



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0
Since 1921
Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns



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FALL 2007 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Davidson, President

I do not suppose that there are many out there who would care to dispute that the Georgian Bay of Carling Township is both wondrous and beautiful. Whether we deserve credit for this is another matter altogether. The scientific explanation is that geologically recent glaciation, courtesy solely of Mother Nature, is responsible for its creation. The fact that it remains largely unspoiled owes as much to the youth of this country and the historically limited access as anything else. But this could easily change and one day the dawning of the 21st century could be viewed as the time when despoliation finally caught up with us. We must not let this happen.

We Canadians (and Americans) could well look outside of our comfortable cocoon and learn from the example of older civilizations. I recently had the pleasure of visiting Ireland, an island continuously inhabited for several thousands of years. And in the County of Clare I saw two excellent examples of mankind doing something right and one deplorable example of mankind doing something shamefully wrong.

The west coast of the County of Clare consists of gentle green hills dotted with sheep and cattle, with expansive views over a largely treeless terrain. On the coast there is a section a few kilometers long where the limestone cliffs plunge precipitously into the crashing swells of the open Atlantic Ocean. So stunning is the vista that something in the order of a million visitors come to this location every year simply to gaze at this natural spectacle. It was no small task for the Irish Tourist Authority to come up with a plan to accommodate this crush of visitors without spoiling the countryside. Assisted by funding from the European Union, the imaginative solution was to create a state of the art visitor centre complete with restaurant, washroom facilities, audio visual presentations and souvenir shops all buried into the hillside and covered over with native grasses. From the outside all that can be seen are a couple of tasteful wooden doors and a few windows. The walkways are all native limestone slabs, while the restricting pedestrian walls around the dangerous cliffs are huge slabs of limestone standing on edge. There is not a speck of concrete, asphalt, or metal to be seen anywhere. In short, a fine example of mankind doing something right.

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Not far from the Cliffs of Moher is a rather desolate area known as The Burren. Here the landscape is barren limestone with rock boulders and very little vegetation whatsoever, despite abundant precipitation. So poor is the land that it is sparsely inhabited, with insufficient grasses even for sheep and goats. It is strangely reminiscent of the islands we call The Limestones well out from The Minks in Carling. And what do the ignorant tourists do here to spoil this austere beauty? Why they erect cairns of boulders and limestone slabs, of course. Once again, just like Carling Township, where the urge to leave one's mark seems irresistible to some. Only in The Burren, schoolchildren and unpaid volunteers go around and remove these artificial landmarks. This seems like a fine idea for us to emulate and perhaps expand to include ad hoc campsites and fire pits in unsuitable or aesthetically pleasing locations.

But the Irish make mistakes too. South of the Cliffs of Moher is an ancient seaside village called Lahinch, which happens to be the home of one of the top 100 golf courses in the world. Many of the buildings in the village are built of stone and date back several centuries. The roads are narrow and winding and the countryside is once again rolling hills dotted with sheep and cattle. It's a bucolic scene from another generation. Or rather, it was. In the last decade some enterprising developer must have sprinkled pixie dust over the eyes of the planning authorities in Lahinch, with the result that just outside of town in the rolling hills looking out over the Atlantic now sit dozens of ugly identical A-frame chalets side by side with nary a tree, bush or stone to shield separations as little as 20 feet. As one local commented, "What the bloody hell were they thinking?"

Which brings us back to Carling Township in 2007. As you are undoubtedly aware there is a development proposal on the drawing board which would effectively take advantage of a loophole in the current zoning bylaws to vastly increase the density of a tourist commercial location. And there may not be a whole lot we can do about it as the Official Plan is likely a year or two away from adoption. Worse still, we have yet to go the route of site plan control with development applications in our Township. One only need boat up the Shebeshekong River to see a perfect example of how lack of site plan control causes a valuable natural wetland to be destroyed (for the sake of a totally inappropriate front lawn).

It's time to stand up and be counted. Without your vocal input in the public hearings coupled with suitable site plan control mechanism, Carling a generation from now could look like a suburb of Lahinch. Mother Nature has left Carling Township an amazing and irreplaceable natural legacy. It's ours to keep or lose.



