



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

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

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by *Jeremy Gawen*

A number of people have asked me recently about the First Nation land claims covering Franklin Island, the McCoys and various other islands in our area. I've been doing some web search and talked at length to the negotiator at the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), who acts on behalf of the Ontario Government. In 1998, the Wikwemikong Band from Manitoulin Island (the Wiki) filed a claim with an Ontario court that essentially laid claims to nearly all the coastal lands and islands from close to Sault St Marie all the way around to Southern Georgian Bay, which presumably overlaps with claims from the Parry Island, Shawanager and other bands! The judge ruled that the Wiki's case was sufficiently strong that they should be considered to "have an interest" in the claimed lands which means that the Governments of Ontario and Canada must negotiate a land settlement. A Court Order stating this and essentially prohibiting any change in status on these lands was issued.

Most of the lands in question are Crown lands though some are privately held. **It is important to note that private land will never be expropriated to settle a First Nations land claim; if an owner of land under claim wishes to sell, then, of course, that sale may take place.** As a result of this ruling, the MNR has been actively negotiating with the Wiki to at least settle a significant portion of their claims but by no means all. The lands currently under negotiation are generally islands and points of land relatively close to the eastern end of Manitoulin Island which is where the Wiki reserve is located. These lands do not include Franklin Island and the other parts of our shoreline which are in the original 1998 claim. MNR is hopeful that this first part of the claim may be settled next year.

Unfortunately, this doesn't help us much with the future of Franklin. It is possible that, once the first part of their claim is settled, the Wiki will drop the



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I wish to thank Alex Davidson and Phyllis Orted for many years of sterling service as Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, respectively; both will be remaining as Directors. Doug Malvern has served WCA exceptionally well for more years than I can remember and is now stepping down; many thanks, Doug. We welcome Murray Hogeboom to the Board and as Treasurer and thank Bill Bialkowski for taking over as Newsletter Editor.

Jeremy Gawen

rest of their claims, including for Franklin. It is also possible that, with one success under their belts, they will want to proceed with other areas within the 1998 Court ruling. We simply do not know. The chances are that the issue of Franklin ownership may drag on for many years. In the meantime, MNR cannot change its disposition in any way (e.g. make it into a Conservation Reserve or Provincial Park) until the claim is finally settled. Over the years we have owned a cottage in Georgian Bay, there have been a number of scares about land claims being made against our cottage properties. I want to make it absolutely clear that the government will not allow any expropriation of private property to settle land claims; the only time private land may be involved in the settlement of a claim is through a **willing** seller. So we're all safe but poor old Franklin remains in limbo.

On another issue, WCA is looking for someone to take charge of our website and perhaps start us out on Facebook. If you or someone in your family would be interested, please let me know at 416 481 7538.

A VIEW FROM CARLING COUNCIL – FALL 2012

By Michael Gordon

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

- **Executing a plan to update our Municipal Buildings.** Following the completion of the new municipal office building last spring, Council shifted focus to the Public Works building. We continued to work with architect Duncan Ross to examine the choice between renovating/expanding the existing public works building or building new. Based on the tender results, Council has decided to go forward with a new 4-bay steel frame building just east of the Firehall. We have not yet discussed the future fate of the existing PW building but will decide that over the next few months and have included an option to demolish the building as part of the construction tender.

- **Upgrading our road infrastructure** – As part of our effort to hard-surface all of our township roads, the major project this year was Sand Bay Road. Based on feedback from resort owners and others in the spring, we decided to delay the construction work until Sept to avoid disruption in the summer. We also initially excluded the section of road that passes through several properties at the north end of Sand Bay while we retained a consultant to

explore the potential to realign the road. The results of that study were conclusive that realignment is not possible as the required permissions from the MNR could not be obtained. On that basis, the omitted section will also be hard-surfaced in the spring along with the rest of the road. We are just beginning our budget discussions to determine the major road projects for next year.

