

The North Sounder

Summer 2014

North Sound Cottagers Association Inc. www.northsoundassociation.com

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NSA - AGM

JULY 20, 2014

Don't miss it!

Come and hear all the current news and updates that affect your cottage life from our own Mayor – Gord Harrison and from Colin Dobell, President of "StoptheDrop".ca

Come to the 2014 AGM and be eligible to win our Door Prize – Three years of free membership in the NSA – a value of \$120!

Editor's Message

Welcome to SUMMER 2014. We're off to a wonderful start with great weather and I'm sure you're all enjoying higher water levels as well. This is certainly something to rejoice but we shouldn't become complacent simply because this season it's easier to dock the boat. Water levels are only one concern facing our part of Georgian Bay. Extension of the 400 highway to Parry Sound has opened the area to faster and easier access making the area more available, increasing demand and creating more development. As the area grows, changes are causing new stresses on water quality, usage and the overall nature of the local environment. The North Sound Association was initially formed to give seasonal residents a voice in respect to local development issues. Over the years NSA has:

- Represented its members at public information sessions, Council meetings and OMDC hearings;
- Assisted in drafting the new Carling Township Official Plan;
- Participating as a partner in the Water Stewardship Program;
- Becoming members in the Georgian Bay Association (GBA)
- During the last municipal election, in concert with other rate payer associations, the NSA conducted an interview survey of the local candidates and provided NSA members with the survey results;

These are but a few of the many things the NSA has become involved with on behalf of its members. But like the area itself the Association is currently undergoing stress. In the last newsletter I made a plea for members to become more involved and consider volunteering as a director on the Executive. Thanks to those who responded. This newsletter I'm asking you to consider the continued relevance of the NSA as an organization. Our situation is more critical than just needing new Executive Directors, we are also losing members and consequently the membership fees that allow us to continue to do the work we do. If you have an opinion about the future of the NSA, come to Annual General Meeting where this issue will be openly discussed. As an added incentive everyone attending the AGM will be eligible to win a Door Prize – Three years of free membership in the NSA – a value of \$120! If you are unable to attend the AGM but would like to raise your opinion about the future of the NSA or have questions about volunteering on the Executive, feel free to send an email with your thoughts to the North Sounder Editor, Shari Cohen at scohen2959@hotmail.com. Thank you.

UPDATES

Municipal Elections 2014 - Shari Cohen

Ontario municipal elections will be taking place this coming autumn. As cottage owners it is important to become aware of how Carling Township is being managed and developed. Stresses related to water levels, water quality, increasing development and changing land use are challenges facing residents of Carling and cottagers alike. With our elected officers we can work together to manage this wonderful landscape, to preserve and protect it with a balanced approach for all competing interests and needs. The North Sound Association is a voice at the table representing the concerns of seasonal residents in respect of local issues. To ensure the NSA continues to be heard, we need to participate in the local election and vote in favour of Counsellors who welcome our voice, listen to our concerns and integrate our recommendations.

For the 2014 Municipal Election the Township of Carling will be using Internet and Telephone Voting. This is a great opportunity for seasonal residents to participate in the election and I urge you to take advantage. When you go to vote by internet or phone you will need two pieces of ID: your date of birth and a pin number that will be mailed to you by the Township. To ensure you receive a pin number all eligible voters are asked to send your name, address and date of birth to the Township to ensure records are complete and your pin number is sent to the correct address. You can send your information by:

1. Email: admin@carlingtownship.ca
2. Phone: 705-342-5856 ext. 412 or ext. 416
3. Or mail to: Township of Carling, Municipal Election2 West Carling Bay Rd, Nobel, ON P0G 1G0

For more information on the upcoming election, please check the Carling Township website at www.carlingtownship.ca.

BOATHOUSES IN CARLING TOWNSHIP REPORT - Brigitte Nowak

When Carling Township adopted its revised Official Plan in 2008 (approved and implemented in 2011), one of the considerations omitted was the necessity to address the issue of boathouses. This was rectified in January, 2013, when, following public consultation, Carling passed an Official Plan Amendment prohibiting boathouses and boatports (previously, property owners could apply for a zoning amendment to obtain permission for boathouse construction.)

Several residents appealed this amendment, and, on April 30, 2014, the issue came before the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

The majority of ratepayers' associations in Carling Township were represented at the hearing, and all spoke in support of Carling Township's boathouse prohibition. Representing North Sound Association, both Charles Cohen and Brigitte Nowak spoke in support of the boathouse ban, on the grounds that boathouses significantly change the character of the shoreline, the natural environment, and interfere with Carling Township's unique waterfront, and the designation of the area as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. John Jackson also addressed the Board, in his capacity as Township planner, noting that due to fluctuating water levels, fixed boathouses do not effectively serve their purpose, and floating boathouses interfere with the semi-wilderness nature of Carling Township. Given that the ice had just gone out, Mr. Jackson took the opportunity to travel to Muskoka, and, as part of his presentation, showed images of Muskoka boathouses (some of which look like small floating castles and mansionettes, with living areas as well as boat storage facilities.)

