



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,
R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0
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Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

SPRING/SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

by Jeremy Gawen

As I sit here at my computer and look out the window on this last day of March, it is a beautiful sunny day but still cool and there is still quite a bit of snow in the back yard here in Toronto. It's been a long winter, one most everyone will be glad to say goodbye to, but, only another month and we'll be opening up our cottages again and will soon forget the long winter grind. The good news is that with 90% ice cover for the Great Lakes this winter and snowfall way above normal, we should expect to see significantly higher lake levels this Spring compared to last year. However, a word of caution is still required; Lakes Huron/Michigan are still about 13 inches below their long term average while the other Lakes are all close to or above their long term averages. Thanks to all of man's dredging activities over the last century, the St Clair River continues to drain far too much of our priceless water away!

As for all municipalities in Ontario, this is an election year in Carling Township. At this early date, I have no word on how many of the current Council members will be running again or how many others will be putting their names forward for the ballot. We will keep you posted on our website and in the next Newsletter. Personally, I believe that this has been an excellent Council which has been responsive to residents' concerns, has made a number of major and much needed improvements to the infrastructure of the Township and has always been willing to listen. They have also kept costs well under control.

However, one area where costs threaten to get completely out of hand, is that of policing by the Ontario Provincial Police. The OPP has been under pressure from its last audit (and likely from the larger municipalities) to introduce a new system of allocation costs to municipalities. As I understand it, the current system of charge-out is based on the number of incidents to which the OPP is called out in each municipality which seems a very fair way of allocation – user pay! Under this arrangement, Carling currently pays about \$130,000 per year. Under the new proposal, based on the number of households in the community, the policing bill will go up to \$635,000 per year or by approximately 500%! The fact that far fewer incidents requiring police presence, occur in rural areas than in towns and cities or that over half of our residents are both seasonal and accessible by water (which means very little police presence, anyway), seems to have completely escaped the powers that be.

**WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION
LIST OF OFFICERS**



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

Marc Cooper, Vice-President
Cottage: 705 342-7470 (001)
mcooper@agency59.ca
Cel: 416-419-2055

John Rohr, Vice-President
Cottage: 705 342-7781 (367)
jandprohr@yahoo.ca

Sheila Tierney, Secretary
tierneys@gmail.com
Cottage: 705 342-1653 (099)
Home: 905 468-2200

Bill Bialkowski, Newsletter
bialkowski@rogers.com
Cottage: 705 342-7354 (261)
Home: 905 833-7508

Murray Hogeboom, Treasurer
mhogeboom@sympatico.ca
Home: 905 889-3645
Cel: 416-316-0613 (120)

LIST OF DIRECTORS

Alex Davidson (I-257)
Toronto: 416 484-9480
alex@jcclark.com

705 342-5129

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

705 342-1034

Christina Caap (365)
sofiefred@yahoo.se

705 342-7301

Ian Hunt
IanIhunt@aol.com

705 751-0102

Dick Biggins (I77)
Home: 828 299-9128
rgbiggins@aol.com

705 342-7187

Ken James (I-229)
Home: 416 485-8400
Kenj587@gmail.com

416 587-5000

Carolann Moisse
Home: 905 687-4481
carolanmoisse@hotmail.com

416 884-4481

David Shelley (Telos Is.)
davidmshelley@cogeco.ca

416 931-3005



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Photo: Matt Murphy, Cognashene

Preserving our unique archipelago

www.gbtl.org

To put it another way, if this new cost allocation system is approved, Carling has calculated that the average cost of calling the OPP out to an incident in Carling would be \$3,064 whereas the cost of the same incident in Parry Sound would be \$354. This is obviously absurd. The Township has written to each of its ratepayers requesting that they write a letter of protest to the Premier of Ontario and to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I have written such a letter from the West Carling Association but I would really urge you to do the same as the more letters politicians receive the more likely they are to act. You may find all you need to send a letter on the Carling Township website (www.carlingtownship.ca).

Last newsletter, I wrote about the municipal appeals process in Ontario including Committees of Adjustment (in Carling, it's called the Planning Committee) and the Ontario Municipal Board. This is particularly pertinent because Carling is currently facing an appeal at the OMB by a resident whose application to the Township to build a large floating boat port was refused by Carling's Planning Committee. Late last year, there was a full day's hearing for this OMB appeal at which WCA spoke in support of Council's decision. To my amazement, the OMB has had to schedule another 2 full days for this appeal (June 24, 25). You may imagine how expensive this is for the Township (and you as taxpayers) as it has to use outside legal and planning professionals for these hearings. To make matters worse, there is now a further joint appeal against the boathouse bylaw to be heard on April 30 – again very expensive. I have written a letter to the OMB on behalf of the West Carling Board again supporting Council. You can find that letter on the WCA website.

