



# WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

9 Christie Street,  
R.R. #1 Nobel, Ontario, P0G 1G0  
Since 1921  
Incorporated 1992  
\*Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns\*

## FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*by Jeremy Gawan*

Dear Member,

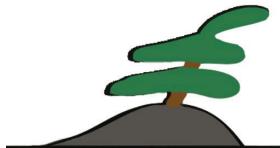
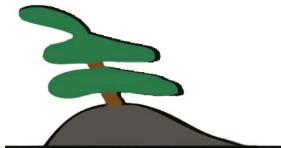
We have decided to devote this issue to the upcoming Carling Municipal Election. We believe this will be a critical election for the Township as it has become evident after the All-Candidates meeting at our recent AGM, that two very clear and different directions are emerging which will have a major effect on the future of Carling: whether to continue and enhance the sharing arrangement with the Township of the Archipelago (TOA), or whether for Carling to become independent again, making whatever ad hoc arrangements for sharing services with surrounding municipalities it can make. **Your Board believes strongly that by far the best way forward is to continue and enhance the current sharing agreement with the TOA.**

As you may be aware, Gord Harrison has decided not to run again for Mayor for which we are sorry as we believe he has led Council very well for the last four years, but he will be running for Council. Mike Konoval has decided to run for Mayor again and, as of writing, he is unopposed. All the other current councilors, Mike Gordon, Sid Larson and Susan Murphy are running again and there are three new candidates: Steve Crookshank, owner of Killbear Mall store, Terry Gilbert of Gilly's Snug Harbour and Jim Smith, a small businessman from Shebeshecong. WCA sent out a list of questions to the candidates well prior to our AGM; you will find the responses from those who replied in this newsletter.

From the responses at the AGM, we understand that Mike Konoval, Steve Crookshank and Terry Gilbert oppose the sharing agreement with the TOA. Gord Harrison, Mike Gordon, Sid Larson and Jim Smith favour it and Susan Murphy favours sharing with the TOA but would also share with others if it makes sense.

Mike Konoval's position is that he believes that Carling should become entirely independent again with its own Clerk/Treasurer and likely all Heads of Departments reporting to Council as it used to be. Mike remembers the formation of the TOA in the '70's when there was a strong push to absorb Carling and fears that this could happen again. He accepts that some sharing with other municipalities could still be done. He particularly disagrees with sharing the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), because he feels there is a loss of control.

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I wish to thank Ian Hunt for his years of service on the WCA Board. I would also like to welcome both Dr. Adrian Crow and Don Clement to the board and look forward to working with both of them.

The logo for the Georgian Bay Land Trust features a circular emblem with a blue background. Inside the circle is a white silhouette of a tree and a body of water. The words "GEORGIAN BAY" are at the top and "LAND TRUST" are at the bottom.

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Photo: Matt Murphy, Cognashene

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Those in favour of retaining the TOA agreement (and enhancing it) make the following points:

- The sharing arrangement has already saved significant amounts of money and will save more as other functions are shared.
- It is simply not possible to attract and pay the caliber of individuals that we now have under the sharing arrangement if Carling were to go it alone; the municipal world is far more complex than it was years ago and requires a level of competence and knowledge that would be difficult to achieve without sharing.
- The Provincial government has singled out the Carling cost sharing agreement as a model of the way it would like other small municipalities to use by gaining the benefits of sharing without losing the identity of each partner. In fact, we believe that the sharing agreement will protect Carling from forced amalgamation in future.
- Earlier this year, Carling commissioned a study by a well-respected municipal consultant, Bill Winegard, to review how well the sharing agreement is working and recommend any changes. The report was extremely positive though it did find some areas for improvement, most of which are being implemented. The report is available to the public on the Township website.

**The WCA Board has looked carefully at both positions and we believe that the sharing agreement with the TOA should continue; we believe it is the best way to achieve high levels of service and keep taxes low. We believe that we are long past the days when we can afford to go it alone and we see no reason why we should fear loss of identity.**

Since the arrangement began with the TOA, Carling has assembled a very competent administrative team, who led by an excellent Council, have achieved a great deal. We would be sorry to lose these staff.

