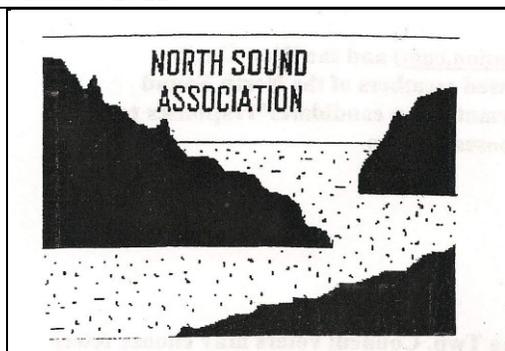


Summer 2012



## SUMMER 2012

The North Sounder is the newsletter of  
The North Sound Cottagers Association Inc.

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## THE NORTH SOUNDER

Welcome to another glorious summer which already promises to be a long hot one and I'm delighted to be heading north to cottage country once again. I'm also delighted to return as the Newsletter Editor and would like to thank Donny Kirby for taking care of the Editorial responsibilities for the past few issues and to thank Carol LaBlanc, our tireless Lake Steward (who does a fantastic job of monitoring our water) for contributing the following as our Guest Editor. Hope to see you on the Bay – have a fun and safe summer everyone.

Shari Cohen

## Welcome Back To the Bay

### Let's Get on the Water – Safely!

Each Weekend is cherished time on the bay.

During long weekends the number of boats on the water often outnumbers those of a normal weekend by a factor of 10! The converging wakes generated by the increased traffic from larger vessels can easily capsize smaller fishing boats, canoes and kayaks. Large wakes erode shoreline and can do damage to cottagers boats and docks.

While air temperatures can often be quite balmy, boaters need to remember the temperature of the water will vary. It's a good idea to wear or pack thermal protective clothing, wear a PFD and have the means to call for help.

Make sure to have sufficient personal floatation devices (PFDs) on board for everyone. And check them for proper fit, as well as broken zippers or buckles, split seams or excessive wear.

Alcohol accounts for approximately 40 per cent of all boating-related incidents and fatalities. By behaving responsibly on the water, ensuring you have the proper safety equipment aboard and limiting your alcohol consumption to after your arrive back at the dock, you can truly enjoy this upcoming summer.

## Let's Be Sure Our Water is Safe

**Remember that bottles are available at the local health unit and test your tap water as soon as possible. That is right beside Northern Reflections in the North Mall. You may pick up your bottles free from them and follow instructions and return to their fridge Monday – Thursday and call for results.**

### Welcome back to your septic system so don't forget

- Only wash full loads of dishes or laundry in machines or adjust water levels.
- When hand washing dishes don't let water run for rinsing use both sinks one for washing one for rinsing.
- Wash your produce in the sink or a pan that is partially filled with water instead of running water from the tap then use this water to water house plants.
- If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, then replace it with a water-efficient showerhead. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1000 gallons a month.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes, and hoses for leaks.
- Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl, you have a leak. It's easy to fix, and you can save more than 600 gallons a month
- Install low flush toilets
- If your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank to cut down on the amount of water used for each flush. Be sure these devices do not interfere with operating parts
- Turn off the water while you shave, brush teeth or lather hands.
- Soak your pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Designate one glass and tea/ coffee cup for your drinking water each day. This will cut down on the number of times you run your dishwasher.
- Insulate hot water pipes so you don't have to run as much water to get hot water to the faucet

### Remember

- Only your business and toilet paper in your toilets.
- No chemicals, paints, etc. down drains.
- Antibacterial soaps and bleaches are not good for your system as they kill off the bacteria necessary for a healthy septic.

### Tips for around the Yard

- Use porous materials for walkways and patios to keep water in your yard and prevent wasteful runoff

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- Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees, or collect and use for your garden.
- Group plants with the same watering needs together to get the most out of your watering time
- Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- Keep your landscape as natural as possible a natural shoreline is a healthy one

**Everyone have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM which will be held July 29<sup>th</sup> this year to avoid the long weekend. There will be a door prize offered for those in attendance. Wireless Weather Forecaster.**

## **UPDATES:**

### **Report FOCA AGM Donny Kirby**

The AGM of 2012 was a celebration of 50 years that Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations has been protecting sustainable waterfronts from Lake of the Woods to the Quebec Border. Executive Director Terry Rees outlined some of the earliest days of FOCA (some of which were hilarious) and was joined by Penny Caldwell of Cottage Life Magazine. They are celebrating the 25 years of publication.