*Preserving unique properties along the eastern shore
and North Channel. Join with us in protecting
the natural beauty and character of
Georgian Bay.*

For more information visit,
www.gbtl.org or call, 416-440-1519

INTRODUCING OUR NEW WCA DIRECTORS

At the Annual General Meeting in July, we expanded our number of Directors to a maximum of 20 and elected 6 new Directors. I will profile 3 below and 3 in the Spring newsletter.

Sarah Douglas

Sarah has lived in Snug Harbour for over a year now, helping my partner, Terry Gilbert, run Gilly's Restaurant and the Snug Harbour Marina and Store. She works at Community Living Parry Sound, where she is the Employment Coordinator and helps people who have disabilities get jobs. Sarah was raised in Port Perry, but her mother's family is the Hunts and Quinns from Carling and she spent most of her childhood summers enjoying the Bay. Her grandfather, on her father's side, was well known to many here, Carmen Douglas. He was the lead biologist for the Ministry of Natural Resources and did a great deal of work with Franklin Island, the Limestones, etc. She has many personal interests, including photography, art, hiking, yoga, my family (4 boys, ages 7, 8, 10 and 13), cooking, etc.

Ken James

Ken was educated in the UK, immigrated in 1963, practiced law since 1969 and have been a Carling cottager since 1970. He is married and has a dog. His summer interests and activities are now pretty well restricted to the traditional forms of Georgian Bay R&R.

David Rapson

David lives near Coldwater and taught high-school geography in Orillia for many years before retirement. He loves horseback riding and has competed in many long distance horse back rides. He purchased land on Rose Island in 1999 and built a cottage in 2003.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER DELAYED UNTIL SPRING

Although our intention was to send the new membership roster (directory) with this Fall newsletter, we have decided to include it with the Spring newsletter to ensure that we are able to include all the late membership renewals. We will get it to you in March/April so that you have it in time for next cottage season.

CARLING TOWNSHIP EMERGENCY SERVICES REVIEW

By John Rohr and Christina Caap

WCA has begun to look at the state of emergency services within the township in an attempt to identify shortcomings and thereafter work with Council to make necessary improvements. We would also like feedback from our membership re concerns and constructive ideas.

To-date both the Fire Department and Medical Responses have been staffed by volunteers. The Fire Department currently has a part-time chief and 20 volunteers with varying levels of training working at one central fire station with one modern pump truck and a land based rescue boat. Response time is the number one concern! Any upgrade to these facilities would depart from the current low cost approach of our township – options include a second fire station, additional pump trucks (perhaps smaller quick response vehicles), full-time fireman (at least one per station), one or several fire boats with pumps placed at marinas, water storage tanks.

Medical response in Carling appears to be working well as ambulance and OPP services from Parry Sound are augmented by a network of trained volunteers spread throughout our township, several of whom are outfitted with medial equipment in their cars.

Obligations we have as Carling residents:

911 Numbers

These should be properly installed at the entrance of each driveway perpendicular to the main road, visible from both directions, and not obscured by vegetation, as well they should not be obscured by snow removal.

Water access and island properties must adhere to similar principles while displaying these signs on the shoreline.

Please remember this is not a matter of aesthetics but one of potential life and death for you and your neighbours in case of emergency.

Road Access

Carling's fire truck is large (9 feet wide, mirror to mirror, 10 feet high, 32 feet long and heavy with its water load.) All residents should check their driveway as to whether it meets specifications- the entrance from the main road should be 5 metres wide, the rest of the road 4 metres wide, with an adequate road bed. If the fire truck gets stuck no one gets in or out. Winter access and plough width should also be considered.

Our new fire chief Kevin Hutton also reminds us to check that we have working smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.

Safe cottaging!



