



# THE TINY COTTAGER

A GEORGIAN BAY PERSPECTIVE

Issue No. 60

Fall/Winter 2022

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by PAUL COWLEY, Carusoe Bay

As the glorious summer weather leads us into fall, our attention must turn to serious matters that will be dealt with for better or worse by the outcome of Tiny's October 24th municipal election.

Tiny is facing many major issues that will require significant expertise if they are to be dealt with effectively. They will have a major impact on our future. Most seasonal residents are eligible to vote – see [Voter Information at tiny.ca/election](http://tiny.ca/election)

Short term rentals (STR's) in the form of ghost hotels in residential areas have become a serious problem in Tiny as in many other communities and are affecting our quality of life and destroying the quiet enjoyment of our communities.

The purest water in the world (the Alliston Aquifer) according to scientists from all over the world is being threatened by gravel mining companies. FoTTSA has engaged in two lawsuits in an attempt to protect the water for future generations. Unfortunately, Tiny's Council has not helped.

Also, the Township has allowed several years of destruction to our forests by not acting on the serious moth infestations. Private residents have had to undertake spraying programs themselves.

Excess nitrate in private wells especially in northern Tiny has continued for years as the Township has failed to deal with the fertilizing practices on farms in the area.

These are but a few of the many important problems that will be this council's legacy for the next council. We need to choose a cohesive team of individuals who are willing to take action towards a better state of affairs in Tiny.

To that end, I implore you to scrutinize the candidates running in this election. Do not just vote on emotion or hearsay. Examine their credentials and satisfy yourself that you are choosing the right people for these important jobs.

What political or municipal experience do they have if any? Are they of sound character and do they deal honestly and openly with people? Are they cooperative problem solvers and can they work together with others to deal with the complex subjects they will encounter?

We hope the information about each candidate in this issue and other informative surveys will help you in your assessment.

Remember it is mail-in voting. Please ensure you receive your ballots and send them in early so they arrive in time to be counted.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Fall/Winter Events .....   | 2  |
| The War of the Woods .....                                       | 3  |
| Chris Figgures' Cartoon.....                                     | 4  |
| Report on Council .....  | 4  |
| Letters to the Editor .....                                      | 5  |
| Swimming Water Testing Successful.....                           | 8  |
| Protecting the World's Purest Water.....                         | 9  |
| Researchers Begin to Study Tiny's Pristine Water.....            | 9  |
| Municipal election: Tiny Candidates Answer 5 Questions.....      | 10 |
| Estelle Turns 100 .....  | 14 |
| The Mills of Wyebridge.....                                      | 17 |
| Mayor's Golf Tournament Raises \$50,000 for Local Charities..... | 18 |
| UNESCO Designation May Be A Slam Dunk .....                      | 19 |

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Tony Mintoff

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Sean Miskimins  
Steve Saltsman

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Dave Brunelle  
Ema Canadic  
Mario Galluzzo  
Kelly Peter Helowka

Stephen McNamara  
Erik Schomann  
David Sparrock  
Steffen Walma  
Gibb Wishart

1. The Township of Tiny will provide a Vote-by-Mail kit to every person who qualifies to be an elector up to the close of voting on October 24, 2022, at 8:00 pm.
2. The final recommended day to deposit the ballot package in the mail for delivery to the Township of Tiny is Thursday, October 13, 2022. Following this date, voters are encouraged to bring their ballot package at the Township Office and deposit in the ballot box during regular business hours or in the mail slot beside the front doors of the Municipal Office after business hours.
3. A polling place and ballot return station will be available for electors who wish to cast their vote at the Township Office. Voters will be required to bring their Vote- by-Mail kits.

**Be sure to see pages 10-13 for all the candidate's thoughts on five key issues.**

## Municipal Election Survey Results: Your Priorities for the Next Council

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, SHANNON PARRY

Ghost hotels, beach rights, road safety, the environment, and by-law enforcement are top concerns among Tiny voters, according to results of a survey conducted this summer by the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA).

The Federation conducted the online survey to help municipal election candidates understand voters' concerns and priorities. The official election date is October 24. An eligible voter (Canadian citizen at least 18 years old, resident or owner or tenant of land in the Township of Tiny, or the spouse of such a person) may place their ballot in the mail no later than the recommended date of October 13 or drop off their Vote-By-Mail ballot any time up until 8 pm October 24.