Have a wonderful and safe summer at the cottage this year.



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A View From Carling Council - Spring 2014

by Michael Gordon

Since my last report in early-2014, the major issues that Council has focused on have been:

- **Dealing with congestion at our Municipal water access points** – the Committee exploring the challenges at our Municipal water access sites (particularly the congestion caused by kayakers at Dillon Cove, Snug Harbour and Pengally Bay) has met twice and plans to bring recommendations back to Council at our April meeting.
- **Updating our Noise ByLaw** – after a “false-start” last spring, Council has received extensive input from the West Carling Association and other cottage associations and will be discussing a revised Noise ByLaw at our April meeting.
- **Responding to the proposed new OPP billing model** – Council has been working with other area municipalities to express our concern about the proposed new billing model for OPP services. The current proposal would see the amount Carling must pay for OPP services rise from \$130,000 in 2012 to \$635,000 in 2015, an increase of over \$500,000!
- **Expanding our service-sharing agreement with the Archipelago** – Council has approved the hiring by Carling of a new Public Works Manager to serve both Townships. Having this senior position employed by Carling will help to balance the relationship (as the shared CAO and Treasurer are currently Archipelago employees) and will hopefully result in increased efficiencies in both road work and waste management across both municipalities. The inter-municipal committee with the Archipelago that was created last Fall continues to meet and is currently focused on updating our inter-municipal agreement with the help of the Provincial Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.
- **Examining the impact of potential future water level declines** – although it appears that water levels in the summer of 2014 will be up nicely from the all-time low set in Jan 2013 this issue has not gone away. For now, Council has repealed the Temporary Dock ByLaw enacted last winter but we are working with the West Parry Sound Geography Network and Colin Dobell of “Stop the Drop” on a project to model the potential impact on marinas, local navigation channels and waterfront properties ability to access to Georgian Bay at water levels below what was experienced last winter.
- **Exploring the potential to blast the Deep Bay channel** – Council has applied for provincial funding for a study to examine the impacts of blasting to deepen (and widen) the channel into Deep Bay and awaits the funding announcements.
- **Determining the future of our Lighthouses** – Council has submitted a business plan for the Snug Harbour Lighthouse to the Federal government and has had discussions with the West Carling Association about partnering to have the Association act as a “manager” for the site. 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

Walter Christenson of Carling Township

By Ken Christenson, Nobel

From 1943 when he first worked under the company name Christenson Construction, until 1992 when he died on a fishing trip to the Bad River, my father, Walter Thomas Christenson, was a locally grown jack-of-all-trades you could call if you needed help building or maintaining your summer cottage on the islands or shoreline of Carling Township. What I remember most fondly as a very young boy who would sometimes accompany him to a jobsite, was the good cheer he was always greeted with; and, occasionally, the relieved expressions of gratitude from a cottager who had just come up to relax for the weekend with ‘unrealistic’ guests, and a busted water pipe.

If ever asked to describe my father, I was most likely to say that he was short and wiry, that his hair was always a bit gray but it covered his scalp and never his face, and that he had an alert and even cocky manner though he could be reassuring and dignified when need be. I might mention his ever-present pipe, and the beat up old sailor’s cap he wore in later years. But the one thing I always seemed to forget to mention was the missing right arm. I know for many people this detail might be significant if you wanted to pick my father out in a crowd; but for me, there was really nothing missing. Indeed it seemed to me as a child there was nothing he couldn’t do, and no problem he couldn’t somehow solve. I never quite lost that clearly impossible notion.

Of course, if you think about it, Dad’s inventive streak had everything to do with that missing right arm. He was in fact born right-handed, and having lost that appendage about four inches below the elbow in a hunting accident when he was only eleven years old, the greater part of his learned and innate behaviour had to be re-invented. And re-invented again when he lost the left thumb and forefinger to an unguarded radial-arm saw at age thirty-six! (This happened while employed at a contractor’s shop in Calgary where we had moved so Dad could learn the dialect and write novels like his hero, Zane Grey. We stayed just long enough to miss the Calgary Stampede, miss seeing all but the snowy peaks of the Rocky Mountains, lose the fingers, and lose our dog. On the bright side, Dad did get fourteen dollars a month “finger money” the rest of his life, for which he would always feel guilty, and the dog did find us again on the way home.)

