



THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 58 Fall/Winter 2021

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, Carusoe Bay

By the time you read this message many sources may have made you aware of Councillor Tony Mintoff’s resignation. It is with great regret that we learned this news. Tony’s contribution during his three years in office was immense and will be sorely missed. His support for the Teedon Pit challenge was and remains unwavering. Tony became the “go-to councillor” if you needed something heard and dealt with. We miss you already, Tony.

We find ourselves still embroiled in the battle to protect the purest water in the world. Governments at all levels including Tiny have shown disinterest in stepping up to the important task of protecting this precious water resource. No surprise that the owners of the Teedon Pit want to continue washing aggregate with this water, but disconcerting that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has failed to understand its importance. Behind the scenes negotiations have made some headway. And the CELA lawyers and hydrogeologist are ready to do battle at a hearing. Please read carefully our special report on the topic starting on page 8, and give generously to help fund the legal battle: saveourwatertiny.com/how-you-can-help.

Water levels continue to ease off, and the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation (GBGLF) continues to work with the International Joint Commission (IJC) and the US Army Core of Engineers as well as many other Great Lakes organizations to bring about more effective overall water management that will better balance upstream and downstream interests. Unfortunately, interest wanes when extreme highs fall as they are currently doing.

For a current and more detailed update on these topics, go to the GBGLF website, www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com.

Finally, FoTTSA is seeking a volunteer social media coordinator to help us with our social media platforms. We rely on these essential tools to communicate with Tiny residents and keep them informed of decisions and new developments that affect the quality of life in Tiny. Social media experience would be useful but not essential. More important is an interest in local issues and a willingness to learn and contribute. See “Wanted: Volunteer Social Media Coordinator” on page 14.

Wishing you and your family a great Thanksgiving, and a healthy and safe winter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fall/Winter Events	2
Woodland Beach’s Piping Plovers: The Story Continues	3
Indigenous Canada: Unlearning and New Learning.....	3
Report on Council	4
Cartoon by Angela Kanik.....	4
An Open Letter to Tiny’s Residents	5
Glyphosate Use a Danger to Tiny Cottagers and Residents	5
Culture Alliance: A Map Without Boundaries.....	6
Special Report: Tiny’s Pristine Groundwater at Risk	8
Chronology of Events January-October 2021	8
FoTTSA Revised Issues List – Case No. 21-030 – 3 September 2021	8
Desperately Needed Research.....	8
Some Local French’s Hill History	10
Why the Simcoe Uplands Groundwater System Is So Complex..	10
How You Can Help Protect Tiny’s Pristine Water	10
Tiny Art Collective Fundraiser Supports Save our Water Tiny	12
Wanted: Volunteer Social Media Coordinator.....	14
Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament Exceeds Fundraising Goal.....	14
Once Upon a Tomb in Tiny Township	16
Author Draws on Local Experience for Debut Novel	18
Update: Tiny Township Transportation Master Plan	18
FoTTSA Well Water Testing Program Finds Excessive Nitrates in One Location.....	18



Clearcutting on French’s Hill to facilitate aggregate extraction. The French’s Hill area acts as natural filtration system to purify groundwater supplies. The possible effects of aggregate extraction and washing on local groundwater remain in dispute. See our Special Report starting on page 8 for more.

One Family’s Water Problems

Bonnie Pausé and Jake Pigeon live on Marshall Road, just down the way from the Teedon Pit and within three kilometres of Site 41, a landfill site that would have sat above the Alliston Aquifer if the proposal had not been defeated by a coalition of local, national and international supporters. During preliminary work on Site 41, the quality of well water on Bonnie and Jake’s property was tested repeatedly, creating a benchmark. In 2009, the water quality suddenly changed. Bonnie explains what they experienced in this transcript of a podcast conversation with Margaret Prophet and Adam Ballah from the Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition. The transcript has been lightly edited.¹

We have two [groundwater] flows on the property that flow continuously. They’re not constrained, they just flow, and we access them. This farm is 100 years old. The two wells are roughly 1000 metres apart. So suddenly, very muddy, silty water started appearing out of the flows. My husband initially thought it was a well malfunction, but the other well was also doing it. So then we visited all the little local natural springs and they all had silt pouring out of them. It got quite concerning. At that point, Beamish was operating the [Teedon] gravel pit and had started to wash gravel at a great rate.²

Their aggregate permit did not include having a wash pond, so for a couple of years they operated without one. We really felt the wash water was seeping, so we tried to let them know but there was very poor cooperation from them. They were dismissive and told us it was our problem, not their problem, and didn’t answer phone calls. They were just really remiss. We went to the Township, and they told us to take it up with the aggregate company.

We put a filtration system on. Anything with a pump in it would get full of silt — we’ve gone through nine washing machines since 2009. Then we installed an outdoor pump for the water system and created holding tanks so the silt could settle before the water entered the house.

Jake and I both love the environment. We’ve made a really good living on the water, with the water, and the last time the Township dismissed our concerns we were angry. We hired Dianne Saxe, the best environmental lawyer we could afford. She looked at our issue and she said, “Oh my god, what are they doing? How come this is going on? You need to hire a hydrogeologist.”

So, we hired an independent hydrogeologist, Wilf Ruland. He came and we did a huge walkabout. He fell in love with the area and the water and the issues, and produced a hydrogeology report. Then Dianne Saxe was appointed Environmental Commissioner of Ontario. In the meantime, Beamish sold the pit to Dufferin. So there’s been a lot of players switching.

In the interim, we got a coalition of seven neighbours also having well problems, but that was all dismissed. The Ministry of Environment attributed the problems to poor well construction.


During this time I would often walk up French’s Hill to see what they were doing. In April 2015 I could hear a backup beeper continuously, and I told my husband, “I need to go find out what the backup beepers were about.” On a Saturday I went up there, and I realized that Sarjeants had clear-cut 50 acres of old-growth maples.³ It broke my heart. It was so destructive.

My husband got on the telephone and called the Ministry of Environment. Sarjeants ended up being fined, we think about \$30,000. We also tried to heal the land with a healing ceremony. It was wonderful. It didn’t put the trees back, but at least it acknowledged what had been done.


— continued on page 9

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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 14. 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.

FALL/WINTER EVENTS

Due to continuing restrictions, please visit event websites to verify dates. Check these links for future events:

Askennonia Senior Centre, Midland — weekly eblast with event information and local news www.askennonia.com/

Culture Alliance in the Heart of Georgian Bay www.culturealliance.ca

Huron Museum Virtual Film Series — film selection updated periodically huronmuseum.com/film-series

Midland Cultural Centre Events and Programs <https://www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events>

Midland Library Event Calendar www.midlandlibrary.com/events/

Penetang Library Events Calendar www.penetanguishene.library.on.ca/client/en_US/pen/

Wye Marsh, Visitor Centre open, trails, pre-booked EcoTours www.wyemarsh.com/

OCTOBER

Pumpkinferno at Discovery Harbour, October 7-30 www.discoveryharbour.on.ca/dh/en/SpecialEvents/index.htm

Images Studio Tour, Barrie/Orillia/Horseshoe Valley, October 8-10 www.images-studio-tour.com/

Ste. Marie Among the Hurons Hometown Harvest Day, October 9-10 www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/SpecialEvents/index.htm

Mighty Marketing for Small Businesses (webinar series) Digital Marketing Bootcamp, October 12

Start Making Videos: Hands-on Workshop, October 19

Turning a Hobby into a Business on Etsy, October 26 www.culturealliance.ca/culturalconnections

Meet the Spirits, St. James on the Line Cemetery, October 15

Historical Downtown Penetanguishene Walking tour, October 14, 28 www.pencenmuseum.com

Rotary Champlain Wendat Park Walking Tour, October 12, 26 www.pencenmuseum.com

Unmasking Influenza, the 1918 Spanish Flu in Canada, until December 14 www.pencenmuseum.com

Tiny Township Self-Guided Farm Crawl, October 16 www.tiny.ca/parks-recreation-culture/events

MCC Midland Cultural Centre, Our Health, October 21

The Future of Long-Term Care in Simcoe County www.midlandculturalcentre.com/ourhealth

Wye Marsh’s Annual Fundraiser, Oct. 23-Nov. 2 www.wyemarsh.com

Marsh School, Fridays in October, November, December, ages 6-12 www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-school

11-Week Farm to Retail Workshop (virtual), Oct. 28-Jan. 20 www.edcns.ca/events/farm-to-retail-workshop/?occurrence=2021-10-28

NOVEMBER

The Last Five Years, opens November 12, MCC Huronia Players, Midland www.huronplayers.ca/

DECEMBER

Santa Claus Parade, December 4 (to be confirmed) www.civitan.on.ca/clubs/midland

Penetanguishene Festival of Lights, December 3 or 10 TBA www.penetanguishene.ca

Christmas Bird Count for Kids, date TBA www.wyemarsh.com/christmas-bird-count

Hiking & cross-country skiing www.ontarioparks.com/park/awenda/activities

ski.mountainviewmidland.com

www.hardwoodskiandbike.ca

www.wyemarsh.com

Downhill skiing and boarding www.horseshoeresort.com/ontario-winter-activities.htm

www.skisnowvalley.com

mountstlouis.com

www.bluemountain.ca/things-to-do/skiing-and-boarding

JANUARY 2022

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

Discovery Harbour Skate Trail, Penetanguishene

FEBRUARY

I Ought to be in Pictures, opens February 11 www.huronplayers.ca

Penetanguishene Winterama Festival, February 18-20 www.penetanguishene.ca

APRIL

Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, April 29 www.emsf.ca

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Woodland Beach's Piping Plovers: The Story Continues

by TRACEY (GAYLE) PRICE, Woodland Beach



Photo by Neal Muliger

Chicks have been described as cotton balls on sticks.

Many of us learned about the endangered Piping Plovers for the first time in May 2020, when we heard that a pair named Flash and Tweety by Birds Canada had chosen Woodland Beach to raise their chicks. Of the four chicks born, only one survived.

Piping Plovers returned to breed in Ontario in 2007 after a

30-year absence. There have been breeding pairs at Wasaga Beach every year since 2008, and in 2019 a pair bred on private property in Tiny Township. The beaches around Georgian Bay are perfect for the birds since they prefer wide, sandy beaches with some vegetation, reports Andrea Gress, from the Ontario Piping Plover Conservation Program led by Birds Canada.

Flash returned on April 29, 2021 to Wasaga Beach Area 1, and Ms. Sunshine arrived May 1. They paired up right away. Gress suspects that they might have tried laying two eggs there before moving to the Woodland Beach site, where only two eggs were found on May 14. Plovers usually lay four eggs.

Once the nesting pair had laid their eggs, Birds Canada coordinated the placement of fencing around the area and a mini cage over the nest and eggs to protect them from predators. The two chicks, which looked like cotton balls on sticks, hatched on June 14 and were able to run around and find food within a couple of hours. At 23 days, chicks are fully fledged, meaning

they can fly a distance of 50 metres at one time. At 48 days, they are usually gone, starting their migration of over 2,000 km all on their own. Females will migrate first in mid July, leaving the male to care for the chicks. Ms. Sunshine left July 7, making sure the chicks could fly well before heading to South Carolina, Florida or the Atlantic coastal states. On August 14 Flash was spotted on Dauphin Island in Alabama, where he goes every winter. No reports of Ms Sunshine yet.

