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THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 62

Fall/Winter 2023-24

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, *Carusoe Bay*

You may recall in the spring issue of *The Tiny Cottager* that FoTTSA had reached a settlement with CRH Canada Group Inc., the owner of the Teedon Pit, imposing more stringent conditions with regard to extracting gravel from this environmentally sensitive site.

That was good news. The bad news is that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, which are responsible for inspecting gravel extraction sites, have failed to respond to our request to participate in ensuring adherence to the terms of our settlement. For example, we would like to accompany ministry staff when conducting inspections. A letter to both ministers requesting they do so has gone unanswered.

In addition to the above concern, North Simcoe mayors have written to the same ministries expressing their concerns over recently relaxed requirements for gravel pits, giving them the ability to make certain changes to their operations without applying for permission, as previously required. The mayors’ requests have similarly met with either meaningless responses or no responses. FoTTSA's letter and the mayors' letter appear on pages 5 and 10.

It is clear that the Ford government continues to act in an environmentally irresponsible manner, placing commerce ahead of the environment. To bring about change, public involvement — at minimum in the form of letter writing and contacting your local MPP — must be ongoing.

Tiny residents have an additional set of local concerns over issues such as a possible new municipal administrative building, which is concerning residents due to the lack of public input at this point. Significant infrastructure deficits, in particular municipal roads and local water systems, are also drawing attention.

Quest Art at Home is an event happening later this month which gives members the ability to borrow a beautiful piece of art in their homes for a year. On the evening of Thursday, October 26, art created by 47 regional artists will be on display and can be viewed prior to the event.

Our water levels continue to decline and will do so through 2030, by which time Environment Canada predicts a further decline of up to three feet. Climate change plays a major role in this cycle as always, but several man-made interventions can play a role in moderating these huge swings. Learn what you can do to help by visiting tinyurl.com/2s65225e.

Fall is now most certainly upon us after a glorious beginning to the season. Get your toques out and stay safe for the winter.



Rest in peace, Flash. In 2022 this Piping Plover raised a clutch of eggs on Woodland Beach and started another clutch this summer before falling prey to a predator. Meet Woody, one of Flash's 2023 progeny, on page 3. Photo by Sydney Shepherd, Birds Canada.

Terror in North Simcoe: The Black Swamp Gang

By SCOTT WILLIAMS, *Georgina Beach*

Gang activity is a concern for police forces everywhere, but the threat is nothing new. In the late 1800s, a home-grown gang terrorized North Simcoe farmers and others for years. It took a combination of private citizens, volunteer police officers and the court system to bring ringleader Sandy McDuff to justice, first in 1877 and again in 1879.

At 6’ 4” (1.9 metres), McDuff was reputed to be North Simcoe’s toughest and meanest brawler in an era of unchecked brawls among liquored-up farmers, lumber workers and railroaders. Local author and historian David Town captures McDuff’s story in his book *The Black Swamp Gang: Terror and Thievery in North Simcoe County, 1873-1882*. Town recently shared some of McDuff’s story in an Orillia Museum of Art and History speaker series presentation available on YouTube.

North Simcoe in the Early 1870s

At the beginning of the decade the area was undergoing rapid economic and population growth fed by expanding agriculture, lumber and railway industries.

Sandy McDuff came from an established farming family outside Orillia, at Jarratt’s Corners. At the time, Orillia served as a supply town for these industries and as a “recreational centre” for their workers. With a population of only 1,000, Orillia had 29 taverns. “Violence and brawling exploded in the town,” says David Town in his presentation.

Dozens of taverns had also sprung up in rural areas, with estimates of one tavern every four miles.

“Once Sandy got into the beer and whisky,” says Town, “you were best just to get out of his way. When he got into a fight... he wanted to dominate you. Then he wanted to humiliate you.” This behaviour attracted followers — Town calls them lackeys — who were ready to brawl alongside McDuff.

After an economic crash in 1873, McDuff and his followers began committing petty crimes to pay for their drinking and betting. They would raid farms, gradually expanding their territory to include Barrie, Orillia, Washago, Midland, and further west towards Collingwood.

Members would first scout out prospects. On an evening

when the occupants were away, up to 15 men with wagons would descend on a farm, emptying the barn of livestock and the cold cellar of produce. They would even snatch clothes from clotheslines.

Gang members often butchered livestock on site, leaving the carcasses for hapless farmers to find on their return. Stolen goods were transported to the Black Swamp, a densely treed wetland east of Hillsdale and west of Jarratt’s Corners. While trails crisscrossed the swamp, few people beyond the gang members knew their way through it. At an agreed upon meeting place, members would split up the proceeds, with meat taken for sale the next day in other communities, such as Bracebridge, Midland and Newmarket.

At first, no one knew the thefts were committed by a gang, and who the members were. If questioned, gang members would create alibis for each other.

By 1877, says Town, theft had become a part of farm life in North Simcoe. Everyone lived in fear.

Victims rarely reported the thefts, partly because of limited policing resources but also because the gang would retaliate by shooting the farm’s dog, pulling down fences, or even setting the barn alight.

While municipalities had their own police forces, their role was to keep the peace rather than fight crime. These forces were mostly composed of volunteers.

To improve conditions, the province implemented a volunteer “county constable system,” one person who was responsible for keeping the peace across the entire county, and who would draw on volunteers as needed.

The first attempt to stop McDuff

Despite outstanding warrants for Sandy McDuff’s arrest — all for assault and battery — police had put off arresting him for fear of backlash from Sandy and his gang. Then McDuff went a step too far.

On the 1877 Victoria Day weekend, McDuff was drinking with two gang members in a tavern in Prices Corners, eight miles west of Orillia. When a young bartender, the owner’s

BLACK SWAMP GANG — continued on page 12

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FALL/WINTER EVENTS

Before attending an event, please visit the event website for possible updates.

OCTOBER

Public Information Session, (telecommunications tower installations on Cedar Point and Chemin de Loup), October 17, Lafontaine Community Centre, 6:00-7:00 pm-
<mailto:sduncan@forbesbros ltd.ca>

70s 80s & 90s Music Trivia: In Support of Life4Kids, October 21, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Four Old Broads, Oct, 20-Nov. 4, MCC Huronia Players, Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca

Grimm Grounds Halloween Attraction, October 20,21,27,28,29, Georgian Bay Recreational Park
grimmgrounds.com

Bones of Crows (Huron Museum Film Series), October 25
huroniamuseum.com/film-series

Downtown Penetanguishene Historical Walking Tours, October 26
tinyurl.com/3ue3745f

GBGH Breakfast of Champions, October 26 (virtual facility tour)
gbghf.ca/bofc

2023 Senior Speaker Series: Health Care Support, October 26, Lafontaine Community Centre
tinyurl.com/4y6956nt

Shaun Majumder: The Love Tour, October 27, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Halloween Spooktacular, October 28, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
tinyurl.com/2tdyecex

Music for the Museum, October 28, Orillia Museum of Art & History
www.orilliamuseum.org/event/music-for-the-museum

Halloween at Wye Marsh, October 29
www.wyemarsh.com/halloween

Brothers Gibb - The Bee Gees’ Story, October 29, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

NOVEMBER

100 Years from Now - An Original Folk Musical, November 3, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Midland Psychic & Wellness Fair, November 4, Royal Canadian Legion
tinyurl.com/48pv59p6

Motown Soul, November 4, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

The Pod Generation (Huron Museum Film Series), November 8
huroniamuseum.com/film-series

Peter Pan: The Panto, November 8-25, King’s Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
tinyurl.com/3wrbr8b3

2023 Senior Speaker Series: Cost of Healthy Eating, November 9, Tiny Council Chambers
tinyurl.com/4pberu67

Mariposa Arts Theatre’s 50th[ish] Anniversary Production, November 9-12, Orillia
www.mariposaartstheatre.com/shows

Billy Bishop Goes to War - A Dramatic Musical Comedy, November 11, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Don Downer, Birds of Ecuador, November 16, Wye Marsh Nature Centre
ontarionature.org/event/don-downer-birds-of-ecuador

First Light, November 16-18, 23-25, 30, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons
saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/events/first-light

Simply Queen, November 18, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Christmas Spirit Market, November 19, Barrie
tinyurl.com/yr7akxk8

The Holiday Market, November 19, Horseshoe Valley
allevents.in/barrie/the-holiday-market/200024766014753

Orillia Regional Arts Heritage Awards, November 22, Creative Nomad Studios
www.orilliamuseum.org/event/2023-orillia-regional-arts-heritage-awards

