



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,
R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0
Since 1921

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION LIST OF OFFICERS

Jeremy Gawen, President & GBA Rep
e-mail: j.gawen@aympatico.ca
Cottage: 705 342-9192 (254)
Toronto: 416 481-7538

Marc Cooper, Vice-President & Membership
mcooper@agency59.ca
Cottage: 705 342-7470

Alex Davidson, Treasurer
alex@jclark.com
Cottage: 342-5129 (I-257)
Toronto: 416 484-9480

Sheila Tierney, Secretary
tierneyes@gmail.com
Cottage: 342-1653 (099)
Home: 905 468-2200

Phyllis Ortved, Newsletter
phyllis.ortved@sympatico.ca
Cottage: 647 808-6163 (C-254)
Toronto: 416 920-6163

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by *Jeremy Gawen*

I recently attended the GBA Spring Meeting at which Gord Miller, the Province's Environmental Commissioner was the keynote speaker. I found myself so disturbed by what he said that I felt I should make it the main subject of the President's letter. The essence of his message is that both the Provincial and the Federal governments continue to make deep cuts to the ministries that protect our environment. In both governments, the ministries that deal with environmental issues are the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mr. Miller dealt almost entirely with the Ontario situation but similar cuts are coming from Ottawa.

Over the last 20 years, Ontario has cut its expenditures on the two ministries (MOE and MNR) from 2.25% of its budget to a projected 0.75% for this year. The most troubling part of these cuts is that they are being made to the operational arms of these ministries – the scientists, the people who enforce our environmental laws and the people who try to look to the future to see how we should be planning to manage the changes and threats that we can see coming. We generally have good environmental regulations in the Province but if we have very limited enforcement, the chances of maintaining let alone improving the environment for our children and grandchildren have to be bleak.

This is particularly troubling when we can see so many threats that are either with us already or are not too far over the horizon. We already have far too many species on the endangered list or are "at risk" and yet their habitat is being destroyed almost with impunity. The fish in the Great Lakes are almost universally in an advanced state of decline. We have serious problems with invasive species - and will have even more if the Asian Carp are able to get into Lake Michigan via the Chicago Ship Canal. And looming over all of these issues is climate change. I don't think there can be any doubt

Continued on Page 3

LIST OF DIRECTORS

(365) Christina Caap
sofiefred@yahoo.ca

342-7301

(261) Bill Bialkowski
Home: 905 884-7330
bialkowski@rogers.com

342-7354

Ian Hunt
ian1hunt@aol.com

342-1358

(367) John Rohr
jandprohr@yahoo.ca

342-7781

(101) Dave Turner
Home: 226 920 6101
jandprohr@yahoo.ca

342-7211

(122) Doug Malvern
Home: 519 759 7717
doug.malvern@sympatico.ca

342-9102

(177) Dick Biggins
Home: 828-299-9128
rgbiggins@aol.com

342-7187

(I-257) Bruce Davidson
Toronto: 416 932-0030
dbdavidson@rogers.com

342-1034

(I-254) David Hume
Home: 905 815-0060
davidhume@cogeco.ca

905 466-2877

(Telos Is.) David Shelley
416 931 3005
davidmshelley@cogeco.ca

(I-229) Ken James
Home: 416 485-8400
kenj587@gmail.com

416 587-5000

at all that our climate is changing rapidly—I believe this has been the warmest winter on record. Climate is immensely complex but the models do seem to be getting better and all point to a very different situation in the Great Lakes area over the next 50 to 100 years with major increases in average temperatures, less predictable weather systems and, as a result, significant changes in the flora and fauna we are used to. As an example, Chicago is already replacing its trees with species which are far more common in the southern US. We are truly concerned about the water levels in our lakes. The recent study reported by Bill Bialkowski elsewhere in this newsletter, and completed for the International Joint Commission, ran a series of climate models which showed that the probability of periods of really low water is about 80% but the probability of periods of really high water levels is only 5%! What are we doing to prepare for these eventualities?