The online survey, sent to readers of our monthly e-newsletter, *FoTTSA Flash*, and posted on FoTTSA's website, received a statistically significant 433 responses.

The survey asked respondents nine questions on specific topics. It also asked one open-ended question: If you could ask Tiny Council one question, what would it be? Ghost hotels, beach rights, road safety and the environment were the most frequently cited concerns among the 290 respondents to this question.

Many questions posed to Council reflected voter impatience. For example:

- Why did you wait so long to license short term rentals?
- Why is the Township taking so long to clearly mark public and private shoreline areas?
- Why are we two years behind Collingwood and other places in acting on ghost hotels?

Some respondents issued an imperative instead of asking a question, such as "Improve by-law enforcement services and reporting."

Among the nine survey questions on specific topics, FoTTSA asked about the following. Virtually all respondents answered each question, showing a high level of interest in the topics.

### Delivery of township services

We asked residents to identify from a list of five services which they felt were delivered well, or not well.

Among the services delivered well, snow and ice management received the most responses (278 responses/70%), followed by Tiny Connect (225/56%), recreation programs (146/37%), community engagement (136/34%) and library services (129/32%).

A much lower percentage of respondents told us which of the same five services were NOT delivered well, suggesting that many respondents did not have significant concerns. Community engagement received the most responses (185/67%). Library Services received the second most responses, but only 72 (26%).

### By-law enforcement

Regarding the noise by-law, respondents gave enforcement effectiveness a weighted average of 3.25 (1 = highly effective and 5 = highly ineffective). Parking enforcement received a weighted average of 2.83. "Please have by-law contact people available 24/7 (especially on weekends). I should not have to call OPP for by-law matters," wrote one respondent.

### Ghost hotels

On the questions of whether the township should ban ghost hotels, 78% said yes, 12% said no and 10% were undecided.

— continued on page 6

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# FALL/WINTER EVENTS

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

## OCTOBER

**Huronion Museum Film Series** Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Galaxy Theatre, Midland  
<https://huronionmuseum.com/film-series/>

**Tiny Township Farm Crawl**, October 1  
<https://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/events/farm-crawl-2022>

**Showcase of Homes Tour**, October 1  
<https://northsimcoe.bigbrothersbigisters.ca/event/showcase-homes-tour/>

**Marsh by Moonlight**, October 1, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-By-Moonlight-Canoe>

**The Bay Studio Tour**, October 1-2  
<https://www.thebaystudiotour.com>

**Pumpkinferno at Discovery Harbour**, Drive-Thru: Thursdays Oct 5, 13, 20 & 27 between 7pm and 10pm Evenings Thurs-Sun Oct. 3-20, all evenings Oct. 21-30, Walk-Thru: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 6pm and 10pm  
<http://www.discoveryharbour.on.ca/dh/en/specialevents/halloweenday/index.htm>

**Elmvale Fall Fair**, October 5-8, Elmvale Fairground  
<http://elmvalerfallfair.com>

**Hometown Harvest Festival Craft and Vendors Show**, October 8-9, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons  
<http://www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/SpecialEvents/index.htm>

**Marsh by Moonlight**, October 7-9, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-By-Moonlight-Canoe>

**Images Studio Tour**, October 7-10 Orillia/Horseshoe Valley/Moonstone  
<http://www.images-studio-tour.com>

**Grimm Grounds Halloween Attraction**, October 8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-30, 31. Georgian Bay Recreational Park  
<https://grimmgrounds.com>

**Meet the Spirits**, October 14, St. James on the Line Cemetery [www.pencenmuseum.com](http://www.pencenmuseum.com)

**Winter Finches Workshop**, October 15, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/winter-finches>

**Vienna Boys Choir**, October 16, 308 King St, Midland  
<https://www.brooksidemusic.com/UpcomingEvents>

**Downtown Penetanguishene Historical Walking Tours**, October 20, 8 Owen St - Curling Club parking lot  
<https://www.penetanguishene.ca/museum/planning-a-visit/events-exhibits/#>

**Senior Speaker Series - Body, Mind, and Spirit**, October 20, Georgian Shores Seniors - The Place  
<https://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/events/senior-speaker-series-body-mind-and-spirit>

**Senior Speaker Series - The Power That May Be**, October 26, Township of Tiny Community Centre  
<https://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/events/senior-speaker-series-powers-may-be>