- **Continuing to steward Franklin Island** – The summer stewardship program continued again this year with 2 students being hired to educate campers on fire safety, responsible no-trace camping and some campsite cleanups. Given the extreme fire risk this summer, our volunteer fire fighters redirected the time they would normally spend visiting properties as part of the “alarmed for life” program and instead used our new fire boat in the evenings to actively enforce the fire ban on Franklin and elsewhere.

- **Addressing parking and docking challenges at Snug Harbour** – Council received a number of concerns about congestion at Snug Harbour this summer and is actively pursuing additional land that can be used for Carling property owner parking in the area and has asked public works staff to prepare a plan for replacing the crib docks at Snug as part of our capital budget for 2013.

- **Approving a new cell tower at Haggart Bay** – Council was approached by Bell to install a new cell tower on land near Haggart Bay to improve service to the area north of Franklin Island. After a full local consultation process we gave our approval and the tower is now up – you will notice it looks like a tall tree!

- **Exploring the future of our Lighthouses** – Council has continued the process of examining the area lighthouses that the Federal Government has indicated it will be unloading – including Snug Harbour, Jones Island and Red Rock. We have clarified our major interest is Snug Harbour lighthouse. We still have many questions concerning the process, costs, and obligations but we 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

LIGHTHOUSE GUESTS

by Sarah Hume

It seems as though everyone in cottage country knows that the federally owned and operated lighthouses are, at some point in the near future, going to be put up for sale.

It also seems that some of our kayak friends have gotten wind of this news and some have decided to "try the Snug Light on for size".

This past August while spending time on our island just half a kilometre due west of the Snug Light we noticed lights on in the lighthouse.

Keep in mind the last inhabitants here were the Canadian Coast Guard Inshore Search and Rescue crews in the late eighties.

While seeing lights on that first night seemed a bit odd, we really didn't think much of this until the second night, particularly after seeing several kayaks pulled up on shore by the old west dock at approximately eight o'clock in the evening while we were returning from the marina.

We decided to scope this scenario out first thing in the morning and sure enough the kayakers had helped themselves to the facility, casually coming and going, extending the occasional animated wave as we passed by.

A call to Gary Greer, Supervisor of Navigational Aids, Parry Sound District at the Fisheries and Oceans and Canadian Coast Guard Search and Rescue facility was made.

To suggest he was surprised and alarmed would be an understatement.

He took down as much information from us as he needed and within a couple of hours a small craft was seen approaching the lighthouse property and very shortly thereafter, the kayakers departed.



SNUG HARBOUR PARKING AND DOCKING

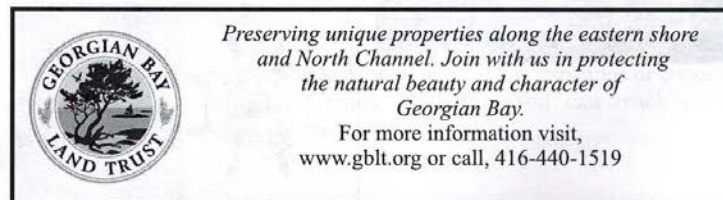
by Jeremy Gawen

For those of you who regularly use the Snug Harbour parking and docking facilities, there is some good news. I know that many of you have found both parking and docking pretty difficult this last year, particularly during the height of the season.

At the Marina, Terry Gilbert is adding a few more dock spaces along the creek which should be ready next Spring. The Town Dock has, on many occasions, been totally occupied by visiting pleasure craft and kayaks; there is actually a 15 minute, "maximum docking time" in force there so that the dock can be used by water-access residents for loading and unloading but this has not been enforced. Gord Harrison, our Mayor, has advised me that the Township is planning to remove the existing Town dock in the Spring (including the crib dock and wharf) and replace it with a much more practical setup. I'm hopeful that, in so doing, the kayakers will have their own area so will not be able to monopolize the boat docks.

