

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 56

Fall/Winter 2020/21

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Cowley, Carusoe Bay

This has been a difficult year for all of us, enduring and adapting to all the ramifications of a global pandemic.

Governments at all levels have been challenged to stay ahead of this grave situation and guide us safely through it. As stressful as this is for governments, other major problems cannot be put on hold.

Our record high water levels continue to cause billions of dollars in damage to shoreline properties and the tourism economy. Our government in Tiny is to be commended for passing a resolution demanding provincial and federal action. However, the provincial and federal governments have turned a deaf ear, led by the Independent Joint Commission (IJC), which has ignored a plan it created to address crisis water levels.

While climate change plays a role that we cannot control, there are many manmade interventions that could give us greater control. For a current and more detailed update on these topics, go to the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation website: www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com

The gypsy moth infestation is another issue that cannot be ignored or deferred. Gypsy moths have caused extensive damage to our tree canopy in the last two years. In 2021 they promise to cause greater and potentially irreversible damage if problem areas are not sprayed. FoTTSA has been and will continue advocating for Tiny Township and Simcoe County to conduct the research and site surveys needed to get a solid quantitative grasp on where the outbreaks are occurring and the severity of the outbreaks on a zone by zone basis. We do this knowing we have the support of township residents and beach association presidents.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our gypsy moth and road safety surveys. They produced excellent data that FoTTSA will present in deputations to Council this month and next. We were pleased to see that Council has issued a request for proposals to prepare a transportation and transit master plan over the next year. We will work to ensure that safety on Tiny Beaches Road is a priority consideration.

Wishing you and family a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and winter. Hopefully we will be as successful at flattening the curve this fall as we were this summer.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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Three Piping Plover fledglings, watched over by a parent, on Woodland Beach. See article on page 7.

SAFETY ON TINY BEACHES ROAD: Fed up with Fast and Furious?

by LYNNE ARCHIBALD, Nottawaga Beach

Speeding on Tiny Beaches Road is the top safety concern among many identified by respondents to an online survey conducted by FoTTSA this summer. The survey generated an astounding 37% response rate — the highest ever to a FoTTSA survey — and over 1500 comments.

Tiny Beaches Road has a unique character and much valued heritage. As a beach road, it is used by cars, trucks and motorcycles as well as cyclists and pedestrians, including children, seniors and people with mobility devices.

Many residents have expressed growing concern about safety on Tiny Beaches Road South and North. In response, FoTTSA created a confidential, online survey that was open from July 4 to 23, 2020.

Residents' responses confirmed our assumption that road safety was a common concern: 455 readers answered the survey questions and made over 1500 optional comments.

For the full results, including comments and a deputation made to Tiny Council on September 28,

To see FoTTSA's road safety recommendations to Tiny Council, visit www.tinycottager.org/road-safety See the box for our recommendations.

The number one safety issue identified was speeding. Many felt that if the current speed limits were observed and enforced, we would all be much safer. A parallel theme was courtesy and common sense — can't we just share the road? Can't we just be polite and respectful, and when we're in our cars remember what it's like to be a pedestrian pushing a stroller at the side of the road next to an uneven patch of ground covered in poison ivy? And when we're on our bicycles, can't we remember that the road is narrow, and we need to ride single file just to allow a vehicle to pass? And a note about noise: it is illegal to modify exhaust pipes on cars and motorcycles, and FoTTSA hopes the OPP will enforce this law in Tiny as they have done recently in Midland and Barrie.

Many respondents noted that just doing the survey made them think about improving their own behaviour on the road

and we hope that the implementation of our recommendations coupled with everyone doing a little bit better will lead to more safety for everyone.

Road safety survey: what you told us

FoTTSA conducted the 10-question online survey via Survey-Monkey from July 4 to 23, 2020. To raise awareness of the survey, FoTTSA emailed the 1237 subscribers to our *FoTTSA Flash* newsletter, and posted notices on social media and our website. Some beach associations and informal groups also helped raise awareness of the survey among their members, helping to generate 455 responses.

Here is a sampling of results:

- 96% of respondents feel speeding is a problem sometimes or all the time
- 58% want movable solar "Your Speed" signs
- 57% want more speed limit enforcement by the OPP
- **68%** do not believe crosswalks are a solution
- **30%** would like crosswalks opposite beach access points

For full results, including a list of trouble spots, visit www. tinycottager.org/road-safety

FoTTSA's recommendations to Tiny Council

Traffic calming

- A few all-way stop signs at key intersections (e.g., concessions 4, 5 and 9, Skylark)
- Removable speed humps at troublesome locations May to October – moved monthly
- Solar "your speed" signs May to October moved monthly

Enforcement

- An OPP speed trap every summer weekend at a different trouble spot
- "Community Safety Zone" designations for the most dangerous segments of TBR between May and October

...continued on page 2 (Fast and Furious)

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FALL/WINTER EVENTS

Please visit event websites for updates and COVID-19 requirements. If you don't see your favourite fall event, conduct an online search. A number of seasonal events remain to be

OCTOBER

Culture Days, now to October 25, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie) https://maclarenart.com/event/culture-days/

Witness Blanket (art installation on the Indian residential school era), now to November 30, Simcoe County Museum https://museum.simcoe.ca/exhibits/orientation

Not Even the Poets (exhibition), now to January 3, 2021, Quest Art School and Gallery (Midland) http://www.questart.ca/

Historic Walking Tour of Rotary Champlain Wendat Park (Penetanguishene), October 6, 20

www.penetanguishene.ca/en/discover/Exhibits.asp

Historic Downtown Walking Tour (Penetanguishene), October 8, 22 www.penetanguishene.ca/en/discover/ Exhibits.asp

Images Studio Tour, October 9-10 (Barrie/Orillia/Horseshoe Valley). By appointment only. http://www.images-studio-tour.com

Art Party: Soft Sculpture with Ingi Gould, October 14, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie)

https://maclarenart.com/product/art-party-ingi-gould/ Ian Thomas - A Life in Song, October 15, Orillia Opera House http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse.ca/default/ Detail/2020-10-15-1930-Ian-Thomas-A-Life-In-Song

Luke McMaster - My Life Is a Song, October 16, Orillia Opera House

http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse.ca/default/Detail/2020-10-16-1930-Luke-McMaster-My-Life-Is-A-Song

Virtual Art for Lunch with Farihah Aliyah Shah, October 16, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie) https://maclarenart.com/event/farihah-aliyah-shah/

Amy Sky - Love, Pain and the Whole Damn Thing, October 17, Orillia Opera House

http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse.ca/default/Detail/2020-10-17-1930-Amv-Sky-Love-Pain-and-The-Whole-Damn-Thing

Master Class: Figure Painting with Sadko Hadzihasanovic, October 17, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie) https://maclarenart.com/product/figure-painting-with-sad-

Our Health: Virtual Health Care, October 22, panel discussion on Channel 53, Rogers TV https://downtownmidland.ca/page.php?pageSong Sung Blue: The Neil Diamond Story, October 24, Midland Cultural Centre https://midlandculturalcentre. com/page.php?page=Events&pageType=events&eventid=100050866

Maureen Jennings - Murdoch and Beyond, October 18, Orillia Opera House http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse. ca/default/Detail/2020-10-18-1400-Maureen-Jennings-Murdoch-and-Beyond

NOVEMBER

OSB - Shine! 70 Years of Orillia, November 1, Orillia Opera House http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse.ca/default/ Detail/2020-11-01-1500-OSB-Shine-70-Years-of-Orillia

Rabbit Hole, November 6-8, 12-13, Orillia Opera House http://calendar.orilliaoperahouse.ca/default/Detail/2020-11-05-1930-Rabbit-Hole

Remembrance Day Parade, November 11 (Midland) www.midland.ca/Pages/Events.aspx

Tokyo Police Club, November 12, Midland Cultural Centre https://midlandculturalcentre.com/page php?page=Events&pageType=events&eventid=100051173

Master Class: Painting with Rachel MacFarlane, November 14, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie) https://maclarenart.com/ product/painting-with-rachel-macfarlane/

