

THE NORTH SOUNDER

EDITOR'S NOTE

WINTER 2014

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

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www.northsoundassociation.com/

By now everyone must be wondering will this winter ever end? With this endless winter thoughts of cottage country seem a distant memory, but hopefully soon we'll all be heading back to Georgian Bay. And with our return will come reflection on changes that have taken place during our winter away; changes to the natural environment after this harsh winter and perhaps changes due to new development. We would all love for our little piece of paradise to remain unchanged, but change is inevitable. As a wise man once told me, just because change is inevitable doesn't mean it has to go unchecked. A careful and measured approach to development can maintain a balance of interests for all stakeholders. As a rate payers association, the NSA remains a vigilant observer of local issues and a voice at the table when it comes to changes to land use and development challenges facing Carling Township and the Georgian Bay watershed. Unfortunately, the NSA is currently undergoing its own challenges. We need more active members and people who are willing to become part of our Executive Committee. There is no question that the cottage is the place we go to forget about the stresses of our work week and becoming involved in local issues isn't the first thing we all think about on the dock. But our continuous enjoyment of this unique environment comes with the responsibility of stewardship to preserve and protect this space for future generations. About ten years ago my father asked me to join the NSA Executive. I have to say that honestly I was reluctant at first – it seemed such a bother. But I did recognize as the next generation, stewardship would eventually become my inheritance along with the cottage itself. The truth is, becoming involved doesn't take much time during the summer or throughout the year and

has given me a greater appreciation for Georgian Bay and how I can make my contribution. This year I encourage you – better yet, I challenge you - to bring onboard one new member to the NSA, or to volunteer as part of the Executive. If you have children consider encouraging them to become involved. If you have new cottage neighbours consider asking them to join our organization. If you are concerned about changes to the area, consider becoming a member of the Executive Team. We embrace all new ideas and voices.

NSA Goes Digital

This is a reminder that the North Sound Association has now created its own website www.northsoundassociation.com where we post regular updates on local issues and a digital copy of each issue of North Sounder Newsletter. We invite all our members to check out the site and let us know what you think. The website is for and about all NSA members. What other things would you like our website to contain? If you have comments or would like to contribute anything, please contact Newsletter Editor, Shari Cohen by email at scohen2959@hotmail.com. We also ask you to consider the idea of replacing the hard copy mailed out Newsletter with an online digital version only. What are your thoughts on this?

Shari Cohen, North Sounder Newsletter Editor

UPDATES:

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION ON WATER LEVELS IN THE GREAT LAKES

The North Sound remains a member of the Georgian Bay Association. The GBA is an umbrella group of 20 cottage associations that works to ensure the careful stewardship of the Georgian Bay environment. In 2012 an International Joint Commission was set up to study water levels in the Great Lakes and in 2013 the study with recommendations was sent to the Canadian and US governments. At that time the GBA insisted water levels must be returned to an historic healthy range. In the absence of any Canada-US agreement on what constitutes healthy levels, the GBA recommended using the 1993 Water Levels Reference Study that identified a low and high crisis level for the Middle Great Lakes. Using that study index Georgian Bay is currently 16 inches below what is considered a low crisis water level. Seven months have passed since the IJA sent its recommendations and what was a promising step forwards in establishing a water level agreement appears to have been sidetracked by other political events. The GBA continues to press for action, but has also appealed to its member associations to assist by reminding the government of this issue and to take action. If you would like to take part in this campaign, you are urged to send a letter or email to your Member of Parliament or Congress. A letter from the GBA to Ministers Baird and Clement with a cc to Ministers Aglukkaq (Environment) and Raitt (Transport) is posted on the North Sound Association website www.northsoundassociation.com. Email addresses for elected officials in both countries can be found through sources posted on the GBA website www.georgianbayassociation.com (under the Water – Political Action Plan tab).

