



# WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,

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

Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

\*Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns\*

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## SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Davidson, President

I would guess that very few, if any, Carling summertime and fulltime residents have ever been through an Official Plan drafting process before. So it's quite a learning experience and a good example of democracy in action. Those who wish to have their ideals incorporated into the document have had an opportunity to do so both by written submissions and in the public hearing(s). Not everyone gets what they want. Indeed, some may feel that life may get a little tougher under the new regime. But surely that is what drafting a vision of the future for the Township is all about. For good or for bad, the majority rules. In this case, the will of the people is reflected in votes cast by their elected representatives on Council. If you don't speak up, Councillors will simply make judgment calls on what they *think* the people want.

For those who have not taken the time to wade through a fairly lengthy document, I would offer the overview that Council has definitely listened to the theme stressed over and over again by the stakeholders of Carling; namely, that we like the low density and rural character of a Township where half the land is Crown owned. We love the generally pure water and clear air. We especially love the wilderness aspects of our little corner of Heaven. In short, by survey and by public forum Carling ratepayers have resolutely said that they do not want to see a whole lot of change.

So it is fortunate that the draft Official Plan which was offered to us for comment in a public meeting earlier this summer generally holds the environment in high regard and discourages the type of development that we see in districts and communities farther south. Of course, development will come whether we like it or not. The Province gets to review our draft Plan

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## LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR WCA MEMBERSHIP

If you have NOT renewed your membership in the **West Carling Association** this will be the last newsletter that you will receive.

We need your involvement as does the **GBA** so please renew your membership today.

If you have misplaced your form simply send your information (address, phone #) and cheque for \$60 payable to the West Carling Association to:  
West Carling Association, 9 Christie Street, R.R.#1, Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0.

or

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

President's Message - *Continued from Page 1*

and will simply reject anything that is contrary to policy or that they feel is not in the public interest. So what we end up with is unknown at this point, but I would hazard a guess that Carling Township going forward is going to have a set of zoning by-laws and land use designations which are going to put some serious hurdles in the way of those who would attempt to despoil both our rural and shoreline lands.

I would like to express my appreciation to WCA Directors Jeremy Gawen, John Rohr and Richard Stark for the extra effort expended in ensuring that our interests were reflected in the Plan. We were also fortunate to have had the excellent assistance of sister ratepayer groups in Carling; namely, Deep Bay Association, North Sound Association and Smith Bay Ratepayers Association. I think we have forged a useful partnership of common interest going forward.



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Gary McNabb  
Owner / Operator

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# SANDY ISLAND

By Michael Gordon

I'm delighted to report that the purchase of 450 acres of Sandy Island by the GBLT is complete! The GBLT still needs to raise \$50,000 to complete their \$600,000 commitment to the effort so please make a donation if you have not already at [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org).

Now that the transaction is completed, the real fun begins – stewarding the property to protect the many special features that make the island so unique. Habitats like the sandy coastal meadow marshes along the eastern shore; rare plants like Carolina Yellow-eyed Grass and Stiff Yellow Flax, which are unique to eastern Georgian Bay due to water level fluctuations.

The GBLT is now building a team of people to steward the property. If you would like to participate as part of the stewardship team or want to learn more about the islands unique features visit [www.gbtl.org](http://www.gbtl.org)

# GEORGIAN BAY COAST TRAIL

By Michael Gordon

Plans are in the works for Canada's next great coastal trail, a 120-kilometre route along the eastern coast of Georgian Bay from Pointe-au-Baril north to the French River.

The trail – through the forests, wetlands and rocky habitat of the Georgian Bay UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – is scheduled to open in 2011, and will be run as a community development project through a partnership between local First Nations and coastal communities. Route construction is expected to start next year.

For more information visit: [www.gbcoasttrail.com](http://www.gbcoasttrail.com)



Come to the

## West Carling Association 2007 Annual Meeting

- Enjoy presentations and discussion on Invasive Species and GBA's Adopt a Wetland Program
  - Hear about the Franklin Island Stewardship program
  - Learn more about the work of the GBLT
  - Get an update on local issues from the O.P.P.
- Discuss the new Official Plan with our Mayor and Councillors
- Meet the new Executive Director of the GBA

Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
10:30 a.m.  
Carling Recreation Hall

(705) 342-9631



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# PADDLE TO THE CURE

Sat, July 26, 2008

10am – 5pm

Gilly's Snug Harbour Restaurant

Come out and participate in a great event to support the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Join the paddle or just watch, have lunch and enjoy the auction.