Bird bands, used for hundreds of years, have led to the knowledge we have today of migration patterns. Each of our banded Great Lakes Piping Plovers receives an aluminium band with a 9-digit number. This number is unique to that bird and will identify it throughout its life. Colour band patterns allow recognition of individuals from a distance that can be checked in a database. When observers in their wintering grounds see orange, they know instantly that it's a Great Lakes Plover.

Piping Plovers are a symbol of a healthy Great Lakes shoreline. Their disappearance from an area is an indicator of poor habitat. Groomed beaches remove the conditions required for nesting. When natural hiding places are removed chicks become vulnerable to predators. We look forward to sharing our beaches and welcoming Flash again in the spring of 2022.

Indigenous Canada: Unlearning and New Learning

by LYNNE ARCHIBALD, Nottawaga Beach



Image: Indigenous Canada Full Trailer, University of Alberta; www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAcPNxvw0_A

It's a standard solution: education fixes problems. When I think this, I'm always assuming that someone else needs more education, not me. But what if I'm the one who needs to go back to school?


In Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be an Anti-Racist*, he chronicles the things he needed to "unlearn" in order to become an anti-racist. He showed how unlearning is the first step to any meaningful new way of thinking. We can't just layer some warm fuzziness over the top of basically wrong foundations. We need to go back to the beginning.

The New York Times caught my attention.¹ Canadian actor Dan Levy, of "Schitt's Creek" fame, was taking an online course in the middle of COVID and had invited his many, many Instagram followers to take it too. The course was Indigenous Canada, offered by the University of Alberta on Coursera, an open online course platform that has been around since 2012.²

The course is available at no cost. Registrants can sign up at any time.

As COVID lockdowns ramped up again last winter, I signed up. I paid an optional \$60 to get the certificate at the end because I hoped that would increase my motivation to stick with it. Developed in 2017, the course is taught by Indigenous professors from the University of Alberta's Faculty of Native Studies and is organized around 12 modules or chapters.

— continued on page 14



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<http://www.tinycottager.org>

ISSN 1710-9701

PUBLISHER: Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations
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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

NEW ZONING BY-LAW: In May, a representative of MHBC Planning, the firm that updated the Township's Official Plan, explained to Council that the New Zoning By-law will implement policies and updates in the new OP.

Later in May the final version of Technical Memorandum #1 was released for Public Review & Comment. This outlined the proposed approach and basis for preparing the new Zoning By-law, identified and reviewed structure, format and mapping, and reviewed a range of zoning issues that need to be addressed in the new By-law.

From June 14 to July 9, Tiny's residents were invited to fill out a public survey regarding a range of zoning issues. 502 responses were received and 174 additional comments submitted.

On August 11, Technical Memorandum #2 was presented to Council. This reported on what had been completed since the release of the first Memo and described what MHBC had heard "during the first round of consultation events." The key directions that emerged are listed on the Township's website at www.tiny.ca/NewTinyZoningBylaw.

The first draft of the new By-law was to be released early in September and an Open House to occur toward the end of September. Neither has occurred.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY: This thorough document begins: "The Township of Tiny commits itself to the creation of an environment free of discrimination while advancing equality and inclusion ... It is our mission to be transparent and accountable in the way we provide services, design policies and programs, and interact with staff and residents." The balance of the statement continues in this spirit.

JACKSON PARK BOAT LAUNCH USER FEES:

Staff and Council are to develop the budget and process for a 2022 launch of this program.

MAYOR'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT RECIPIENTS:

Angels with Backpacks	\$2,000
Askennonnia Senior Centre	\$2,500
Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe	\$2,500
Boys and Girls Clubs of North Simcoe	\$2,500
CLH Foundation	\$1,500
Gateway Centre for Learning	\$2,500
Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre	\$5,000
Hospice Huronia	\$2,000
Huron Community Foundation	\$2,000
MTM Conservation Association	\$1,500
Quest Art School + Gallery	\$2,000
Scientists in School	\$3,000
Sistema Huronia Music Academy	\$2,500
Special Olympics Ontario	\$2,000
We Are The Villagers	\$2,500
Wendat Community Programs	\$2,200
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre	\$1,000

MINUTES OF SETTLEMENT - SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 21, 2021: After an *in camera* meeting with Sarah Hahn of Barriston Law regarding the Teedon Pit Permit to Take Water and the Teedon Pit Extension Aggregate Resources Act Application, three members of Council (Mayor Cornell, Deputy Mayor Walma, and Councillor Hastings) voted in favour of having Hahn proceed as directed with regard to the Teedon Pit Permit to Take Water. The same three members voted in favour of having her proceed as directed with regard to the Teedon Pit Extension Aggregate Resources Act Application. In both cases, Councillors Mintoff and Wishart voted against. Confidential Report PD-027-21 regarding the Aggregate Resources Act Application was then made public. This Report concluded that "All outstanding technical issues have been satisfactorily addressed, therefore, staff recommends that Council direct Barriston to prepare Minutes of Settlement with CRH and report back to Council."

NORTH SIMCOE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLAN:

Presented on June 9, 2021, this plan lays the foundation for local social development priorities from 2021 to 2025. Its areas of focus are

- 1) improving equity, access and quality of mental health and addiction services for all residents
- 2) ensuring everyone has a clear pathway to education, regardless of their age, with a focus on futureproofing local skilled trades and healthcare sectors
- 3) addressing housing that is affordable and attainable and supporting people so they remain housed

For this detailed plan see the Committee of the Whole Agenda for June 9, 2021.



[If only this were a solution for Bonnie Pauzé and Jake Pigeon. - see the article on page 1.]

by Angela Kanik

CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY UPDATE: This is a work in progress. The Customer Care Committee is to provide progress reports to senior managers and Council.

SHORT TERM RENTAL TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED: After years of deputations and delays, Council decided to strike a STR Task Force.

In August, Dan O'Rourke, George Karaolis, Joanne Rooke, and Stephen Saltsman were appointed to the Task Force.

Asked for a legal opinion regarding STRs, Sarah Hahn of Barriston Law observed that "in residential areas, residential uses are permitted and STR uses are of a residential nature. Whether a use is commercial or residential is fact-dependent and must be examined against the Township's by-law. Jurisprudence has shown that where a property is being used in a matter [manner] or intensity that is akin to a hotel or banquet hall, this would be considered a commercial use." Furthermore: "Owners who have continuously used their houses for STR uses before it became restricted (assuming it does) would be considered legally non-complying and could continue operating subject to the owner proving their historical use. A grandfathered owner would still be required to obtain a licence if a licencing regime was implemented. Those who were not acting legally under the by-law would not be able to continue their use."

Asked for a planning opinion about the approach taken in the Township's current Zoning By-law, Jamie Robinson of MHBC Planning observed: "I agree with the position taken historically by the Township, that the rental of a dwelling unit is a residential use of land and is permitted. However, there is a tipping point, where a dwelling unit is used exclusively for short rental periods, it would appear to fall within the definition of a tourist establishment in the context of the Township Zoning By-law." He also observed that impacts of a tourist establishment in a residential area may include compatibility concerns like noise, parking, garbage, and intensity of use. To address these, he recommended that the Township evaluate options associated with licensing, zoning, and other legislative tools provided under the Municipal Act, then update the Township's Official Plan policies.

COVID RELIEF FROM TAX PENALTIES/CHARGES: The grace period for tax penalties/charges for 2021 was extended to September 24, 2021.

WYEVALE FIRE HALL AND WYEBRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTRE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS:

Matters are inching forward for these Bell Mobility towers. The Township is to enter into Lease Agreements with Bell Mobility Inc. and to send Letters of Concurrence for the siting of both towers.

AREAS FOR SPEED LIMIT CHANGES:

Staff was instructed to implement the following of 41 proposed changes namely –

2. Allport Road, speed reduced from 80km/hr to 50 km/hr
11. Conc. 12E, #397 to Overhead Bridge Road, from 80km/hr to 60km/hr
13. Green Point, from 40km/hr to 30km/hr
15. Overhead Bridge, Penetang to Conc 11E past Chickadee Lane, from 70km/hr to 60km/hr
17. Quesnelle, from 40km/hr to 30 km/hr
19. Spruce Street, from 50km/hr to 40km/hr
38. West Shore, Green Point, East Beach, Centre Beach, Thunder Bay Lane, from 40km/hr to 30 km/hr
40. Trew Ave S-Bend, 40km/hr to 15km/hr

DEPUTATION RE COUNCIL'S DECISION (3-2) TO WITHDRAW FROM THE LPAT HEARING ABOUT THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE TEEDON PIT:

In July, Anne Ritchie Nahuis urged Council to ask the province to impose a moratorium on new or expanded gravel extraction and water taking in the Waverley Upland area until the study proposed by scientists is completed. She urged Council to seek the support of local MPPs, Premier Doug Ford and neighbouring municipalities. She asked that the Township partner with the scientists' research proposal.

(On August 11 when the matter was discussed, Councillors Mintoff and Wishart supported all of Nahuis's requests, while Mayor Cornell and Councillor Hastings decided that Council's current stance on the issues was appropriate. Deputy Mayor Walma was absent. As the vote was 2-2, her proposal was defeated.)

BEACH ACCESS MOTION PROPOSED: In July, Deputy Mayor Walma moved that maps showing municipally owned beaches be made available on the township website and that the Township consider the feasibility of a first right of refusal policy in the purchase of shoreline properties as they change ownership either by sale or inheritance. He called this acquisition by attrition.

Staff subsequently submitted a report regarding the maps and Council then asked staff to develop a systematic plan, get started on it, and use colour coding to indicate matters like availability of parking and other amenities.

Regarding acquisition by attrition, Council defeated Walma's motion 4-1.

RE-OPENING OF TOWNSHIP: Busk 'til Dusk is to resume at Balm Beach with in kind and financial support from the Township. Pay & Display Parking resumed on August 6.

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD: A single Board is to serve the five municipalities of the OPP Georgian Bay Detachment catchment area, a change dictated by the province. The Board is to have 13 members, 3 provincial appointees plus 2 representatives from each of five municipalities, one a community representative and the other a municipal representative.

FIREFIGHTER CLASSIFICATION AND REMUNERATION REVIEW: After considering a report by Fire Chief Dave Flewelling, Council added a 2nd Class Firefighter category to the two current levels (Probationary and 1st Class Firefighter) and increased the current pay rates for Officers, effective January 1, 2022. The cost savings generated by the new category should offset increases to officer wages.

LDD (GYPSY MOTH) INFESTATION: In July, Councillor Tony Mintoff's comprehensive motion regarding advance planning to prevent a third year of defoliation in Tiny Township was defeated 2-2. Another motion then proposed that a special meeting of Council involving the Severn Sound Environmental Association, the MNRF and the County of Simcoe Forestry Department be called, a survey drafted about residents' desire for a spraying program, and cost estimates for aerial spraying be prepared was supported 4-0.