“STOP THE DROP” CAMPAIGN

Many of you may remember the highway signs last summer for the Stop the Drop campaign inviting people to contact their local MP regarding water levels. Since then, 24 MPs from across Southern Ontario have been contacted and apprised of growing concern among constituents. Eight of the MPs took it upon themselves to read the IJC report in preparation for a meeting with Stop the Drop organizers. All MPs were genuinely interested to learn more, and wanted to know how they could help their constituents and have agreed to follow up with actions. That's our collective voices in action. If you are interested in voicing your concern, Stop the Drop has offered the following points when contacting your Member of Parliament:

1. Ask MP to call you back personally. Mention you're a constituent. MPs respond to constituent calls above all else.
2. When they call, tell them in your own words how you use your Lake, why you care so much, and what worries you. Don't be shy about sharing your feelings.
3. Ask if they're getting briefed by Stop the Drop. Your MP needs to see you notice their efforts to learn.
4. If true, make clear you want a Government plan to address future extreme water levels on your Lake. Ask your MP what they'll do to help this to happen.
5. Email us at fred@stopthedrop.ca to let us know you made the call. If your MP makes a commitment to you, tell us what it was so we can keep track of it.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

Submitted by Helen Wellnhofer, Stewardship Liaison

Summer 2013 was another good one for the Stewardship Program. The Stewards were well received by campers. There continue to be some problems with campers leaving cans and broken glass in the fire rings.

Funding for the program continues to be a large issue. I know of no other municipality which runs such a program. In 2013 the cost of this program was about \$13,300. Donations from Georgian Bay Land Trust (\$1000), West Carling Association (\$1000) and North Sound Association (\$1500) left Carling Township's share at \$9800. Tim Dyer of White Squall, has also contributed by donating his staff periodically to assist. There is no funding from any level of the Provincial Government even though Crown Lands are a provincial responsibility. All attempts to get funding from the Province of Ontario have so far been denied. Without the Stewardship Program the islands and campsites would gradually become degraded. Most concerning is that the danger of fires could increase. Every year the Stewards find campsites with fires still burning after the campers have gone. Tim Dyer reports that his crew found 2 sites last summer where campfires had escaped the fire rings. In one case the fire had spread to tree roots. Had they not discovered the fires, there could have been great damage. The fire danger is ever present!! With governmental funding for the Stewardship Program gone, Tim Dyer is now seeking private donations to continue the project. You can contact White Squall directly through their website <http://www.whitesquall.com/> or by phone at 705-342-5324.

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If you meet Mayor Harrison or any of the Councillors please let them know that we appreciate their efforts in keeping Carling pristine and safe. Also thank the Stewards for their efforts.

QUESTION OF A CAMPFIRE BAN?

There is currently a discussion among a number of groups about having a voluntary ban on campfires on campsites. This is common in areas with high canoe and kayak use and also in areas where trees have been destroyed for campfires. Tim Dyer of White Squall is one of the people behind the project. As Tim says "Save the trees and see the stars!!" Groups which are already on board with this project are the East Georgian Bay Stewardship Council, The Georgian Bay Land Trust, the Great Lakes Sea Kayak Assoc. and the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. It is hoped that this voluntary ban will help people realize that roaring fires are not a requirement for a satisfying camping experience.

NOTICES:

NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday July 20th, 2014

9:00 am

Carling Community Centre Recreation Hall

Highway 559

(NOTE – the NSA - AGM Meetings will be held on the Sunday two weeks prior to the August long weekend)

GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 29, 2014

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Spring Cottage Life Show

Airport Rd South Of Derry Rd

Mississauga, ON L4V

Canada

SUMMER STUDENT Ontario Parks Employment 2014

Know a student between the ages of 16 – 25 seeking summer employment?

Visit the Cottage News and Articles page of the North Sound Association website at www.northsoundassociation.com to learn more about the Ontario Parks employment opportunities.

Applications are being received by Ontario Parks between March 26 – April 6, 2014.

