



# THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 57 Spring/Summer 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, CARUSOE BAY

As we continue to weather phase 3 of this horrible pandemic, Tiny seems to be bearing up well as measured by our low infection rates, despite the virulent variants. Please stay the course by observing all guidelines while we wait for vaccinations to catch up.

Proposals to increase aggregate extraction on French's Hill and draw millions of litres to wash the aggregate continue to threaten our groundwater and the Alliston Aquifer. This could affect for many lifetimes what is believed to be the purest water in the world. Please read the page 9 update on our legal battle to preserve this natural heritage. Your generous contributions to help us in this effort would be appreciated: [saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com](https://saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com).

While water levels are thankfully down 18" from last season's high, due in part to less precipitation this winter and spring, efforts continue for more responsible balancing of upstream and downstream interests in managing the St. Mary's River control structure and the St. Clair River. Tiny Council has wholeheartedly thrown its support behind this effort and will join forces with other Great Lakes municipalities in asking governments to better manage the man-made controls at their disposal. Please visit this site for an update: [www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com/](https://www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com/).

With the annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament returning to its traditional outdoor format, FoTTSA is again pleased to participate as Founding Sponsor of this event, which raises so much funding for local causes. Please support it generously by golfing, pledging golfers, or sponsoring it.

Tiny's Transportation Master Plan and Zoning By-Law are currently in development. Public input is vital to these processes. Read more about them in this issue.

Finally, many of you may already be aware of the SS Keewatin, the last still-functioning Edwardian steamship in the world, which for years sailed between Port McNicoll and the then twin cities of Fort William and Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay). She returned to her home berth in Port McNicoll over eight years ago, and talented volunteers have toiled faithfully to restore her. Her stay in Port McNicoll is at risk and the volunteers need our support to keep this incredible treasure here. Please visit their website and help this important effort: <https://sskeewatin.com>.

Have a wonderful summer and stay safe.



Screen capture from an April 20, 2021 deputation to Tiny Council

## Do We Want Aggregate in the Short Term, or Pristine Water Forever?

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

In an April 20, 2021 deputation to Tiny Council, four internationally recognized Canadian scientists made their case for studying the groundwater near French's Hill now, before applications from two controversial aggregate operations to draw millions of litres of groundwater receive final government approval.

Their concerns are not about gravel pits in general, said Dr. Michael Powell, Adjunct Professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources, but about these particular pits and the lasting damage they may cause to the purity of local and regional water supplies. "The waters of Tiny Township are a natural treasure — one unique to Canada. If they are lost, our chance to study and understand natural processes responsible for their quality and our capacity to implement new levels of resource protection will be gone ...

"Aggregate occurs throughout Ontario — pristine water only occurs here. We must better understand this resource before it is destroyed. Do we want aggregate in the short term, or pristine water forever?"

French's Hill serves as a "recharge area" that filters shallow aquifers, which residents rely on for their wells. The filtered groundwater may also percolate down into a major aquifer known as the Alliston Aquifer, which extends from Georgian Bay to the Oak Ridges Moraine. Scientific testing of this water indicates that it is the purest in the world.

What makes French's Hill and the plain below it unique, said John Cherry, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Hydrogeology at the University of Waterloo, is the variability in sediments. "We know that recharge areas occur in small pockets throughout the clay plain, the slopes up the hill, and the hill itself... What we don't know is how all of this works."

This variability helps explain conflicting conclusions in groundwater consulting reports. They don't agree, said

Cherry, because a comprehensive hydrogeology study has not yet been done.

He also noted that the aggregate operations on French's Hill already violate a general rule of environmental science: quarry operations must not be located in the recharge area. "Government organizations that break this rule are deemed to be irresponsible." Expanding the quarry operations "would be a crime against future generations. There are no shades of gray on this, this is a matter of right vs. wrong."

Cherry warned Council against relying on the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to make the right decisions regarding the permits to draw water because professional engineers and hydrogeologists don't author the decisions that come out of the ministry "purporting to be based on groundwater knowledge. It's a failure of the Ontario system," said Cherry.

"You need to protect yourself and your environment from the Ministry of the Environment," continued Cherry, "That's my opinion, and I state that opinion at public talks, and any time the ministry wants to debate this with me I would be happy to debate it."

*Dr. Ian Clark, an expert in groundwater geochemistry and environmental isotopes in hydrogeological settings at the University of Ottawa, and Dr. William Shotyky, a geochemist at the University of Alberta, also spoke during the deposition. Listen to all four scientists here: <https://saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com/videos/>. Tiny Township has not approved an application to expand one of the aggregate operations into French's Hill. This application is separate from applications to draw groundwater, which were submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. Learn more about the issues in "Background and Update on Teedon and Sarjeant Gravel Pits," on page 9.*

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"I would never do that!" An A-Z for the Best Beach Stewards

by LYNNE ARCHIBALD, Nottawaga Beach



Frog making the most of a dune slack.

It's 2021 and we all know that the environment cannot be taken for granted. As residents of Tiny, we are among the luckiest people in the world, with over 70 km of unique Great Lakes freshwater shoreline in our care. None of us would intentionally leave garbage on the beach, but are we really doing everything we can to take care of our coast? Here are some tips to show your shore some big love.

**ATVs** are essential for many to get watercraft into the lake at the beginning and end of every season, but they have no place on the beach at any other time. They destroy dunes, shore bird nests, and the native plants that hold the sand in place.

**Bonfires** require permits, and any fire more than a metre in diameter requires a special permit. Check first for a fire ban. To avoid leaving charcoal residue, dig a firepit beforehand. Afterward, completely douse the fire. When the fire is completely out, refill the pit. Ensure the pit is within the limits of your property. Bonfires are prohibited on public beaches.

**Cigarette butts** may be small individually but they are a worldwide ecological problem. When washed into the lake, they slowly dissolve and the filters release pollutants absorbed from the tobacco. In the water and on the beach, they may be eaten by animals and birds that mistake them for food.

**Dogs** love the beach, and of course you are a responsible owner who always picks up after your dog. But what about when you let your dog off leash for some exercise and it runs off into the dune? Or when you meet a neighbour and aren't watching the dog? If you are in an area where your dog can be off leash, always follow, stoop and scoop.

**Dune slacks** are low-lying areas within dune systems that fill with water after heavy rain or when the lake is high. They are nature's built-in emergency adaptive system. Enjoy the

frogs while you can and then allow the area to dry out naturally when the cycle shifts. Climate change is bringing warmer, wetter and wilder weather, so a resilient shoreline with natural dune slacks will protect neighbouring properties.

**Golf balls** do not belong in the lake. Made of thermoplastics, resin and rubber, golf balls take a long time to disintegrate completely, and as they degrade they release microplastics into the water. Microplastics are one of the serious problems facing the Great Lakes and all those who live in and around them — people, flora and fauna.

**Invasive species** are thriving in Tiny. Find out how to identify and deal with top shoreline invaders, including White Sweet Clover, Spotted Knapweed and Phragmites, on the *Tiny Cottager* website: [www.tinycottager.org/invasive-species-2/](http://www.tinycottager.org/invasive-species-2/)

**Lawns and "hardscaping"** are what our grandparents thought looked nice and tidy. We know better now. Naturalizing shorelines that were damaged in the past can help re-establish precious habitats. Native shoreline vegetation is crucial to the health and quality of the lake because it naturally filters the water and holds the sand.

**Native species** are hard-working and adapted to local conditions, so they'll do the work for you. Good choices for Tiny beaches and dunes are Marram grass (*Ammophila breviligata*), Great Lakes Wheat Grass (*Elymus lanceolatus*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*), Smooth Wild Rose (*Rosa blanda*), Beach Pea (*Lathyrus japonicus*), Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), and Sand Cherry (*runus pumila*).

**Plogging** takes "not littering" to the next level by leaving the beach better than you found it. Take a small bag (e.g., bread bag, used ziplock) on every beach walk, pick up microplastics (and the macro ones too), and put them in the garbage where they belong. Once you start looking, you'll see that even the "cleanest" beaches are chock-a-block with microplastics.

**Rakes** are the enemies of biodiversity. All kinds of birds need the natural shoreline flotsam and jetsam for food and nesting materials. Just clear what you need for your towels. And don't be fooled by photos of plant-free beaches in resort brochures. Beaches need plants.

Understanding our shore makes us better beach stewards. Learn more from this fantastic online publication, *Southern Georgian Bay Shoreline Stewardship Guide* by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation; [www.lakehuron.ca](http://www.lakehuron.ca).

Help FoTTSA

Protect the Waverley Uplands Groundwater and the Alliston Aquifer

For more information about making a donation— **any amount will help** — see "FoTTSA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT" on page 5. Your contribution will help FoTTSA in our legal campaign to stop the Teedon Gravel Pit expansion.

FoTTSA is responsible for Canadian Environmental Law Association's (CELA) expenses (travel, hotels, supplies) and for the cost of retaining essential witnesses like hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland. These expenses will amount to thousands of dollars.

Help us by making a donation to FoTTSA by PayPal, e-transfer or cheque.

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# A.Y. Jackson’s “Unknown” Landscape by DOUGLAS HUNTER



Photo: McMaster Museum of Art

I visited McMaster University’s Museum of Fine Arts in February 2020, to view several early (pre World War I) works by A.Y. Jackson. One of them, *Girl in the Middy*, an oil sketch of Rosa Breithaupt, herself painting by the water’s edge, contained a bonus painting on the obverse side: a landscape catalogued as “unknown” in subject matter. Jackson’s fellow member of the Group of Seven, A.J. Casson, actually wrote (in ink!) on it: “The sketch on the reverse side could possibly be an early A.Y. Jackson.” That clearly seems to be the case. But what does it depict?

We have some basic clues to the subject matter. Rosa Breithaupt was one of two artistically inclined Breithaupt sisters (the other was Edna) that Jackson first met in 1910, when he travelled from Montreal to the southwestern Ontario city of Berlin (which changed its name to Kitchener in 1916). As a struggling young artist, A.Y. made the visit to meet and mingle with well-off relatives and their circle of friends. The circle included the Breithaupts, one of Berlin’s most prominent families. Rosa and Edna’s father, Louis, owned a tannery in Penetanguishene, at what is still known as Tannery Point, on southeastern Georgian Bay, and had a summer home near the tannery on Penetanguishene harbour. They also had a large houseboat, the *Vancrofter*, which could sleep two dozen people. When the *Vancrofter* wasn’t accommodating guests at the summer home, it was towed by a tugboat into the Cognashene region to the northeast, an emerging cottaging area studded with islands in Georgian Bay’s 30,000 Islands, where it would be anchored. Jackson’s Berlin relatives, the Clement family, had a cottage in the Cognashene, at Portage Point, across from another leading Berlin family, the Williamses, at Wabec Island.

Jackson visited the Cognashene (and Georgian Bay) for the first time, in the summer of 1910 staying for about a month at the Clement cottage. It was his introduction to the iconic rock-and-pine Georgian Bay landscape depicted by Jackson

and fellow future members of the Group of Seven (formed in 1920), and by Tom Thomson. Before the war broke out, he visited Penetanguishene and the Cognashene again in 1911 and 1913. He also stayed at Dr. James MacCallum’s cottage up the shore from the Cognashene at West Wind Island in the fall of 1913. We also know from paintings of the tannery and Penetanguishene harbour that he stayed with the Breithaupts in Penetanguishene.

It’s important to know, when looking at Jackson’s sketch, that the landscape of Georgian Bay changes dramatically only a few miles north of Penetanguishene. Around Penetanguishene, the terrain is very sandy and otherwise typical of much of southern Ontario, and extensively farmed. Just beyond Penetanguishene, about halfway up the west side of Beausoleil Island (now the heart of Georgian Bay Islands National Park), the

rock-and-pine of the Laurentian shield emerges at the Gin Islands, and typifies the landscape just to the north, at the Cognashene.

