

THE TINY COTTAGER

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, Carusoe Bay

Many of us come to Tiny to relax, swim in the lake, enjoy the many wonderful experiences that Tiny has to offer and have little interest in following what our elected council, entrusted to govern responsibly, is doing. This group could be characterized as the “silent majority.”

It is indeed this “silent majority” that Council is relying on to push through a number of fiscally irresponsible expenditures, none of which most Tiny residents would want IF ASKED.

The list is long and frightening. At the top is a new \$50 million administration building, which has been railroaded through despite a petition opposing it, signed by 7,000 residents, that was presented at Queen’s Park last year.

The petition prompted the then Minister of Municipal Affairs, Paul Calandra, to request that Mayor Evans hold a referendum on the project. The Mayor refused.

Tiny has been debt free since its establishment in 1822. Suddenly it will find itself encumbered by a \$50 million debenture that our grandchildren will still be paying for, when the original building could have been renovated for under \$10 million.

The spending spree continued with the Township’s purchase of a \$4.5 million property in Sawlog Bay, which Council claimed was to provide more beach access. The Township already owns significant beachfront property in the same area that remains undeveloped. This item was not a planned expenditure in the budget.

When Infrastructure Ontario refused to finance the purchase, the Township borrowed funds from a chartered bank using an appraiser chosen by the seller. To further sweeten this already generous deal, the Township gave the seller a \$500,000 tax credit.

Council has also approved spending tens of thousands of dollars to craft its Shoreline By-law, originally presented to “protect our pristine beaches and environment.” In reality, the by-law is a thinly veiled attempt by a Beach Rights ideologically driven council to assert control over ALL beachfront properties extending a full 45 metres back from the historic 178-metre high water mark.

This gross overreach has led multiple property owners to appeal a related Zoning By-law amendment at the Ontario Land Tribunal. More needless use of our tax dollars when Council tries to defend this heinous by-law.

My message to you is simple: inform yourself on what this council is doing, hold these officials accountable for their actions and decisions, and with an election year around the corner make informed decisions when electing our next council.

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Here a Black Tern incubates eggs on her nest. See A Walk Along Tiny Marsh’s Trotter Dyke on page 3

What’s Happening with the Shoreline By-law?

By KELLY WHITTAKER, Cedar Point

A proposed new by-law passed by Tiny Council in May 2025 could impose severe restrictions on any changes that property owners within 45 metres of the shoreline are considering making to their property. However, implementation is temporarily on hold.

Here’s what you need to know:

On May 26, 2025, Tiny Council passed the following three by-laws:

- 25-035 tinyurl.com/5yffhs62, to adopt Official Plan Amendment No. 5
- 25-039 tinyurl.com/2vk2aby7, to amend Zoning By-law 22-05
- 25-040 tinyurl.com/mr2rt3fs, to enact a Shoreline By-law.

Council states the purpose of the three by-laws is to regulate site alteration activities, retaining walls and fences within Tiny’s entire shoreline; specifically, a setback of 45 metres from the 178-metre G.S.C. elevation*, through a permit process.

Although the by-laws were passed by Council, they have not been enacted for two reasons.

FIRST, the Official Plan Amendment No. 5 must be approved by Simcoe County. As of press time the County has not made their ruling. As part of the approval process, they are reviewing all the deputations, documentation and correspondence from two public information meetings, and the Mandatory Public Planning Meeting.

THE SECOND barrier to the Shoreline By-law and the resulting Zoning By-law amendments coming into force is a challenge by 18 appellants to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). The OLT appeal stalls the by-laws until OLT hearing takes place, at which time the fate of the By-law is subject to the OLT decision.

What by-laws are in place now regarding shoreline projects?

The Interim Control By-law, introduced in May 2023 to prohibit for one year the erection of any structure, fence or sign within a 30-metre “management area” inland from the Georgian Bay shoreline’s historic 178-metre elevation above sea level, remains in effect. Under the by-law, prohibited structures include boat houses, retaining walls, patios, landscaping, decks, fences and walls. The by-law was extended for another year and set to expire on May 29, 2025. Due to the timing of the passing of the new Shoreline By-law and the resulting appeals, the Interim Control By-law remains in effect.

What is the timing of the OLT appeal?

As of press time the OLT has assigned a case number and is reviewing submissions by the appellants. Once the review is completed a case management conference (CMC) will occur. Once the CMC is scheduled individual and or organizations may apply for either party or participant status. FoTTSA will be applying for party status. For information on how to register as a party or participant, visit olt.gov.on.ca.

My property is within 45 metres of the shoreline.

How will this affect me?

If the Shoreline By-law comes into force and you are planning any site alterations to your property, including landscaping, deck building, fencing, signage, or retaining walls, you will require a permit. Depending on the scope of the work, additional requirements may be required at the discretion of the township director. These may include a survey showing the 178-metre GSC elevation and setbacks, wave uprush/coastal engineering study, coastal geomorphology study, flooding, erosion, and slope stability reports, and a geotechnical/soils stability report.

— continued on page 2

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The reports are costly and would be in addition to permit fees. All these costs are the responsibility of the property owner and could pose a significant financial burden.

Even after you have gone through this process you may not receive a permit, or it may come with conditions at the discretion of the director. If the director does not issue a permit, you are permitted to appeal by making a request of Council. Fees or deposits may be required for a request to Council associated with this by-law.

The overarching concern with the by-law is that the Township has never provided any rationale for it. At no time has the Township identified the specific issues or developments that have led to this sweeping set of new powers. There has been no site-specific scientific study, and there are no guidelines, standards, best practices or terms of reference associated with the by-law.

I'm not on the shore. If enacted, how will this affect me?
This by-law directly affects only properties within 45 metres of the Georgian Bay shoreline. It does not apply to inland lakes. However, increased administration and enforcement costs and taxes could affect every property owner.

My beach is not dynamic. Should I be concerned?
During the development of this by-law there was a focus on Dynamic Beaches only, defined loosely as a beach that undergoes continuous change due to natural erosion and accretion. However, the Shoreline By-law that passed on May 26, 2025, deals with all shoreline areas in Tiny, both dynamic and non-dynamic.

How have shoreline residents responded?
Many concerned shoreline owners have made deputations, written letters to Council, signed petitions, and attended council meetings, public information meetings, and a statutory public planning meeting. In addition, many property and business owners have contributed to a community action fund set up by FoTTSA to challenge the by-law. (For more on the fund, see COMMUNITY ACTION FUND on page 14.)

Does FoTTSA have experience with/success in these types of proceedings?
In 2023, FoTTSA persuaded the OLT to impose groundwater and land use protections on CRH Canada Groups Inc.'s



Teedon Pit, in the southeast corner of Tiny. These protections help protect the Alliston Aquifer, which has been scientifically tested to contain what may be the world's purest water. This outcome resulted from years of effort by FoTTSA.

How has FoTTSA responded?
FoTTSA has made deputations, created the Community Action Fund, and engaged the assistance of municipal planning experts, lawyers and engineers to investigate and

challenge this issue.

What can I do to help?
Consider contributing to FoTTSA's Community Action Fund which will enable FoTTSA to access resources and expertise as we navigate this complicated issue. You can send your contributions to fottsatreasurer@gmail.com or to FoTTSA, 53 Charlton Blvd., Toronto, ON M2M 1C1. Please include your current email address, and for FoTTSA members, your beach association, with your generous contribution.

Help us build awareness of this important issue in Tiny by sharing this article with family, friends and neighbours and encourage them to contribute to FoTTSA's Community Action Fund.

* The 178-metre elevation is a flood hazard line. It refers to Georgian Bay's 100-year flood elevation above sea level, measured using data from the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) datum.

WANTED: SHARP EYES AND A SHARP PENCIL

Do you love words? Are you passionate about the issues and interests you read about in *The Tiny Cottager*?

The Tiny Cottager has an opportunity for a Tiny resident to support the editorial board with writing and editing articles, working with contributors, and sourcing photos.

Let us know of your interest by emailing secretary.fottsa@tinycottager.org

FoTTSA's 2025 Well Water Testing Program Produces Encouraging Data

By TARA MARSHALL, Bluewater Beach



One of the programs that FoTTSA facilitates for our members is the testing of individual wells for nitrates. 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.

Every four years FoTTSA communicates with each beach association, provides the details and cost of the testing to each participating household, picks up the required bottles for sampling from the Aquatic and Environmental Lab, distributes them along with forms and instructions to volunteer coordinators, collects well water samples, transports them to the lab, and emails results to participants.

Sixty-two homeowners participated in our summer 2025 program, including homeowners from Addison Beach, Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beach, Caruso Bay, Wymbolwood, Edmor-Georgian Heights and Kingswood Acres, and the results were encouraging for all.

No test result came close to exceeding the 10mg/L water standard set out in the Ontario drinking water guidelines. Most well water samples tested less than 0.07 mg/L, meaning that no nitrates or nitrites (which turn into nitrates) were detected. Encouraging data! Many thanks to the volunteer coordinators from each beach association who worked with FoTTSA to facilitate this program.

Some members ask why FoTTSA only offers this well testing program every fourth year. Quite simply, the data reflect that this interval of testing is sufficient. Properties close to farmers' fields and streams are encouraged to test for nitrates in their wells at least every four years as their risk of contamination is higher. In addition, we want to avoid vol-

unteer burn-out. Every other summer FoTTSA coordinates a recreational water testing program, taking water samples from the bay to measure E. coli levels. This program involves more than 50 volunteers. Simply put, FoTTSA member volunteers are busy for three summers in a row helping us test bay water or well water. Then we take one summer off, a much-needed break, and start testing again to ensure safe swimming and drinking water for our communities. We encourage you to get involved and join the water sampling volunteers.

For background information visit our website tinycottager.org. Click on "Our Priorities."

Our Calendar of Events Is Now on Page 14

We're publishing more events than ever. To make room for them all, we've moved them to page 14.

Take a look. There's a lot going on.

- **3 Agents + Admin Team**
- **5 dogs, 2 cats & parrot**
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- **No BS** (baloney service)

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A Walk Along Tiny Marsh's Trotter Dyke

By Robert Codd



After dismembering this crayfish a Pied-billed Grebe prepares to swallow its prey tail-first.