In September, Council discussed a letter from Chuck Stradling which presented a thoroughly researched, long-term strategy to control the infestation (see Correspondence in the September 1, Committee of the Whole Agenda). Council referred the information to the special meeting.

— continued on page 13

An Open Letter to Tiny's Residents

For the past 10 years, I have worked tirelessly both as the fire chief and then as a member of Council, to improve the safety and quality of life for Tiny's residents.

Unfortunately, Council's positions on a number of very important issues that affect all Tiny residents run contrary to mine. After almost three years of trying, I have finally arrived at the conclusion that further efforts on my part to see strong action taken, on behalf of residents, regarding serious matters such as short-term rentals and French's Hill gravel extraction and washing will be futile.

The current gravel mining operations at French's Hill represent a significant threat to both the water in the underlying aquifers and the natural filtration system that purifies the ground water being regenerated from precipitation, etc. Continued destruction of this filtration system will, in all likelihood, negatively impact the water quality that we all rely on for basic survival. There are plenty of gravel deposits throughout Ontario that could be harvested without impacting water resources. This activity is, in my opinion, and in that of a consortium of world-renowned water scientists, a completely incompatible undertaking that needs to be stopped in its tracks before it is too late. This recharge area, which contributes to the Alliston Aquifer, provides clean water to thousands of residents for many miles around its location.

Memorandums of settlement with large multi-national corporations will do nothing to preserve this natural phenomenon, which, according to these same scientists, is an "inexcusable" activity. It has been branded as the purest water known to man. Continuing to permit this operation has the potential to create a disaster for future generations. Admittedly, the province of Ontario has the authority to issue licences to both extract and take millions of litres of water a day, simply for the purpose of washing this gravel. I firmly believe that a very strong and unified voice of objection from this Council would go a long way to encouraging Premier Ford to live up to the commitment he made to the people of Milton, Ontario last year, when faced with a similar dilemma.

Many neighbourhoods in Tiny have been, or are in the process of being, decimated by the huge influx of short-term rentals. Residents no longer know their neighbours. It is attacking the very fabric of our township.

In my view, Council and some senior staff have sidestepped this issue for so long that it may be unfixable at this point. Because of what I consider to be poor legal and planning opinions as to the legality of permitting these businesses in residential areas, I believe that both Council and responsible senior staff used these opinions to avoid taking strong action, instead relying on the facade of a "zero-tolerance policy" that

most obviously did not ever adequately address an issue that is negatively impacting so many neighbourhoods. Many of these unscrupulous STR operators are known to have continued to rent during the provincial stay-at-home order, which prohibited rentals of this nature unless they were for permanent accommodation. Expecting residents to directly address their concerns with STR operators who are rarely on site, not contactable, or hardly concerned with anything other than generating huge revenues is both naive and unreasonable.

The current zoning by-law has for many years and still continues to restrict "tourist establishments," which are, by definition, premises used by the travelling and vacationing public, to only three small areas (zoning categories) in Tiny. Simply stated, they are NOT permitted in any residential zones, and never have been. STRs, especially dedicated STRs, are clearly a commercial use and should never have been permitted in residential zones. Any other view is, in my opinion, an attempt by Council and Planning and By-law Departments to sidestep their responsibility for allowing this mess to get out of control in the first place. Responsibility is undeniable, in my view.

In closing, I feel that I had no real option but to walk away from the table prior to my term's end next year. I am saddened by my decision to do so, as I have never before turned my back on a commitment that I have made. This was a hard decision to make. I realize that my comments will raise the ire of Council, some members of the Senior Management Team, and residents, both those who supported my efforts and those who did not. That is not my intention. Hopefully, my comments might cause some reflection on the part of all concerned. I know that I certainly have, of late.

Also, I hope that my resignation might cause residents to closely examine Council's actions during this and previous terms and decide if they feel that the level of Council leadership, action, and staff direction have helped or hindered the outcome of the two critical issues that I have raised. Of course, there are many more. There always will be. Is/has Council done everything in its power to stand tall on the very important issues of preserving the local environment (water quality) and the ability to have peaceful enjoyment of your property while being surrounded by short-term rentals when there was no need for it?

In one year, as voters, you will have the opportunity to express your level of satisfaction with the casting of ballots. For Tiny's sake, please vote wisely. I am honoured to have had the opportunity to represent my residents for the past three years and I thank those that allowed me to do so.

Warm regards,
Former Councilor Tony Mintoff

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Glyphosate use a danger to Tiny Cottagers and Residents

My family, friends, and I were appalled to come across so many signs indicating that glyphosate had been sprayed along roadsides and public pathways around Cawaja Beach. As property owners who spend much of our summers there, we were disappointed to see that the application of that hazardous herbicide appeared everywhere. Its use, intended to protect the health and safety of passers-by by removing poison ivy growth, is actually quite dangerous and puts the health and safety of residents at great risk, particularly when it comes to young children, the elderly, and those with compromised health. It is my hope that an outright ban on that herbicide can be implemented in the residential and cottage areas of the Tiny shoreline so that their pristine beauty and wild settings can be preserved.


Glyphosate is among the most widely used herbicides by volume in the world. However, in the last decade or so, it has become increasingly suspected of causing serious harm to life. Different studies have suggested that there is a link between its application and cancer, endocrine disruptions and fertility and reproductive concerns, liver disease, and microbiome disruption. There is also evidence that it is harmful to bees and monarch butterflies. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization found it to be "a probable human carcinogen". In 2017, the California State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) added it to its list of known carcinogens.

Concerned citizens of the world have acted to ban its use. The following countries have either taken steps to ban or restrict glyphosate or issued statements of intention to do so: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Columbia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. Despite Health Canada deeming this issue not a priority, 8 out of 10 provinces have some sort of restriction on the use of non-essential cosmetic pesticides, including glyphosate. In addition to this, many communities and municipalities have enacted local bylaws limiting or

— continued on page 6



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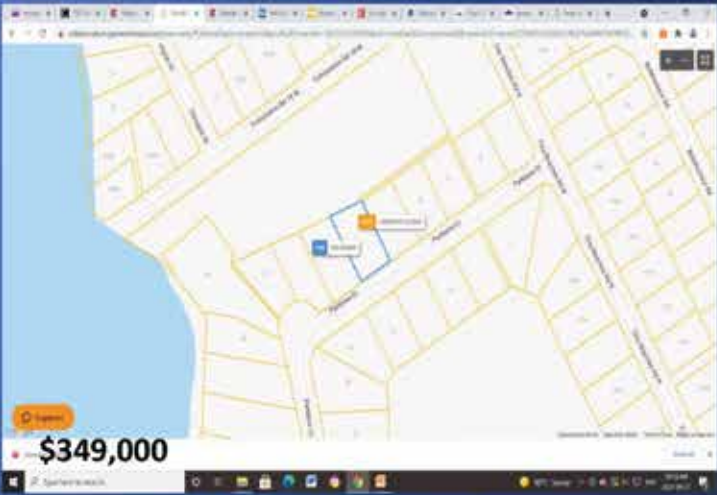
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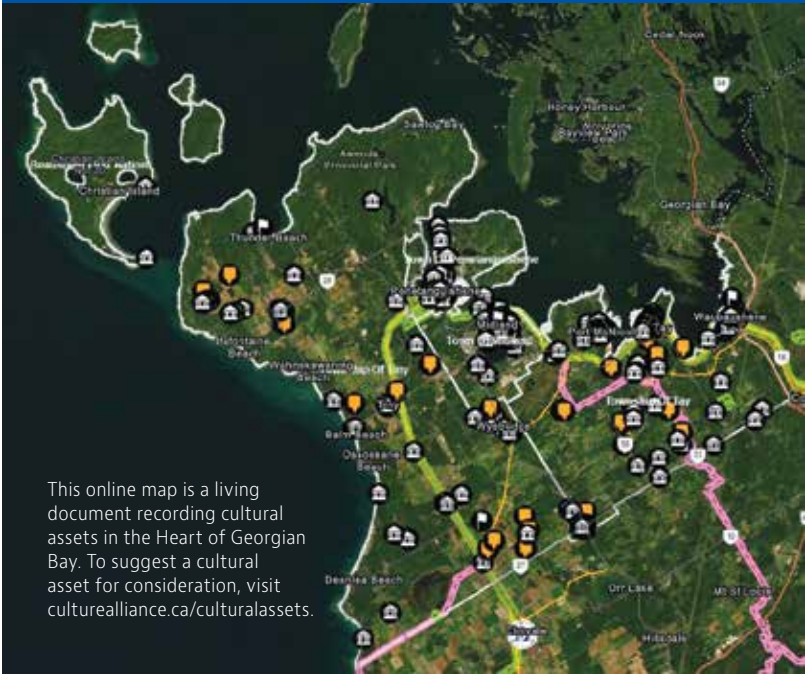


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Lot 64, Parklane Court, Tiny
Lovely building lot in desirable area of
Tiny Beaches Rd N

Culture Alliance: A Map Without Boundaries

by KAREN MEALING



Boundaries drawn on maps don't determine where a region's culture begins and ends, especially with the rich tri-cultural history and heritage of the Heart of Georgian Bay region.

In 2019, the councils for Beausoleil First Nation, the towns of Midland and Penetanguishene and the townships of Tay and Tiny formally elected to work together to celebrate, foster and promote culture.

This led to the successful formation of the Culture Alliance, a unique collaboration among one First Nation, two Francophone communities and two Anglophone communities where culture is strengthening connections and collaboration while building bridges and developing stronger relationships.

Among the many initiatives the Culture Alliance has embarked on is a major project launched earlier this year aimed at highlighting the multiple cultural assets located in the Heart of Georgian Bay. This project was undertaken with a \$75,000 Seed Grant, awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

"The original plan was to host community cultural celebrations in each of our five communities where people could gather, talk, share ideas and learn, as our success in identifying cultural assets depends on community involvement," said Cindy Hastings, Chair of the Culture Alliance and Tiny Township Councillor.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the project to launch on-

line with the support of Stantec Consulting Ltd., which was contracted to assist with the project. Together the Culture Alliance and Stantec Consulting hosted virtual opportunities to highlight this project, including a demonstration on how to mark cultural assets on the online map.

By spring 2021, Stantec had added 268 points to the map, primarily identifying churches, historic plaques, heritage homes and cemeteries. It was then time to invite the public to start adding points to the map. The map currently has more than 400 points and is growing as the public continues to add points.

"The map is a living record of our area and will never be completed or finalized," said Cindy. "It will grow and evolve as people add cultural assets and stories of the area and it will forever preserve the history and culture of our five communities."

Points on the map include, but are not limited to, landmarks, buildings, museums, conservation areas, parks, public art installations, and studios. The Culture Alliance is also looking to gather information about creative individuals, cultural organizations and groups, plus festivals and events that can't be mapped.

In addition to the cultural asset map, the Culture Alliance has been busy with a variety of other projects including:

- organizing and hosting the inaugural Creative Communities Culture Conference
- providing business skills development for creatives looking to turn their passion into a profession through Artrepreneur
- coordinating networking and learning opportunities for cultural organizations and individuals through Cultural Connections
- highlighting and recognizing individuals who have made a significant impact in our communities through the Inspirational People Project
- providing financial assistance to organizations to provide free or pay-what-you-can cultural activities, and much more.