We also believe that, under the leadership of Mayor Harrison, this has been an extremely successful Council with a large backlog of projects successfully achieved:

- New Administrative Building and Garage, badly needed, were completed at very reasonable costs;
- A program to hard surface most of the Township roads is almost complete;
- Docking and parking facilities for water access cottagers, have been greatly improved at Dillon, Snug Harbour and shortly at Pengally Bay;
- We are well on the way to digitizing all our planning information;
- Council was successful in amending the Official Plan to prevent the construction of any new floating or directly-onshore boathouses/boatports (this was appealed to the OMB and Carling recently won the appeal);

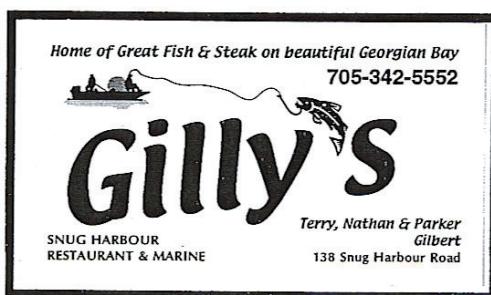
- We are also optimistic that a new Noise Bylaw tackling the issue of “nuisance noise” will be enacted.

**As to the election, all the candidates are capable and credible but we believe that it would be wise to return the existing very successful Council to Carling as the best way to maintain and improve the levels of service while keeping taxes some of the lowest in the area by continuing the sharing arrangement with the TOA. In particular, we wish to recommend to you Councilor Mike Gordon who is the only seasonal resident running for Council and who is extremely competent and able in all matters dealt with by Council, particularly in Finance and Planning.**

One final point; we note that expenses in the Township (and hence taxes to most residents) have been rising at a rate significantly in excess of inflation over the last four years. While we recognize that there was a significant issue of “catch-up” from previous years, we fully expect that taxes should rise by less than or equal to inflation for the next several years and that this should involve a reduction in the mil rate to offset the annual increase in MPAC valuations.

I hope you find this helpful. The most important thing is to vote, no matter which candidates you support. You will find an article on who can vote and how to vote later in this Newsletter.

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# **Editor's Note**

*By Bill Bialkowski*

## **2014 Municipal Election**

This issue of the Newsletter is devoted entirely to the Municipal election of October 27, including: the President's letter; candidate's positions; AGM minutes, and election information details on how to cast a vote. Six of the eight candidates responded to Jeremy Gawen's Questionnaire on the key issues concerning Carling Township. Please refer to the AGM minutes for the two candidates who did not respond to the Questionnaire.

## **Website to include a newsletter archive**

We have just completed an electronic archive of the West Carling Newsletter, and we hope webmaster Marc Cooper will soon be able to make these files available on the website. This was tedious work, as electronic files were available for only some of the more recent issues. That meant scanning-in old paper copies. This was made possible only because Sheila Tierney had kept a 'complete paper archive' hidden in a corner of her cottage. This archive goes back to 1977.

Counting this current fall 2014 issue, we have 90 issues in total. The Newsletter has run steadily since 1988 with typically three issues per year, and as many as five in a few years. The fall of '09 and summer of '12 issues were never produced. Since the scanned-in files are not 'searchable', we have also creating a searchable spreadsheet index. This can be searched by author and title, so you will be able to find all of Bruce Davidson's wonderful articles such as: "Of Tin Boats, Snakes & Critters", to name only one of 18. We hope the archive will create a useful historical tool, 'a living memory' for all West Carling members to reference and continue into the future.

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## **Candidate Positions**

The following eight candidates are running for the Carling Council elections of 27 October, 2014. Mike Konoval is running unopposed for mayor. Seven people are running for the four seats on council. Running for re-election are: Michael Gordon, Susan Murphy, Sid Larsen and Gord Harrison (who served as Mayor for past four years). Also running for council are: Steve Crookshank (also ran in 2010 election), Terry Gilbert, and Jim Smith. WCA President Jeremy Gawen invited all of the candidates to state their positions on the 9 issues listed below. The six responses received to date are transcribed below in the order they were received. The AGM minutes also contain a synopsis of the candidates' positions from the all-candidate meeting (Bill Bialkowski Editor).