This is not the time to cut the resources needed to study and manage our environment as effectively as possible and to develop plans to help us adjust to problems like climate change. If anything, we should be making more resources available though I recognize that this is difficult in the current fiscal environment. The health of our environment directly affects the wellbeing and health of the people living in it. We pay good lip service to it but whenever we have a crisis, it's the first activity to be cut.

Let's look a little on the brighter side! We do need your help at the Georgian Bay Association. GBA is an amazing organisation which lobbies on your behalf with governments at all levels to protect the environment of the Bay. Whether it is for water levels and quality, invasive species, fisheries, safe boating and cottage safety, GBA is there for you. We have an exceptionally able Executive Director in Bob Duncanson and a very active Board. We have frequently been told that “we punch far above our weight”; we get regular access to senior ministers and their staff and we have been able to bring about major change. So the good news is that even if our governments are not stepping up to the plate for the environment, GBA is a highly effective advocate for the issues that are important to cottagers in West Carling. And yet, we really operate on a shoe-string budget with the vast majority of work being done by volunteers. For the last 2 years, GBA has operated with a deficit and has had to dip into its reserves. There has been no fee increase for 10 years (currently \$40/year/member) and inflation has finally caught up with us. We are proposing that next year, the fee be raised by \$5 to \$45 per member. We will be discussing this at the next WCA Board meeting and would appreciate any feedback before we vote on it.

Have a great summer!

WATER LEVELS

By Bill Bialkowski

For the last nine years, I have been a warrior in the Georgian Bay Water levels saga, a saga which may be entering the beginning of its 'end-game'. Last week the five year long \$18 million International Upper Great Lakes Study (IUGLS, or The Study) issued their Final Report. The Report is to the Commissioners of the International Joint Commission (IJC), who are responsible for upholding the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty between Canada and the US. The Treaty prohibits any action that would change flows or levels. The IJC will be holding public meetings this summer to hear what the public thinks, and may or may not accept the Study Board's recommendations.

The basic time line for the saga goes like this. The St. Lawrence Seaway was completed in 1962, record low levels occurred in 1964, record highs in 1986, and then a precipitous level drop in 1998/9 took us to 176m on chart datum, where we have been, more or less, for the last 13 years. In 2003, the GBA's environmental committee headed by Mary Muter noticed that wetlands were drying up and turning into meadows. Few GB wetlands had even been catalogued by the MNR. It was then that the McMaster University's Dr. Pat Chow-Fraser was retained to survey and catalog GB wetlands before they disappeared altogether. GBA also started a Water Levels Committee headed by Mary Muter, with Jeremy Gawen and I as active participants. We started a little mathematical modeling work and concluded that something 'funny' must have happened to the St. Clair River between 1962 and now. In 2004 this led to the GBA Foundation hiring W. F. Baird and Associated, a professional hydrological consulting firm to study the problem. The Baird study concluded that the St. Clair River was in fact eroding after 1962, and had dropped water levels by some 23 cm (9 inches).

We were lucky to have the Baird Report presented to the IJC, and they decided to have the upcoming study (The IUGLS) officially look at this allegation, prior to embarking on their 'main work' of developing an improved regulation plan for the water flow out of Lake Superior. The Study Board did not prove too keen on the Baird Report—do government agencies like being embarrassed by small private firms, especially when they were the very people responsible for ensuring that no erosion was taking place? In the Study's 2009 First Report, while they did conclude that indeed the St. Clair had eroded after 1962, it was by only half the amount claimed by Baird. Furthermore the Study Board claimed that the erosion had now stopped, and hence nothing should be done about the St. Clair River.

In 2010, the New US IJC Chair Lana Pollack, was a bit dubious about this result, and gave the Study Board a directive to in addition study the feasibility of restoring Lake Michigan-Huron (MH) level by 10 and 50 cm (4 to 20 inches). The Study Board's 'Restoration Report' came out in 2011, and while it did say, yes, it is feasible to restore the level of MH by the amounts stated, it went on to describe in gory and graphic detail the negative consequences of doing so all the way downstream to the Port of Montreal. The water levels committee, which by this time had moved to the Sierra Club, studied this report and discovered that many of the negative consequences were grossly exaggerated, based on the report's own data. This Sierra Club report was sent to both the Study Board, and the IJC Commissioners. The Study Board did admit that 'some mistakes' were made, but they would not be correcting them until the final report – now released.