Matthew Good - Moving Walls Tour 2020, November 22, Midland Cultural Centre https://midlandculturalcentre. com/page.php?page=Events&pageType=events&eventid=100051794

Art Party: Black-Out Poetry with Victoria Butler,

November 25, McLaren Art Centre (Barrie) https://maclarenart.com/product/black-out-poetry-with-victoria-butler/

Straight Talk: Climate Change - On Your Door Step, November 25, Midland Cultural Centre https://midlandculturalcentre.com/page.php?page=Events&page-Type=events&eventid=100051595

DECEMBER

Jersey Nights: A Tribute to Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons, December 12, Midland Cultural Centre https:// midlandculturalcentre.com/page.php?page=Events&page-Type=events&eventid=100050867

JANUARY

Annual Polar Bear Dip, January 1, Balm Beach, 12 noon https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/tinytownship/

APRIL

Intimate Concert Series: Pierre Schryer and Adam Dobres, April 21, 2021, Midland Cultural Centre https://midlandculturalcentre.com/page.php?page=Events&page-Type=events&eventid=100051626

... continued from page 1 (Fast and Furious)

(fines for speeding doubled)

- · Increased OPP ticketing of vehicles, especially motorcycles, with modified or improper exhausts which cause excess muffler noise, especially summer weekends around Balm Beach
- Extra traffic by-law officers in the summer for illegal activities: stopping to drop off passengers, parking, ATVs and golf carts driven by minors

Pedestrian and traffic safety

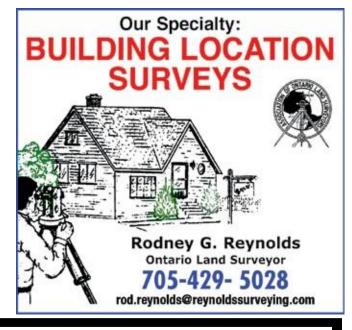
- Eradication of poison ivy along TBR shoulders
- · Repair of potholes and improved shoulder maintenance, especially at narrow spots

Education

- "Share the Road" campaign, printed with tax slips and at entry points to Tiny, amplified by FoTTSA, beach associations and local media
- Focus on road safety in youth programs, especially walking against traffic and in singlefile

Research

- Regular collection and publication of traffic data by Tiny (volume, speed, incidents) with priority for locations highlighted in the survey (requested by 82% of respondents)
- Study of passenger drop offs at beach access points by whom, from where?
- Study about making some narrow segments of TBR one way



Thank You For An Amazing 2020

14 **Pinnacle**

Type=events&eventId=100051985

ko-hadzihasanovic/

Waterfront









***** 2020 has been a record year for Sales. If you're considering selling your Waterfront, Cottage or vacant lot give me a call as I have a long list of PREMIUM cash buyers waiting. Thank you





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2020 Water Sampling Report

by JUDITH GRANT, Addison Beach (Water Program Coordinator)



Even though we can safely continue to enjoy the water of Georgian Bay, we note that the results from FoTTSA's 2020 recreational water sampling program were significantly worse than those of 2018, our last sampling year. Where 65% of swimming water samples that year proved to have 10 E. coli/100 mL or less, this year only 45% of such samples were in this excellent category.

The 20% difference was spread out as follows:

- 29% of samples with 11–100 E. coli/100 mL sample water in 2018 became 37% in 2020
- 4% with 101–200 E. coli became 10%
- 2% with 201 or more became 8%

Among the samples in the over 200 E. coli/100 mL water category, in 2018, four were over the 400 E. coli threshold for an individual sample that would have caused the Health Unit to recommend posting. In 2020, 15 individual samples would have resulted in a recommendation to post. These high numbers were associated with heavy rainfalls and high waves.

Spreadsheets showing results for swimming water along the shore of the whole township, including those amassed by the water program, those at public beaches and those in Awenda Park, will appear on FoTTSA's website — tinycottager.org — as soon as the Health Unit releases its data for the township's public beaches.

2020 brought changes to FoTTSA's recreational water sampling program

These changes were caused by the larger context that surrounds this volunteer effort. Fortunately, volunteers stepped up and dealt with unexpected issues.

COVID-19 caused Judith Grant to conduct the usual Balm Beach retraining session by Zoom. Volunteers handled distribution of supplies. The Township Water Supervisor kindly found a place where our coolers could be left while awaiting transfer to the Aquatic and Environmental Laboratory on Horseshoe Valley Road by our volunteers.

The number of volunteers involved was amazing. In addition to those mentioned above, there were one to six samplers at each of eighteen participating beaches, four more who gathered the samples from each participating beach (Barry Goode, Stan and Pat Seymour, and Susan Inwood) and took them them to the township offices, Tara Marshall and Julius Grodski drove the coolers from there to the laboratory, Susan and Gary Peterson entered the results and circulated them to

participating beaches each week, Linda Andrews (FoTTSA's treasurer) paid the invoices from the lab and sent invoices to each participating beach, Lynne Archibald (FoTTSA's secretary) managed the Zoom meeting, and Judith Grant structured the program in May and June. A warm thank you to all.

The Health Unit, which monitors five public beaches in the township (Woodland Beach, Bluewater Beach, Jackson Park, Balm Beach, and Lafontaine Beach), recommends that a beach be "posted with a swimming advisory" when the geometric mean of E. coli bacteria in the samples at a beach is above 200 per 100 mL of sample water or when a single sample registers greater than 400 E. coli/100 mL. This is the level the Health Unit believes results in "an increased risk of infection" — usually eye, ear, nose, throat, and stomach ailments. Much of the balance of the township's shoreline is monitored by FoTTSA's volunteers, following Health Unit protocol.

Where posting of a public beach sampled on Monday or Tuesday doesn't happen until Thursday or Friday, the results of our late Sunday/early Monday sampling are reported to participating associations on Tuesday evening. That is the only notification we're allowed to make as a non-official group. If samples at a beach exceed 200, we cannot erect warning signs. What the water program does, though, is give participating beaches a sense of conditions that produce high E. coli counts. The chain of custody form that accompanies each beach's samples to the lab notes the environmental conditions at the time the samples were taken — rainfall, wind direction, sunlight, bather intensity, water clarity, wave action, presence of waterfowl and of algae — in addition to the time the samples were taken. Even beach residents not involved in the program can remember conditions that produced dramatically high E. coli counts — often heavy rain in the 24 hours prior to sampling and waves that stir the sand during sampling. When those conditions pertain, it's wise to keep your head out of the water.

Unlike the Health Unit, FoTTSA samples streams that may impact the quality of nearby swimming water, usually (but not always) finding that elevated E. coli counts in the stream have only a modest impact on swimming water. Nonetheless, since kids regularly play in streams, it's good to be reminded that streams are likely to be polluted: it's also a good idea to make sure kids wash their hands before eating.

FoTTSA's next recreational water sampling program is scheduled to take place in 2022.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Crossing TBRS Safely on a Curve at the Crest of a Hill?

This new COVID world we are still adjusting to has presented many new challenges. It has also brought simmering safety issues to the fore.

Number one for people living on Tiny Beaches Road is pedestrian safety. A long and winding road with many pedestrian beach access points, TBR is extremely dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists.

For this reason I was very pleased that FoTTSA's timely survey — "Fed up with Fast and Furious?" — has given everyone a chance to express our thoughts and suggestions on the safety of Tiny Beaches Road. As a long-time resident, I had been approached by a number of neighbours who have had close calls with vehicles while trying to cross Tiny Beaches Rd. South at Jones Rd. to access Bluewater Beach.

Jones Rd. is across from one of the two access paths to Bluewater Beach used by people parking on the 5th concession. While pedestrian traffic from this spot has dropped slightly with the replacement of paid parking with permit parking, and road widening to accommodate parking has made the crossing safer, safety issues remain.