Constructed in the early 1980s, Trotter Dyke remains as one of the most popular spots for visitors to Tiny Marsh. It's an easy, level walk but deceptively long. The dyke measures 1.8 kilometres from the south gate to the intersection with the North Carolina Dyke. So what's deceptive about that? Well that's the distance in one direction only. If you go as far as the North Carolina Dyke you must either return the way you came or keep walking to complete a return loop that spans almost five and a half kilometres. But there is so much to see that a casual stroller is often tempted to keep forging ahead. It's happened to me more than once and I never seem to learn. I'll stick to the theme of a walk on Trotter Dyke though and leave the remainder of the Dyke Hike for another day.

The different species to be seen from the dyke vary with the season. Birds and the odd mammal are the big eye-catchers. The iconic Trumpeter Swans breed here successfully each year. In season, Bald Eagles hunt from the "Eagle Tree" and much further up the dyke you'll see members of the Osprey family. Notably absent is invasive Phragmites. Gone are the dense stands that obstructed views of the wetland, thanks to our Phrag Free Tiny Marsh initiative and the volunteers who make it happen. There were only a few surviving stems to be dealt with this year. There are far too many species of interest, and I couldn't possibly cover them all. I'll highlight a couple of species I recently observed and photographed. One of the more common denizens of the marsh is also one

of my favourites, the Pied-billed Grebe. These diminutive birds always remind me of a bathtub rubber ducky but their feeding behaviour is anything but cute. This is especially true if you happen to be a crayfish. You can regularly see them feeding their fledglings quite close to the dyke. One of their favourite foods is crayfish, which they're remarkably adept at capturing. From a crustacean's perspective they're the stuff of nightmares. They mercilessly pull the legs and claws off their victims and beat them into submission repeatedly. Only then do they swallow whole their now defenceless and still struggling prey, tail-first. You'd be well advised not to invite them into your bath! Another bird you're likely to encounter is the Black Tern. Listed as a species of special concern in Ontario, Black Terns were much more common in years past. They nest on floating mats of aquatic vegetation and are vulnerable to boat wakes and other human impacts as well as the negative effects from invasive species and loss of their wetland habitat. Black Terns have recently bred successfully here and fully-fledged young terns were observed. Black Terns hunt in a similar fashion to swallows. They take flying insects on the wing and swoop down to pick snails and aquatic insects from the vegetation. They will sometimes hover into the wind and tantalize you with the possibility of a flight photo, only to dart away before you can press the shutter. A number of years ago a viewing platform on Trotter Dyke was demolished for safety concerns. I have mourned its demise ever since. It provided a place to rest and view the

marsh from above the tall cattails. Its elevated stance provided access to cooling breezes on a hot summer day and its railings provided support for binoculars and cameras. As part of our strategic plan, MTM is now planning to replace the long-gone structure. We intend to make this one fully accessible to those with mobility limitations as well as everyone else. Of necessity it will not be as tall as its predecessor and will be equipped with a ramp, instead of stairs. It will still provide views of the marsh above the tallest cattails and hopefully provide wildlife viewing opportunities for many who could not enjoy them in the past. A fundraising campaign is in the works but everything is still in the planning stage. AUTHOR'S CREDIT: Robert Codd is Secretary, Marl-Tiny-Matchedash (MTM) Conservation Association and President, Midland/Penetanguishene Naturalists This article was first published in the MTM Newsletter. MTM Conservation Association is an incorporated, not-for-profit charitable organization that manages Marl Lake, Tiny Marsh, and Matchedash Bay in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Ducks Unlimited Canada. MTM is entirely run by volunteers and receives no operational funding from any level of government. To make a donation, visit tinyurl.com/5p364bm9.

Visit Tiny Marsh All Year

Enjoy, experience, observe, and learn — all these opportunities are waiting for you at Tiny Marsh. Open to visitors year-round, this provincial wildlife area comprises 8.5 square kilometres of marshes, open water, bog, and upland forest. Follow 15 kilometres of trails through a forest, along dikes and a boardwalk, up two observation towers, and on a marsh viewing mound. An interpretive centre, with displays of the marsh and its flora and fauna, is open by appointment. Dogs are welcome but they must be leashed or respond immediately to calls.

From County Road 6 turn west on onto the Tiny Flos Townline. Or, from County Road 29, turn east onto the Tiny Flos Townline. Parking is free at the main parking lot (500 Tiny Flos Townline), at a smaller lot closer to County Road 6, and another off Concession 3 West. Sources: MTM Conservation Association www.mtmconservation.org and Ontario Trails tinyurl.com/bdhktpyk.



Making Sense of the Goessman Reservations

By DON LUDLOW, Wymbolwood Beach



A two-pole surveyor's chain, typically used by surveyors like John Goessman. Source: Missouri History Museum; tinyurl.com/adzryrwu. The Goessman Reservations in Tiny Township have lately been the subject of deputations to Council, a new by-law, social media postings, and innumerable conversations among local residents. But what are they and why are they in the news? The original survey of Tiny Township was conducted by John Goessman, Deputy Surveyor, who together with a small team began surveying the lands in 1821. When the work was completed in 1823, and as compensation for his work, Goessman was awarded seven broken blocks of land within the Township. These blocks, termed "lots," are not to be confused with today's smaller residential lots, the product of more recent surveying.

Much to the consternation of Goessman, each of his lots contained a "Crown reservation." Specifically, the Crown reserved, along each lot, one surveyor's chain length (about 20 metres or 66 feet) of allowance "for a road with free access to the beach of all vessels, boats and persons" running parallel to and from the 1823 shoreline along the front of the parcels of land. Surveyor chains were a standard tool for measuring distance. These chains had 100 links, so that surveyors could calculate distances less than a chain length by counting the links. The Ontario Municipal Act of 1913 vests ownership of roads and road allowances in municipalities, assuming that the local government accepts them on behalf of the public. While assumption of the Goessman Reservations was open to Tiny Township's councils over many years, it was not until early in this century that any action was taken. In March 2002, Tiny Council was presented with a motion to accept the Goessman Reservations. However, following further study of the issue, and public backlash, Council rejected the motion in July of the same year. Reasons given for the rejection of the Goessman Reservations included uncertainty as to what future Councils might do with the allowances and the potential for an administrative nightmare given that some of the land was now often partially or wholly under water. Fast-forward to 2025 and the Goessman road allowances are in the news again. On June 25, Tiny Council received a report recommending that the Township proceed with assuming the Goessman Reservations from the Crown. The report

identifies seven Goessman broken lots across Tiny Township and recommends assuming all the Crown allowances contained within. On August 6, 2025, Tiny Council voted 4-1 to approve the by-law and thereby accept the Goessman Crown Reservations, in order to: ... affirm the Township's jurisdiction over these historic shoreline road allowances and support the Township's efforts to clarify and protect public access rights in these areas. It may assist in resolving access and boundary disputes, protect long-term public shoreline access, and support the Township's planning and regulatory functions. It is unclear, at this time, what the Township can do with the Goessman Reservations. However, there have certainly been assertions by individuals on social media to the effect that this will help open the beaches to all residents of Tiny. Regardless, beachfront owners are not all waiting to see how Council acts and some have begun organizing to challenge the Township's assumption of the Crown Reservations or, at the very least, limit their use. Further information on the Goessman Reservations can be found here: by-law accepting the Goessman Reserves, including a map showing reserve locations; tinyurl.com/3aypa9tr "Jogging Along the County Road: the saga of the first survey of Tiny," an article on page 7 providing an account of the original survey conducted by John Goessman.



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THE TINY COTTAGER

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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.

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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

April - August 2025

By *CHUCK STRADLING, Lafontaine Areas Homeowners Association*

This report captures highlights of Tiny Council and Committee of the Whole (CoW) meetings that took place from April to August 2025. Detailed reports are published monthly at www.tinycottager.org.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

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

APRIL 2 SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Zoning By-law amendment: application to permit a “Group Home A” as an additional use at 7959 Highway 93. This is a dwelling unit designed or used to accommodate 3-10 people who, because of their emotional, mental, social, or physical condition or legal status, require a group living arrangement. Council approved the application.

APRIL 10 COUNCIL MEETING

Township of Tiny Administrative Centre (TTAC) update: Tim Leitch, Director of Public Works, advised that tree clearing has been completed some lumber will be used for non-structural elements on site.

Leitch also noted the following: **1) seedling program:** Tiny would again be hosting the seedling program with the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) at the Public Works facility, and **2) Simcoe County Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund:** the Township has been awarded \$6,400 to engage local artists and elementary school students in a beautification project by painting a portion of garbage receptacles throughout the beach parks and green spaces.

DEPUTATION: Flooding and erosion along Concession 11 East and Tiny Beaches Road North (TBRN)

Anne Sanguins raised concerns about flooding and erosion at her property, which began in 2018 after the Township installed a culvert near Concession 11. The culvert redirects runoff into a creek on her property, affecting nearby landowners and infrastructure. She requested clarity on whether the Township or the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible and invited Council to visit the site during peak flooding. At the April 23 Cow meeting, Manager J.F. Robitaille noted **1)** the area is a natural watercourse – a creek running through the property, **2)** the Township did not redirect water to the creek, **3)** replacing the nearby culvert due to flooding concerns will not increase water flow.

DEPUTATION: Limitation on election signage

Drew Ironstone questioned the intent behind a proposed motion to limit election signage, questioning the environmental reasoning and potential impact on new candidates’ visibility. He argued it may discourage fair competition, as current council members are already well known. He urged Council to vote against the motion if not withdrawn, citing fairness and potential reputational risk to Council.

February 24, 2025 TTAC meeting minutes: following questions from Councillor Brunelle, CAO Lamb confirmed the Ad Hoc meetings would be public. Director Leitch commented that in lieu of a construction trailer they are looking at constructing a building that would remain on site and be used for cold storage. The cost is unknown.

APRIL 10 CoW MEETING

Telecommunications Tower (1369 Chemin du Loup): Jay Lewis of Forbes Bros. Ltd., on behalf of Rogers Communications, presented a proposal for a telecommunication tower to improve wireless coverage and capacity in the Thunder Beach and Cedar Point areas. The project follows all federal and municipal consultation requirements, and environmental and health standards have been met. The tower will allow for co-location by other providers and services. Public feedback was limited and addressed during consultation. Received as information.

Review of open and scheduled deputation processes: Council amended the open deputation process to permit for a public comment period on agenda items at the beginning of regular council meetings and at the conclusion of the CoW meetings. Public comment periods will be limited to 15 minutes, with speakers allotted a maximum three minutes.



by Lawrence Sagar

Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament Committee: staff were directed to send a letter of appreciation to Andrew Chomentowski following his resignation. Mayor Evans admonished FoTTSA for discontinuing its annual \$5,000 sponsorship. Councillors Helowka and Walma suggested FoTTSA was letting unrelated disagreements colour their decision.