To make matters in the GB community even more interesting, some had heard, or thought they had heard that the Study Board was becoming interested in studying another alternative - multi-lake regulation, and they became wildly enthusiastic about this prospect. Multi Lake Regulation involves providing flow controls on the St. Clair, Niagara and possibly Detroit rivers. This is complicated by the fact that these rivers have to be dredged significantly so they can pass the potentially huge flows in the event that high waters ever return. They must also have very expensive control structures built to control the flow as needed. Estimated costs range over \$20 billion. Multi Lake regulation was studied in 1977, and also in 1993, and rejected on both occasions.

So what does the Final Report say? It defines in great detail the new proposed 'Lake Superior Regulation Plan 2012', which is designed to slightly improve how the St. Marys River monthly flows are set in the face of what climate may bring. The Report does not change the 'do-nothing' recommendation for the St. Clair River made in the 2009 report. It states that Lake MH Level Restoration is feasible, without any of the negative consequences contained in the 2011 Report. It states that restoration would allow the GB productive wetlands to fully recover. It makes no recommendation on restoration, as the IJC did not ask for one. Finally it recommends that Multi-Lake Regulation should not be further considered or further studied. Full-stop. Period.


The Sierra Club, led by Mary Muter of the Ontario Section, and including all the Sierra Club chapters from the US States around the Great Lakes, has adopted the following position on Lake Michigan-Huron Level Restoration. The level should be restored by 25 cm (10 inches) in an environmentally responsible way, while ensuring that downstream

consequences are minimized. This should be done by installing flow retarding measures (submerged sills or weirs – i.e. speed bumps) along the bottom of the upper reaches of the St. Clair River. These should be designed in such a way, that it would be possible to reduce or eliminate their flow retarding effects, should high waters ever return, and hence ensure that flood damage can never occur, beyond what would have happened if nothing was done.

Sierra Club hopes to influence the IJC public hearings this summer by ensuring an overwhelming public reaction – please 'restore our water levels'. 2012 will be an interesting summer, and I hope you consider attending the IJC hearings in our area.



CRAIG GROVES
705 342-1228
705 746-3122 (cell)
cegroves@vianet.on.ca



Cottage Maintenance & Repair
The Cottage Couple
Kevin & Anne Buck
Parry Sound, ON
705-774-9412
705-774-2064
thecottagecouple@hotmail.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

This year, WCA will hold its Pancake Breakfast on July 1 to celebrate Canada Day starting at 9 a.m. at Gilly's. Please put this date into your diaries.



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.gblt.org or call, 416-440-1519

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Marc Cooper

In the summer issue of UPDATE you will notice an article titled Strength in Numbers, an article that I co-authored with a member of the GBA Communications and Membership Committee, Colin Dobell. In January of this year the GBA formed a Membership Committee of which I am proud to Chair. The GBA is also beefing up of our Communications Committee, part of the necessary steps to make sure that GBA continues to bring a strong voice to the table as it advocates for careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

To learn more about why we are doing this, and what we hope to achieve I encourage you to read the article in UPDATE. But I do want to take a minute and tell you what this means to the West Carling Association.

First off: as a regular reader of our newsletter, you likely know that we are a local chapter of the GBA (Georgian Bay Association) and that \$40 of your membership fee goes to supporting that organisation. For more on what they do please have a read of the UPDATE,;I think you will agree they are a strong voice and represent us well at the various tables of government on issues pertaining to development and the environment among others. You may also be aware of all the great work the West Carling Association does at the local level. For the past few years we have been supporters of a stewardship program on Franklin Island, ensuring we protect it from potential misuse by campers and day visitors alike. We have been active in working with Carling Township (and sometimes against them) to ensure our land is not over developed, our wetlands are protected and our water quality is maintained. Members of the WCA executive regularly study and report on water levels, wind farm activity, the fisheries and more and you likely have read articles on these topics in past newsletters. Each year we host an annual general meeting where we review all the major issues of the day and invite

Continued on Page 8



7

Membership Update continued from Page 7

our members to have input on the issues that matter most to them. In the past we have hosted social events and this year we will be hosting a pancake breakfast on July 1st.