As reported by Councilor Mike Gordon, we are also hopeful that the parking areas are to be expanded to allow for more space in both the residents' and the visitors' parking lots. The Township has requested the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to lease additional land immediately adjacent to the existing parking lots but the Ministry can be very slow so we really don't know when this is likely but possibly next Spring. We have suggested that Council should consider charging fees at the Visitor's lot (perhaps via Pay and Display).

Some of this money might then be used to offset the significant costs incurred by the Township to provide public parking and the costs associated with Franklin Island protection. Many, if not most, of the visitors leaving their cars at Snug Harbour, are on their way to Franklin; you are probably aware that each Spring, the Township hires 2 students to patrol Franklin, Huckleberry and the outer islands to educate campers, pick up garbage, maintain the "thunder boxes" and keep an eye on fires and firepits. This is not



Snug Harbour Parking - continued from Page 6

inexpensive and yet, based on several years of experience, is really necessary if we want to maintain these islands in good condition. A number of NGO's (including WCA which gives \$1,000 each year) contribute funds to this but the major share is picked up by Carling Township (averaging about \$20,000/year) which would like to see some offset. WCA, working with North Sound Association and the Township, has applied for a \$25,000 government grant to fund most of this expense next year and we will have to see how successful we are. With its new Dillon based fireboat, the Township is also providing fire services for Franklin and the other Crown Land islands. So you can see that our Township has really stepped up to the mark in protecting the local islands when they have no ownership, control or revenue from their use, largely by visitors. This is clearly an MNR responsibility which has quietly been downloaded to the local tax base.



WATER QUALITY IN CARLING TOWNSHIP

by Jeremy Gawen

There has been a volunteer Water Quality Committee operating in Carling Township since 2003; I have been a volunteer for most of that time. The objectives of the Committee are:

- To monitor the waters around Carling for Total Coliforms and especially E. coli to ensure that water is safe for recreational activities.
 - To educate the public in Carling about the need to maintain our septic systems in good working order with our newsletter, "Droplets". What to look for in a failing septic system.
 - Articles on shoreline restoration and good shoreline practices.
 - How to test your drinking water and maintain your water purification system; how to understand the results from the Parry Sound Health Unit.
 - To promote the use of phosphate free soaps and detergents and to dissuade the use of fertilizers – phosphorous is one of the primary causes of algae blooms which are becoming more common up and down the Bay.
- Each year, volunteers take water samples at selected spots around the Township throughout the summer, record the water temperature and clarity and deliver the samples to the Township offices where another group of

Water Quality - continued from Page 7

volunteers carries out water quality testing. For the first 5 years, samples were taken at about 22 locations which showed that, in nearly all parts of the Township, water quality was good. At the end of 5 years, Council requested that the testing be continued but on a reduced basis; Dillon, Snug Harbour, Pengally Bay, Collins Bay, Carling Bay, Deep Bay and Shebeshekong Lake. Average results for the locations within West Carling's area for last year were as follows:

Location	Total coliform count	E. coli count	Clarity (depth in metres)
Dillon	149.8	27.4	3.4
Snug Harbour	41.5	4.1	>6
Pengally Bay	40.8	2.2	>6

Carling Objectives <100 <10 N.A.

The Provincial guidelines state that swimming should not occur in water with E coli counts greater than 100 and that water is unsafe for human consumption at any count above 0 (zero). In practice, this means that we all need to treat any drinking water taken directly out of the lake – ultra-violet works very well as long as the water is properly filtered first. Secondly, much of our water is swimmable but there were some real problems at Dillon this year. It appears that the Dillon results which were from samples taken just west of Dillon Cove, have been severely affected by the effluent coming from the beaver dams in the Shebeshekong River; apparently, this is not uncommon for areas close to beaver swamps. More detailed sampling around Dillon is likely required in 2013.