Midland Santa Claus Parade, November 25
www.civitan.on.ca/clubs/midland

Tiny Tree Lighting Celebration, November 28
www.tiny.ca/events

Riceboy Sleeps (Huron Museum Film Series), November 29
huroniamuseum.com/events-2/film-series

DECEMBER

First Light, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, December 1-2
saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/events/first-light

Festival of Lights, December 2, Penetanguishene Town Dock
tinyurl.com/bdnt98v9

Wreath-making Workshop, December 2, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
www.wyemarsh.com/Wreath-Making-Workshop

Wyevale Santa Claus Parade, December 2
tinyurl.com/mpf6cued

What’s Love Got to Do with It (Huron Museum Film Series), December 6
huroniamuseum.com/film-series

ABBA Revisited Christmas Show, December 10, Midland Cultural Centre
www.midlandculturalcentre.com/events

Fun with Santa, December 16, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
<https://tinyurl.com/a6nvcfbx>

JANUARY

Braapapalooza (snowmobile parade), January 20, Little Lake Park
www.eventbrite.ca/e/braapapalooza-tickets-690024571067

Orillia Museum of Art & History Winter Gala, January 20
www.orilliamuseum.org/event/2024-omah-winter-gala

Deathtrap, Jan 26.-Feb. 10, MCC Huronia Players, Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca

FEBRUARY

The Play That Goes Wrong, February 9-12, Mariposa Arts Theatre, Orillia
www.mariposaartstheatre.com/shows

A Winter Carnival d’Hiver, February 10
www.tiny.ca/events

MARCH

Sweetwater Harvest Festival, March 23 & 24, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
tinyurl.com/5bpvyb3b

APRIL

I’ll Be Back Before Midnight, April 11-21, Mariposa Arts Theatre, Orillia
www.mariposaartstheatre.com/shows

Baskerville - A Sherlock Holmes Mystery, April 25 - May 11, MCC Huronia Players, Midland
www.huroniaplayers.ca

DOWNHILL SKIING AND BOARDING

- **Horseshoe Resort**
www.horseshoeresort.com/ontario-winter-activities.htm
 - **Snow Valley** www.skisnowvalley.com
 - **Mount St. Louis** mountstlouis.com
 - **Blue Mountain**
www.bluemountain.ca/discover-blue/discover-the-resort
- ## HIKING, SNOWSHOEING & CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
- **Awenda** www.ontarioparks.com/park/awenda/activities
 - **Hardwood Hills** www.hardwoodskiandbike.ca
 - **MountainView Ski Centre** ski.mountainviewmidland.com
 - **Wasaga Beach Provincial Park**
www.wasagabeachpark.com/winter-cross-country-ski/
 - **Wye Marsh** www.wyemarsh.com

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Piping Plover Update: FLASH’S LEGACY *By JULIEANN PRENTICE*



Woody” was hatched and raised at the Detroit Zoo after Flash disappeared and the Woodland Beach nest was abandoned. Photo credit: Detroit Zoo/University of Michigan Biological Station

Piping Plovers, a small, sand-coloured shorebird, are endangered provincially and federally. The Great Lakes region has a population of only about 200. This year in Ontario, we recorded eight breeding pairs

One bird, named Flash, had been nesting at Woodland Beach since 2019, his first breeding season. Many residents fell in love with Piping Plovers by watching charismatic Flash protect his young on the beach. Since nesting in Tiny in 2019, Flash has successfully raised seven chicks to “fledge.”

Flash disappeared this year shortly after his mate Pepa laid

a full clutch of four eggs. A diligent and attentive father, his untimely disappearance led us to believe he may have been caught by a predator. While this natural occurrence is heart-breaking, we have positive news to share. When Flash went missing and Pepa subsequently abandoned their nest despite her efforts to incubate independently, our team collected the eggs for captive rearing at the Detroit Zoo. The Zoo has been hatching abandoned Piping Plover eggs since 1992.

After hatching, chicks spend time in a protected outdoor environment where they get to learn how to be “a Piping Plover.” Once grown into fledglings, they are released into the wild. Flash was raised at this facility in 2018, and it’s poetic to know his eggs are back where he had come from.

Out of the four eggs collected, one hatched. Named “Woody” after his home beach, Woody was flown from Detroit to New York, where he was released into the wild.

Our second piece of news is that all three chicks raised by Flash and Nancy in 2022 at Woodland Beach made it through their first winter and returned to the Great Lakes this spring.

To stay connected and learn more about Piping Plovers, please follow us on social media @ontarioplovers. If you see a Piping Plover on a beach in Tiny Township next spring, let us know by contacting ontarioplovers@birdscanada.org.

Julieann Prentice is a Birds Canada Piping Plover Technician.

Celebrating Judith Grant



Photo by Tara Marshall

Judith Grant at a recent event in her honour.

This fall FoTTSA President Paul Cowley and his wife Catherine hosted a small gathering in honour of FoTTSA Past-President Judith Grant following her retirement after more than 30 years on the board of directors, with 11 of those very capably served as FoTTSA President.

But most of all I was impressed by our host and Chair of the meeting, the President of FoTTSA. As a one-time Honours English grad, I knew of Judith Skelton Grant by reputation, the pre-eminent writer and scholar on Canadian literary icon Robertson Davies, but I had never seen her in action.

Without pretension or any putting on of airs, she simply knew everything about everything on every aspect of every topic discussed at that meeting. In contrast, I remember keeping very quiet throughout, so as not to give away how little I knew about anything.

I remember at one point someone in the meeting said the awful words, “We should...” Which, translated, means: “I think this is a great idea. So long as someone else does all the work.”

That was the first, but not the last, time that I saw Judith fix the “We Should-er” with a steely gaze and quietly say, “That’s a good idea. Are you volunteering to take that on?”

I think all of us would agree that no one has ever more diligently, unselfishly, energetically and effectively been the one to volunteer, to step forward, and to get things done for the benefit of this community than Judith Grant.

From gypsy moth infestations (before we learned to call them spongy moths) to high and low water levels, to Reports on Council, back when that meant attending Council meetings in person, to Site 41 and most recently to years-long efforts to protect “the world’s purest water” from irreversible contamination... Judith, if I were to list everything you have stepped forward to do gracefully and capably, for FoTTSA and for the entire Tiny community, it would take all night.

Instead, I will just say, sincerely, from all of us: Judith, thank you. For everything.



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continued on page 11



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IN
STYLE

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THE TINY COTTAGER

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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.

The information contained in *The Tiny Cottager* has been provided by sources believed to be reliable.

FoTTSa does not endorse or evaluate advertised products, services or companies, nor any claims made by advertisements.

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

APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2023

By CHUCK STRADLING, Lafontaine Beach, and LISA CLARK, Thunder Beach

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor: David Evans
Deputy Mayor: Sean Miskimins
Councillors: Dave Brunelle, Kelly Helowka, Steffen Walma

APRIL 5 & 26, 2023

2022 SEWAGE REINSPECTION PROGRAM

Bill Goodale of Tatham Engineering reported on the results of the sewage reinspection program. In 2022, 1,279 inspections were carried out in Woodland and Deanlea Beaches, for the first time since 2016; 112 lots were found to have deficiencies, with more expected as outstanding septic tank reports continue to be submitted by property owners. Examples of non-compliance include root intrusion into the leaching bed area (29), vehicles parking over the septic tank or leaching bed (11), and outdoor sinks/showers discharging into the ground (9). Seven lots required septic beds to be replaced. In 2023, the rural areas of Concessions 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7, and Bluewater, Wendake, Rowntree and Wahnekewening beaches will be reinspected.

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT PER ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL - DECISION REGARDING CRH CANADA GROUP INC., BY-LAW 23-028

This by-law concerning the Teedon Pit indicates that only agricultural uses, forestry uses and aggregate extraction, transport of aggregate and processing of aggregate, excluding aggregate recycling and washing, are permitted. The mineral aggregate extraction zone is limited to 15.3 hectares.

CONSOLIDATED SPEED LIMIT BY-LAW AND SPEED LIMIT CHANGES, BY-LAW 23-033

The Township had 38 known speed limit by-laws. Staff worked to consolidate all 38 by-laws into a single document. During the review, areas were found to be improperly signed. Rates of speed on roads within the township vary from 10 to 70 km/h. Shoreline area roads would have a 40 km/h limit or less.