## **QUESTION 1: *What is your vision for Carling going forward?***

### **MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)**

- a. My vision for Carling is to maintain and enhance our world-class natural wilderness and recreational assets.
- b. As such, the focus is mostly on Planning issues and draws directly from the Official Plan goal “To protect and enhance the natural environment”. Specifically I would seek to avoid overdevelopment of the waterfront areas, preserve the natural features of our shorelines, and preserve water quality. As the OP and Zoning ByLaw documents already support this position, the critical item is how Council responds to variance and rezoning requests.
- c. Outside of Planning, I do not envision any substantial new or additional services being offered by the Township but would seek continuous improvement in the cost and quality of our existing services such as Roads, Water Access Points, Waste Management and Emergency Services.

### **MIKE KONOVAL (*running for mayor*)**

My vision for Carling going forward is that our township will continue to be governed by a local council and administered by Carling staff. The key to our future success is strong team building between council, staff and ratepayers.

### **STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)**

- addition of a 50 year plan to the official plan
- lobby the provincial government re highway 559
- ratepayer questionnaire

### **SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)**

I don't see big changes. Carling's planning program is well established and on-going. We need to focus on maintaining our infrastructure. I support a process of continuous examination. How are we doing? Could we do it more efficiently or cost effectively? Are the services we are providing appropriate and affordable for the community? Having completed two major capital projects (public works building and municipal office) we need to build reserves and pay down debt.

### **SID LARSON (*running for council*)**

The challenge going forward will be to maintain the natural features of Carling which is our common interest yet accommodate changes or developments that are also key to our mutual enjoyment or interests. For instance, more and more we rely on internet access as will be the case with future generations to come.

Similarly, as families grow often so does the use of our properties and any municipal infrastructures that we depend on. The key is to strike a balance between sustainable development and developments that pose an unnecessary negative impact on our environment. A prime example is avoiding development shore line boat houses that impact the shoreline scenery.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

My vision for Carling is to move our township forward with fiscally minded updates to our roads and infrastructure. I would like to see more effort put into updating and repair of our municipal roads as well as our recreation facilities.

**QUESTION 2: *Do you support the current sharing arrangements with the TOA and to what extent would you like to see them go further?***

**MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)**

- a. YES, I fully support the current sharing of services with the TOA (and other local Townships). Based on the Bill Winegard Report, I recognize that we do not require any of our functional positions full-time and that we are better able to successfully recruit/develop/retain these specialized staff by sharing. We are also able to realize cost savings from sharing.
- b. Going forward I would like to expand our sharing with the TOA to include Planning staff – enabling us to have an in-house planner and reduce our dependence on our external planning consultant. I would also like to try and share a CBO and ByLaw enforcement with other local Townships following Doug Volk’s retirement. There is also potential to share our Fire Chief with other local Townships or the Town of PS.

**MIKE KONOVAL (*running for mayor*)**

- Carling has for many years shared services and junior staff with other municipalities. However, I'm not in favour of continuing to share senior staff. If I am re-elected and have council's support in the next term, with the assistance of Carling staff, we will undertake a complete review of operations.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)**

- full time on site senior management would result in more effective, efficient, and economical performance
- staff moral would be favorably affected
- challenging to ask a person to do two jobs on a permanent basis

**SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)**

I support cost sharing where it is advantageous and appropriate. The TOA has been a willing partner, and Carling has benefited from that relationship. However, there may be other willing partners and I think we should seek them out. There are opportunities to share without losing the Carling “identity”. It is important to have policies in so that Carling’s goals and objectives are clear to staff.

**SID LARSON (*running for council*)**

I support the current sharing arrangements with the Township of the Archipelago for two reasons: 1) tax savings, and 2) more efficient returns on our spending of tax dollars (higher caliber staff; better use of our resources).

That being said, the benefits must be realized by both Townships and will require monitoring in order to assess the worth of continuing the various aspects of the sharing arrangement. The agreement document is being updated to include each shared resources as individual agreement, each with appropriate payment and cancellation arrangements to protect the interest of both parties.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

I support a shared services agreement for the reasons that Carling is not large enough to justify the costs of the full time staff that is required to fulfill the needs of our community. The costs of this professional staff are just too high to justify paying a yearly salary when we do not require those staff members on site five days a week. As well as with modern communications every one is a mere phone call or email away.

I would also propose to use the same system within our own administration. The practice of having one employee do two or even three jobs is not new. It is being used in many other municipalities including McDougal and Lake of Bays just to name a couple.