PRESERVING OUR NIGHT SKY

By Michael Gordon

Outdoor lighting on cottages, garages, boathouses and docks allows us to engage in nighttime activities outdoors that might be impossible or unsafe under normal nighttime conditions. At the same time, however, outdoor lighting can interfere with our ability to enjoy the night sky and consume a substantial amount of energy. In most cases, a few simple adjustments to existing outdoor lights can make them more dark sky-friendly and save energy. Consider the following tips:

- Replace 60-, 100- and 150-watt bulbs with 25- or 40-watt bulbs or CFLs (compact fluorescent lights)
- Reduce light intensity by installing a dimmer switch on your outdoor lighting
- Use full cut-off or partial cut-off lighting fixtures to minimize glare. Full cut-off means that no light is emitted above the horizontal. Full cut-off fixtures are more effective and actually increase safety since they produce very little of the glare that can dazzle the eye and reduce our ability to see into shadow.
- Carriage or coach lamps have undirected 360-degree beams that are offensive to the night sky. Replace the bulbs with 25-watt chandelier bulbs or better yet install low wattage PAR20 lamps that focus all of their light output in one direction.
- Retrofit existing fixtures with shields to reduce glare.
- Avoid dusk-to-dawn security lights. A more effective approach to security is a motion detector with a delayed reset.
- Aim lighting fixtures away from the water and neighbouring properties. Choose fixtures that aim or reflect light only onto the intended target area.
- Consider eliminating or reducing the duration that lighting is applied, especially if you choose to illuminate landscaping, shrubs and trees.
- Consider using non-intrusive alternatives to boat dock lighting such as solar reflectors or reflector tape.

ONE MAN'S ISLAND

By Bruce Davidson

Everyone it seems loves lighthouses. No matter whether they be tall cylinders, rambling 'houses', graceful spires, or squat fortresses. All around the world, people seem to be crazy about them. I guess it's a love affair with a bygone era.

One of the more celebrated, and certainly the most exposed lighthouses in Carling Township, is none other than Red Rock. As most of us know, it sits on an unbelievably tiny rock on the south tip of the Mink Islands, totally exposed to the storms of the Georgian Bay. There is a photo in Pointe au Baril of Red Rock in February, where all you can see is a towering wall of glimmering ice with just the tiniest hint of red colour on the helipad, which sits some 70 feet above the water. The storms are so bad out there in the winter that the first two lighthouses built on the site were simply swept away. So now we have the pride of 1890 construction, being a solid concrete bunker encased in an armored shell of cast iron riveted together in truly impressive fashion, supporting a 40 foot limestone block tower...a sight only a sailor could love.


Recently I had the pleasure of skimming a publication entitled, I think, "Lighthouses of the Great Lakes", and was amused to have recounted several anecdotes of one of Carling's storied lighthouse keepers, Adam Brown caretaker of Red Rock from 1897 until 1936. By the way, that's forty years on a rock smaller than most people's homes!

Perhaps the most amusing story which speaks volumes about Adam's character, is that shortly after World War I, when he had already spent a couple of decades on the rock, Adam petitioned Ottawa for permission to stay on Red Rock the year round. Can you imagine in those days, before the era of outboard motors and before electricity was available, spending a freezing dark winter on a speck of rock in the middle of nowhere? For a refreshing change, sane heads in the Government prevailed and permission was denied.

This stubborn streak subsequently almost cost Adam his life as he continued his love affair with Red Rock. I rather doubt that there was much shipping going on in December, but there was good old Adam Brown still hanging out at Red Rock, when winter came in all its fury. The storms were of such force that open leads of water remained in the pack ice, making travel impossible either by boat or by foot. So our hero hunkered down in his concrete prison subsisting for two weeks on a single biscuit a day. Finally, Adam emerged on Christmas Day, half starved and decided to make his bid for freedom on foot dragging his rowboat over the ice behind him. In those days the Minks were a major fishing camp and Adam had the good fortune to be spotted and rescued in a semi-conscious state with death knocking on the door.

But death was not to knock on Adams door for many a year. I remember seeing a really old guy rowing a boat in Snug Harbour in the 1960's. Mind you, anyone over 50 was a really old guy to a kid, I guess. But Adam was in his nineties at the time and finally passed away in 1967 at the ripe old age of 103.

No man is an island perhaps, but Adam Brown came pretty darn close.



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FRANKLIN ISLAND MONITORING PROGRAM SUMMER 2007

By Michael Gordon

During the Summer of 2007, the Township of Carling, supported by the Great Lakes Sea Kayaking Association, the West Carling Association, the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, the Georgian Bay Land Trust, Ontario Sailing, White Squall, and the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, sponsored an initiative to monitor camping conditions and mitigate excesses of environmental degradation on Franklin Island in Georgian Bay.