APRIL 23 CoW MEETING

2024 sewage system reinspection program: Bill Goodale, Tatham Engineering, presented program highlights. The program inspects properties on a six-year rotation to identify septic system deficiencies. The full report is available at tinyurl.com/497fbjimp.

Election voting method costing: The Clerk’s Department recommends the internet/telephone voting method because it **1)** enhances accessibility, **2)** accommodates changing lifestyles and demanding work schedules, and **3)** suits the permanent and seasonal nature of Tiny’s population. Council approved the necessary by-law on June 4. Councillor Brunelle opposed.

2025 snow plow procurement: 3 tandem axle plow trucks, including extended warranties and tax: \$1,362,029. The 2025 budget documents indicate that \$1,275,000 (\$637,500 x 2) be allocated over two years for these purchases. The 2026 budget would need to include \$724,529 for the remainder of this purchase. Council approved moving forward with the purchase by AMO’s Canoe Group.

Heritage Advisory Committee: staff were directed to write a letter of appreciation to Randy Hargrave following his resignation and advertise for a committee replacement.

Heritage Advisory Committee Resolution - removal of 275 Concession Road 5 West from Municipal Heritage Register: the committee recommended the property be delisted from the register due to the barn’s poor condition. Much of the heritage value has been lost. Council approved the recommendation.

MAY 6 PLANNING PUBLIC MEETING

Jamie Robinson, MBHC Consulting, presented on the development of the draft Dynamic Beach Management By-law. All relevant reports here: tinyurl.com/2h9dwhbh. Visit tinyurl.com/y483ppp7 for a summary of Jamie Robinson’s remarks on the project’s history, and an outline of permits required under the by-law.

The public meeting was then opened to deputations. Over 90% of presentations opposed the by-law in its current form. Councillor Helowka noted that by-laws were required to address the 1% of residents who are not good stewards of the environment. Council will hold a meeting on May 26 to discuss moving forward.

MAY 14 COUNCIL MEETING

Retirement of Sue Walton, Director, Legislative Services and Clerk: Mayor Evans acknowledged the contributions of Ms. Walton since 2008 and outlined her many achievements.

TTAC: Tim Leitch advised the site is now under construction and the public will be subject to trespass charges if in non-compliance with the signage.

Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament: Deputy Mayor Miskimins outlined the event scheduled for June 5 at the Orr Lake Golf Club. Councillor Helowka offered to contribute a paycheque to the tournament in lieu of the founding sponsor (FoTTSA) withdrawing its support and challenged fellow council members to do likewise. Councillor Walma offered \$1,000 and others followed suit.

DEPUTATION: Habitat for Humanity Ontario housing in North Simcoe

Cate Root outlined a proposal that would see five prefabricated mini rental homes installed on a residential lot to provide housing for lower-waged workers. At the June 4 CoW meeting, Council discussed budget and timing implications and recommended that the matter be referred to staff for a report on planning considerations and potential budget implications. At the June 24 CoW meeting, it was decided that the financial implications for the Township were not clearly defined and no further action should be taken.

MAY 14 CoW MEETING

Asset management: Israr Ahmad, PSD Citywide Inc., presented on Ontario Regulation 588/17 and the Township’s asset management obligations to maintain service levels for infrastructure assets. Read the full report: tinyurl.com/3ah9tsc2.

Corporate Services Report CS-FIN-007-25 - Level of Service and Lifecycle Cost Requirements for 2025 Asset Management Plan Update. Suggestions were presented on whether to increase, decrease, or maintain service level adjustments. Staff recommend continuing with current service levels and lifecycle costs. Council approved the proposed asset management plan submission.

Permissibility of alcohol in public parks: Steve Harvey, Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, identified challenges implementing such a by-law: **1)** by-law officers do not have authority to enforce it, **2)** the OPP would have limited ability to act without amendments to the *Alcohol and Gaming Regulation and Public Protection Act*, and **3)** the Township lacks resources and infrastructure for monitoring compliance. The consensus was that a staff report underway should include policing enforcement costs, feasibility of a pilot project, and other municipalities’ efforts in this regard.

Recreation Report REC-006-25 - Township of Tiny citizen award procedures: staff proposed a transparent, standardized process for administering the awards. The Township currently hosts several annual awards recognizing residents’ outstanding contributions. The proposed framework outlines criteria, responsibilities, and an annual timeline to guide staff, Council, and community members. Council approved the proposed procedures.

Recreation Report REC-007-25 - RFQ results for obtaining a consultant to rework the Township’s Local Aging Plan: in October 2024 the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Program awarded the Township \$10,000 to rework the plan. In early 2025 the Township secured another \$10,000 to expand the project scope. Council approved a staff recommendation to award the \$20,000 contract to J Consulting Group.

Resignation of Don Chapman from Accessibility Advisory Committee and Gail and Don Chapman from Senior Advisory Committee: the Chapmans are moving from the area, and Council acknowledged their great contributions.

MAY 26 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING DEPUTATIONS: SHORELINE BY-LAW

Robin Pereira supported the proposed by-law, citing environmental concerns, climate change, dune preservation, and water filtration. She noted recent shoreline development has damaged dunes and obstructed views. She advised that the Ministry of Natural Resources recently could not act due to the absence of municipal by-laws. She highlighted the negative impact of groins on natural shoreline processes and water quality, and expressed concern about taxpayers bearing the cost of maintaining groins.

Kelly Falizon stated the by-law is overly restrictive and strong regulations already exist. She encouraged addressing weaknesses in existing processes instead of introducing such a by-law, which she believes negatively impacts property values and the overall tax base.

Jessie Garland expressed concern that the by-law does not protect municipal properties, including dune areas and vegetation. She requested stronger protections, noting the by-law would not prevent a future council from removing existing features such as the boardwalk in the Bluewater Beach area.

Cody Morden expressed opposition, stating approval is premature given unresolved issues. He noted a lack of 1) clarity on dynamic shoreline definitions, 2) policy details, and 3) council consensus. He raised concerns about management responsibilities, staff allocation, and potential impacts on property owners. He urged Council to delay the vote and continue developing a sound, comprehensive policy.

Frank Dunnigan supported a 15-metre setback from the 178-metre G.S.C elevation of Georgian Bay, stating that most infractions occur within this area and further regulation beyond that is unnecessary. He raised concerns about potential lawsuits if the by-law is too restrictive, noting that regulating within 15 metres would likely result in greater public acceptance.

Jamie Robinson, MHBC Planning, provided a summary of the report and addendum regarding the Shoreline Management Official Plan Amendment (OPA), Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA), and new Shoreline By-law. The OPA and ZBA align existing by-laws with the Shoreline By-law. Visit tinyurl.com/y483ppp7 for an outline of permits under the by-law. In response to questions, Robinson advised the by-law(s) can be amended, and only the OPA and ZBA require public planning processes. Survey requirements depend on property changes and proximity to regulated areas.

Councillor Walma moved that Council support Option 3, wherein buildings and structures in the 45 meter shoreline development area would continue to be regulated by the Zoning By-law but would not require an additional permit under the Shoreline By-law, and that staff report back to the CoW after six months with a status update on the implemented by-laws. The motion was approved 4-1.

By-laws: all by-laws regarding shoreline management were presented for adoption and approved 4-1. Councillor Brunelle opposed.

JUNE 4 COUNCIL MEETING

TTAC Update: Director Leitch advised that **1)** the archaeological study is complete with no concerns noted, **2)** the geological study is underway with no potential issues so far, **3)** grubbing is to begin, and **4)** 99% of the design is complete. The Class C quote is still being worked on. Early September is the anticipated construction start date.

Beach signage on Tiny Beaches Road: Peter Clute requested installing signage along Tiny Beaches Road to **1)** identify and preserve the historic beach names, **2)** enhance local heritage, **3)** assist with wayfinding, and **4)** promote a sense of place within the Township. At the June 25 CoW meeting, Council directed staff to forward Mr. Peter Clute’s request to the Heritage Committee and subsequently Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for comment and recommendations. It was suggested that beach associations should be involved.

Naming of the Toanche Park baseball diamond: Council approved a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommendation to name the park in honour of Larry Patenaude.

JUNE 4 CoW MEETING

Midland Public Library - update on library services: Barb Kettle, Midland Public Library board member and Trish Hayes, CEO, provided an overview of services and recent activity. Highlights: increases in active membership, program participation, and physical and digital resource use.

Water Financial Plan: Nancy Neale, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd., provided an overview of the Township’s plan, a legislative requirement under Ontario Regulation 453/07 for the renewal of the Township’s municipal drinking water licence. The plan outlines a financial forecast from 2025 to 2034. Key legislative and reporting requirements were reviewed, including the need for Council approval and public availability of the plan. After discussion during the sub-

sequent CoW meeting, Council approved the report and plan.

Farlain Lake water levels: Following an earlier deputation by a concerned Farlain Lake resident, staff confirmed they are working on rising water concerns with various agencies to explore solutions and will report back with options.

Clerk’s Report CR-013-25 - Citizen Code of Conduct: after discussion, the proposed code was received and adopted. The authorizing by-law was approved at the June 25 council meeting. Details here: tinyurl.com/2r7zx5em.

2025 loader backhoe procurement: after discussion, Council directed staff to purchase a JCB 3CX-14 Pro Loader backhoe through the LAS Canoe Procurement Group for \$160,221.25 + HST, including the trade-in of the Township’s existing loader backhoe.

JUNE 25 COUNCIL MEETING

Georgian Shores Seniors and Bayshore Seniors were presented with annual cheques for their contributions to the municipal seniors active living program.

Township of Tiny - Ad Hoc Citizens’ Committee on Council Remuneration: The committee is reviewing compensation provided to council members, and seeking feedback from the community, which will play an important role in shaping potential changes that may take effect for the 2026–2030 term. **DEPUTATIONS**

Georgian Bay Park: Donald Stubbs reported on the June 7 Georgian Bay Festival. He then 1) gave an update regarding the zoning and site plan status re: the October 2024 Grimm Grounds Halloween Attraction, 2) requested clarification or affirmation of compliance within the current land use framework, and 3) concluded with an overview of the August 30, 2025 Music and Grilled Cheese event.

Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029: Karie Warner, Avail Consulting, presented the initial plan and the proposed plan moving forward. Every municipality in Ontario is required to develop, adopt, and implement a community safety and well-being (CSWB) plan under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 Part XVI* These plans follow the provincial CSWB framework, which focuses on social development, prevention, risk intervention, and emergency response. View the full presentation: tinyurl.com/3yx9hej5.