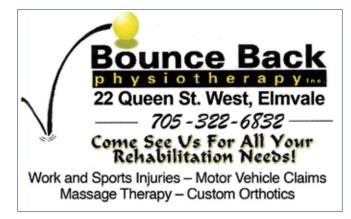
We have seniors and young families loaded down with beach gear for a day at the beach descending Jones Rd. and trying to cross TBRS on a tight curve at the crest of a hill. The line of sight is very poor, and despite signage speeding cars do not slow enough to make this crossing safe.

This section of Jones Rd. poses its own safety challenges. The road here is narrow, allowing only one vehicle at a time to navigate a hill above TBRS. When vehicles meet, one has to back up, and if a vehicle meets a pedestrian there is no place for the pedestrian to move to safety. At the intersection with TBRS, sight lines for both vehicles and pedestrians are very poor, making a turn onto TBRS risky.

With the addition of the new Algonquin Trail subdivision and high water limiting the amount of beach at the Bluewater Dunes Boardwalk, the increased volume of people and young families walking down Jones Rd. to access the beach is substantial. On average, a busy summer weekend will see 80 people cross at this junction, some using ATVs to drop people off and pick them up, oblivious of the imminent danger.

Despite these challenges there are options to make improvements. After consultation with neighbours who frequent the Jones Rd. access and use this single lane road, a resident of Jones Rd. sent a letter to Council with practical suggestions to improve pedestrian safety concerns. The letter was discussed at the August 17 Council meeting, and Council directed staff to investigate and report back to Council with recommendations. Councillor Tony Mintoff advised that he has been to the site and asked that staff consult with residents. With the assistance of "The Fast & Furious" survey results, I have full confidence that Council and staff will take every precaution to realize a solution that will keep us safe.

Jaymie Brown, Bluewater Beach







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The Tiny Cottager is published each May/June and Sept./Oct. The Federation's members are associations of property owners in those parts of the Township of Tiny designated as "Shoreline" in the Township's Official Plan.

The Tiny Cottager is mailed to the permanent addresses of more than 10,600 Tiny Township property owners (including 7,200 in the shoreline areas of Tiny) and to businesses in the area. It reaches some 25,000 readers. Copyright is claimed on all original articles and on advertisement layout and design created by this

The information contained in The Tiny Cottager has been provided by sources believed to be reliable. However, FoTTSA makes no guarantee as to the correctness or completeness of the information.

REPORT ON COUNCIL

Mayor: George Cornell Deputy Mayor: Steffen Walma

Councillors: Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoff, Gibb Wishart

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Visit the Township's COVID-19 webpage for municipal service impacts and updates at tiny.ca/coronavirus
- Tiny Connect sign up now at www.tinyconnect.ca
- Weekly construction project updates now available on the Township website.
- Mayor's Charity Golf-a-thon July 1 to Sept. 30, 2020.

Fottsa's short term rentals deputation:

Lynne Archibald presented the results of FoTTSA's survey regarding short term rentals to Council. The full text of the presentation is available in the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, May 25, 2020. Members of Council made useful comments, supporting the idea of licensing/ registration of STRs, adding to the list of things that the Township should check and monitor (presence of smoke and CO alarms, capacity of the septic system as the basis for the number of occupants, building standards).

In June, Council asked staff to report back on a framework for registration and a licencing policy for STRs in conjunction with the Municipal Accommodation Tax.

CASH FLOW FINANCIAL UPDATE: On May 25, the Township's Treasurer, Doug Taylor, presented a Cash Flow Forecast for 2020. He observed that although "there are some budget expenditures that are reduced, eliminated or deferred, the deferral of tax revenue will create a need to 'borrow' cash from the Water/Building Reserve Funds in order to ensure cash is available to fund planned operating and capital project activities for the balance of 2020." He estimated that there "may be a lingering impact into the first quarter of 2021" and that "impacts may change should Council decide to provide additional tax deferrals to residents." Detailed information is available in the Committee of the Whole Agenda for May 25.

TEMPORARY BEACH ENCROACHMENTS: The fee for removing privately owned items from public beaches has been set at \$150. This covers the cost of inspections, tagging, follow up calls, re-inspection, item removal and transportation, storage, additional calls, arranging for pickup or disposal. Information about temporary beach encroachments has been posted on the Township website, the newspaper (i.e. The Mirror via the Township Community Page), and in the Tax Bill Newsletter. An informative brochure has been created that is to be shared with beach associations. Items left on public beaches will be tagged as early in the summer season as possible "to avoid the subject matter growing in scope."

INTERNET SERVICE: Point-to-Point Communications is to supply internet service and improved cellular service aT Tiny Township and Wyebridge Community Centres at a cost of \$20,600 plus HST for the first year and \$3,600 plus HST for subsequent years

In June, CanACRE Ltd. made a presentation to Council regarding proposed Bell Mobility Telecommunications Towers for the Wyevale Fire Hall and the Wyebridge Community Centre.

In July, Council recommended that a letter of concurrence be provided with regard to the siting of the ViaSat Satellite Antenna on Part of Lot 10, Concession 14 East (Part 1, 51R-19123 Concession 15 East).

SOLAR SPEED SIGNS: The two solar speed signs that the Township purchased are to be located at Tiny Beaches Road South between Concession 5 and 6 and at Tiny Beaches Road South, south of Lawson Road.

ACTION URGED RE HIGH WATER LEVELS: On June 15, Paul Cowley, a director of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, appeared before Council to answer questions regarding the Township of Tay's resolution regarding Great Lakes water levels in that day's agenda.

He argued that, contrary to what the International Joint Commission (IJC), MNRF (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), Environment Canada Climate Change (ECCC) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintain, the crisis high water levels in Lakes Michigan/Huron are not caused by excess precipitation. Rather, the Michigan Huron Basin has had below average precipitation during the last three years. The IJC, MNRF, ECCC, and USACE all



"The Fast and the Furious — better as a movie!"

maintain that nothing can be done, whereas the Tay resolution lists four actions that are within the IJC's and the governments' jurisdiction as outlined in the IJC's 1993 Levels Reference Study and Plan 2012 to manage the Michigan Huron/Georgian Bay levels:

- 1. Temporary reduction of the discharges from the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions
- 2. A temporary increase in the Chicago diversion
- 3. Holding back the equivalent extra 360 cm/s flows that were discharged from Lake Superior from December 2019 to March 2020, and
- 4. The establishment of an international working committee to assess unreported changes occurring in the St. Clair - Detroit River system.

Council recommended that the Severn Sound Environmental Association be asked to draft a resolution in collaboration with the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation regarding concerns about the Great Lakes water levels.

On July 27, Council supported the resultant resolutions. The one from the SSEA focussed on shoreline resilience actions. That from the GBGLF urged

"that the International Joint Commission in conjunction with both the USACE and ECCC take every measure possible to reduce water levels on Lakes Michigan, Huron and Georgian Bay, namely — Request the International Joint Commission to direct the International Lake Superior Board of Control (ILSBC) to immediately begin to hold back the 360CM/s extra flow that they directed Dec 2019 to March 2020.

- 1. Request review of the ILSBC's Plan 2012 to ensure that at such times for example in July 2020 when Lakes Michigan Huron Georgian Bay are 33 inches above their monthly long term average and Lake Superior is only 9 inches above its long term monthly average that Lake Superior discharges are reduced rather than increased as they have been since 2014.
- 2. Require analysis to determine best methods to stabilize the St. Clair riverbed.

Further be it resolved that the Council of Tiny Township requests that the Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister Yakabuski, issue a Ministerial Order requiring a temporary reduction in the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions as an emergency relief measure to alleviate the extreme high water levels on Lakes Michigan Huron and Georgian Bay."

INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT BY SEVERN SOUND **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION:** Michelle Hudolin presented a report about SSEA's Invasive Species Program. Its objective is to reduce the ecological, economic and social impacts of invasive species by means of prevention, monitoring, and management. The chief invasive aquatic plant is Eurasian Watermilfoil. The terrestrial plants of primary concern are Japanese Knotweed, Spotted Knapweed, Miscanthus, Dog-strangling Vine, Coltsfoot and Sweet White Clover. The wetland plants of concern are Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife. Round Goby was the only fish listed. The invertebrates are Zebra Mussel, Emerald Ash Borer, and Gypsy Moth.

