



The North Sounder

Winter 2015

North Sound Cottagers Association Inc. www.northsoundassociation.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Editor's Message
- 2 Updates
- 3 Our Community Sponsors
- 4 Notices

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NSA - AGM

JULY 19, 2015

Sunday July 19th,
9am - Coffee &
Registration,
9:30 - 11am AGM
Carling Community
Centre Recreation Hall,
Hwy #559

Editor's Message

THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ~ OUR STORY

Mary-Lou Armour

Here is a bit of our history -- In July of 1977, four couples (the Rows - Muriel Island, the McCoppins - Inez Island, the Hunters - Passage Island and the Kirby's - Ball Island) came together to discuss a proposal for cottage lot development on Horse Island. After looking over the plans, it was determined that some of the proposed sites would be difficult to build on. Further, because there was considerable vacant land in the immediate area and no visible regulations in place to determine how it would be developed, it was time for an association to address such issues.

Over the next week, the men got into their boats and personally went to call on every cottage in the area where they could find someone in residence. The next weekend thirty enthusiastic cottagers met in Rowe's cabin on Muriel Island. We talked of mutual concerns -- decided we really did need an association, named it, appointed an executive and we were up and running.

The late Russell Stackhouse from Goat Island set us on a path of expansion and success over the next year. Being in business for himself he made available all his facilities to canvass area residents by mail in a membership drive.

Meanwhile we still had Horse Island to deal with and we required legal assistance. Jerry Frank from Bar Island had a friend whose brother who had a cottage on Deep Bay. We were introduced to our lawyer Charles Cohen, who over the years continues to contribute his expertise in dealing with land development and the official plan. Jerry Frank was also responsible for our logo design which appears on this letterhead.

We went to the Municipal Board on the Horse Island Development. However, we knew that matters were too far progressed for us to have much of an impact. We gained experience and got some minor concessions.

The next year was very busy. We discovered that in order to appear before government bodies we had to become incorporated. Keith Rowe undertook to write our constitution and see us through the incorporation. We officially became the North Sound Cottagers Association Inc. -- "cottagers" because the incorporation process insisted that we define who we were. Our Constitution states that any resident of the North Sound area as defined by Huckleberry Island to Kilbear may become a member and we are proud that as members we have a good percentage of Township permanent residents who make a substantial contribution to our Association.

THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ~ OUR STORY

One of our first acts was to join the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations, the largest ratepayer group in the province. In 1997 we were very proud to be the first recipients of the Jerry Strickland Award for our work in developing and assisting to bring about an Official Plan in Carling Township. This plan enshrines minimum lot sizes, frontages and set-backs for any new development in the area. Our President and our solicitor receive information on any proposed development, severance or variance in the Township and we have an opportunity to comment. Our plaque hangs in the Carling Township Office.

North Sound joins with West Carling Association and Pengally Bay Ratepayers in jointly disseminating information about the municipal election. FOCA was instrumental in obtaining for all seasonal residents the right to a mail-in or phone-in vote. Carling Township was very quick to make the mail-in vote available to all its residents. We have worked hard to encourage all residents to take advantage of the process.

Our Association formed a Land Use Committee - (Don Forgie – Huckleberry Island, Joanna McEwen - Wall Island, Guenther Wellnhofer - Huckleberry Island and Jack Shenton - Loon Bay) Their contribution to where we are today in our relationship with Township Council is immeasurable. There was continued pressure to develop land on Alves Point and together with planning consultants Skelton Brumwell in Orillia our Land Use Committee worked successfully with the developers.

We also met the challenge of a proposed hazardous waste disposal plant in the Industrial Park which is just north of Highway 559 on Highway 69. When the Provincial Government would not guarantee continued inspection of the facility, nor could they say for sure that the burning of dangerous medical waste would not damage the environment, the plan was scrapped. Our Association received from the then Provincial Government Minister Ruth Greer, a letter expressing gratitude for our contribution, and a new area plan was drawn up for the province.

From your fees, our Association financially supports Township and Parry Sound institutions, with our donations on your behalf to Carling Township Fire Department, Township recreational activities, West Parry Sound Regional Hospital and the Museum on Tower Hill, just to name a few.