WATER MASTER PLAN

Tiny's Water Department operates 16 independent water systems serving 2,650 properties. While some have multiple pumphouses and reservoirs, most are smaller systems with a single pumphouse and limited water storage. Many asset replacements are required in the near future, and staff recommended that a holistic study of the municipal water system, including infrastructure replacement, upgrades, and improvements, to determine whether better alternatives options are available. Council voted to undertake this project. Tatham Engineering was the successful bidder, based on references, project understanding, workplan, schedule, and financials. The fee is \$173,140 + HST for 1,247 hours of work.

A public notice was issued, and a project webpage has been established: www.tiny.ca/WaterMasterPlan.

PRESENTATIONS

- Hypercharge Networks Corp:** Kyle Green, Hypercharge Networks Corp, provided a presentation on a turnkey public EV charging solution.
- Tax Rate By-Law 23-031:** Council approved By-Law 23-031, levying \$34,888,570 in taxes this fiscal year. The amount includes funds required for Township purposes, County of Simcoe purposes, and funding for the English and French public and separate schools.
- Proposed Provincial Site Plan Control Changes – Bill 97:** Council is in support of the changes to Bill 97, posting 019-6822 on the Environmental Registry of Ontario Council, permitting the use of site plan control for any development within 120 metres of a shoreline. Site plan control can regulate drainage and shoreline protection, among other matters.
- Delineation of Public Beaches:** Council directed staff to complete Phase 3 of the delineation project. The properties recommended for delineation in Phase 3 are Bluewater south and north of Concession 5, Concession 12, Concession 15, Jules Leger, 1530 and 1574 Tiny Beaches Rd. North. Durie Lane, Trip Lane - Concession 14 and Concession 6, and Dunsford Lane and Concession 7 are also locations for consideration but require legal advice. The 2023 budget includes \$250,000



towards supporting the Beach Enjoyment Strategy for Tiny (Project BEST) as part of this multi-year program.

- Municipal Law Enforcement Q1 Activity Report:** 109 complaints were received in the first quarter of 2023. The largest number by category were short-term rentals (56), noise (10), clean yards (10), and parking (9).

MAY 17 & 29, 2023

DEPUTATIONS

Nicolas Leblovic, and Janice Murton on behalf of Janet Marks made deputations regarding the proposed new municipal office building. Mr. Leblovic advocated sharing information with the public and involving the public in the decision-making process, while Ms. Murton requested that the proposal to construct a new municipal office be paused until the community has been involved.

Paul Maurice, on behalf of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, relayed concerns regarding proposed changes to the Provincial Planning Statement, Section 6, which is of concern due to the potential damage to the farming community as a result of severances that could reduce the extent of farmable land and be incompatible with existing farming practices.

Don Chapman, Key Organizer for the Heart of Georgian Bay Terry Fox Run, asked for contributions in support of the 2023 event in the amounts of \$8,243.50 (in kind) and \$360 (financial). The Township approved both contributions.

CHANGES TO THE PROPOSED NEW PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT

Kris Menzies, Acting Director of Planning and Development, informed Mayor Evans and Council of the 2023 Provincial Planning Statement, which is to repeal the current Growth Plan and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and to replace these documents with an integrated policy statement. The new statement is anticipated to come into effect in fall 2023. The document focuses less on planning based on population numbers, and more on policies related to housing supply.

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW

Jamie Robinson, MHBC Planning & Township Planning Consultant, recommended an interim control by-law prohibiting any new retaining walls or similar structures in the area of the high water mark of Georgian Bay for one year, until the Township is able to complete its study and consider planning policies and zoning by-laws. The Shoreline Development Interim Control Area will include all lands within shoreline residential zones, within 30 metres of the 178-metre contour.

Wording of the by-law was further refined at the June 7 Council meeting, based on input from residents and area businesses. The changes include:

- amending Section 2 by adding this sentence to the conclusion: “No person shall erect any structure, fence or sign through the duration of this by-law. This includes, but is not limited to, boathouses, retaining walls, patios, landscaping, decks, fences, walls, or shoreline alteration.”
- adding the following section after Section 3: “Notwithstanding Section 2 and 3, the following shall be

exempted from the Interim Control By-law:

- Single Detached Dwelling;
- Existing Accessory Buildings and Structures;
- At grade walkways for accessibility purposes;
- Buildings and Structures with site specific Planning Act approval or required as a condition of approval;
- Alterations to a Building or Structure as a result of an order by the Chief Building Official;
- New Accessory Buildings and Structures, at least 15 metres from the 178 metre contour. With the exception of boathouses, fences, or retaining walls;
- Landscaping of ground cover vegetation such as grasses and flowers;
- Temporary event tents;
- Temporary snow fencing;
- Sewage systems;
- Municipal buildings, structures, programs or operations are exempt from the By-law.”

JUNE 7 & 28, 2023

MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND ACTIVITY REPORT

Over the Victoria Day long weekend 81 complaints were received. Fourteen involved short-term rentals: 6, unlicensed rentals; 3, properties rented for fewer than six days; 3 real estate advertising concerns; 1, a police matter; and 1, occupancy limits.

JACKSON PARK LAUNCH RAMP

Public Works Director Leitch discussed how work has been done to dredge out as much at the launch they could at this time of year, taking into consideration restrictions due to fish habitat. Conditions can change quickly due to windstorms, etc. This launch is meant for small watercraft.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL UPDATE

Fire Chief Flewelling provided an update on the short-term rental accommodation licensing program. As of this council meeting, 262 license applications have been received with 31 licenses approved.

A preliminary review of applications noted that all were deficient, ranging from building code and septic infractions to missing information such as insurance confirmation documents or site plan/floor plans. Staff are working to have the licensing process move more quickly and efficiently. Chief Flewelling noted that no one anticipated so many issues.

DEPUTATIONS

Mario Galluzzo outlined concerns with zoning changes since 1977. He insisted that prior to 1977, most beaches along the western shoreline were zoned OS (Open Space Public) and enjoyed freely by the public. In the 2006 Official Plan these same beaches were rezoned to OS1 (Open Space Private).

He questioned under what authority this took place, and whether the zoning amendment facilitated the increased number of applications for zoning changes. He requested that Council and staff investigate what has occurred over

REPORT ON COUNCIL — continued on page 6



Teedon Pit Poses New Challenges



Excavators eat away at the Teedon Pit hillside. Source: Save Our Water Tiny; saveourwatertiny.wordpress.com

Despite successful negotiations with the owner of the Teedon Pit on groundwater and land use protections, FoTTSA continues to advocate on behalf of Tiny’s pristine water.

“FoTTSA is pleased with the measures that have been added to the legal instruments that apply to the Teedon Pit operations and expansion,” says Paul Cowley, President of FoTTSA’s Board of Directors. “However, the measures have little meaning if they are not enforced.”

To this end, Cowley sent a letter to the government with several requests intended to ensure the owner complies with the measure (see “A Letter to...”). As of September 25 FoTTSA has received no reply, and will continue pursuing the issue.

Among other things, the negotiated measures require the pit owner, CRH Canada Group Inc., to

- install an impermeable liner in a re-circulation cell as part of the site’s aggregate washing operation — a first for any such operation in Ontario
- install additional monitoring wells and document results
- provide employees and contractors working on site with a spills response plan and comply with its requirements.

The aggregate operation sits next to and on French’s Hill in southeast Tiny. The hill is believed to act as a natural filter for groundwater percolating down into the vast underground Alliston Aquifer, scientifically tested to contain what may be the world’s purest water. This is the same water coursing from the artesian well at the Elmvale Kiosk, a favourite source of drinking water for full-time and seasonal residents.

As noted by the Auditor General of Ontario, the province has a poor track record in monitoring aggregate operations and enforcing compliance.** For example, the report notes that the province allows new and expanded aggregate operations on the Niagara Escarpment “despite the environmental impacts, poor inspection rates, and poor rehabilitation track record of pits and quarries.”

A Letter to the Province on Behalf of the World’s Purest Water*

To the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Primary Ministry Contacts

Re: Teedon Minutes of Settlement re: Permit to take water

We have been advised to communicate with both of your Ministries to discuss the next steps with regard to the two Ontario Land Tribunals Minutes of Settlement. It is so critically important and it is in our very best interests to consider and determine the next steps.

We must emphasize that we participated in two OLT tribunals as follows:

The first settlement came about after FoTTSA launched an appeal of a 10-year Permit to Take Water granted to CRH Canada Group Inc. by the MECP. The appeal was heard by the Ontario Land Tribunal. FoTTSA also participated in a second case before the tribunal, regarding CRH Canada Group Inc.’s application to extend the Teedon Pit further into French’s Hill.