When I first laid my eyes on Jackson’s unknown landscape, I was struck by how much it resembled a view I know very well. I have lived not far from Penetanguishene for about 25 years. I have kept two boats at a marina in its harbour, and have otherwise been in and out of that harbour many times. The sketch immediately brought to mind the westward view from outer Penetanguishene harbour, toward the high ground of Tiny Township around Lafontaine. When you come into the main harbour from the outer harbour, you negotiate a narrows formed by a spit of land on the left (south), extending from the high ground of Asylum Point. On the right is Michaud Point. Once you are through this gap, the length of Penetanguishene Harbour opens on your left, to the south. Tannery Point is about 2.5 km to the south. While I cannot say so without a shred of doubt, the sketch of Rosa on the opposite side associates the landscape sketch with the Breithaupts. I am fairly persuaded that the unknown landscape is a quick sketch Jackson made, probably from a rowboat or sailboat, while puttering around near the Breithaupt summer home in Penetanguishene during one of his pre-war visits.



Westward view of approach to Penetanguishene Harbour. [Annotated. Nautical Chart captured from Aqua Map]

*This article was first published online by Port McNicoll resident Douglas Hunter; [douglasshunter.ca](http://douglasshunter.ca). Douglas holds a PhD in history and is the author or co-author of more than 20 books. He is currently completing a book on A.Y. Jackson’s early career and experiences as a war artist. Watch for an excerpt in an upcoming issue of The Tiny Cottager.*

## Township to Draft New Zoning By-law

by ROBERT McBRIDE, Wymbolwood Beach

Since the County of Simcoe approved the Township of Tiny’s new Official Plan on January 26, 2021, the next step in the Township’s planning program is to translate the plan into a new zoning by-law (ZBL). The ZBL is the Township’s primary tool for regulating how land is used. The ZBL assigns all properties to zone categories (e.g., residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial) and spells out what uses are permitted in each category.

Tiny’s new ZBL must, in accordance with the *Planning Act*, conform to the Township’s new Official Plan. Changes that may be proposed in the new ZBL could have an impact on your property, as zoning by-laws set standards for the location, massing and height of buildings and structures on a lot.

The Township has retained MHBC Planning, a planning consulting firm, to undertake this project. MHBC Planning is the same firm that led the new Official Plan project. MHBC and the Township Planning & Development Department will be working on the New Tiny ZBL over the next year or beyond.

MHBC presented an overview of the project, including the work plan, public engagement strategy, and schedule at Council’s February 24, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. The meeting can be viewed on the Township YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rg1h53qur8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rg1h53qur8). The presentation starts at about the 1 hour and 10 minute mark.

The first phase is to undertake a detailed review of the new Official Plan and the existing ZBL and identify directions, options, and issues for the preparation of the new ZBL.

The new ZBL project will offer a number of ways and opportunities for residents, business owners, and associations to participate in the process:

- an online survey seeking input on the identified issues
- two public information sessions/open houses
- a public meeting prior to the approval by Council of the new ZBL

Meeting dates and details will be advertised in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning Act*, communicated by the Township via various means. FoTTSA will keep readers informed through coverage in *FoTTSA Flash* and *The Tiny Cottager*.

Learn more about the project at [www.tiny.ca](http://www.tiny.ca).  
*Robert McBride is a recently retired transportation planning and engineering professional.*

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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 publication.

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*The Tiny Cottager* acknowledges that Tiny Township is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture, and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and partnership with all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

# REPORT ON COUNCIL

**Mayor:** George Cornell  
**Deputy Mayor:** Steffen Walma  
**Councillors:** Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoﬀ, Gibb Wishart

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Virtual Town Hall - Saturday June 12, 2021
- Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament – September 10, 2021, at the Orr Lake Golf Club
- Visit the Township's COVID-19 webpage at [www.tiny.ca/coronavirus](http://www.tiny.ca/coronavirus) for municipal service impacts and updates
- Tiny Connect - Sign up at [www.tinyconnect.ca](http://www.tinyconnect.ca).

**ROAD SAFETY:** In September 2020, Lynne Archibald, of FoTSTA, presented a deputation regarding safety on Tiny Beaches Road together with the results of a survey of residents across the township on this subject. "Some of the concerns expressed included speeding, vehicles not yielding to cyclists or pedestrians, blind spots, poor road conditions and narrow shoulders."

Susan Inwood, of the Thunder Beach Association, provided Council and staff with the results of a road safety survey in the Thunder Beach area. The concerns of this survey were similar to those in the survey regarding Tiny Beaches Road.

Both associations hoped to have remedial measures (particularly 4-way stop signs) installed before summer 2021. Staff, however, decided to refer such decisions to the Transportation Master Plan, scheduled for completion at the end of 2021. One helpful acquisition is three new solar radar signs. They are to be placed on Balm Beach Road W at Albert Avenue, on Thunder Beach Road at Green Point Road, and at 1371 Champlain Road.

**STAFF RESIGNATIONS AND REPLACEMENTS:** In very short order, three key members of staff had to be replaced. Fire Chief Ray Millar retired in September and was replaced by Deputy Fire Chief Dave Flewelling on October 1, 2020; Doug Luker ceased to be CAO on September 25, and Director of Finance/Treasurer Doug Taylor retired as of September 30.

On December 9, Tim Leitch (Public Works) was appointed Acting CAO/Acting Deputy Clerk, while Deputy Treasurer Haley Leblond was appointed Acting Director of Finance/Treasurer.

In February 2021, Robert J. Lamb was appointed Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk. (Lamb was Manager of Economic Development for Orillia 2001-2009 and for Simcoe County 2009-2013, CAO of Tay Township 2013-2019, then CAO of Brock Township 2019-2020.)

In April, Haley Leblond was formally hired to be Director of Finance/Treasurer.

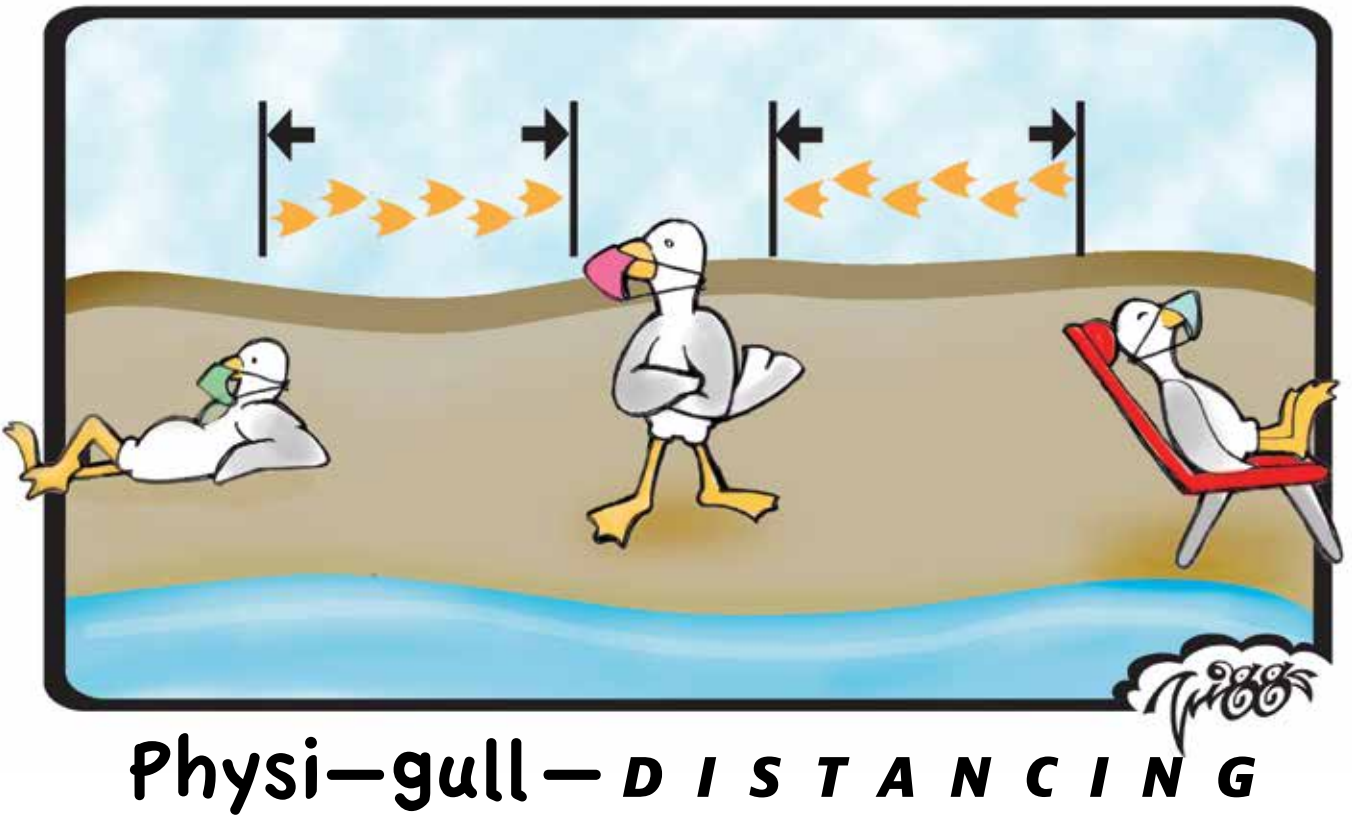
**TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL POSITION:** In September 2020, Treasurer Doug Taylor presented a Financial Impact Report itemizing the direct and indirect revenue and expense impacts of COVID-19. Taylor concluded: "The net impact of the lost or deferred revenues and the costs not incurred as a result of COVID-19 at August 22, 2020 is \$362.1k. Therefore, the total year-to-date estimated impact at August 22, 2020 is \$515.2k. It should be noted that costs and revenues will continue to be impacted for the balance of 2020 and will quite likely impact on 2021 to a lesser extent."

He noted that "additional revenue and cost impacts may be offset/partially offset by the Provincial funding announcement dated August 12, 2020 ... of \$616.7k."

In February 2021, auditors from Baker Tilly Canada were of the view that the township's "financial statements are free from material misstatement." However, they made two negative points:

- the Township's Asset Consumption Ratio has been slowly moving in the wrong direction.
- the unrestricted deficit is growing, and the reserves/ reserve fund ratio is not favourable compared to the provincial average.

In April, Treasurer Haley Leblond presented a Projected Unaudited 2020 Year-End Financial Summary. After explaining some of the difficulties in preparing such a summary when COVID impacted so many aspects of township finances, she concluded: "Staff have done their best to include ... the estimated direct and indirect costs which will be offset with the COVID relief funding once the methodology from



the Province has been provided." Inevitably adjustments had to be made and will continue to be made in 2021.

**SHORT TERM RENTALS:** On May 25, 2020, FoTSTA presented the results of its STR survey to Council along with a number of recommendations. In June, Council asked staff to report back on a framework for a licensing policy for STRs. When nothing was forthcoming, Councillor Mintoﬀ presented a comprehensive motion in November providing a list of actions that would need to be taken if rules, licensing, and the like were to be in place prior to the summer of 2021.

On February 24, 2021, Council heard a presentation by Samantha White of Granicus Host Compliance, a firm that could manage all aspects of STRs, and considered a report about STRs by Steven Harvey (By-law). Then staff was told:

- to develop a public survey, in consultation with FoTSTA, for consideration at the first Committee of the Whole meeting in March
- to draft a short-term rental licensing by-law including a renter's code of conduct
- to report back on next steps for the summer 2021 program with an implementation target date of the end of May.

In the event, Staff did not consult FoTSTA but did, at the end of February, put its own survey on the township's website. It elicited 699 responses.

At the April 29, 2021 meeting of Council, six individuals who rent their cottages or who manage STRs for a number of owners made deputations to Council, all interested in serving on an advisory committee regarding STRs. Council then had a wide-ranging discussion of matters that needed to be considered when creating a draft STR by-law and a code of conduct.

