



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0

Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

SUMMER 2007 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Bruce Davidson, President

As you are probably aware, The West Carling Association in recent years has been taking a more pro-active role in environmental and geopolitical matters. So it is somewhat disappointing that so few cottagers have been attending sessions where Carling Township has been drafting the new Official Plan. This is the document that will ultimately govern the development of the Township for the next 50 years or so. Just about every development issue imaginable is contained within the OP from setbacks, minimum frontages, density, heights, uses, outbuildings, service roads etc. The good news is that Carling has hired an experienced planner to work on the drafting and that Council appears to embrace many of the environmental concerns that affect us as ratepayers. There will necessarily be public hearings as part of the process followed by a review by various Ministries. Owing to the fact that shoreline residents constitute such a significant component of the Carling Township ownership base (and an even larger proportion of the taxation assessment), an attempt will be made to have the public hearing held before the end of summer when cottagers are still around. If that is not possible owing to unforeseen delays in drafting, then WCA will be urging that the matter be delayed until next spring.

Last year your Association was instrumental in putting together a program to inventory the use of campsites on Franklin Is. with a view to assessing the need for monitoring sites for garbage collection and inappropriate behaviour, especially large fires during periods of mainland fire bans. Thanks to the efforts of the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, White Squall, The Georgian Bay Land Trust and others, the program demonstrated that additional resources were needed to properly supervise this magnificent island (and other Crown Islands in the Township). Did you know that Franklin Is. was made a Provincial Park in 1922 by order-in-council at Queen's Park, but lost its special status 20 years later owing to lack of ratification? In any event, this spring Carling Township agreed to hire two students to patrol Franklin and Huckleberry Islands initially with a view to promoting good camping practices and identification of problems. Your Association is delighted that Carling has taken this initiative to protect lands that are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources, as the Ministry is unable to protect these lands owing to a lack of human and financial resources. We see the Franklin Is. issue as vital to the interest of Carling residents and accordingly, your Directors have approved a financial contribution of \$1,000 to this program.

The Official Plan land inventory reveals that approximately one half of Carling Township is Crown Land. While this is great news for the environmentalists among us, it

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WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION LIST OF OFFICERS



Bruce Davidson, President
e-mail: dbdavidson@rogers.com
cottage: 705 342-5886 (I-257)
Toronto: 416 932-0030

Michael Gordon, Vice-President & Newsletter
e-mail: mgordon003@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-7463 (185)
Orillia: 705 326-7553

Alex Davidson, Treasurer
email: alex.davidson1@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-5129 (I-257)
Toronto: 416 484-9480

Dave Turner, Vice-President
e-mail: david_turner@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-7211 (335)
Mississauga: 905 823-1778

Doug Malvern, Membership
e-mail: doug.malvern@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-9102 (122)
Brantford: 519 759-7717

Sheila Tierney, Secretary
e-mail: tierney@niagara.com
Cottage: 705 342-1653 (099)
Home: 905 468-2200

LIST OF DIRECTORS BY AREA

ISLANDS NORTH OF FRANKLIN

(001) Sue Cooper 342-7470
e-mail: sue@canadiansoho.com

NORTHEAST ISLANDS

(122) Doug Malvern 342-9102
Home: 519 759-77
e-mail: doug.malvern@sympatico.ca

SAND BAY ROAD (WEST)

(099) Sheila Tierney 342-1653
Home: 905 468-2200
e-mail: tierney@niagara.com

SNUG HARBOUR

(I-257) Alex Davidson 342-5129
Home: 416 484-9480
e-mail: alex.davidson1@sympatico.ca

