

MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

* * * *

A N N U A L M E E T I N G

at

Carling Recreation Hall

on

SUNDAY, JULY 20

at

10:00 a. m.

* * * *

If this is a change of address, please so indicate _____