CAO Lamb brought discussion to a close by observing that staff had been working on a draft, a draft that would incorporate points raised by Council and would be run by township lawyers to ensure that it could be enforced. It would be presented to Council in May... **Action at last?**

**GYPSY MOTHS:** Gypsy moth depredations and how to cope with them have been on Council's meeting agendas regularly since last August. FoTSTA has written letters, reported on research, conducted a survey, made deputations, and asked for a township or county spraying program of affected areas. In response Council has twice asked for advice from the Severn Sound Environmental Association and the County's Forestry Department, looked into costs, opposed township wide spraying and spraying of municipal lands, and has created an onerous reporting program for private land-owners who choose to spray.

**TRANSPORTATION & TRANSIT MASTER PLAN:** See p.8

**PARKING CHANGES:** In November, Council supported the staff recommendation that the permit parking season be extended from April 15 to October 15 and that the fine for parking in a No Parking zone be increased to \$75 for early

payment and \$90 for payment by the deadline. These moves were intended to remedy overcrowding.

In February, it was decided to convert open parking on Peek-a-Boo Trail and a portion of Champlain Road to permit parking. But then, inspection by By-law, Emergency Services, and Public Works revealed emergency vehicle access issues in the area. Council agreed that the roads in question should be returned to open parking and adjustments made to signage in the area regarding Emergency Access Roads.

Similar inspection of Seneca Cres, Tomahawk Cres, Seguin Cres, Manitou Cres, Couchiching Cres, Iroquois Cres, Coppercliff Cres and Chippewa Cres also revealed emergency access issues. All these crescents are to become Emergency Access Roads and appropriate signage is to be installed.

(Hereafter, at Councillor Mintoﬀ's suggestion, changes to parking are to be vetted by Emergency Services before coming to Council.)

In April, Council learned that purchase of non-resident permits by residents of Penetanguishene, Midland, Springwater and Tay more than exhausted the 225 available by April 1, the day they were announced to be available. The number is to be raised to 250 and a lottery instituted for the 25 extra spots among those whose orders arrived by April 1.

**REMOVAL OF BEAVER DAM:** See p.6.

**PHRAGMITES ERADICATION FUNDING:** In February, Kate Harries, President of the MTM Conservation Association, asked for funding for a Phragmites eradication project in Tiny Marsh and for a letter of support to accompany her application for an EcoAction Grant. She asked the township to contribute \$3,000 in year 1, \$2,000 in year 2, and \$1,000 in year 3 — \$6,000 in all. Council supported giving her \$3,000 from the Public Works budget and agreed to supply the necessary letter of support.

**BUDGET:** In February, Haley Leblond, Acting Director of Finance, presented a budget for 2021 predicated on a 2.42% municipal increase. The lion's share of the capital budget (62.5%) went to roads and 55% of the operating budget went to public protection and transportation (31% for policing and fire, and 24% for roads). It was approved and adopted.

**NEW ZONING BY-LAW:** See p.3.

**GRACE PERIOD FOR TAX PENALTIES/CHARGES:** As it had in 2020, in March Council approved a grace period for tax penalties/charges related to 2021 tax bills.

**EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION:** In March, Council approved a pay increase for township employees of 1%.

**SEWAGE SYSTEM RE-INSPECTION PROGRAM:** In March, Bill Goodale of Tatham Engineering brought Council up to date on the Township's ongoing septic re-inspection program. The area inspected in 2020 included 1,354 properties in the township's northwest quadrant. Septic systems on 129 lots proved to have deficiencies: 48 had root intru-



# REPORT ON COUNCIL

sions into the leaching bed area, 11 had an outdoor sink or shower with a drain discharging onto the ground, 8 needed to have septic tank lids raised to be level with the surface of the ground, 7 had indications of vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed, and 6 or fewer lots had 22 different issues. Follow-up work was done on outstanding issues from four previous years’ inspections. Owners of 18 properties from 2016 inspections that still hadn’t complied have been or will be taken to the Ontario Court of Justice.

The areas to be inspected in the summer of 2021 are Thunder Beach, Giants Tomb Island and Balm Beach.

**UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARKS:** The Midland Bay Landing Development Corporation is conducting a feasibility study into obtaining a UNESCO global geopark designation for the Midland area, which may include a portion of Tiny. UNESCO Global Geoparks are geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed holistically for protection, education and sustainable development. The 10 top areas that Global Geoparks focus on include natural resources, geological hazards, climate change, education, science, culture, empowering women, sustainable development, local and indigenous knowledge, and geoconservation.

Why become a UNESCO Geopark? Such an area utilizes cultural, historic and geographical assets, helps achieve municipal strategic plan objectives, creates a regional vision and brand, results in appropriate economic growth and development, and attracts private investment and new tax revenue. The presenters will provide feasibility study updates through July 2021.

**PARK AMBASSADORS:** In March, CAO Robert Lamb reported that the Township of Tiny had received additional COVID relief funding from the Province. As was done last year, he recommended that some of the funds be used to hire extra staff to educate park users on the rules and regulations under COVID. Council approved his recommendation.

**TOWNSHIP LIBRARY USE:** Hitherto residents of Tiny could sign up for a free (i.e., funded by the Township) membership in a library in Penetanguishene or Midland or Springwater. As of March, Tiny’s residents can have full access to all three libraries.

**COUNCIL COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES HANDLING GUIDELINE:** Council approved a carefully thought-out Complaint and Inquiry Handling Guideline (Clerk’s Report CR-008-21). This includes entries headed Type of Correspondence, Examples, Receipt and Acknowledgement, Documentation and Tracking, and Resolution and Filing.

**COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT DECISIONS:** In March, at the suggestion of CAO Robert Lamb, it was decided to incorporate the Committee of Adjustment reports into the Committee of Adjustment Meeting Minutes henceforth.

**GROUNDWATER PRESENTATION BY DR. WILLIAM SHOTYK AND DR. MICHAEL POWELL:** Dr. William Shotyk focused his comments on water quality. He described the abundant flowing artesian springs of Huronia, said that the Ouendats’ word for the area meant “the lands that exude water,” described the extraordinary scientific cleanliness of the water, both ancient and recent, and said that the reason the water is so clean is filtration by vegetation, soil, sand, and aggregate. The study he and a team of scientists are about to undertake has as its objective understanding how the filtration that produces this extraordinary water works.

Dr. Michael Powell spoke about the geology of the area (showing diagrams of the situation below ground) and the need to understand its complexities. The science team needs to drill special wells. Their objective is to effect changes in


policy at all levels of government. They are applying for a major Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Alliance Grant this fall. Both men invited the township to become a stakeholder whereby it would share the data amassed by the project through a liaison person so that scientific discoveries would inform policy on resource use.

**COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE:** This is to continue on a three-week rotation until the end of June.

**COVID PARKING RESTRICTIONS:** The restrictions put in place last year are to be implemented again this year. These are designed to give residents priority access to the township’s public beaches and to address physical distancing concerns. So, from April 15 to October 15, 2021,

- All metered parking is unavailable
- All open parking slots in beach areas are unavailable
- Beach area parking is only available to annual parking permit holders (available to Tiny residents and a limited number of residents of Midland, Penetanguishene, Springwater and Tay)

— continued on page 6



**THE TINY COTTAGER**

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# REPORT ON COUNCIL

- Vehicles parked illegally in public beach areas will be ticketed and towed
- 30-minute maximum parking spaces at Balm Beach will continue to be available without a parking permit to allow for curbside pick-up and take-out orders.

**UPDATED NOISE BY-LAW:** This includes an increase in Noise Set Fines (from \$150 to \$300), a \$500 minimum fine for repeat offences, new definitions for domestic tools and lawn maintenance equipment and prohibited times (9 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday to Friday and 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays). It also authorized a Noise Enforcement Campaign for 2021 to increase awareness and encourage compliance.

**JACKSON PARK BOAT LAUNCH:** A non-resident vehicle and trailer daily parking fee is to be \$40, and staff is to report back on a pilot program for the 2021 season including staffing a kiosk with a summer student for the purpose of controlling traffic and collecting boat launch fees, as well as hours of operation and a communication strategy regarding the proposed changes.

**TAXES:** The last two installments of this year’s taxes are due on June 25 and September 24. The total levied is \$30,888,990. Of this \$12,897,222 supports the Township, \$11,360,110 the County of Simcoe, and \$6,631,658 Education.

**BEACHFRONT PROPERTY DELINEATION:** This is a multi-year project. The listed properties are to be surveyed, encroachments identified, and decisions reached about the encroachments and about complicated boundaries, letters to be sent to abutting landowners, and demarcation posts installed a foot inside the municipal property boundary. Small signs are to be affixed to the posts facing the municipal land displaying the township logo.

**The properties to be delineated this summer are:**

- Lafontaine Beach Park, north boundary
- Wahnekekening Beach, all boundaries
- Bluewater Beach, north and south boundaries
- Concession 9/Ossossane Beach, all boundaries from Lundy Lane to Concession 9
- Woodland Beach, south boundary
- Jackson Park, north boundary
- Edmore Beach, all boundaries
- Archer Road Allowance, all boundaries
- 42 Lackie Crescent, all boundaries
- 10 Nassau Court, all boundaries
- 1880 Tiny Beaches Road North, waterfront boundaries



Julia Aronov@bestill8photography

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

Wymbolwood Beach residents have protested the destruction of a beaver dam in late fall by Township staff. At issue for the residents was whether the destruction was necessary, and what process if any was in place to identify ways of minimizing the effect on local wildlife.

The dam was located upstream of a culvert. An excavator was used to destroy the dam even though water had been flowing unaffected through the culvert. The work appears to have been done without an environmental assessment or a formal work order.

According to a 1995 document published by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, destroying a beaver dam does nothing to make the area unattractive to beaver. They may rebuild their dams, often starting the same day.\*

Late fall is a precarious time of year for beaver. Their dams maintain water levels at a height that keeps their lodge safe from predators and the lodge entrance free of ice in winter. Destroying a dam in late fall puts beavers’ food supply and safety at risk. As of press time, it is not known whether the Hall’s Creek beaver was able to survive the winter.

The dam was located on Hall’s Creek, a natural stream that passes through a provincially significant wetland and the Wymbolwood Nature Preserve before draining into Georgian Bay.

**Deputation questions the lack of process**

In a November 20, 2021 deputation to Tiny Council, Julie Aranov presented a petition signed by over 50 Wymbolwood residents asking the Township to stop destroying the dam.

Julie also asked, “How is it that Tiny Township is not required to show even a minimum standard of environmental stewardship when dealing with a beaver dam on a natural creek within a provincially significant wetland?” Furthermore, she asked, had the Township

- considered other solutions that might have protected private property while enabling the beaver to survive the winter, such as pond levellers — simple, low-cost devices that allow water to flow through a beaver dam or plugged culvert
- taken steps to ensure that its actions did not cause the affected beaver(s) unnecessary suffering

In response to a question from Council about how the Township responds to natural threats to infrastructure, a staff member pointed out that in the past a dam on Hall’s Creek caused a section of Tiny Beaches Road South to wash out. “There is a reason why we do get rid of [dams]. It’s not just because we don’t like beavers, we have nothing against beavers. We’re just digging up their dams.”

In a December 2 letter to Council, Wymbolwood resident Lynn Short challenged the staff member’s comments. The flooding event referred to occurred in the 1960s, she noted. Since then much larger culverts have been installed where Hall’s Creek crosses Township roads, “likely altering concerns about road washout.”

- In her letter, Lynn urged that Council direct staff to become better informed on habitat requirements, best practices and more humane ways of dealing with wildlife generally, and beavers in particular

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- document a justification for action that disrupts wildlife habitat, identifies options, and provides a rationale for the recommended action

"This would provide basic assurance to Council and the public that the destructive action taken by its staff is necessary and not simply wanton and irresponsible," Lynn wrote.

In subsequent correspondence to Lynn and Julia, the director of Public Works sidestepped concerns about the decision-making process in removing the dam. Instead, he wrote that culvert blockages in general "will compromise our infrastructure and immediate attention is required where delays will result in costly damage that can be avoided by removal of areas that are not the beaver's lodge but blockage to continue to enlarge flooded areas."