Granular material tender award: Council approved awarding the 2025 gravel tender to Duivenvoorden Haulage. The tendered price of \$148,149 + HST fits within the budgeted \$155,000.

North Shore Drive - return to gravel: the condition of this 2.2 km surface-treated road in the northwest corner of the township has deteriorated to the point staff have recommended temporarily pulverizing the road into a gravel surface. All built-out properties on this stretch of roadway will be notified that paving the road is scheduled for 2026.

— continued on page 6



The true environmental cost of a new “green” admin building

On Tiny Township’s website, Council boasts of how green the new administration building will be. I quote:

“Constructing a new facility provides several benefits such as: environmental — to help the township reach its climate change greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction objectives by being a net zero facility.”

But let’s examine the reality behind that statement. In order to build this “net zero” facility, council clear-cut five acres of mature forest.

When this forest was destroyed, the carbon stored in those trees — locked away for decades in trunks, branches, and roots — was released back into the atmosphere. The disturbance also destabilized the soil, unleashing vast amounts of additional stored carbon. And of course, once the forest is gone, its ongoing ability to absorb CO₂ through photosynthesis has disappeared as well.

A mature temperate forest typically holds 220-440 tonnes of CO₂ per acre in its biomass and soils. For five acres, that’s 1,100-2,200 tonnes of CO₂ erased from Tiny’s natural carbon bank. That forest would have also continued to pull down 1-3 tonnes of CO₂ per acre, per year. That’s 5-15 tonnes per year of lost sequestration — gone for good. A typical “net-zero” house, roughly 20 times “smaller” than the proposed new build (about 185 m² / 2,000 ft²), might avoid 4-8 tonnes of CO₂ per year compared with a conventional home.

Do the math: to “pay back” the 1,100-2,200 tonnes released by clear-cutting, you’d need 18-37 net-zero homes operating for 10 years — just to break even. That’s not even counting the lost annual sink or the massive embodied carbon in constructing the new township building itself.

So, when Tiny Council claims environmental virtue for their project the numbers tell a different story. This professor grading their work on climate responsibility would be generous to award them an F-.

Paul D. Bell, Ph.D.
Forest Entomologist



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—ROC continued from page 5

2025 hot mix patching program: Council approved awarding the contract to the low bidder, Springside Paving Ltd. The tendered price of \$116,750.00 + HST fits within the budgeted \$140,000.

JUNE 25 CoW MEETING

2025 Development Charges (DC) Background Study: Julia Cziraki, Hemson Consulting, gave a background on legislative changes, key DC calculation Inputs, development forecast, historical service levels/DC funding envelopes, DC capital program, next steps, and timeline. DCs are charges imposed on development to fund “growth related” capital costs and pay for new infrastructure and facilities to maintain service levels. View the full presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/2vjn7mcj>.

Township development charges background study and by-law update project: Following the presentation by Hemson Consulting, the required statutory public meeting under the *Development Charges Act* will likely be held in August. After any revisions and/or updates that are required the final background study and new DC by-law may be presented to Council and passed in fall 2025.

Proposed by-law to accept Goessman Reserves: Councillor Brunelle noted that a previous council had directed Council to abandon this direction and felt it should be further examined. The mayor noted that one of the prime tenets of this council was to clarify and provide public access to our beaches where possible. He commented on some history of the Goessman lots and felt that this issue had been discussed in sufficient detail to move forward. CAO Lamb advised that each individual lot will be dealt with separately. This was just a starting point and future individual by-laws will be brought back to council.

Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal - Zoning By-law amendment for shoreline areas in proximity to Georgian Bay: Councillor Brunelle commented that changing the setback to 15 meters rather than 45 would eliminate the legal costs, and so he could not support moving forward. Council approved moving forward with the cost of defending the appeals.

Community Safety Zone Policy: In recent years, Council has received requests from the Lafontaine Areas Homeowners Association and the Woodland Beach Property Owners Association to implement these zones. Recent changes to the *Highway Traffic Act* allow municipalities to implement automated speed enforcement (aka photo radar) in these zones and school zones.

Several new community safety zones could be implemented since they fall under the category of “Areas of High Priority”. These include: Champlain Road near Toanche Park • Rue Lafontaine Road West and TBRN near Lafontaine Beach Park • Balm Beach Road West and TBRN near Balm Beach Park • TBRS near Jacksons Park • TBRS near Bluewater

Beach Park, and • TBRS near Woodland Beach Park.

For Perkinsfield Park, staff would have to work with the County to have Balm Beach Road East and County Road 6 through Perkinsfield designated a community safety zone. For Wyebridge Park, staff would have to work with the Ministry of Transportation if it would be willing to implement a zone on Highway 93. The policy passed unanimously.

Automated speed enforcement (ASE) trial implementation: the *Highway Traffic Act* specifies that ASE systems may be used only in community safety zones designated by by-law where the rate of speed is less than 80 km/hr, or in school zones. When a vehicle passing the ASE system exceeds the programmed speed, the system captures an image of the vehicle. If the image and related information such as the rate of speed, location, date and time, etc. are sufficient, a ticket is mailed to the registered plate holder. This program is meant to supplement police enforcement, not replace it.

Staff believe it **1)** could be an effective tool for reducing speeding in key areas, **2)** would generate revenue that could help fund more traffic calming and road construction measures, and **3)** would free up police from monitoring for speeding in these areas, allowing them to patrol less busy areas of the township. A realistic target for implementing ASE would be summer 2026. Before then, various by-laws, policies, and agreements must be put in place, and equipment acquired and installed. Council approved moving forward.

Volunteer opportunities for staff: the Mayor’s Golf Tournament Committee recommended that staff research municipal practices and explore options to support staff involvement in charity events and other volunteer opportunities, with a focus on promoting participation, team-building, and professional networking opportunities. Council supported the recommendation.

Code of conduct complaints: the integrity commissioner’s summary of complaints filed by residents against Mayor Evans and Councillor Helowka found they had not violated the code of conduct.

JULY COUNCIL MEETINGS CANCELLED

AUGUST 6 COUNCIL MEETING

TTAC update: tenders have been awarded for site preparation. The archaeological study identified no issues. Test holes have been drilled to test water levels. Enbridge awarded the Township \$10,000 for moving towards a net zero building.

DEPUTATIONS: by-law to accept Goessman Reservations **Andrew MacDonald** noted that in 2002 Council voted against assuming these reserves, describing it as a potential nightmare better left with the Ministry of Natural Resources. He questioned the rationale behind the initiative, the actual

costs and the benefits, suggesting it may create uncertainty and conflict between property owners and the public.

David Kohler expressed concern that the by-law would disrupt harmonious beach use and divide the community. He highlighted a lack of transparency in the process, ambiguity around surveying, and the repurposing of road allowances, urging Council to delay implementation until legal and financial implications are fully understood. Mr. Kohler noted that abutting property owners did not receive formal notification, which has led to legal consultation.

Marcia Woods noted a lack of analysis regarding the need for additional beach access. She questioned the rationale for proceeding with the initiative, which she believes contradicts the Township’s new dynamic beach policy and is not part of the strategic plan. Woods requested that Council pause the process and collect necessary data before moving forward.

Robert Smith raised concerns about limited public awareness, noting that while Council apparently had been working on the matter for several years residents had only recently been informed. Mayor Evans responded that the matter had previously been made public through Council resolutions and noted that recent legal action prevents the requested private meetings on the issue.

DEPUTATIONS

Crosswalk at Concession 5 and County Road 6: Ryan Meissner proposed improvements, including repainting the crosswalk, installing clearer signage, reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h, a four-way control intersection and a crossing guard. Staff advised that the County oversees the intersection and does not support further changes based on traffic studies, although some signage and speed limit adjustments have already been implemented. The matter was directed to staff for a report on further traffic calming measures.

Bridge rehabilitation and Potato Court erosion: Council directed staff to proceed with **1)** repairing the Leblanc bridge on Concession 14 with Arnott Construction Limited at the tendered price of \$87,595 + HST. and **2)** investigative work to plan repairs of the erosion next to Potato Court near Concession 17 at an estimated cost of \$60,000.

By-law 25-045, to accept the Goessman Reservations was passed. (4-1)

AUGUST 13 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Long-term capital forecast: Council and staff reviewed the 20-year capital forecast as a strategic planning tool. The session focused on using asset management data to guide long-term infrastructure investment, and identifying funding strategies, including tax implications and reserve planning. Council directed staff to prioritize capital projects for 2026 budget deliberations. Read Report CS-FIN-010-25 here: tiny.civicweb.net/document/89971.

—ROC continued on page 12

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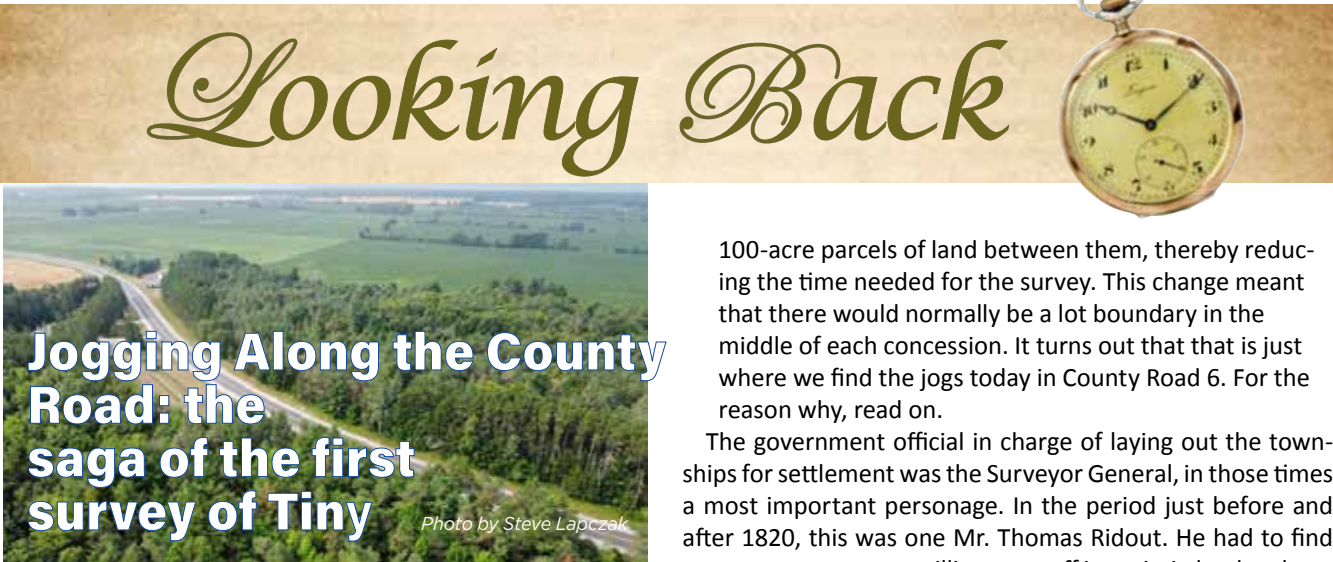
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This article was first published in the Spring/Summer 1998 issue of *The Tiny Cottager*. It has been lightly edited. Watch for more articles from our past in future issues.