If you would like further information about either these results or issues such as septic systems management, I would suggest you call the Township office. At the time of the Township survey some years ago, most residents were in favour of septic re-inspection. The Water Committee met with representatives of the North Bay/ Mattawa Conservation Authority which issues permits for septic systems, and were advised that, as a whole, Carling Township was in good shape and that they did not believe that wholesale re-inspection was warranted. Of course, spot inspection can always be carried out if you have concerns about a system's effectiveness.



CONGRATULATIONS VERNA PARR!

By Bruce Davidson

"I don't know why I have been so lucky" mused the pleasant, youthful-looking lady before me. "I suppose there are not really that many around that make it to the age of 100". Well, after having spent a short time with Verna Parr at Belvedere Heights in Parry Sound during the summer, I have my suspicion it's not just a matter of luck.

There is no question that this gal is cut from a different cloth. For example, she has special permission from the Home to keep her trusty old Singer sewing machine right by her sitting chair in her room. And she uses it frequently, when she is not busy knitting some knick knacks for the gift shop. (But she doesn't work on the Sabbath to this day, because that is the day of rest, just as it was on the Mink Islands eighty years ago.)

Verna and her husband Jim moved to what simply became known as Parr's Island in the Minks in 1931. For the next twenty years they took their two kids out to the islands from the moment the ice was gone until it returned in November. Fishing was a way of life that was all-consuming. Jim would routinely get up at 4:00 a.m. in order to be steaming out of the harbour to haul the nets by 5:30 a.m. Storms or no storms, out they went---and none of them, including Verna herself, could swim a stroke!

Life for a fisherman on the Minks during the Depression was really all about hard work and long days. Cooking was done over coal and coal oil lamps providing the smoky light that some of us remember from our youth. The icebox was always well stocked, although it was only possible to replenish it every three weeks from the mainland. When I inquired about the most enjoyable aspect of life out there at the time, I was met with a polite silence for a moment. (I guess the concept of leisure is so ingrained in us today that we fail to consider a time when it would be seen as laziness). Finally Verna offered that Saturday night potluck dinners with family and friends were always special. And everyone went to church on Stalker Island on Sundays. No fishing was the Sunday rule, which was only broken in exceptional circumstances.

Apparently the winter of 1952 was a killer for the fishermen out in the Minks, in that the ice never really froze hard enough or thick enough to provide the life-giving refrigeration of the three foot blocks routinely sawn on the Bay. Without ice, fish could not be stored. So most of the families moved ashore, with Walter Graham and the Parris finding Snug Harbour a suitable locaton to conduct their livelihoods. But the whitefish population on the Bay declined dramatically during the fifties, to the point where, by 1958 it, became impossible to make a living. Many tugs were mothballed or sold

Congratulations Verna Parr - continued from Page 9

and a way of life disappeared.

Verna thereupon ran the gift shop at Parry Sound Hospital for some twenty-five years. Now at the tender age of 100, in addition to knitting and sewing, she plays Scrabble, cribbage, euchre and '500'. Her big birthday in February was a huge occasion attended by some 200 well-wishers.

Verna, on behalf of the West Carling Association I would like to extend our warmest best wishes for your continued good health as you enjoy your centenary. We look forward to your return to Snug Harbour next summer. Well done indeed!

A CARLING GIANT NOW SLEEPS

by Bruce Davidson

It is with great sadness that Carling folk received the news of the passing away of Don Christie in May, aged 90. Just as there will never be another Don Christie, neither will there be another era so perfectly suited for a man with his many abilities.

Don traces his Carling roots back to the 1800's, when Don's grandfather built a cabin on the corner of Franklin Island now known as Christie Point. With a 99 year lease of land in hand, Don's family started up an outdoor adventure camp on Franklin, long before such an idea was re-invented in our generation. How many Carling residents today know that eighty years ago kids were playing tennis, plunging from a high diving tower and riding horses on Franklin Island?