To learn more about the Culture Alliance and their initiatives, visit www.culturealliance.ca, follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@CultureGBay) and sign up to receive a bi-monthly e-newsletter highlighting cultural opportunities in our area.

Karen Mealing is Cultural Development Coordinator for The Town of Midland.

— LETTER TO THE EDITOR continued from page 5

or banning its use, the largest of which is the City of Vancouver.

It is disheartening to see that the same chemical said to be used for improving the health and safety of Cawaja residents may ironically be harming them. While the effects of its use will not manifest themselves immediately, its accumulation over time will certainly show in the health of local populations and the local environment, as well as add to overall accumulation of this harmful chemical on the planet or in the environment.

If the removal of poison ivy is necessary, there are many different environmentally friendly ways of removing it. One can, of course, simply remove the plant with its roots from the soil while wearing protective gear. One can also make a "softer" weed killer using a mixture of salt, dish soap, vinegar, and water. There is also the option of watering the poison ivy with boiling water over time, or simply throwing a tarp over it and starving it of light. While these methods may require a bit more time and effort than spraying glyphosate, they are much less toxic and corrosive and leave the surrounding areas thriving.

The same soil that we spray to kill weeds that can be eliminated in environmentally friendly ways is located exactly where the community's residents play. Children, pets, and loved ones swim in water only 50 metres away, where the chemical eventually runs off. It is with goodwill and concern for future generations that I ask, on behalf of my family and other Cawaja Beach residents, that something be done to stop the use of this chemical, particularly in situations where many other viable options for killing dangerous vegetation exist. Ideally, and with the support of other residents, I ask that glyphosate be banned from usage entirely across the residential and cottage areas of Tiny Township.

I encourage readers interested in taking action to sign a petition to ban glyphosate along the Tiny shoreline at <http://chng.it/vMTtsBTCLEP>. For the sake of our health, our local economy over the long term, and the pristine nature of the Georgian Bay area, it is up to us to protect the beautiful beaches and forests that we all enjoy and love.

With Tiny salutations,
Oleh Replansky



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(the late) Frank, Teresa, Nicki & Anthony.



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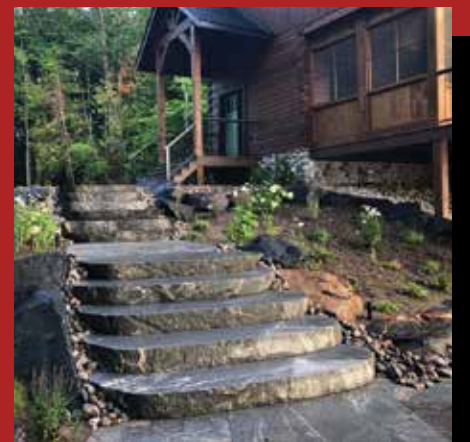
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Chronology of Events January-October 2021

by JUDITH GRANT, Addison Beach

Appearing below is a series of developments involving FoTTSA's opposition to efforts of CRH Canada Group Inc. to expand aggregate expansion and renew its Permit to Take Water for washing aggregate. For an account of the gravel pit/water story from 2009 to 2021, see the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *The Tiny Cottager* at www.tinycottager.org.

1. In mid-January the Director of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) issued a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) to CRH Canada Group Inc. which, through its subsidiary Dufferin Aggregates, owns the Teedon Pit in Concession 1 of Tiny Township.
2. On April 19, the Environmental Review Tribunal granted FoTTSA leave to appeal the PTTW.
3. On April 29, FoTTSA filed a Notice of Appeal of the PTTW.
4. On July 2, the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) sent a Notice of Case Management regarding the Appeal to the parties, designating August 3 as the date of the first Case Management Conference (CMC) regarding the Appeal.
5. On July 23, FoTTSA served on the parties and filed with the OLT FoTTSA's Issues List for the August 3 CMC.
6. Circa July 26-27, counsel for MECP informed FoTTSA of the MECP's objections to some of FoTTSA's issues.
7. On August 3, counsel for Tiny Township informed all parties (FoTTSA, the Township of Tiny, CRH and MECP) at the Case Management Conference that the Township was satisfied with the issues put forward by FoTTSA. MECP counsel repeated the ministry's concerns, namely that several of FoTTSA's issues were more properly addressed under an Environmental Compliance Approval issued under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*. FoTTSA disagreed with this view.
8. Counsel for the parties subsequently tried to resolve differences regarding the Issues List. Some progress was made, but not all matters were resolved.
9. On August 20, MECP filed submissions as to why the FoTTSA Issues List should be modified (and included MECP's proposed Issues List by noting what it proposed be changed or removed from FoTTSA's Issues List).
10. On August 27, CRH filed submissions in support of the MECP position.
11. On September 3, Counsel set out FoTTSA's position as to why the Issues list dated September 3 (slightly modified from the July 23 version) should be adopted by the Tribunal as the Issues List for the PTTW appeal.

FoTTSA Revised Issues List – Case No. 21-030 – 3 September 2021

The following list of issues, created by the Canadian Environmental Law Association on FoTTSA's behalf, was submitted to the Ontario Land Tribunal as part of the appeal process referred to above.

1. Whether the Instrument Holder's descriptions of the local geology and hydrogeology at, and in the vicinity of, the Teedon Pit site are accurate, given the complexity of the local geology and hydrogeology?
2. Whether aggregate washing at the Teedon Pit site has the potential to adversely impact the water quality /water quantity of domestic wells of local residents?
3. Whether the deeper down-gradient groundwater resources at, and in the vicinity of the Teedon Pit site, are:
 - (a) properly characterized as "pristine"; and
 - (b) subject to potential adverse impacts from aggregate washing at the Teedon Pit site?
4. Whether the Complaint Response Plan and PTTW Conditions 4.5 and 5.1 are adequate?
5. Whether the PTTW conditions are adequate to ensure compliance with statutory and regulatory obligations to protect water quality and water quantity during site operations?

— Revised Issues List continued on page 9

OUR COVERAGE IN THIS ISSUE *on the threat to Tiny's pristine groundwater actually begins on page one, with Bonnie Pauzé's recounting of well water problems that began at the same time that aggregate washing began at the Teedon Pit.*

The fight to preserve the quality of groundwater and aquifers in Tiny Township has been long and complex. It has involved many disparate 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 the 2009 defeat of Simcoe County's plan to put a garbage dump directly over the aquifer at Site 41 on Concession 2. The dump was to be on the clay plain northwest of French's Hill. Washing of gravel in the Teedon Pit on French's Hill began the same year.

Desperately Needed Research

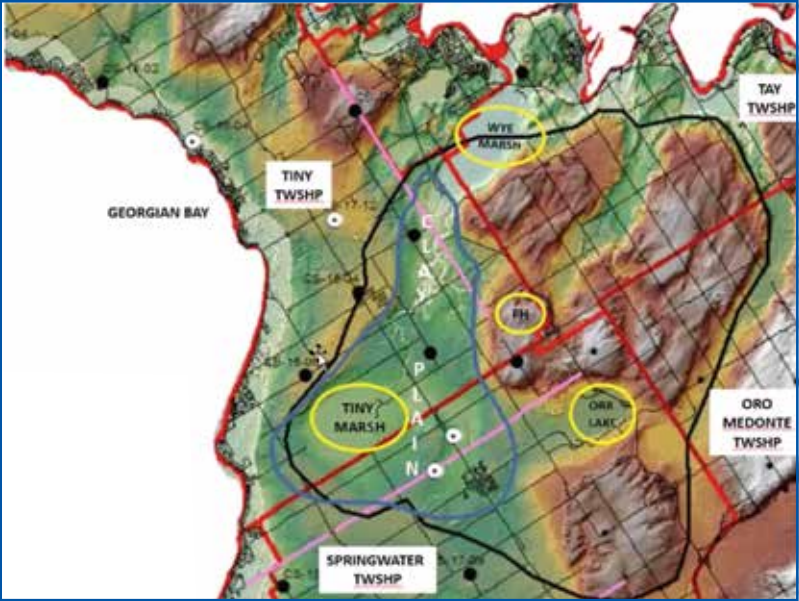


IMAGE: Study-zone.jpg [from Mike Powell's AGM presentation]

A new research proposal could fill essential information gaps that would inform future water management policy.

One of the greatest challenges facing CRH Canada Group Inc., the Sarjeant Company Ltd., the provincial government, Tiny Township and local residents over aggregate extraction and water taking on the French's Hill area is the disruption of the natural sedimentary complex that acts as a filtering system and produces extremely pure groundwater, some of which feeds the Alliston Aquifer Complex. At this point there is no clear understanding of how the system works, or what effect the aggregate extraction and water taking could have on groundwater quality and quantity. For example, what is the origin of these groundwaters, which processes are contributing to their purity, their volumes, flow rates and direction of movement, and how they are connected (if they are connected)?

A group of five internationally recognized Canadian scientists are in the process of drafting a multidisciplinary research proposal that will include stakeholders from private, public and civil society sectors, to conduct a 5-year, multi-million-dollar study of groundwater in the Huronia area where the Waverley Uplands and French's Hill are located:

- **William Shotyk**, Professor and Bocock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment, Dept. of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, Principal Investigator
- **Michael Powell**, Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, Project Director
- **Ian Clark**, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Ottawa, Co-Investigator
- **Beth Parker**, Professor and NSERC Industrial Research Chair, Dir. Morwick G360 Groundwater Res. Inst., University of Guelph, Co-Investigator
- **John Cherry**, Adjunct Professor, University of Guelph, Emeritus Professor, University of Waterloo, Co-Investigator
- **The Ontario Geological Survey**, Ministry of Natural Resources, Research Partner

The study proposal will be submitted before the end of this year to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Its mandate is to fund "visionaries, explorers and innovators who are searching for the scientific and

For an overview of the issues and steps taken from 2009 to 2021 to protect our water, see the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *The Tiny Cottager* at www.tinycottager.org. For an update since then, see "Chronology of Events January-October 2021" on this page.

Also in this report:

- an at-a-glance chronology of events
- a brief account of why the groundwater system is so complex
- proposed research that would help identify the geological and geochemical processes that makes this water so pure, and could help protect it
- recollections of water challenges faced by area farmers
- how local artists have helped fund opposition to aggregate expansion and washing activities
- how you can help.

technical breakthroughs that will benefit our country."

Dr. Powell spoke about groundwater issues and the proposed study at FoTTSA's 2021 annual general meeting. A lightly edited excerpt from his remarks appears below.

What's lacking in the government's understanding of French's Hill

"There have been a lot of engineering reports, a lot of hydrogeology reports, a lot of consultants, and communication back and forth between different government organizations and concerned area citizens who are worried about the impacts of aggregate and water taking on their pristine groundwaters. In all of those reports, the one thing that I think has to be pointed out is that they were done in order to get a permit to take aggregate, or to take water. They have not unravelled the com-

plicated geological and geochemical processes involved in making this the cleanest water yet described on the surface of the earth.