According to Hudolin the SSEA sees itself as a source of information. Those with concerns about an invasive species should contact the SSEA directly, by e-mail: InvasiveSpecies@ severnsound.ca or by phone: 705-534-7283.

MHBC PLANNING RE PROPOSED UPDATES TO **GROWTH PLAN AND PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY** POLICIES: On July 27, Jamie Robinson of MHBC Planning outlined proposals that could have an impact on the Township's Official Plan. He felt that the changes to the Growth Plan appear to have a positive impact on long-term land use planning, particularly the extension of the horizon for population and employment projections from 2031 to 2051. However, lower tier municipalities in Simcoe County no longer control specific population and employment allocations.

Staff is to provide comments, as outlined by MHBC Planning to the Province. The Township's declaration that it is not a willing host to industrial wind turbines remains in the approved Official Plan.

However, we note that neither Robinson nor Council sought to include the two statements the Township made on January 27, 2020 with regard to aggregate mining, namely

- That the Township is fundamentally opposed to the extraction and washing of aggregate in environmentally sensitive areas, and
- That there is presently a groundwater study being undertaken by Dr. Cherry, et al and that the findings of this report be taken into consideration by the Province prior to the issuance of any further licenses.
- Instead, Council simply accepted Robinson's note about the Removal of the prohibition on the establishment of new mineral aggregate operations, wayside pits and quarries from habitats of endangered and threatened species

within the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan,

and also his statement that The Provincial permitting process would still apply for development that is proposed in habitats of endangered and threatened species. The Provincial permitting process may still restrict development or enable development to proceed with the inclusion of mitigation measures,

prescribed by the permit. This is not reassuring given the failure of the MNRF and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to monitor other permits.

compensation, monitoring or any other requirement

WATER RATE AND USAGE: In August, after hearing a presentation by Jamie Witherspoon of WT Infrastructure Solutions Inc. regarding the Township's Water Rate and Usage Policy, and after considering the Public Works report regarding the Water By-law and Fee Review, Council authorized staff to raise the annual municipal water fees starting in 2021,

to include a water metering pilot project for Wyevale and the industrial, commercial and institutional and multi-residential properties in the 2021 budget deliberations, and to amend the municipal water by-law based on recommendations from WT Infrastructure Solutions Inc.

The latter recommended that the water rate be increased from \$793.20 per year to \$1070 per year, phased in over two years. It also recommended that water meters be considered in order to encourage water conservation, and that current restrictions not be significantly changed though a list of minor changes could be considered.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY: In August, the Chief Building Official reported that the value of construction in Tiny Township from January to June 2019 was \$16,038,100. For the same months in 2020, the value was \$20,543,950.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Council will continue to meet every third week for the balance of 2020.

FACE COVERINGS BYLAW: Face coverings are to be worn in indoor public spaces.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL: These are to recommence as required.

ATVs IN TINY: After considering a staff report, Council decided to proceed with a trial ATV route for a one-year period. The route includes Concession Road 4 W from 339 Concession Road 4 W to Simcoe County Road 6, Concession Road 4 E from County Road 6 to Dawson's Side Road, Dawson's Side Road from Concession Road 4 E to Concession Road 2 East, Concession Road 2 E from Dawson's Side Road to Baseline Road S and Baseline Road S from Concession Road 2E to the Townline with Springwater. Constraints on the use of ATVs include prohibition of use between sunset and sunrise and between November 30 and April 30. Other constraints concern licenses, speed, helmets, and children under the age of eight.

FOTTSA LETTER RE GYPSY MOTH INFESTATION:

In a letter dated July 22, the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA) expressed concern about the prevalence of gypsy moth egg masses and caterpillars that defoliated trees along Tiny's shore. It urged that the scope of the problem be accurately surveyed and asked that there be aerial spraying next spring with Btk of areas with significant infestations. Council decided to refer the matter to the SSEA and County of Simcoe Forestry for consideration.

Fottsa Letter Re High Water Levels and a Declaration of Climate Emergency: Fottsa's July 22 letter supported the Township's request that the IJC reduce water outflow from Lake Superior, urged the Township to ask the federal government to undertake a study to ascertain the conveyance capacity of the St. Clair River, and urged the Township to declare a climate emergency. In response, Council directed staff "to provide an update to Fottsa regarding measures taken to date in this matter".

FIRE CHIEF: September 9, 2020 was Ray Millar's last day as the Township's Fire Chief. He was thanked for his many years of service to the Township in several different roles. He is succeeded by Dave Flewelling, the Township's long-serving Deputy Fire Chief (January 2000 to September 2020).

BUDGET MEETING DATES: December 7, January 18 and possibly February 1.

RECOVERY PLAN: At the September 9 meeting, Township CAO Doug Luker outlined the Township's Recovery Plan. Full details are available on the Township's website — tiny.ca. As of September 14, all Township municipal offices reopened to the public following COVID-19 protocols and restrictions.

PAID, OPEN AND PERMIT PARKING: Usually, paid, open and permit parking systems are in effect from May 15 to September 15. On June 2, all paid parking was converted to permit only parking in order to give priority access to residents and to address physical distancing concerns. For the same reasons, on September 9, parking arrangements were extended to October 5.

LIFE RINGS, AEDs AND LIFE JACKETS: After considering a staff report, Council decided to have staff install five life ring kits currently in stock at the five major beach parks. Additionally, staff would increase AED (Automatic External Defibrillators) signage (the township has six). However, a "borrow life jacket program" won't be instituted.

DELINEATION OF TOWNSHIP BEACH PROPERTY: In September, as a result of two written complaints about intrusions onto private property near the Archer Road Walkway (the last beach access point before Wasaga Beach), Council discussed the inconsistent delineation of township property at the 150 or more access points along Tiny's shore.

In the end it was decided that Public Works would look into methods of delineation, costs (for surveying, materials, staff time), cost sharing with adjacent private owners, process, phasing of installations, the line fences act, encroachments and overall quidelines.

Let's support our local businesses!

Le Nid de la Mouette Article and Photo by REBECCARICE



Many years ago, we stayed on the island that my grandfather, William Kynoch, had purchased in the 1930s as a summer retreat for his wife and two daughters, the younger of whom was my mother. He had come upon the five-acre island, which included a small hundred-year-old cabin built by an early English settler, on one of his walks from Balm Beach, where his wife, my grandmother, was studying landscape painting with Franz Johnston, a member of the Canadian Group of Seven.

My grandfather fell instantly in love with the small island, which lay within wading distance of the mainland, at Addison Beach. With its stands of birch, white pine and oak, its wild blueberry bushes at the northern tip, its massive pink and white granite boulders that ringed its perimeter, it reminded him of the Scottish coast north of Edinburgh, from which he had emigrated years before.

On maps and surveys, the place was called "Tiny Island" after the Township of Tiny in which it was located. Tiny was the name of one of the dogs of Lady Sarah Maitland, the wife of a Lieutenant Governor-General of Upper Canada, who ruled the region in the early 19th century when Canada belonged to Great Britain; the neighbouring townships were called Flos and Tay, after Lady Sarah's two other lapdogs, a funny, stranger-than-fiction fact which my mother repeated to me year after year with undiminished merriment.

My grandmother, who painted the cabin's kitchen cupboards with soaring gulls and wind-beaten pines, called it "Le Nid de la Mouette," or "The Nest of the Seagull." But everybody else — my mother, father, sister, aunt and two cousins, all of whom might be in residence in the sleeping cabin and boat house my grandfather built to accommodate his growing family — called it simply "The Island," as if only the most unaffected moniker could sum up its singular magic.

Summer days on Addison Beach tended to all run together, singled out only by the vagaries of weather — the hot, still afternoons where there wasn't enough wind to sail out to Seagull Island, the rainy mornings when you drove into Midland to shop or sightsee, touring Martyrs' Shrine, the Gothic cathedral honouring the Jesuit priests who came in the early 1600s to convert the Huron Indians to Christianity.