**QUESTION 3: *Do you continue to support one of the key underlying principles of the Carling OP which is to maintain the waterfront in as natural a state as is possible?***

**MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)**

ABSOLUTELY! I hope that my actions this term around minor variances, rezonings and my support of modifying OPA1 to prohibit Boathouses demonstrate this support clearly.



**MIKE KONOVAL** (*running for mayor*)

- This issue is and will become more difficult for future councils to maintain. In the last five to ten years, we have had a lot of new people come to Georgian Bay, and their mindset is different than those of the past. Evidence of this mindset is the five OMB hearings that were filed this past term. In the previous three or four terms, we had only one OMB hearing filed. Council's policies must be fair to all ratepayers but must also respect the rights of individuals.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK** (*running for council*)

- applaud the efforts of the township to maintain the natural state of the shoreline as much as possible

**SUSAN MURPHEY** (*running for council*)

Yes. We have heard from property owners that they wish to see the shoreline maintained in a natural state. It's been a stated goal since the first Official Plan was developed many years

**SID LARSON** (*running for council*)

Yes. The waterfront is one of our most important common interests.

**JIM SMITH** (*running for council*)

Yes I whole heartedly support this issue! Being an avid boater and camper who has grown up in our area enjoying the many different aspects of Georgian Bay I will strive to keep this jewel that we have in its natural state. As well as being a new father of two wonderful baby girls I want them to have the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of Georgian Bay as I did growing up!

**QUESTION 4: What do you see as the important Capital items for the next 4 years?**

**MICHAEL GORDON** (*running for council*)

Our new Capital Asset Management Plan (completed in Dec 2013) outlines our required expenditures for the next 10 yrs. Over the next 5 years the only projects forecast are road work on Blind Bay, Remy Bay, Snug Harbour and Dillon Road. There is no spending forecast for Structures, Buildings or Facilities. The plan does not cover equipment so there will also likely be some spending required on Fire or Public Works vehicles over the next 5 years.

**MIKE KONOVAL** (*running for mayor*)

- I would identify the following:

1. Renovation of old building
2. Continued road re-surfacing but with review

**STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)**

- some minor modifications to the old public works building to accommodate fire dept

**SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)**

Ongoing programs include road & water access facilities which have capital components from time to time. These projects are considered each year in the annual budget and completed as need dictates and finances permit. The Fire Department building is aging and inadequate for the services property owners expect. The challenge is to provide affordable service at an appropriate level, given the rural nature of Carling Township. I hope that the former public works building can be retrofitted to provide a reasonable home for the Fire Department. Down the road, (perhaps further than 4 years) the Council of the day will need to examine the Recreation Hall, originally built as a public school. As the building ages it is more expensive to maintain and is inadequate for some types of activities. Fund raising (by volunteers) is ongoing for a roof over the rink, which will make the facility much more usable.

**SID LARSON (*running for council*)**

Continuation of upgrades and hard surfacing of municipal roads, and also improvements to parking and launching facilities are the two top priorities. I also support the ‘raise the roof’ initiative because I see several benefits in all of the other townships where they exist.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

First and foremost I feel our roads need to be addressed! We have made some great progress on the updating of our road system but I believe we can still do more. We should look at widening and straitening some of our smaller roads to make them safer for our ratepayer’s to travel on. Second I feel its time to start looking at a new recreation center with better parking and updated facilities for use of the many events that we hold that have become part of the fabric of who we are as a community.

**QUESTION 5: *How do you propose to keep our taxes as low as is reasonably possible while maintaining our levels of service? Are there any new services that you propose or any that you would discontinue? What areas are you looking to improve productivity/efficiency? How much outsourcing should Carling be doing?***

**MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)**

- a. To keep taxes low I would continue with our existing sharing of services and explore additional opportunities as outlined above. Starting in 2015, we should be able to reduce our contributions to Reserves which will help offset the negative impact of the OPP cost increase.

- b. I would not propose any additional services or discontinue any existing. I would only support a roof over the skating rink if there is substantial prov/federal matching funds for the project.
- c. I think the largest opportunity for improved productivity/efficiency is in Public Works. It accounts for \$1.4 million of our \$3.5 million controllable operating budget.