Speaking of horses, Don wrangled those critters for several summers as a teenager. His job when Franklin camp closed for the season, was to get the horses to Parry Sound, load them on to the steamer to Midland and then ride the team all the way back to winter stables behind what is now Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto. Don probably developed his storytelling ways back in this Depression era as spinning a good yarn was a pretty good way to get to sleep in the haystacks of the farmhouses en route. Don apparently drank from the same streams as the horses back then! If you tried that today, you would also get to Sunnybrook, but by ambulance.

Don volunteered for military service in the war, and then worked in the lumber and construction business back in Carling after the war. He married Elinor in 1949. The newlyweds moved to a log cabin off the Snug Harbour Road, where Elinor doubtlessly acquired her lifelong attachment to deer. Don's rise to prominence in our area came with the purchase of the Snug

Harbour Marina and his building of a house there in 1957. For the next 14 years Don was the face of Snug Harbour. If you wanted something built or repaired, outboards fixed, docks installed, boats stored, propane, gas, groceries, a fishing guide, kids driven to school, whatever, then Don and Elinor made it happen. He told me one time that the two of them tried to figure out how many cabins Don had built or renovated over his career, and got to something like 184. Imagine.

Don was widely known as a generous person. One notable example was the act of simply giving Bob Parr a boat as a ten year old kid. Bob says he fixed it up and used it for several years. Another act of generosity staggers the imagination of a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman. Don actually revealed the location of his secret fishing hole to a local! Now before you cry out in disbelief, there were mitigating circumstances. That lucky person was my father—that's the good news. The bad news is that Dad could never remember from one year to the next where in the heck it was...so the fishing hole stayed a secret.

I will give the final word to long-time family friend Steve Crookshank who writes as follows:

All who knew Don can still hear that little laugh followed by the words "Did I ever tell you about...". And then a memory of Snug Harbour adventures would come to life. It might be about the uncatchable muskie that finally went for the swimming mouse, the November gale that battered the Marina, the pea soup fog that closed in on the way home from the Minks, the foxsnake that crawled straight up the vertical flyscreen, or the unfortunate cottager doing the splits docking his boat and ending up in the drink. But whatever the event, Don passed on that memory, usually with great humour, in such a way that it stayed with you forever.

Those who had the good fortune to know Don and Elinor had a richer life for it.

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Snug Harbour Marina, Noon, November 2, 2012 seen from the normal location of the left hand green harbour entrance buoy. Gilley's Fish Restaurant, sea finger docks, stranded boat, exposed water supply line. The water level is 15 1/2 inches below chart datum of 176m ASL, and 1 inch above the all-time record low of 175.58m set in March 1964.

WATER LEVELS UPDATE

by Bill Bialkowski

It is now November and Judy and I are still in Snug Harbour as we wait to occupy our new 'almost finished' condo. The delay has allowed me to observe water levels up close at a critical time. The attached photo shows Snug Harbour Marina and Gilley's Restaurant, while standing where the Green Buoy normally floats at the entrance to the harbour. It's the saddest looking sight you could imagine. Gilley's water supply line is completely exposed. As you know I have been actively involved in the water levels 'fight' for ten years now, with much recording, monitoring, modeling and active engagement with the IJC to help resolve our persistent low levels problem. I took the attached photo on Saturday November 2 at about noon, at which time the water level was some 15 1/2 inches below chart datum. (Great lakes Water levels are measured above 'sea level' at Rimouski, Quebec, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The lowest expected level on Georgian Bay is 176 metres above sea level and this is called 'chart datum'. When you look at a navigation chart and see 5 ft of water in Snug Harbour at a given point, this is true when the water level is at chart datum. If it is a foot above, you actually have 6 feet of water.) When I took the photo and the level was 15 1/2 inches below chart datum, hence 175.61 metres above sea level. That is a drop of 13 inches since July, and just one inch above the all-time record low of 175.58m established in March, 1964. Records are based on monthly averages, and the last official average is for September (175.892 m) which is 4 inches below chart datum. The October value has not been released yet. Last Wednesday the US Army Corps of Engineers called a special teleconference to prepare us all as the all-time record low is about to be broken soon. October is likely to 'squeak' by

without setting a new record, however, the US Army Corps expects a new record low later this fall or winter.

