

THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 53

Spring/Summer 2019

President's Message

by PAUL COWLEY, CARUSOE BAY

As we head into the summer of 2019, I must inform you with great disappointment that 10 years after the Site 41 battle to protect our precious aquifer — holding what has been called the cleanest water in the world — it is once again a subject of concern.

Applications have been made by the owner of the Teedon Pit aggregate mine to expand the existing pit operations, extending the pit northward and renewing a permit to take millions of litres of water for aggregate washing. Expert concerns have been raised as to the impact of such actions on water quality of the aquifer. Decisions rest with three arms of the province — the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

Please read our article on this important topic (page 8) and help our community rally together to deal with this critical issue as we did with Site 41.

On a separate but also water-related front, you are likely aware of the increased water levels we are experiencing on Georgian Bay. We are not alone as our neighbours in Muskoka and indeed other parts of the province contend with extreme flooding conditions with the potential to cause damage in the millions of dollars. While climate change may be a significant contributor, more effective water level management by both provincial and local bodies could reduce the risk. We need a more effective overall water management program.

To gain a greater understanding of how these factors work together, please read the article by Mary Muter, Chair of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation, whose team continues to work on this complex problem and needs our support.

And finally, the other current initiative that you need to be aware of is the Regional Government Review now underway. Please see our coverage starting on this page. You can still provide feedback through the province's online survey or by submitting written comments.

Here's to a great summer!

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Photo by Vicky Monague

Peaceful protesters at the gates of Teedon Pit. See article on page 8.

Simcoe and Tiny Under Scrutiny of Regional Government Review

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, BLUEWATER BEACH

Simcoe County is one of eight regional municipalities singled out by the province for a regional government review. Announced in January 2019, the review is exploring opportunities to “improve governance, decision-making and service delivery.”

Why Simcoe County? Here's one possible reason: the council is conspicuous in its size. After the Ford government reduced the size of Toronto's council last fall almost in half, Simcoe County's council became the largest in the province. It comprises the warden, deputy warden, and the mayor and deputy mayor from the county's 16 communities. Tiny is represented by Mayor George Cornell and Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma. Mayor Cornell also serves as county warden.

To get a better understanding of what this could mean for Tiny, *The Tiny Cottager* asked Mayor Cornell a series of questions. His responses appear below. But first, more on the regional government review.

Under the terms of the review, two special advisors appointed by the minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing have until early summer to consult with the municipalities and the public, and submit recommendations to the province. They're looking for ways to improve efficiency, cut red tape, eliminate duplication and reduce costs, and have already conducted individual interviews with the heads of council for the regional municipalities, or upper-tier municipalities, and their lower-tier municipalities, such as Tiny. Up next: group consultations with all nine upper-tier councils as well as the mayors and regional chairs of Ontario.

The advisors are also seeking public input through three mechanisms:

- in-person meetings with the advisors. The window for this opportunity has now closed
- written submissions
- an online survey

The deadline for submitting input and responding to the survey, originally, April 23, has been extended to May 21. Find out more at www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-regional-government-review

The advisors, Ken Selling and Michael Fenn, have extensive experience in municipal affairs and are well

respected. Sounds good so far. But as *The Star* columnist Edward Keenan wrote shortly after the review was announced, “Beware provincial Tories looking to help. If you're a municipality, it's a hard-learned lesson based on experience.”¹

The experience Keenan is referring to is a series of municipal amalgamations imposed in the 1990s and 2000s by the Harris government's “Common Sense Revolution,” during which more than 800 municipalities were reduced by almost half that number. According to the Fraser Institute, “study after study has found that the benefits of municipal amalgamation have failed to materialize. Costs generally increase after amalgamation, largely due a harmonization of costs and wages, and increases in service-efficiency remain elusive.”²

This is not to say that the current regional government review will lead to amalgamations, or that if amalgamations occur they won't generate benefits. It's too soon to say.

1. “Ford government's regional review could be a good thing — or a very bad thing,” *The Star*, January 15, 2019.

2. Lydia Miljan, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Windsor and Zachary Spicer, SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellow, Laurier Institute, “De-amalgamation in Ontario: Is it the answer,” published on behalf of the Fraser Institute in the *Financial Post*, July 15, 2015.

Q&A with George Cornell on the provincial government review

What strengths and weaknesses do you see in the current municipal structure in Tiny? In Simcoe County?

The municipal structure at the County of Simcoe, with its member municipalities and the cities of Barrie and Orillia, allows for economies of scale. This leads to efficient service delivery while creating larger capacity for significant infrastructure and capital projects that would be challenging for smaller municipalities to fund and execute.

Shared services with the county and other member municipalities allow for cost savings.

...continued on page 7

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Spring / Summer Events

MAY

Tiny Marsh Garlic Mustard Pull, anytime in May
aemcarth@rogers.com
"Spelling Bee", May 3–18, Midland Cultural Centre
<http://www.huroniaplayers.ca/>
"Uke Fest", May 17–19, Midland Cultural Centre
<http://www.midlandculturalcentre.com>
Marsh by Moonlight, May 18–19, June 1–8, Wye Marsh
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/spring-events>
Waterfront Festival, May 24–26, Heritage Park, Barrie
www.barriewaterfront.ca
Township of Tiny Town Hall Meeting, May 25, Community Centre, Conc. 8, <https://www.tiny.ca>
Midland Model Train Show, May 25–26
 North Simcoe Sports Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd., Midland

JUNE

Kids Fishing Derby and Bike Rodeo, June 1, Midland Harbour
<https://www.midland.ca>
"Jack and the Beanstalk", June 5–22, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene, www.draytonentertainment.com
Ontario's Best Butter Tart Festival, June 8, Midland
<http://buttertartfestival.ca/>
Party on the Dock, June 8, Midland, www.partyonthedock.ca
Wheels & Tracks in Motion, June 8–9, Simcoe County Museum, Minesing, www.museum.simcoe.ca
Ontario Archaeological Society — Huronia Chapter, June 11
 North Simcoe Recreation Centre, Midland
www.oashuroniachapter.com
Wasaga Waterfront Festival, June 15–16, www.wasagabeach.com
National Indigenous People's Day, June 21, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca
Tiny Marsh BioBlitz, June 22, tinymarshbioblitz.eventbrite.com
Wasaga Cruisers Fun Run – Classic Car Event, June 22
www.wasagabeach.com
Coldwater & Area Studio Tour, June 22–23
<http://coldwaterstudiotour.com>
"Glory", June 26–July 6, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene
www.draytonentertainment.com
Northern Heat Series Rib & Craft Beer Fest, June 28–30
<https://northernheatribfest.ca/midland/>

JULY

Canada Day celebrations, July 1, Little Lake Park; Sainte-Marie among the Hurons; Discovery Harbour; Penetanguishene Centennial Museum
Church in the Pines (Outdoors), July & August
 Sundays 10:30 am, Lefaiwe Rd. off Conc.11
Ghost Tours at Discovery Harbour, July 3–August 28, Penetanguishene, 8:30 pm for 9:00 pm, Wednesdays and Saturdays, www.discoveryharbour.on.ca
Charity Poker Run, June 5–7, Midland
<https://performanceboatclub.ca/>
Mariposa Folk Festival, July 5–7, Orillia, www.mariposafolk.com
Ontario Archaeological Society — Huronia Chapter, July 10
 North Simcoe Recreation Centre, Midland
www.oashuroniachapter.com
Tea and Tarts Historical Tour, July 10, 24; August 15, 21, Penetanguishene <http://www.pencenmuseum.com>
Festival du Loup, July 11–13, Lafontaine
www.festivalduloup.on.ca
Georgian Bay Garden Tour, July 13
<http://www.georgianbaygardentour.ca>
"Beauty and the Beast", July 11–August 10, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene, www.draytonentertainment.com
Tiny Community BBQ, July 20, Perkinsfield Park, www.tiny.ca
All Things Canadian Festival, July 26–27, Penetanguishene waterfront
<http://penetanguishene.ca/en/discover/AllThingsCanadian.asp>

JULY continued...