The letter gave no indication that Township staff understand the contribution of beaver to the natural environment, know how to deal with them humanely, or would investigate best practices. Instead, it left responsibility for next steps up to Lynn and Julia: "Please reach out in the new year and we can further review what role your group may play in the management of wildlife with operational obligations."

\*"Options for Controlling Beaver on Private Land," Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 1995. Reproduced by the Municipality of Huron Shores at [huronshores.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Beaver-Control-Tips-MNR.pdf](http://huronshores.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Beaver-Control-Tips-MNR.pdf)

## Beavers: An Inconvenient Species?

by LORNE FITCH

The beaver is quite a package: it swims like a fish, cuts like a chain saw, moves materials like a front end loader, is the first water engineer and the first logger and transforms landscapes at a scale that rivals human-based transformations. Some might consider them an inconvenient species.

As our national symbol the beaver is equally loved, hated and universally misunderstood. They can come with horns or halos. When they flood roads and property or cut favourite trees they can seem evil incarnate. To the myriad of plant, insect, fish and wildlife species beavers create habitat for and to those that appreciate biodiversity, beavers are divinely inspired. In that balance beavers are seriously underrated as a species that can help us weather the storm of climate change.

The essence of climate change is greater variability in our weather. For many landscapes the trend is towards warmer and drier conditions. It may also mean more violent storms that dump massive amounts of rain in a short time period. It's a conundrum of generally less precipitation overall, but delivery faster than the landscape can absorb. In a perverse way it means increased drought and flood conditions, often within the same year.

What beavers do, and have done for centuries, can mitigate some of this increased variability. We may have overlooked a

natural ally in our efforts to conserve and manage water.

When a beaver hears running water it clicks the switch into dam building mode. Deeper water is a safer home for beavers. Beaver dams create impoundments of stored water; often of significant volume. Research indicates that beaver activity can increase the amount of open water in a watershed by nearly 10 per cent. But that's only the water we can see. Beneath the ponds and adjacent areas is a much more profound story. Multiply the volume of surface water by five to 10 times to get a picture of hidden ground water storage.

Beaver ponds both store and deliver water. By allowing water to seep into the ground to shallow aquifers, downstream flows are enhanced from two to 10 times when compared to streams without beavers on them. Most important, that water is delivered later in the season, when flows are normally low (and in drought very low), helping fish survive and providing essential supplies to us downstream water drinkers.

On another front, beaver dams function as speed bumps for streams, slowing down the velocity of moving water. Moving water has incredible power, especially during floods, and can be extremely destructive. An array of beaver dams and ponds in a watershed can delay and reduce the flood peak and the energy associated with that quickly moving mass of water.

Beaver dams increase the width of the effective floodplain up to 12 times. Wider floodplains slow down water by spreading it out. This reduces the erosive force, allowing water to be captured in surface irregularities and eventually some into shallow aquifers. Much of the sediment carried by flood waters is dropped in the floodplain, improving water quality. The impact of a flood is dampened, slowed and reduced, which decreases the negative impacts on downstream communities.

Our attempts to mitigate floods and droughts aren't always successful and are very costly enterprises. Often engineered structures destroy many natural attributes, fish and wildlife populations are negatively affected and visually the results detract from natural landscapes.

If watersheds had more beaver dams and ponds, this would increase the landscape's ability to capture and tame flood flows, mitigate droughts and better manage risk. Integrating beavers into our future flood, drought and watershed plans can reduce costs and impacts and add substantially to benefits.

The challenge is current beaver populations are a fraction of historical numbers. Population recovery has been slow, partly because we have not fully understood and appreciated the many services provided by beavers and the benefits for us. Another look at beavers will show they are a most convenient species to have as an ally as we adjust to water scarcity and periodic water overabundance.

*Lorne Fitch is a professional biologist, a retired fish and wildlife biologist and an adjunct professor with the University of Calgary. This article was published with permission of the Nature Conservancy of Canada, and was previously published online: <https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>*

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- Three professional performances will be projected on a big screen at the Robert Robitaille Pavilion in downtown Lafontaine on Saturday, July 17.
- The evening events happen on a stage where the popular painted wolves are set up for this year's silent auction with final bidding happening live online.
- The groups who were invited to last year's festival – Hey Wow, De Temps Antan and the Winston Band – are currently exploring options for recording their performances specifically for Lafontaine. No matter the distance, we will all be able to tap our feet, dance, sing or all three at once!
- La Meute is hoping to welcome an audience of one

[www.festivalduloup.on.ca](http://www.festivalduloup.on.ca)

hundred provided health officials deem the gathering acceptable. We are committed to entertaining our community in a safe environment. The evening will unfold following health unit directives in effect on July 17.

The 17th edition of the festival will go ahead come hell or high water, as we will broadcast live online and provide streaming for the shows on Facebook and Youtube social media platforms.

### SPREAD THE WORD:

**Festival du Loup #17 is happening on July 17!**

For more information, visit [festivalduloup.on.ca](http://festivalduloup.on.ca).

The mandate of La Meute culturelle is to transfer cultural knowledge from generations past and present, to future generations. Through a variety of activities, projects and events – key vehicles for French language and culture – La Meute will enhance and build francophone pride.

**CONTACT:** Joëlle Roy, Executive Director, La Meute culturelle de Lafontaine, 705 543-1535 [leloup@festivalduloup.on.ca](mailto:leloup@festivalduloup.on.ca)

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# What You Need to Know About Tiny Township's Transportation Master Plan

by ROBERT McBRIDE, Wymbolwood Beach



The Township of Tiny recently began preparing its first ever transportation master plan (TMP). These plans help communities and regions identify solutions to current and future transportation needs for motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, transit, and off-road vehicle mobility, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snowmobiles.

The plan's intent, according to the Township's web page, <https://Tiny.ca/TMP>, is to "improve connectivity and travel times, increase safety, and encourage active transportation."

The Township invited community input through a survey, mapping and email up to April 16. However, future opportunities for consultation remain, including two "public information centres" (details yet to be released). FoTTSA encourages all Tiny residents with an interest in this matter to participate and express their views. The Township expects to complete the study portion of the development process this fall.

As of mid-April, the website has not gone into the full range of topics to be addressed in the plan. However, the scope of services provided by the Township in its request for proposals for consultants to develop the plan lists 5 major objectives and 17 secondary objectives covering a wide range of transportation related topics. Among them:

- reviewing the Township's network for different modes of transportation and proposing how connectivity could be improved to reduce travel times, increase safety, encourage active transportation, encourage the use of transit, and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% for municipal operations and 6% for the community by the year 2028.

— TRANSPORTATION continued on page 12

## Shopping for Goods or Services? Use Your FoTTSA Retail Discount Card



**Show your card to save!** Almost 20 local retailers and service providers participate in the program with exclusive offers available only to holders of FoTTSA's local retail discount card.

The card is available to all members of shoreline associations that belong to FoTTSA, as well as any Tiny resident who makes a donation of \$20 or more.

With the pandemic nearing the end of its cycle, local businesses are eager to serve your needs. Show the card and let participating businesses know that we are supporting them.

It's a win for everyone. You save, and the businesses have an opportunity to increase sales and build customer loyalty.

Businesses sign up because the program offers them a competitive advantage through greater visibility. Each business is listed on the *Tiny Cottager* website. FoTTSA also

# COVID Crazy Real Estate Prices by IRENE WILSON, Wendake Beach



Photo by Tierra Mallorca on Unsplash

Bidding wars, multiple offers, and line-ups at showings are all the product of a new frenzy to exit high population areas like the GTA. In the first three months of 2021, home sales in the eastern portion of southern Georgian Bay jumped 37% over the same period in 2020.\*

Residents in Tiny have been approached by both agents and buyers knocking on their doors, or through letters and mail drops, looking for anyone willing to sell their property.

We have already had Baby Boomers transitioning here to retire, but now COVID-19 has created a surge of seniors and families looking to reduce their risk of serious illness and improve their quality of life. This is especially true for people who had downsized into condos where elevators and underground garages make social distancing and disinfecting a constant challenge. The lockdowns have trapped residents in buildings that often lack greenspace or balconies. Even walking outdoors with masks in high density areas can make some individuals uncomfortable.

Adding to the frenzy are investment buyers looking for properties with Airbnb potential, the demand for which has exploded with people's inability to travel or visit family. The result is unprecedented demand for recreational and

\* The eastern portion of southern Georgian Bay comprises Midland, Penetanguishene, and the townships of Tiny, Tay, Severn and Georgian Bay. Source: "MLS® home sales in Southern Georgian Bay overtake previous March record," Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors, April 14, 2021; [sgbrealtors.com/local-stats-news/](http://sgbrealtors.com/local-stats-news/).

3 RECENT BIDDING WARS	Area	Property Description	List Price	Selling Price	% Increase
All are within walking distance of the beach, but are not waterfront.	Bluelwater Beach	4 bedroom + 2 bath cottage, electric baseboard heat, built in 1983, 2300 sq. ft., all original inside, needing renovation	\$438,000	\$608,000	38
	Lafontaine Beach	3 bedroom + 2 bath cottage, forced air gas heat, built in 1971, 2200 sq. ft., all original inside, needing renovation	\$499,000	\$675,000	26
	Lafontaine Beach	Vacant lot 100 ft x 150 ft	\$199,900	\$256,000	22

promotes the program in each issue of *The Tiny Cottager* — the only publication delivered twice yearly to every business and homeowner in Tiny Township — and in the monthly *FoTTSA Flash* e-newsletter.

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residential properties. Tiny's extensive beaches, gorgeous views, shorelines, woodlands and farms have charmed these city dwellers, many of whom never knew that Tiny existed until they were searching for a vacation rental.

In a high demand, low supply market, bidding wars have been a great way for sellers to maximize the value of their property. Record prices have been achieved regardless of the condition of the home or cottage, and that has also been true for vacant lots. It is not unusual to have 10 to 20 or even 30 offers on a property, especially if the list price is below \$500,000 and the location is appealing.

**6 steps for setting up a bidding war**  
These steps can help you and your agent attract the most potential buyers.

1. Agree on a price that will attract buyers based on current market data. Set a date and time for receiving offers.
2. Declutter and do a basic cleanup inside and outdoors. The cleaner the house, the better it shows.
3. Create a virtual tour by having a professional photographer take photos and drone shots of the surrounding area.
4. Install a "Coming Soon to Realtor.ca" sign on the property a few days to a week before the listing is live on [Realtor.ca](http://Realtor.ca) (optional).
5. Schedule time frames for showings. Set expectations that agents and their clients follow COVID protocols such as masks, gloves, hand sanitizers and no touching of surfaces. Ensure visitors sign standard COVID disclosure forms before showings. Some owners prefer to be away rather than be inconvenienced by the showings: one property had 90 showings over a period of 10 days.
6. Schedule a bidding presentation date, generally 4 to 10 days after the showing period. Review all registered offers with your agent.

Buyers are jumping into this market often without the opportunity to do their due diligence, such as home inspections. They may be represented by out-of-town agents unfamiliar with septic systems, wells or legal beach accesses in our area. Caveat emptor — "let the buyer beware" — so that there are no surprises or regrets after taking possession. *Irene Wilson is a sales representative with RE/MAX Georgian Bay Realty Ltd., and a member of the Georgian Bay Association of Realtors Education Committee.*

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**AUDIA HEARING AID CENTRE**



**Background:** The fight to preserve the aquifers in Tiny Township has been long and complex. It has involved many groups — farmers, First Nations, associations, shoreline communities, scientists — all trying to persuade various levels of government to protect the extraordinary water that underlies Tiny Township.