Carling Township Municipal Election Day - Monday, October 27, 2014

Nomination Period -January 2, 2014-September 12, 2014

Ontario municipal elections will be taking place this coming autumn. Nominations are now open for four Councillors for Carling Township. Nominations may be filed by candidates with the

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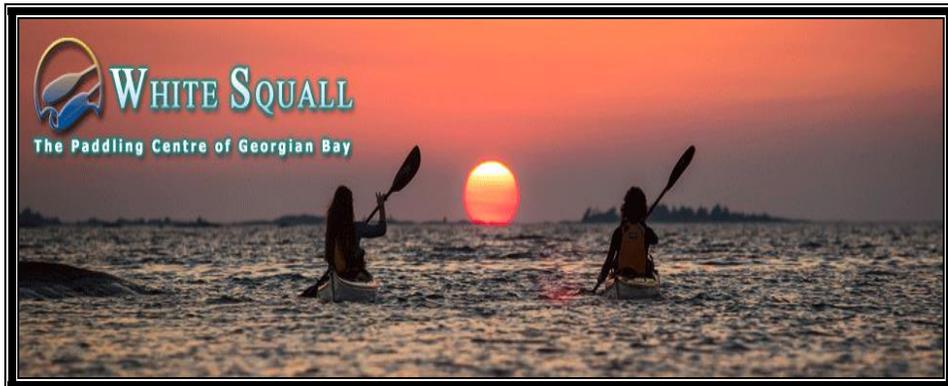
Clerk prior to Nomination Day, Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm, excluding statutory holidays, from Thursday, January 2, 2014 to Thursday, September 11, 2014.

On Nomination Day (Friday, September 12, 2014), nominations may only be filed with the Clerk between the hours of 8:00am to 2:00pm.

JOE MACLEAN MEMORIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

The NSA created the **North Sound Association / Joe MacLean Memorial Environmental Award**, to recognize an NSA member for his or her efforts to promote sustainability and environmental responsibility at the cottage. The NSA Executive would like your help selecting a worthy recipient for this year's award. Nomination can be submitted to any NSA Director or Executive Member.

WE THANK LOCAL BUSINESS FOR THEIR ONGOING SUPPORT:



EL GORDO COTTAGE SERVICES

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elgordocs@gmail.com

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**THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION
YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE**

Membership in the North Sound Association is based on the calendar year. The Association hopes that you will pay now, to avoid the line-ups that usually occur at the Annual Meeting. **If you have already paid for 2014, please keep this application to pass on to a neighbour, or a new cottager who is not now a member.** If you are paying for Auxiliary Members don't forget to include the \$10.00 per member with your fees.

Make sure your address is correct. Also we would appreciate a telephone number if you have a cottage phone, and a winter number where you can be reached. **If any information has changed please advise us. If there has been a change of ownership of your property, we would appreciate receiving this information with the name of the new owner, if possible. Please print clearly, so there is no error in your information.**

New_____

Renewal_____

NAME_____

COTTAGE LOCATION_____

WINTER ADDRESS_____

PHONE WINTER_____ PHONE SUMMER_____

E.MAIL ADDRESS_____ FAX NUMBER_____

I understand that the information I have given will appear on the North Sound Association Membership List. Please initial _____

Mail this form with your **\$40.00 Membership Fee payable to the North Sound Association and forwarded to:**

Treasurer Craig Waite, 3825 9th Line North, R.R. #4, Coldwater, ON L0K 1E0

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name of Full Member _____

Cottage Location _____

Auxiliary Member _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Additional Auxiliary Member _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Additional Auxiliary Member _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

The fee for each Auxiliary Membership is \$10.00 each per year, applicable when one family member pays full membership of \$40.00. Each applicant will be put on our mailing list to receive our Newsletters and will have a vote at the Annual General Meeting on Civic Holiday Weekend.

**Cheques are payable to the North Sound Association and forwarded to
Treasurer Craig Waite, 3825 9th Line North, R.R. #4, Coldwater, ON L0K 1E0**