Collingwood Elvis Festival, July 26–28
<http://collingwoodelvisfestival.com>
Balm Beach Family Fun Day, July 28, 11 am to 4 pm
 On Facebook search Balmbeachsummerevents

AUGUST

Pirates of the Bay, August 3, Penetanguishene
www.discoveryharbour.on.ca
"Tall Ships Challenge: The Battle of Georgian Bay", August 9–11, Penetanguishene, <http://battleofgeorgianbay.com>
Ontario Archaeological Society — Huronia Chapter, August 14, North Simcoe Recreation Centre, Midland
www.oashuroniachapter.com
"Shear Madness", August 14–31, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene, www.draytonentertainment.com
Georgian Bay Tugfest & Harbour Fair, August 16–17, Midland
<https://www.midland.ca/Events>
Wasaga Under Siege – Ships and Sails, August 17
<http://www.wasagabeachpark.com/>
Georgian Triangle Music Festival, Wasaga Beach, August 23–24 <http://www.georgiantrianglemusicfest.com/>
Cycle Camelot Ride, August 24, Georgian Bay Cancer Support Centre, <http://cyclecamelot.com>
Barrie Dragon Boat Festival, August 24
www.barriedragonboatfestival.ca
Wasaga Multisport Triathlon, August 24
<http://www.multisportcanada.com/wasagabeach/>
Tiny Emergency Services Family Fun Day, August 24
 Wyevale Fire Station, www.tiny.ca

SEPTEMBER

Ontario Archaeological Society — Huronia Chapter, September 11, North Simcoe Recreation Centre, Midland
www.oashuroniachapter.com
"Kings and Queens of Country", September 13–30, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene, www.draytonentertainment.com
Terry Fox Run, September 15, Perkinsfield Park
www.terryfox.org
Township of Tiny Town Hall Meeting, September 19, Wye-bridge Community Centre, www.tiny.ca
Simcoe County Quilt, Rug & Craft Fair, September 20–22
<https://museum.simcoe.ca/programs>
Buskerfest, September 28, Midland, <http://gbay.ca/events>
Doors Open, Simcoe County, September 21
<https://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/en/index.php/simcoe-county>
OCTOBER
"Pumpkinferno at Haunted Harbour", Thurs, Fri, Sat and Sun, October 3–20 and every evening October 21-30
 Penetanguishene www.discoveryharbour.on.ca
The Bay Studio Tour, October 5–6, Tiny Township and Penetanguishene, <http://www.thebaystudiotour.com/>
Thanksgiving Harvest Festival, October 12–13, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca

Act on FoTTSA Discounts from Key Local Merchants

All residents of Tiny can now take advantage of the FoTTSA discount program, which features a long list of local merchants. FoTTSA will be delighted to issue an annual discount card to anyone who makes a \$20 donation.

To see the list of participating merchants, visit www.tinycottager.org and click on "FoTTSA and you." To make your donation, see "FoTTSA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!" on page 4.

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FoTTSA Boating and Swimming Safety Survey: Concerns and Consensus

by LYNNE ARCHIBALD, NOTTAWAGA BEACH



Photo source: Chanh Nguyen on Pixabay

A FoTTSA boating and swimming safety survey conducted online this past February generated a striking 28% response rate, confirming that unsafe use of watercraft close to shore is an important issue for Tiny Township residents.

The survey was prompted in part by growing concerns about watercraft used at high speeds close to beaches. Andrew Chomentowski, a Cawaja beach cottager and board member of the Cawaja Propertyowners Association and FoTTSA, says he sees jet skis operating at high speeds and performing spin-outs close to shore "on a regular basis" in the summer. As a personal watercraft owner, he understands the impulse, but he's also seen many near

misses between jet skis and swimmers. "Our cottage sits high up, so we have an excellent vantage point."

It's probable most of these watercraft operators don't know Tiny has a 10 km/h speed limit within 300 meters of shore from Concessions 1 through 16 (except when leaving from and returning to shore perpendicular to the shoreline). This speed limit is an exception in the province because of our shallow water, and there are no signs on the shoreline or in the water to inform personal watercraft operators.

The township applied for and was granted the speed restrictions in 2003 after several years of extensive consultation with residents, special interest groups and provincial and federal government representatives. As a condition, Transport Canada required the installation of signs (marker buoys) to identify the speed restriction area. This was not done.

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), which is responsible for enforcing speed limits, says policing is impossible because the 300-metre speed zone is not marked. One solution would be to install buoys, as Thunder Beach has done on its own. However, that comes at a cost.

In 2018, Transport Canada wrote to the township about the lack of signage. The issue was deferred to the 2019 budget deliberations. Due to the investment required, a staff report presented to Tiny Council last year suggested eliminating the 300-metre speed zone and returning to the provincial standard of 10 km/h limit within 30 metres of shore.

This is what prompted FoTTSA to conduct the survey now. FoTTSA has presented the results to Tiny Council and shared them with the Tiny Township Police Services Commission and the OPP. Township staff are now preparing another report based on consultation with various organizations, including the OPP.

What you told us... Here's a sampling of respondents' answers to questions

Did you know about the 10 km/h speed limit within 300 m of the shoreline?

69% No 31% Yes

Does your beach have signage about these limits?

86% No 13% Yes 1% I don't know

How concerned are you about safety hazards posed by watercraft within the 300 m limit?

38% Very concerned 29% Somewhat concerned 22% A little concerned 11% Not at all concerned

How useful would beach signage be in raising awareness of the speed restrictions and offshore limit?

40% Very useful 35% Somewhat useful 14% Not so useful 11% Not at all useful

It has been suggested that buoys be installed each year so that boaters, swimmers and the OPP can easily see the 300 m limit. This would come out of Tiny's budget. How satisfied would you be if Tiny Township proceeded with this suggestion?

54% Satisfied 25% Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 21% Dissatisfied

While many opinions were expressed in a comments section, several action points had strong, wide-ranging support:

- installing speed limit signage at Jackson Park, public beach access points, marinas and watercraft rental locations
- a much more visible OPP presence on the water during the summer
- a public awareness/education campaign using existing township resources (website, social media, regular mailings) and local media
- installing buoys at key points in front of public beaches, especially those with significant watercraft activity

How FoTTSA conducted the survey

The anonymous online survey was emailed on February 1 to 1165 Tiny subscribers to our e-newsletter, *FoTTSA Flash*. A web link was also made available. We received 376 responses by February 10. Of these, 182 respondents included written comments, which are available on our website along with responses to two more questions, www.tinycottager.com. Watch for more coverage in *The Tiny Cottager* and *FoTTSA Flash*, and on our website: www.tinycottager.org/?p=3668.



Photo: Ken McDonald

Come on your own or bring friends and family to two environmental activities in Tiny Marsh, Ontario's first provincially owned and managed wildlife area. It comprises 600 hectares of marsh and 300 hectares of field and forest.

Tiny Marsh BioBlitz, Saturday, June 22

Experience Tiny Marsh's amazing biodiversity during a bioblitz on Saturday June 22, when participants will search for species throughout the day.

This popular free family-friendly event is a great way to learn about the wide variety of species found within Tiny Marsh. Several scheduled walks include a favourite for kids, where they can get up close and personal with insects, butterflies and pond dipping. All walks are led by experienced guides and naturalists who will entertain and enhance your knowledge of the natural world.

Regardless of your knowledge, this event is a great way for people to explore what Tiny Marsh has to offer. Come

Two Upcoming Family-friendly Bio-Activities at Tiny Marsh

by ANNE McARTHUR

for just one outing or spend the day taking in any of the planned walks.

Visit www.tinymarshbioblitz.eventbrite.ca to register and for the full list of scheduled walks. This is a rain or shine event, so dress for the weather and wear comfortable footwear. Bring any water or food you may want for the day.

Tiny Marsh, recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA), is located at 500 Tiny-Flos Townline.

Garlic Mustard pull

One of the greatest joys has been to clear an area that was once infested with Garlic Mustard and enrich the area's biodiversity by planting a variety of native plants. Two years ago, 1500 native plants, including New England Aster, Oswego Tea, Joe-Pye Weed, Black-eyed Susan and others, were planted and we are now reaping the rewards.

Over 10 years ago, this area was covered with the highly invasive Garlic Mustard. Now the area is a glorious pollinator garden. However, there is more to be done. Garlic Mustard still surrounds this garden and threatens to make a return into the cleared area. Volunteers are still needed to help keep this area clear of Garlic Mustard.