You may also recall in the last municipal election the WCA worked with other Carling area property associations to research the slate of candidates and summarize their platforms; distributed this information in our newsletters and on our website; and worked to remind our members of when and where to vote. We also held an informative and very well attended all-candidates meeting. All of these activities resulted in a favourable outcome. Secondly: I think it is important that you know that over the past two years our membership numbers have declined, enough that I have become quite concerned.

The challenge is I don't understand why. I don't believe it is the cost of membership, \$60.00 a year is equivalent to about 20 cups of coffee or for many of us the cost of gas in our cars from Toronto to West Carling and back. I don't think it is that people care less about protecting the natural beauty and ecology of West Carling now then they have in the past and I doubt it is that they are somehow convinced that their voice at the local and provincial level is stronger on their own then when combined with their neighbours. What I am pretty sure of is that there must be more we could be doing for our members, something that would ensure our numbers grow each year. Which is why we need to hear from you, we need to better understand what you would like to get out of your membership in the WCA.



8

A VIEW FROM CARLING COUNCIL – SPRING 2012

By Michael Gordon

Since my last report in the Fall, the major issues that we have focused on have been:

- Updating the Zoning ByLaw – We passed the new Zoning ByLaw at our November Council meeting after a substantial amount of helpful input and feedback from both associations and individual property owners during 2 workshops over the summer and 2 public meetings in September and October. One Appeal was filed but we hope to have the remainder of the ByLaw in place soon.
- Executing a plan to update our Municipal Buildings. Following the Public meeting on the new municipal buildings last June, Council decided to break the project of renewing the municipal office and public works building on the present site into 2 phases beginning with a new municipal office building. We retained architect Duncan Ross to manage a “design-build” tender process, selected Greystone Construction to build the building and associated works (e.g. well, septic, parking, etc) and the building is now complete and open for business! Council has now retained Duncan Ross to work with us on the redesign/renovation of the public works building. Look for more communication on this second phase later in the summer.
- Upgrading our road infrastructure – Council is working towards implementing a hard-surface on all of our township roads. The major project this summer will be Sand Bay Road – a road in serious need of an upgrade.
- Continuing to steward Franklin Island – The summer stewardship program will continue again this year with 2 students being hired to educate campers on fire safety, responsible no-trace camping and some campsite cleanups.
- Exploring the future of our Lighthouses – Council has begun the process of expressing community interest in the area lighthouses that the Federal Government has indicated it will be unloading – including Snug Harbour, Jones Island and Red Rock. It is still very early in the process and we have more questions than answers concerning the process, costs, and obligations but we recognize the importance of these lighthouses to our area and will continue to engage on this issue.

I am always happy to speak with anyone who has questions or concerns about anything relating to Carling Council. You can reach me at mgordon003@sympatico.ca