How does a man with only three fingers to his name make a living on The Bay as a carpenter, a millwright, a lumberjack (if your cottage was built between 1967 and 1980, with 1¾” pine studs with one rough side, then this was probably lumber from our sawmill.), a plumber, an electrician and a mechanic you might ask? Well I can tell you: you start your nail by holding it between two fingers with the head against the side of your hammer and giving it one good tap; you fall your trees with a chainsaw equipped with a leather strap on the handle that just fits around your elbow stub, and you keep a little salve-can full of axel grease in your pocket to dab on your middle finger so you can pick up a threaded nut and place it on the bolt you’re looking up at while lying on your back in the snow under your old broken down John Deere tractor (though she’s your pride and joy, you might swear just a little, because as far as you can tell there’s nobody around for miles to hear you). I can only think of one thing my father absolutely could not do for himself: you see it wasn’t really out of personal vanity, but nevertheless out of a certain kind of stubborn pride, that Walter Christenson always had his one lonely shirt sleeve rolled up, not buttoned.

It's more than property donors who trust us with their land The Georgian Bay Land Trust is preserving our unique archipelago

By Laura Gibson, GBLT

At the Georgian Bay Land Trust, everything we do is through the lens of preservation. Each of our 34 properties – 39 including easements, is protected for the purpose of conserving the natural and cultural character of the area so that everyone can continue to enjoy and appreciate Georgian Bay's rugged beauty in a pristine state. When it comes to protecting the natural spaces that enrich our quality of life, that ensure the protection of the habitat and species on those lands, the Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) is a recognized leader.

With over two decades of achievements in preservation, there is much to celebrate. In 2013, we celebrated our first ever cross-border Ecological Gift (as qualified by the Canada Ecological Gift Program) involving both Canadian and American land donors in which the land has been gifted jointly to Canadian and American land trusts. While we have made remarkable progress, our work is not done.

It is critical that we act now to protect the most ecologically important and threatened places on the Bay. Protecting and caring for these natural areas is a shared responsibility. If you love Georgian Bay as much as we do and care about seeing the landscape protected for future generations, we invite you to get involved and join our family.

There are many things that you can do that will make a positive impact.

GBLT events

Learn about this unique archipelago and why it is worth protecting. Take advantage of the free public programming we offer on some of GBLT's properties. This summer are conducting geological rock walks, lighthouse talks and screenings of Edward Burtynsky's & Jennifer Baichwal's feature documentary film, *Watermark*.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday, July 31; 1 PM; The Pancakes, Carling Township – “Geology of Georgian Bay; 2 billion years of change” – interpretive geological island walk with geologist Nick Eyles. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon on this spectacular rock.

Visit www.gbtl.org for more events and details throughout the summer.

Join a team of GBLT Property Stewards

Make regular visits to GBLT properties on your own or with friends and family, stay for a swim or a picnic and report back to us on anything unusual or exceptional like a turtle nest.

Volunteers work to preserve safe habitat for the spotted turtle and other species and help ensure that future generations – theirs and ours – can continue to enjoy this unique wilderness. Contact brooks.greer@gblt.org for more information.

Cultivate the next generation of conservationists

Sign up your kids, ages 8-12, in GBLT's Conservation Quest Program where they will get hands-on educational experience in environmental conservation, learn about the natural environment of Georgian Bay and have fun! Visit www.gblt.org for more dates and details.

Be a GBLT ambassador

Talk to your friends and family about how much you value natural spaces on Georgian Bay and why they are worth protecting. "Like" GBLT on Facebook, sign up to receive our GBLasT electronic newsletter, and help us spread our message.

Donate to natural space preservation

With a gift to the GBLT, you can take part in protecting and caring for critical wildlife habitat up and down the shore of Georgian Bay. Find out more about ways to give at www.gblt.org

"We are grateful to all the families and individuals who have helped support our work of protecting natural spaces on Georgian Bay so that future generations will always be able to experience and enjoy open vista views, quiet open spaces, tranquility and the joy and health benefits of time spent in nature." Bill Lougheed, Executive Director, GBLT

Your Care is our Cause

By Lynne Atkinson, Carling Cottager

Many Canadians believe that Canada's hospital system is 100% publicly funded. That hasn't been true for some years now. With governments broke at all levels, it is private donors who are ensuring the best in medical equipment for patients in their local hospitals.