If you have a couple of hours any time in May to help out, contact Anne McArthur at aemcarth@rogers.com

Find out more about Tiny Marsh at

www.mtmconservation.org/index.php/tiny-marsh

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

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

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

Report on Council

Mayor: George Cornell

Deputy Mayor: Steffen Walma

Councillors: Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoff and Gibb Wishart

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tiny Connect — sign up at www.tinyconnect.ca

- Town Hall Meeting — May 25, 2019, 10 a.m. – 12 noon, Tiny Township Community Centre
- De-paving Perkinsfield Tennis Courts — June 1, 2019, volunteers needed
- Community BBQ — July 20, 2019, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Perkinsfield Park
- Fire Department Family Fun Day — August 24, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Wyevale Fire Station
- Town Hall Meeting, September 19, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Wyebridge Community Centre

BATTLE OF GEORGIAN BAY:

In September, representing the Balm Beach Business Association, Doug Lorrinan asked for, and received approval in principle, of a re-enactment in August 2019 of an attack on Balm Beach. Supposedly a part of the War of 1812, this would be one of a series that includes assaults on Tay Township, Midland, and Penetanguishene. This proposal did NOT receive approval during budget deliberations, though discussion is ongoing.

BEAUSOLEIL FIRST NATION WHARF RECONSTRUCTION AT CEDAR POINT:

Also in September, Council learned that the Beausoleil First Nation's new ferry needs a different docking arrangement. As a result, there is to be expansion of the current wharf, construction of a second wharf, removal of the existing building, dredging, and one or two lesser items on the mainland along with some changes on Christian Island. The building is to be replaced by a temporary trailer. There will be no breakwater. Work on half of the project — expansion of the current dock, dredging, removal of the building, and installation of the trailer — was then scheduled to be completed by the end of May 2019.

SOUTH END DRAINAGE PROJECT:

The drainage project to prevent recurrent flooding on Tripp Lane and Tiny Beaches Road South was tendered in September and work on infrastructure (catch basins, underground piping) was put in place before winter struck. Removal of the old surface, followed by grading and repaving, is now under way. The goal: completion by the May long weekend. The stretch south of Tripp Lane to Wasaga will receive similar treatment later this year.

MANAGED IT SUPPORT THROUGH COMPUSOLVE:

Also in September, Council authorized staff to enter into an agreement with CompuSolve for Centralized Managed Services to "enhance the Township's current processes and provide greater protection of its networks in the areas which are vulnerable such as desktop computers, devices and users." This was a response to the recent hacking of municipal computers in Midland and Wasaga and to the continuing threat of malware and the like.

BLUEWATER COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP:

The executive of this group includes two members from each of Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association, Bluewater Dunes Protection Association, and Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches and Ratepayers Association. In October, Council recommended that the group "be supported with Council representation on an ad hoc basis where appropriate."

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:

During the last Council's term of office, a committee reviewed the Township's buildings and viewed how neighbouring communities have dealt with inadequate administrative buildings. In October, Council recommended "that the Municipal Administration Building Needs Assessment Committee report back on the next steps required for a new construction solution to long term municipal administration building requirements."

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS IN TINY:

On October 22,

Mayor George Cornell was acclaimed

Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma was acclaimed

Councillor Cindy Hastings was re-elected with 4,131 votes

Councillor Tony Mintoff was elected with 2,609 votes

Councillor Gibb Wishart was re-elected with 3,182 votes (Andrew Rankin, 1,858 votes)

OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE PASSED:

After Jamie Robinson of MHBC Planning summarized the updating of the township's Official Plan, Council asked for changes regarding rehabilitation of gravel pits and the recycling of asphalt. These were added as follows:

B.10.4.4.1

d) Progressive rehabilitation shall be undertaken where aggregate extraction occurs in stages; and
 B.10.4.6.1

b) Recycling of manufactured materials derived from mineral aggregate resources may not be appropriate for every licenced aggregate site. Proposals shall be subject to the policies of Section B.10.4;

Council passed the updated plan on November 26, 2018 and waived a two-year moratorium on all amendments as per Sections 22(2.1) and 22(2.2) of the Planning Act. This was to make changes to the OP possible should new information become available about aquifers and quarries.

PARKING PROGRAM CHANGES:

At a cost of \$10,730, No Parking signs are to be placed between 1620 and 1632 Tiny Beaches Road South where there is no space to pull off and improved signage is to be installed in areas that generated many parking tickets. Paid parking is to revert to permit parking on Trew Avenue and Concession 5.

In February, Council considered parking changes proposed by the Business Association of Balm Beach and decided "to maintain the status quo... with the exception of the time limit for paid parking." This is now to be 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

With regard to the 150 permits available to residents of neighbouring municipalities at a cost of \$100 each, non-residents are to be able to purchase only one permit instead of two (thus possibly freeing up eight permits since eight non-residents purchased two permits in 2018).

FOTSSA DEPUTATION REGARDING NITRATES:

Representing the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations, Judith Grant thanked the Township's Water Department for assisting with the Volunteer Recreational Water Sampling Program last summer.

Grant also raised concerns about nitrates in groundwater from potato farms, as happened in Lafontaine and Georgian Sands. In response to the deputation, the Severn

Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) updated Council on nitrate levels in the Lafontaine area and on its work there in helping farmers to reduce their use of nitrogen.

SSEA also asked the Township for information mentioned in the deputation that students had compiled about each farm. SSEA is constrained by formal guidelines from reaching out to potato farmers in the catchment areas of other township wells or those elsewhere in the township. However, SSEA indicated that area farmers are already conscious of proper management of nitrate fertilizers.

BRIDGE MAINTENANCE ON TINY'S RAIL TRAIL:

Council supported general maintenance of trail bridges (at a cost of \$85,200 excluding HST). Also, Bridge P2 (just east of County Road 6 on Concession Road 2) is to be rehabilitated at considerable cost — \$244,657 plus HST.

MORATORIUM ON EXPANSION OF AGGREGATE EXTRACTION IN THE WAVERLEY UPLANDS ADVOCATED:

With regard to Dr. William Shotyk's December 5, 2018 letter to the Warden and Simcoe County Council asking for a moratorium on expansion of aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until groundwater flows in the area were better understood, Councillor Wishart asked that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as members of County Council support Shotyk's request. Noting that the key "ask" in the letter was for Shotyk be allowed to make his case to County Council in May, Deputy Mayor Walma agreed to make the request and the Mayor agreed to support it. For Shotyk's letter, see Communication Received, Section II of the Committee of the Whole Agenda for January 14, 2019. The County rejected the request.

CANNABIS:

In January, Township Clerk Sue Walton reported that the province is phasing in the implementation of cannabis legalization. At this time, municipalities like Tiny with a population of less than 50,000 are not eligible for a cannabis retail store.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SPEED RESTRICTIONS:

At the February 4 Budget Meeting, Andrew Chomentowski (a director of FoTSSA) made a personal deputation about his service on several Personal Watercraft Committees from 1999 to 2003. The eventual result was an application for a 10 km speed limit for returning small watercraft within 200 m from shore. The coastguard imposed a distance of 300 metres and, for enforcement purposes, a requirement that buoys be installed at the 300-metre limit. Chomentowski's deputation reminded staff (which had recommended eliminating the buoy project) of the work that had gone into getting the rule in place. He also advised that FoTSSA had conducted a survey in which 50% of respondents supported marker

...continued on page 13 (Report)



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Footprints in the Sand

by JIM STUART, CEDAR POINT



Photo: Peter Davis

The Huronia chapter of the Ontario Archaeological Society — a group of professional, research and avocational archaeologists — first got together in May 2009. The group joined with the OAS in promoting ethical archaeology in North Simcoe or Huronia. Today, the chapter's activities encompass many issues and opportunities of interest to Tiny residents.

Perhaps the best documented first contact between Indigenous people and Europeans in all of North America took place in Huronia. Over 600 archaeological sites have been identified in an area between Tiny in the west and north, Orillia in the east, and Orr Lake/Bass Lake/Tiny Marsh to the south, which reflects the boundaries of the Wendat Confederacy. Of these sites, about 125 are in Tiny, with 25 being ossuaries or burial sites.

The Huronia chapter of the OAS remains actively involved. For instance, did you know that Simcoe County is preparing an archaeological management plan that will help local planners and property owners avoid inadvertently destroying identified and unidentified archaeological sites? This county initiative can be found at www.simcoe.ca/dpt/pln/AMP.

For those with an interest in Tiny's history and archaeology, two of the best research resources are hidden away in secure rooms at the Penetanguishene and Midland Public Libraries. You might need to make an appointment to get in. As well, our chapter's blog contains a reading list at www.oashuroniachapter.com.