After several years of working together with property owners and the Ontario Government there is new legislation under the Mineral Act which will change the way in which mining companies are allowed to stake out your property. You may not think that this applies in our area, but at any time in the future there is deposit or ore found nearby you can bet the stakeholders will descent like a plague of locusts.

There was an update on Fire and Carbon Monoxide legislation. Many of us think that one smoke detector (be it an antique) is all the protection we require to keep us safe at the cottage. I learned that Smoke Alarms must be replaced every 10 years and carbon monoxide detectors every 5 to 7 years. How old are yours???? Do you even have them installed???? Take a look on our website for further information. Better still sign up with FOCA for E Alerts.

Toronto Zoo is looking for people to count and track the many varieties of frogs and turtles that are found around our properties.

Remember to watch on line for the FOCA Fall Seminar and take a look at their website [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca).

### **Report on Stewardship Program**

In the winter issue of the North Sounder I wrote about the different kinds of stewardship we, as cottagers in Carling Township, are involved with on a personal level.

In this issue I am updating you on the Stewardship Program in Carling Township. This is the sixth season for this very successful program. Its purpose is to protect the Crown Land and water of our beloved Carling Bay. We do this by gently educating campers about responsible camping practices, namely to maintain or improve water quality, to be careful with fire, to use the latrines responsibly and to leave the site more tidy than they found it. Unlike camping in Provincial Parks there are no permits, reservations, fees or garbage pickup.

Most of you know that there have been cutbacks in government funding in the past few months. The Stewardship Program has been reduced as well. The good news is that the program is continuing!! The township has hired two new stewards, Linda Woodard, a resident of Carling who knows the islands well, and Miranda Leinbach, a student, whose family has a cottage on Deep Bay. Their work week will be 3

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days-Friday and Monday on Franklin Island and Saturday on Huckleberry. The Stewards will begin their work on June 19 and finish on Sept 3. Because their start date coincides with the beginning of the main camping season they will not have a chance to clean the sites before the season starts. If your cottage is close to a campsite it would be really helpful if you could tidy it as long as it is unoccupied.

Because it has been so dry FIRE is a great danger. There is already a fire ban in Carling Township but it does not include fires for cooking or warmth. If you are checking on an unoccupied site please be sure the fire is truly out. Take a bucket with you. Be aware of the danger of fire on your own property as well as on Crown Land Campsites.

Please act to ensure that Carling Township continues to be "the Jewel of the Sound". If you encounter campers or hikers on your travels respect their space but if appropriate engage them in friendly conversation about Georgian Bay and the fact that the special qualities of the area have been recognized by the United Nations and are unique.

When you are going for a hike, tuck a supermarket bag in your pocket for any garbage you find. Whether campers or hikers, people who find an area tidy are more likely to leave it that way.

I wish you all a gorgeous Georgian Bay Summer!

Helen Wellnhofer  
Stewardship Liaison  
North Sound Association

## NOTICES

### **NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

JULY 29, 2012, 8:30 – 12:00 NOON,

CARLING BAY RECREATION HALL HIGHWAY 559

A DOOR PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN AWAY TO ONE OF OUR LUCKY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

COFFEE AND MUFFINS WILL BE SERVED

PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE CHANGED THE WEEKEND OF OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE MEMBERS HAVING GUESTS ON THE CIVIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND. SO PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

### **REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE.**

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE PAID ON THE CALENDAR YEAR AND YOUR \$40.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE IS NOW DUE. YOU CAN EITHER MAKE YOUR PAYMENT AT THE AGM OR MAIL YOUR PAYMENT TO: TREASURER CRAIG WAITE C/O HIGH WINDS, 3825 9<sup>TH</sup> LINE NORTH, R.R. #4, COLDWATER, ON L0K 1E0. IF YOU ARE PAYING BY CHEQUE PLEASE MAKE YOUR FEE PAYABLE TO THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.