For more information or to register visit :

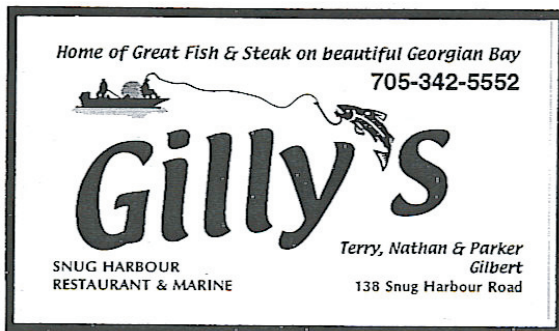
[www.paddletothecure.com](http://www.paddletothecure.com)

## SOLO KAYAKER TO CIRCUMNAVIGATE GEORGIAN BAY

By Michael Gordon

Beginning on Canada Day, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, kayaker Patrick Stark (whose family cottage is on the middle Nias Island in Carling Township) will begin his quest to circumnavigate Georgian Bay to raise awareness for the unique archipelago in Georgian Bay, while also raising money for the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT).

Nine to five, Patrick works as an Industrial Designer but is taking the summer off to raise awareness about the unique natural and cultural features of Georgian Bay. His goal is to raise \$5 for every kilometer he paddles during his 1,000 kilometer, 40 day expedition for a total of \$5,000 in support of the efforts of the GBLT.



# You Should Have Been Here When...

by Bruce Davidson

I was fortunate to be able to spend a few days this spring in a fishing camp in Northern Ontario, something that I've never really done before. The main log cabin was built in 1902, and had tons of character. There was a huge sag in the centre ridgepole from a century of snow loads, giving the building a swayback look. Inside the wide planked oak floors sloped so severely from settlement that the pool table had to be shimmed several inches at one end. Stuffed trophy animals and fish were mounted everywhere. A half dozen modern guest cabins were scattered about on the shore of a beautiful secluded lake system in the world's largest intact boreal forest. The bass were legendary, as evidenced by a couple of guests who supposedly caught over one thousand fish in the week before we arrived. This sounds horrifying at first blush, but it was catch and release usually with barbless hooks and light spinning tackle.

In any event, not considering myself particularly adept at, nor fascinated by, casting into weed beds, we decided to explore the lakes by trolling with a wide variety of casting baits and soft lures. The fish were as abundant as advertised, even for a klutz like myself. Not only did I manage to catch a few bass on lures which would almost never work on Georgian Bay, but I also managed to haul in a couple of lunker lake trout and a few decent pike. Perhaps the highlight was the excitement of watching a speckled green submarine disguised as a northern pike swim slowly right up to the boat following my artificial bass minnow (on light monofilament with no leader), open its massive toothy jaws and literally inhale the bait. So much for finesse fishing! So much for the lure.

There was a time only two or three generations ago when fishing like that existed in our beloved Georgian Bay. Does anyone out there remember when Franklin Island was a fish Conservation Area? There were actually signs posted along the shoreline advising visitors that fishing was not permitted within something like a quarter of a mile of the Island. And the consequence, of course, was that you could canoe into the many series of lakes connecting with the open Bay

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and encounter schools of fish of every species native to this area smiling back at you in their smug sense of security. What an era! What a contrast to today, when it's a major feat to see so much as a puny rock bass in some formerly prolific bays. In early June this year, for example, in one of my favorite inland bays, I saw one alligator gar pike in an area where they used to lie thick as cordwood spawning in the muddy shallows. No other fish at all.

Can we ever go back? Probably not. But we could move in the right direction by encouraging people to practice catch and release as a matter of principle. If you have to keep fish for eating, which is a questionable need, take the small and medium ones. Throw the big spawning fish back to reproduce. Try not to disturb fish on their spawning beds. Do not bring non-indigenous live bait into the Bay. Avoid polluting and respect their habitat. Now if we did all those things and got fishing banned within Franklin Island once more (fat chance), perhaps we could once again see a sport fishery recovery in Carling Township. What a gift that would be!

The West Carling Association is participating in a major environmental research project in our Township as described in the Spring newsletter, with the ultimate objective of protecting and preserving as much ecologically sensitive Crown land as feasible. It's time to rethink the careless and wasteful ways of the past. The flora, fauna and fishes deserve better.



*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](http://www.gbtl.org) or call, 416-440-1519



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