Next steps

- 1) We are requesting a copy of the scheduled dates for the inspections which will occur by the Ministry of Natural Resources, in order to ensure that the agreement points laid out in the Teedon Minutes of Settlement are being followed and enforced in a timely manner.
- 2) We further request that an appointed and qualified representative from FoTTSA be permitted to enter the Teedon Pit property to accompany the assigned qualified representative from the Ministry, who will be performing the inspections. This is so that we can have assurances that all of the settlement points are being reached in a timely manner and to ensure that this critically important groundwater is being protected as stated in the Teedon Minutes of Settlement. It is important that all Parties be able to follow along and stay up to date on the stipulated actions taking place.

When we work together, this will enable all Parties in the Teedon Minutes of Settlement and Ontario Land Tribunals to reach the necessary and desirable outcomes.

For your convenience we are providing points from the first OLT settlement pertaining to the permit to take water here:

1. CRH shall amend its Site Plans, prior to submission to the OLT, to revise the conditions set out in Schedule A hereto in accordance with the said Schedule A;
2. CRH shall submit to the OLT for approval the amendments to the 2001 Township Official Plan, the 2006 Township Zoning By-Law 06-001, and the 2022 Township Zoning By-Law 22-075, annexed hereto as Schedule “B”.
3. The Parties agree that the OPA attached as Schedule “C” will be submitted to the Township as the appropriate

amendment to the 2021 Tiny Official Plan while recognizing that the 2001 Official Plan remains in force with respect to the Subject Lands;

4. FOTTSA shall advise the OLT in writing that its issues have been fully resolved and that it does not object to the OPA and ZBAs submitted by CRH in accordance with paragraph 2 herein, and that FOTTSA’s objections to the CRH application for a license under the Aggregate Resources Act have been resolved.

It is imperative that every precaution be taken to ensure that this groundwater, which is the purest known to science, does not ever become contaminated. It has been tested numerous times by world-renowned scientists over decades and is proven to be the purest water known to science. We must make certain that it is not at risk of contamination.

Should a very unfortunate situation occur, the water will never be brought back to its original purity.

Thank you for accommodating our requests. We look forward to working together with you.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Paul Cowley, President – FoTTSA

* this letter has been lightly edited

** Summaries of Value-for-Money Audits: Conserving the Niagara Escarpment,” 2022 Annual Report, Office of the Auditor General of Ontario, pp 2-3; www.auditor.on.ca

North Simcoe Mayors Speak Out Against Changes to Aggregate Resources Act

The mayors of Tiny, Tay, Springwater, Penetanguishene and Midland have put their names to an official letter expressing concerns over proposed regulatory amendments that would lessen direct government oversight of pits and quarries (see “An Open Letter to the MNRF”).

In late May the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) announced a proposal to expand a list of changes to pit and quarry sites that may be “self-filed.” These changes to licences, permits and site plans would not require ministry approval so long as the sites are eligible and the changes meet specific conditions.

The ministry claims the existing list “has effectively reduced burden and provided efficiency to aggregate operations, while continuing to manage the impact of lower-risk activities on aggregate sites.” Furthermore, “the anticipated environmental consequences of the regulatory and policy proposals are anticipated to be neutral.”

LETTERS — continued on page 10

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REPORT ON COUNCIL — continued from page 4

the past 30 years, and suggested that Council have the zoning maps corrected to show that all Tiny beaches be zoned Environmentally Protected. Council agreed to have an investigation take place and a staff report brought forward.

After reviewing content of the deputation during the July meeting, Council moved “that no further action be taken.”

Lafontaine Area Shoreline Homeowners Association (LASHA) Chair John Jamieson and President Chuck Stradling requested a Community Safety Zone designation on Tiny Beaches Road North between Concessions 15 and 18 as well as electronic speed radar signs. Council was presented with letters of support signed by over 100 LASHA households. It was also pointed out that the recent re-paving of Tiny Beaches Road North in several locations has resulted in notable increased speeds. Council advised they will take the request into consideration.

As a result of the deputation, Council reviewed the content and received comments from the Director of Public Works. Council moved that staff review and present a detailed report on the implementation of the speed radar signs and community safety zone. Staff are to advise LASHA that the Township budgets for 2-3 of these speed radar signs each year. Councillor Walma suggested that further to the decision on the Wyevale Ballpark Lighting proposal, if LASHA were to come up with 50% of the costs it could happen much faster.

ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC PARKS

Councillor Walma introduced a recommendation that Council consider permitting alcohol in public parks. Council agreed to have staff report on how this might be accomplished.

At the July meeting, further discussion took place. An open deputation, which was received with applause from attendants in the gallery, was made requesting Council to reconsider the motion. Councillor Helowka agreed. Mayor Evans does not support the pilot program as presented.

Councillor Walma suggested an amendment to the motion to remove the pilot project aspect and directing staff to explore having further by-law controls to enforce the matter. The motion was approved, directing staff to look at what is permitted under the *Ontario Liquor Licence and Control Act* and related enforcement, with a report due later in the year.

2022-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Council and senior staff participated in a strategy session on March 27, 2023. The existing strategic plan document was reviewed, including mission and vision statements, and corporate values. Corporate values remained the same, but amendments were made to the statements.

Previous mission and vision statements: Delivering extraordinary municipal services for all of our residents • An environmentally focused diverse family of communities providing an economically sustainable and healthy lifestyle.

Revised statements: Creating a prosperous, engaged and healthy community that respects culture and diversity through responsible environmental and financial stewardship • A culturally diverse community, that respects the traditions of the past, is future focused, while protecting our environment and heritage for generations to come.

Four priorities and objectives emerged that will guide the plan for the 2022-2026 term of Council and beyond: asset management plan and financial planning; new building and community hub; public lands management including shoreline; and organizational development and structure.

View the strategic plan at tinyurl.com/52y8785y.

JULY 19, 2023

DEPUTATIONS

Strategic Plan: Resident Diane Leblovic outlined concerns that the current plan did not include public input or participation. She also addressed the issue of the new municipal building moving forward without any public input. She urged Council to a consultative approach to major municipal initiatives.

Taxing places of worship: Residents Aaron MacDonald and Brandon Pickard and former council member Gibb Wishart all made deputations, both for and against. Councillor Brunelle would like to see more public input, and further clarification of property taxes on charities.

Council approved sending a letter to the Ministry of Finance and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) requesting that municipalities be delegated authority to decide if and/or how they implement tax policy on places of worship.

SCHEDULED DEPUTATIONS

Jay Lewis of Forbes Bros. Ltd., on behalf of Rogers, presented a request for two new cell towers, one 50m tall and the other 60m, that could service the northern parts of the township (Cedar Point and Thunder Beach) with both cellular and mobile broadband internet, as well as fixed wireless internet services. Council agreed to have Rogers proceed to the public consultation phase. The Rogers presentation can be viewed within the agenda page located on the Tiny Township website: tiny.civicweb.net/document/43413.

Dave Sparrock spoke on Tiny Island. Representing the Wahnekewening Community Association, Mr. Sparrock advised Council of the history of the manmade causeway installed by the owner to link Tiny Island with the shoreline. He requested Council's assistance in having the causeway re-

moved since it was originally intended as a temporary measure under a permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) over 12 to 15 years ago. The causeway has caused negative environmental ripple effects along the shoreline. Council requested Public Works and the Severn Sound Environmental Association investigate options.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

As a part of the Asset Management program (AMP)'s development and data refinement process, the Township had budgeted for a vendor to complete facility condition assessments (FCAs) of its buildings and facilities. An RFP was issued, and bids were received from two companies, Gordian and Roth IAMS. Council approved moving forward with the Gordian proposal for a cost of \$38,700 + HST. The assessments are expected to finish this year.

NOISE BY-LAW CHANGES AND NUISANCE CALLS

Deputy Mayor Sean Miskimins requested consideration be given to relaxing the by-law when it comes to family gatherings on private property as the sounds of music emanated through an amplifier were less intrusive than leaf blowers, chainsaws or woodchippers, which are currently excluded.

Suggestions included establishing a reasonable decibel level so that enforcement staff had a measure to work with rather than using their own discretion, as well as looking at what other municipalities do. It was also suggested special event permits could be employed. The issue of nuisance calls to the OPP was also addressed. Deputy Mayor Miskimins feels that the number of nuisance calls is costing the taxpayers unnecessarily.