The first stage of the fight culminated in 2009 in the defeat of Simcoe County's plan to put a garbage dump directly over the aquifer at Site 41 in Concession 2. For many years the fight was spearheaded by local farmers until in the final year there was a broad concerted effort: there were walks for water; women from the Beausoleil First Nation of Christian Island set up a summer-long encampment on Art Parnell's farm next to the proposed site; Jonathan Shore, Kate Harries and Dale Goldhawk (the latter on 740 AM radio) managed publicity; well-known activists including David Crombie, Ralph Nader, Charlie Angus, Elizabeth May, and Maude Barlow visited and spoke at rallies; local politicians including Tiny Council, MPP Garfield Dunlop and MP Bruce Stanton attended rallies and went on walks; the Council of Canadians sponsored petitions; a group sought to change the minds of County Councillors who supported Site 41; and FoTSA participated in the rallies, supported the encampment, and went on walks. In response, the OPP made threatening phone calls, arrested protesters and laid charges.

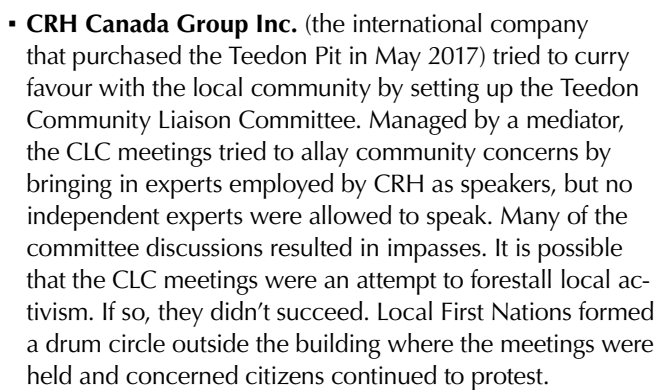
Ironically, the very year Site 41 was finally stopped, the battle to protect the aquifer complex became acute on another front, the washing of gravel in the Teedon Pit, as nearby wells, streams, and springs were impacted with silt. After the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and the pit owners recurrently claimed the washing had no impact on local wells, Bonnie Pauze and Jake Pigeon (owners of 1189 Marshall Road) hired hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland in 2015 to examine the situation and prepare a report, and three years later to submit a second report when CRH Canada Group Inc. (the new owners of the Teedon Pit) applied on January 18, 2018 for a new Permit to Take Water. His reports exposed many problems with the management of the washing of gravel in the Teedon Pit.

## A Chronology of Events: in the years since 2009

- **Aware Simcoe** (successor to the Site 41 Group) monitored the situation and published articles on its website about issues at the Pit and recently about Sarjeant's actions.
- **First Nations women** went on extended water walks around the Great Lakes and hiked from Cedar Point to Site 41. In the midst of an April blizzard in 2018, together with the Friends of the Waverley Uplands, the First Nations cohosted a water ceremony that attracted First Nations representatives from across North America.
- **FoTTSA** published articles in *The Tiny Cottager*, and after December 2018 began to take legal action, initially in opposition to the extension of the Teedon Pit into French's Hill, then regarding the granting of a Permit to Take Water to the Teedon Pit and the application for a PTTW by the Sarjeant Company for an adjacent pit. FoTTSA also created a "Save Our Water" website: [saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com](http://saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com). An immense amount of material is archived there under the headings "how you can help," "permits to take water," Teedon LPAT hearing," "background," "gallery," "videos," "press," and "contacts."
- **The Friends of the Waverley Uplands** set up a Facebook page to do with the Teedon Pit, French's Hill, and the Sarjeant Pit. For a time, Vicki Monague (First Nations) and Erin Archer (Friends) invited concerned citizens to come to the Teedon Pit gate on Fridays to protest the mining and washing of aggregates there.
- **The Council of Canadians**, particularly Maude Barlow and Mark Calzavara, supported local efforts to protect the world's purest water. Calzavara launched petitions garnering thousands of signatories for presentation to the Ontario Legislature and its Ministries of the Environment and Climate Change (MECC) and of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). These expressed concerns about the risks of aggregate extraction to the world's purest water. Local petitions were also signed and presented.
- **Dr. William Shotyk** founded the Elmvale Foundation and the Elmvale Water Festival in 2007 to educate the public about the value of our water resources. He had been sampling artesian flows on his farm just south of the eastern side of Tiny Township for more than 30 years and went on to sample other area flows, learning that local groundwater, young and old, is comparable to the cleanest layers of ancient arctic ice. He has published scholarly articles about the lack of pollutants and trace elements in the water.
- **Shotyk has tried to move area politicians** to protect this extraordinary water. He addressed County Council in 2009 but was not allowed to address that group in 2018. He addressed Tiny Council several years ago, and again recently, in company with Dr. Michael Powell, about the extraordinary quality of the groundwater in Concession

1. He is leading a number of eminent scientists (including Dr. John Cherry, co-author of the standard textbook on groundwater) in a research project bent on understanding why local groundwater is so clean.

- **Deputations** over the years by many individuals and groups kept the community's concerns with the area's pure aquifers front and centre. From time to time, when a key decision had to be made by Council, a large number of such deputations were made. On January 26, 2021, for example, at a meeting concerning the granting of a PTTW to the owner of the Teedon Pit, Kate Harries (Aware Simcoe), Eric Shomann (Green Party), Karen Rathwell (Wellington Water Watchers), Sandy Agnew (Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition), Bonnie Pauze (owner of a silty well), and Peter Anderson (concerned citizen) all made deputations, and written deputations by David Barkey (neighbour of the Teedon Pit), John and Anne Nahuis (from the farming community), and The Council of Canadians were read out.



**LPAT Hearing:** The Township of Tiny got embroiled in the problems presented by the Teedon Pit when the Pit's owners proposed an extension of the Pit north into French's Hill that required changes to the Township's Official Plan and By-

laws. The Township called a couple of well-attended, vocal public meetings on the matter but did not make the requested changes. So CRH appealed its inaction to the LPAT (Local Planning Appeal Tribunal).

Those concerned about the impact of the pit on the aquifer complex met in the Township's Council Chamber on December 5, 2018 for the first LPAT Prehearing Conference. At it, some 31 individuals who wanted to participate in the hearing declared their interest in becoming a party (able to hire a lawyer and cross-examine witnesses), participant (able to submit a statement), or observer.

Three applications for party status emerged that morning: CRH represented by Jonathan Kahn (a leading Canadian environmental lawyer), Tiny Township represented by Sarah Hahn (associate lawyer with Barriston LLP in Barrie), and FoTTSA represented by the Canadian Environmental Law Association. CRH's application to renew its license to take gravel under the *Aggregate Resources Act* and its decision to ask MNRF to refer the license application to the LPAT board for consolidation with the *Planning Act* matters caused a long delay. The referral was finally made in February 2021.

Matters then began to move forward slowly. Two additional Case Management Conferences are now to take place, one to identify any additional Parties or Participants arising from the referral and the other to finalize the Procedural Order and Issues List for the Hearing.

The first is to occur by video on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 10 a.m. and the second is to occur by video on Friday, July 23, 2021 at 10 a.m. For more on attending these meetings, go to [saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com](https://saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com). Under the heading “Teedon LPAT hearing” near the beginning, you’ll see “Memorandum of Oral Decision delivered by T. Prevedel.” That document explains how to attend the June and July meetings.

**Permit to Take Water Issues:** Meantime, a second issue engaged officialdom. CRH's January 18, 2018 application for a Permit to Take Water for the washing of aggregate was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario website for 90 days (60 more than the usual 30). The Ministry received 133 comments through the Registry and 5,113 comments by email, one of them being the comment report prepared for Bonnie Pauze and Jake Pigeon by Wilf Ruland, almost all of them in opposition to the granting of a PTTW.

Nonetheless, three years later, on January 14, 2021, the Director of the MECP issued a PTTW to CRH Canada Group Inc.

Both FoTTSA and the Township applied for Leave to Appeal the decision — a complex, expensive business. But it was successful. Both have since filed the “Notice of Appeal,” which gets the process started, though the appeal probably won’t be heard until late summer or early fall.

—TEEDON continued on page 10

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June	Parks, Recreation & Seniors Month
June - August	Stewardship Events Movies in the Park
July	Festival Du Loup De Lafontaine
Fall	Farm Crawl
September 10	Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament
November	Tiny's Annual Tree Lighting Event

**Disclaimer:** Please note that programming and events are contingent on Provincial and Public Health measures.

## Tiny

... TEEDON continued from page 9

## MIDLAND TOYOTA

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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.

From our owner Jim Koch on down our goal at Midland Toyota is to make sure you have the best new or used vehicle experience possible. After all, you have invested your money with us and we believe it is our responsibility to look after you to the best of our abilities.

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Apart from being swept into the LPAT process through inaction, and yielding to public pressure to make the necessary moves regarding the granting of the PTTW, Council made (and subsequently repeated) two important statements about the situation in Concession 1:

1. That the Township is fundamentally opposed to the extraction and washing of aggregate in environmentally sensitive areas.
2. 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.

**The Sarjeant Company's Application for a PTTW:**

As if the CRH wasn't enough to contend with, the Sarjeant Company, which owns property in Concession 1, became active after a long period of quiescence. Its first move was to resuscitate the road improvement agreement it had made with the Township in 2011, regarding the use of French Road to truck gravel out to County Road 27 from its licensed pits south and west of the Teedon Pit.

So, in 2019, Sarjeant approached the Township about amending the agreement so that it could bring the road up to haul road standard. Since Sarjeant would be the sole user, Councillor Mintoff suggested that the agreement require the company to maintain the road to an appropriate standard throughout its use. This was done. In most respects, though, the Township's hands were tied — the area was zoned aggregate and Sarjeant already had a license to take gravel.

One concern was allayed in January 2020 when Sarjeant proposed to MNRF, and MNRF agreed, that asphalt be removed from the list of recyclable materials that may be imported onto the site.

Work began in 2020 to prepare the site at 1379 Baseline Road, which stretches east to French Road, for the taking and washing of gravel. Vegetation and soil were stripped away, and a gulley created to carry water away from the top of French's Hill. When a scientist involved in the proposed groundwater study looked at what had been done, he was appalled. The removal of the surface of the site and the proposed removal of much of French's Hill meant that the natural filtration system that produced the area's extraordinary water and that the scientists want to study had already suffered damage and would suffer much more.

Then, early in 2021 Sarjeant applied to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for a Permit to Take Water and a notice appeared on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on February 22. When comments flooded in, the comment period was extended to April 23. The proposal included drawing a huge volume of water — 1,641,600 litres — from each of two ponds every day for 180 days of the year, for the washing of aggregate. And there is a lot of aggregate to be washed since Sarjeant has a license to remove a million tonnes of aggregate a year (much more than the Teedon pit's license for 600,000 tonnes).

Tiny's Council directed staff to prepare a formal written objection to Sarjeant's application for a PTTW. FoTTSA likewise decided to oppose the granting of the PTTW and employed Wilf Ruland to prepare a report/comment.

And so, the battle continues. COVID has dramatically limited the actions that can be taken — no big rallies in the Perkinsfield Pavilion, no busing of protestors to Queen's Park, no easy ways to raise funds to finance the legal fight — but it's a battle worth fighting despite the constraints and challenges. We're looking into environmental grants and go fund me platforms on the internet.

We'd welcome your suggestions and support. See "how you can help" in [saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com](http://saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com).