On that very hot July Saturday in 1966, so hot that you couldn't walk across the beach without flip-flops, my grandfather, then in his early eighties, spent his morning sunning himself on the rocks at the end of the island, then, after a light lunch, took his usual walk down the beach to the two-bedroom cottage in the woods, which he had purchased as a retreat to work on the novel he had begun in retirement. The story goes that he was feeling a little tired and so decided to lie down and take a nap on the cot in the spare bedroom.

There was to be a bonfire on the beach that night — the family who was hosting it had been waiting all week for a windless day — and the kids in the cottages were sparking with anticipation. Not only did this mean we'd feast on roasted marshmallows and whoop around the fire like wild things, we'd also get a much later bedtime, because the bonfire never got underway until after dark, which in Ontario in July meant well after nine o'clock.

It wasn't until dinnertime that the family began to wonder what had become of my grandfather, and someone — my father, I think — was sent down the beach to find him, and discovered him stretched out on the cot, not asleep but dead. When my dad returned with the news, there issued forth a terrible keening from the women in the family that reached my sister and me sunbathing in the dunes on the mainland.

We hurried back to the island, foregoing our usual late afternoon swim, and were greeted with more sobbing. My dad was seeing to all the details that my grandmother, mother and aunt were too grief-stricken to undertake — calling the funeral home and arranging for a service and burial in the St. James-on-the-Lines church in the nearby town of Penetanguishene.

There was no family dinner at the long knotty pine table that night; we made do with leftovers from the fridge, and then because the crying showed no signs of letting up, and because we didn't know what else to do and because no one told us we couldn't, we slipped away to the bonfire.

The news that our grandfather had passed had preceded us. The parents at the bonfire hugged us, said what a gentle man, what a kind man Will Kynoch was, and how much ...continued on page 6 (Tiny Island)

Fottsa needs your support!

Please support the Federation: we keep you informed, and we work for good, fair government and to protect the environment.

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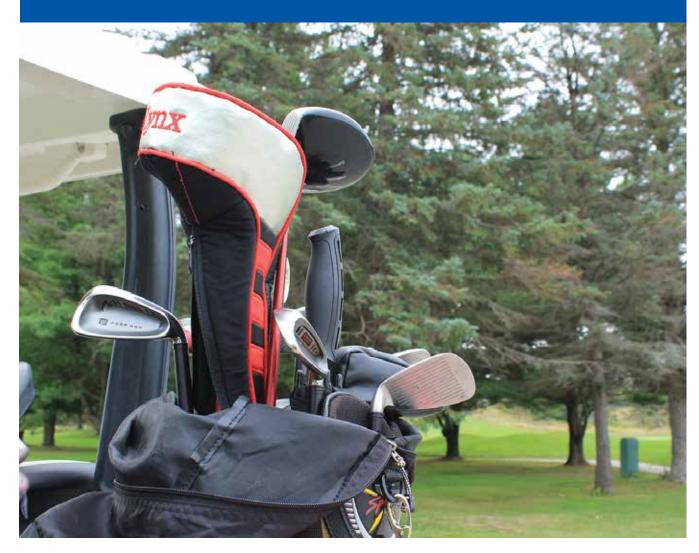
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Mayor's Golf-a-thon Provides Support to **16 North Simcoe Charities** by JAELEN JOSIAH and BONITA DESROCHES



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Township of Tiny reinvented its Charity Golf Tournament event. The single-day tournament was replaced with a 3-month-long golf-a-thon from July 1 to September 30, allowing golfers to participate safely while respecting physical distancing.

Whether an avid golfer, amateur or avoid it all together, Tiny's Charity Golf-a-thon let everyone raise money to support charitable causes in the community. To encourage pledges, participants received a personalized fundraising page to share. Friends, family, and colleagues could either enter a pledge amount for each round of golf completed (e.g. \$5 per round) or make a flat contribution directly to the donation total. Non-golfers could also register to receive a pledge page to share and collect.

The Township of Tiny recognized The Tiny Cottager, published by the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA), as the event's founding sponsor. FoTTSA president Paul Cowley said, "We strive to support the community through charitable initiatives and by cooperating with key partners, including the Township of Tiny, who support like goals and objectives."

This year, the Mayor's Charity Golf-a-thon supported 16 local organizations in North Simcoe:

- Angels with Backpacks
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe
- Boys & Girls Clubs of North Simcoe
- Chigamik Community Health Centre
- Gateway Centre for Learning
- Hospice Huronia
- Huronia Community Foundation
- Operation Grow Quest Art School + Gallery
- Salvation Army Midland
- Scientists in School
- Sistema Music Academy
- St. Vincent de Paul, St. Margaret's Conference, Food Pantry
- The Good Food Box
- Wendat Community Programs
- Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

Registration for the Golf-a-thon was \$150; \$100 went directly to North Simcoe charities. The other \$50, just like the pre-pandemic charity golf tournaments, went towards the participant dinner. Each participant will receive a voucher to redeem at a local business to enjoy dinner and refreshments from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Later this year, participants, donors, sponsors and charity recipients will be invited to tune in to a virtual live-streamed Council meeting where Golf-a-thon prize winners will be announced and cheques will be presented to the charities.

"This was an amazing opportunity for the community to come together to support local organizations, while following the provincial call for physical distancing," Mayor George Cornell said. "Since 2015, the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament event has contributed more than \$230,000 to over 20 organizations, and we intended to continue this

commitment throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

For more information about this year's golf initiative, visit www.tiny. ca/events/golf or contact Jaelen Josiah, Recreation Administrative Coordinator: jjosiah@tiny.ca; 705-526-4204, ext. 288.

...continued from page 5 (Tiny Island)

he would be missed. One or two reported that they themselves had seen him that very afternoon, making his way barefoot down the beach, his walking shoes in his hands, hardly, they said shaking their heads, the picture of a man in his last hours.

It's possible that Bobby —and I confess that isn't his real name — felt sorry for me, and for this reason offered to walk me home when the bonfire died down to a few glowing coals. It's possible that when I stopped to catch my breath from crying, I was acting with a certain calculation, hoping he would drape his long, skinny arm around me, hoping we would stop in the cool, manganese-dark sand a few hundred feet from where the water lapped against the island rocks. I had had a crush on this tow-headed, gangly-limbed boy for two summers. He had never kissed me. No one had ever kissed me. I didn't even know what it felt like, having only read about it in books. But if something was going to happen, it had to be now, long past our bedtimes when we were about to say goodbye and my dead grandfather was spinning above us among the Pleiades.

I never saw Bobby again after that summer. His family never came back to Belle-Eau-Claire beach, or if they did, it was for the first weeks in August instead of the last weeks in July. My parents built a cottage on the mainland, directly across from the island, their last project before they divorced. The island was sold in 1988 when my aunt could no longer afford its upkeep. My mother and aunt died within a year of one another, and now lie beside my grandfather in the St.-Jameson-the-Lines cemetery overlooking Penetanguishene harbour. His pink granite tombstone is from Tiny Island. Its inscription reads: Nescit Amor Fines (Love knows no bounds).

Decades later, breakfasting on wild blueberries on the deck of the cottage my sister and I now own, looking south toward Tiny island, I still can't recall the name of the twelveyear-old boy who first kissed me, but I will never forget his sandy hands stroking and framing my wet face, the brush of our sunburned lips, his tongue pressing against mine like a mouthful of sweet, wild blueberries.

Rebecca Rice now lives in Massachusetts. Because of border closures, this was the first summer in many years that Rebecca was unable to spend time in Tiny. Watch for another article from Rebecca in our spring 2021 issue.



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A Snapshot of COVID-19 at **Georgian Bay General Hospital**

by HEATHER VANDERLINDE and JEN RUSSELL

Meet Earl, a widower and active senior who enjoys spending time with his family and church group. When the pandemic hit, his retirement home went into lockdown, but unfortunately COVID-19 was brought in from an outside source. Earl became ill and was quarantined to his room.