With the OAS, the Huronia chapter encourages the protection of our local heritage and cultural resources. We strongly discourage the practice of looting. But, if you walk the beaches, dig in the dirt or keep your eyes open on your walks in Tiny, you may very well find an artifact. If you would like guidance or advice on what you have found or already have on hand, please contact us. We may all learn something new from the discussion.

How you can get involved

If you are interested in exploring Tiny's history or what may lie in the earth beneath your feet, feel free to drop into any of our monthly OAS chapter meetings. They take place at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of every month at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre in Midland.

Throughout the year, we offer a variety of presentations by knowledgeable individuals and experts on history, archaeology and research topics — usually but not always local. The evening events offer an opportunity to mix with others having similar interests, and provide a forum for discussion. Meetings are open to the public at no charge.

If you would like to get your hands dirty and participate in local archaeological digs, please ask to be put on our email list about such events.

For more information on what we do or how to become a chapter member, contact us through our chapter blog, our Facebook group, Google, or through our chapter president, John Raynor, at jraynor@rogers.com.



Good News About Controlling Invasive Phragmites!

by LYNN SHORT, WYMBOLWOOD BEACH



Photo: Lynn Short

Lynn Short and Ingrid Egner holding a 3.5m Phragmites stalk cut from the control section, September 2018

Phragmites is an aggressive, invasive, non-native reed literally choking some of Tiny's beautiful shorelines. People want to know what they can do to fight back. For the past three summers, I have conducted Phragmites control research, supported by Tiny Township, at a private site on Wymbolwood Beach. This research has demonstrated that a spading technique can be successful in dramatically reducing the presence of Phragmites in as little as three seasons with regular non-chemical treatment. The technique is ideal for use by community groups and individual property owners wishing to rapidly and effectively control infestations.

The research site is divided into four sections. The Phragmites stalks in three of the sections were spade cut just below the soil surface at different times. The fourth section remained untouched, serving as a control section to document Phragmites growth with no interference. Measurements of Phragmites density, height and diameter were collected for each section over three seasons, as were observations of other plant and animal species present.

Each season, there was a reduction in stalk density in the treated test sites compared to the control section. The third season revealed the most dramatic results. In 2018, while the control section remained consistent at a density of about 115 stalks per square metre, the section that had been cleared 3 to 4 times a season for 3 seasons started out at about 20 stalks per square meter in spring and ended in the fall, after removals, at about 5 stalks per square metre.

Importantly, this spade-cutting method also enabled native shoreline plants to return. The three to four cuts per season section had the least Phragmites, as well as the greatest number of other native plant species. These plants were not introduced into the site. They appeared on their own after the removal of the Phragmites. A diverse native seed bank was always present in the soil just waiting for an opportunity to grow.

This research demonstrates that the more Phragmites stalks are spade cut in a season, the more quickly the invader can be controlled and the more quickly native plant biodiversity is re-established.

For an informative postcard showing how to use the spading technique, go to the Ontario Phragmites Working Group website (www.opwg.ca) and search for "Spading Postcard".

Lynn Short is a Professor of Horticulture at Humber College. Her spading technique has been used in a parallel study in the Humber River Valley.

Invasive Phragmites Research: Volunteers Needed

Professor Lynn Short is continuing her research at Wymbolwood Beach for a fourth season investigating non-chemical control of invasive Phragmites. Volunteers are needed for Friday mornings from May to August to record data measurements or remove Phragmites using the spading technique. All tools will be provided. Practical clothing, work gloves and sturdy footwear are suggested. Come out and learn about this problem plant that is taking over our beaches.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Lynn at lynn.short@humber.ca or 647-273-5966.

Huronian Chapter Meetings, June-September 2019

Expand your understanding of local archaeology by attending these meetings. They're open to everyone. Unless otherwise indicated, they take place at 7:00 p.m. at North Simcoe Recreation Centre in Midland.

- **June 12** — **Dr. Alicia Hawkins**, Laurentian University Department of Archaeology, on recent pottery finds in Huronia, use of clay chemistry analysis, and ongoing research in collaboration with the Huron Wendat.
- **July 10** — **"Flesh Reborn"** by Dr. Jean François Lozier, University of Ottawa Department of History. Dr. Lozier will draw on a range of ethnohistorical sources to reconstruct the early history of the 17th century Jesuit mission settlements in the St. Lawrence valley and their Algonquin, Innu, Wendat, Iroquois, and Wabanaki founders.
- **August 14** — **local historian Art Duval**, on his research and findings on Council Rock. Time and location of this meeting to follow.
- **September 11** — **Jim Shropshire**, presenting a new perspective on Kenneth Kidd's 1940 excavation of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons based on research he has been doing at the site since 2001. Find out more at www.oashuroniachapter.com

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Tips for Selling or Maintaining the Value of Your Home

by IRENE WILSON, WENDAKE BEACH



First impressions are lasting impressions. This is especially true when selling your home or cottage. Good curb appeal draws buyers into your home, and the most important factor is cleanliness. Don't worry about having the latest stainless steel appliances or granite countertops. Potential buyers who walk in and see a spotless home assume it has been lovingly maintained. Most buyers will make their own updates or changes to suit their needs.

Starting with the exterior, declutter the front and back yards. Get rid of those scraps of lumber, old pails and odds and sods that you have been saving because they may come in handy. Trim back shrubs, remove dead branches, and clean up garden debris. An attractive storage shed is a great place to store garbage cans, bins, etc. Your walkway should be level with no broken slabs or deteriorating concrete. A freshly stained or painted set of stairs and deck are welcoming. Cleaning all leaves off in the fall can extend the life of the deck boards and prevent staining. Dead leaves trap moisture and encourage mould growth. Ensure all screen doors and window screens are in good condition. Clean windows make a home sparkle, and there are easy fixes such as window washing sprays that attach to a garden hose or power washer.

Ensure that soil around the foundation slopes away from the house so that melting snow and rain are directed away from the basement. Check downspouts and install extensions to divert water from the foundation. Our extreme weather patterns of torrential storms and wind can put you at risk for seepage and damage. Efflorescence, a white, powdery residue that may be found on concrete blocks, indicates moisture is affecting the foundation. If not addressed, moisture can cause permanent structural damage over time. An unfinished basement attracts warm, moist air to condense on concrete walls in summer, which can also lead to mould growth and that musty smell. Increasing air circulation by running the furnace fan or an oscillating fan may reduce this problem.

Check for loose shingles, flashings around chimneys, and caulking or seals around vents and skylights. Replace or reseal any that are missing or cracked. Check soffits and fascia for holes or space where a critter might squeeze in to build a nest. Raccoons, squirrels and chipmunks would love to raise a family in your home, especially to avoid our cold winters. Potential damage can be wide ranging as animals can chew through wires, boards and insulation, and scatter feces throughout an attic or inside walls.

Inside the home, the electrical panel is one of the most important selling features. Some insurance companies will not insure a home with a fuse panel or a panel with less than 100 amps or aluminum wiring. If you are considering some upgrades, a new breaker panel is a good investment and may get you a break on your insurance rates.

Basements and garages are like dungeons where stuff is stored away, never to see the light of day until it's time to move. Clutter can cause the basement to smell stale, musty or just strange. Old paint cans, various chemicals, motor oils and other toxic products can be dropped off at the Simcoe County Transfer Station on Golfink Rd., free of charge. Any type of metal, like broken tools, scrap pipe, old lawn furniture, etc. can be dropped off at Saulnier's Scrap Metal at 1750 Golf Link Rd. They have a large dumpster just inside their driveway for your scrap, but no electronics, please. Those old printers, TVs and computer screens can be delivered to the transfer station.

Speaking of smells, nothing turns a buyer off more than stale cat litter, cigarette smoke, garbage, or compost bins that have not been emptied or washed out. Trying to mask them with various household deodorizers can often backfire as many people are sensitive to perfumes and scents and will wonder what you are trying to cover up. If you have extensive carpeting, eliminate odours by shampooing it or having it cleaned. Ditto for drapes or curtains. I have heard that a bowl of lemons or limes will absorb household smells, and are attractive in a white bowl. Leaving a bag of charcoal briquets open will absorb some odours like cigarette smoke. Washing walls down with dish detergent and a cup of vinegar will also reduce stubborn odours.

Throughout the interior of the home, take care of all those little fix-it projects that you have been meaning to get to: the broken towel bar, missing handle, cracked window, and leaky faucet. Reduce as much clutter as you can. We all tend to have too much stuff, and homes look smaller when there are objects on every surface or in every corner.

