



WEST CARLING ASSOCIATION

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

Incorporated 1992

Georgian Bay Shoreline Concerns

SPRING/SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We have been worried about membership for some time, but the issue came to a head at the GBA President's Meeting when numbers for all of the Georgian Bay cottage associations (19) were listed from 1999 to 2015. Several associations have lost members over the years, some quite significantly. Unfortunately, West Carling was one of the worst performers, having lost about half our membership over the 16 year period – see table below:

1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015

288 275 195 258 244 246 208 174 138

As you can see, we are way down and we are really not sure why. We do note that our biggest drops seem to coincide with the GBA fee increases – in 2002 and 2012 - at least in 2002, then rebounded shortly after. Perhaps they will rebound next year!

The other point that we note is that the associations which have a central focal point like a club house or meeting place such as at Pointe au Baril or Cognashene, have not lost membership. They also have quite a lot of social events each year. We have no focal point and are one of the most widely spread out associations geographically on the Bay – which makes it more difficult to have social events.

We hope that when Carling is finally able to acquire the Snug Harbour Lighthouse, we might have such a focal point since WCA has been asked to manage it by Council and we have agreed. Unfortunately, the process with the Federal Government is very slow so we really don't know when this may happen.

Our membership appears strongest amongst the retired folk. We do not seem to be able to attract the younger generation.

We want to hear your thoughts, and ask that you visit our WCA website (<http://www.westcarling.com/>) and fill-in the interactive membership questionnaire. Another way is to call, write or email any member of the Board.

Finally, I would be extremely grateful if you would contact your neighbours at the cottage to ask them to join the WCA.

I wish you all a wonderful summer at the cottage – we should certainly have plenty of water; it's about 20 inches higher than this time last year so far fewer dinged props!

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Photo: Matt Murphy, Cognashene

Preserving our unique archipelago

www.gbtl.org

Our history goes back to 1921, and now an archive too

By Bill Bialkowski

Last year we discovered that both Sheila Tierney and Don Clement had kept neat piles of old newsletters squirreled away at their cottages. We have now scanned them all in and Marc Cooper our webmaster is working hard to make this archive accessible to you on our website (<http://www.westcarling.com/>). Our oldest document is from 1977, when we were still “The Carling Cottagers’ Association”, formed in 1921, but dormant by 1970. Along the way we also had the Carling Rate Payers Association and “SIPO”, the Shoreline and Island Property Owners. All had their own newsletters, and the copies we have are now all in the archive.

In 1977 the Georgian Bay Association proposed to government the formation of a new municipality on the eastern shore of Georgian Bay, predominantly populated by seasonal residents. This eventually became the Township of the Archipelago. It was this event that brought the Carling Cottagers’ Association out of hibernation in 1978, with Bill Davis of Sand Bay as President, and Dick Jolliffe, Marc Cooper’s Granddad, as Vice-President. In 1979, the name was changed to West Carling Association.

The intensity of the debate about the “Archipelago” was fierce, with many cottagers promoting that Carling become a part of this new municipality, while some permanent residents were fiercely opposed. The cartoon below dates back to this time.

When the archive becomes operational, you will be able to do searches, and find articles on topics such as: how to protect your cottage against lightning strikes; how the Sung Harbour speed sign got to be, the pine beetle infestation over the years, and the many fine articles by Bruce Davidson.



From: Jeremy Gawen, *West Carling Association President*

Re: GBA AGM/ Presidents' Meeting, March 27, 2015

Each spring, the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) holds its AGM which is really a meeting of its shareholders, the Presidents or representatives of each of the 26 Associations along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay, for which GBA is the umbrella group. I was particularly impressed with the amount of work that GBA is doing for us. Here are the highlights of the presentations made by the Chair, the Executive Director and each of the Committee chairs.

Chair

Sue Grundy stepped down at the meeting and was replaced by John McMullen for the next 2 years. Rupert Kindersley is the new Executive VP who will replace John in 2 years' time.

Executive Director

Bob Duncanson is the ED. We are very fortunate to have him as he does an excellent job and has some of the best political contacts. He mentioned 2 issues:

- GBA is working with the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) and MPAC to arrive at a fairer method for waterfront property assessment
- The wind farm proposed some 6 or 7 years ago by the Henvey Inlet First Nation band at the far north of the Bay is now looking as though it might be constructed. It is on a remote stretch of the Bay which will likely only be seen by boaters.