Two part-time Carling Crown Land Stewards patrolled Franklin Island performing the 3 main components of the project: a custodial component, a monitoring component, and an educational component. These included as follows:

Custodial component:

- disposal of garbage deposited by campers when it was encountered
- erection of signs designed to encourage responsible camping
- installation of latrines, or thunderboxes, at the most heavily used sites

Monitoring component:

- gathering of data on the number of campers using the island at any given time
- conducting a survey of campers to determine the length of their stay and the quality of their experience

Educational component:

- distribution of Ministry of Natural Resources handouts
- distribution of forest toilet kits, with an instructional manual and a little scoop, designed to raise awareness about responsible camping and reduce the impact of individual campers in the future

Over the course of the season, the two Crown Land Stewards conducted 89 campsite inspections at occupied sites, 13 inspections at sites that required additional maintenance after the campers had left, and roughly 120 inspections at unoccupied sites that required no additional maintenance.

The Stewards installed thunderboxes at 5 of the most heavily used sites on Franklin Island and monitored the use at these new installations over the course of the summer. The new installations are being used, which has reduced prevalence of human waste and toilet paper at the sites in question.

Great work supported by this association!

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 29, 2007

CARLING RECREATION HALL

Approximately 65 members were present including all but one director of the association.

Mayor Konoval and Hans Muysson represented the Carling Township Council. Guests: Joe Ryder and Eric McIntyre
Bruce Davidson, WCA President acted as Chairman, and Sheila Tierney, WCA Secretary, recorded the minutes.

President Davidson introduced the head table directors.

Approval of Minutes of the 2006 AGM

Moved by Sheila Tierney and seconded by Jeremy Gawen that the minutes of the July 30th 2006 AGM, as circulated and published in the fall 2006 newsletter, be approved. Carried

Approval of Actions of the Board of Directors

Moved by Christina Caap and seconded by Scott Tomenson that all acts, contracts, bylaws and proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted by the directors and officers of the WCA since the date of the last general meeting, as the same are set out in the minutes of the Board of Directors, or in the annual reports and financial statements submitted to this meeting, be and the same are here by approved and confirmed. Carried

Report from Carling Council

Mayor Konoval, once again, commented on the cooperation between the WCA and other associations especially with regard to Franklin Island. Congratulations were extended to the Tomenson family for the Paddle for the Cure event held at Snug

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Annual General Meeting - cont'd from page 9

Harbour, which raised over \$20,000 for Cancer research. Mayor Konoval gave a review of the past year's activities. Since three staff members will retire in the coming year, Carling has hired a new person in the office as a result of succession planning. There is also a new Fire Chief, Kevin Hutton.

The redevelopment of Inverlochy Resort under the Condominium Act is going to the Ministry Of Housing for comment. The developers applied for rezoning of the property in August. Resorts generally are disappearing in the Township. Some resorts have been bought by families.

The Official Plan Review led by John Jackson is continues into its second year. Only the rural section remains to be reviewed. A first draft will be prepared by the end of July and can be picked up at the office. A public meeting will be held at the end of September.

The draft will be reviewed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hans Muysson reviewed the Carling Township Financial Overview, which was included with our tax bills. The total budget (\$5,577,492) includes the Boards of Education levies (\$1,626,785), Non-discretionary expenditures for local health, social services, and police (\$1,101,874) and provision for reserves for capital expenditures (\$292,621). Municipal services account for \$2,556,212.

Joe Ryman, Public Works Superintendent reported on the partnership between, Carling Township, WCA, and the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, the Georgian Bay Land Trust and White Squall regarding Franklin Island. Two students have been hired to monitor the use of Franklin Island and report the numbers of people and pets using the island. Information packages which advocate best camping practices are distributed. Their role is to inform and they report to Joe Ryman each Monday and daily report their itinerary and return. The OPP are aware of the program and disturbances should be reported to them.

Jeremy Gawen suggested that Fire Ban signs be posted at access points.