Two motions were presented: the first, requesting staff to report on options allowing for variances to allow residents to have some level of reasonable noise and to look at how other municipalities are implementing control measures (e.g. decibel meters); the second, asking the Police Services Board to provide options for dealing with nuisance calls.

AUGUST 9 & 30, 2023

DEPUTATIONS

Two scheduled deputations took place, one from Bill and Linda LaRose regarding a water bill dispute. At a September meeting Council reduced the bill on a one-time basis. A second deputation, from Helen Kirouac, requested a waiver of rentals fees for the Women's Coffee and Conversation Group in Wyebridge. Also at a September meeting Council offered the facility at a nominal rent.

Lynn Moon of the Senior Advisory Committee provided comments on alcohol in parks, and referenced Toronto pilot program guidelines, and how Tiny's parks would accommodate some of these guidelines.

David Christie commented on the new municipal building, and suggested expanding the current facility instead of spending \$15 million to construct a new facility elsewhere.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT

According to staff, the Township's obsolete, over 25-year-old on-premises phone system, which provides basic phone services to staff and the community it serves, has several limitations. Staff are requesting that the Township use the vendor of record, Rogers Inc. Funds of \$65,000 have been allocated in the 2023 budget. Annual operating costs of approximately \$6,500 will be added to future operating budgets.

TOANCHE PAVILION UPDATE

A grant application was submitted and approved for this project in 2021. It involves the installation of a pavilion and ice pad like that at Lafontaine Park. A public meeting will be held for input into the overall park master plan..

JACKSON PARK COAST ASSESSMENT

Bruce Pinchin, Shoreplan Engineering Limited, outlined results from a study of the dynamic shoreline around the boat launch, and made recommendations for 1) keeping the launch operational during high water years and 2) when to perform dredging due to the downdrift of beach sand and during low water years. Council moved to receive the presentation and the Public Works report as information to support future operational and capital costs for the Jackson Park boat ramp.

OVERVIEW OF DRAINAGE LAW

Sid Vander Veen, PEng, R.J. Burnside and Associates, provided information on drainage laws and drainage in the Township. Open ditch is the main method of drainage in Tiny, but there are also 8km of storm water management. Ongoing development — construction on vacant lots and replacement of small cottages with all-season homes featuring hardscaping and landscaping — is affecting the existing drainage network.

Staff are recommending hiring a drainage superintendent who would perform functions that existing staff are not empowered to do. This includes private property access for full assessments such as tile drain inspections and sources of drainage issues. To be discussed as part of 2024 budget deliberations.

NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Council passed a motion instructing the Building Needs Assessment Committee to proceed with the highest scoring

site #5, the Water Complex Lands (220 Concession 9 East) and the adjacent parcel, as the planned site for a new administrative office.

Council also approved instructing the Building Needs Assessment Committee to proceed with the Construction Manager at Risk methodology and to retain the services of the highest scoring proponent, Lett Architects, for the scope of work included in Phase 1 of their proposal.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

2024 BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

Council received the Tiny 2024 survey results as information. No discussion took place. Results will be considered when preparing the 2024 draft operating and capital budgets. View the survey results at tinyurl.com/yz2bu277.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Township's new auditor, Rebecca MacDonald, Pahapill and Associates Professional Corporation, presented draft audited financial statements for 2022. The Township had a surplus of \$2,401,368 compared to \$1,032,643 in 2021. View the draft statements at tinyurl.com/2s4926st.

No questions were asked and no discussions took place regarding the infrastructure deficit. However, Mayor Evans indicated the Township is planning significant infrastructure spending in the coming years..

SPEED SIGNS AND BIKE LANES

A letter from LASHA commended Council on swift action taken to reduce the maximum speed limit along Tiny Beaches Road North between Concessions 15 and 18, pave over 80% of this area, and install bike/pedestrian lined walkway areas.

LASHA remains concerned about vehicle parking in the bike/pedestrian lined pathways, and says it was led to believe these pathways would be marked and no parking indicated. The letter was forwarded to Public Works for consideration.

Hospital’s MRI Scanner Campaign at 40% of Goal

By JENNIFER RUSSEL



With your help, Georgian Bay General Hospital could start providing MRI scans by spring 2025.

Essential health care closer to home is on the horizon at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH).

Earlier this year, the GBGH Foundation launched a \$4-million fundraising campaign to bring Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) technology to the hospital. This vital diagnostic tool is used in hospitals across the province and around the world for high-risk cancer patient screening, to diagnose brain and spinal cord injuries, assess joint function, study chronic illnesses, and investigate undiagnosed conditions.

Providing MRI scans would mean offering essential care sooner and with less travel. If your doctor refers you for an MRI scan today, you could wait up to four months, two months longer than the provincial average of 68 days. You would also have to travel to Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre in Barrie or Soldiers' Memorial Hospital in Orillia.

Plans to build an addition at GBGH to accommodate the new technology are already underway. GBGH has been working closely with the Ministry of Health on the capital expansion, and stages 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 of the required submission have already been approved. The next three stages will be delivered by GBGH this month.

With a target completion date of winter 2025, the hospital is already taking preliminary steps to ensure efficient building once all approvals are finalized. Geotechnical engineers were on site this summer to dig bore holes, determine soil condition and ensure the footings and infrastructure are designed and built in a manner that will support this exciting new clinical service.

Meanwhile, the foundation's fundraising efforts are gaining traction, with more than \$1.6 million raised to date. The community has been supportive through donations and fundraising events, and the Power of Giving Gala on September 16 added \$650,000 to the total.

The remaining \$2.4 million is needed by early 2025, to ensure the hospital is ready to scan its first patient that spring. More information, including opportunities to donate, can be found by visiting gbghf.ca/current-needs/mri. There are also a variety of ways to get involved through events and business partnerships, which can all be found at: gbghf.ca/giving/ways-to-give.

Jennifer Russell is GBGH's Senior Marketing & Community Engagement Officer.

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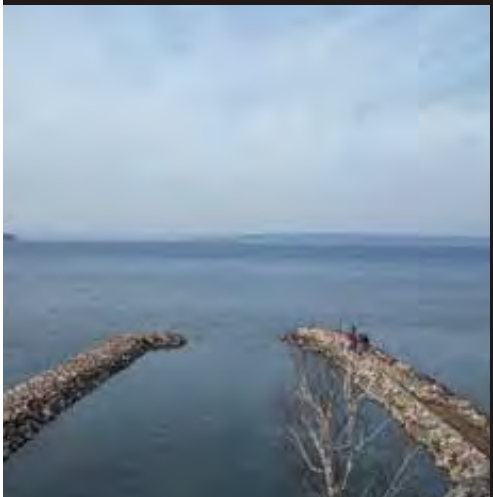


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In Your Community, Building Your Community

Tiny’s Proposed New Admin Building: **Where We Are Now**

By **ROBERT McBRIDE**,
Wymbolwood Beach



Tiny’s administration building as shown in *Township of Tiny Municipal Administration Building: Needs Assessment Report*.

The Township of Tiny’s administrative building may have been a model of municipal design when it opened almost 60 years ago, but today it’s overcrowded, inefficient, and badly in need of updating. A consultant’s report submitted in 2014 and updated in 2017 details many shortcomings, including foundation cracks, roof repairs, replacement of the HVAC system and most or all windows and doors, and more.¹

What to do about these problems has challenged successive councils. The current council led by Mayor David Evans is seeking to address the issue and has embarked on a comprehensive information gathering process. To date, the council has not committed capital funds to the project. Council has promised that its process will include public input opportunities, such as town hall meetings and “public information centres.”

In advance of the consultations, *The Tiny Cottager* summarizes here what we know so far, including steps taken to date.

The Township’s administration building on Balm Beach Road, west of Perkinsfield, was constructed and first occupied in 1967. Two temporary portable buildings have since been erected to supplement the space. Together, the main building and the two portables provide about 13,000 square

feet of floor space.

The consultants retained in 2014 identified the need for a larger facility of over 21,000 square feet with more efficient design features. They presented the costs and benefits of three approaches:

- renovation and addition to the existing building
- construction of a new building on the same site, or
- construction of a new building on a different site.

In May 2016, a building needs assessment committee (BNAC) was formed of Township staff and council members to consider the future of the administration building. BNAC meetings are not open to the public.

In 2018, Council was advised by staff that the existing building may contain too many inefficiencies and design flaws to justify renovation.

Among the issues: operational and mechanical inefficiencies, logistical challenges in continuing to operate out of the existing structure, and the cost of upgrading and expanding to accommodate current and future needs. Consequently, in October 2018, BNAC was directed to report back to Council on next steps for the Township to advance “a new construction solution to long-term municipal administration building requirements.”

