

THE TINY COTTAGER

Issue No. 51

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Spring/Summer 2018

President's Message

By PAUL COWLEY, CARUSOE BAY

Our members increasingly ask FoTTSA to make Tiny's many environmental issues a top priority. In this issue we have articles on water quality, water extraction, microplastics pollution, and invasive plants and fish, such as Grass Carp.

The Grass carp threat was documented in the Spring, 2017 *Tiny Cottager* and it is worsening. The Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation is now turning its expertise to this significant concern. Watch for news in *FoTTSA Flash* and on the foundation website (www.georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com) of an Asian Carp webinar with experts and political leaders. We all need to be there!

The Severn Sound Environmental Association has Phragmites squarely in its sights, as does Lynn Short's Phragmites research program. Other species such as garlic mustard, spotted knapweed and white sweet clover are also ongoing threats that you will learn more about from the articles inside.

FoTTSA advocates for our members on many of these important concerns, and we're heartened by the number of people who also volunteer their time and effort. There is much to be done.

With a fall election ahead of us, we provide essential information in this issue, such as key dates, how to make sure you're on the voters list, and how to register as a candidate. In the fall issue we'll provide more information, including brief candidate profiles. I encourage you to get engaged early. Informed voters can make a difference.

Tiny Council's town hall meetings continue to be well-attended conduits for residents and Council to share and understand views. Plan to attend the next meeting on May 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tiny Township Community Centre. That same morning at 8:30 a.m. you can attend a Tiny Recreation Master plan open house at the same location.

This year FoTTSA is proud to be Founding Sponsor of the 2018 Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament on July 13, which continues to grow in size and donations. Please register early and come out to support this wonderful effort.

If you have a passion to help improve something in Tiny, please reach out to us. We are always looking for volunteer help to continue the important work we do.

We look forward to enjoying a warmer than normal summer with you!



Please see *Grow Your Own Wildflower Magic...* on page 13

Gravel Pit in Concession 1: Water Taking, Expansion

By JUDITH GRANT, ADDISON BEACH

Applications to expand the Teedon gravel pit in Concession 1 and take millions of litres of water a day for aggregate washing continue to generate opposition from township residents and First Nations. As of press time, the Ministry of Natural Resources is still considering the water application and Township of Tiny Council has not passed by-law amendments needed for the expansion. Here's a status report on the situation.

Background to recent developments

In March 2012, Beamish Construction Co., then owner of the Teedon gravel pit, applied for Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments to allow a substantial northward expansion of the pit. The township hired R.J. Burnside & Associates (Burnside) and the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) to peer review the application and the studies that accompanied it.

In response to points they raised, Beamish backed the excavation area away from the significant woodland on the west side of the property and agreed to plant more trees when rehabilitating the Teedon Pit, but ignored other criticisms. A public meeting about the application in January 2015 raised many concerns, including a number about the increased amount of aggregate washing and potential negative effects on the underlying aquifers. Beamish addressed none of these worries.

Beamish then applied (as the township learned in March 2015) to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for a major site plan amendment for the Teedon Pit. In response, the township supplied

MNRF with a list of points raised by residents at the public meeting. Then, a little later, local residents lodged formal complaints with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) about silt in their wells, caused, they believed, by the washing of gravel in the Teedon Pit. In February 2016, the township provided additional comments to the MNRF prepared by Burnside, recommending that "the current condition of nearby domestic wells should be established", and that monitoring of the Teedon Pit "should be expanded to include a staff gauge in the wash pond, a nested well with screens completed at a variety of depths (to monitor change in gradients during use of the wash pond), along with a number of wells completed in the aquifer(s) that are used by domestic wells in the area". None of this was done.

Nonetheless, in November 2016, MNRF consented to the requested major site plan amendment which, among other things, increased the final depth of extraction to just a meter and a half above the water table; allowed the importation of asphalt, concrete, aggregate and topsoil/fill for transfer or processing; and permitted a wash plant and wash pond on site.

Nothing further happened that year or the next with regard to the application to expand the gravel pit northward.

Current situation re: the permit to take water

On January 18, 2018, CRH Canada Group Inc. (now

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