At first, Earl's only symptom was a slight fever but after eight days it became much worse and Earl was admitted to the isolation unit at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH).

"On May 7, 2020, I woke up with a heavy chest and it was hard to breathe," recalls Earl. "In a matter of days, I was confused, tired, weak, and I didn't know where I was or why. The hardest thing was not knowing where my daughter Mary-Ann was! She was always by my side through everything, and I couldn't understand why she wasn't there."

But while Earl's daughter couldn't be there, our doctors and nurses could, giving Earl's family twice-daily updates on his condition, sitting by his side and comforting him through the worst, and setting up an iPad for him to FaceTime with his daughter when he started to feel a little better.

"One afternoon, the staff bundled me up and took me out to the front of the hospital where they had arranged a meeting with my daughter and son-in-law. Even though they were in the car, it was very emotional, and way beyond their job requirement. They have no idea how much this act of caring helped my recovery and my family's peace of mind," says Earl.

> And on June 3, 2020, after three weeks in hospital, our staff lined the halls of the hospital and cheered as Earl was discharged, sharing a truly inspiring and touching moment that was made possible because of the generosity of donors in our community.

"Even though I never saw their faces (because of the masks), I know the staff truly cared about my well-being and my family's. At 93 years old, I beat COVID-19, but I didn't and never could without you,"

As Georgian Bay General Hospital returns to a new "normal," cautiously reopening our diagnostic and surgical services, we urgently need the support of our entire community. COVID-19 has depleted our hospital's capital funds, and yet the critical projects slat-

ed for this year remain urgent priorities. If you would like to support your Georgian Bay General Hospital, please visit http://gbghf.ca and click on Donate Today.

Thank you for your consideration and for making inspiring stories like Earl's possible.



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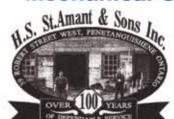
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MICHAEL J. STONE Kim Birley, Debbie Craddock Agent for SANDERSON MONUMENT CO.



Earlier this season a new family of Piping Plovers made their home on Woodland Beach. The nesting site was fenced off to protect the two adults and four chicks from predators and other intruders.

Although the Piping Plover breeds along the Atlantic coast, in the Prairies, and on the shores of the Great Lakes, it is one of North America's most endangered birds. These small plovers were absent from the Canadian shore of the Great Lakes for 30 years. In 2007, 13-year-old Brendan Toews identified a breeding pair on Sauble Beach. Since then, Piping Plovers have nested elsewhere in Ontario, including Wasaga Beach, Darlington Provincial Park, and Toronto Island. This summer, a pair nested on Woodland Beach in Tiny Township.

Because Piping Plovers nest in an open area of beach, Birds Canada protected the Woodland Beach pair from predators and curious onlookers by installing fencing with assistance from Wasaga Beach Provincial Park. Birds Canada coordinates the Piping Plover conservation effort in Ontario, ensuring all nests receive fencing and predator enclosures.

There is something very poignant in the opportunity to view these endangered birds. They get their name from the single flute-like note which is their most basic sound. However, they use a variety of sounds to communicate, engage in territorial disputes, have different ways of walking, and sometimes put on a broken-wing display to lure an intruder away.

Piping Plovers build their nests far enough from the water that storm surges will not wash them away. They require an abundance of food, such as insect larvae, crustaceans, beetles, and worms. Nearby vegetation provides some protection from predators, including gulls, crows, merlin, foxes, raccoons, dogs, and cats.

When a potential nesting location is found, the male lies on his chest and starts to kick backwards, clearing a small area which is called a scrape. After several scrapes have been created, one is lined with shells, stones, and bits of wood. In this nest, three or four pale buff eggs with dark blotches are laid. The nest and eggs blend in well with the beach.

Both male and female incubate the eggs for about a month. One bird sits on the nest while the other feeds. After a few hours, they switch places. The feeding bird lowers its head and runs directly toward the nest. As it approaches, the incubating plover runs off in the opposite direction.

When the chicks hatch, they are precocial. This means that they can walk, run, and find food within a few hours of emerging from the eggs. When the chicks are running about, the parents watch them constantly. Both adults and chicks give frequent contact calls. The young will sometimes brood, slipping under a resting adult to warm up.

Females begin migration within three weeks after the chicks have hatched, leaving the males to care for the young. A month after hatching, the chicks will have fledged, but they will continue to feed in the area and gain strength until they undertake their first migration in September. Piping Plovers from the Great Lakes region spend the winter in South Carolina, Florida and other coastal states. Coloured leg bands enable identification of individual birds in summer and winter locations.

In 1982, 18 pairs of Piping Plovers nested in the Great Lakes region. In the summer of 2019, there were 71 pairs with 92 chicks fledged on the beaches. This is a remarkable testament to significant conservation efforts supported by all levels of government, many independent organizations, dedicated volunteers, and caring residents and beachgoers. However, the population remains precarious. This year the Great Lakes Piping Plover population is believed to be only

As of September 21, one fledgling from our Woodland Beach family has survived and already migrated to Alabama. Not all fledglings survive their first migration, so this is something to cheer. Going forward, Birds Canada will be able to track the fledgling's progress because it has been banded.



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Gypsy Moth Infestation Could Be Worse Next Year, Residents Say

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

In a township hit hard by this year's gypsy moth infestation, three quarters of residents who responded to an online survey believe next year's infestation will be as bad or worse.

Conducted by FoTTSA in August, the survey asked respondents how many freshly laid gypsy moth egg masses they had spotted on their property, how this compared to last year, whether neighbouring properties also have egg masses now, and based on these observations what they expected next year. The survey also asked respondents whether they thought the Township should conduct aerial spraying next year.

The survey was sent to the 1237 subscribers of FoTTSA's e-newsletter; 343 subscribers (28%) responded. The results have been posted on FoTTSA's website: http://www.tinycottager.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Gypsy-Moth-Survey-Results-2020.pdf

Here's a summary of findings:

- more than 80% reported a minimum of 11 masses on their property
- almost 50% reported more than 50 masses

- 75% reported seeing egg masses on neighbours' properties
- 64% believe the Township should conduct an aerial spraying program throughout the area
- 30% believe the Township should spray only those areas most infested
- 6% believe no action is needed

The product used in aerial spraying is *Bacillus thuringiensis subspecies kurstaki* (Btk), registered under the trade name Foray 48B. Btk is a naturally occurring bacteria found in soil, and is not a chemical. Btk does not appear to pose any significant threat to people or pets. Caterpillars that ingest Btk are not considered dangerous to birds or other animals that feed on them. Because sunlight and other microbes destroy Btk applied to foliage within three to five days, Btk does not accumulate in the environment. However, it's important that spraying gypsy moth caterpillars take place at a time that doesn't interfere with other caterpillar species that feed later in the season, such as Monarchs.

Btk has been used successfully for over 20 years in Toronto, Mississauga, Oakville, Hamilton, and many other locations.

Beach association presidents support spraying

During a virtual meeting of 20 beach association presidents and representatives on September 19, FoTTSA shared results of its gypsy moth survey. Based on their own observations and comments from their membership, all participants supported a 2021 spraying program conducted by the Township or the County.

This is the second time in two years that FoTTSA has organized a Presidents' Roundtable meeting. These meetings provide an opportunity for beach presidents to discuss concerns and share solutions.

FoTTSA to present survey results to Tiny Council

On October 19, watch a FoTTSA deputation to Tiny Council on the gypsy moth survey results, including recommendations. Council meetings are live streamed: www.tiny.ca/pages/CouncilLiveStream.aspx

In the meantime, find out more about gypsy months on FoTTSA's website: www.tinycottager.org/gypsy-moths/













"White pines.... look at the pile of dead needles below what was one of many healthy white pines on the beach ... and then see the cocoons in the branches. The oaks are also hard hit. Moths are everywhere today."

"I am extremely concerned about the devastation along our shoreline from gypsy moths and wonder about the decision by Simcoe County not to spray when other communities were planning to do so in southern Ontario. Trees along the beaches take years to grow in sand and to suggest that they will simply grow back seems at odds with the proactive approach by some other towns this spring to protect their trees."