**Summer Memories Scrapbooking Workshop**, October 29, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops>

**In Grandmothers' Hands - African Lunch and Silent Auction**, October 24, Royal Canadian Legion, Midland  
<https://www.midlandtoday.ca/classifieds/announcements-and-events/community-events/1729606>

## NOVEMBER

**The Wizard of Oz: The Panto**, November 10-26, King's Wharf Theatre, Penetanguishene  
<http://www.draxtonentertainment.com>

**Stone Carving**, November 5, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh>

**Gibson & Sons**, November 4-6, 10-13, 17-19, MCC Huronia Players, Midland <http://www.huronplayers.ca>

**Owl Prowl**, November 5, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/owl-prowl>

**Maple Syrup Workshop**, November 12, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/maple-workshop>

**Peanut Suet Feeder Workshop**, November 12, Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/bird-feeder>

**Noel au village**, November 19.  
[www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar](http://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar)

**Senior Speaker Series - Seniors Keeping Active**, November 22, Township of Tiny Community Centre  
<https://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/events/senior-speaker-series-seniors-keeping-active>

**Inaugural Meeting of New Council**, November 23  
<https://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/events/inaugural-meeting-council>

**Tree Lighting**, November 29  
[www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar](http://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar)

**First Light**, November 24-26 and December 1-3, Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, evenings 5:30 pm-9:00 pm  
<http://www.saintemarieamongthehurons.on.ca/sm/en/SpecialEvents/FirstLight/index.htm>

## DECEMBER

**Festival of Lights**, December 2, Penetanguishene  
<https://www.penetanguishene.ca/recreation-and-culture/events/festival-of-lights/>

**Wyevale Santa Claus Parade**, December 3  
[www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar](http://www.tiny.ca/recreation-community/community-calendar)

**Wye Marsh Open House**, December 3, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/Open-House>

**Wreath Making Workshop**, December 3, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/wreath-making-workshop>

**Fun With Santa**, December 17, Penetang Centennial Museum <https://www.penetanguishene.ca/museum/>

**Hiking & cross-country skiing**  
<https://www.ontarioparks.com/park/awenda/activities>  
<http://ski.mountainviewmidland.com>  
<https://www.hardwoodskiandbike.ca/>  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com>

**Downhill skiing and boarding**  
[www.horseshoeresort.com/ontario-winter-activities.htm](http://www.horseshoeresort.com/ontario-winter-activities.htm)  
<https://www.skisnowvalley.com>  
<https://mountstlouis.com>  
[www.bluemountain.ca/things-to-do/skiing-and-boarding](http://www.bluemountain.ca/things-to-do/skiing-and-boarding)

