

PUBLISHER: Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations

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

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

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REPORT ON COUNCIL

Mayor: George Cornell

Deputy Mayor: Steffen Walma

Councillors: Cindy Hastings, Tony Mintoff, Gibb Wishart

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Visit the Township's COVID-19 webpage at tiny.ca/coronavirus for municipal service impacts and updates.
- Tiny Connect - Sign up now at www.tinyconnect.ca

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING:

A report about an ad hoc committee that considered options for the Township's municipal administrative building during the previous Council's term, appeared in the Committee of the Whole Agenda for September 30, 2019. A tour of township facilities and visits to municipal buildings in municipalities similar in size to Tiny Township — some new, others renovated — led the committee to conclude that existing township buildings are insufficient for current and future needs and a new building was preferable to renovations.

Due to the uncertainty posed by the Regional Government Review, Council decided to do things not involving capital costs, among them creating an "Owner's Statement of Requirements," which would update and expand upon a 2012 building program prepared by Ted Handy and R.J. Burnside. This document would be presented to short-listed design-build firms participating in a competition. For details, see Public Works Report PWR-040-19, Committee of the Whole Agenda, September 30, 2019.

A new committee — The Corporation of the Township of Tiny Building Needs Assessment Committee (often called the Building Needs Committee) — met on November 27, 2019. Its members are: George Cornell (Mayor), Tony Mintoff (Councillor), Doug Luker (CAO), Doug Taylor (Treasurer), Tim Leitch (Public Works), Jean-Francois Robitaille (Engineering), Ray Millar (Fire Chief), Sue Walton (Clerk), Joceline Roi-Pattison (Building), Shawn Persaud (Planning), Cassidy Bonneville (Public Works Admin. Assistant). This group of key township figures will be considering the Township's largest expenditure ever, which will put Tiny in debt for a considerable time.

At this meeting, the Committee heard a presentation on how to fund the new building using Infrastructure Ontario's Loan Program. It decided to devise a communications strategy about the new building and learned that the County of Simcoe requires the building to be within or adjacent to an existing settlement or on property elsewhere with appropriate zoning.

On March 9, 2020, Council adopted the proposed strategy, including the use of a Township webpage for items like the project charter, reports, committee meeting minutes and photos. It also approved a proposed site selection process and agreed that the Committee should start looking at the "Owner's Statement of Requirements" (space requirements for the new facility, features to be included, required standards and the like).

The Committee appears not to have met in April or to have posted a new webpage.

TRANSPARENCY?!

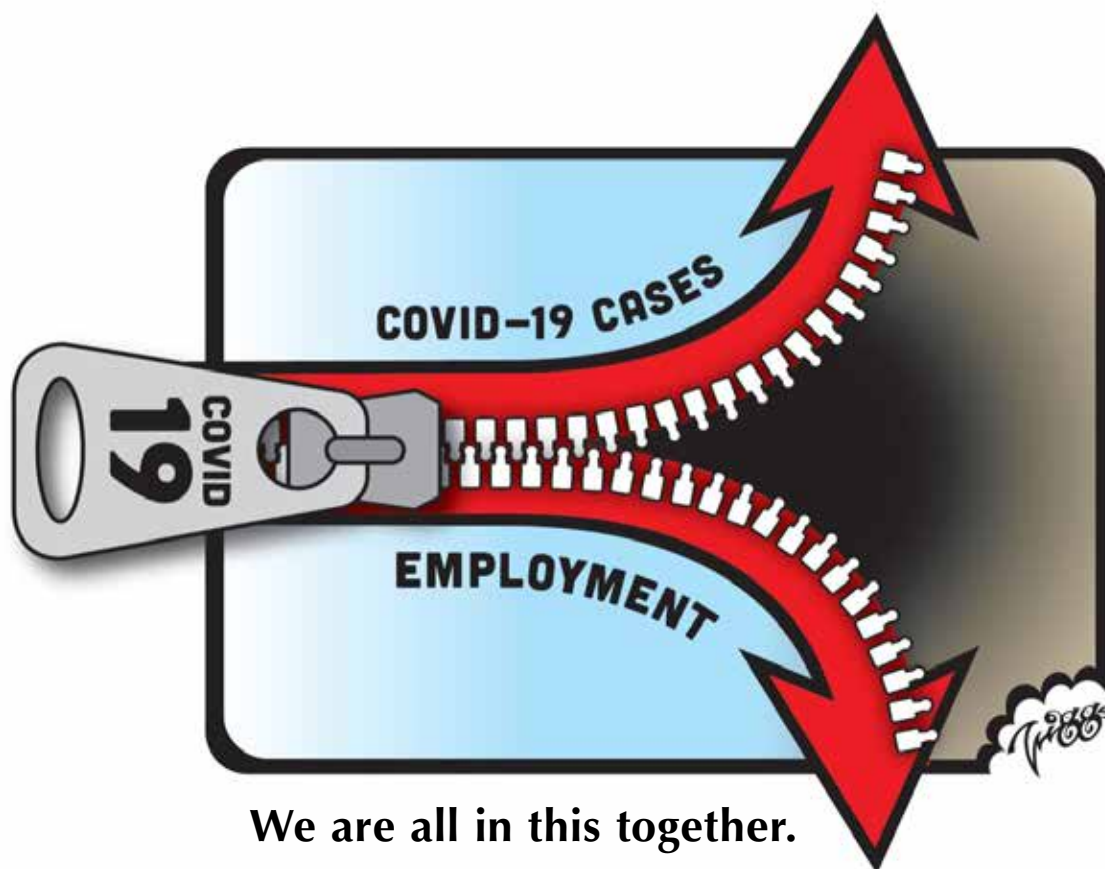
On September 30, 2019, Mark Vanderheyden, representing Plan 763 owners of the Wahnekewening Beach Association, asked Council for additional information regarding its legal opinion on the easement over the beach portion of Block A. Vanderheyden was asked to provide his legal opinion, deed and title information in anticipation of a review of the township's legal opinion in a closed session on October 16 held to determine if it would be released to the public. The outcome was that the legal opinion would remain confidential.