"Nobody in the world has done that, and that's the purpose of the proposal that we're putting in front of the government of Canada. So, as you can see on the location map (*shown in photo*), the area to the right side of the map, which includes French's Hill and other uplands of Huronia, are the most likely source areas of the pristine water of the area. Some may also come from deeper glacial sediments or the rocks that underlie the deep valleys. These source areas supply the pristine waters that flow to the surface in the clay plain on the left side of the map and support the Wye River and the Tiny and Wye Marshes, along with agricultural and domestic water supplies.

"The red area at the top is the area of study that we will be engaged in. The black lines are potential lines for groundwater flow, and that red arrow is the general direction of flow of groundwater in that part of Simcoe County. We're not just talking about French's Hill here. We're talking about a much broader area. This is more or less what our study area will look like... I should point out that the results of the study will be applicable to the northern part of the county.

"We are especially interested in Wye Marsh, Tiny Marsh, the clay plain, and the trace of the Wye watershed because any activity within this area is going to impact the quality of the water. We will study the infiltration and the differences in geology, geochemistry, and processes acting in the Simcoe (aka Waverley) Uplands, which are very important. Those upland areas are where the filtration of all groundwater that comes out of the clay plain starts. These are not things that you hear in engineering or hydrogeology reports that are looking for permits..."

What Dr. Powell observed on French's Hill

"I visited French's Hill in October 2020 and walked all of the terraces and up to the top where I could get access. I took photos and noted the standing groundwater on all of the terraces. I have consulted with the two main hydrogeologists on this project — Beth Parker and John Cherry. They have given deputations about that area. It is clear-cut. Effectively, it is now stripped from the extension of Marshall Road over to where French's Road would be. From that area on up, and

A Chronology of Recent Events

April 2007

Dr. William Shotyk, University of Alberta professor and Bocock Chair for Agriculture and the Environment, incorporates the **Elmvale Foundation**, a non-profit research organization. His research has shown that the area's pristine waters are comparable to the cleanest layers of ancient arctic ice.

August 2007

The first **Elmvale Water Festival**, organized by the Elmvale Foundation, takes place.

April 2008

The **Province** approves an application for a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for washing aggregate at the Teedon Pit.

March 2012

Beamish Construction Ltd. applies to Tiny Township for Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments allowing a substantial expansion of the pit. The **Township** withholds approval and supplies the Province with numerous concerns raised by residents at a public meeting

almost down to where Baseline Road is, the soils are gone. You will hear engineers and you will hear hydrogeologists say that this is not going to impact the water, or maybe only a few wells...
“You cannot take the top off of French’s Hill — and for those of you that have seen the plans, virtually from Highway 27 north, the top of French’s Hill is going to be taken off. A large part of it has been removed already. That is the first level of filtration for groundwater emerging from the top of French’s Hill, then it passes down through the rocks, and joins the water that has come from the east, and goes out into the clay plain. I’m afraid that I cannot possibly agree with statements that say either the quantity or the quality of the water will not be impacted by this. I would argue that point with anyone, as would all of the members of our research team.

“There has been a discussion for many years about the role of the Ministry of Environment. On one hand, you’ve got the government saying we need aggregate for roads and buildings, and on the other side of the fence the ministry is tasked with protecting the environment. It’s almost like the fox watching the hen house... Their technical branch understands what we’re talking about today, but the policy branch faces all kinds of different problems. The thing is that the level at which they have set regulations does not come anywhere close to the level of understanding needed to protect this water.

“I tried to make the point to the government that this water is the monarch butterfly of water. The monarch butterfly is the international standard for butterflies, and the water quality in your area of the world should be the international standard of water quality. I can tell you right now that your water is talked about around the world. People know about this water through the science that Bill Shotyk has done. It is considered the gold standard and people are shaking their heads thinking, ‘And you’re messing with the recharge area of this water before you understand that natural analog?’ The bottom line is that the regulations do not cover this kind of situation.

“This water is unique in the world, as far as we know. That’s why we want to study it and understand it. Once that analog is gone, we won’t have a chance to do that. This analog could be applied to other parts of Ontario and other parts of Canada once we understand it. Nobody knows right now why that water is what it is, or exactly how much of it is there and where it comes from. *Nobody*.

“We’re running out of time. The bottom line is the work is going on. These soils are being stripped. It is going to have an impact. How much, we don’t know yet... This is not an

argument that we should never take aggregate. We know we need aggregate, and we know that there are lots of places to get aggregate in Ontario. Get it from other places.

“Why does this one area have to be messed with when it is the recharge area for the cleanest water yet described on the surface of the Earth? Think about this from that standpoint. Did we change the entire way we did agriculture to save the monarch butterfly? Yes, we did. The kind of chemicals we used, the way we cut road right-of-ways, all of this kind of stuff through southern Canada and throughout the United States were changes at a cost of I don’t know how many millions of dollars to save a species of butterfly because of its importance. Your water has the same capacity to be an internationally famous global standard for water.

“I think this is one of those situations where you have to say, ‘Well, we’ve got a scar, and that scar is going to stay for a long time, but we need to stop as much more of it as possible.’ By the way, I don’t think we have in our laboratories or anywhere else a process that can clean water as clean as the water bubbling out of the ground in this part of the world. I’m not saying that there aren’t some things in it; there obviously are. There are natural elements in all water. But for those things that are of great importance to us, John Cherry calls this water ‘pristine.’ Pristine means it has no human fingerprint. It’s really exceptional water.”



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— **One Family’s Water Problems** *continued from page 1*

Update: according to water quality testing conducted in 2017, Bonnie Pauzé’s and Jake Pigeon’s well water now contains 20 times more metals than was found in the initial testing. “It’s still within Ontario drinking water limits,” says Bonnie, “but for scientists it’s very, very alarming.” Bonnie and Jake continue opposing plans to expand aggregate extraction and washing on French’s Hill.

1. Margaret Prophet and Adam Ballah (Hosts), “The Fight to Protect the Waverley Uplands, the Cleanest Water in the World,” Tree Planters Podcast, Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, February 2, 2020, <https://simcoecountygreenbelt.ca/our-work/podcast-2/>
2. Beamish Construction owned the Teedon Pit in 2006, and later sold the property to Dufferin Aggregates, a division of CRH Canada Group Inc., itself part of CRH, a global building materials business. Registered in Ireland, CRH operates in 27 countries and generated revenue of US \$ 27.6 billion in 2020. Source: www.crh.com/about-crh/at-a-glance
3. The Sarjeant Co. Ltd. also owns an aggregate operation on French’s Hill, and like CRH Canada has applied for a permit to take water for the purpose of washing aggregate.



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FoTTSA Revised Issues List – Case No. 21-030 – 3 September 2021 — cont’d from page 8

6. Whether the PTTW conditions:
 - (a) are based on adequate hydrogeological site investigations and monitoring, including baseline testing, information respecting the existence and effects of the sump pond catch basin, water balance information for the sump pond, and existing water quality monitoring data;
 - (b) contain adequate requirements for:
 - (i) conducting groundwater quality monitoring; and
 - (ii) reporting on the results thereof;
 - (c) contain adequate requirements for the installation of new water quality monitoring wells, and improvements to site water quality and water level monitoring, and reporting with respect thereto?
7. Whether the PTTW should contain conditions to eliminate the potential for off-site water quality impacts by requiring:
 - (a) installation of impermeable liners for the site’s sedimentation ponds and sump pond; and
 - (b) maintenance of sump pond water levels well below the elevation of the catch basin?
8. Whether the PTTW conditions should scale back the:
 - (a) annual amount of the water taking; and
 - (b) duration of the PTTW?

(For the Canadian Environmental Law Association’s explanation of the differences between the FoTTSA/ Township Issues List and that of MECP/CRH, go to saveourwatertiny.com, click on Teedon/CRH OLT hearing, and then on FoTTSA Issues List 3/9/2021. This document is also the source of most of the information in the Chronology above and of the Issues List in its entirety.)



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October 2015

Independent hydrogeologist **Wilf Ruland** completes a report on the hydrogeological impacts of aggregate washing and other activities at the Teedon Pit for Bonnie Pauzé and Jake Pigeon, whose wells are afflicted with silt.

October 2017

Friends of the Waverley Uplands creates a Facebook group to safeguard the Alliston Aquifer and generate community support. For a time, Vicki Monague (Beausoleil First Nation) and Erin Archer (Friends) invite concerned citizens to peacefully protest the mining and washing of aggregates at the Teedon Pit gate on Fridays.

January 2018

CRH Canada Group Inc., now the owner of the Teedon Pit, applies for a 10-year renewal of its PTTW, proposing to draw 1.6 million litres of well water per day.

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Some Local French’s Hill History

by GARY E. FRENCH

The recollections below of water challenges encountered by farmers in the vicinity of French’s Hill demonstrate the area’s complex geological recharge systems, now threatened by increased aggregate extraction and a renewal of water permits that are taking place or proposed for the area. — Editor

I know nothing about geology but I have always supposed that French’s Hill and the related uplands are part of a terminal moraine — the ridge of land being pushed ahead of an ice sheet that was left when the ice retreated or melted. Last I heard, there were at least 17 ice ages occurring over tens of millions of years — the last left this area about 10,000 years ago — and in this area the ice was at times two kilometres thick. It seems that most of what we now see was sculpted by the ice. As this ice was extremely heavy and powerful, that sculpting might have extended some distance into the ground, but I am not sure that everything underground matches what we can see above ground.

I have also presumed that French’s Hill is part of the same geological feature as the high lands of the Old Second of Flos through to Apto and Anten Mills, and also the same feature as the high land of Tiny, to Cedar Point. But I don’t understand why this feature is broken by such things as Orr Lake.

In the past, hills, sandy land and swamps were much more important features to people than they are now. You can now drive from Barrie to Penetanguishene on the Old Penetanguishene Road and more or less ignore the hills and wet areas because your vehicle manages them with ease. That was not so in the past when they could do little by way of changing the levels of land for road building and when transportation was by horses and oxen.

At that time the drovers and teamsters were well aware of every hill and valley as they posed a transportation challenge. So when names were applied, to a considerable extent they were naming the road going up a hill, rather than the hill itself. If you travel from Orr Lake to Waverley, you might know that the first large hill you climb is Rowley’s Hill, but perhaps only if you live locally. Apart from that, it feels like a gentle decline to Waverley. But my grandmother, who often walked it to school, would name the hills, south to north, as Rowley’s Hill, Mertz’s Hill, Gravett’s Hill and Sibbald’s Hill just before Waverley.

As a result, some geographic features have two names. What we are calling French’s Hill is clearly the same feature as, if you follow it north and then east, Darby’s Hill (both going up and coming down), and this portion was formerly Grigg’s Hill or Victoria Hill. Essentially they were naming the incline in the road. If you look at the high lands on the Old Second, as you climb the hill on Baseline Road between the 8th Line and the 7th Line, you climb Cook’s Hill. But the same feature, at the 4th line, is Cumming’s Hill. As you climb the same hill on Highway 27, it is Apto Hill.