## JANUARY

**Stag and Doe**, Jan 27-29, Feb 2-5, 9-11., MCC Huronia Players, Midland <http://www.huronplayers.ca>

## FEBRUARY

**Clay Sculpting**, February 4, 2023 Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh>

**Penetanguishene Winterama Festival**, Date TBD  
<http://www.penetanguishene.ca/>

## MARCH

**March Break Camp**, March 13-17, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/march-break-day-camp>

**Sweetwater Harvest Weekends**, Mar.18/19 & 25/26 Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/sweetwater>

## APRIL

**Elmvale Maple Syrup Festival**, April 29  
<http://www.emsf.ca>

## MAY

**Watercolour Painting**, May 6, Wye Marsh  
<https://www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh>

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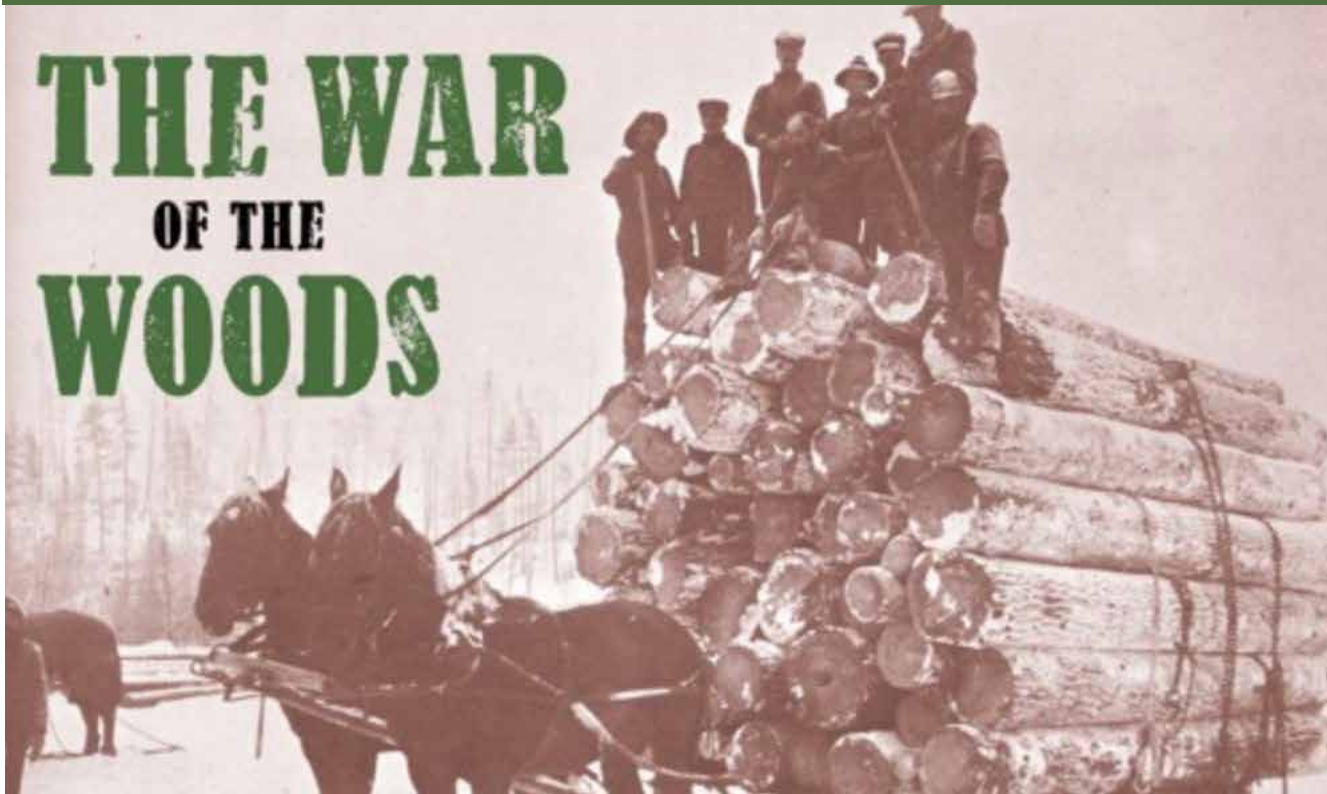
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# How Logging Changed Life in North Simcoe

by SHANNON PARRY, Rowtree Beach



Phil Jackman, for the Orillia Museum of Art and History

In a recent virtual presentation to the Orillia Museum of Art and History entitled "War of the Woods," amateur historian John Savage spoke of the history of logging in North Simcoe from the Métis perspective of his family.\* Savage, a descendent of Orillia's first settler family, described how in one generation the area was almost completely deforested. Major industry superseded the social and economic systems of the various Indigenous peoples that populated many villages and numbered between 30,000 and 60,000. This interplay — often conflict, but sometimes cooperation — created a "war of the woods" that ultimately led to modern day forestry practices in Simcoe County.

Savage notes that, prior to the logging industry's arrival, there was a certain balance to the forest that the Indigenous community had created through their use of resources. During the transition from Indigenous hunting, fishing, agriculture and forestry to settler industries of logging and forestry, the Indigenous and settler communities competed for resources. For instance, animal habitats were destroyed, fish weirs were removed so log jams could get through, and deer fences destroyed. These fences had been used to direct deer to deep water for hunting purposes.

Early mills included the Coldwater Mill and Marchmont Sawmill. Jacob Gill built them in the early 1830s on behalf of the Chippewas. Savage notes that the "Indian agent" for the Chippewas ordered these "economic development projects" that the Indigenous community footed the bill for. Both mills were sold at the same time as the Coldwater Narrows Preserve, although Chief John Aisance forcefully took back the Coldwater Mill in 1836.

Sir Francis Bond Head, Lieutenant Governor General for Upper Canada, later worked with the local Chippewas during the 1837 Upper Canada rebellion against the Crown. Savage suggests that the fact that the Indigenous peoples had their munitions taken away was likely the biggest factor in cooperation, combined with settler distrust of the rebels.