In summary, look at your home through the eyes of a buyer. Would you buy it in its current condition? Staying on top of maintenance issues is a priority before a small problem becomes a costly repair. Creating a checklist for both spring and fall of routine chores such as checking the water heater for rust or leaks, looking under the sinks and around toilets and inspecting your roof for potential issues is a good preventive measure. In the long run, it can increase the value of your home and help it sell in a shorter period of time.

Irene Wilson, a Director of the Southern Georgian Bay Association of Realtors and Chair of Education Committee, is also a Sales Representative for Georgian Bay Dream Team, Remax Georgian Bay Realty Ltd.



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Q&A with George Cornell...continued from page 1

What steps have already been taken in Tiny and Simcoe County over the last 10 years to improve municipal efficiency and control or reduce costs?

The County of Simcoe continuously looks for efficiencies in service delivery and operations. Examples include the county's stringent procurement process, investments in environmental initiatives for our fleet of vehicles and development projects to reduce long-term costs, implementation of new technologies, and the execution of long-term asset management plans.

The current service delivery model between the county and lower-tiered municipalities has, from a township perspective, worked efficiently. County-wide services, including but not limited to waste management, transit, community and social services, forestry and emergency services, provide a consistent and equitable service delivery model to all member municipalities. This also allows more locally consumed services such as planning, public works and parks and recreation, to reflect local demands.

The Township of Tiny currently shares the costs of environmental, information technology, cultural resources, training, physician recruitment, recreation, library, and economic development with other Simcoe County municipalities.

Here are two good examples of this collaborative approach:

- **environmental stewardship.** The Township of Tiny and seven other municipalities jointly fund and oversee the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), which provides environmental management of our shared watershed. This coordinated and cost-effective framework helps protect natural resources across municipal boundaries.
- **economic development.** Years ago, the four municipalities of North Simcoe created the Economic Development Corporation of North Simcoe, which oversees economic initiatives involving advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, healthcare, and tourism.

Both of these examples are governed by joint boards, which enable each member to leverage available resources for the broader community. This high level of cooperation has created synergies and savings throughout North Simcoe.

Under the current structure, what potential opportunities do you see for Simcoe County and the Township of Tiny to further improve efficiency and control or reduce costs?

The county is always looking for efficiencies in service delivery. We are in the process of making recommendations to the province around governance structure and the services we provide. The county's annual budget process also helps to identify these opportunities. The county maintains a strong fiscal position and a stable annual tax increase as growth and demand rises, historically staying between 1% to 2% each year.

The Township of Tiny Council would support any consolidation or sharing of services that would improve service delivery for our residents and reduce costs. For instance, the township would support a further review of

- uploading water and waste (including septage management) to the county level
- a more formalized inter-municipal procurement process
- consolidating area police services boards
- rationalizing road maintenance between the local municipality and the county
- expanded county-wide training opportunities
- emergency preparedness, tiered paramedic/fire response and closest station response (fire)

What are the best-and worst-case scenarios in terms of how a restructuring could affect residents of Tiny?

The province's regional government review has provided us with an opportunity to self-evaluate at the township and county level. It is too early in the process to speculate on what the province will ultimately decide, but we're hopeful that local MPPs, the minister and the premier will view both the township and the county as working efficiently and effectively. We look forward to receiving more information from the province as the process concludes over the coming months.

While there are many possible outcomes of the review, the township is concerned that any forced amalgamation would increase costs at the local level due to a tendency for service levels to rise to the highest level. The township will continue to participate in opportunities for collaboration with the county and province.

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FoTTSA Special Report: The Site 41 Aquifer Is at Risk Again

by SCOTT WILLIAMS AND JUDITH GRANT



Photo by Vicky Monague

Ten years after Simcoe County Council succumbed to public pressure and voted down its proposed new landfill operation — the notorious “Site 41” — another environmental battle is taking shape.

In January 2018, CRH Canada Group Inc., the current owner of the Teedon Pit in Concession 1, sought a 10-year renewal of its Permit to Take Water (PTTW) from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) and this January it sought permission from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to extend its pit north into a hill. The amount of water involved is colossal — 1.6 million litres per day from a well, plus 5.2 million litres per day from a washing pond — and to do so 210 days a year. What was all this water for? Washing gravel! There was a lot of it to be cleaned: the expanded mining operation would permit excavation of up to 600,000 tonnes of aggregate per year.

These operations are on land in Tiny Township locally known as French’s Hill or the Waverley Uplands, and are in the heart of what is believed to be a recharge zone for the Alliston Aquifer, which has been scientifically assessed to be the cleanest water in the world. Current thinking is that its purity results from surface water reaching the aquifer after travelling through relatively porous, unconsolidated, or fractured materials, like the sand and gravel deposits that comprise French’s Hill.

A little history

Operations in the pit have impacted on the area’s water at least since 2009. That year Cedarhurst Quarries and Crushing, owner of the pit until 2017, expanded its aggregate operation and installed a gravel wash plant and wash pond. Almost immediately nearby residents, all reliant on groundwater, began reporting silt in hitherto pristine wells and local streams to Cedarhurst and MOECC. Cedarhurst conducted an assessment, which concluded that its activities were not responsible for the silting.

One couple, Jake Pigeon and Bonnie Pauze, among these residents then hired Wilf Ruland, a specialist in water resource and contamination issues, to investigate the hydrogeological impacts — if any — of aggregate washing and other activities at the Teedon Pit. His findings were damning. Ruland focused on Cedarhurst’s sorry record of failures to live up to the conditions of its Permits to Take Water, on inadequate hydrogeology reports, and on the MOECC’s failures of oversight. He concluded that Cedarhurst’s “Assessment of Local Well Water Quality Complaints” had a fatal flaw: it did not contain enough hydrogeological information to assess the impact of the company’s aggregate washing activities.

“The starting point must be a detailed understanding

of the site hydrogeology,” writes Ruland. “The complexity of the local geology is such that facile interpretations will risk entirely missing the mark in terms of providing an understanding of how groundwater will move in this extraordinary environment. This has been a problem for [the quarry]’s hydrogeologists, who have provided conflicting interpretations of the site’s hydrogeology — none of which are what I would consider to be an accurate description of the nature of groundwater movement in the area... The local geology is very complex — with almost every borehole log and cross-section... presenting a different picture regarding the nature and composition of the overburden deposits in the area of the pit.”

Since CRH took over in 2017, the situation has not changed. Local wells, streams and springs are still afflicted with silt. When he examined CRH’s January 2018 PTTW Application, Ruland found “little in the way of original investigations or analysis.” Instead the application set out “to demonstrate that the aggregate washing operations... do not pose a threat to water supplies or the environment.” Despite these dispiriting findings, Ruland’s report concludes with a ray of hope: “This is not an insoluble problem — the state of the science is adequate to appropriately deal with this matter once CRH and/or the MOECC decide to do so.”

Opposition to the expansion plans (of Cedarhurst and latterly of CRH) continues to mount. Here are a few examples:

- **Township of Tiny**, which has withheld approval for official plan and zoning by-law amendments that

would allow a substantial northward expansion of the pit. The amendment request was submitted in 2012 by Cedarhurst. That year the township hired R.J. Burnside & Associates and the Severn Sound Environmental Association to review the application and accompanying studies. Cedarhurst addressed some but not all concerns raised by the review. When Cedarhurst was granted a major site plan amendment in 2016 by MNRF, the township supplied the ministry with concerns raised by residents at a public meeting, as well as concerns from its own review. These efforts bore no fruit: the ministry approved the application. The township’s delay in amending its Official Plan and by-law resulted in the current owner, CRH, filing an appeal with the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, or LPAT (formerly the Ontario Municipal Board). A series of prehearing conferences began in late 2018 and are continuing this year.

- **FoTTSA** has reported on and recently actively opposed Cedarhurst and CRH amendment applications. Board member Judith Grant spearheaded FoTTSA submissions to Tiny on the Aggregate Resources section of its Official Plan during the recent updating process, regularly reports on updates in the “Report on Council,” is a member of a community liaison committee set up by CRH and liaises with other interest groups. Most recently, Grant applied on FoTTSA’s behalf for party status at the December 5, 2018 LPAT prehearing conference and submitted a letter to MNRF during the public consultation period on CRH’s

Help FoTTSA Protect Waverley Uplands Groundwater and the Alliston Aquifer

Although CELA will provide its legal assistance throughout the LPAT process gratis, FoTTSA is responsible for CELA’s expenses (travel, hotels, supplies) and for the cost of retaining essential witnesses like hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland. These expenses will amount to thousands of dollars.