Driving along the sweeping curves of County Road 6 through Tiny Township is always a pleasure, especially when the sun is out, the berries are ripe and the corn in bloom. Much of the driving pleasure arises because the road is not dead straight, but takes a left bend here, a swoop to the right there. All of these jogs in the road lend interest to the drive and break up what would otherwise be the boredom of straight-ahead motoring.

Did you ever wonder why County Road 6 has such impressive bends, and why they occur between some concession roads but not others? As a small boy in the 1940s and early 1950s being driven once a summer to the cottage near Concession 12, I wondered too, because in those days the bends in the road were not the graceful sweeping curves of today but sharp right-angled corners passing close between fences and hedgerows of piled stones. You can still see the remnants of the old route in some places today, such as between Concessions 11 and 12. My dad’s trusty 1936 Ford had none-too-powerful mechanical brakes, and we had to slow right down to get around those bends or else risk a trip straight into the next cornfield.

In the 1960s and 1970s the sharp bends were widened and straightened to make today’s gentle speed-limit curves, but it wasn’t until I was a middle-aged man in the 1990s that I found out why we all go “jogging” along County Road 6.

The story starts back in the early part of the 19th century. The land that would become Tiny Township had recently become part of Upper Canada, after the British Crown concluded a purchase agreement with the native Indians. The revolt leading to independence of the American colonies was then fresh in the memory of all in Upper Canada, as Ontario was known at the time. After the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and the British-American War of 1812, there were significant influxes of population from the old, now economically depressed, states of Europe and the new, now self-possessed but vengeful, United States of America. Although there were sizeable numbers of Upper Canadians who left for the U.S., the population of Upper Canada doubled to about 200,000 in the first couple of decades of the 1800s.

The colonial government of Upper Canada had to take swift action to ensure that all these new settlers could make a living. Agriculture was the way of life that most of the incoming settlers knew, and plentiful free or cheap land was the attraction. Accordingly, the government engaged surveyors to lay out settlement roads with lots located along their length. Up to 1818, this was a gradual affair and surveyors were paid 10 shillings per day for their work, a goodly sum at the time. But as pressures for more settlement mounted, the work had to be done faster. Also, the government faced a cash flow problem from absorbing so many people while giving the land away free. It therefore introduced two major innovations that changed the surveying process to make it faster and more economical for the government:

- paying the surveyors in land rather than cash, granting them 5.5% of the land surveyed. Surveyors even got to choose which lots they wanted for themselves and could sell the land without clearing it or settling on it as new owners normally had to do. This solved the government’s problems of cash outlays but introduced the new problem of surveyors rushing to cover as much ground as they could in the shortest time possible, thus increasing the likelihood of errors arising from sloppy surveying. It also had the effect of downloading the cash flow problem onto surveyors, since they needed to hire the standard 6-man crew, provision them for several months, pay them also in land, and then wait to receive their land before turning it into cash. This was hard to do while the government was still giving land away free. Merchants who extended credit for supplies may have made more money out of a survey than surveyors did themselves.
- laying out the townships in a “double front” system. Previous surveys laid out lots with a surveyed road allowance on both their front and back sides. The new method involved laying out concessions with two

100-acre parcels of land between them, thereby reducing the time needed for the survey. This change meant that there would normally be a lot boundary in the middle of each concession. It turns out that that is just where we find the jogs today in County Road 6. For the reason why, read on.

The government official in charge of laying out the townships for settlement was the Surveyor General, in those times a most important personage. In the period just before and after 1820, this was one Mr. Thomas Ridout. He had to find competent surveyors willing to go off into virgin land and survey deep bush and swamps for months at a time and wait ages for their payoff.

In 1812, Samuel Wilmot had laid out the Penetanguishene Road from the head of Kempenfeldt Bay to Penetanguishene, where the Naval and Military Establishments were situated to defend against the invading Americans. This road had two concessions containing settlement lots on either side of it. These are referred to nowadays as the “old survey concessions.” (Tiny Township contained the first and second old survey concessions west of the Penetanguishene Road until 1995, when they were gifted to Midland in the Simcoe County restructuring.)

By 1820, Medonte and Vespra Townships already had been laid out. Tiny and Flos were slated to be next, and Mr. Ridout began casting about for a surveyor to conduct the surveys of both townships.

After some deliberation (some might say, desperation), Mr. Ridout gave the surveying contract for Tiny and Flos to one John Goessman, a newly qualified deputy surveyor. John Goessman was born in the town of Osnabruck in the Electorate of Hannover, now part of Germany. Since Hannover’s royal family had provided kings who took the British throne, it enjoyed good relations with the British and their colonies.

Goessman arrived in Upper Canada as a young man sometime in 1819. He apparently had been educated as a surveyor but still needed to obtain the necessary qualifications to deem him a deputy surveyor in Upper Canada. In December 1820, he got his papers. Meanwhile, he had been negotiating with Ridout for work, and by the spring of 1821 had reached a verbal agreement to get the contract to survey Flos and Tiny.

On August 18, 1821, just a few short months after becoming qualified, Goessman received the formal Instructions from Ridout which officially enabled him to proceed with the survey. He kept a detailed diary covering the events of each day he was involved in the survey, recording events in nature and the human foibles of his crew in addition to telling us exactly what progress the survey work had made that day.

The diary reveals a person who seemed psychologically ill-prepared to face the difficulties of a bush survey on the frontier. He comes across as an educated gentleman forced to deal with surly and uneducated frontiersmen. He always shows respect for men he deems to be of his own calibre, although that same feeling often seems not to have been reciprocated. All in all, his diary makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in frontier conditions in Upper Canada, and it is kept to this day in the Survey Records section of the Ministry of Natural Resources, under the number D-497.

Goessman’s travails

In the following quotations excerpted from the diary, I have copied the words from his original diary with misspellings and all, to give you the flavour of the document and the times in which it was written.

Goessman records his departure from York on September 24, 1821. He set out for Newmarket, where he had arranged for a merchant named Peter Robinson to furnish men and supplies for the survey. Delays started from the outset, and even when things got going there were shortages. On September 29 he complains, “The men returned with a scanty supply of furniture: viz. Kettle without cover, no dipper, etc. In the forenoon I set out and proceeded till Mr. Gill on Grasses Point in Innisfil.”

Not until October 1 did he manage to cross the portage from Kempenfeldt Bay to the Nottawasaga River, then used as the “highway” to reach Nottawasaga Bay. His men were surly, and he both scolded them and bribed them with liquor, a factor which led to frequent drunken binges by his crew.

On October 2 he wrote, “The men gave me rude language; which I had suspected since I left Newmarket ... I firmly requested of them to declare their resolution instantly. Either to perform the requisite Duty or to venture the consequences of desisting from their engagement. They then declared for the former and I assigned them for the future a proper allowance of whisky...” Finally, he got his crew onto the survey of Flos by October 4, but problems never seemed to cease.

—**LOOKING BACK** *continued on page 8*





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—LOOKING BACK continued from page 7

October 9: “I & Hasseth remained the night in our Encampment: the others returned to Peter Robinson Esq’s. Storehouse: I then told them that I requested them now to stay there till I might go & return to the head of the Natawaysawga Storehouse...”

October 11: “About 4 miles from the Store at the Head we met Peter Robinson’s Batteaux & on board thereof all the men of my surveying party. I ordered James Radclif & James Long to return with me & as they refused I requested the Blankets which I had expended to them...”

October 13: “I gave direction to Peter Robinson Esq’s. Storekeeper to engage an other party...”

After so much frustration with the men supplied by Peter Robinson, Goessman broke off the survey for a few days and went to Penetanguishene where he arranged for a merchant named George McCarty to supply men and provisions. But this new arrangement also went sour.

November 9: “The men whom Mr. George McCarty had sent for a recompletion of the Party absconded again ... I examined the chaining of the West Boundary ... but found it to be so imperfect that I shall have to chain this Boundary over again.”

By November 12, heavy snows were starting to fall, and the survey work was slowed even more. This caused the crew to run out of provisions and they often set out for the storehouse without permission.

Goessman raised lots of trouble at the storehouse, and he was even arrested by drunken soldiers at what is now Wasaga Beach. He wrote letters of complaint about this to various high authorities, to no avail, over the course of the next five years.

November 24: “I was seized by a Detachment of Soldiers under command of Mr. Bennetts, & cruelly treated, & compelled by them to give them the liberty at the Liquor I had at the Store of my Surveying Party.”

November 25: “The Soldiers, under Mr. Bennetts command still continued their cruelty & no doubt Mr. Bennetts would have remained there with his Soldiers as long as my Liquor would have continued if not Mr. Eli Beaman had arrived of Penetanguishene who procured me security for my things & took me with him in his room. Mr. Bennetts departed early with his Soldiers. He proposed me a Passage with him in the boat to Penetanguishene which I on account of the conduct he had exercised prudently rejected; but send my Baggage with, merely on account of being almost incapable of carrying it in consequence of the abuses I had been exposed to by his detachment.”

December 1, in Penetanguishene: “I handed a letter of complaint against Mr. Bennetts to Capt. Roberts, by his servant in his house, waited a while for answer at first there &

then at Mr. George McCartys house. But receiving no answer & being hailed by the Soldiers in the same cruel Language they used at the mouth of the Natawaysawga, I was obliged to leave the Establishment without receiving an answer.”

After all these troubles, Goessman wrote to Ridout saying he had completed the survey of Flos on November 27, 1821. During the winter months of 1822, he started to draw up his plan of survey and put his notes in order for Ridout to approve.

Despite the troubles and turmoil encountered in Flos, Goessman seemed amazingly eager to start the much larger job of surveying Tiny Township. By February 17, 1822, he showed up in Penetanguishene, long before Mr. McCarty was ready for him. His diary records for each day to the middle of March how impatient he was waiting around. He used the time to write a letter of complaint about the soldiers to the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, Sir Peregrine Maitland. He did some drafting work for Lieutenant Henry Bayfield of the Royal Navy and tried to get local surveying jobs.