10 The Tiny Cottager



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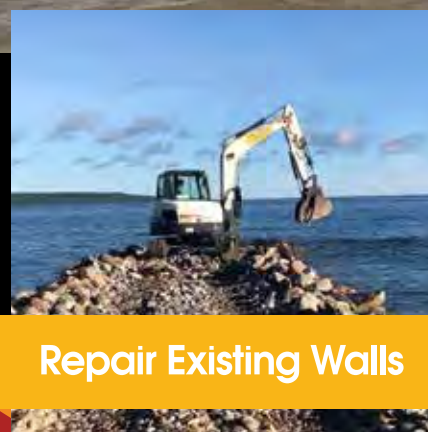
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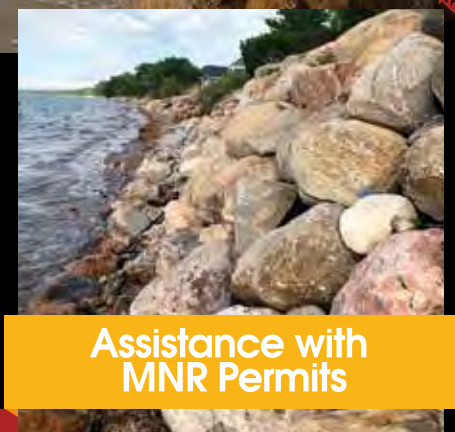
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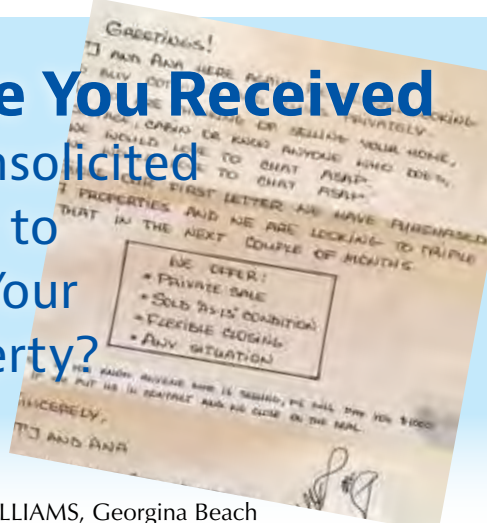
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## Have You Received an Unsolicited Offer to Buy Your Property?



by SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

This offer, recently distributed throughout Tiny Township, conveys a folksy image of a nice couple just trying to find places to buy. They may be nice, but they're entrepreneurs in the business of buying and selling properties wholesale.

While there's nothing illegal about this it's worth understanding what wholesaling is about if you're thinking of selling a property. For help with this, *The Tiny Cottager* asked Phil Pantling, realtor with Royal LePage In Touch, the following questions.

**How does this type of offer to buy work?**

For sellers, there may not appear to be much difference between selling to a wholesaler and traditionally listing your property for sale; in both instances the seller sells and the buyer buys. Where these approaches differ is in the process.

Wholesalers "flip" properties for profit. They negotiate directly with sellers, and their main goal is to get the best deal for themselves without having to compete with other buyers.

When working with a licensed realtor, you get the benefit of a professional working solely on your behalf, exposing the property to as many buyers as possible, to maximize the sale price.

- ... TRANSPORTATION continued from page 8
- reviewing the potential for truck routes that would limit heavy vehicle traffic to certain roads in order to preserve the rural nature of other roads and extend their lifespan.
  - reviewing the network of narrow roads along the shoreline and recommending whether they should be converted to one-way streets and how such a plan should be implemented.
  - reviewing and recommending areas to be designated as "Community Safety Zones."
  - reviewing major intersections and recommending if any should be studied for functionality or safety improvements.
  - providing an action plan for implementing recommendations over a 10-year time frame.

**No explicit reference to safety on TBR**

None of the objectives in the scope of services explicitly require the study team to review road safety along TBR with a particular view to excessive speeding and the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and those using mobility devices. Nor does it require the consultant to recommend a comprehensive solution.

This came as a surprise to FoTTSA since 96% of respondents to a road safety survey conducted by FoTTSA last summer felt speeding on TBR was a problem sometimes or all the time. The survey, which asked 10 questions about safety on TBR, generated an astounding 37% response rate — the highest ever to a FoTTSA survey — and over 1500 comments. (For more on survey results, see "What You Told Us...")

Nevertheless, the Township has assured FoTTSA that the matter will be reviewed and recommendations will be forthcoming in the TMP. The Township has also confirmed in correspondence to the president of the Wymbolwood Beach Association that it is "looking at techniques to control speeds on all our roads including TBRS as part of our master plan which will be completed with recommendations later this fall; however, instances that have a threat of imminent danger are assessed immediately."

FoTTSA is encouraged by this assurance and looks forward

**What properties are best suited to this approach?**

Certain circumstances may make sense for a seller to consider this type of offer. If, for instance, a property can't be shown, either due to a structural issue, an uncooperative tenant, or a potential health risk such as mould, a seller may decide to entertain such an offer. Even in extreme situations such as these, it would still be in the seller's best interest to consult with a realtor first to ensure they are getting fair market value for their property.

**What are the benefits to sellers?**

No real estate commissions would be the biggest benefit but wholesalers may also offer additional incentives, such as "no home inspection," "all cash offer" or "quick closing."

**What are some potential drawbacks?**

Wholesalers are hoping the allure of "no real estate commissions" will entice potential sellers to sell their properties exclusively, often at significantly below market value. In many cases, the sellers are "stepping over pounds to pick up pennies" since the true value of their assets, if exposed to the open market, may far outweigh savings in commissions.

**Are wholesalers licensed realtors?**

Not usually. Realtors are bound by a code of ethics requiring them to disclose that they are realtors, their intentions with the property, and if they are aware of any facts that may affect the property value at the time of sale. If wholesalers were realtors, they would be obliged to make these disclosures.

**What benefits does a realtor provide that a wholesaler cannot?**

A realtor will expose your property to as many qualified buyers as possible to get the best sale price. In today's market of immense demand and anemic supply, sellers who decide to sell their property to a single buyer may be doing themselves a disservice. Anyone considering selling should first seek the advice of a trusted local realtor.

*Phil Pantling is a longtime resident of Tiny and a realtor at Royal LePage In Touch.*

to participating in the process leading to these recommendations. That said, FoTTSA also believes that, apart from the TMP process, the Township's commitment should extend to rapid implementation of specific measures to improve road safety on TBR.

*Robert McBride is a recently retired transportation planning and engineering professional.*

## What You Told Us About Safety on Tiny Beaches Road

In a September 28, 2020 deputation to Tiny Council, FoTTSA presented the findings of an extensive survey on safety issues experienced on Tiny Beaches Road (TBR). Over 450 respondents completed a 10-question survey and provided 1500 written comments. Among the findings: 77% of respondents feel unsafe using Tiny Beaches Road during summer months

- 96% feel that speeding traffic is a problem on Tiny Beaches Road
- over half of respondents believe that the installation of more stop signs along TBR would slow down traffic and improve safety

At the conclusion of the presentation, FoTTSA provided a lengthy list of recommendations supported by the survey results. Examples include:

- implementing a number of all-way stops at intersections along TBR
- introducing community safety zones along TBR
- greater enforcement of speed limits by OPP presence and photo radar

TBR is a unique heritage roadway with a special character that must be preserved. FoTTSA and its members do not want to see TBR widened and traffic engineered. We do not want sidewalks or bicycle lanes. We want the traffic to slow down and to use the road respectfully and carefully as befitting its local residential nature.

—Robert McBride

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Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

# Our Summer Reading List

Look no further for summer reading suggestions. This eclectic list comes courtesy of FoTTSA Flash readers who responded to a recent call for titles. Not on our distribution list? Email to [secretary.fotts@tinycottager.org](mailto:secretary.fotts@tinycottager.org)

## A Good War by SETH KLEIN

The science is clear and compelling. We have only a handful of years left to substantially reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to limit global warming to a 1.5°C increase, and to mitigate the adverse effects of climate breakdown on our environmental and socio-economic wellbeing. In Canada, however, it increasingly appears that we are not on track to meet the GHG reduction targets that are required to achieve rapid de-carbonization of our society. Accordingly, we need to make swift, equitable and transformational changes in how we power and heat our homes, transport people and goods, build our communities, deploy our workforce, and manage our natural resources.

But are there any “lessons learned” from other existential crises that we can draw upon to help us implement the necessary measures in a timely manner? This question is the central focus of Seth Klein’s recent book, *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* (Toronto: 2020, ECW Press).

In particular, Mr. Klein examines how Canadians and their elected officials quickly made sweeping systemic reforms that enabled the country, in a relatively short period of time, to effectively confront the global threat posed by the Axis powers during World War Two.

He then explains how Canada’s wartime (and post-war) policies, plans and programs provide some useful precedents and important directions for the development of similar initiatives to combat global warming impacts that will affect all Canadians from coast to coast, especially northern and Indigenous communities.

Mr. Klein is not the first author to utilize a “war” analogy in the fight against climate breakdown, and he acknowledges that his book should not be construed as glorifying war or its horrific human consequences. Interestingly, despite his advocacy of a war-time mindset to expedite GHG reductions, Mr. Klein is optimistic about how we can galvanize the

Canadian public, re-tool the economy, revamp politics, and ensure a just transition to a zero-carbon society despite the daunting challenges.

It should be noted that *A Good War* is not a treatise on climate science, which the author accepts as his starting point. Instead, the book contains thoughtful reflections on how we can derive important guidance from the political leadership displayed and the numerous measures taken to quickly place the country on a wartime footing from 1939 to 1945.

Mr. Klein also offers a comprehensive “battle plan” that outlines the strategies, policies and regulatory approaches needed to win the climate “war.” In addition, he correctly commends the climate leadership that is currently being demonstrated by Indigenous communities across Canada in their opposition to new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure projects.

Similarly, the book properly notes that “the path forward has to be one of true cooperation and partnership, and one that honours and respects Indigenous title and rights” in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The book concludes with an epilogue that draws additional lessons from Canadian governments’ wide-ranging emergency responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. *A Good War* also includes two appendices that address the effects of climate “attacks” on Canadian soil, and the Canadian oil/gas sector’s “new climate denialism” (i.e., profess to accept the science but resist the necessary policy and regulatory steps). Mr. Klein’s personal website provides further information on the issues and opportunities explored by the book.

Armed with the historical information and policy analysis provided by Mr. Klein, Canadians and their governments should become well-prepared to mobilize against the existential threat of climate breakdown. The time for incrementalism or ineffective half-measures is over, and we need to collectively respond to the climate crisis as if our lives depend on it — because they do.

*Richard Lindgren is a staff lawyer at the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA), a legal clinic providing free services to people and groups harmed by pollution or poor decision-making and by changing policies to prevent problems in the first place. CELA is helping FoTTSA try to stop the Teedon Pit expansion. For more on FoTTSA’s efforts, see “Background & Update on Teedon and Sarjeant Gravel Pits” on page 9)*

## Lessons Learned on Bay St.: The Sale Begins When the Customer Says NO

by DONALD K. JOHNSON

This is a great book for a summer read. It is small, easy to hold, well written, and less than 160 pages. It begins with the author’s Icelandic grandparents arriving in the Manitoba Interlake District and ends with reflections on a lifetime of lessons.

The first half of the book deals with the investment banking business; the latter half, personal observations including the importance of charitable giving, physical fitness, proper diet, transcendental meditation (TM), and a sense of humour.

Don grabs your attention by invoking the world’s best-known value investor, Warren Buffett, and Buffett’s recent involvement with Home Capital Group. Then we learn of Don’s education, including a degree in engineering and an MBA, which led to a position with Burns Bros. and Denton, a Toronto investment house where he rose through the ranks.

He describes the evolution of the investment banking business and the dramatic changes that occurred as investment banking partners sold their firms to the big banks in the late 1980s, and goes into detail about the role he played in the sale of Imasco. Chapter 5 is about deal making.

From chapter 6 onward the book takes a different turn as Don deals with philanthropy and personal living, beginning with how he became a convert to giving and his involvement with the National Ballet of Canada, the Eye Institute, and others.

“The Sale Begins When the Customer Says No” is a remarkable chapter about how Don had Canada’s tax laws changed. For that he was recognized as the *Globe and Mail’s* Man of the Year in 2007.

In “HBN: Horizontal by Nine,” Don expounds on the importance of getting to bed early and his strong belief in TM, a healthy diet, physical fitness, and a sense of humour. Chapter 9 deals with learning from your mistakes, the joy of giving, and being an agent of change.

“Silver Linings in Tough Times” contains many important insights. Read the last paragraph, “I am looking forward to the day when normal life resumes. It will feel good to head downtown each morning.” This is an assessment with which I think all would agree.