I remember my grandfather saying that you did not want to live beside a significant feature like this. He was speaking of living at my mother’s farm. He was often awakened in the middle of the night to hitch his team to pull someone out of the ditch on that curve. It was a nuisance that was hard to refuse but rarely paid for, beyond the well known but often forgotten “I owe you one.” He said it was the same living at the top or base of a large hill, when you would be asked to add your team to a load when the teamster could not make the hill. Bear in mind that French’s Hill, until the townline (now Highway 27) was straightened (1925?), had an “S-bend” to go up it, as it could not be managed in a straight run.

I don’t see much problem mapping French’s Hill from the topographic maps, but I have no idea whether what is below ground, in terms of recharge area, matches what we see above ground. There must be some strange things underground that we have no knowledge of.* Remember about 1980 when a group signed oil leases for the area between Orr Lake and Fergusonvale? They had done considerable research to conclude that there was oil there. Perhaps there is. They decided to drill in a field on the Drysdale farm (any local farmer could have told them they would never get past the water), and as far as I know never did get deep enough to know whether there was any oil. I think they had to get Alex Currie to drag their rig out of the field.

Perhaps someone can explain why these are recharge areas but in some places it is difficult to find water for wells, except at considerable depths. In Waverley, it is hard to find water west of Highway 93 but the water is at about 60 feet east of Hwy 93. The old school at Waverley never had a good well

until the last few years. At Orr Lake, the water coming out of the ground can be a nuisance, but if you are on Wood’s Drive wells must be drilled deep.

The French farms on the hill always suffered from lack of water and this was resolved only when deep drilled wells were available at reasonable prices. On Freeman French’s farm (now Murray McDonald’s) they drove the cattle twice a day down the hill to a spring beside Jim Lambie’s house and I think that right of way is still on title. I was told that on the Gable French farm (the Corlett farm, now Nesbitt’s) they hand dug a well to 150 feet and gave up. I don’t know whether Grextons still use the old well there, but I was told it was hand dug to 130 feet. On the Old Second, those farms all relied principally on cisterns, either dug into the ground or walled off in the stable, but they often had large tanks which they would use to haul water from creeks and rivers. A cow can gulp down a lot of water at a sitting. On the George French/Gar Brown farm they did not have a well but used a spring on the edge of the hill. The problem was that the spring was right in the middle of the road allowance and when the road was straightened to go right up the hill, the spring was covered. The Frenchs were not happy.

Gary E. French is a retired lawyer and a fifth generation descendant of Gable French.

* Michael Powell, a project director of a proposed study on the groundwater system, explains that the uplands from the end of the clay plain east of Elmvale is a potential recharge area for the waters that bubble out of or above the ground of the clay plain. Water emerges at the top of the uplands, filters down through sediments, joins an aquifer, and flows to the west. See below for more on this.

Why the Simcoe Uplands Groundwater System Is So Complex

by MICHAEL POWELL

The planet has experienced glacial periods throughout the past 2+ billion years. The most recent spanned from about 2.5 million to about 12,000 years ago.

When ice reaches thicknesses of kilometres it flows like plastic at the base. This flow allows the ice to pick up and drag along large quantities of rocks of all sizes. The base of the glacier is like sandpaper, scouring and gouging the land surface as it moves forward. This is how the Great Lakes came to be.

When the ice retreats (i.e., melts), the material it carries is deposited in a complex system of sediments. As subsequent glacial advances happen, these materials are again picked up and deposited. Some, that are deposited directly by the melting ice and remain unsorted, do not make good aquifers (they are aquitards). Other sediments are deposited by the water that flows from below the glacier, or melts from the surface of the ice; this material is more sorted and porous and can result in good aquifers. After burial these porous sediments may become saturated with groundwater, which is used to support all life on the planet.

There is a buried glacial valley approximately 100 metres deep in the Elmvale area that runs from Georgian Bay to Lake Ontario, and from the Niagara Escarpment to the Simcoe Uplands and beyond to the Canadian Shield. This is our area of concern, where pristine groundwater has been identified. The uplands to the northeast of a line that roughly connects Orr Lake with Midland is mainly glacial till, mostly unsorted and highly variable from one spot to the next, but there are also zones that carry appreciable amounts of groundwater. This is why one farm may have water seeping out of the ground (artesian flows) and a neighbouring farm may have to drill deep wells, many from very different depths.

Smaller river channels that run NE-SW among these uplands represent sub-glacial valleys eroded by rivers that flowed below the base of the glaciers and eroded channels. The clay plain that lies to the southwest of this line is made of lake sediments that formed when the glacial front was further to the north and large lakes sat at the end of the glacier. These post-glacial deposits of clay and other fine-grained sediments are not good aquifers; they slow the movement of water. The clay “cap” is an aquitard and restricts water movement either up or down. The water underneath this cap can be under pressure and therefore flows (artesian) to the sur-

A Chronology of Recent Events, *cont’d*

March 2018

CRH lodges an appeal with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (now the Ontario Land Tribunal) regarding the Township’s refusal to decide on Official Plan and Zoning By-Law amendments needed for the pit expansion. Pre-hearing conferences involving all parties to the appeal are scheduled.

April 2018

To bring healing, encouragement, and awareness of the sacredness of water, the **First Nations and Friends of the Waverley Uplands** cohost a water ceremony in the midst of a blizzard. The ceremony attracts First Nations representatives from across North America • **Wulf Ruland** prepares a review of CRH’s application for a Permit to Take Water for aggregate washing at the Teedon Pit for Bonnie Pauzé and Jake Pigeon.

November 2018

Indigenous water walkers undertake a two-day, 42 km march to the Teedon Pit.

December 2018

Dr. Shotyk requests that Simcoe County Council impose a moratorium on expansion of aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until groundwater flows in the area are better understood. The County rejects the request • At the first LPAT Pre-hearing Conference in December **FoTTSA** is granted party status

face when a well is drilled below the layer.

The uplands act as recharge area for the groundwater and the lowlands (clay plain) are where the water is discharged. Any activity that disrupts the uplands will or can have an effect on the quality and quantity of the waters discharged from the aquifers below.

Michael Powell is Adjunct Professor, Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, and project director of a proposed study on the Simcoe Uplands groundwater system.

How You Can Help Protect Tiny’s Pristine Water



Filling a jug with pristine water at the Elmvale Kiosk.

FoTTSA takes the threats posed by aggregate extraction and washing in the French’s Hill area very seriously. We think these activities are harmful to what has been described by scientists as the purest known water in the world, and to future generations of Tiny residents.

To minimize the threat and promote sound decision-making based on science, FoTTSA has launched legal appeals of applications to expand one gravel pit, and to take millions of litres of pristine groundwater for washing gravel. Expert reviews of these applications and their supporting documents indicate they contain serious errors and omissions.

The Canadian Environmental Law Association is representing FoTTSA at no cost. However, FoTTSA remains responsible for all other CELA expenses, such as travel, accommodation, photocopies, supplies, and expert witnesses. These costs are estimated to be about \$100,000.

- So far we’ve raised \$54,000, which is a great start but we’re only halfway to our goal. Here’s how you can help:
- **Inform yourself** by reading this special report and visit “Save our Water Tiny,” Saveourwatertiny.com. It keeps visitors up to date on developments and archives relevant information.
 - **Help us pay our legal costs** incurred as FoTTSA opposes increased aggregate extraction and permits to take water near French’s Hill for the purpose of washing aggregate.
 - **Show everyone you care about our water** by putting up a lawn sign, available with a minimum \$10 donation. Volunteers will deliver your sign to your home.
 - **Tell two friends about this campaign.** If they don’t receive *The Tiny Cottager*, they could download a pdf of this issue at www.tinycottager.org

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March 2019

In preparation for upcoming pre-hearing conferences and the hearing proper, **FoTTSA** successfully applies for legal assistance to the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) • **CRH** begins convening Community Liaison Committee meetings with local stakeholders, including FoTTSA. (The final meeting takes place in June 2019.) Despite requests from stakeholders, CRH invites no independent experts to speak.

June 2020

FoTTSA creates a “Save our Water Tiny” website, saveourwatertiny.com, to keep people up to date on developments and to archive an immense amount of relevant material.

January 2021

The Province approves **CRH Canada’s** application for a PTTW, enabling it to take up to 1.6 million litres of water per day to wash aggregate • **FoTTSA** applies for the right to appeal the granting of the PTTW to the Environmental Review Tribunal • **Council** votes unanimously to ask for the right to appeal the permit after representatives from affected homeowners, Aware Simcoe, the Council of Canadians, the Green Party, Simcoe County Greenbelt Coalition, Tiny’s farming community and Wellington Water Watchers make deputations to Tiny Council opposing the granting of the permit to take water.

Tiny Art Collective Fundraiser Supports Save our Water Tiny

by HILARY SLATER



One of two studios where the Tiny Art Collective fundraiser took place.

Last fall during the first season of COVID, local artist Barbara Simmons wanted to form a collective for artists in our community. I joined forces with her last winter and eventually 12 local artists gathered to form the Tiny Art Collective (TAC). Because of pandemic restrictions, artists were in need of more connectivity and creative support, so the timing was perfect.

In May 2021, I read the lead article in *The Tiny Cottager*: “Do We Want Aggregate in the Short Term, or Pristine Water Forever?” I was shocked to learn about the two gravel pit operations atop French’s Hill that threaten the most pristine water in the world.

My first thought was, “I’m just an artist, what can I do?” And then I recalled how one young girl, Greta Thunberg, has changed the world.

Art can bring attention to things more quickly than the written word, since it has an immediate impact on the viewer, so I rallied the troops at our next TAC meeting.

TAC members discussed options of what could be done. Eventually we came up with a plan. Since I had already organized group events to paint *en plein air* — outdoors on location — the group began to paint at locations directly affected by this water issue: Tiny Marsh, Wye River, French’s Hill, Wye Marsh, and even the gravel pits themselves.

Nine members of the group — Samantha Reimer, Hilary Slater, Barbara Simmons, Jesse Unsworth, Jennifer Johnson, Petra Bergmann, Roger Beausoleil, Linda Paupst, and Adele Partington — each contributed a painting relating to water, to produce a set of nine limited edition art prints, to be sold as a fundraiser at their local summer art shows.

Samantha, Petra and I also created original paintings to sell, contributing personally to what we were now calling “the Water War.”

Amazingly, the First Annual Tiny Art Collective Studio Tour, in June 2021, was a resounding success. “Art in the Garden 2021” featured 10 artists displaying their work over two days in two locations. The event resulted in a \$1,096 contribution towards the legal/research fees incurred by FoTTSA in its efforts to stop the extraction and washing of aggregate in this environmentally sensitive area.

I realized that if artists can help save our pristine Tiny water, everyone can. A creative person could find something to sell, schools and community groups could raise awareness and funds.

Tiny Art Collective continues to have pop-up art shows at Wendy B’s on fall weekends, and some of the TAC members were involved in The Bay Studio Tour on October 2-3, where the remaining art card sets and other new art fundraiser paintings were made available to Save Our Tiny Water.

For more information about Art for Tiny Water, or to join in the Pleinair Water events, contact Hilary Slater Studio, 650 Concession Road 17 west, or email: hilaryslater@gmail.com.