A few days ago I was preparing my docks for the winter. They are attached to a rock face by three steel arms, which swivel up and down. Two of the arms were 'bottomed-out' on the rock ledge below, and were holding the dock up in the air. That day the level dropped below the all-time low for the first time ever. A few days later, we were hit by Hurricane Sandy with sustained strong east winds for many days, and as it pushed the surface water off to Michigan, our level dropped two full feet below chart datum. I did not have the presence of mind to photograph the Marina then, as it would have been a more dramatic shot. A few days later the level came back though.

You will recall that in July we had the IJC public meetings to discuss the 'do-nothing' recommendation of the recent International Upper Great lakes Study. The Sierra Club Ontario Chapter had prepared blue "Restore Our Water Levels" T-shirts, which many of the 200 people attending the Parry Sound meeting wore. At this meeting I made a submission to the IJC Commissioners, including Lana Pollack, the US Chair. This submission presented how the study had misrepresented the science. It also provided an engineering solution in the form of submersible sills for the Upper St. Clair River designed to restore our level by 25 cm (10 inches) and which can be removed in the event of high water, hence preventing flooding in Sarnia. The study did not provide any workable solution that could pass this test, hence supporting its own do-nothing recommendation. At the Midland meeting almost 700 people turned up, many wearing blue T-shirts. At the end of this meeting the commissioners announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen – we get the message: - RESTORE OUR WATER LEVELS, AND DO IT NOW". The IJC is due to make its decision later this year and report to both governments. The fight continues.

WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 29, 2012 AT 2:00 PM, CARLING RECREATION HALL

President Jeremy Gawen welcomed the approximately 50 members and guests present, including the directors of the WCA present. Marc Cooper, Vice President; Dave Turner, Vice President; Bruce Davidson, Past President; Alex Davidson Treasurer; Sheila Tierney, Secretary; Phyllis Ortved, Newsletter; Bill Bialkowski, Dick Biggins, Christina Caap, Ian Hunt, David Hume, John Rohr and David Shelley. (Regrets: Ken James)

Guests: Mayor Gord Harrison, Carling Township Councillors Michael Gordon, Susan Murphy, Mike Konoval and Sid Larson and GBA Executive Director, Bob Duncanson

Approval of Minutes of the 2011 AGM, July 24, 2011

Moved by Christina Caap and seconded by Bill Bialkowski that the minutes of the July 24, 2011 AGM, as circulated and published in the fall 2011 newsletter be approved. Carried.

Approval of actions of the Board of Directors

Moved by Dave Turner and seconded by Judy Bialkowski, 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 hereby approved and confirmed. Carried.

Mayor Gord Harrison reported that the new Carling administration building was completed under budget and on time. Plans for renovation of the former administration for Public Works are being discussed.

The Zoning Bylaw has been approved.

Mayor Harrison listed a number of concerns : the dry summer and the potential for fires. There is a total ban on fires in Carling Township and 911 should be called if there is evidence of a fire. Fines for fires during a fire ban are \$155 -\$5,000.

Mayor Harrison left the meeting in response to a fire call. **Susan Murphy, Deputy Mayor,** conducted a question and answer period with the other councillors responding as well.

Franklin Island: Concern was raised regarding the reduction of support for the Franklin Island stewardship which was reduced to the months of June and July and 3 days a week. WCA was encouraged to write a letter to Council voicing this concern. North Sound Association is preparing a grant application for further funding of the project.

Taxes: Concern was expressed regarding the last installment of taxes due August 31 this year instead of September 30. The Council will look at this change.

Sand Bay Road resurfacing and reconstruction will be done this year. Study of a bypass around the resort area will be studied as well.

Parking at Snug Harbour: Concern was expressed regarding the lack of sufficient

parking and docking at Snug harbour. Council is applying to MNR to secure more land for parking for Carling residents. Additional paid parking for the public will be studied. A meeting will be scheduled between the 3 associations, the Township and MNR regarding Crown Land acquisition.