**MIKE KONOVAL** (*running for mayor*)

- The present administration is heavy with senior staff, and as salaries are a big ticket item, this is an area where savings can be realized. We have also expanded our fleet of vehicles to the point, in my view, where we have too many. This matter needs to be reviewed.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK** (*running for council*)

- review existing service levels
- prepare a business plan regarding out sourcing

**SUSAN MURPHEY** (*running for council*)

Continuous examination of programs, services and cost vs benefit. Requests for new services / increased levels of service need to be closely examined. Existing services/programs need regular evaluation. I don't propose any new services at this time. I look at all areas to improve productivity / efficiency and expect staff to do the same. Outsourcing should be considered on a cost/benefit basis. If it can be done less expensively by outsourcing, it needs to be looked at. Staff needs to be vigilant about seeking funding from senior levels of government even though opportunities are dwindling.

**SID LARSON** (*running for council*)

Budget review reduction for all programs will be a priority for this term.

Discretionary spending accounts for a small percentage of the overall municipal budget; however, I do not think the municipality should invest in 50 year plans or strategic plans unless there is specific benefits that cannot be achieved through our Legislated Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning by law.

There are no services that I would add or cut, however there may be more efficient delivery options for services such as building inspections, fire chief, by law enforcement and planning requirements.

Outsourcing is always an option for smaller Municipalities with smaller work loads.

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JIM SMITH (*running for council*)

The shared services is one good way to keep our taxes low and I would like to see us take that system integrate it within our already existing work force. One way or other way we can cut costs is by using the skills and expertise of the employees we already have and minimizing the outsourcing of some types of work.

**QUESTION 6: How can we ensure that our water access residents have access to good docking and parking?**

MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)

I think we have made substantial improvements to the parking and docking facilities at our municipal water access sites over the past 2 years but we should continue to monitor the situation closely.

MIKE KONOVAL (*running for mayor*)

In the past two years, we have spent over \$200,000 on our water access locations, and by September should have all of our improvements completed.

STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)

- welcome and consider suggestions to improve parking and docking for water access properties

SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)

We have done significant improvements to all of the water access facilities in the last four years, and the infrastructure should continue to be maintained. Almost all of the facilities were previously installed by the provincial / federal governments, and we were fortunate to inherit them. Annual evaluation is needed. Local commercial operations, which provide valuable service, need to be supported. The Township has the additional challenge of hundreds of visitors who also want access to Georgian Bay.

SID LARSON (*running for council*)

We have initiated a water access point committee that has provided some good recommendations to alleviate ‘user group’ **congestion** at the access points. These recommendation will be supported through the zoning by-laws, enforcement and monitoring. It has become necessary to ban a specific user group using the boat launching ramps and resident docks (i.e. Kayakers).

As for **parking**, some Municipalities no longer approve severances on specific water bodies unless there is deeded private parking space dedicated to the new title. (Carling is not there, yet.)

Where there is available property the sites are being expanded.

At Dillon it might be a possible to allow ‘resident only’ parking along one side of the road further away from the access point.

Also, residents occasionally park a small car in a site large enough to accommodate a vehicle with attached trailer. Soft worded signage might be appropriate.

Some residents are lending parking passes to non-residents that are not legitimate visitors to water access cottages. This is small part of the problem and difficult to identify and discourage.

**JIM SMITH** (*running for council*)

I would like to look at the creation of some long term parking areas for the use of our boat to residence providing more room for everyone.

**QUESTION 7: Our bylaws are only as good as their enforcement. How do you see our bylaws being enforced (e.g. parking, noise)?**

**MICHAEL GORDON** (*running for council*)

In addition to sharing our full-time ByLaw enforcement staff with another local Municipality (as described above), I would like to find a way to utilize part-time ByLaw enforcement personnel in the busy summer months, primarily focused on water access sites (parking and docking).

**MIKE KONOVAL** (*running for mayor*)

- Many of our by-laws are outdated and need to be reviewed. However, our present provider is doing a great job.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK** (*running for council*)

- bylaw enforcement appears to be acceptable

**SUSAN MURPHEY** (*running for council*)

There are a number of enforcement approaches, depending on the nature and severity of the situation. It is preferable to resolve complaints without the courts. Carling contracts with the Town of Parry Sound for by-law enforcement services and they have provided excellent service at a reasonable cost. Our staff plays an important role in receiving complaints, making initial contact with the parties and often resolving issues without the need to contact the Town. The noise by-law is enforced by complaint. Regular patrols are done for parking during the busy season. Carling has asked for increased OPP presence at times (traffic/speeding) and has also paid for extra OPP duty in specific situations.