In September 2019, Council directed that BNAC should undertake the next steps of the project — those not involving capital expenditures due to uncertainty posed by a regional government review process then recently initiated by the Ontario Government.

In March 2020, Council directed BNAC to assess the suitability of the existing location and eight other Township-owned sites. Then... along came COVID-19 and the project was paused and reactivated earlier this year. During that several year period, a pandemic occurred, a new CAO was appointed, a new mayor and an almost entirely new council elected, and much of the original information gathered had become dated.

The minutes of the May 30, 2023 BNAC meeting indicate

that the site suitability assessment is underway, with input from Township staff. The review was limited to sites already owned by the Township which also met the following minimum requirements:

- an area of at least 7,500 square meters (1.85 acres), which would allow for future expansion
- the land cannot be zoned “environmentally protected”
- The land must be within or adjacent to a settlement area or already properly zoned (“institutional” or “rural employment”). This aligns with the Township’s and the “Relevant Documents”.

The following sites were identified as possibilities:

- the current location
- St-Martyr’s School lands/Perkinsfield Park
- the Wyevale Train Station Lands
- Lafontaine Park
- the Wyevale Fire Hall Site
- Toanche Park
- 260 Concession 8E (water facility site)
- the Public Works Complex Lands
- Huronia Airport (partial ownership)

The May 30 BNAC meeting minutes also indicate a need for architectural consulting services related to a new building and that a request for proposal (RFP) would be issued.

At the August 30, 2023 meeting of Committee of the Whole, two BNAC reports were adopted.

The first report detailed the findings and recommendation of the site selection process. Council instructed BNAC to proceed with the Water Complex Lands and the Adjacent Parcel — located between Concession 9 and Concession 8 east of CR#6 — as the preferred site for a new administrative office.³ The site is a large parcel of undeveloped land in close proximity to the Public Works and Water Complexes.

The second report detailed the recommendation of the architectural consultant selection process. Council instructed BNAC to retain the services of Lett Architects for the Phase 1 work. Lett Architects has a significant amount of municipal experience, and come highly recommended from their references. Phase 1 involves working with the Township staff and Council to develop a program for the new building, providing direction and advice to BNAC, soliciting public input at a Public Information Session, and preparing a schematic design.⁴

There are some matters that may affect the new administration building project. For example:

- the Government of Ontario has included Simcoe County

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Tiny's Proposed New Admin Building, continued

in its ongoing regional government review process. The outcome may affect the need for, and/or form of, a new administration building, since it is tasked with examining whether certain services could be combined or moved from one level of government to another.

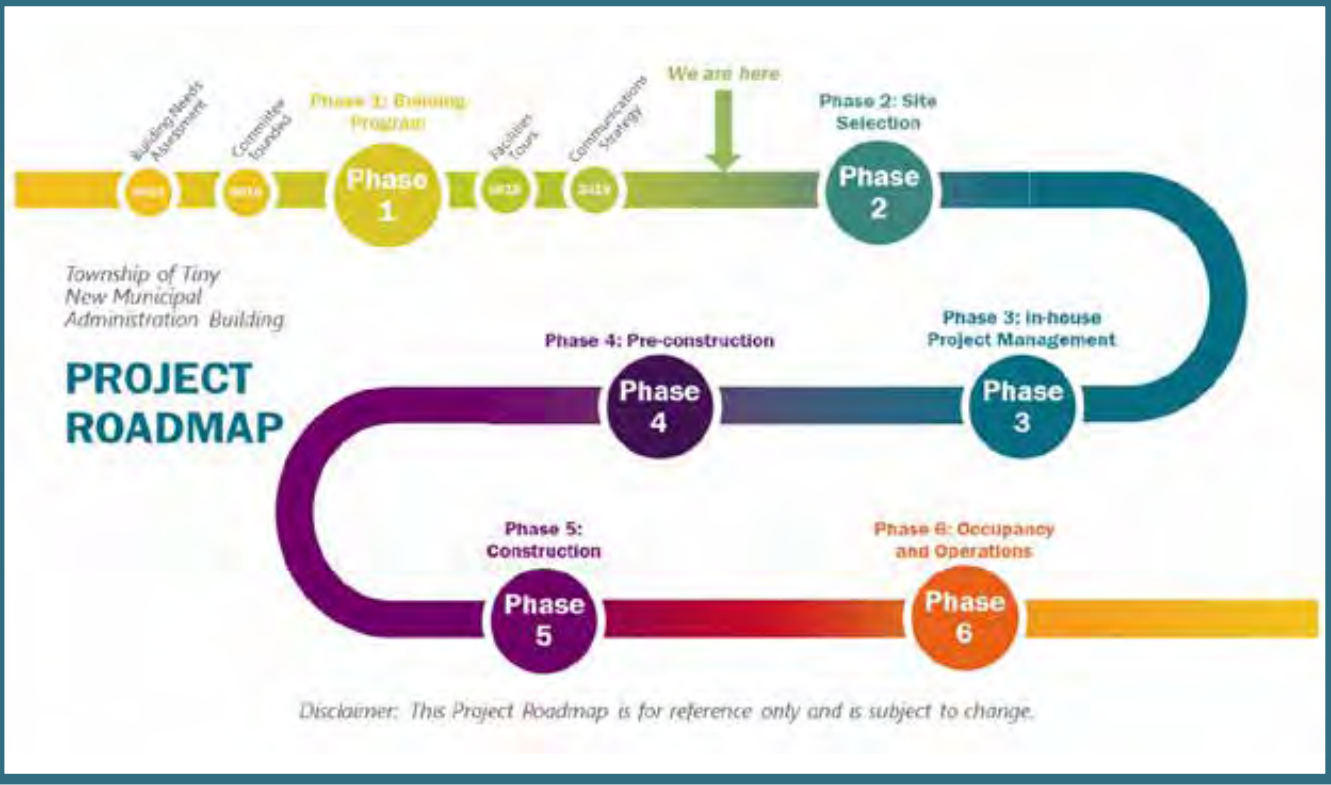
- a township asset management plan released last year estimates that 23% of assets, with a replacement cost of more than \$72 million, were in poor or very poor condition. This phase of the plan included a detailed review of infrastructure items, such as roads, bridges, watermains, storm assets, as well as a high-level review of buildings and other “non-core” assets.⁵ In July 2023 the Township commissioned a facility condition assessment to include a detailed examination of offices, halls, emergency service facilities, washrooms, park facilities,

and public works facilities. The assessment is scheduled for completion this year, and may indicate whether a new administration building is a high priority relative to all the Township’s other facilities’ needs.

What’s Next

The Township provides a web page dedicated to the new administration building project: tinyurl.com/u3jnszrc. The web page indicates that there will be public input opportunities throughout the project process such as public information centres and town hall meetings. Check the web page regularly for new public input opportunities.

At this point in the project the Township is completing the first of a planned 6-phase process. Here’s what the process looks like.



“We’re not building it tomorrow,” Mayor Evans told *The Tiny Cottager*. “We’re taking a proactive approach collecting information and building on groundwork already laid by previous councils.”

Notes

1. Township of Tiny Municipal Administration Building: Needs Assessment Report, R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited and Ted Handy and Associates, May 2014, May 2014: tinyurl.com/u3jnszrc. Click on “Relevant Documents.”
2. Public Works Report PWR-033-23, August 30, 2023; <https://tinyurl.com/5n7xv69m>.
3. Public Works Report PWR-034-23, August 30, 2023; tinyurl.com/56vz23ue.
4. Township of Tiny Asset Management Plan 2022, tinyurl.com/456m4e86.

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LETTERS — continued from page 5

Tiny Council and staff are not so confident that these changes would be environmentally neutral. As reported by *Midland Today*, Director of Public Works Tim Leitch alerted Tiny Council to staff concerns with the proposed changes during a June 28 Council meeting.

Mayor David Evans subsequently shared Tiny’s concerns with the other North Simcoe mayors, who unanimously agreed to co-sign an open letter to the ministry requesting greater study of consequences that may result from the changes. “We’re all interested in the environment and engaged in this issue,” Evans told *The Tiny Cottager*.

So far the mayors have received two responses from the ministry:

- an unsigned acknowledgement of the letter
- a response from Jennifer Keyes, the MNRF’s Director, Resources Planning & Development Policy Branch, that makes no reference to the mayors’ specific concerns.