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

For more information about making a donation — any amount will help — see “FoTTSA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT” on page 4. Unless requested otherwise, all donors will be recognized on FoTTSA’s website.

current Teedon Pit extension application.

- **The Friends of the Waverley Uplands** is a group of like-minded community members working towards greater stewardship and protection of the Alliston Aquifer. Like FoTTSA, this organization sits on the CRH community liaison committee, and is actively trying to raise public awareness of environmental concerns through meetings, presentations, articles, and more. FoTTSA is working with The Friends of the Waverley Uplands, Aware Simcoe and other groups in asking for a moratorium on aggregate extraction in the Waverley Uplands until groundwater flows are better understood.

- **Two petitions opposing the Teedon Pit Extension** and the renewal of the permit to take water were launched by Change.org and the Council of Canadians. Over 6,500 concerned citizens had signed the petitions by April 21, 2018. The number of signatories continues to grow.

- **Peaceful protests.** In November 2017, Indigenous people organized a two-day water walk from Cedar Point to the Teedon Pit, a distance of over 40 km. In April 2018, Indigenous people held an All Nations Water Ceremony at Site 41 to bring healing, encouragement, and awareness of the sacredness of water. The ceremony was co-hosted by the Friends of the Waverley Uplands and supported by Terra Sandy Roy, former chief of the Beausoleil First Nation Youth Council. More recently, a group of women from Beausoleil First Nation has begun leading a peaceful protest every Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the gates to the Teedon Pit on Darby Road. The pit is located on traditional territory of the Chippewa Tri-Council and is Pre-Confederation Treaty 16 territory. CRH and the provincial government are both required by law to consult with them over the project but they have not done so effectively, though CRH has recently done some outreach.

The peaceful protest by members of Beausoleil First Nation brings us full circle to Site 41.

What we can learn from opposition to Site 41

Essentially, community action can work. Years of efforts by local farmers to stop the Site 41 landfill reached a turning point when a group of women from Beausoleil First Nation, dubbed the "Keepers of the Water," set up a peaceful protest on a farm across from the dumpsite. Participation in the Site 41 protest grew, eventually drawing attention from across North America. Opponents included such high-profile supporters as Council of Canadians president Maude Barlow, environmentalist David Suzuki, radio host Dale Goldhawk, and consumer advocate and former U.S. presidential candidate Ralph Nader. These opposition efforts were eventually captured in a 2010 documentary, *Water on the Table*.

What's next

In preparation for the upcoming preconference hearings and the hearing proper, FoTTSA has successfully applied for legal assistance to the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). The association is a non-profit, public interest organization that works with existing laws to protect the environment and advocate for environmental law reforms. CELA is funded by Legal Aid Ontario. Having the support of CELA means that FoTTSA has the guidance, counsel and involvement of excellent lawyers who are particularly knowledgeable about environmental law.



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Tiny Farm Crawl Returns with Two Events in 2019

by CINDY HASTINGS



In 2017 farmers in the Township of Tiny created Farm Fresh Food Fest to inform consumers and celebrate the food we eat. Last year, with the help of a summer employment grant, our township hired two students to work on The Local Food Project. Their efforts culminated in the first annual Tiny Farm Crawl. A sold-out busload of participants was treated to a rare peek into the inner workings of four area farms — not to mention a chance to do a bit of shopping.

Because of last year's success, we're holding two events this year with more venues: staff have been working on adding businesses such as a wildflower farm and honey producer. The 2019 Tiny Farm Crawl will likely take place in August and October.

Highlights from 2018

At Monpiero Farm, a large scale cash crop and chicken farm in Lafontaine, Paul Maurice talked passionately about his family farm and the amount of science and technology required to produce a successful crop. He had his extensive farm equipment out on display as well as a handful of adorable farm animals. The farm also showcased a new venture, Cedarpoint Sunflower Oil, which is already generating attention.

That roadside stand we pass at County Road 6 and Concession 11 is the Dubeau Family Farm. Last year Denis gave the group a tour through part of the 50 acres where they sustainably grow a large variety of produce, including corn, tomatoes, beans, carrots and garlic.

Participants didn't know it at the time, but they were able to sample the country's best maple syrup on the tour. Tiny's Windlee Farms Sugar Bush won first place at last fall's Royal Winter Fair. Peter and Anne Lorriman showed the group around their small and efficient operation, which combines new and old techniques.

Bulbs of Fire is a small specialty farm growing many types of garlic and raising unique varieties of chickens. Bart Nagel explained his farming methods and treated the group to samples. There was a wide variety of products to purchase and take home to enjoy.

This is just a sampling of farm crawl delights. Book early to avoid disappointment, as there is already a long list of residents waiting for the official launch date. Information will be posted on the township website: www.tiny.ca. Email Maggie Off at moff@tiny.ca with your questions and to book a seat on the bus.

Cindy Hastings is a Tiny Township Councillor.

De-Paving Paradise — in Perkinsfield

If your passion for food motivates you to grow your own food, we will have community gardens in Perkinsfield again this year. Thanks to Maggie Off, Tiny's Community Engagement Leader, there will be an exciting new twist. She has secured a \$6,000 grant to "de-pave paradise." This will enable us to remove the asphalt from the old tennis courts and replace it with soil and gardens.

Depave Paradise is a project of Green Communities Canada and local partners in communities across Canada. You can participate in the Perkinsfield "de-paving" on Saturday, June 1. Again, there will be information available from Maggie and on the township website. More information about projects like this is available at www.depaveparadise.ca.



On Hand to Help with Invasive Species

by ROBERT CANNING



SSEA and Township of Tiny staff working with local volunteers to help remove invasive spotted knapweed at Lafontaine Beach (Canning, 2018)

Invasive species are here and the threat is real. Has your shoreline been taken over by plants you don't recognize? Do you want to take steps to free your property of intruders, but don't know where to start? Are you interested in giving back to your community and protecting local wildlife habitat?

If so, the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is here to help. Thanks to municipal support from the townships of Tiny, Tay, Midland, Severn and Georgian Bay, SSEA created its Invasive Species Program to reduce the impact of these troublesome invaders. We have the expertise to help you identify what species are in your area and to provide guidance on effective removal techniques.

So what does the term "invasive species" mean? Invasives are non-native organisms that have established outside of their historical habitat ranges and negatively impact our ecosystems, society and economy. Plants, trees

and shrubs are common types of invasive species, but insect and fish invaders also exist.

Due to their fast growth rates and tolerance of a wide range of conditions, invasive species often cause problems for property owners. Phragmites, White Sweet Clover and Spotted Knapweed have all established strong footholds on beaches throughout Tiny Township, while Eurasian Watermilfoil is spreading fast and clogging up lakes, rivers and ponds.

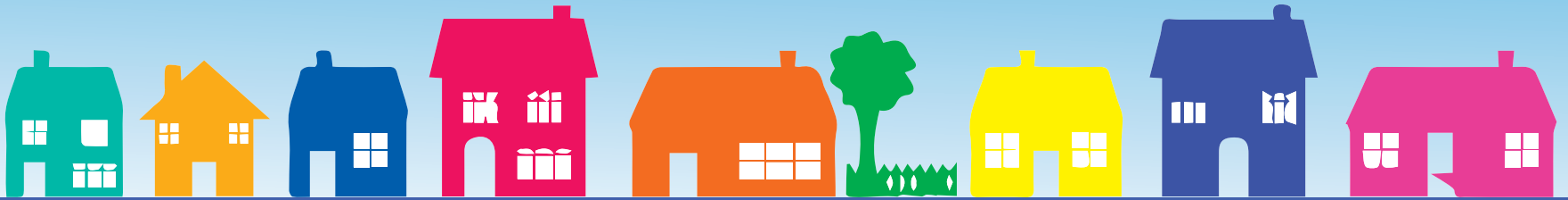
If you have multiple invasive species on your property, which should you target first? Do you remove invasive plants before or after they flower? How are you supposed to deal with all the waste? Removing invasive species can be a huge challenge, but a do-nothing approach only prolongs the problem, increases control costs, and allows that species to spread onto adjacent properties. Often, invasive species can be easily removed using hand tools like shovels and clippers, but multiple removal events over consecutive seasons may be required for full eradication. Regulations for removal and optimal control techniques can differ from one species to another, so it's crucial to be well-informed before tackling a problem invader.