As homesteaders needed more planed lumber to build houses, the landscape continued to change. A network of Indigenous trails evolved into dirt roads and eventually today's highways. The logging of North Simcoe was the impetus for extending into Midland a railway from Beaverton to Orillia. The Midland Railway, an extension of the Northern Railway from Barrie to Orillia, arrived in the early 1870s.

Delivering logs to railway depots was hard work. For ex-

ample, log drivers in Severn Township would guide sawn tree trunks along Lake St. John to the Northern Railway depot at Longford Mills. Along the journey log drivers from different logging companies sometimes came into conflict with one another. The addition of new railways did not stop the fighting among these workers.

Lumber workers also skirmished with one another and "townies," when they arrived in town with money in their pockets after months of working in remote locations. These workers were often seen as disruptive interlopers, and their bad behaviour led to anti-alcohol laws. Those restrictions in turn led to alcohol smuggling. Savage described hearing from an individual who, as a student, ran alcohol into Orillia with his schoolteacher.

Discord among economic classes was common in North Simcoe during the logging era. Savage suggests that some of this class conflict is still present today.

The impacts of the logging industry have been long reaching. In addition to changing the landscape of North Simcoe forever, they had a catastrophic effect on the Indigenous population. For decades the government ignored First Nations grievances about loss of land and rights to hunt and fish. Treaties signed in 1923 brought little relief. Chippewas had already been forced off their land in Rama and Beausoleil and Georgina Islands, and undervalued treaty payments weren't settled until 2018.

In November 2018, Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett formally apologized on behalf of the Government of Canada. "The Williams Treaties of 1923 were intended to resolve your longstanding claims. Instead, the conclusion of these treaties created continuing injustices — insufficient compensation, inadequate reserve lands, and the inability to freely exercise harvesting rights. We are sorry that, even before the Williams Treaties were concluded, your ancestors were unable to fully enjoy the bounty of your traditional lands. We are sorry that these treaties did not resolve your grievances, and that the Crown's actions did not honour the longstanding treaty relationship that already existed, and continues to exist, with your communities. And we are sorry that the Crown failed to recognize and respect your treaty rights."\*\*

\* A video of the presentation is available for viewing here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwvaM13F1MA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwvaM13F1MA)\*\* Source: "Statement of Apology for the Impacts of the 1923 Williams Treaties," Government of Canada; [www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1542393580430/1542393607484](http://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1542393580430/1542393607484).

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

*The Tiny Cottager* acknowledges that Tiny Township is situated on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg. We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous history and culture, and committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and partnership with all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

## REPORT ON COUNCIL

**Mayor:** George Cornell

**Deputy Mayor:** Steffen Walma

**Councillors:** John Bryant, Cindy Hastings, Gibb Wishart

**ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:** From January to September 2022, Mayor Cornell and Councillors Hastings and Wishart had perfect attendance records. Councillor Bryant was absent from both Committee of the Whole and the Regular Meeting of Council on April 6 while Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma was absent from both Committee of the Whole and the Regular Meeting of Council on February 23, April 27, May 18, June 29 and August 10.

**SHORT TERM RENTAL ACCOMMODATION (STRA) TASK FORCE:** Chaired by CAO Robert Lamb, a STRA Task Force was struck on August 11, 2021. It met six times between September 28, 2021 and February 22, 2022. Its discussions produced consensus on many issues, among them that

- longer rentals (one week or more) have not historically presented the same enforcement issues as weekend rentals
- many STRA operators rent responsibly
- STRA guests can positively impact the local North Simcoe economy
- a STRA should be defined as 28 days or less
- STRAs should be allowed in all residential zones, not just the shoreline
- a combination of Zoning and Official Plan Amendments, an annual licensing program and a Renter's Code of Conduct was recommended
- one set of rules should be applied equally to everyone
- safety issues need to be addressed in the licensing program and requisite inspections defined
- a method must be established to calculate maximum occupancy limit in the rental unit and the number of parking spots required on site
- a demerit point system should be established for license suspensions or terminations

The Task Force also reviewed and made changes to a proposed by-law that was prepared by staff and planning consultants and considered the maximum number of days that a house could be rented out and the minimum rental period. It also reviewed and tweaked a revised second draft. No consensus was reached regarding the maximum number of licenses that could be issued each year, the maximum number of days a house could be rented each year, and the minimum number of nights of each rental. Council disbanded the Task Force on March 21, 2022.