Primarily self-taught, Hilary Slater has been painting for over 35 years. She paints predominantly on location to capture the immediacy of live experience; www.hilaryslater.com

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A Chronology of Recent Events, cont’d

<p>April 2021</p> <p>FoTTSA and Tiny Council are granted the right to appeal the PTTW • R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited reports to Council on numerous omissions and discrepancies in CRH’s PTTW application, which the Township submits to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks • The Sarjeant Company Ltd. applies for a PTTW — 1,641,600 litres every day for 180 days of the year — for its aggregate pit on Baseline Rd. South • the Township formally objects to Sarjeant’s PTTW application • a group of internationally recognized Canadian scientists, including Dr. Shotyk, announces plans to apply for a 5-year, multi-million-dollar study of groundwater in the Simcoe Uplands area.</p>	<p>May 2021</p> <p>Tiny Council votes 3-2 to stop opposing CRH’s application to extend its Teedon Pit operations into French’s Hill. The Township continues to oppose CRH’s PTTW.</p>	<p>September 2021</p> <p>Federal election candidates from the Green Party, People’s Party of Canada, Liberal Party New Democratic Party participate in a peaceful Friday afternoon protest at the Teedon Pit gates.</p>
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— **Report on Council** *continued from page 4*

HYBRID COUNCIL MEETINGS: In August, staff explained that enhancements had been made to the Township’s streaming capabilities to allow for hybrid meetings of Council. Accordingly, “those attending in the Council Chambers and those attending virtually will be seen and heard simultaneously on the Township’s live streaming through YouTube. Once hybrid meetings have been implemented in late September/early October, no member of Council or staff shall participate virtually in the Council Chambers due to feedback issues.” Council agreed to support the necessary amendments to the Council Procedure By-law to allow hybrid meetings.

BEE CITY DESIGNATION FOR TINY TOWNSHIP: Given that “bees and other pollinators around the globe have experienced dramatic declines due to land fragmentation, habitat loss, use of pesticides, industrialized agriculture, climate change and the spread of pests and diseases with serious implications for the future health of flora and fauna,” and that “by becoming a Bee City, the Township of Tiny can highlight initiatives already in place and further engage local communities in an environment of creativity and innovation which will promote a healthier life for our community,” Council authorized staff to submit the Bee City Canada Application to designate the Township of Tiny as a Bee City.

FINANCIAL COVID IMPACT ANALYSIS JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2021: The total impact on operations for this period is estimated at \$280.8k, “which includes Staff and Council time spent on COVID related activities, the interest relief provided to property owners for the current year taxes due on both the interim and final billing, and direct expenses related to purchase of PPE, cleaning and other COVID related expenditures.”

MUNICIPAL LAND DELINEATION: Dearden and Stanton Limited have been hired for \$78,000 + HST to delineate with posts:

Lafontaine Beach Park	north boundary
Wahnekewening Beach	all boundaries
Balm Beach	north boundary
Bluewater Beach	north & south boundaries
Concession 9/Ossossane Beach	all boundaries from Lundy Lane to Con. 9
Woodland Beach	south boundary
Jacksons 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

DEPUTATION BY 13-YEAR-OLD BEATRIZ BOERI MURRAY: In September, Beatriz spoke about ways that Tiny Township could reduce carbon emissions to help avert possible global extinction as a result of climate change. She urged that

1. Ontario should stop building traditional cars and build electric vehicles instead.
2. Tiny Township should use budget surpluses to cut Tiny’s carbon emission by retrofitting government buildings with solar or geothermal power sources and offer grants to families who convert to green energy.
3. Wildlife, forests, and water should be protected.
4. Tiny should invest in initiatives like farmers’ markets to encourage people to eat locally, and celebrate people whose houses and jobs are powered by solar energy.
5. Council should measure Tiny’s carbon footprint immediately and set a goal to reduce it.

The Director of Public Works and Deputy Mayor Walma are to make a presentation to the Youth Advisory Committee regarding initiatives the Township has already taken to reduce carbon emissions.

R. J. BURNSIDE’S PEER REVIEW OF CRH CANADA GROUP INC’S ONTARIO WATER RESOURCES ACT S53 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE (ECA) APPLICATION (TEEDON PIT): Burnside pointed to deficiencies in the report and recommended that CRH provide a finalized design of the silt and sump ponds, confirmation that inadvertent discharge would not adversely impact nearby environmentally significant features, a detailed maintenance plan, and additions to one of the drawings.

Council directed staff to recommend to the Province that “no decision about the application be made until the applicant satisfies all the outstanding matters” and that “the Ministry ... require a liner in any operating retention pond”.

CROSSWALK CONCESSION 9 West/TBRS: Council supported staff’s recommendation of an alternate design for a crosswalk in this area. (The first crosswalk it installed met with vigorous local opposition and was removed.) The current proposal has two crosswalks to accommodate people leaving/returning to the permit parking areas on the north and south sides of Concession 9 West. The proposed design is to be presented to the Carusoe Bay Association.

SSEA WEATHER STATION FUNDED: Council directed staff to fund the remaining \$3,587.91 + HST needed by the Severn Sound Environmental Association to install a weather station in Lafontaine.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE: Council decided to continue a three-week meeting rotation until the end of the year — October 13, November 3, November 24, December 15. Budget meetings are to occur on November 10 and December 15.

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONERS’ ANNUAL REPORT: This interesting document emphasized that “integrity commissioners serve as an independent resource, coach, and guide,

focused on enhancing the municipality’s ethical culture.” Over 40 Ontario municipalities and public bodies have appointed integrity commissioners. In the last year or so, there were three requests for advice from Tiny and one complaint was filed. The commissioners’ review “determined that no contravention of the Code of Conduct was found to exist, on the facts as alleged”.

TONY MINTOFF RESIGNS FROM COUNCIL: For Mintoff’s reasons for resigning, see page 5.

Council has declared the position vacant. Since a by-election would be very expensive, Council decided to appoint a replacement, advertise for applicants, and decide who to appoint in the first week of November, so that the new person would be in place for the first budget meeting on November 10.



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— Indigenous Canada continued from page 3

According to the official description, “the course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations,” always from the Indigenous viewpoint. Topics include:

- Indigenous world views
- the fur trade and other exchange relationships
- land claims and environmental impacts
- legal systems and rights
- political conflicts and alliances
- political activism
- contemporary Indigenous life, art and expressions

Each module includes a video lecture, discussion of the relevant aspect of a work of art that was commissioned for the course and fascinating interviews. Although complete notes are available for each lecture, I made myself take notes with pen and paper as I watched, old school, because it helped me focus. On average each module took about 90-120 minutes, including a quiz at the end. My competitive nature liked the testing element, even if I was the only one in my class.

While I hope today’s high school curricula now include this material, I suspect many still graduate without knowing the real story of this land. A few modules told the history of what

we know as Canada from a perspective that was totally new to me. Others focused on such themes as the role of women in Indigenous culture and Indigenous activism. The recent discoveries of unmarked mass graves at residential schools are no surprise to anyone who has worked through the section on residential schools. But the course is also full of moments of inspiration and hope for the future — the opening module is a stunningly beautiful description of the Indigenous world view.

The course spun me around and took the rug out from under me. I am questioning the many, many privileges I have as a white settler on Turtle Island, and I am still trying to work out how to live a life that recognizes past wrongs and moves towards a more just present and future.

1. Catherine Porter, “‘Schitt’s Creek’ Star, and His Fans, Are Taking Indigenous Studies,” *The New York Times*, December 20, 2020; <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/26/world/canada/schitts-creek-dan-levy-indigenous.html>

2. <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html>



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Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament Exceeds Fundraising Goal

Through the contributions of donors and sponsors, the 2021 tournament, which took place September 10 at Orr Lake Golf Club, handily exceeded its fundraising goal of \$50,000.

The Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament is an annual event benefitting North Simcoe charitable organizations. Since 2015, the tournament has raised over \$300,000 for more than 20 organizations. This year’s event returned to a live, in-person format, unlike last year’s virtual event.

For a list of charitable organizations receiving funds, see Report on Council, on page 4.



Tiny Mayor George Cornell, Councillor Cindy Hastings, and Recreation Administrative Coordinator Jaelyn Josiah prepare to greet the day’s golfers.



This year’s event took place at the Orr Lake Golf Club. FoTTSA served as founding sponsor.

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Once Upon a Tomb in Tiny Township

by BONNIE REYNOLDS



Tombstone for George H. Firth, in Wyevale.

“I never realized that there was history too. Close at hand, beside my very own home. I did not realize that the old grave that stood among the brambles at the foot of our farm was history.”

— Stephen Leacock

Most people think I’m nuts when they hear I’m interested in graveyards and the stories they tell. There is a graveyard beside my farm and as a child I would spend many sunny afternoons wandering around the tombstones and sometimes picnicking there with my cousins. You see, some of those buried there were our ancestors and neighbours. On more than one occasion the neighbourhood chickens and sheep would crawl through the fence, and we would have to chase them out.

Graveyards contain history and that’s why I like them. They speak to me. The little white lamb on the marble marker tells me that a baby or young child died at a time when hospitals were few and medicine scarce. In the Wyevale cemetery there is a tombstone resembling a tree stump — marking the grave of a WWI soldier cut down in the prime of his life. Wealthy families have tall markers with lots of words. You can find the first settlers in older graveyards as well as the sons and fathers who went to war and didn’t come home. It’s all there for us to read.

Graveyards are a history of our communities, reflecting the social, political, religious, economic and medical conditions of the times.

With so many memories symbolized in the seven cemeteries within the boundaries of Tiny Township, it is difficult to select a representative few, since all are precious in the hearts of those left to mourn and remember. My choice of names listed in each cemetery are my own interpretation of those who most profoundly affected this community.

St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
Cemeteries - Wyebridge

In 1861 Adam Smith deeded a cemetery lot, located on the hill just north of the village on Ellery’s Sideroad, to the Presbyterians. A log church was erected. In 1889 a new brick church was built on land donated by Nelson and Cevila McRae in Wyebridge and the old log church torn down. The lot on Ellery’s Sideroad became the main cemetery. A small cemetery, mainly for the McRae family, is located beside the brick church.

McRae (red granite)

In loving memory of Nelson McRae,
April 19, 1838 – January 19, 1915
His wife Cevila Ekins
June 4, 1846 – July 10, 1946
Nellie McRae (daughter)
Died August 28, 1946
Nelson McRae and his wife Cevila opened a general store in Wyebridge in 1866. Nelson was a member of township council and village postmaster. Cevila was the telegraph operator. She lived to be 100 and passed away in 1946.

Church of the Good Shepherd
Cemetery - Wyebridge (Anglican)

In 1864, Angus and Catherine Grant donated a lot on what is now the west side of Highway 93 for a “free pewed church and burial ground”. A wooden frame church was later replaced with a brick structure in 1909. The church was closed by the Diocese of Toronto in 2016.

Monck (tall marble pillar)

Elizabeth A.
Died April 10, 1876 12 years, 3 months, 10 days
Charles E.
Died April 9, 1876 1 year, 12 days
Emily
Died April 5, 1876 Aged 5 years, 4 months
George
Died April 2, 1876 Aged 2 years, 10 months
Frederic
Died April 7, 1876 Aged 14 years, 1 month
John
Died April 6, 1876 Aged 8 years
Children of Alfred & Mary Monck.