Finally, Goessman started surveying on March 31, but with only four men instead of the desired six.

March 31: “I had to advance the best I could with these 4 men as Mr. McCarty justified himself that he had not more employed, which he founded upon an Information he had obtained respecting the number of men necessary required to a Surveying Party. Probably of Mr. Samuel Richardson, according to which that 6 men were requisite, where I requested 7 men & besides 1 man to carry my things.”

Even well into April, the winter of 1822 was severe. On April 5, Goessman records crossing Thunder Bay on the ice. He notes many snowy days, with April 10 being so bad they had to stay in camp. Unfortunately, the men had a 10-day supply of liquor with them at the time, which they used to get royally intoxicated.

Through April, May and June, Goessman had repeated problems with men deserting him or getting too drunk to work. He also had trouble getting provisions, and spoiled beef had to be thrown away more than once. He records several trips, some in vain, to the mouth of the Nottawasaga River to collect his stores of provisions. There Goessman again had to reckon with his old nemesis, Mr. Bennetts, whom he accused of pilfering his supplies and being too friendly with his crew.

By the latter part of June, the men were becoming even more insubordinate, and Goessman almost gave up the job. His men assaulted him. He even was arrested for supposedly not having paid for his surveying instruments.

June 23: “On account of having no full supply for Dinner, the men, especially W. Cawin, refused and run off to the Establishment. I now went to the establishment & declared to Mr. G. McCarty firmly my intention to abandone the

Survey & put the Law in force against them.”

July 2: “It was now evident that the men were in no way of Such character whereon the least confidence could be placed ... W. Ducks & L. Valleur became entirely unfit for their Duty in consequence of a keg with whisky which Leander Valleur had with him ... Leander Valleur in his drunkenness attempted an assault on me & I was guarded against him by Reed & Robinson.”

July 27: “Mr Johnson snatched away my compass & Staff, producing a false account against Mr. Roe, trader of Newmarket, & requested the account thereof to be answered by me. I being sensible of the falsehood of said Bill ... engaged to procure the arrangement of their false bill when I should come to Newmarket. I then set out in my canoe to cross the Lake but when I was on the way ... I was met by Messrs. Wymars & Brown with the packet boat, who shewed me a Warrant prosecuting me of Robbery. Whereupon I requested them to do their Duty, & accordingly they carried me bak on their vessel & took me prisoner.”

Grumbling and complaining to the end, Goessman finished up his notes and plans of the survey in January 1823, delivering them to the Surveyor General after receiving letters telling him to hurry up with their submission. Thomas Ridout officially accepted the survey on behalf of the Crown, and Tiny and Flos came into existence.

Goessman was quickly given patents to the lots which he had selected as his payment, amounting to almost 6,000 acres in Tiny. Incidentally, the patents describing Goessman’s broken lots on the shore make it clear that the concession roads and lots extended, and the lots were granted, to the water’s edge, a point which was to become obfuscated in numerous legal and administrative actions over the following 170 years.

Before we can go on to solve the mystery of the “jogs” in County Road 6, we must consider not just the human dynamics and harsh weather conditions of the survey, just described, but also the surveying technology of the 1820s.

How the surveys were conducted

While we now have global positioning satellites to pinpoint our position anywhere on earth, and laser rangefinders and measuring devices that give surveys an unprecedented degree of accuracy, Goessman did not even have a theodolite, commonly known as a transit, which had then just been invented.

Goessman used a horizontal compass for measuring angles and keeping his survey lines straight, and a standard surveyor’s chain for measuring distances. The chain was also a unit of measurement, 66 feet in length and made of 100 links of heavy wire so that fractions of a chain were easy to measure

—LOOKING BACK continued on page 12





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Farlain Lake High Water Levels: From Drowning to Draining?

By DOUG KIRK, Farlain Lake



Photo by Doug Kirk

Since a fall 2019 article in *The Tiny Cottager* about high water levels on Farlain Lake, “From Dry to Drowning,” not much has changed. Problems created by high water levels persist, but a solution may be found in the near future.

Farlain Lake is the largest lake in Tiny Township, extending northward from just above Concession 16 to Concession 18. The lake was likely formed in the post glacial melt of the last ice age, about 11,000 years ago.

Given its connection to the post glacial melt, Farlain is described as a kettle lake, which forms when a glacier retreats, leaving behind an enormous block of ice. The ice block becomes buried in sediment deposited by meltwater streams. As the block melts, the overlying sediment collapses into the resulting depression, termed a kettle hole. A hole that fills with water is termed a kettle lake. However, Farlain is not the usual round shape of a kettle lake.

Farlain Lake is also described as a seepage lake, as it has no obvious above ground outflow. Even though Farlain is only about one mile from Georgian Bay, where elevation is 577 ft

(176 m) above sea level, it has a much higher elevation of 680 ft (208 m) above sea level.

Historical aerial photos and elevation maps provide evidence of a channel, partially above and below ground, from Farlain Lake directly north through Awenda Provincial Park to Second Lake and then on to Georgian Bay approximately one km west of Sawlog Point.

Our family has been on the eastern shore of the lake for over 75 years. Family members fondly remember when the beach was so wide the bread truck could drive up and down the entire stretch, selling its products to summer cottagers.

Rising water levels

About 20 years ago, this idyllic lake with its beautiful beach slowly began to change for the worse.

The lake’s water level crept up year over year. At first, the change was attributed to cyclical weather patterns, or “what-ever,” as fluctuations had been experienced in the past.

In spring 2019 Farlain Lake reached its peak level in the last hundred years. Property owners at the south end experienced flooding almost to their doors. What remained of beach areas disappeared and some septic systems were inundated with water or perilously close to lake water.

In the six years since 2019, the water levels fluctuated a little but increased notably in spring 2025, reaching the 2019 peak levels.

The common-sense conclusion is that some effect has permanently slowed seepage, possibly from successive compaction due to the widening and multiple pavings of Farlain Lake Road, which now traverses the north end of the lake, linking the east and west sides.

This may be difficult to prove conclusively as there are no flow data pre- and post-construction, and no environmental assessment had been conducted beforehand. However, Georgian Bay, experiencing the same weather patterns, is

now at the low end of its range.

Lake conditions today

Several years of higher than normal water levels in the lake have had deleterious impacts on the shoreline:

- hundreds of trees, some up to 100 years old, have drowned
- there is no beach, previously 20-40 feet (6-12 m) wide, and continuous and substantial erosion of the shore
- compromised septic systems risk polluting the water
- sump pumps must be used year round on some properties to ensure basements do not flood.

What has happened since 2019? In a few words, a lot of talk and not much action.

With a multi-jurisdictional problem facing property owners and the Farlain Lake Community Association, the issue was pushed aside. The association was dealing with an invasive weed problem, which took priority for many years. This problem was substantially resolved in 2024. In the meantime a group of residents headed by Rosemary and Bob Allan continued to pursue the high water level issue.

On May 14, 2025 the Allans made a deputation to Tiny Council. The Township listened and produced a report (Leitch/Robitaille) on August 16 for Committee of the Whole consideration on August 27. Council approved a recommendation for a public meeting in November to articulate how the process of resolution would work and who would bear the cost.

For now, the problem is with us and may get worse before it gets better. It will clearly take a combined effort by property owners of Farlain Lake to act in concert with the Township and possibly related jurisdictions to solve this problem.

After over six years of talk and study, there is a path to actually solve the problem. For the betterment of Farlain Lake and the over 300 homeowners around the lake, we can only hope this is the new course of action to deal with this problem.



Photo by David Jones

If we appreciate our history and know where we have come from, the future will provide opportunities to make improvements and add to our legacy.

Although we have lived at Cedar Ridge for 20 years, our extended family now has been living in Tiny Township for

FoTTSA Member Profile: Cedar Ridge Homeowners Association

By DAVID. JONES Cedar Ridge

5 generations. I can recall that County Road 6 north of Perkinsfield was gravel until the late 1960s.

Cedar Ridge is located opposite Christian Island and is bordered by Kingswood Acres and the Christian Island Ferry Terminal.

About 35 years ago, circa 1990, newly minted developer (and retired Pepsi executive) Lyle Blair purchased a number of parcels of land which became the nucleus for the Blairhampton Properties development called Cedar Ridge.

Even though Cedar Ridge began 35 years ago, it remains the youngest waterfront housing development in Tiny Township. The subdivision plan included estate lots of an average size of over 2 acres and 150 feet or more frontage on Georgian Bay. Numerous building lots on the escarpment were included in the development plans, some of which remain unsold. There are currently about 37 homes constructed at Cedar Ridge, with about 8 homes occupied by permanent residents.

The Cedar Ridge Homeowners Association became the newest member of FoTTSA in 2024. Homeowners wanted to

continue to enjoy the advocacy, the information, and other benefits of being part of a vital organization such as FoTTSA.


It is interesting to learn how residents first heard about Cedar Ridge. Some people already owned homes in Tiny Township, some were familiar due to boating in the area, others heard about the development through friends, and some residents saw information online.

The current board of directors is doing everything possible to continue its goals to improve the physical appearance of our community and to create more opportunities for residents to interact with each other.


Of course, political issues arise periodically and 2024 was such a year. Cedar Ridge voiced concerns about the proposed administration building and supported the Ontario Property Taxpayers Alliance, which has been creating awareness of unsustainably increasing annual property taxes in Tiny Township.

About 22 years ago Andrei Manoukovski, an early settler at Cedar Ridge, formed the Cedar Ridge Classical Pops, which

—CEDAR RIDGE continued on page 13


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10 Published by the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations

Helping Create a Wildlife Corridor in Huronia

By BILL MOLESWORTH



Climate change is presenting ever greater challenges to the way we live but the stories we hear — floods, fires, heat domes, atmospheric rivers — all concentrate on the effects on people. **Wildlife is facing the same crises and needs help too.**

As the planet warms the range of wildlife will change and many species will be moving north to cooler climates. We in North Simcoe inhabit a choke point between Georgian Bay and Lake Simcoe, and wildlife from southern Ontario and northern US states will be trying to travel through a well populated, heavily trafficked and fractured geography.