The provincial government has also reduced the operating budget. I believe this is true for most hospitals across Ontario. With funding declining and costs going up, the financial challenge is huge.

The West Parry Sound Health Centre covers a vast geographic territory from north of Britt, to south of Mactier, east of Rosseau and east to Magnetawan offering a diverse bundle of services including: emergency, cardiac, dialysis, cancer, palliative, orthopaedic, diagnostics, and heliport; it is the place where lives are saved, mended and at times, even lost.

Local family doctors do rotation in our hospital wards, our Emergency Department and in surgery as anaesthetists. In addition, our Chief Nursing Officer Anne Litkovich manages the 6 nursing stations located in Britt, Pointe au Baril, Argyle, Whitestone, Rosseau and Moose Deer Point.

In 2013, Parry Sound Emergency Medical Services responded to 3,560 life-threatening 911 calls. Of those, 1,767 calls came between May to September.

The fact that our Health Centre is situated on a 400 series highway amidst large bodies of water, demands that our medical team manages a broad scope of emergencies. During the peak months of July and August, visits to ER from residents and cottagers are equal in number and similar in cause. Emergency patients suffer from heart attacks, strokes, motor vehicle crashes, 4-wheel and boat crashes, near drowning's, pediatric emergencies, head injuries, seizures, broken bones, appendicitis, bowel obstructions, rattle snakebites, major infections plus fish hooks and stitches.

In 2013 the Emergency Department treated 19,309 patients.



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Year-over-year we are thankful for the tremendous support we receive from local service clubs and hundreds of individuals.

In 2013, because of the generosity of the Bongard family (long time cottagers in Pointe au Baril), the Meekison-Keystone family (long time cottagers in Carling), the Garfield Weston Foundation (long-time cottagers in Pointe au Baril), hundreds of individual donors and a new endowed fund (earnings off retained capital) established by an anonymous Islander and increased through gifts to the Foundation in Wills, donors are upgrading the Health Centre's Pharmacy system. 100% of the upgrade is paid for by donors.

The Foundation's challenge in 2014 is securing donations that will transform our cardiac services by replacing failing telemetry systems in ICU, Emergency and Rehab (\$280,000) along with a new ECG for Surgery (\$17,000). Vital new equipment is needed for our Surgery, Cancer, Obstetrics and Palliative units: patient-controlled pain pumps (\$70,000), a new ultra sound (\$200,000) and a washer/decontaminator (\$70,000). Adding the new patient registration/scheduling server (\$25,000), Foundation donors will buy \$662,000 worth of equipment keeping hospital care in Parry Sound! You are the difference!

Your care is our cause. The Health Centre needs your help. Your donation keeps hospital care in Parry Sound. Thank you everyone for your steadfast support.

A Canadian-Austrian Clinic at Dillon

By Sheila Tierney

Last summer the Canadian - Austrian Clinic for Health Care and Education hosted six Austrian students from the University of Vienna, who were students of Dr. Gisela Gerber and Dr. Toni Reinelt, and one Spanish student from the University of Madrid. The students attended a scientific and practical educational program from July 15th to August 6th.

The program included seminars about the history, geography and geology of the area. The seminars were supplemented with observations of native animals, birds, reptiles, vegetation and weather systems. Tours of the area included hiking in Killbear Provincial Park and visits to surrounding towns and markets to see and purchase local items. Kim Potter and Dave Turner qualified outdoor instructors conducted wilderness canoeing, kayaking and overnight camping trips. Multinational social life, with an emphasis on Canadian cottage life, was experienced through visits to local families, for dining, "Happy Hours" and musical events which included interaction with people of all ages.

Various venues, cultural centers and museums were visited such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind Camp at MacTier, Camp Tapawingo Girls Camp, a First Nations Pow Wow in Parry Sound and Canadore College where Peter Istvan and Joycelyn Chipman conducted a tour and explained the courses and activities there.

A visit to Queen's University in Kingston was organized by Sheila Tierney where Dean of Students, Ann Tierney, arranged an escorted tour of the campus and entertained the students for lunch in the faculty lounge. A graduate student exchange program exists between Queens and The University of Vienna and now plans are underway for an undergrad student exchange program.