"The ravage attack of our mature oak tree which lost its leaves in under a week. Plus a tree trunk at Cedar Ridge covered in gypsy moth egg masses late this summer."



Update on Teedon Pit

By JUDITH GRANT, Addison Beach



"What's happened since May about the Teedon Pit?"

Not much. Huge trucks continue to leave the pit carrying loads of gravel along Darby Road, which continues to be very dangerous: narrow, no shoulders, no sidewalks, a blind turn, school children being picked up and dropped off, people walking. The pit's Permit to Take Water has not been formally renewed by the relevant ministry, but the pit is still able to use water. Silt continues to be an intermittent issue in

After a hiatus caused by COVID-19, prehearing teleconferences attended by the three parties — CRH Canada Group Inc., which owns the pit, the Township of Tiny and FoTTSA - resumed on August 11. That meeting revealed that no decision has been taken by the province about rolling the issue of the pit's license to take gravel in with the planning issues that are the subject of the Local Planning Authority Tribunal (LPAT) hearing. Another Prehearing Teleconference for the three parties has been scheduled for November 6.

On the other hand, interest in the world's purest water continues to mount — the water that is put at risk by gravel extraction in Concession 1 of Tiny Township. On August 21, William Shotyk, Professor and Bocock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment at the University of Alberta, reported that the video titled "Elmvale — The Cleanest Water on Earth" has been viewed more than 10,000 times. The video can be accessed from the "background" section of www. saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com, the website devoted to information about the Teedon Pit fight.

However, costs continue to mount for FoTTSA — for freedom of information documents; for photocopying, travel, and research time on the part of witnesses; for our lawyers' expenses. Because of COVID-19, rallies and the like can't be held. To date, we've raised roughly \$24,000 of an estimated \$100,000 all-in cost. Donations to FoTTSA's Save Our Water Legal Fund would be most welcome. See the "how you can help" section of www.saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com.



Share Your Gypsy Moth **Concerns with Tiny** Council

template on FoTTSA's website: http:// www.tinycottager.org/gypsy-moths/ and

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CONTROLLING INVASIVE PHRAGMITES IN FALL It's Not Too Late

by LYNN SHORT, Wymbolwood Beach



Did you know that there is a native Phragmites species and a non-native invasive Phragmites species?

Native Phragmites australis is a plant species that has evolved with a large biodiversity of plants and animals that have been interacting in our ecosystem for thousands of years. It grows in natural wetlands as part of a biodiverse environment. There are several stands in Tiny Marsh; unfortunately, there are also colonies of the non-native species.

Invasive Phragmites australis is a non-native plant that has spread in wetlands and ditches across Southern Ontario over the past 25 years. It outcompetes beneficial native plant species, producing a mono-culture habitat inhospitable for native animal species. Invasive Phragmites thrives in disturbed soil. It colonizes ditches, wet places, wetlands and shorelines. It completely dominates the areas where it grows, largely excluding other plant species.

How to differentiate native from invasive Phragmites

Although the native species of Phragmites is similar to invasive Phragmites, there are distinct identifying differences:

- the colour of the lower portion of the native Phragmites stalks is dark red; the colour of the invasive Phragmites
- native Phragmites flower late July; invasive Phragmites,
- native Phragmites' flowerheads are much smaller than the flowerheads of non-native Phragmites, and produce fewer seeds per flowerhead

Native animals do not eat invasive Phragmites. This phenomenon could be compared to people visiting a grocery store where most of the produce is familiar... but there are some exotic selections that have been imported from far away lands. Most local people would not know how to prepare them or how they might taste, and so would not select them for their grocery cart. Instead they would choose foods with which they are familiar. Native animals behave similarly; they rely on native plants for their sustenance and usually ignore non-native species.

For these reasons and more, invasive Phragmites should be eliminated from the environment wherever and whenever it

Removing invasive Phragmites

Fall is a good time to remove invasive Phragmites stalks using the spading technique. The weather is generally cooler, making working outdoors more comfortable. Also, the focus of the plant is on storing energy below ground in underground stems (rhizomes) for use next spring.

Using the spading technique, the stalk is cut just below the soil surface with a sharpened spade. This removes all the green parts of the plant above the surface, thus preventing photosynthesis — the process by which the plant produces energy for growth.

Small growth buds are also being produced just below the soil surface at this time (as shown in the photo above). These buds will be the first to grow next spring. In fall, the spading technique removes many of those growth buds. It will be too late in the season for the plant to effectively regenerate new leaves and replace growth buds. If the stalks are removed in this way, the plant's fall preparations will be interrupted, thus weakening the plant's growth in spring.

When removing the stalks, make sure that the flowers cannot spread their seeds. Cut off and burn flowerheads or destroy the seeds by placing flowerheads in a separate sealed plastic bag until they rot. The green stalks can also be burned when dried or, with seed heads removed, placed in leaf bags for municipal composting.

To be good stewards of the land, it is important that we minimize the presence of invasive Phragmites as much as possible, whether on the shore or inland, so that we can maintain a healthy natural environment and benefit native plant and animal species throughout Tiny.

Lynn Short is a professor of horticulture at Humber College's School of Applied Technology.

Read Lynn Short's Research Report on Invasive Phragmites in Tiny

From 2016 to 2019, Lynn Short led a research project on a test site in Wymbolwood Beach. The site featured a stand of invasive Phragmites that had grown undisturbed for at least 10 years.

The results showed that invasive Phragmites can be controlled within 4 years when the stalks are removed by cutting below the soil surface 2 or 3 times a growing season for 3 to 4 years. The number of stalks that need to be removed in each subsequent year continues to decline, making control of Phragmites a less arduous task.

The work was supported by volunteers and Tiny Township, which provided tools and signage, and transferred Phragmites plant material to the Golflink Rd. Transfer Station for industrial composting.

The results were published in Examination of Comparative Manual Removal Strategies for Non-Chemical Control of Invasive Non-Native Phragmites australis subsp. australis: Final Report - Summer 2019. Read the report here: www.tiny.ca/SharedDocuments/Environmental/Research Report Wymbolwood 2019.pdf

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Have you ever been skating on the lake or just looked at the great fields of ice and wondered what happens underneath? Where do the fish go? What happens to the plants? Do frogs actually freeze?

Unlike a glass of water left in your car overnight, Lake Huron doesn't completely freeze in the winter. When water freezes into ice it expands but stays the same mass, which means it becomes more buoyant than the rest of the water, causing it to float. This ice then acts like insulation for the water beneath, keeping it well above freezing and allowing lake life to remain unfrozen and moving. The water below the ice is significantly colder than in the summer, trapping dissolved oxygen molecules in the water meaning life can still survive.

Now fish! Where do the fish go? They can't leave the lake, so are they just swimming around down there? Do they even realize it's winter?

Not only do they notice but their behaviour changes quite drastically. Fish are cold blooded, which means their blood is the same temperature as the lake. As the lake gets colder the fish slow down. Everything slows, including their movement, heart rate and metabolism. They also have a few clever tactics to help them survive:

- saline (salt) in their bodies lowers the boiling/freezing temperature, which helps to prevent them from completely freezing.
- because lakes cool from the top down, in winter the deepest parts hold the warmest water. Lots of fish group together here and go into a "winter rest" where they barely hunt or even move.
- some will bury themselves for the winter in the warmer sediment.

Some colder water species like trout or salmon are better adapted to the cold, so they stay more active during the winter. However, all fish must be careful not to be too active and use up too much oxygen as none can enter the lake if the surface is ice covered.

Frogs

With amphibians like frogs, it depends on the species. Those spending most of their time in water will likely enter a state of hibernation and rest in the warmer waters at the bottom of a lake or pond. Land-based frogs burrow below the frost line or get as low as they can by squeezing into crevices and logs. These species contain high levels of glucose (sugar), which acts as a natural antifreeze by preventing the formation of ice crystals — a threat to the frogs as they can puncture organs and cells. Some frogs actually have the ability to fully freeze and then thaw out in spring.