Parks Canada has recognized this as a problem and has developed National Priority Areas for Ecological Corridors. These corridors link protected natural habitats to support biodiversity and help species adapt to climate change. Corridor number 16 goes right through Huronia which, for the purposes of Huronia Land Conservancy, includes the Townships of Tiny and Tay, parts of Oro-Medonte and Clearwater, and the Towns of Midland, Penetanguishene and Elmvale.

Huronia Land Conservancy, a registered charity, was founded in 2010 with the mission to assess the condition and value of the lands in its area of concern, to inform and educate landowners on sound land management practices, and acquire and protect, in perpetuity, properties that give shelter to wildlife of all types.

Funded by a Trillium grant, the conservancy surveyed 208 properties, conducted species counts and identified a wide variety of wildlife, including 11 bird species considered at risk. Three properties have been acquired and others are in stages of negotiation, but it is a long and expensive process.

The conservancy welcomes the opportunity to evaluate the suitability of all types of properties, while emphasizing that its focus is on acquiring those that are, at least mostly, in a state of nature and large enough to support a variety of species. Every effort is made to remove buildings and other traces of human presence. We also welcome donations of developed properties, so that we could apply the proceeds from sales to acquiring property better suited to building the ecological corridor.

How landowners benefit from donating property

Donations made under the federal government's Ecological Gifts

Program are treated differently than regular charitable donations and deciding the best way to go can be complex so consulting with the local conservancy and financial professionals is recommended. For instance, there are no capital gains applied to an ecological gift and the receipt can be carried forward for longer than with a regular donation — 10 years instead of 5.

While the transfer of a property may be done without money changing hands, there are also survey, legal and stewardship costs which are borne by donations to the conservancy. Survey and legal are one-time costs but stewardship involves ongoing oversight and maintenance. There are some public access properties operated by other conservancies but currently Huronia Land Conservancy's efforts are aimed at reducing as much as possible any intrusion by people so nature is left alone.

Adding to Huronia Land Conservancy's existing holdings

Huronia has several rare natural attributes. Here in Tiny this includes some of the longest sand beaches in the world, with dunes stepping back and up to an ancient shoreline. What we call Georgian Bay was once part of the much larger post-glacial Lake Nipissing, and the Nipissing Coastline still exists as a ridge set back from the current shore that is home to a variety of life and, in some places, microclimates.

Our Cedar Ridge property, which is on this ancient shoreline, is home to hardwoods and spring ephemerals. The Hogg Creek property contains a provincially significant wetland. The Marshall Preserve contains white cedar and sugar maple forest and some white pine plantations. The three are located at some distance from each other and from other protected areas such as Awenda Park or conservation areas. To develop an effective corridor much more needs to be done.

Huronia Land Conservancy is governed by a volunteer board and funded by donations. Help is needed on both fronts so please consider how the natural attributes of Huronia make it such an attractive place to live, and how you could help. Find out more at www.huronialandconservancy.ca

AUTHOR'S CREDIT: Bill Molesworth is member of Huronia Land Conservancy's Board of Directors.



Photo by Erik Granlund

Looking out over Walden Pond.

I recently saw it in a bookshop display about the climate crisis. But what would a book written in 1845, before the American Industrial Revolution, have to say about the environmental challenges we face in 2025? Intrigued by the back cover blurb, which claimed that "Tolstoy, Marx and Gandhi said it had changed their lives," I happily resolved to give *Walden* a try.

The book is ostensibly a memoir of the two years Thoreau spent living alone at the edge of Walden Pond in a simple cabin he had built himself. Organized into 18 chapters, Thoreau gives us a great deal of practical information about building his cabin and what he ate and how he kept warm and dry. But the book is about much more — Thoreau is asking us to rethink how we live our lives and what we really value.

For anyone in Tiny, each chapter of *Walden* feels like it was written for us. Walden Pond was about a quarter of the size of Farlain Lake. While smaller than the bodies of water we all know, Walden Pond was surrounded by forests and fields and not too far from the small town of Lincoln, Massachusetts. Being just south of Tiny Township in terms of latitude, Walden Pond also experienced the seasons much as Tiny does.

Thoreau was only 28 years old when he began his solitary experiment and sometimes the arrogance of youth can be a bit grating. But the number of significant expressions that you've heard all your life that turn out to have been written by young Thoreau earn our respect, including "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation."

Thoreau was a committed abolitionist and recognized the deep knowledge of the local Indigenous population. He frequently criticizes the so-called "civilization" brought by white colonizing settlers, which brings us to the link between Thoreau in his cabin on the edge of Walden Pond in 1845 and us in Tiny in 2025.

Thoreau exhorts us to revere and respect our environment and never take it for granted. He would be horrified but not surprised by the damage done by fossil fuels and agribusiness. He explains how he transitioned from being a hunter and meat eater to a flexible vegetarian/pescatarian. He begs his readers to simplify their lives but makes it clear he doesn't mean we should be uncomfortable or wanting in any way. He asks us to give up mass consumption for the sake of consumption and posits that the mindless pursuit of wealth is often behind the misery of many people's daily lives.

Thoreau was a naturalist before the term existed and realized that, instead of "controlling" nature, we should learn from it because it has intricate and interconnected systems that are far more sophisticated than anything we could come up with.

In addition to being an avid reader, Thoreau recorded what he saw all around him in order to understand it. But perhaps the most moving sections of *Walden* are Thoreau's descriptions of the beauty that nature simply offers us, for free, every single day of the year, if we just take the time to notice it: "Autumn came, with wind and gold."

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SHOP LOCAL

—ROC continued from page 6

DEPUTATION: capital projects/asset management program: Drew Ironstone noted underestimates of asset lifespans and cost projections affecting the overall capital budget. The municipality is facing a significant funding shortfall, and incremental tax increases of 2% annually will not close the gap, he said. He urged Council to stabilize the municipality’s financial position and ensure long-term sustainability.

AUGUST 27 COUNCIL MEETING

Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference: four Tiny representatives advocated at the event for \$25,000 to help SSEA deal with inland lake water quality.

Balm Beach culvert replacements: the 2025 budget includes three cross culvert replacements in the area reducing the frequency of streams overtopping roads during storms. Council approved a contract to Forty-Five Scapes Inc. for \$1,688,738 +HST.

AUGUST 27 CoW MEETING

County Council composition and full-time appointed warden: County Council passed a resolution requesting the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing validate County By-law 7119-25, which proposes changing County Council’s current structure from 32 representatives (including the warden) to 16 plus a full-time, appointed warden, despite voting having met just two of three triple majority requirements. Tiny’s Council had voted in favour of the change at the June 25 CoW meeting.

Farm Crawl connects residents and visitors with the community’s agricultural sector through a guided, multi-stop, farm tour. While the event has successfully engaged the com-

—LOOKING BACK continued from page 8

by counting the links. The compass was a simple magnetic one, typically about 5 inches (12.7 cm) in diameter. If well cared for and properly used, it could measure angles to an accuracy of about 1/2 of a degree.

The first step in laying out the double-front survey of Tiny was to mark out the Baseline, parallel to the Old Penetanguishene Road. This road runs inland parallel to County Road 6, and still can be driven for much of its length. It runs fairly straight, since Goessman surveyed its whole length.

Then he had to lay out concessions at right angles to the Baseline, each measuring 66 2/3 chains in width, separated by a road allowance 1 chain wide. Between every five lots from the Baseline to the shore, a 1 chain allowance was marked out for a road along the sides of the lots, though the surveyor was not expected to ever open these sideroads or check their alignment. The sideroad allowance Goessman marked out between lots 13 and 14 formed the initial corridor for what is now County Road 6. Along the concession road allowances, the lots were to measure 30 chains in frontage, thus making full lots measuring 30 x 66 2/3 chains, or 200 acres. The government’s normal practice was to grant settlers half-lots of 100 acres, in Tiny’s case north and south half lots, each fronting on a different concession.

The surveyor was required to place a wooden marker, branded and numbered with a hot iron, in the centre of the concession road allowance where each lot boundary occurred, along with two markers at either side of the road allowance to delineate the corner points of the half-lots. The survey party first blazed a trail through the woods along the centreline of the concession road allowance so they could see where they were going. The compass was used to keep the trail as straight as possible. Then the lots were laid out from the Baseline to the shore, or vice versa, using the compass to keep in line, by laying the chain down 30 times (supposedly) for each lot.

All this sounds deceptively simple, but there were many problems.

Surveying challenges

First, consider the compass. Although not normally considered a delicate instrument, the diary shows that Goessman’s compass fairly often got smashed and he could only fix it in the crudest of manners.

If the direction of a concession road as measured by the surveyor’s compass was off line, or if he inadvertently changed direction part of the way along, significant errors could arise. For example, the concession road between Concessions 6 and 7 was re-surveyed in 1891 to establish the true lot boundaries. The portion of the concession road between the Baseline and County Road 6 differs in direction from the rest of the concession road out to the water’s edge by 2 degrees and 11 minutes. That may not sound like much, but this amount of error in alignment over the distance of 5 lot widths (intended to be 150 chains or about 9,900 feet) can cause the location of the end-point to be in the wrong place by over 390 feet. Modern surveyors expect to be accurate within one foot or less after 10,000 feet.

Now consider the chain. Although it was a very simple and sturdy field implement, it had to be used correctly. Measurement errors could creep into the survey if the chain was not pulled straight for each measurement some links became tangled with each other or with brush,

community, financial results show a consistent net cost to the Township. Council voted against holding a redesigned event this year due to a tight time frame and relatively high ticket cost. The Recreation Department plan to submit plans for a two-day event in 2026, which would qualify for a \$3,000 county tourism grant.

Farlain Lake water levels: the lake has no surface discharge outlet and residents attribute a significant rise in water levels to paving of the road along the north side of the lake. A staff report recommends a public meeting for concerned citizens with the Township’s drainage superintendent to inform them of their rights and options for controlling lake levels under the *Drainage Act*.

Establishment of a pickleball tournament: the Mayor’s Charity Golf Tournament Working Committee wants to organize a charity tournament in 2026. Council supports the proposal.

DEPUTATIONS

Farlain Lake: Alan Lunds raised concerns about the water levels and the possibility Council will expect residents to pay for any or all remedial works.

Axler Property: Karen Zulynik voiced concern about **1)** \$29,000 in interest for April, May and June on a bank loan taken out to purchase this property, **2)** the process in which the Axler property was purchased for \$4.5 million, and **3)** the future use of the property given that 1700 ft. of nearby Township shoreline has not been developed as beachfront. She was advised that multiple appraisals were done by a licensed appraiser and that a report on future use was forthcoming by consultants.

and no compensation for chaining up or down slopes was used.