GB5 Organization Profiles

GBA - Georgian Bay Association; GBF - Georgian Bay Forever; GBLT - Georgian Bay Land Trust; GBBR - Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve; EGBSC - Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Name	Mission	Governance	Audience/Scope	Funding	Charity	Key Activities
GBF	Protection of aquatic ecosystem primarily through research and education. Max 10% advocacy.	Board of Directors. Must comply with Revenue Canada's rules for Charities.	All stakeholders throughout Georgian Bay.	Donations and grants.	Yes	Water Quality testing in Township of Georgian Bay Causation Research in Honey Harbour Continued promotion of multi lake regulation for Great Lakes in order to address water levels Support wetland research being conducted by University of Windsor Vital Signs Saturday April 14 th at the Toronto Reference Library
GBLT	Land acquisition and stewardship.	Board of Directors. Revenue Canada's rules for Charities.	All stakeholders along the east and north shores and adjacent inland lakes of Georgian Bay and the North Channel.	Donations and grants.	Yes	Strategic land acquisition ecological, geological and historical importance. Facilitation of responsible management and stewardship of these properties and other natural areas on both public and private lands. Promotion of the awareness and appreciation of Georgian Bay's unique archipelago and adjacent water bodies.
GBBR	Promote sustainable development	Board of Directors.	Cottagers, First Nations, boaters and permanent residents from Port Severn to the French River and inland to the Hwy 400 corridor.	Grants.	No	Species at Risk Education - Lessons in a Backpack and working with some cottage associations on education programs State of the Bay Report Card (in conjunction with all GB5)
EGBSC	Fisheries rehabilitation and management.	Accountable to volunteer Council with input from MNR	Eastern Georgian Bay and North Channel	Some seed money from MNR plus donations.	No	Fish spawning rehabilitation
GBA	Public Policy Advocacy	Board of Directors Accountable to Shareholders/ Members	Property owners along the east and north shores and adjacent inland lakes of Georgian Bay	Membership fees.	No	Public Policy Advocacy on behalf of GBA members (see details on reverse)

GBA Activities April 2011 to March 2012

Fisheries Committee

- Petitioned the MNR to stop Asian Carp, continue to support EGBSC, curtail gill net fishing, tougher rules for large scale fishing tournaments.
- Petitioned MNR and MOE for the elimination of open cage aquaculture and worked with them as they developed new guidelines for same.
- Met with the Chair of the Federal Parliamentary Committee reviewing aquaculture practices in Canada.
- Consulted with WWF Fresh Water Trout Dialogue as they set standards for the certification of farmed trout.
- Worked with EGBSC to support their Walleye restoration
- Published UPDATE articles on Asian Carp, Walleye restoration, alternate aquaculture technologies.
- Worked with Environmental Commissioner of Ontario re aquaculture resulting in his making recommendations on aquaculture.

Lands and Forests Committee

- Filed EBR submission regarding commercial wind development and the Natural Heritage Assessment Guide
- Petitioned MNR and MOE for curtailment of the environmentally damaging motor cycling and ATV racing at the Ontario Camp for the Deaf.
- Petitioned the MNR, MOE and Ministry of Energy to review the Green Energy Act to close the loop hole that enables the installation of large ground mounted solar arrays without any community involvement or municipal overights
- Monitored and reported on White Nose Syndrome that is killing our resident bat population. (UPDATE Vol. 21 No. 3)
- Researched and published UPDATE articles on invasive plant Phragmites, but killing Whiten Nose Syndrome, MNR's Crown Land Use Policy, Cougars, Invasive Species, electricity rates and energy reduction strategies.

Water Committee

- Represented GBA on the Advisory Panel to the Canadian negotiators of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA), the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Water Protection Committee and Public Interest Advisory Board for the International Upper Great Lakes Study Board (IUGLSB).
- Facilitated meetings with the IUGLSB, GBF, Sierra Club, Great Lakes United, Lake St. Clair landowners to discuss water levels
- Presented GBA concerns and suggestions to Minister Bradley (Ontario MOE) who re Great Lakes Protection Act.
- Published UPDATE articles on the GLWQA, Source Water Protection, botulism, International Joint Commission's Biennial Conference.
- Petitioned the MNR to permit the use of Phoslock in Sturgeon Bay in order to address on ongoing Blue Green Algae issue.
- Met with York Region and reviewed their plans for waste water treatment in the Lake Simcoe (Georgian Bay) watershed.
- Met with the Township of Georgian Bay, and water testing organizations including GBF to discuss water testing protocols for coastal Georgian Bay. (UPDATE Vol. 21 No. 3)

Boating and Safety Committee

- Participated as a member of the National Recreational Boating Advisory Council and the Ontario Recreational Boating Advisory Council.
- Briefed Minister Clement on our issue of excessive boat
- Published UPDATE articles on Shipping on the Great Lakes, OPP Boating Safety, boat noise
- Continued to dialogue with OPP re issues brought forward by our members.