**SID LARSON** (*running for council*)

By law enforcement everywhere has a history of becoming entangled in neighbor disputes that have little relevance to the original by law.

However, with a two pronged approach that includes individuals from the Fire Department, as well as outsourced serviced from the Town of Parry Sound or McDougall, we can achieve a higher caliber of enforcement where and when it is required.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

I do not feel we have enough by-law enforcement especially when it comes to noise violations and issues at our boat launches! Carling does not have enough parking for non-ratepayers and I feel it's something that need to be addressed. Right now we share by-law enforcement with Parry Sound which in my view is inadequate. I would like to take the money being sent to Parry Sound and use it in Carling to have an enforcement officer that can respond as soon as there is an issue.

**QUESTION 8: *How do you propose we maintain effective police and firefighting services in the face of the very large increase proposed by the OPP?***

**MICHAEL GORDON (*running for council*)**

- a. The cost of our fire department has grown substantially over the past 5 years (from \$265,000 to \$350,000) mostly due to growth in honorariums to volunteers. Sharing our Fire Chief can help offset costs in this area.
- b. The anticipated OPP cost increase is a difficult challenge. Council has joined with other local municipalities to examine the option of establishing our own police force as that seems to be our only alternative at this point.

**MIKE KONOVAL (*running for mayor*)**

Our present Fire Department is better trained and equipped than it has ever been, and provides an excellent service for all ratepayers. However, the OPP issue is a much greater concern. As a former police officer, having been employed by a small municipality, but working with OPP, I see the benefit of both forces. In my view, the best long range solution for this problem is to begin to develop our own West Parry Sound Department.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)**

- should be allowed to choose level of police services

**SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)**

All small / rural municipalities in Ontario are struggling with this question. We continue our lobbying efforts with the Province, and are engaging a consultant (jointly with other municipalities) to investigate the cost of a regional municipal force. The Township has no control over OPP cost (and no input into service levels) so there are no opportunities to reduce cost. The Township does establish service levels for emergency response, including firefighting services. At this time I believe an appropriate level of service is being provided at a reasonable cost. The Township is achieving revenue and has received training from the Coast Guard through a response partnership. The Department receives revenue from the Ministry of Transportation for response to motor vehicle accidents on provincial highways. This is another area for investigating service sharing with other municipalities, whether it be shared senior staff or development of a regional department. The real challenge for emergency response departments may be that it is increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers.

**SID LARSON (*running for council*)**

The majority of emergency responses originates from injury or illness and frequently involves water access properties. There is no reduction of this important service level on the horizon.

I don't expect any reduction in OPP funding formula. I am not in favor of a private police force at this point in time because I think it will be more costly for a lesser quality service.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

I feel we need to make a very strong argument to the provincial government about how this decision will adversely affect us smaller communities and the services we provide as well as looking at the facts that the crime rate in our area does not justify the rise in cost in policing. I also feel we should keep looking into the creation of a municipal police force between us smaller communities.

**QUESTION 9: *One area which our members feel could be improved is communications. What would you do to improve communications between Council and residents and between staff and residents?***

**GORDON MICHAEL (*running for council*)**

During this term we have made some substantial improvements in the website – including posting the entire meeting packages online. We are in the process of re-establishing an email list service that I think will help even further. We should continue to publish a newsletter at least once a year. These are all background items. The most critical aspect of communications is ensuring that Council and staff think through the appropriate communications around each issue/decision specifically and ensure we are raising awareness and seeking input prior to making important decisions.

**MIKE KONOVAL (*running for mayor*)**

- While I have a few ideas in mind, I would want to work with council, staff and ratepayers to develop a better communication system.

**STEVE CROOKSHANK (*running for council*)**

- mass e-mail list would keep interested people in the loop

**SUSAN MURPHEY (*running for council*)**

I lobbied long and hard for annual or semi-annual newsletters and for the "email list" to be reinstated. The newsletter is now a reality and the e-newsletter is pending - within the next few months. Communication is a two-way street and I encourage and welcome feedback. The current council has identified the need for a community based strategic plan, and I look forward to that process.