In October, Council decided that the legal opinion of March 29, 2011 related to the Zoning By-law on Rental Cottages would remain confidential.

In March 2020, Barriston LLP submitted a report in a confidential closed session regarding Plan 691 Beach, Plan 779 Beach, Wahnekewening Beach and Silver Birch Beach. Council voted that the confidential correspondence from Barriston regarding the status update on beachfront property matters be received, and that Barriston and staff proceed as directed. In other words, the information remained confidential.

INTERNET SERVICE:

Since last fall, a number of privately held companies have approached Council with proposals for improving internet service.



In October 2019, after hearing a presentation on Fontur International's proposed telecommunications tower in Toanche Park, Council raised questions about camouflaging and use of the tower by the Township and additional carriers. In the end, Council instructed staff to provide the enabling Letter of Concurrence and a lease agreement. In November, it was decided that the tower should be painted sky blue to minimize its visual impact.

In January 2020, after hearing a presentation by Bell Mobility, Council decided that a telecommunications tower to be erected at 2 Winterset Ave. in Balm Beach would receive the necessary Letter of Concurrence about the tower siting. It is to be disguised as a pine tree.

In February 2020, Viasat, a high-speed broadband internet service provider catering to rural customers, proposed a facility near 297 Concession Rd 15 E that could be operational by the end of November. Its satellite antenna would be 11 meters high and require supporting equipment. Council received the proposal "as information."

In addition to considering proposals from private companies, Council has a Broadband Ad Hoc Committee that investigates potential funding and partnerships. Council has decided that the Township would partner with the Beausoleil First Nation and identify vendor(s) to improve broadband transport infrastructure and asymmetrical high-speed internet service delivery in unserved/underserved areas as identified in the Canada Radio-Telecommunications Commission Broadband Fund Guide, and to then complete an application to the CRTC Fund.

Read more about Township efforts to bring efficient service to Tiny in Deputy Mayor Walma's article on page 10.

SARJEANT'S WAVERLEY PITS 1 & 2:

In 2019 the Sarjeant Company decided to make its two licensed pits (one permitting excavation below the water table) in Concession 1 operational and asked the Township to amend its 2011 French Road Improvement Agreement. Requirements for its construction as a haul road were updated. Then, Councillor Mintoff raised concerns about maintenance and Council had R.J. Burnside & Associates Engineering review studies and site plan notes related to hydrogeology, aggregate excavation below the water table and new regulations. The result: Burnside's July 9, 2009 opinion remained unchanged: everything was in order. Council went ahead with the Amending Agreement.

The Sarjeant Company then amended its site plan by removing the reference to "asphalt" as one of the recyclable materials that "may be imported on to the site." This move may have been an attempt to gain public approval.

SITE PLAN APPLICATION BY OROK ENTERPRISES INC. (STUBBS) FOR GEORGIAN BAY PARK, PART LOT 25, CONCESSION 2 WEST:

In March 2020, Council passed a Site Plan Agreement for phases 1 and 2 of this seasonal trailer park development. Phase 1 includes 56 seasonal trailer sites, a comfort station

and an in-ground swimming pool in addition to the existing barn and sheds. Phase 2 encompasses 44 seasonal trailer sites, 10 four-season cabins, the use of part of the comfort station as a medical clinic, and additional parking.