“After reviewing and considering the feedback received in response to the ministry’s proposal (ERO #019-6767),” wrote Keyes, “a decision has been made to move forward with the expanded list of changes that can be made to existing pit or quarry site plans in Ontario without ministry approval (provided specific conditions and eligibility criteria are met).”

Unwilling to let the matter drop, Tiny’s Committee of the Whole has directed staff to prepare a report exploring implications of the changes.



This Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry map indicates about 45 pits and quarries in North Simcoe alone. Source: “Pits and Quarries Online,” MNRF, tinyurl.com/2dswpkmx.

An Open Letter to the MNRF:
Comments on Proposed Changes
to *Aggregate Resources Act*,
Ontario Regulation 244/97

Dear Honourable Graydon Smith
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry,

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to the *Aggregate Resources Act*, specifically Ontario Regulation 244/97. We believe that the expansion of self-filing activities and the new policy on amendments to existing aggregate approvals may have significant implications for various aspects that we hold dear: hydrogeology, traffic, noise, site operation, and natural heritage.

1.Hydrogeology: The proposed changes raise concerns regarding the protection and management of the exceptional groundwater resources in central and northwestern

Simcoe County. There is a comprehensive study underway that will provide understanding, appreciation, education, and protection of a truly exceptional water resource of national and international significance. It is essential to maintain strict regulations and oversight to prevent adverse effects on the quality and quantity of our groundwater.

2.Traffic: Aggregate operations can generate a substantial increase in truck traffic, which poses significant safety risks and negatively impacts local road infrastructure. It is crucial to conduct comprehensive traffic impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures to minimize the disruption caused by increased truck movements, particularly in areas with existing traffic congestion or vulnerable road conditions.

3.Noise: Aggregate extraction activities often produce high levels of noise that can disrupt the quality of life for nearby residents. The proposed changes should include stringent noise control measures to protect the well-being of affected communities. Noise monitoring and mitigation strategies should be implemented to ensure compliance with acceptable noise standards and to minimize disturbance to residential areas.

4.Site Operation: The proposed expansion of self-filing activities should be accompanied by robust monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to guarantee adherence to environmental regulations and operational best practices. Independent inspections and audits of aggregate sites are necessary to maintain accountability and prevent non-compliance with environmental standards.

5.Natural Heritage: Aggregate extraction can have adverse impacts on natural heritage features and ecological habitats. It is imperative to conduct thorough environmental assessments to identify and protect significant natural heritage features, including sensitive ecosystems, species at risk, and their habitats. Mitigation measures and restoration plans should be developed and enforced to ensure the preservation of Ontario’s natural heritage.

Moreover, we wish to emphasize that there are already existing municipal aggregate agreements in place within Simcoe County that have been carefully crafted to reflect the best interests of our communities. These agreements are the result of collaborative efforts between municipalities and aggregate operators, aiming to strike a balance between economic benefits and minimizing the impact on local residents and the environment. It is crucial to recognize and respect these agreements and the regulatory framework they operate within.

In conclusion, we urge the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to consider our concerns regarding the proposed changes to the *Aggregate Resources Act*. We believe that a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts on hydrogeology, traffic, noise, site operation, and natural heritage is necessary. Furthermore, the importance of maintaining and respecting existing municipal aggregate agreements should not be underestimated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will give due consideration to our comments and work towards a sustainable and balanced approach to aggregate resource management in Ontario.

Sincerely,
David Evans, Mayor, Township of Tiny
Bill Gordon, Mayor, Town of Midland
Jennifer Coughlin, Mayor, Township of Springwater
Doug Rawson, Mayor, Town of Penetanguishene
Ted Walker, Mayor, Township of Tay

cc: Jamie Prentice, MNRF-RPDPB – Resources Development Section; Hon. Jill Dunlop, MPP – Simcoe North

Notes
1. “Proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act, Ontario Regulation 244/97 to expand self-filing activities and a new policy regarding amendments to existing aggregate approvals,” Environmental Registry of Ontario ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6767.
2. Derek Howard, “Proposed aggregate changes could rock community: Tiny official,” *Midland Today*, June 30, 2023.

FoTTSA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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THE TINY COTTAGER

Who We Are

As the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations approaches its 34th year of operation, now is a good time for a quick review of what we are and what we do on behalf of our members and the broader Tiny community.

According to our Constitution, adopted June 5, 1990, the general purpose of FoTTSA is to provide a township-wide basis for the affiliation of associations of individual ratepayers who own properties containing a seasonal or full-time residential dwelling in those parts designated "Shoreline Residential" in the Township's Official Plan. About two thirds of Tiny's residents (including seasonal) have homes in the shoreline area.

More specifically we identify and clarify issues, and convey objective information to our members and others with an interest in these matters, so that they may make informed decisions.

FoTTSA is a not-for-profit umbrella organization representing shoreline associations whose individual situations may differ from one to the next. We are entirely self-funded and receive no financial support from any level of government.

FoTTSA takes no position on beach access issues and believes that decisions about these issues should be determined by those directly involved, on an informed basis, without coercion or confrontation.

The stated purposes of FoTTSA are to

1. promote the aims and objectives of residents of the shoreline communities of Tiny Township generally, and in particular to promote the aims and objectives of local associations of such residents;
2. promote the protection, enhancement, and wise use of the environment of the shoreline and the shoreline residential area of Tiny Township;
3. encourage and assist the formation of local associations of shoreline community residents in areas where such associations do not exist;
4. provide a forum for members to discuss issues and exchange information;
5. lend assistance to members in informing themselves on issues of concern and pursuing such issues to resolution;
6. monitor area development, considering the principles of sound land-use planning and environmental management;
7. promote the development of, improvement of and/or changes in policies of governments or government agencies where such action is deemed appropriate to the furtherance of the purposes of the Federation;
8. promote the adoption and/or enforcement of governmental laws, bylaws, standards or practices where such action is deemed appropriate to the furtherance of the purposes of the Federation;
9. raise funds to conduct activities furthering the purposes of the Federation, and to place funds on deposit with a bank or trust company in Ontario until required for such purposes;
10. hold lands or other real or personal property as may be necessary to further the purposes of the Federation. However, this is something FoTTSA has never acted on. We own no land or property.

How we operate

FoTTSA's volunteer board of directors is composed of representatives from member shoreline associations. These associations include beach front and off-beach properties.

Through monthly board meetings, FoTTSA provides a forum in which board members can exchange information, explore common issues, and work together on solutions. FoTTSA has also created an annual or twice-yearly forum in which beach association representatives bring individual concerns and priorities for discussion at half-day meetings.

Here is a sampling of how our undertakings play out:

- we update residents on government activities through our Reports on Council, published online and in *The Tiny Cottager*
- we conduct surveys on matters of public interest
- we make deputations to Council on issues important to shoreline and inland residents of Tiny
- we promote positive environmental stewardship. Most recently, we successfully negotiated groundwater and land use protections with CRH Canada Inc., owner of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation.

In these ways FoTTSA aims to promote thriving and sustainable communities in Tiny. To learn more about us, visit our website: www.tinycottager.org



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BLACK SWAMP GANG — continued from page 1

son-in-law, refused McDuff more whisky, McDuff put a gun to the bartender's chest, then pointed the gun at the owner and his wife, threatening to kill them all. The owner told the bartender to serve McDuff as much whisky as he wanted, rode to the constable's office in Orillia, and swore out a warrant for attempted murder. The constable added two previous assault charges to the warrant, rode back with the tavern owner and arrested McDuff, who had passed out.

McDuff's father put up \$1,000 bail, equivalent to almost \$90,000 today, and McDuff promptly skipped bail, disappearing for a year into Michigan lumber camps. Meanwhile, the robberies stopped.

In 1878 McDuff returned. The Prices Corners tavern burned to the ground, and robberies started again.

The second attempt

Six constables from the Barrie police force went to the McDuff farm to arrest him; three were beaten into "helplessness," and the other three were chased away. "I'm afraid to hit you because I'm afraid I'll kill ya," he's reported to have said.

A week later the constable and two others — his son and Barrie's biggest, strongest policeman — scouted out a barn raising, arrested McDuff and jailed him in Barrie. A judge convicted McDuff on one case of aggravated assault, to serve one year in a Toronto prison, and dismissed the attempted murder charges. Again, the robberies stopped.

In October 1879 robberies resumed at twice the rate. This time they focused entirely on horses, a farmer's most valuable livestock asset. The gang also began stealing horses from the back of businesses and residential stables.