**SID LARSON (*running for council*)**

Council is open to any suggestions that will improve communications with any of its rate payers. Efforts have been made to keep the website simple for low speed internet users, provide RSS feeds, and newsletters. If you are aware of any Municipalities' that have other successful means of communications please let me know.

**JIM SMITH (*running for council*)**

No response

**WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
JULY 27, 2014 AT 10:00 AM, CARLING RECREATION HALL**

**President Jeremy Gawen** welcomed the approximately 45 members and guests present, including the directors of the WCA present. Marc Cooper, Vice President; Bruce Davidson, Past President; Murray Hogeboom, Treasurer; Sheila Tierney, Secretary; Alex Davidson: Bill Bialkowski, Newsletter; Dick Biggins, Ian Hunt, John Rohr, Christina Caap Regrets: David Shelley, Carolann Moisse

**Guests:** Mayor Gord Harrison, Carling Township Councillors Michael Gordon, Susan Murphy and Sid Larson and Mike Konoval. Candidate for Mayor: Mike Konoval. Candidates for Councillor: All the above councillors and Steve Crookshank, Jim Smith and Terry Gilbert

**Approval of Minutes of the AGM, July 28, 2013** Moved by Alex Davidson and seconded by **Bill Bialkowski** that the minutes of the July 28, 2013 AGM, be approved. Carried

**Approval of actions of the Board of Directors**

Moved by **John Rohr** and seconded by **Alex Davidson** 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

**President's Report: Jeremy Gawen** reported that Carling had accomplished many things this year. There were 3 OMB applications regarding the bylaw forbidding floating and lakefront boathouses. One application passed. One application was refused and one is ongoing. Docking and parking at water access points was improved. The noise bylaw was examined by three associations and a clause regarding unreasonable noise at any time was proposed. WCA is hopeful of a resolution.

**Water levels** are 15 inches above last year and 5 inches below long term average. The low water problem is not solved and **Jeremy Gawen and Bill Bialkowski** are both members of **Restore Our Water Internationally (ROWI)** a group which is lobbying both the Canadian and American governments to rectify issues in the St. Claire River. The US has authorized a study to do a study

of the issue but the Canadian government is doing nothing so far. The President announced that Ian Hunt is leaving the Board of Directors. He was thanked for his contribution to the work of the WCA.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Murray Hogeboom** presented the December 31, 2013 Financial Statements and Operating Budget for a 9 month period from March 31, 2013. Last year the year end was changed from March 31 to December 31 to simplify accounting. Expenses were up because in 2013 WCA paid GBA \$45 per member but only collected \$40 per member. Copies were made available. Moved by Ginny Merringer and seconded by Bruce Davidson that the Treasurer's report be approved.

**Membership Report:** **Marc Cooper** reported that membership was 123. Soon members will be able to update their information on the website.

**Lighthouse Report:** **Alex Davidson** reported that Carling Township has applied to have the Snug Harbour Lighthouse turned over to the municipality. There are many such applications before the Federal Government so it is not known when this will happen. In the meantime the WCA has formed a committee to make a proposal to the Township to manage the Lighthouse as a cultural, historical and environmental information venue for visitors in concert with other partners such as the Parry Sound Museum, Georgian Bay Land Trust, Georgian Bay Biosphere etc. The goal is to preserve the Lighthouse.

**Nominating Committee Report:** **Bruce Davidson.** Past president presented the slate. Bill Bialkowski, Dick Biggins, Christina Caap, Marc Cooper, Dr. Adrian Crowe, Bruce Davidson, Alex Davidson, Jeremy Gawen, Murray Hogeboom, Carolann Muise, John Rohr, David Shelley, Sheila Tierney, Nominations from the floor were called for 3 times. None were forthcoming. Moved by **Pat Dudas** and seconded by **Doug Brock** that nominations be closed and the slate be approved as presented. Carried.

**New Business:** **Jeremy Gawen** conducted the all candidates meeting. Candidates had been given a questionnaire to respond to before the meeting. Responses were received from Michael Gordon, Steve Crookshank and Susan Murphy.