NARROWS ISLAND, LONG BAY

(185) Michael Gordon 342-7463
Home: 705 326-7553
e-mail: mgordon003@sympatico.ca

RICHARDS BAY

(365) Christina Caap 342-7301
Home:
e-mail: sofiefred@yahoo.se

ROSE, NIAS & SOUTH CARLING

(254) Jeremy Gawen 342-9192
Home: 416 481-7538
e-mail: j.gawen@sympatico.ca

PLEASANT ISLAND AREA

(I-094, 413) Jill Kimberly 746-1835
Home: 716 652-5999
e-mail: artadvntr@aol.com

DILLON AREA & RIVER

(335) Dave Turner 342-7211
Home: 905 823-1778
e-mail: david_turner@sympatico.ca

CONSERVATION DRIVE

(367) John Rohr 342-7781
Home: 416 469-2276
e-mail: rohr_p@yahoo.ca

OPHIR CHANNEL

(282) Scott Tomenson 342-7758
Home: 416 964-7742
e-mail: jstomenson@wellwest.ca

CANOE CHANNEL

(320) John Crean 342-1574
Home: 416 485-0371
e-mail: john.crean@sympatico.ca

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR WCA MEMBERSHIP

If you have NOT renewed your membership in the **West Carling Association** this will sadly be the last newsletter that you will receive. We need your involvement as does the **GBA**. Please renew your membership today. If you have misplaced your form simply send your information (address, phone #) and cheque for \$55 payable to the West Carling Association. This can be mailed to West Carling Association, R.R.#1, Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0.

or

Come to the Annual General meeting where forms will be available.

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highlights the task required to ensure that inappropriate uses are not proposed. The wind farm test facility on Remy Bay Road is a good case in point. While this particular proposal was withdrawn last year, your Association is keenly aware that wind farm proposals could re-surface elsewhere or indeed, at the same location in the future. With this concern in mind, WCA is currently offering assistance to the Georgian Bay Association in ensuring that its excellent research document entitled “Catching the Winds of Change—Wind Farms and the Ontario Environment” is circulated to the appropriate Provincial authorities and becomes part of wind farm establishment policy and procedures. We are also at a very early stage of looking at an even more ambitious program to protect Crown Lands in Carling Township, one that will likely require an ecological survey. The viability of such a project, both politically and financially, has yet to be established.

The increased workload for your Association in becoming more pro-active has added an additional meeting for the Directors in the spring. We are very fortunate to have attracted excellent new talent to the Board recently with the result that we now have unofficially more Directors than our Constitution provides. Accordingly, we will be proposing a change in the by-laws of the Association at our AGM to increase the number of Board members in order that we may continue to be able to draw upon this extensive human resource.



Sea Kayak Georgian Bay

White Squall Paddling Centre
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Shoot a tree. Save the Bay.

Give us
your best shot.

Here's your chance to have your photograph published
on the 2007 "Trees of Georgian Bay" poster.

Among the many beautiful things that cottagers and visitors alike enjoy about the Bay—such as the wind, the water and the rock formations—is the incredible sight of a Georgian Bay tree. So enter that photo of your favourite tree or grab your camera and go find the tree that speaks to you.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust will be publishing a Limited Edition poster, "The Trees of Georgian Bay", that will include up to 25 photographs of the Bay's most amazing trees photographed by you. This keepsake poster will be a delightful edition to every Bay lovers home or cottage.

A panel of photographic and environmental experts will select the photos to be included. Proceeds from the sale of this poster will go entirely to the efforts of the Georgian Bay Land Trust. The poster will be unveiled at a special event to take place in the fall in Toronto.

Deadline for submission is October 11th, 2007.

For more details, go to: www.gbtl.org 705-735-2600 and 416-440-1519



The Georgian Bay Land Trust seeks to preserve the unique archipelago and its adjacent water bodies which lie along the eastern shore and North Channel of Georgian Bay that are of ecological, geological and historical importance, and to promote the appreciation of this special area.

Come to the

West Carling Association 2007 Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 29th, 2007
10:30 a.m.

Come early for conversation and coffee at 10:00am

Carling Recreation Hall
Hwy. 559, on the road to Killbear Park
Just up from the Dillon Road

An opportunity to meet your directors
and neighbours
and to ask questions of your
municipal councilors



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A Fish Story

By Bruce Davidson

You may recall that the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council instituted a program last year to educate the general public in the creation of spawning nests for smallmouth bass in our area . They put on a workshop in Parry Sound to demonstrate how to build a suitable nest in about three feet of water using pea gravel and creating a horseshoe of protective rocks with the open end facing deeper water . Not only did the MNR print up literature on the subject ,but they even supplied the pea gravel ! Your Association requested that the gravel be dropped off at both Dillon Cove and Snug Harbour. I understand it was all spoken for, which implies a successful program. Eric McIntyre of the EGBSC deserves full credit for this very worthwhile initiative. He has agreed to attend our Annual General meeting to speak on environmental topics of interest to our membership.