Light Houses: There are 5 light houses in Carling and the Council has expressed an interest in them and presently awaits a report from the federal government.

Announcement: Celebrate Carling will be held September 22, 2012, 6-8pm at the Recreation Centre.

The President thanked the councillors for attending.

Water Levels: The study team's recommendation is to do nothing in the St. Clair River.

Guest Speaker Bob Duncanson addressed the gathering

Bob has been Executive Director of GBA for 4 years. He outlined the roles of the 5 Georgian Bay organisations:

- GBA represents 20 associations on Georgian Bay - GBA Board of Directors is comprised of delegates from these associations.
- it is primarily a lobby group not a charitable trust-not a charity
- The Georgian bay Land Trust role is securing and stewardship of land in perpetuity
- Georgian Bay Forever is a charitable trust raising funds for research and education on issues affecting the Bay.
- Georgian Bay Stewardship Council is concerned mainly with fisheries.
- Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, UNESCO sanctioned-area from 69/400 corridor to the Bay coast-mission to protect heritage and environment-currently preparing report card on same (see WCA Minutes Directors' Meeting, July 29, 2012)
- these groups meet at the Executive Level regularly.
- Great Lakes Protection Act recently passed by Provincial Government will be followed up with regulations with money available to communities to encourage involvement of grass roots groups.

President's Report: Jeremy Gawen reported on a relatively quiet year

- with a good council and administration
- new facilities were accomplished at a reasonable price
- few variance likely because of a slow-down in construction
- water levels an issue
- Inverlochy approved but no action taken there yet
- Franklin Island-will be part of grant application for up to \$25,000
- Zoning Bylaw-was reviewed by Associations and some changes made, not all to

our liking but generally pleased with the result
-sharing services with the Township of the Archipelago seems to be working well

Water Levels: Bill Bialkowski reported that:

- In 2003 the Baird Report was commissioned by GBA after work by Bill and others on water levels.
- The Study Group Report has been released and presented at various public meetings stating a new plan to regulate water levels in Lake Superior and do nothing in St. Claire River or middle Great lakes.
- 200 people attended hearings July 16 in Parry Sound, 300 in Collingwood and 600 in Midland.
- Mary Muter presented a long list of errors made by the Study Group
- Bill pointed out biases in the report and submitted an engineering design to restore water levels
- Submissions will be received by August 31 and it is hoped that the IJC will better understand that something must be done about low water.

Treasurer's Report: Alex Davidson presented the March 2012 Financial Statements and Operating Budget for year ending March 31, 2012. Copies were made available. Revenue was down because membership targets were not met. Expenses were down and donations to WCA were up. A small surplus was reported. The proposed budget is based on 200 members. Cash on hand will cover expected expenses. Moved by Peter Dey and seconded by David Hume that the Financial Statements and Proposed budget be approved. Carried. Membership Report: Marc Cooper reported that membership to-date was 146. The goal is 200 members which is 33% of landowners. Marc chairs the GBA Membership Committee and most associations reported that membership was down or flat. WCA had the lowest percentage drop.

Nominating Committee Report: Bruce Davidson. Past president, reported that Doug Malvern would not stand for re-election. The slate of nominees was presented :

Bill Bialkowski, Dick Biggins, Christina Caap, Marc Cooper, Bruce Davidson, Alex Davidson, David Hume, Ian Hunt, Jeremy Gawen, Ken James, Murray Hogeboom, Phyllis Ortved, John Rohr, David Shelley, Sheila Tierney, Dave Turner

Nominations from the floor were called for 3 times. None were forthcoming. Moved by Doug Malvern and seconded by Ed Tierney that nominations be closed and the slate be approved as presented. Carried.

New Business:

A member suggested a group buy of fire pumps for cottagers. The President said that has been discussed and will be followed up.

Adjournment: Moved by Phyllis Ortved