But Goessman’s most common error seems to be under-measurement, probably arising from simple miscounting while chaining. Modern day measurements of actual distances in Tiny are almost always found to be somewhat greater than what Goessman recorded.

To check on Goessman’s accuracy, David Lambden, Professor of Surveying of the University of Toronto, compared Goessman’s measurements in 1993 to the actual distances for the 20 concession roads that extend from the Baseline west to the shore. He found that Goessman had measured the correct distance in only one instance (for Concession 16/17). The actual distances for the 19 others were greater than Goessman recorded, with discrepancies ranging from 1 chain to 22 chains, or from 66 feet (20 metres) up to 1,452 feet (443 metres). The result was that some lucky future owners got an extra chain or more in the width of their lot than the 30 chains they expected.

As noted above, County Road 6 was laid out as a sideroad in the survey, taking its position from the markers, 1 chain apart, that Goessman placed along each concession road allowance between lots 13 and 14. But as Goessman went up and down the concessions marking out lots, his chained measurements often were not only wrong, but usually didn’t agree from one concession to another.

Professor Lambden found, for instance, an error in the distance run on Concession 11 of 19.5 chains, or 1,287 feet. But on Concession 12, the error is “only” 2.5 chains, or 165 feet. This difference in errors means that on these adjacent concession roads the north and south half-lots could be out of alignment by as much as 1,100 feet.

Such jogs in the road occur, then, wherever the difference in Goessman’s measuring errors on adjacent concessions is appreciable, and the jogs always occur in mid-concession. For example, when you enter Perkinsfield from the south, you cross Concession 9. Its error of measurement is 8.5 chains. Heading toward the main corner (Concession 10) there is a gentle bend with a displacement of maybe 40 or 50 feet (12 to 15 metres) towards the water.

Heading out of Perkinsfield, we swoop towards the water in a major way because Concession 11 has a measuring error of 17 chains, greater by 7.5 chains or 495 feet (150 metres) than the error in Concession 10. Then we swoop a bit inland before Concession 12.

Going north again, we take a big jog inland before Concession 13, which has a measuring error of only 2.5 chains. And so on and so forth.

So now you have the answer to one of Tiny’s mysteries that we encounter every time we drive through the township.

As a post-script to the saga of the survey, history tells us that John Goessman continued to be active as a surveyor in Upper Canada, but he never received another township survey assignment. In 1835, the Surveyor General even fired him from a job doing a partial survey of Vespra.

AUTHOR’S CREDIT: Jack Ellis, FoTTSa’s first president and a director from 2001 to 2014, was a regular contributor to *The Tiny Cottager*. Professor Emeritus and former Associate Dean of Environmental Studies at York University, Jack was also an avid traveller, voracious reader, consumer of current events, and activist for causes he believed in. Jack passed away in 2018.

featured live classical music followed by libations, an elegant dinner, and an auction. Proceeds went to the Huronia Communities Foundation for distribution to numerous local charities and causes. Andrei’s highly successful program created the genesis for Cedar Ridge residents giving back to North Simcoe.

In keeping with the themes of fundraising and fundraising, John and Margaret Leonardo several years ago started the Cedar Ridge Neighbourhood Barbeque in support of the Georgian Bay General Hospital. With assistance from the Lions Club of Penetanguishene, volunteers, and neighbours, over \$320,000 has been raised for the new MRI and mam-mography equipment at our hospital.

To conclude on a slightly personal note, there comes a time when morbidity, mortality, or management concerns, for instance, arise which often prompt the need to relocate.

For most Cedar Ridge residents at this stage of our lives there is no other place we would want to live. We are grateful to be residing at Cedar Ridge and living in southern Georgian Bay.

AUTHOR’S CREDIT: *David Jones is an active member of the Cedar Ridge community, including organizing the Cedar Point Road annual litter cleanup, liaising between homeowners and Superior Propane. After an intense 2024 involving Tiny Township political matters, he is taking a year off and then quitting future political involvement. He is enjoying his*

family, friends, Cedar Ridge, and of course, paddling down-stream on the river of life.

FoTTSA

In 2025 FoTTSA welcomed two more members.

– Belle Eau Claire Beach Association and

– Coutnac Beach Property Owners.

FoTTSA is comprised of 24 beach association members. We strongly encourage you to join your local association and have your voice heard.

Welcome aboard!

DR. STEVEN J. FREY and ASSOCIATES

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FALL/WINTER EVENTS

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

OCTOBER
Pumpkinferno at Discovery Harbour, Accessible drive-thru: Wednesdays Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Walk-thru: Thurs–Sun Oct. 2 to Nov 1, 6pm - 10pm. <https://tinyurl.com/3vy4xefx>
Huronia Museum Film Series, Wednesdays 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm, Oct 8 & 22, Nov 12, Dec 3 & 10, Galaxy Theatre, Midland <https://huroniamuseum.com/film-series/>
163rd Elmvale Fall Fair, October 10 & 11, Elmvale Fair-ground <http://elmvalefallfair.com>
Turkey Dinner, October 11, Wyevale United Church <https://www.wyevaleuc.ca/>
Grimm Grounds Halloween Attraction, October 11, 18 & 25. Georgian Bay Recreational Park. <https://grimmgrounds.com>
Hometown Harvest Festival Craft and Vendors Show, October 11-13, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons <https://tinyurl.com/25h8nuvw>
Senior Speaking Series: Aging Well in Simcoe County, October 16, Tiny <https://tinyurl.com/3v66d76w>
Autumn Colours Stained Glass Workshop, October 19, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre <https://www.wyemarsh.com/upcoming-events>
You'll Get Used to It! The War Show, Oct 24 - Nov 8, Huronia Players, MCC Midland <http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>
Halloween Spooktacular, **October 25**, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum <https://tinyurl.com/p37use3b>
Paint Afternoon at the Museum, October 28, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum <https://tinyurl.com/p37use3b>
Senior Speaker Series: Active Living for Life, October 30, Tiny <https://tinyurl.com/3v66d76w>

MIDLAND CULTURAL CENTRE
• Stephen Fearing & the Sentimentals, Oct 16
• Tom Wilson | TEHÅHÅHAKE (two roads), Oct 17
• After the Gold Rush, Oct 18
• The Reba, Dolly and Shania Tribute Show, Oct 18
• Tribute to Grease and the Music of the 50's and 60's, Oct 19
• Early Elton featuring Sean Trombley, Oct 25 <https://www.midlandculturalcentre.com/boxoffice>
NOVEMBER
Pumpkin Trail and Halloween Movie Night, November 1, Tiny <https://tinyurl.com/w4yy9wjd>
Music for the Museum, November 1, St Paul's Centre, Orillia <https://tinyurl.com/mrxy5mjf>
Cinderella: The Panto, Nov 5 - 22, King's Wharf Theatre <https://tinyurl.com/bdaw4kya>
Senior Speaker Series: Emergency Preparedness for Seniors: November 6 <https://tinyurl.com/3v66d76w>
Stained Glass Cardinal Workshop, November 23, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre <https://www.wyemarsh.com/upcoming-events>
MIDLAND CULTURAL CENTRE
• Classic Troubadours: The Songs of James, Joni, Jackson & Carole, Nov 7
• Newfoundland Songbook By: Shipyard Kitchen Party, Nov 8
• Hotel California - Original Tribute to the Eagles, Nov 9
• Labryinth, Nov 12
• Guy Davis, Nov 13
• The Traveling Milburys, Nov 14
• Simply Queen, Nov 15
• The Almost Hip, Nov 16
• Disco Nights - A Tribute to Saturday Night Fever, Nov 22 <https://www.midlandculturalcentre.com/boxoffice>
First Light, November 27-30, December 4-7 and 11-14,

Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, evenings 5:30 pm–9:00 pm <https://tinyurl.com/3xj9jwvy>
Midland Civitan Club Santa Claus Parade, November 22, 11:00 am, starts at Little Lake Park
DECEMBER
Tree Lighting Celebration, December 5, Perkinsfield Park, <https://tinyurl.com/32kxfbzd>
Wyevale Santa Claus Parade, December 6, Wyevale 7:00 pm <http://www.tiny.ca/events>
Festival of Lights, December 5, Penetanguishene Town Dock and Arena <https://tinyurl.com/4xfa85ey>
Elvis's Wonderful World of Christmas featuring Steve Michaels, Dec 7, Midland Cultural Centre <https://www.midlandculturalcentre.com/boxoffice>
JANUARY
Annual Polar Bear Dip, January 1, Balm Beach, 12 noon <https://tiny-township-lions-club-square.site>
The Gentleman Clothier, Jan 30 - Feb 14, Huronia Players, MCC Midland <http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>
FEBRUARY
Winter Carnaval d'Hiver, February 7, Perkinsfield <http://www.tiny.ca/events>
Penetanguishene Winterama Festival, February 14-15 <https://tinyurl.com/4xfa85ey/>
MARCH
Sweetwater Harvest Festival, March 28 & 29, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre <https://www.wyemarsh.com>
APRIL
Where You Are, April 24 - May 9, Huronia Players, MCC Midland <http://www.huroniaplayers.ca>
Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival, April 25 <http://www.emsf.ca>

Community Action Fund

Dear Tiny Township neighbours,

As you know the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA) has established a “Community Action Fund” to access resources and expertise as we navigate complicated issues impacting township residents.

Our current priority is the Shoreline By-law, which Council approved despite broad community opposition on May 26. This by-law will impose excessive restrictions on all private property within 45 metres of the shoreline and significantly affect all Tiny residents.

Tiny’s Council has already spent tens of thousands of our tax dollars on drafting this by-law. It will also add sig-

nificant compliance costs to property owners, and administration/enforcement costs for the municipality, **paid for with your tax dollars**, without any clear purpose or benefit.

FoTTSA is challenging related Zoning By-law amendments at the Ontario Land Tribunal. **We need to build up the Community Action Fund NOW** so that we can continue challenging this unnecessary and punitive by-law and other significant issues impacting our community.

Please **ACT NOW** and send your personal contribution to fottsatreasurer@gmail.com or to FoTTSA, 53 Charlton Blvd., Toronto M2M 1C1. Be sure to include your current email address and the name of your beach association, if applicable,

with your generous contribution.

We will continue to monitor and respond to developments such as this unnecessary and overreaching Shoreline By-law, and keep you informed through email, *The Tiny Cottager* newspaper, the monthly *FoTTSA Flash* digital newsletter, and our website. If you do not receive our digital newsletter, please take a moment to subscribe at www.tinycottager.org. It's fast and easy, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations.

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