GREAT LAKES WATERFRONT TRAIL:

Since the first section of the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail — from Trenton to Stoney Creek — was established in 1995, it has grown to roughly 3,000 km in length along Lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron and Georgian Bay, as well as the Lake Huron North Channel and the St. Lawrence, Detroit and St. Clair Rivers. This cycling trail uses local, district and provincial roads and trail routes that follow the shoreline as close as reasonably possible.

In April 2020, Council advised the Waterfront Regeneration Trust (WRT) that it wishes to participate in the extension of the Trail through the Township. It directed staff to work with the WRT "to identify, map and implement" expansion in Tiny. The Township is to supply hardware and labour for the installation of signage on township roads. Council also decided to support the County's participation, including an annual contribution by the County of \$3,500.

Information about the Trail is available at www.waterfront-trail.org/. The founding chair of WRT (and still a Director) was David Crombie, a resident of Tiny and former Toronto mayor and federal cabinet minister.

COMMUNITY LIBRARY BOX AT BLUEWATER DUNES:

In a November 20, 2019 letter to Council and Public Works, the Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association asked that a Community Library Box be installed on Township property in its area. The association would bear the expense and maintain the box and its contents.

While researching the feasibility of this request, Public Works came across an organization called "Little Free Library," which sells library boxes and tracks their location through a registration process. The township would have the right to remove or relocate a Little Free Library box from Township property if issues develop. Public Works estimated the cost to the Township for a Little Free Library Box as roughly \$440. Council rejected this option, instead recommending that staff advise Bluewater Dunes of the Little Free Library organization's information. There are currently two library boxes in Tiny, at 100 Tall Pines Drive and 959 Marshall Road.

MODIFICATIONS TO TINY'S OFFICIAL PLAN:

The Township's Official Plan was formally adopted on November 26, 2018 and submitted to the County, which made a few modifications. Since then, Township staff and MHBC Planning worked with County Planning staff to develop a modified version that complies with all applicable legislation and Simcoe County's planning policy. The Adopted OP showing the County modifications is available in Reports of Consultants, Committee of the Whole Agenda, April 27, 2020. Here are the main changes:

- *Natural Heritage System mapping (Greenlands and ... continued on next page*

Environmental Protection designations) and Agricultural System mapping (Agricultural designation). These are the most refined mapping layers available within the municipality, and are used in the Adopted OP. The less refined Provincial Natural Heritage System and the Provincial Agricultural System have been removed.

- **Growth Management.** In 2019, the province modified its policies surrounding settlement area expansions. Minor adjustments can now occur without a Municipal Comprehensive Review. Density targets have been removed since the Township has no fully serviced settlement areas. Major settlement area boundary expansion can occur only as part of a Municipal Comprehensive Review. Tiny Township's settlement areas are defined in the Growth Plan as rural settlements. Policies have been added that permit employment land conversions outside of a Municipal Comprehensive review.
- **Shoreline Designation.** Bed and Breakfasts are now a permitted use, but only if there is a site-specific Zoning By-law Amendment.
- **Second Units.** The Planning Act now permits two second units per lot, including one in an accessory building. In Tiny two second units are now permitted in the Rural, Agricultural, Greenlands, Country Residential and Settlement Area designations, but NOT Shoreline.
- **Renewable Energy:** Changes have been made to the Adopted OP to reflect the Provincial repeal of the Green Energy Act. However, Section D.14.1 still stands. It states: "the Township is not a willing host for industrial wind turbines."
- **Mineral Aggregate Resources II Mapping.** The map in Appendix 3 reveals that the County has substantially expanded the amount of land designated Mineral Aggregate Resources II.
- **Appeal of the County's OP Greenland Designation:** Many discrepancies between Tiny's and the County's OPs have already been resolved. All natural heritage features (significant woodlands, significant valleylands, ANSIs, etc.) form the Township's Greenland designation. The County identified some additional minor lands to be designated as Greenland. See Appendix 5.

SEWAGE SYSTEM REINSPECTION PROGRAM:

In 2019, Tatham Engineering inspected the northeast quadrant of the Township, completing 1490 inspections; 269 revealed deficiencies and more will be found once all reports have been submitted. Among deficiencies to date:

- 71 root intrusions into the leaching bed area
- 62 septic tanks need replacement
- 32 instances of vehicles parking or driving on the septic tank or leaching bed
- 26 needed information on the sewage system from the resident
- 13 had eavestroughs or sump pumps draining onto the septic tank or leaching bed
- 12 had a structure or patio on top of the leaching bed
- 12 had an outdoor sink or shower drain discharging onto the ground
- 9 had a septic tank or leaching bed near a lake.