Water Levels

- Even though water levels have risen dramatically from their low point 2 years ago, GBA is still dedicated to action in the St Clair in the short term and, in the long term, to a more holistic approach encompassing all the Lakes because it still believes that Climate Change remains a major threat.
- The Mowatt Study published last year, attempted to quantify the effects of low water on Great Lakes economy. Phase II suggesting some solutions, is due June.
- The Council of the Great Lakes Region (CGLR) a new bi-national organization which sponsored the Mowatt study has organized a meeting in Chicago in June to bring together all the stakeholders for Great Lakes issues (See their website).



Water Quality

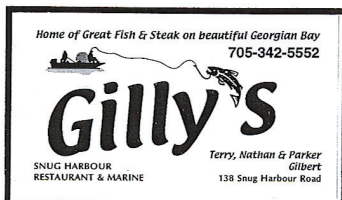
- Nutrient loadings in our lakes is finally back on the Governments' agenda, thanks to severe blue/green algal blooms on Lake Erie this last year, caused by too much phosphorus runoff. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture is preparing 'best practice' guidelines for farmers to prevent excessive runoff. Other sources are leaky septic systems at cottages, excessive use of dishwashers (dishwasher detergents include phosphorus while sink detergents do not) and grey water from boats.
- The Source Water Protection Act was approved in Ontario after the Walkerton disaster but its regulations were only implemented in Southern Ontario. The Government now wants to extend them to Northern Ontario.
- Currently, there is no standard approach to water quality testing up and down the Bay. Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) has been awarded a significant grant to review water testing procedures and recommend a standardized system.

Boating and Safety

- The Committee has become increasingly aware of problems between cottagers and boaters so has produced a short brochure on how to get along better, after consulting both cottage and boating associations. It will be in our next newsletter.
- The Committee is also working with the authorities to update rules about wake near shorelines. They are planning a short pamphlet on how to get a speed limit in place.
- They are working on new regulations for life jackets

Lands and Forests

- There are currently 3 major tree pests/diseases that may affect our cottage deciduous trees: the Asian Long horned Beetle attacks most deciduous trees, the Emerald Ash borer will likely kill nearly all our ash trees, and a fungal disease which is killing a lot of beech trees. There is really no cure for any of these at present.
- GBA is holding a seminar on the Phragmites infestations on the Bay on April 25 at Black Creek Village, with many experts present. There is room for 200 people and as of March 27, 151 have registered. If you're interested, please go to the GBA website.
- It is likely that Phragmites will be designated as an invasive species which would mean that a pesticide might be licensed to deal with it; none so far is licensed for a water application. Cutting it down to reduce its spread is not really effective; you really need to dig out the roots, which is a huge job. Interestingly, the higher water levels may result in some of the plants being drowned.



Fisheries

- The Committee has focused on stopping the spread of Open Net fish farms in Georgian Bay, as they dump untreated waste, including about 50 tons of phosphorus each year. They advocate only closed system farms which trap and treat the waste.
- Asian Carp: The US Army Corps of Engineers is charged with designing measures to prevent the spread of these predatory fish from the Mississippi river system into the Great Lakes, and reports that the fish have reached about 80 miles from Chicago but no further during the last 8 years – possibly because of the cold!

Communications

- Association members are encouraged to sign up for email updates (GBA website).

Membership

- The Committee is developing a brochure to show members what you are getting for your GBA membership.
- A number of associations have had significantly reduced membership which is of great concern. A number of initiatives are being considered to reverse this trend. WCA, in particular, has lost nearly 50% of its members since 2000; we will be looking to you to help us find out why and what we can do about it.

Other

- This July will be the 400th anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's first visit to the Bay by way of the Ottawa River. There are a number of Plaques around the Bay commemorating the 300th anniversary which will be re-dedicated in July this year.
- Next year, 2016, will be the 100th anniversary of the founding of GBA. A committee is to be struck to commemorate this event. A new logo is being designed.
- Hydro One will be eliminating the seasonal cottage rates as of Jan 1, 2016 and will replace them by an R2 rate which will increase the monthly fixed fee of \$28 to \$68 but reduce the variable rates. If you are a large user of hydro, your costs will likely go down; if a small user, the cost per month will likely go up from the current system.

I hope these notes have been both interesting and useful. If you want more detail on any issue, please go to the GBA website.