Scientific seminars were conducted by Professor Gerber and Regina Studener of the University of Vienna. Michelle Dermenjian from the Family Help Network of Parry Sound and Area spoke to the students regarding the help offered to families, children, juveniles and adults.

The visit to Canada was deemed very enlightening by the students. Another visit of students from the University of Vienna is planned for 2015. Many thanks to Drs. Gerber and Reinelt for introducing these young people to the beauty of the Georgian Bay area. As well they have returned home with some knowledge of Canada's geography, history, political and social structure.

Directors of the Clinic: Dr. Gisela Gerber and Dr. Toni Reinelt. Directors from Carling: David Turner, Kim Potter, Sheila Tierney

SPRING FISHERY REPORT

By Bill Davis, Sand Bay— at one time a fisheries biologist with Fisheries and Oceans

It has been a long cold winter, and that will likely have an impact on our recreational fishery. One impact is that water levels are expected to increase. This would flood some of those "meadows" around the end of small bays and create a good spawning area for pike and muskies. There are two good results, drowned weed stems for spawning substrate and the nutrients released by the oxidation /decomposition of organic materials while the water was low. These nutrients will improve the plankton/zooplankton populations, the bottom of the food chain, and essential food for the survival of newly hatched fish of all species. There will be some offsetting bad effects. We will have a late spring, and probably have a shortened, cool summer. The other important ingredient for maximum survival of newly hatched fish is a long growing season their first summer. The larger they are, with good energy reserves, at the end of that first summer, the better their survival through their first winter. I have heard two stories this week about there being at least 4 feet of ice, one from near Oak Island, and one from a nearby cottage on Sand Bay. It is the first of April as I start this report and so when I say a late spring, it may be later than any I can remember. Also, I saw a weather analysis that predicted that the jet stream would be deflected to south of the Great Lakes by the massive area of ice covering the Lakes.

How will this affect the recreational angler? Bass may still be spawning when the season opens. This will make the most important bass in the population very vulnerable. The big males will still be guarding their nests. Research has shown that most small mouth bass production comes from the nests of large males. They have the energy reserves to guard their nest and fry longest. This is even more important than ever in this age of gobies. I suggested the need for a maximum size limit for bass several years ago to the lake manager, and although he seemed receptive, I think that it was not accepted by the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council. So, local bass anglers, the future of your fishery is in your own hands.

And don't think that it is OK to fish these nest guardians on a live release basis, again, especially now that we have gobies. There would be nothing left to guard, even if the bass found its way back to its nest.

Species like pike, musky and walleye may hang around in the shallower waters that you usually fish, most of the summer. Higher water levels, combined with cooler water, might encourage the pike to stay in the weed beds, muskies in channels, and walleyes in the deeper portions of small bays. However, I have a theory that Eurasian milfoil is making the traditional weedbeds unattractive to pike because they tend to suck it in while breathing. If there were decent numbers of large perch around, they would also be easier to find.

I still believe that cormorants are a serious problem for our fishery. More than a biological problem, they are a political issue. There are some very politically active individuals, and groups, that defend them, and I see cormorants, like gas plants, not being managed because of the politics. Even inside the Ministry of Natural Resources, there are wildlife biologists who defend them, but they are a fishery issue, and if you ask fisheries biologists, cormorants are a serious problem. We have some old photos (before cormorants) of a couple of guests posing on our resort's docks with their catch of perch. They had two strings, each over 6 feet long, of large perch lying on the dock, and a wire basket full. We have various photos of such catches, and we often didn't take photos of perch because they were pretty common.

The Upper Great Lakes Manager, Dave Reid, is retiring this month. I have known Dave for his entire time working on our lake, and although we often differed in our opinion on our fishery's needs, I have always liked him. I have not yet heard who his replacement will be.

The Lake Huron Assessment Unit will be conducting a fall spawning assessment of Big Sound lake trout. I will be interested in the results. I have been quite concerned that the very warm surface waters of the last couple of summers has made it difficult for anglers to release the large lake trout they caught, as is required by the maximum size limit. Lake trout become exhausted very easily in water temperatures above about 22 C. I invented a "live release weight" about 25 years ago to solve this problem. It is easy to make and easy to use. I also use a lure that tends not to get too deep into their throat. My successful live release of lake trout is about 98%. Anyone wanting to know how to make a live release weight should contact me. (*Bill Davis* bbdavis@vianet.ca)

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