Everything smaller

Phytoplankton and zooplankton use a tactic similar to warm water fish. They normally settle into sediment to keep warm and wait for summer. The ice blocks most of the sunlight from coming through, which means that they cannot photosynthesize. This is another reason why oxygen levels in the lake may decrease significantly in winter.

In conclusion, fish don't really stop, phytoplankton just chill, and some frogs can actually completely freeze and survive.

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An Update From Your M.P.

by BRUCE STANTON, M.P. Simcoe North



I hope this article finds you well as we continue to work together for the good of our families and our communities in this unusual time of pandemic. I have a few updates for

you this season: high water levels on Georgian Bay, transitioning Canada's COVID income supports, and some personal political news.

Since last summer and continuing through this one, we have experienced high water levels on Georgian Bay and the Upper Great Lakes tracking near and even slightly higher than the last record high-level set in 1986. Of course, this plays havoc with shoreline features, properties and beaches across our region. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation has raised the issue effectively and clearly and helped put it on the agenda of legislators (senators, representatives and MPs) on both sides of the bi-national waters.

The regulator, in as much as one can apply the word in this case, the International Joint Commission (IJC), is the primary respondent to these concerns, bringing marine, engineering and environmental sciences together to help inform matters of public policy and to communicate clearly to the public and stakeholders on these matters.

Through my discussions with IJC personnel and following their webcasts this summer, I was left to conclude that the main reason for this current period of high water is the increase in precipitation these last three years; the highest three-year level in 100 years. The bottom line is that Lakes Michigan, Huron and Erie are essentially uncontrolled. The levels fluctuate according to the weather patterns over multiple years. With the added element of a changing climate and lakes that cycle up and down a range of 1.5 metres, the best (and really the only) approach on this part of the Great Lakes is to make our shorelines and properties as resilient as possible to these naturally changing conditions. For the foreseeable future, communities and neighbours will need to work together to adapt to the changing conditions.

Transitioning from COVID income supports

The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the feder-

al income assistance program that has provided individuals with a \$2,000 a month subsidy since April 6, ends September 27 (at this time of writing). This means that those still without work and needing income assistance will need to transition to El benefits. El will be available for workers transitioning from CERB. These workers will need to have worked 120 days in the last year, be available for work and be seeking work. There will be three new streams of income support:

- Canada Recovery Benefit for self-employed workers
- Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit for those needing to self-isolate due to exposure to COVID
- Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit for those needing to care for a child, dependent or family member due to schools or daycares being closed due to COVID

At the end of August, approximately four and a half million Canadians were on CERB. When the program ends, an estimated three million will enter the EI system, and another one or two million are expected to use the recovery benefits. The good news is that as of early August, more than four million Canadians had moved off CERB and returned to work.

A personal look ahead

As many of you will have already heard, I will not be seeking re-election as MP when the next general election is called. In a minority parliament, no one can predict when that may be and my party and local riding association need to be prepared. By being clear with my intentions now, the process of choosing a new candidate to represent the Conservative Party of Canada in Simcoe North in the next election can be done in a smooth and deliberate manner according to set procedures. I will continue to serve as MP and in my parliamentary duties for the remaining term.

It is an honour and privilege to serve the people of this riding. The people here — business leaders, community and charitable organization members and volunteers, and the thousands of people with whom I have had the chance to meet and serve — are a constant source of inspiration and have been the motivation for my attentions as a public servant since 2006. I won't be going away. Heather and I and our family will continue to be active in the community that's been our family's home for generations.

I hope you have had a wonderful fall despite the restrictions from COVID and wish you all the very best for 2021.













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10 Local Books to Curl Up with This Winter

Picture yourself settling into a cozy armchair with one of these titles. Better still, the look on your family's history buff unwrapping a gift of local history this holiday season.

These popular local titles, many by local authors, are available in the book shops of the Huronia Museum and Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives. For museum locations and hours, see the contact information below.

Huronia Museum

From Kitty Hawk to Kittyhawk: Orville Wright's Life on Georgian Bay in Canada — Guy Johnstone. This is a beautifully illustrated, historically documented account of Orville Wright's life on Georgian Bay. Filled with photographs, letters, and first-hand accounts, this book is a fascinating read. (\$45.00)

After the Fire: Sainte-Marie among the Hurons since 1649 — Paul J. Delaney and Andrew D. Nicholls. The burning of Sainte-Marie in 1649 marked the end of a remarkable chapter in the history of the Jesuits. After the fire, ashes cooled, walls crumbled, and what had been a self-sufficient mission community in the wilderness came to be known simply as the "French ruins." It was 195 years before a Jesuit would again set foot on the soil of Sainte-Marie. While visiting the site in 1844, Father Pierre Chazelle wrote, "Why not make excavations?" his words set in motion the long chain of events that eventually led to the reconstruction of this seventeenth-century community. (\$5.00)

Letters to Edgewood Farm: From a Canadian Girl in World War II — Catherine K. Drinkwater. Through letters and photographs we are able to experience the life of a small-town girl as she serves in the Canadian Women's Army Corp during World War II. (\$29.95)

A Grand Eye for Glory: A Life of Franz Johnston — Roger Burford Mason. In this first biography of Franz Johnston, the author seeks to provide a guide to the life, work, and times of this unjustly neglected, but influential figure in Canadian art and culture. Beautifully illustrated with 16 full-colour reproductions of Johnston's best paintings, and rare black and white photographs. (\$19.95)

Nosing into the Past: Life and Times in Huronia — Mary Haskill. This selection of stories first appeared as a newspaper column in the Midland Free Press from 1976 to 1979. These are true stories about real people. Looking back, their stories are very important to appreciating Midland's history and its future. (\$22.00)

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

This Was Yesterday — John Bayfield & Carole Gerow.

A pictorial history of the early days of Penetanguishene, including the Naval and Military Establishments, arrival of French settlers, influence of lumber in the growth of the town, early industries and tourism, the origin of street names, Drummond Islanders, and more. (\$43.00)

Whiskey and Wickedness, Simcoe County, Ontario — Larry D. Cotton. Simcoe County at one time encompassed a large geographic area stretching from Orangeville to Gravenhurst to Thornbury. Along the route were several small and crude

inns providing drink and shelter, as travel was limited to a few kilometers an hour. This book is a compilation of fascinating stories of these inns and patrons. (\$24.95)

Bert Corbeau — L. Waxy Gregoire. Bert Corbeau was born and raised in Penetanguishene. This book follows his hockey career from the early days through his time with the Montreal Canadiens, 1917-1918. It ends with the story of his tragic death on the waters of Georgian Bay. (\$25.00)

The History of Byng Inlet and Its Shoreline

Communities — Fred Holmes. An excellent resource pertaining to the area stretching from Pine Tree Point to the Magnetawan River along the eastern shore of Georgian Bay. The book contains information about churches, post offices, cemeteries, early merchants, census records, schools, lighthouses, and more. (\$24.95)

Kitche-uwa'ne' A Legend — *David Dupuis*. The timeless Huron legend of the beginning of the world is recreated in this illustrated edition, suitable for people of all ages. (\$9.95)

Contact information

Huronia Museum, 549 Little Lake Park Rd, Midland, ON L4R 4P4; https://huroniamuseum.com

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives,

13 Burke St, Penetanguishene, ON L9M 1C1; www.penetanguishene.ca/en/Museum.asp?_mid_=23034

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We didn't realize 30 years ago how important that phrase would be. The recent COVID crisis has made it our focus to ensure that our families, employees, customers and friends are kept as safe and well as possible. This approach has sustained us through this difficult time and we will continue to do everything we can to be of help and support to anyone in our community.

We are heavily invested in our community as well. From the beginning Midland Toyota has believed in the "Shop Midland" culture. It's our aim to use local trades, local goods and services with the long term view that the relationships we build will be of value to the community. Still today, we have relationships that have lasted more than 25 years from local businesses that helped us build our store to our first customers that purchased vehicles from us.

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