Jeremy Gawen

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Reminisces of a Second Generation Cottager

By Don Clement, Sand Bay

I'm the most recent addition to sit on the Board of Directors of the WCA, and I consider myself a second generation cottager here on this part of 'the Bay'. I suffer from what is known as a 'Windswept Pine Syndrome' and it all started before my memory as a 1-year old baby in 1948. Being born in July, I have celebrated every birthday of my life within ½ mile of where I now live permanently on 'the Bay'. My folks initially rented a cabin at Silver Birch Beach from Arnold & Jenny Davis (Bill & Mike Davis' parents). I have an old 'snap shot' of my first cousin, Stewart Laird and myself in a baby crib on the beach at Silver Birch Beach. My mom was a Parry Sounder, and her sister Maxine Laird (my Aunt Max) bought the small island (C-383) near Silver Birch Beach in 1948. The island was known as 'Laird's Landing' and my brother and I would spend the remainder of the summer with my three Laird cousins on the island. That ritual of summers on 'the Bay' with my cousins went on until 1954 when my folks went out and located the piece of property where I now live permanently. It was necessary to have the property surveyed, and my mom paid \$150 for the land and title. I watched our first cabin being built when I was seven, and my maternal grandfather came out from Parry Sound to help with the construction.

Since that time, I have seen many changes. I have come to have an intimate knowledge of this part of the township from Dillon Cove north to Shawanaga Bay. Using the West Parry Sound Geography Network, to establish the current lots, I've just confirmed by counting them out, that I have witnessed the construction of over 70 cottages and summer homes, just along that short stretch of shoreline from Dillon Cove up to Jolliffe's at the bottom of Shawanaga Bay. I've watched them all being built over the last six decades. There have been a lot of changes, but the windswept pines, the open exposed granite 'shield rock' and our wonderful 'Georgian Bay' have for most part remained unchanged. The appeal of this part of the world to me has done nothing but increase over the years. We are so very fortunate to have retained as much Crown Land that still exists, including the incredible 'Gem' called Franklin Island.

At the start, our family kept our boat at Captain Richmond's place (now Oak Ridge Cottages) on Sand Bay, and we pushed out from there in the dark on Friday nights to get to our 'camp'. My mom referred to our place as the 'cottage' and my dad called it 'camp'... he was a North Bay boy. It was necessary to travel through the channel we called 'the cut' at Lee Island (Connemara, C-378) and back then the old original 1913 buildings were still standing on the island. There was no hydro in NW Carling until 1957, and my brother and I would head back to Richmond's on Saturday morning to dig out a block of ice from the sawdust in their ice house for our icebox at the camp. We used 'Aladdin' lamps for lighting. We bought our boat gas from Sand Bay Camp and it was necessary to pump the gas up into a 5 gallon glass container using a hand lever on the side of the pump. The glass measuring container had marks for each quart and gallon, then we would fill our Army surplus 'Jerry' cans by gravity from the glass pump container. My dad bought a 14-ft Peterborough cedar strip 'Aqua flyer' with an Evinrude 'Fastwin' (15 hp) and it was considered 'state of art' model. Our family, with two or three other families would head

down to Killbear in a 'convoy' of boats for lake trout fishing and a shore lunch on the beach on the 'Big Sound'. This was before it became a provincial park in 1959, and we had to be careful because the beach was covered with poison ivy. The old hotel was still located on Adanac, (C-356) and operated by the Robinson family, who had bought it from the Haggarts. Adanac had an old 'Delco' power plant and in the evening my brother and I would go out and listen to 78 rpm records with the Robinson's and their guests. Old H.O. 'Chum' Marshall owned Jack Island (C-355) across from Adanac. 'Chum' would permit us kids to use his sauna at the end of his dock, as long as we left more wood on the pile than we burned. The old abandoned store at the bridge and rapids of the Shebeshekong was originally a going concern called 'Ramsay's Store'. Later on, it became my summer job at the Dillon General Store when I was 14, 15 & 16 years old.

This song ain't over yet for me! Right now, I'm looking out from my place over the ice towards Elmtree Island, waiting for break-up and get the boat in. Next, I will patiently wait for the Spring Peepers and Gray Tree Frogs to 'recharge' my batteries with their song and chorus like they have done each and every year of my life. I've been very fortunate... and I know it. I have a lifetime of memories with this part of the world. My sons know exactly where I wish my ashes to be dispersed... of course, only when my time comes. In the meantime, I'll be anticipating another season creating even more memories, just like all of the WCA Members creating their own precious memories up here on 'the Bay'. Enjoy it! I certainly intend to.



Don has kindly provided a few pictures from his childhood on 'The Bay':

L) Clement family at No. 6, Silver Birch Beach Camp - circa 1953

C) 'Donnie' Clement with 14-lb caught at Killbear - circa 1957

R) Don's father L.F. 'Bud' Clement with unknown Red Rock Lighthouse Keeper - circa 1952

Can anyone identify the name of the lighthouse keeper in 1952? Bruce Davidson has written about Adam Brown, but the website (http://www.whitesquall.com/pdf/red_rock.pdf) has Adam Brown retiring in 1937, so it is probably not Adam. Does anyone have photo of Adam Brown?