In 2020, inspections will be done in the northwest quadrant of the township, excluding Thunder Beach.

BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED TO COVID-19 PROVINCIAL ORDERS:

Ten days after the Province issued a Declaration of Emergency on March 17, 2020, it gave by-law officers province-wide authority to enforce various emergency orders. Since then, according to Steve Harvey, Tiny's Chief Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, half of his department's activity has concerned rules restricting park use. Only walkthrough use of parks (including Tiny's five beach parks) is permitted (no sitting, swimming, paddle-boarding). Benches and equipment are taped off. Social distancing is required. Gatherings of more than five people are not permitted. At the last meeting in April, he reported that compliance has been very good but not perfect.

Jackson Park is closed, the boat ramp is buried in sand, and even when the sand has been cleared on May 4, only emergency services will be allowed to use it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (FOR TINY) RELATED TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

On May 25 Treasurer Doug Taylor will present an extended report focusing on cash flow, given the many negative and positive impacts of the pandemic. He envisions several "what if" scenarios and intends to raise concerns and suggest options.

COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE UNDER EMERGENCY DECLARATION:

Council will meet every third week starting May 25, 2020 for the duration.

Let's support our local businesses!

Invasive Phragmites and High Water Levels: The Bad News and the Good News

by LYNN SHORT, WYMBOLWOOD BEACH



Photos by Lynn Short

A Phragmites fragment.



These fragments can take root if not disposed of.

Invasive non-native *Phragmites australis* has been a big problem in Tiny Township. When uncontrolled along the shoreline, it interferes with the enjoyment of lakefront beaches, outcompetes beneficial native vegetation and threatens the beach ecosystem. It also destroys natural wetland habitat, invades agricultural fields, blocks roadside ditches, poses a fire risk, grows through shoulder asphalt and blocks roadway sight lines.

First, the bad news

The shoreline of Georgian Bay has been dramatically changing because the water levels have risen over five feet in recent years. Wave action has caused erosion of the sand along the shore. The native beach plants are well adapted to fluctuating water levels and erosion; however, the problems associated with Phragmites are greatly amplified.

Eighty percent of the biomass of Phragmites is composed of rhizomes (underground stems) that grow deep into the sand. Due to shoreline erosion, vast amounts of the beige tubular underground rhizomes have been exposed. The wave action breaks off short fragments and carries them to other locations along the shore. If left alone, these rhizomes will quickly take root in the new location. This is one effective way in which Phragmites spreads and starts new colonies.

To prevent this spread from happening, it is essential to monitor the shoreline in the spring to locate, remove and destroy these rhizome fragments. Some of the fragments may be seen lying on the surface of the sand, but there will also be some that have been buried. Many of the buried rhizomes will likely sprout later in the spring. It will be necessary

to remove the new growth before it gets well established. Remember the phrase, "early detection, rapid response."

Now, the good news

With rising water levels, some Phragmites colonies will be flooded. Phragmites growing in water of a depth of at least six inches are easier to control than Phragmites growing on land. Cutting Phragmites stalks growing in water can be especially effective because it prevents rhizomes' access to essential oxygen. The plant will actually drown. This cutting can be done using pruners, raspberry cane cutters or a sharpened spade to cut the stalks as far below the surface of the water as can be reached. Larger colonies could be cut in this way using mechanized cutting tools. It is very important, when using any of these approaches, that the cut stalks not be allowed to float away and take root elsewhere. They must all be recovered for disposal.

Disposal

Rhizome fragments or cut stalks can be dried and burned if this is permitted, or they can be packed into paper yard waste bags for pick-up or delivery to a municipal waste facility once thoroughly dried out. Alternatively, they can be solarized (heat treated) in large black industrial garbage bags left in the sun for 2-3 weeks before being taken to a municipal waste facility.

In conclusion, this spring/summer season provides new opportunities to be good stewards of the land by controlling non-native Phragmites.

For more information about controlling invasive species, go to www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca



FoTTSa NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

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

We monitor Tiny Council / We publish *The Tiny Cottager & FoTTSa Flash* /
We maintain a website / We are active in the community on your behalf

WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

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New Payment Options

- e-Transfer. Please send to fottsadonation@gmail.com
- Cheque payable to "FoTTSa" (please include the completed form below)
- PayPal: see the link at www.tinycottager.org

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