**Mike Konoval** (present councillor and former mayor, unopposed at this time for mayor) addressed the meeting recounting the history of the Township and the effort to avoid amalgamation with The Archipelago which he sees a natural progression from the sharing of senior staff. He opposes the arrangement with The Archipelago which he sees as a loss of local control.

**Steve Crookshank** (former councillor defeated in last election running for councillor again) is against the sharing arrangement and wants a 50 year official plan , reconstruction of Hwy 559 with bike lanes and kayaking to crown land to be controlled by the Province.

**Susan Murphy** (former clerk, a councillor this term running for reelection) Seems to be against sharing as it is now, wants to seek other willing partners.

**Michael Gordon** (cottage, running for reelection after one term) He is for continuing the sharing set up because expertise is needed with complicated regulations and complex issues in running a municipality. He feels that clarity of direction to the CAO would solve any issues around loss of control. Protection of the natural environment, particularly shorelines is a major focus. Managing taxes is another goal. He feels that the Township has recovered from large capital projects and built up reserves so a tax increase over the cost of living index is not indicated in the next term.

**Terry Gilbert** (running for election for the first time) He is against the sharing of staff. He would like to see staff reports on line, a nurse practitioner in Carling , protection of the shoreline and is concerned that marinas will be sold for development and there will be few places to dock boats so Carling should consider buying property on the shoreline for docking.

**Sid Larson** (on council and running for reelection after one term) He is in favour of the sharing of staff.

**Jim Smith** (running for election for the first time) He is for continuing the sharing of staff. He is concerned about the environment, especially overuse of Franklin Island and would like to see Carling firefighters take an interest there.

**Gord Harrison** (present mayor running for councillor) He is for continuing the sharing arrangement and suggests we read the Winegard Report which is on the website. Any concern about the CAO not being on site all the time could be solved by designating a second in command. It has not been an issue so far.

**Jeremy** thanked the candidates for coming and sharing their views.

**New Business:** Jeremy announced that the firefighters would like seniors to notify Linda Gibson if they have disabilities or any special medical needs or live alone as a safety precaution.

**Adjournment:** Moved by **Ed Tierney**

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## **Who, When, Where and How to Vote in the Carling Township Municipal Election**

Information has been gleaned from [www.carlingtownship/voting](http://www.carlingtownship/voting)

**Who May Vote:** Owners of property and spouses or tenants who are 18 years of age and older, who reside in the municipality on voting day and are Canadian citizens. You will receive a Voter Instruction Letter with a PIN 3-5 days prior to the first voting day.

**When:** Election Day is Monday, October 27, 2014.

**Where:** Carling Township has opted for telephone or internet voting.

**How:** Voters will need 2 pieces of identification to vote.

1) A PIN, which will be mailed to you 3-5 days prior to the first voting day. If you do not get it you will be given a replacement PIN. Call Carling Township

2) Date of Birth

To ensure that Carling Township's records are complete and to avoid any issues receiving your PIN or casting your vote, contact the Township with names of eligible voters, addresses for each and date of birth for each.

**Phone:** 705 342 5856 ex 412 or ex 416

**Mail:** Township of Carling

Municipal Election

2 West Carling Bay Road

Nobel, P0G 1G0

**email:** [admin@carlingtownship.ca](mailto:admin@carlingtownship.ca)

**Internet Voting Demonstration** can be found at [www.carlingtownship/voting](http://www.carlingtownship/voting) ...internet voting demonstration

**School Support:** School Board support is found on your tax bill, under Assessment, Code RTS for Separate School Board supporter or RTP for Public School Board supporter

English Public School Supporter

English Separate School Supporter (Must be Roman Catholic or supporter or spouse of supporter of English Separate District School Board)

Candidates who have filed nomination papers are listed on the Carling Township website.

**We really urge everyone to vote as this is such an important election and voting is so easy!**

# **STOP THE DROP**

## **Wants to Keep it Deep.**

Both Lakes Huron and Michigan have water levels 34cm below their long-term average, while every other Great Lake is at or above theirs. We need your help to Stop the Drop and keep it deep.

**Great Lakes. Our Water**, is the non-profit organization behind Stop the Drop and other upcoming initiatives. **GLOW** is committed to helping individuals get involved with their communities to make a difference for their lakes.

Learn more and join us at [stopthedrop.ca](http://stopthedrop.ca)



**GLOW** GREAT LAKES OUR WATER