— Joe Martin, Addison Beach

—SUMMER READS continued on page 14

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... SUMMER READS continued from page 13

**The Goldfinch** by DONNA TARTT

It's big, it's fascinating and it keeps me interested. I need to find out what happens to the painting! It was recommended to me by my dear friend who read it twice. *The Goldfinch* follows the journey of a young boy visiting a museum with his mother. An explosion happens and his mother dies. He, with the advice of an old man dying, takes a famous painting and from there the story just goes!

When I am feeling like some positive reinforcement or just encouragement, I am also reading *The Bodacious Book of Succulence: Daring to Live Your Succulent Wild Life*. by SARK, a sort of how to actually live a splendid, bold and remarkable life.

— Janice Murton, bottom of the 18th

**Burke's Law: A Life in Hockey** by BRIAN BURKE and STEPHEN BRUNT

Brian Burke's autobiography. A great read for both fans and detractors of Brian Burke. He is an interesting and complicated person and his story explains some of the contradictions in his personality. It is straightforward and detailed and delves into the key highlights of his life inside and outside of hockey. It is co-authored by Stephen Brunt, one of Canada's best sports writers. This is not a book for younger readers or those who are easily offended. The language used is often "salty", and Brian makes no apologies for it.

— Tom Goldie, Woodland Beach

**The Plaza: The Secret Life of America's Most Famous Hotel** by JULIE SATOW

This is a history of the Plaza Hotel in New York City from its opening in 1907 to the present time. The book details many of the characters associated with the hotel over the years, from Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt (the hotel's first guest), to F. Scott Fitzgerald, the Beatles, Truman Capote and Donald Trump. It also details many lesser known characters connected to the hotel, along with various scandals (murders, thefts, bankruptcy). This is an excellent history of a world famous landmark, and incorporates a significant amount of New York City history.

— Tom Goldie

## Supporting Local Supports Everyone



The official opening of the Farm2Door store. L-R: Township of Tiny Councillor Tony Mintoff, Mayor George Cornell, and Farm2Door's Bart Nagel and Evain Maurice

by LINDA ANDREWS, Wahnekewening Beach

"Think outside the box" — never before has this old cliché been more apt. This past year many local businesses have successfully adapted to pandemic conditions.

For example, note the birth of Farm2Door — right here in Tiny: <https://northsimcoe.farm2door.ca>. This inspired collaboration of local farmers and producers now provides local products to consumers (originally only by delivery or pickup and now including storefront), replacing their dependence on farmers markets and festivals. Twice a week an email blast announces new offerings from a few of the more than 75 local and area businesses who are surviving in part because of this initiative. The blasts close with "Thank you for supporting local farmers and producers. Together we're keeping the best food home!"

Small businesses, locally owned and operated, are the heart and soul of the community. Socially, witness the outpouring of support for GBGH and local charities; culturally, note the sponsorship of Midland Cultural Centre events; and economically, jobs are provided.

Local businesses keep the downtown areas vibrant. Shopping locally creates jobs, funds more local services through sales tax, and invests in neighbourhood improvement.

Many businesses have adapted successfully. Most have introduced contactless pick-up and delivery options. Fitness businesses like The Yoga House now offer virtual classes as well as pop-up outdoor sessions when allowed. Georgian Shores Catering in Midland has pivoted successfully from catering to providing more ready-meals at their store. Windlee Farms Maple Syrup has enjoyed the support of locals shopping at its sugar shack trailer at the end of the driveway. Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre received generous contributions to a new donation box once outdoor trails were allowed to open. Real estate agents have introduced virtual viewings and replaced open houses with scheduled in-person showings. The community desire to support local has been a real boon to them all.

There is no shortage of information about local products, services and events:

- The Culture Alliance in the Heart of Georgian Bay comprises Beausoleil First Nation, the towns of Midland and Penetanguishene, the townships of Tiny and Tay. Together they promote local cultural resources, raising cultural awareness for all residents: [www.culturealliance.ca](http://www.culturealliance.ca).
- [shopmidland.com](http://shopmidland.com) a business directory, helps customers find products and services ... locally.
- The Tiny Cottager Shopping and Services Guide: [www.tinycottager.org/tiny-cottager-advertiser-directory/](http://www.tinycottager.org/tiny-cottager-advertiser-directory/)

All of these resources have become increasingly important as we strive to support local.

## The French Presence in Lafontaine



On Saturday, July 14, 2007 at 11 a.m., the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Township of Tiny unveiled a provincial plaque to commemorate the French presence in Lafontaine at École Sainte-Croix de Lafontaine in Lafontaine, Ontario. The bilingual plaque reads as follows.

**THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN LAFONTAINE**

French explorers first arrived in the Lafontaine area around 1610. An intermittent French presence of fur traders, soldiers and missionaries continued until 1650 when the so-journs ended after the Huron-Iroquois wars. Eventually a group of former French Canadian and Métis voyageurs from Drummond Island settled here in 1830 followed by successive waves of immigrants from Quebec, the three main groups originating from Batiscan, Joliette and the counties of Soulanges and Vaudreuil. The church and parish of Sainte-Croix were established in 1856 and the village was named after the French-Canadian statesman Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine. A high concentration of Francophones, a strong sense of community and vigorous institutions have nurtured Lafontaine's vibrant Franco-Ontarian culture.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

*Explorers, missionaries, and fur traders*

The French came to the area of what is now Lafontaine in 1615 with the arrival of French explorer Samuel de Champlain. With Champlain in attendance, Recollet Father Joseph Le Caron celebrated the first mass in Ontario on August 12, 1615 at the Huron fortress of Carhagouha, four kilometres northwest of Lafontaine's present-day Sainte Croix Roman Catholic Church (located at 327 Lafontaine Street West). The priest and the explorer spent the winter at Carhagouha. Le Caron worked on a French-Huron bilingual dictionary and Champlain went on a war campaign and hunting trips with the Hurons.

An intermittent French presence continued for some years as exploration, the fur trade and missionary work brought the explorer and native interpreter Étienne Brûlé, Le Caron

—FRENCH PRESENCE continued on page 16

### Tiny Resumes Annual Charity Golf Tournament September 10th

by JAELEN JOSIAH, Township of Tiny



The Township of Tiny has teed off plans for the 2021 Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. On September 10, the event will return as a live, in-person fundraiser at the Orr Lake Golf Club.

Details, including registration and schedule, are expected to be released in June. To be the first to hear about updates, subscribe to recreation community event alerts on [tinyconnect.ca](http://tinyconnect.ca).

Thanks to generous participants, sponsors and donors,

the tournament has raised over \$260,000 for more than 20 local North Simcoe not-for-profit and charitable organizations since 2015; this year's fundraising goal is \$50,000.

The Township recognizes the financial hardships being endured by many businesses as a result of the current economic climate. Nevertheless, a variety of sponsorship and donation opportunities are available to those who may feel able and willing to support this community event. If you're interested, please reach out.

The Township of Tiny is looking forward to making this year's event a comeback to remember!

**For information about the event**, including sponsorship opportunities, visit [www.tiny.ca/events/golf](http://www.tiny.ca/events/golf) or reach out to Jaelen Josiah at (705) 526-4204, ext. 288; [jjosiah@tiny.ca](mailto:jjosiah@tiny.ca).

*Editor's note: FoTTSA has signed up again as a founding sponsor of the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. We encourage area organizations to consider joining FoTTSA as sponsors and help Tiny surpass its \$50,000 fundraising goal. The event contributes much needed resources for local programs and projects that support community health and wellness, build the local economy, deliver exceptional services, and more.*

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... FRENCH PRESENCE continued from page 14

and the Jesuits. But these visits ended following the Huron-Iroquois wars of the 1640s. Huron survivors and the French who were allied with them relocated in 1650 to the St. Lawrence Valley. One hundred and eighty years later, a permanent French presence began in Lafontaine.<sup>1</sup>

Four waves of French-Canadian immigrants

The first French-Canadian and Métis settlers were former voyageurs — fur traders who travelled from Montreal to the interior to trade with the native peoples — and their families, who left Drummond Island when it passed into American possession after the War of 1812. One of these was Louis Descheneaux, originally from Beaumont, Québec, who came to the area with the North West Company. In 1830, he built the first house on the 16th lot of the 16th concession in the Township of Tiny.<sup>2</sup> The house still stands and Louis was buried in Lafontaine.

The Reverend Amable Charest provided the impetus for the arrival of the next group of settlers. Father Charest was a missionary in Penetanguishene, and a native of Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, near Trois-Rivières, Quebec. Recognizing the agricultural potential of the region, he encouraged families from his native province to settle in the new concessions. This first wave of immigrants arrived in 1841 from Batiscan, near Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade, and included the Brunelle, Marchand, Marchildon and Maurice families. They had the choice of the best lands in the 16th and 17th concessions, the centre of Lafontaine. They were followed shortly by families from Joliette, whose names were Beausoleil, Desroches, Laurin and Marion.<sup>3</sup> The lots made available to them, located in the 18th and 19th concessions (which would become the hamlet of Laurin), were somewhat less fertile and tended to be more wooded. A third group came from Vaudreuil-Soulanges and settled in the eastern part of Lafontaine, which would become the hamlet of Randolph.<sup>4</sup> Most of this migration ended around 1854, the year that Father Charest returned to Quebec.<sup>5</sup>

Getting to the new lands required tenacity and endurance. The distance from Montreal to Lafontaine was over 650 kilometres, and the railroad was not extended from York to Barrie until 1853. Prior to that, most people likely went to York (Toronto), either by train or on foot, and from there walked the remaining distance leading oxen and carts.<sup>6</sup> Transportation to and within the area would remain difficult for many years.

Settlement

Initially, only subsistence farming was possible while farmers were still clearing the land with the aid of oxen, and transpor-

tation to market was nearly impossible.<sup>7</sup> Potatoes comprised nearly half of the agricultural production of the first farms, foreshadowing the important economic role this crop would eventually play in Lafontaine.<sup>8</sup>

Social networks among the settlers were undeveloped due in part to the poor roads. People tended to socialize exclusively with families who shared the same origins. Thus, settlers from Joliette did not mix with people from Batiscan or Vaudreuil-Soulanges, and none of these groups socialized with the people of voyageur descent.<sup>9</sup> This led to disputes, which pitted settlers from one region of origin against those from another, and had an effect on marriages, most of which were contracted between descendants of the same region of origin.<sup>10</sup>

With no church in the immediate area, people had to travel to Penetanguishene for mass, a distance of 15 kilometres or more.<sup>11</sup> To meet the spiritual needs of the newcomers, Father Amable Charest began celebrating mass in 1850 at a house located in the 16th concession, and founded the mission of Sainte-Croix that same year.<sup>12</sup> The first chapel, dedicated in the name of the Exaltation de la Sainte-Croix in 1856, was a wooden structure made of squared-off logs. The first celebration of the Fête-Dieu took place in 1857 and the cemetery was blessed during that same year.<sup>13</sup> Lafontaine received its first permanent pastor with the arrival of the Reverend Étienne Gibra in 1861. Father Gibra later enlarged the church and added a sacristy.<sup>14</sup>

By 1856, Anglophones spoke of the “French Settlement” in reference to the area populated almost exclusively by French Canadians. That same year, a post office was established, named after the liberal reform politician Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine.<sup>15</sup> Toussaint Moreau also attempted to establish a school in 1856. But the response was not good because children lived too far away, their assistance was required on the farms, and there were fears of bears and wolves in the forest.<sup>16</sup> Charles Picotte opened another short-lived school in 1868.<sup>17</sup>

Subsistence farming gave way to commercial farming by 1870, and this continued to develop as a result of the 1879 extension of the railroad from Barrie to Penetanguishene. People reproduced and brought with them aspects of the material life they had known in Quebec. An example that can still be seen today is the Vallée house on Rue Lafontaine, built around 1850 in the Quebec style, with a curved roof and a veranda running the full width of the façade.<sup>18</sup>

Roadside crosses were also erected, generally at the end of the 19th century, including one on the lot of the first settler Louis Descheneaux.<sup>19</sup> The majority of people remained fairly poor, but there were exceptions. For example, in 1871