Through our non-confrontational position with developers, we are consulted on major development projects within our area. More often than not, you will find a North Sound Association member sitting on a Township Committee. Our Association keeps on top of Township developments in a constructive way. Although we are not able to solve every problem for every ratepayer, we do make a difference. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have supported our association with their continuing membership, their generously given time and their input.

No history of our Association would be complete without a "tip of the hat" to Carling Township Council - past and present, and a very big "thank you" to Carling Township Office staff. The Township makes available to us at no charge, the Carling Recreation Centre for our Annual Meeting which is held on the third Sunday morning in July. Building together has been and will continue to be a learning experience for us all.

THE NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ~ OUR STORY

Editor's Note - Shari Cohen

Having provided this brief history of the NSA, it is important for our members to know that the NSA is now facing some difficult questions. The purposes of the NSA has always been to keep members/residents informed, to discuss potential actions for and against local land change issues and to be able to act when needed in response to issues that impact land ownership in the area. As you can see we have done some good work in the past. These issues over the years have included such things as:

- Property development and Ontario Municipal Board Hearings
- Carling Township's Official Plan
- Water quality and levels
- Septic Inspection
- Candidates' positions during election years
- Infestations of insects that destroy our trees
- We have supported our members by:
 - Maintaining a website to keep our members informed.
 - Distributing a newsletter at least twice a year to keep our members informed year round
 - Reaching out to community sponsors to support the association through their ads to help defer the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter.
 - Sending directors to other cottage association meetings such as FOCA and the GBA in order to better inform our members
 - Organizing and delivering the Annual General Meeting where members can attend and receive information and connect with other NSA members
 - Supporting our community through donations to services we as residents appreciate and require, the hospital, the fire department and the stewardship programme.
 - Attending various township meetings and zoning/by-law hearings to ensure the members best interests are present and our concerns heard

In order to do this work on behalf of our membership, the organization requires volunteers as directors and corporate officers. Interestingly the slate of directors has changed little since the organization was established. The same people meet in the Fall and Spring in order to clarify current issues and determine what, if any, action the association needs to take. We have tried to arrange for succession planning, but now find ourselves in a difficult situation. Our executive has worked very hard over many years but they have done their time. All our current directors have had their turn and we are running out of options to renew our executive appointments. We are extremely grateful to have had great volunteers over the years but our numbers are dwindling. Currently we are operating without a President or Vice President. Our Executive Secretary, Anne Wellenhofer, who has done a wonderful job for a many years is about to step down. Craig Waite, who has done a tireless job of acting as the NSA Treasurer for more years than I can remember, is also ready to hand over his responsibilities to someone new.

We urge our members to attend this years' AMG to discuss the future of the NSA and perhaps be prepared to step up and become an active member of our Executive team. It doesn't require much work – but the value that we can achieve together is immeasurable in preserving our enjoyment and stewardship of our portion of Georgian Bay.

UPDATES

WATCH OUT FOR THE HEMLOCK LOOPER – Janice Wade

They're back! Some of you may recall this nasty pest and the damage to our hemlock trees in 2001 and 2002. This infestation resulted in the loss of many beautiful, mature hemlocks on Mowat, Green, Wigwas and other islands in the area.

The hemlock looper is often first noticed during its adult moth stage in the fall and was identified last year on Mowat Island. Eggs are laid in the fall and hatch in late May or early June and the young larvae begin their feast. They have also been recorded causing damage to other trees including the eastern white pine and white spruce. The Township of the Archipelago website provides excellent information on the hemlock looper and its possible control at thearchipelago.on.ca in their environment section under forest pests.

What can we do? Watch for defoliation and larvae in the spring and consider possible controls if warranted. The last infestation was so severe aerial spraying was used by some islands. The Ministry Forest Entomologist and Carling Township were alerted about the infestation on Mowat Island in September 2014.

NOTICES

NORTH SOUND ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday July 19th, 9am – Coffee & Registration, 9:30 – 11am AGM
Carling Community Centre Recreation Hall, Hwy #559

REMINDER – YOUR 2015 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

OUR COMMUNITY SPONSORS

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



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