Eric McIntyre suggested that boating regulations regarding speed limits near shoreline etc should be included in newsletters and other publications.

Gisela Gerber noted a concern regarding garbage left along roadsides at access points.

Eric McIntyre of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council outlined the work of the 40 councils, which are part of the Ministry of Natural Resource. The Council held walleye rehabilitation programs, bass nests and lake water planning workshops. As a result of questions, Eric reported on lamprey and cormorant control and First Nation fishing rights, which are entrenched in law. Eric had bass nest gravel for distribution after the meeting.

The President thanked Eric for his presentation.

Treasurer's Report

Alex Davidson presented the audited financial statements and the budget forecast. The audit showed a deficit of \$1,207 because of a decrease in memberships last year. The 2008 budget is based on a membership of 240 and includes new expenses for

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Franklin Island monitoring and production of a membership directory. Moved by Alex Davidson and seconded by Jeremy Gawen that the Treasurer's report be approved. Carried

The Treasurer thanked Murray Hogeboom, auditor, for his work in the past year and moved that the firm of Clarkson Rouble LLP be appointed as auditors for the coming year. Seconded by Sue Cooper. Carried.

Increase in the Annual Fee

At the Directors' Meeting held earlier in the day, it was recommended that an increase in the membership fee be proposed to the members. The present \$55 fee includes \$40 for the GBA and \$15 for the WCA. Moved by Jeremy Gawen and seconded by John Crean that the membership fee be increased by \$5. Carried

GBA

Alex Davidson outlined the work of the GBA on windfarms, water levels and proposed developments on environmentally sensitive areas and the need for WCA to continue to support the GBA. The President thanked Alex for his work as Treasurer and as a WCA representative on the GBA.

Membership Report

Michael Gordon reported that the membership averages about 250 members over the years. There are 750 potential members with shoreline properties. He noted that it is important to have a larger proportion of shoreline owners in WCA for a strong voice to Council and other government agencies. Michael and Doug Malvern are carrying out the plan proposed last year to increase membership. A new directory will be forthcoming in the fall. To be included members must give permission to have their name included. (Privacy legislation) The directory will include members only. All non-members have been contacted by letter sent through the Township. The President thanked Michael and Doug for their work on the membership plan.

Renewable Energy

Bill Bialkowski, chair of the Renewable Energy Committee, together with Jeremy Gawen and John Crean prepared a report for the GBA including 8 recommendations with a provincial perspective including: the impact of windfarms on fragile ecological areas,

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the cumulative impact on floral and fauna further afield the impact of grid connection

The MNR has agreed to include the above in new regulations being prepared. Other issues to be resolved are the lack of visual impact criteria and disclosure to and involvement of citizens affected

The OPA is still open for applications for wind test sites, a testing tower is planned 45km north of Parry Sound on the boundary of the Conservation Reserve.

The President thanked Bill, Jeremy and John for their work on the report.

Nominating Report

Sheila Tierney reported that all the present directors were standing for re-election and that the slate presented by the board included 2 new members. The new members proposed will represent previously unrepresented areas of our association.

At a previous director's meeting it was duly moved and seconded that the number of directors of the WCA be increased to up to 20.

The slate presented by the directors:

For re-election: Rob Brown, Christina Caap, Sue Cooper, John Crean, Alex Davidson, Bruce Davidson, Jeremy Gawen, Michael Gordon, Jill Kimberly, Doug Malvern, John Rohr, Scott Tomenson, Sheila Tierney, Dave Turner.

For election Ken James, Dave Rapson, Richard Stark

Sheila called for nominations from the floor.

Phyllis Ortved was nominated by Peter Dey and seconded by Scott Tomenson

David Hume was nominated by Paula Hope and seconded by Pam Wing

Both agreed to accept the nomination.

The call for nominations was made twice more.

Moved by Jeremy and Christina Caap that nominations be closed.

Moved by Scott Tomenson and seconded by Doug Malvern that the proposed directors be elected.

Gisela Gerber thanked the directors for their work on the behalf of cottagers and residents of Carling.

Adjournment: Moved by Jill Kimberly and seconded by Sue Cooper that the meeting adjourn with thanks to the chair. Carried