Once the Ontario Municipal Board has made its decision, its findings will be published on the NSA website

UPDATES

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION REPORT – Donny Kirby

Those of you who live out of province may not know that Ontario recently had an election. The result was to give the sitting party a majority mandate which they did not have previously. Many proposals that were put forward before the election have been on hold and will no doubt now be revived.

FOCA Executive Director, Terry Reese, met with the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding the proposal to transfer the cost of policing in Ontario to the Municipalities. The result of this would be to increase taxes to residents considerably for this essential service. Many individuals and municipalities wrote letters of protest to the Premier and to the Ministry concerned -- perhaps you were one of them. The result is that this proposal is again under revision. FOCA will be keeping an eye on this one.



Hydro rates for those who are connected have increased over the years. Hydro One has put forth a trial balloon which would eliminate the current Seasonal Rate Class. FOCA is on top of this one as it will affect rates for seasonal residents on the grid.

Another concern is revisions that will come into effect in 2016 to the Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act. FOCA with its legal partners Borden Ladner Gervais is watching this carefully as it will affect many organizations that are incorporated -- and that includes NSA.

To keep up with what cottage concerns are across Ontario, I urge you to get on the list to receive E Alerts. Contact FOCA at communications@foca.on.ca. You can still receive the FOCA Year in review for 2013. This will tell you all that FOCA is involved in on our behalf across the province.

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM REPORT – Helen Wellnhofer, Stewardship Program Liaison

I am pleased to report that Carling Township has hired two Stewards again this summer. Mathieu Henry is a resident of Parry Sound and Griffin Fitzhenry is a cottager from Blind Bay.

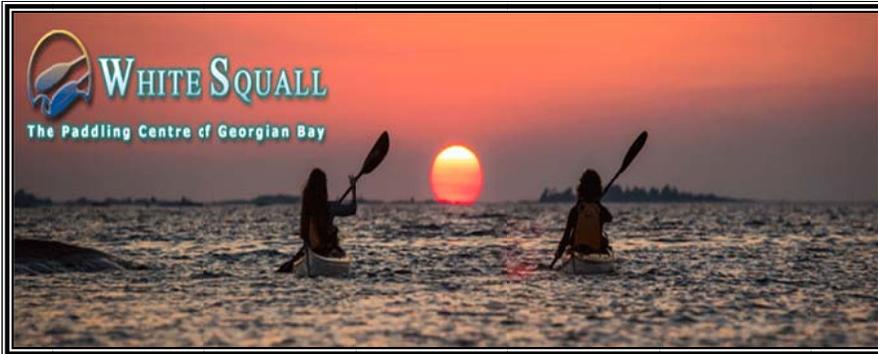
Both young men will be starting university in September, Mathieu at UBC and Griffin at Queen's. They are working in the Franklin and Huckleberry/Wall Island areas 3 days per week, Friday, Saturday and Monday. Although they do not work on Sunday we hope they will be able to attend our Annual General Meeting and provide us with a report on their work so far.

Joe Ryman, their supervisor, will attend the meeting on July 20 at the Carling Recreation Centre at 9:00AM and will provide an update on the program.

Thanks to all for organizing this program and for coming to speak to us at the AGM. It is a unique privilege that we have the Stewardship Program, as far as I know it's the only Stewardship program of this type, sponsored jointly by Cottagers' Associations and the Municipality. Let's continue to support this program by welcoming the stewards to our area, supporting the program with our donations and thanking Council for their vision in protecting our wonderful resource of Georgian Bay.

OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS

THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESS



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NOTICES

NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday July 20th, 9am – Coffee & Registration, 9:30 – 11am AGM
Carling Community Centre Recreation Hall, Hwy #559

STOP THE DROP

Coming to the North Sound Association (NSA) AGM on Sunday July 20th.
Don't Miss It – Important information about our water levels and the phragmites invasion of Lake Huron and possibly Georgian Bay!

We are encouraging all our members to register with www.Stopthedrop.ca so our voices can be heard!

REMINDER – YOUR 2014 MEMBERSHIP FEE IS DUE NOW

If you have already paid your annual membership fee, thank you. If not, you can pay now or you can pay at the AGM. Your membership is \$40.00 payable to the North Sound Association and if paying now, please mail it to NSA Treasurer, Craig Waite, 3825 9th Line North, RR#4, Coldwater, Ontario. L0K 1E0