Whether you're a concerned citizen, individual property owner or member of a shoreline association, the SSEA is looking to facilitate invasive species management projects within Tiny Township and can assist you with monitoring for invaders and planning your next removal event.

Getting rid of invasive species waste

Did you know that the County of Simcoe is providing additional curb-side invasive species yard waste collection dates this upcoming July? For more information and to find out about upcoming volunteer opportunities, call the SSEA today at (705) 534-7283. See also the invasive species section under "Our Priorities" on FoTSTA's website: www.tinycottager.org

Robert Canning is Invasive Species Program Coordinator for SSEA; www.severnsound.ca



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Volunteer Committee at Work on 5th Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament

by ANDREW CHOMENTOWSKI



Last year's event raised an incredible \$65,000, but organizers hope to raise even more this year.

A social and sports highlight of the summer season, the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament is also an essential fundraiser for local not-for-profit charities. Since 2015 the tournament has raised \$189,000 for 30 different local causes.

"The Mayor's Charity Golf tournament has two main functions," explains Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma. "It's a riot (of fun) that creates a cohesive community atmosphere and raises much needed awareness and funds for local charities." An added bonus, says Walma, is that this initiative does not impact the general levy. All funds are raised through participating golfers and sponsorship. "It's a win-win."

Any day now the volunteer organizing committee will be announcing the date and location, as well as this year's beneficiaries. The committee strives to strike a balanced choice of recipients who represent a broad range of services to the community. An annual recipient is the Township of Tiny Bursary Program, which receives \$5,000 to assist students entering a post-secondary educational institution. Approved bursaries are based on applicants' successful admission status.

Watch for updates in the next issue of FoTTSA Flash, an e-newsletter featuring local news and events. Not on the mailing list? Sign up at www.tinycottager.org.

Sign up as a sponsor

Sponsorships are an integral part of the event's fundraising activities and a valuable opportunity to raise your brand awareness among active and committed members of the Tiny community. For example, FoTTSA is honoured to be the Tiny Township Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament's Founding Sponsor.

Various levels of sponsorship are still available. For information on sponsorship opportunities or to participate in the event, visit www.tiny.ca or contact Maggie Off: 705-526-4204 or at moff@tiny.ca.



Status Report on Accessing High-Speed Internet in Tiny

by STEFFEN WALMA

In Tiny we have wonderful sights that the city doesn't have: stunning views of Georgian Bay, sunsets, and magnificent flora and fauna. We also have large gaps in our broadband and cell service, which may make Tiny a wonderful escape from the constant connectivity of the world. However, this does not provide a nourishing environment for young families, home businesses, telehealth, video calls with the grandkids, and many other socioeconomic practices.

We're not the only ones with this problem. The CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) has recognized consistent access to high-speed Internet in rural areas as an essential service, and has set service targets:

- speeds of 50 mbps download and 10 mbps upload or fixed broadband services
- an unlimited data option for fixed broadband services
- access to the latest mobile wireless technology for all homes and businesses, and along major roads

To help achieve these targets, the latest federal budget includes \$750 million in CRTC funding that would help service providers expand high-speed internet service into rural Canada. The CRTC is accepting and reviewing funding applications this year.

The challenge facing Tiny

At present, areas of Tiny without high-speed Internet may not meet the CRTC's funding criteria. However, SWIFT (Southwestern Internet Fiber Technology) is petitioning the CRTC to reconsider these criteria. SWIFT is a

not-for-profit initiative undertaken by the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus that is already working with local governments and local providers to construct an affordable, open-access, ultra-high-speed fibre-optic broadband network for everyone in Southwestern Ontario, Caledon and the Niagara Region.

The SWIFT project is entering its initial phase of construction, but the way the CRTC funding currently operates could have a negative effect on implementation by allowing private service providers to sidestep the SWIFT program instead of working in collaboration with them.

Where does this leave Tiny? While the SWIFT program is the long-term answer to our internet woes, it is several years from fruition. Tiny Council has struck an ad hoc committee to create a work plan and brainstorm on bridging this gap. Partnering with other communities to build the required infrastructure, working collaboratively with private service providers and outside the box thinking are going to be key in charting a path forward.

Among the concepts that will be explored are laying conduit as we replace roads, building municipal communications towers, and how superfast "fifth generation" 5G mobile internet connectivity fits into this model. Being connected is imperative to education, business and play, and has been identified as a priority in the township's strategic plan. We are working both independently and collaboratively to achieve better services. If you have any thoughts or ideas you'd like to share, please email them to council@tiny.ca with the subject line Tiny Internet.

Steffen Walma is Deputy Mayor of the Township of Tiny.



Georgian Bay Water Levels Continue Rising

by MARY MUTER

In the past two years we have seen water levels in Georgian Bay — and elsewhere — rise dramatically. It's quite a contrast to Georgian Bay's unprecedented low water levels from 1999 to 2013. In fact, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada monthly water level bulletin advises that levels for all the Great Lakes are above their all-time average for this time of year.

The recent rise can be accounted for in part by high precipitation levels and the normal cycle of water levels. But it also results from the International Lake Superior Board of Control's decision to discharge higher amounts from Lake Superior so that its water level remains within a four-foot range of highs and lows.

What about us? With no ability to control the outflow of Lake Huron and with a normal range of levels of 6.5 feet, we are part of the forgotten cousins — Lakes Michigan/Huron/Georgian Bay.

We are now about 20 inches above the long-term average while Lake Superior is about 14 inches above its long-term average. Given that all the upper lakes have experienced similar weather conditions, this difference can only be accounted for by the International Lake Superior Board of Control's increased discharges over the winter to the downstream lake — ours.

What can and should be done about this? Canada and the United States could direct the International Joint Commission, under whose authority the three control boards (Superior, Niagara and Ontario) operate, to have only one Control Board and manage all the Great Lakes in all their best interests. End of story.

But it's not that easy. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation has been working on this since 2002 with no luck. Yet inaction makes no sense because a huge range in water levels means that shoreline damage occurs when levels are high and wetlands dry up when levels are low.

What we're doing about this

The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation board of directors are also founding directors of Restore Our Water International (ROWI). The Chair is a former senior hydrologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers. For many years ROWI has been advocating for measures to alleviate extreme highs and lows. Several actions could be taken now to lower lake levels and prevent shoreline damage. Since the American members of ROWI who have cottages or homes on soft sandy ridges are at extreme risk of losing their cottages completely, we are launching a media campaign by sending a press release to the *Chicago Tribune*. The American population numbers are so much higher, and they engage much more with their political leaders, and especially with the new Michigan governor, so we might be able to get the attention we need for Lakes Michigan and Huron, and Georgian Bay. Stay posted via our website georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com

Mary Muter is Chair of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation.

www.tinycottager.org



Report...continued from page 4

buoys. He asked that Council discuss the issue. For more on survey results, see page 3.

On February 11, Council decided "that further information on the impacts of the installation and maintenance of speed marker buoys be obtained from staff, including the costing and enforcement implications."

GREAT LAKES WATERFRONT TRAIL:

A representative of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust spoke to Council in February about expanding the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail through Tiny Township along Tiny Beaches Road. This would provide a link from Wasaga to Penetanguishene. Council decided to support the project in principle and asked staff to report back on the matter in future.

PHRAGMITES CONTROL: See Lynn Short's article, p.5

REGIONAL CULTURE COMMITTEE PROPOSED:

In February, Fred Hacker (Chair, Culture Midland Committee) proposed that Tiny, Tay, Penetanguishene, Midland and Beausoleil First Nation form a temporary Joint Culture Committee and that each appoint one member of Council and one staff member to serve on it. This Committee would create and adopt terms of reference, and each community would appoint members. He asked each community to contribute \$10,000 per year and provide staff support for local activities. In March, Council decided on a one-year trial, subsequent involvement depending on the participation of the other four parties.

BUDGET:

On March 11, Council approved the 2019 Budget "at a 5% tax rate increase plus 1% to Capital Infrastructure Funding."

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES:

See [www.tiny.ca/Your Government/Committees](http://www.tiny.ca/Your_Government/Committees)

BLUEWATER DUNES RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION/CORPORATION COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD:

After discussing Bluewater Dunes' request for a community bulletin board, Council decided that the township would purchase the lumber, install the sign and provide basic rules of use, while the association would maintain the information posted and ensure compliance with the intent of a community board.