Who can imagine the anguish this family must have felt to lose six children in a little over a week to some disease. Local legend says that Alfred had to make the little coffins and bring his children to be buried, as neighbours were afraid of their families contracting the disease. The Moncks moved to the Manitoulin Island area, taking with them their last remaining child. Hopefully the disease did not follow them.

Wyevale Community Cemetery - Wyevale

Established in 1894, the cemetery is located on Concession 5, at the east end of Wyevale. Earlier burials were performed at Wyebridge, Penetanguishene and Waverley.

Firth (grey stone tree trunk with military helmet)

George H. Firth.1844-1917
Joseph H. Blackstock, 1887-1917

Interred in Borough Cemetery, Hastings, England
Died for his country
His wife, Maud L.,1896-1917
This monument represents someone cut down in the prime of life. Joseph Blackstock never made it home to Canada but is remembered. His wife and father-in-law (?) also died in 1917.

St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic
Cemetery - Perkinsfield

Located at Balm Beach Road and County Road 6, the cemetery was established in 1870 beside the present church, then relocated in 1909 to the present site across the road.

Asselin (grey granite)

Michael Asselin, 1884-1980
Son epouse
Victoire nee Desroches, 1884-1965
Between 1924 and 1968, Mike Asselin served the municipality for 26 years as an elected representative and 14 years as clerk-treasurer.

Ste. Croix Roman Catholic Cemetery - Lafontaine

Ste. Croix cemetery is located behind the church at 327 Lafontaine Rd. West. The first burial was that of Francois Trottier on February 24, 1857.

Bronze pillow marker

Theophile Brunelle, 1846-1924
Emma, 1851-1933

Copeland Hill Cemetery

Opened in 1872, this cemetery was connected with the former Wesleyan Methodist Church in Penetanguishene. It is located on Cemetery Lane and was designated a heritage property in 2011. The prominent Copeland family, which had vast holdings in timber and operated many mills in North Simcoe, donated the land.

Gidley (red granite)

In memory of Capt. John Gundrey Gidley 1829-1893
His beloved wife Mary A. Warren 1835-1887
Captain Gidley, a steam mariner, was the patriarch of the Gidley Boat Works in Penetanguishene. This company was well known for its quality workmanship in the making of pleasure craft, icebreakers, tugboats and lifeboats. It helped develop inboard marine engines with the Ford Motor Company.
I hope you will now be interested in visiting our local cemeteries. Go read the tombstones and you will see what an interesting bunch we were. One of the best epitaphs that I have heard of says, “To be continued.” What a lot of meaning in that sentence!

Bonnie Reynolds is a local historian and a frequent contributor to The Tiny Cottager.



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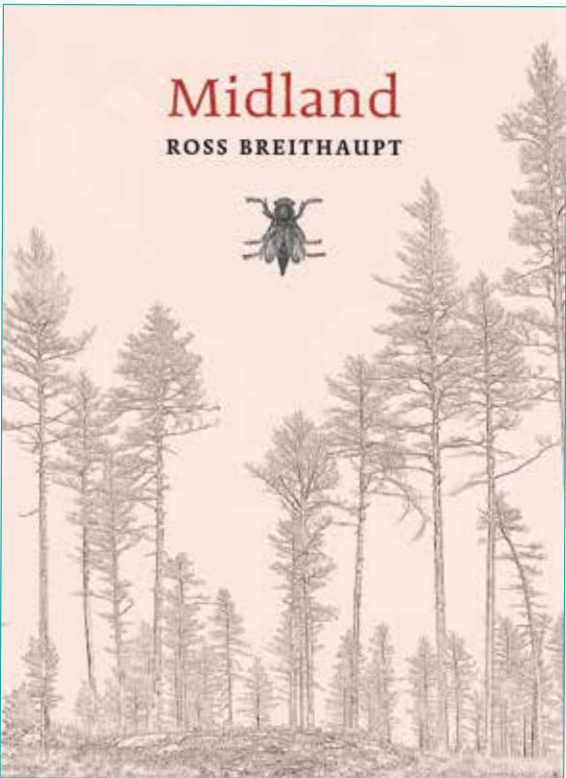


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Author Draws On His Local Experience For Debut Novel

by TARA MARSHALL



Midland, a debut novel by Ross Breithaupt, tells a captivating story of one young man’s journey to find answers and understanding as he continues to grieve 10 years after his older brother’s suicide.

Twenty-year-old Rory Fleck begins his summer job of tree planting in northern Ontario in the mid 1980s. The harsh environment and working conditions are the backdrop for most of the novel as colourful characters and memorable family members are introduced. The rhythmic work of tree planting allows Rory to relive past memories, enhanced by VOYAGER 1, the playlist he created as a tribute to his brother Mike. Haunted by gruesome images of another traumatic event, Rory grapples with paralyzing fears and strives to find the “rhythm inside everything” as he tries to make sense of his brother’s death and navigate new relationships.

When I asked Ross Breithaupt about the title of the book, he responded that the title “Midland” serves dual purposes. It is the location where the Fleck family moves to in an effort to heal and protect Rory and his sister Penny post tragedy, as well as a double entendre — “mid-land,” in the middle. Rory is stuck in a living purgatory, so to speak, and he must stop running from the past and move through his grief to progress to his future.

As for the author’s connection to Midland, Breithaupt has spent many summers in southern Georgian Bay and has fond memories of Midland and Penetanguishene. Further back, his great grandfather, Louis Jacob Breithaupt, founded a tannery in Penetanguishene in the 1880s. It was the second tannery for the successful “Louis Breithaupt & Co.” tannery in Berlin, now known as Kitchener. At the time, the company was the largest tannery and leather house in Ontario. Interestingly, the Penetanguishene area had an abundance of hemlock trees, which were required for the tannery’s specific processes. The facility’s location is still known as Tannery Point. Additionally, Louis’s sisters, Rosa and Edna, were artistically inclined; they hosted A. Y. Jackson during the summer of 1910.

Curious enough yet? You can purchase your own copy of *Midland* at Georgian Bay Books in Midland or Manticore Books in Orillia. The book is also available online through UTP Distribution: <http://utpdistribution.com>.

Watch for an excerpt of a book on A. Y. Jackson, by historian and Port McNicoll resident Douglas Hunter doughlaser.ca, in an upcoming issue of The Tiny Cottager.

UPDATE

Tiny Township Transportation Master Plan

by ROBERT MCBRIDE, Wymbolwood Beach



An example of why road safety must be factored into the plan. In May 2021, this driver was speeding along TBRs at an estimated 100 km/hr, narrowly missing pedestrians. The driver lost control, flipped upside down, and took out a hydro pole near Stott Park.

Two Public Information Centres (PIC) have taken place online since the Township announced it was developing its first Transportation Master Plan (TMP). Being prepared by a team comprising the Township Public Works staff and an outside consultant, the plan is intended to address the needs of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and local transit users.

PIC 1 was held online in June 2021. Public feedback was received through a questionnaire and direct email. Among the questionnaire highlights:

- higher taxes for greater OPP presence (56% said no)
- crosswalks at public beach access points (68% said yes)
- use of photo-radar (47% said no)
- better local transit service (46% said yes)

Much of what the team heard from the public regarded their concerns about

- hazardous conditions on Tiny Beaches Road (TBR), including a strong desire for measures to slow traffic and enhance safety for the most vulnerable road users
- improved facilities for active transportation (88% of survey respondents). Active transportation refers to cycling, walking and travel by non-motorized mobility devices.

PIC 2 was held online on September 23, and included highlights of public input and draft directions for the TMP itself.

There were a few questions from the public participants following the presentation.

The team recommends introducing into the Tiny Official Plan roadway hierarchy a “Collector” road classification, in addition to the existing “Arterial” and “Local” road classes. This recommendation would see most of the concession roads reclassified as “Collectors”. Notably, TBR would remain classified as “Local”.

Each road class would be assigned an ideal physical space for motor vehicles and active transportation. For TBR specifically, the team recommends providing a fairly narrow 6.2 metres for motor vehicles and additional pavement — where possible — for a multi-use pathway of 1.2 metres on either side. The team acknowledges a number of narrow sections where this design treatment is not possible and where users would have to continue sharing the road, possibly with a 30 km/hr speed limit.

The team identified measures that could be taken to slow traffic, but said many would not be suited to TBR. None involved the use of additional stop signs, Community Safety Zones (CSZ) or Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE). FoTTSA has advocated for these measures, including all-way stop control along TBR to signal that the road is “Local” and to discourage its use as a thoroughfare. FoTTSA has pointed out that there are long sections of TBR without stop control; for example, the 10-km section between Concession 4 and Balm Beach Road where FoTTSA has suggested implementing all-way stop control at Concession Road 5, Durie Street, Skylark Road, and Concession Roads 8 and 9. The team responded with a general comment that stop signs simply incent drivers to travel even more quickly between signs — implying that they would not be recommended. CSZ and ASE are being studied separately by Township staff who are expected to report later this year.

The team indicated that the public would be invited to provide feedback on the proposals presented during PIC 2. FoTTSA urges readers to make their opinions known to the team. The TMP website is www.tiny.ca/tmp. However, at this time (September 26, 2021), the presentation material from neither PIC 1 nor PIC 2 appears on the website.



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FoTTSA Well Water Testing Program Finds Excessive Nitrates in One Location

by TARA MARSHALL, Bluewater Beach



This summer 125 households belonging to FoTTSA member associations elected to have their well water tested for nitrates. This was the fourth such program managed by FoTTSA (previously offered in 2010, 2011 and 2017) after an Ontario Ministry of the Environment speaker at a FoTTSA annual general meeting raised the possibility of groundwater and well contamination by nitrates from farm and lawn fertilizers, manure, sewage, and septic waste spread on farmers’ fields.

High nitrate concentrations in drinking water interfere with the blood’s ability to transport oxygen and can be especially detrimental to infants, pregnant women, nursing mothers and seniors.

Homeowners from nine beach associations participated this year: Bluewater Georgina Wendake, Cawaja, Cleopatra, Deanlea, Edmore-Georgian Heights, Kettle’s Beach, Thunder Beach, Wahnekewening, and Wymbolwood. Many thanks to the volunteer coordinators from each beach association who worked with FoTTSA to facilitate this program.

FoTTSA communicates with each beach association providing the details and cost of the testing to each participating household, picks up the required bottles from the lab and distributes them along with forms and instructions to the coordinators, then collects well water samples from each participating association, transports them to the lab, and emails results to participants.

Of the 125 samples collected in August, only one exceeded the limit of 10 mg/L set in the Ontario drinking water guidelines. Most samples tested less than 0.05 mg/L, meaning that no nitrates or nitrites (which turn into nitrates) were detected. Encouraging data!

Well water testing for nitrates is one of two water testing programs facilitated by FoTTSA. Every other summer FoTTSA manages the weekly collection of recreational water in multiple locations for E-Coli testing. The most recent testing took place on 2020. See all test results going back to 2001 here: www.tinycottager.org. Click on “Our Priorities.”

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