Government Affairs Committee

- Held meetings with Tony Clement, Norm Miller, Linda Jeffery (MNR), Jim Bradley (MOE), Ontario Environmental Commissioner and senior staff at MNR, MOE and Environment Canada at which we presented a range of issues that we are working on (see detailed issues above).
- Met with Townships of Archipelago, Carling and Georgian Bay to review GBA activities.
- Met with representatives of Wikwemikong First Nation and Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs to discuss areas of common interest.

FIRE PROTECTION

By Ian Hunt

Authorized by Fire Chief Kevin Hutton

The Carling Fire Department was formed in 1979 by a group of dedicated women called the Fire Bells. These women spearheaded fund-raising events to purchase the first fire truck and equipment.

Through the support of the community and lobbying, this group of women were able to get the Township Council to come on board with the formation of the fire department.

Today the fire department is completely funded by the Township and manned by 17 volunteer firefighters that are ready to move day or night for not only structure or bush fires but also medical calls, traffic accidents and marine rescue.

The department has grown to where it is today with pumper # 1, pumper # 2, rescue unit #3, remote # 1, marine unit # 1 based at Harrison Marina and marine unit #2 based at Dillon township dock. There is also an ATV with a trailer that is equipped with water pumps and hoses for those areas that the pumpers cannot reach. For the winter, the department has a snowmobile with a rescue sled. Both the ATV and the snowmobile can be used for removal of injured people in remote areas.

Over the past years the Fire Chief has brought in many new programs. One of them is 1st response medical. At any time there are 4 medical bags each equipped with a defibrillator and oxygen kit that are in the possession of firefighters. Each bag is placed in a strategic location of the township allowing an 8 to 10 minute response time on the main land. These fire fighters are in their private vehicles when responding to the call so when you see the green flashing light coming up behind or coming at you please allow the vehicle clear passage by pulling to the right. It could save a life of someone that you know.

Continued on Page 12

Scheffel Construction

H 705-538-1411
C 705 427-2022



G & B McNabb Lumber Co. Ltd.
22 Sequin Street, Perry Sound, ON P3A 1B1
Tel. (705) 746-2147 X Fax (705) 746-2186
1-800-810-0156 # email:garymc@mcnabblumber.ca

Gary McNabb
Owner / Operator

* Open Sunday 10am - 3pm (during summer)

Fire Protection continued on Page 11

Every year the department is growing to be able to service both summer and winter residents. Last year was the addition of the new fire boat marine unit #2 which is being docked at Dillon Township dock. The new boat will be equipped to fight fires, respond to medical calls and marine rescue along with many other fire department uses.

The fire department is asking the property owners of all properties to make sure that they place the green fire number **SO IT IS CLEARLY VISIBLE** at the foot of your driveway.

If you are water access only, place your green fire number at the end of your dock which makes locating your property far easier in the case of an emergency.

If you are water access only and place a 911 call:

“IF POSSIBLE PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE MEET THE EMERGENCY BOAT IN THE OPEN CHANNEL TO GUIDE THE EMERGENCY BOAT SAFELY TO YOUR DOCK”

Being as the summer season is upon us, many of you are returning to your cottages for the first time. There are two checks that should be done when first arriving.

The first check that you should be making is that your Carbon Monoxide detectors are working properly. **CARBON MONOXIDE IS A SILENT AND DEADLY KILLER. PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY.**

It is a Township of Carling BY-LAW that all residences whether seasonal or permanent have a functioning CO Detector in place

The second check that you should make is your smoke detectors. Make sure you have fresh batteries to place in them and that they are working properly and placed in correct locations in your cottage so that they can be heard day or night.

During the summer months the Fire Fighters of Carling Fire Services will be coming to your home or cottage to deliver the ALARMS FOR LIFE/SURVIVE FOR FIVE PROGRAM which will provide you with Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness information, so please welcome them.