TOWNSHIP'S COMMENTS LETTER TO MNRF ABOUT THE EXTENSION OF THE TEEDON PIT:

For wording that was agreed upon on March 25, see April 8, Committee of the Whole Agenda / Staff Reports to Council / Planning and Development.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION RE: TEEDON PIT EXTENSION APPLICATION:

Councillor Wishart proposed additional legal representation regarding the Teedon Pit Extension Application. He was supported by Councillor Mintoff. The motion was defeated. The Township continues to be represented by Sarah Hahn of Barriston Law LLP in Barrie. (See FoTSTA's 24 March letter to Council in the Communication section of the Committee of the Whole Agenda for April 8, 2019.)

SEWAGE SYSTEM REINSPECTION PROGRAM:

C.C. Tatham & Associates provided Council with a history of the reinspection program, and a report on 2018 findings. A surprising number of basic deficiencies continue to be found (159 initially, plus many more as a result of pump out reports) as properties come up for reinspection every six years. Inspections in 2019 are to be done in Toanche, Farlain Lake and Champlain Road.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN:

Victoria Irvick made a presentation to Council about Sustainable Severn Sound's proposed Climate Change Action Plan and next steps. This work in progress is being refined as staff considers how to reduce Tiny's carbon emissions. By 2028, corporate emissions are to be reduced by 30% and the community's by 6%. A question from

Councillor Wishart revealed that the Action Plan does not include emissions from heating with wood stoves. This is serious in a township where many homes burn wood for heat. Also, there is no penalty if goals are not met. Information about the Action Plan is to appear on the township website, in newsletters, and the like.

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW: See page 1.

STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP:

On April 17, Council and senior staff devoted a special committee of the whole meeting to updating the strategic plan that had guided the previous Council from 2015 to 2018. Once again, Karen Wiancki of Planning Solutions Inc. supplied useful guidance reminding them of the big picture against which their actions would be played out, and returning repeatedly to the idea that challenges could become opportunities. They reviewed the 13-page Strategic Plan Scorecard item by item, eventually identifying 12 priorities they hope to accomplish before the next election, namely (in no particular order):

- move forward on a new or remodelled town hall (site, design)
- move towards the goal of 50 affordable housing units (only 4 now)
- improve internet and cell service capabilities
- make strides with infrastructure needs
- get transit in place to link to Simcoe County's transit service (Uber? First Nations bus?)
- decide on and support a sewage treatment plan
- support the township's artists and artisans, possibly with a gallery
- bring human resources management in house to manage staff recruitment and retention
- support economic development in North Simcoe (i.e. jobs to keep the young from leaving the township)
- support outdoor recreation, beaches, trails, bicycle paths
- continue to develop an asset management plan (including making use of the airport)
- build in resilience and sustainability

Council decided to move items from the previous strategic plan that had already been accomplished into an appendix so that the focus of the revised plan would be on things still to be done. They directed staff to work with Wiancki on an updated draft of the plan and scorecard and have them ready for distribution to the community and for discussion at the Town Hall Meeting in May.

Anyone curious to know how Tiny's current Council views its job would find the live streamed version of this meeting revealing (and occasionally frustrating, when someone forgot to speak into a microphone).

2019 TAXES:

The total to be levied this year is \$29,176,752. This sum is shared among the Township (\$11,706,034), the County (\$10,853,338), and Education (\$6,617,380). As usual, those on municipal water systems pay an additional levy of \$200 for capital costs.

URBAN HEN KEEPING/BACKYARD CHICKENS:

This serious matter is to be considered during the public consultation process for the Township's new Zoning By-law.

BUILDING ACTIVITY SLOWS:

Where, in the first quarter of 2018, 94 permits were issued at an estimated value of \$6,768,000, in the first quarter of 2019, the permits issued fell to 65 at an estimated value of \$3,742,800.

PARTIAL ROAD ALLOWANCE CLOSURE AT THUNDER BEACH:

The passage of By-law No. 19-036, closing the part of the road allowance between Concession 18 and 19 that gives access to the beach, should resolve a long-standing problem. (The stretch to be closed is Parts 1, 2, and 3 on Reference Plan 51R-41868.)

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Now, more than 25 years later, Midland Toyota has grown to become known for excellence in service and sales in Midland, Penetanguishene and the surrounding area. Many members of our team have been with us from the beginning and know our customers so well they are like family. We all live locally and are involved in schools, sports teams, service clubs and recreation throughout the area.

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

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

Remember - We Really Do Care!

Come visit us anytime: In-store on King St. in Midland or online at midlandtoyota.ca

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Enhancements Mean GBGH Now Offers More

by GAIL HUNT

As we prepare for another beautiful season on Georgian Bay, much has changed at Georgian Bay General Hospital (GBGH), and we have much to offer our patients.

The third and final phase of GBGH's Emergency Department (ED) redevelopment officially opened in September, and it's a game-changer for both the hospital and our community. After more than five years and three phases of construction that added 8,000 square feet, GBGH has a completely renovated and expanded ED offering patients specialized treatment and trauma rooms, an indoor ambulance bay, a new See & Treat area — or Green Zone — for less acute patients, and a new waiting room with a very popular children's play area.

This important project would not have happened without the support GBGH received from permanent and seasonal residents alike — both in terms of patience during months of challenging construction, and through generous donations. With the community providing \$6.8 million in funding, this new ED is designed to handle the nearly 120 daily patient visits the department sees on average, with visits spiking as high as 160 or 180 per day during busy summer weekends.

GBGH also welcomed a long-awaited and vital piece of diagnostic equipment — its new computerized tomography (CT) scanner. The scanner arrived in late September and was in use by mid-October. More than 2,000 donors contributed \$1.35 million to purchase the important new diagnostic tool.

A CT scanner is used to diagnose disease or injuries by taking a series of X-ray images of the body. It uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images (slices) of the bones, blood vessels and soft tissues inside the body. CT scan images provide more detailed information than X-rays. GBGH's new state-of-the-art unit takes hundreds of highly detailed images in a few seconds versus the original CT scanners of the 1970s, which took one image in four minutes. The images can be seen immediately so patients receive timely access to imaging care and are exposed to less radiation.

GBGH's Diagnostic Imaging department was extensively renovated. A much larger space now accommodates the new CT scanner, a stretcher and other equipment. Each year, GBGH performs more than 10,000 CT scans.

With its new ED and CT scanner, GBGH is as ready as ever to serve area residents and visitors this coming summer. And although we hope you don't need to use our services, GBGH is always there just in case you do.

Gail Hunt is President and CEO, GBGH.

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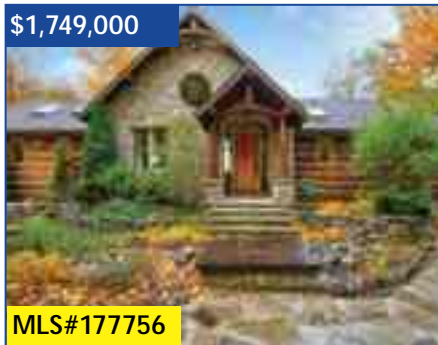
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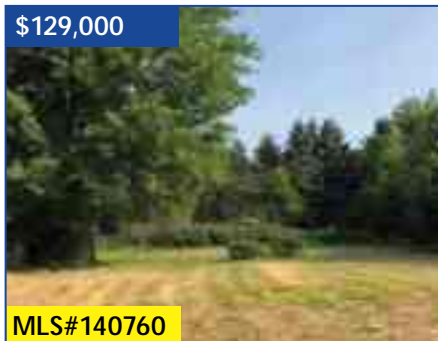
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2019 Township of Tiny Events

- May 25: Town Hall Meeting | 10am - 12pm | TTCC
- June: Recreation, Parks & Older Adults Month | Calendar of Events
- June 1: Asphalt to Food - Depaving Paradise Activity | Perkinsfield Park
- July 11-13: Festival Du Loup de Lafontaine
- July 20: Annual Community BBQ | Perkinsfield Park
- July 28: Balm Beach Family Fun Day
- August: Farm Crawl
- August 24: Fire & Emergency Services Family Fun Day | Wyevale Fire Hall
- September: Tiny's Annual Charity Golf Tournament
- September 15: Midland & Area Terry Fox Day | Perkinsfield Park
- September 19: Town Hall Meeting | 7pm - 9pm | Wyebridge Community Centre
- October: Farm Crawl
- November 23: Noel au Village Lafontaine | 16th Annual Tree Lighting
- November 30: Wyevale Santa Claus Parade & Party
- January 1, 2020: Tiny Lions Club Annual Polar Bear Dip



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