Soon the gang was stealing too many horses to sell locally, so McDuff implemented a new strategy. Stolen horses were taken to an out-of-the way railway stop, loaded onto a train and shipped to stock sales in Toronto, Hamilton, Waterloo, and even as far as Chicago.

The third attempt

Once again McDuff went too far, beating someone in a bar so severely he was arrested. After the gang pressured the victim to change his story, McDuff was sentenced to a modest four months.

Horse stealing resumed, but this time victims recognized the pattern. When three gang members stole a pair of horses and a buggy from a farmer, he followed the horses' trail from Barrie to Dalston, on to Rugby, and north into the Black Swamp. The farmer enlisted two constables and farmers to enter the Black Swamp, where they found one of the horse thieves asleep on a pile of buffalo blankets. He was arrested and eventually jailed for three years.

Two further thefts prompted more posses of vigilantes that scoured the swamp with no success. The gang paused and then in 1881 shifted its focus first to Midland and then north of Orillia.

How a Toronto newspaper helped end the reign of terror

A sensational article appearing in *The Globe* described the gang's activities, how they operated, and how they dispersed the stolen goods. The article also identified McDuff as the ringleader.

In fall 1881 McDuff disbanded the gang and left for Bruce County, where he stayed with a sister for two years. He reappeared in 1884 and resumed petty thievery, but switched to a bootlegging and moonshining operation after the county banned all liquor sales.

Four years later McDuff was thought to be part of a three-some that murdered an old man. McDuff fled, hiding out in Michigan lumber camps. He was later tried and convicted in absentia of murdering another lumberman. Occasional sightings occurred until 1905. Rumours circulated claiming he died in a barfight in Mexico, or was shot to death in a lumber camp outside of Barrie.

By the 1920s McDuff and his exploits were all but forgotten. Eventually the Black Swamp was drained. It's now scrubby lowland.

Learn more of McDuff's infamous activities in David Town's book, *The Black Swamp Gang: Terror and Thievery in North Simcoe County, 1873-1882*, available at the Orillia Museum of Art and History and in bookstores, or by listening to his YouTube presentation: [tinyurl.com/mpfuje29](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpfuje29). Listen to other recorded presentations in the museum's history speaker series at www.orilliamuseum.org/history-speaker-series.

The red oval indicates the location of the Black Swamp before it was drained. Source: openqis.simcoe.ca

12 The Tiny Cottager

Georgian Bay Gals Give, and Keep Giving

By MICHELLE MINK



It all began five years ago. Two women, Lyn Wolfhard and Kathy Elsdon — our founding members —shared a glass of wine while down south. They had heard of an easy way of fundraising, so they gathered up a committee and in 2018 began Georgian Bay Gals Give (GGG), an all-women’s group, and launched the first Giving Event.

To date we have raised over \$374,150 for 10 local registered charities.

How it works

We hold a social giving event twice a year. Our members, all drawn from North Simcoe, are asked to donate \$200 at each event to the chosen charity. New members are welcome.

All funds raised go directly to the charity. We do not handle the money at all. The charity provides a link for our members to donate through. At our spring 2023 event, Georgian Bay General Hospital received our highest donation to date: \$45,100.

We rely on local venues that are willing to donate a space to host our Giving Events. This and our amazing, generous 200+ members are the reasons for our success.

Our GGG committee consists of co-chairs Lyn Wolfhard, Kathy Elsdon Befort, plus Eve Stewart, Sherry Middaugh, Barb Coxsworth, Dr. Sue Lyons, Sharon Harbottle, Alison Blackhurst, and Michelle Mink.

We normally begin the process by sending out an email about two months ahead our event. For our fall Giving Event we started the ball rolling in August by asking members to nominate a local charity. The nominated charities are informed and asked to submit a write-up on what they are about and what they might use the money for.

Each member receives the nominated charities' write-up and then votes for the one that is near and dear to her heart. The charity with the most votes is selected. By mid September we let the membership know the winner, and provide a link to the charity through which the \$200 can be donated or an address to which a cheque can be mailed. Then we watch the total grow and send out updates.

By the night of the event we have an approximate total of the funds raised. We present the nominated charity with a cheque, take a group photo and have our social.

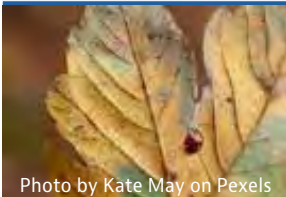
Here are some of the recipient charities so far:

- CLH Foundation
- Community Reach
- Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre
- Georgian Bay Food Network and Warm and Cosy Children’s Charity — a trial donation split between two charities, so that each member donates \$100 to each)
- Georgian Bay General Hospital
- Guest House
- Hospice Huronia
- Huronia Transition Homes

This fall we will again split donations between two select-ed charities: The Salvation Army Midland and the Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre. This event will be hosted at Midland’s Boathouse Restaurant on October 23. There is still time to join us.

For more information on GGG, email us at gбайgalsgive@gmail.com or visit our website at www.gбайgalsgive.com.

Michelle Mink is a board member of Georgian Bay Gals Give.



Small Acts of Conservation

Photo by Kate May on Pexels

The Nature Conservancy of Canada offers these sugges-tions for helping wildlife this fall:

- Plant clusters of native shrubs or trees to provide habitat for birds.
- Install a bird feeder.
- Leave the leaves. Throughout colder months, many small mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles may find refuge in our yards.
- Create space in your yard for native bees to nest and overwinter by placing dead tree branches among your plants and having open areas of soil.

Find out more: tinyurl.com/4v9n54sy.

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Mayor’s 2023 Charity Golf Tournament: A BIG WIN FOR LOCAL CHARITIES



Over 120 golfers came out to support the event — just the beginning of the day’s fundraising. Photo: Andrew Chomentowski.

On a perfect, sunny day last June, over 120 golfers came out to the Brooklea Golf & Country Club for the 9th annual Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament, helping the event to surpass its goal of \$50,000.

The day featured a noon shotgun start, a plated dinner, a silent auction valued at more than \$20,000, as well as various on-course competitions and prizes, all in support of local not-for-profit and charitable organizations in North Simcoe.

At the end of the day, Mayor Evans, Council, and members of the volunteer Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament Working Committee presented funds to the following charity organizations:

- Angels with Backpacks
- Boys and Girls Club North Simcoe
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe
- CLH Foundation
- Gateway Centre for Learning
- Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre
- Georgian Bay Food Network
- Hospice Huronia
- Le Club de l’âge d’or de Lafontaine
- Quest Art School + Gallery
- Scientists in School

- Sistema Huronia Music Academy
- We Are The Villagers

“Thank you to everyone ‘fore’ making this year’s tournament such a success,” said Mayor Evans. “We also want to give a special thank you to our tournament sponsors and donors whose support was key; we greatly appreciate your help and generosity, as we raise funds for charitable organizations in our community.”

Sponsorships are an integral part of the fundraising activities and a valuable opportunity to raise brand awareness among active and committed members of the Tiny community. For example, FoTTSA continues to contribute as the event’s founding sponsor. “We’re committed to improving the quality of life in Tiny Township,” says FoTTSA president Paul Cowley. “Supporting the tournament benefits everyone, and we encourage you to join us in helping next year’s event achieve its fundraising goal.”

Since 2015, the golf tournament has contributed \$415,000 to more than 35 local not-for-profit and charitable organizations focusing on supporting community health and wellness, building the local economy, delivering exceptional services, and much more.

The working committee has already begun planning the 10th annual tournament, taking place in spring 2024.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS Interested in Social Media



If you have any skills posting to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, *The Tiny Cottager* could use your help populating our sites on these three platforms.

This volunteer position is ideal for someone committed to promoting life in the Township of Tiny, who has some social media skills you would be interested in exercising or improving, and some time each week to keep our platforms up to date. Content assistance will be available.

To learn more, email editor@tinycottager.org today.

PUBLIC INFO SESSION RE: Proposed Telecommunications

Rogers Communications Ltd. is hosting a public information session on October 17, 2023 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the Lafontaine Community Centre, 342 Lafontaine St. W., Tiny.

Rogers is proposing to install two 60-metre towers, one at 1445 Cedar Point Road and another at 1369 Chemin de Loup Road. The intent is to improve coverage, data transfer speed, and network capacity.

Concerns or comments may be provided in advance to Sarah Duncan, Real Estate & Government Relations, Rogers Communications Inc., 587-894-0773, sduncan@forbesbrosiltd.ca.

Learn more about telecommunications towers here: tinyurl.com/bdz4z5ce.



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