Constant Marchildon owned 285 acres of land, four barns and stables, four wagons, agricultural equipment, the only two sleighs in Lafontaine, and he was able to hire three men as fishermen.<sup>20</sup> There were 210 families recorded as residents of the parish in 1876.<sup>21</sup> However, around 1877, a large group of people left to go to Manitoba, Minnesota and the Dakotas, planning to start over again with hopes of becoming more financially successful.<sup>22</sup>

A time for building

An intense period of building took place between 1873 and 1896 that produced a new church and rectory, a convent and a school. At the outset, the regional divisions in the parish fanned the flames of a dispute over the location of the new rectory and church. Finally, the bishop intervened and decided to maintain the same location.<sup>23</sup> Unfortunately, the dispute had a negative impact on individual contributions to pay for the construction. In the end, the pastor, Father Joseph Michel contributed a considerable sum from his personal financial resources.<sup>24</sup>

All materials used in the construction of the new church were local — fieldstones cleared from farms were used in the foundation, local trees were turned into boards in nearby sawmills and bricks were fired by parishioner Louis Thanasse.<sup>25</sup> The new church, completed in 1877, was situated behind the old one. During the three years of construction, the earlier church continued to be used for services and was then demolished.<sup>26</sup> In 1885, Father Michel arranged for the building of a convent that became the home of the Soeurs de Sainte-Croix and a private school for girls. Father Michel paid for it completely with money inherited from his family.<sup>27</sup> The convent school had as many as 60 students, some of whom were Protestant.<sup>28</sup> The elegance of the new parish buildings belied the pioneer lifestyle of Father Michel, whose holdings of a barn, stable, animals and granary were similar to that of his parishioners.<sup>29</sup>

The period of building came to an end with the construction of a new school that replaced the run-down building that had been in use since the establishment of the first permanent Catholic school in 1886. The new school, completed in 1896, was a brick building that had three classrooms for 150 pupils.<sup>30</sup>

With completion of the building construction, parish organizations began to be created. The Dames de Sainte-Anne was founded with 65 members in 1892 and the Ligue du Sacré-Coeur for the men was created in the same year. A section of the fraternal insurance society, the Union Saint-Joseph, as well as the Ordre des forestiers catholiques, were also founded about the same time.<sup>31</sup>

—FRENCH PRESENCE continued on page 18



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... FRENCH PRESENCE continued from page 16  
**The desire to live in French**

Almost completely francophone, with a full complement of parish institutions that reflected their Quebec heritage, the people of Lafontaine were dismayed when the use of the English language began to creep into their services and parish activities. Father Joseph Beaudoin, pastor from 1889 to 1904, sometimes practised his English by preaching in this language, to the great consternation of the congregation<sup>32</sup> who numbered 196 families in 1908.<sup>33</sup> The Reverend Henri Brunet arrived as pastor in 1915 and remained until 1923. As he was accustomed to serving the bilingual parish of Sainte-Anne in Penetanguishene, Reverend Brunet initially addressed his new parishioners in English. In response, they sent delegates to him to explain that they wished to be ministered to in French.<sup>34</sup> With the Regulation 17<sup>35</sup> crisis at its peak, the Association Canadienne-Française d’Éducation d’Ontario (ACFÉO) supported the efforts of the Lafontaine parishoners’ continued use of French. ACFÉO began to be active in the region from 1908 to 1910 and finally a regional section of the Association was created in Lafontaine in 1942.<sup>36</sup>

It is against this backdrop that significant events took place in the school in Lafontaine. The Sisters of Sainte-Croix, who taught mostly in French, left in 1893 because of a dispute with the pastor over their teaching and their administration of the residential convent school. They were replaced by the English-speaking Sisters of Saint Joseph from Toronto.<sup>37</sup> In 1920, school councillor Thomas Thanasse requested and received books in French from ACFÉO for the 200 students. In 1924, the Lafontaine school commission asked the Sisters of Saint Joseph for two francophone nuns.<sup>38</sup> Responding to the sustained pressure to teach more in French, the Sisters of Saint Joseph left in the middle of the 1927-28 school year. Four lay teachers replaced them temporarily. Then, responding to a petition signed by parents, the Sisters of Sainte-Croix returned to run the school in 1930.<sup>39</sup>

**Economic and social changes**

The 1920s and 1930s saw the beginning of change to the traditional way of life that had predominated in Lafontaine. Parishioners began to have time for leisure activities. Every year, one or two parish concerts were organized. People subscribed to *La Presse*, the Montreal daily newspaper, *L’Action catholique*, *Le Messenger* and *Les Annales de la Bonne Sainte-Anne* in addition to English newspapers and catalogues.<sup>40</sup> The inauguration of the parish hall in 1944 attracted 800 people. The following year, the hall was the site of a concert by the tenor Joseph Ladéroute of the Metropolitan Opera of New York, whose grandfather was born in Lafontaine.<sup>41</sup>

Families became increasingly interested in offering their children a secondary school education, and those who could afford it sent their children away to school in the 1920s. Boys went to Rigaud and Papineauville in Quebec, and to Aurora and Toronto in Ontario. Girls enrolled in schools located in Toronto and Sturgeon Falls in Ontario, and in Nicolet and Montreal in Quebec.<sup>42</sup>

An effort to create a Catholic secondary school in Lafontaine became a celebrated court case in 1926, known as the “Tiny School Case.” It went to the Privy Council in

London, which refused to let the school be created because, according to the *British North America Act*, Catholic separate schools could not go beyond Grade 8. The problem could have been circumvented by integrating Grades 9 and 10 into the elementary school.<sup>43</sup> However, a Roman Catholic secondary school, the Continuation School, was finally established in 1944. The new school operated under the auspices of the Sisters of Sainte-Croix and moved into a new building at the end of 1945.<sup>44</sup>

During the late 1930s, additional social changes included the emergence of a local agricultural cooperative encouraged by the pastor, Father Thomas Marchildon. The establishment of the cooperative movement had a great impact on Lafontaine as innovative agricultural methods were adopted by potato growers and farms became larger and more prosperous. By 1948, the Lafontaine Restricted Potato Seed Area exported 42 railroad cars full of potatoes to the United States.<sup>45</sup> A credit union was founded in 1942 and quickly grew from the initial 35 members to 281 members in 1944.

**Transitions to the present**

The seed potato business continued to grow during the 1960s and 1970s. Many farmers were contracted in advance to sell their regular potato crop to the Hostess Company.<sup>46</sup> Potato farming would remain important to the present day, but family farms became amalgamated into large industrial enterprises. Improved roads made it possible for residents to work in factories in Midland and Barrie. By the year 2000, some people were commuting as far as Toronto.<sup>47</sup>

The regionalization of life for Lafontaine’s residents was reflected in the fate of the local secondary school institution. The Continuation School closed in 1966 due to the amalgamation of school districts. Lafontaine parents remained concerned about the availability of French in the schools and they stipulated that the amalgamation agreement state that a francophone individual be appointed to the high school administration, and that a French institution be created as soon as possible. A French regional high school was finally created in 1980, after a decade of intense conflict. Temporarily located in the former Continuation School in Lafontaine, the new Le Caron School opened in Penetanguishene at the end of 1981.<sup>48</sup>

The role of maintaining Franco-Ontarian cultural heritage was increasingly assumed by secular associations and the media. Leisure events became a popular way of offering activities in French. For example, the Cercle de la baie Georgienne was formed in 1963. This group was affiliated with the Association de la jeunesse franco-ontarienne and was active in Lafontaine with some 50 members.

In 1971, high school students began to publish the monthly newspaper *Le Goût de vivre*, which grew into a weekly paper with a circulation of 1,000. It moved into the former Continuation School building, along with other Francophone community organizations, when the building was renamed Place Lafontaine in 1981.<sup>49</sup> Radio-Canada radio and television began broadcasting in the area in 1977, a community radio station (CFRH) began broadcasting from Penetanguishene in 1982<sup>50</sup> and TFO arrived in 1984.<sup>51</sup>

In 2000, Lafontaine commemorated the first French presence at Carhagouha by installing a stained-glass triptych

representing the 1615 mass celebrated by Father Le Caron in the parish church. For the 250 families that made up the parish of Sainte-Croix, the only completely French parish in the Georgian Bay region, it was a fitting way to mark the long and significant presence of francophones in Lafontaine.<sup>52</sup>

Today, Lafontaine is home to approximately 1,000 francophones who continue to play a leading role in a wide variety of commercial and cultural activities that reflect Lafontaine’s strong and vibrant Franco-Ontarian heritage. Their strong sense of community and vigorous institutions have nurtured Lafontaine’s strong French-Canadian culture.

**NOTES**

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- 2 Micheline Marchand, *Les Voyageurs et la colonisation de Pénétanguishene (1825-1871). La colonisation française en Huronie*, Sudbury, La Société historique du Nouvel-Ontario, 1989, pp. 34, 80.
- 3 Marchand, p. 81.
- 4 Marchand, p. 89.
- 5 Daniel Marchildon, p. 69.
- 6 Marchand, p. 82.
- 7 Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française, “Un témoignage sur la paroisse Sainte-Croix de Lafontaine,” p. 46, in *La présence française en Ontario: 1610, passeport pour 2010*, Henri Brunet, <http://crccf.uottawa.ca/passeport/1/IB2b/IB2b01-2-1.html>
- 8 Daniel Marchildon, p. 71.
- 9 Daniel Marchildon, p. 72.
- 10 Brunet, p. 50.
- 11 Marchand, p. 88.
- 12 Thomas Marchildon, “Paroisse de l’Exaltation de la Sainte-Croix de Lafontaine,” in *Verner et Lafontaine*, Sudbury, Société Historique du Nouvel-Ontario, 1945, p. 40.
- 13 Brunet, p. 43, Thomas Marchildon, p. 41.
- 14 Brunet, pp. 46-47.
- 15 Daniel Marchildon, p. 74.
- 16 Brunet, p. 87.
- 17 Marchand, p. 88.
- 18 *Le Goût de vivre*, June 15, 2004, on <http://journaux.apf.ca/legoutdevivre>.
- 19 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 101, 103.
- 20 Marchand, p. 86.
- 21 Brunet, p. 70.
- 22 Brunet cited in Marchand, p. 92.
- 23 Brunet, p. 54, Marchand, p. 89.
- 24 Brunet, p. 62.
- 25 Brunet, p. 59.
- 26 This explains why the new church is located so far back from the street. Thomas Marchildon, p. 46.
- 27 Brunet, p. 67.
- 28 Brunet, p. 69.
- 29 Brunet, pp. 57-58.
- 30 Brunet, p. 76.
- 31 Brunet, pp. 78-80.
- 32 Brunet, p. 82.
- 33 Brunet, p. 87.
- 34 Daniel Marchildon, p. 103.
- 35 In 1912, Regulation 17 of the Ontario Department of Education proposed to severely restrict the right to French-language schooling in both public and Catholic schools in Ontario. Senator Napoléon Belcourt, an advocate for bilingual separate schools in Ontario, lobbied repeatedly against Regulation 17. Although his efforts were rejected by the Supreme Court of Ontario and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the high level of public protest and interest surrounding the Regulation ensured that it was never fully implemented.
- 36 Daniel Marchildon, p. 142.
- 37 Brunet, p. 77.
- 38 Daniel Marchildon, p. 169.
- 39 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 170-171.
- 40 Daniel Marchildon, p. 135.
- 41 Daniel Marchildon, p. 142.
- 42 Brunet, p. 87.
- 43 Daniel Marchildon, p. 170.
- 44 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 174-176.
- 45 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 140, 142.
- 46 Daniel Marchildon, p. 145.
- 47 Reverend Hamel, pastor of Sainte-Croix parish, telephone conversation, June 29, 2004.
- 48 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 213-262.
- 49 Daniel Marchildon, pp. 272, 274.
- 50 La Clé d’la Baie, [http://www.lacle.ca/Profil\\_Cfrh.html](http://www.lacle.ca/Profil_Cfrh.html).
- 51 Daniel Marchildon, p. 274.
- 52 Hamel.

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