In any case, around the middle of May this year I decided to have a look at one of the nesting sites that I built near a big rock jutting out of the water. In order to approach the site without disturbing the hoped-for residents, I climbed through the underbrush on shore rather than attempt a visual from a canoe or kayak. So here I was stealthily climbing up the last rock face on hands and knees to peer down from a ten foot cliff on the watery nest totally unobserved ,or so I thought. Well sure enough ,just as I was about to poke my head up my rambunctious companion Lizzie decided that it was a great time to see what her master was up to and came crashing through the bush with the predictable result on the residents.

Two smallmouth bass immediately took off like a shot in opposite directions. One was a beauty, probably about 15 inches long, while the other was hardly more than a juvenile. (I remember back in years past when fish were fairly plentiful that the big ones landed were generally the spawning females. It was always sad to discover an egg sac while filleting a fish. It was like murdering the unborn.) So I conclude that not only was the nesting site a success, but that a good genetic cross had occurred between a receptive female and an ambitious male. One certainly has to admire the little upstart male in successfully pursuing a mate twice its weight.

Thank you EGBSC . This is the kind of hands on environmental work that we need . Let s hope we see fresh new initiatives in the future.

Carling Township Official Plan

By John Rohr

Carling Township Council has been meeting and holding workshops together with an outside consultant to formulate a new Official Plan. This Plan will affect all of us as it sets out a land use and development policy for our township for years to come.

Will our environment hold on to historic values or will we develop more like the Muskoka lakes? Waterfront as well as back-lot densities are being determined. Shoreline structures, vegetative buffers, mobile homes and fractured ownership developments are all on the table. One example of areas of concern is Council's willingness to support new boathouse construction which raises aesthetic and environment concerns.

Our Council is using last year's residents survey for guidance and will wrap up its workshops by the end of August. Reassuring is that the principle of one property/one building appears intact and the Council will not support crown land sales.

The next meeting is on July 18th at 6:30pm. It is open to the public after which Carling Council will present its final plan to a public forum before final approval.

We encourage our membership to participate.

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|  | <p>CRAIG GROVES</p> <p>705 342-1228 705 746-3122 (cell) cegroves@vianet.on.ca</p> |
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| <p>(705) 342-9631</p> |  <p>LARRY LASHBROCK Proprietor</p> <p>P.O. BOX 179 NOBEL ONTARIO P0G 1G0</p> |
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Franklin Island Stewardship – Summer 2007

By Scott Tomenson

Time to celebrate success! After much effort by many people over the winter, Carling Township has hired 2 students to steward Franklin Island (and other nearby crown islands) for the summer of 2007. The students that have been hired are Nick Pullen (his family has a cottage on Mowat Island) and Harrison Bryke (who spends his summers with his family on Huckleberry Island).

They both start Monday morning June 25/07 at 8 am. They will be with Joe Ryman (Carling, Public Works) in the morning and will join Tim Dyer of White Squall in the afternoon for safety training. Tuesday and Wednesday (26th and 27th) they will be in Point au Baril, training with the Pointe au Baril Marine Patrol (administered by Wendy Cooper of the Georgian Bay Land Trust). Thursday they are back in Carling and will be with Tim Dyer kayak training.

On Friday they will begin their monitoring and education duties and continue until Labour Day. They will be filing regular reports with Joe Ryman over the course of the summer and will meet on July 13th with a number of volunteer contacts who have offered to provide assistance if and when it may be needed. Hopefully, you will see these summer stewards on and around Franklin island this summer!

PADDLE TO THE CURE

July 28, 2007

At Gilly's on Snug Harbour

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