#### DRAFT STRA LICENSING BY-LAW 22-017:

- Established definitions
- Is to be administered and enforced by a Licensing Officer
- Operator of STRA must hold a current license
- The maximum number of licenses to be issued each year not yet established
- License sets the permitted number of rental bedrooms and of renters
- License forbids rentals for fewer than 6 consecutive days and rentals for more than 92 or an undefined combined number of days per calendar year
- Establishes a Renter's Code of Conduct
- Establishes an Owner/Licensee Code of Conduct
- Limits occupancy to 2 per bedroom
- Licensing Requirements – supply proof of incorporation, a detailed site diagram and floor plan, proof of insurance and of current inspections, name and contact information for owner/agent who can be reached in 30 minutes and can be present at the site in 60 minutes, a fee
- Site Requirements – a hard surface area for parking, a copy of current license, a site diagram, floor plans, copy of Renter's Code and other relevant township by-laws, safety precautions, a guest register



- Inspection by township to ensure compliance with this by-law, Ontario Building Code, and other regulations
- Reasons for refusal or renewal of license, rules for appeal
- If contravention of by-law is discovered, then an order may be issued that the contravention must be corrected
- Entry and inspection conditions
- Demerit point system explained and an example of the requisite form supplied
- By-law to come into effect on the date of passing of this by-law

#### RENTER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

- Treat the premises as a home
- Respect your neighbours
- Leave it as you find it
- Obey rules regarding number of renters
- No noise (loud music, outdoor excessive noise, no late evening early morning disturbances, no yelling, shouting)
- Obey rules re: parking, garbage and recycling, septic capacity, fire and safety

#### OWNER/LICENSEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- Follow the STRA Licensing By-law and other applicable regulations
- Post copies of Renter's Code of Conduct and license inside premises where renters can see them
- Rent only the parts of the premises identified for rental on the floor plan
- Be responsible for contraventions of any rules
- Be aware that inspections may occur
- Renew license in a timely fashion
- Inform township of any changes to a premises promptly
- Follow all safety regulations

**DEMERIT POINT SYSTEM** The demerit point system was laid out in a four-column table, the first defining the infraction, the second the rule that has been broken, the third the type of infraction and the last the number of demerit points incurred.

A license may be suspended for six months or less if the demerit point total is 7 or more. A point count of 15 or more results in revocation of a license.

**LICENSING PROGRAM FOR STRAs** On May 18, staff was instructed to prepare a report on the implementation of this STRA licensing program for Council's first meeting in June. It was told to enter into an agreement with Granicus (provider of a software program) to administer STRAs (cost \$39,824.72 per year). Staff was also told to revise By-law 22-017 by setting the maximum number of licenses issued per year at 300

and setting the occupancy capacity at 10 people per STRA or less depending on the capacity of the sewage system.

**TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN PROGRESS:** Last November Council received the Transportation Master Plan developed by Stantec to guide transportation strategies in Tiny Township for the next 10 years. Since then, items recommended by Public Works have been added to the Plan.

On June 8, Council supported the staff recommendation that the following be completed in 2022 at a cost of \$40,000:

- Install a 3-way stop at Con 9 W and TBRS
- Apply painted 40 km/hr stencils on the road between Con 5 and 6 on TBRS and between Con 8 and 11 on TBRS/N
- Install signage for 'S' Bend corners between Balm Beach Road and Con 12 on TBRN
- Add 2 solar speed signs on County Road 26 (Con 16 W) at either end of Lafontaine
- Add 1 solar speed sign at Crossland Road and Con 4/TBRS northbound traffic
- Install trial speed humps and candles at one of the following areas
  - a. Balm Beach Road W between Second St and TBRS on the west bound lane only, or at
  - b. West Shore Drive – Resident funded
- Traffic Candles located to reduce [speed] by narrowing road. Seasonal candle[s] as removed for winter months
- Township-wide consolidated speed limit report that will encompass all roads in one By-law. Cost of changes to be presented in a future Public Works report
- Additional multi-use lane on capital project to resurface TBRN between Con 15 and 16

The multi-use lane is to be created using current capital.

**SHORELINE ALTERATION:** After discussing a motion by Deputy Mayor Steffen Walma, Council decided on June 8 that "due to the social and environmental impacts of development on the shoreline, staff be directed to investigate and report back on options to manage alterations to the shoreline, and further that consideration include environmental impacts, infringement of traditional beach use and shoreline alteration by-laws as adopted by other municipalities..."

**REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES EVENT - LAFONTAINE:** This event took place on June 15, 2022, when the Township and LASHA removed spotted knapweed from Lafontaine Beach.

**NEW ZONING BY-LAW:** At the Special Meeting of Council on June 14 regarding the New Zoning By-law, Council considered various transitional provisions as modifications to the current Zoning By-law are introduced. These concerned private and unassumed roads, additional dwelling units, backyard chickens, boat docks, boathouses, fences, bunkies,

— continued on page 15

# LETTERS to the EDITOR



The Waverley Uplands in the background at the Elmvale Flow

## Protecting this resource, or potentially destroying it.

The Spring 2022 issue of *The Tiny Cottager* put the cards on the table and asked provincial election candidates in Simcoe North to state their platforms on taking aggregate versus protecting Tiny's groundwater, recognized as the purest scientifically tested water in the world.

Despite overall support for protecting the water and the fact that using the pristine water to wash gravel is not acceptable, the candidates missed the most important issue: existing policy for aggregate mining and water taking is not suited to protecting exceptional groundwater resources; policy must be tiered to meet the specific needs encountered in exceptional cases.

For example, Jill Dunlop stated in her response that the Ministry of Environment "will only issue a permit if the comprehensive and scientific-technical review demonstrates that the water taking will not have adverse effects on the environment or other water users in the area." However, there are currently no results from any study commissioned

by any permit granting agency that address the scientific issues related to, or controlling, the evolution of the pristine water that bubbles up or flows through the Wye River watershed: the sources of the water, its age, or its resource potential. The hydrologic and geochemical processes that result in its quality are not known at this point. Further, the original studies done to allow permitting have been challenged by subsequent reports which disputed their findings.

Too many politicians and regulating agencies follow the status quo: they rely on existing policy, rather than leading new initiatives. Policy fails for two reasons: first, the policy is flawed and second, the policy is good but the execution is flawed. Our provincial policy towards water protection suffers from both these problems. We need new policy to attain the desired outcome for which the policy is written. ***In this case, we are not considering the criteria which governments apply to drinking water, we are considering science to inform policy based on research that no regulating organizations performs.***

The pristine waters of Simcoe County are unique and need special attention because they are a marvel of natural processes and resources. These waters are known globally for their purity, and they provide a natural resource that could be the jewel in Ontario's crown of environmental and resource stewardship. We will either be known for protecting this resource, or potentially destroying it ... which will it be?

Dr. Michael Powell, *Adjunct Professor, Dept. of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta*

## Ghost Hotels

Dear Tiny Council,

I wish to share with you my concerns living next to the "ghost hotel" located at 16 Lorrie Crescent, last purchased by an investor in October 2021.

Since my open deputation to Council in May 2022, my family and I continue to face ongoing issues with the ghost hotel next door. We have been experiencing issues involving garbage, noise disturbances at all hours, unleashed dogs, open fires, guests trespassing onto my property, constant turnover of 10 plus guests, and all with little or no consequences to the property owner for operating a hotel in a residential area.

This Airbnb listing is renting out for over \$1500 a night during the summer months and over \$800 a night in the off season, regularly hosting large groups of up to 16 people. This is a business, not just a property renting to offset the annual tax bill or utility costs.

In two separate incidents since last October, guests at the ghost hotel ignited a propane grill using charcoal, with flames reaching as high as 2-3 feet. Is that not a concern for the municipality that these ghost hotels, unsupervised and unmanaged by the property owners, are a potential fire risk to neighbours who didn't ask for this?

Throughout the COVID stay-at-home order, the ghost hotel continued renting to more guests than the gathering limits allowed. In November 2021, a wedding hosted over 30

Ghost Hotels— *continued on page 6*

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705 245-2112 | [jtkulyk@gmail.com](mailto:jtkulyk@gmail.com)

**Your Priorities for the Next Council**— continued from page 1

**Gravel extraction**

Asked whether Tiny should request a provincial moratorium on extracting gravel in environmentally sensitive areas that could threaten what has been tested to be the world’s purest groundwater, 90% voted yes, 5% voted no, and 6% were undecided.

**Road safety**

Asked how safe respondents feel walking or cycling on township roads, the question received a weighted average of 2.99, where 1 = very safe and 5 = very unsafe. “Why do we continue to pave roads with little or no room for cyclists,” asked a respondent.

**Forestry health reserve fund**

Asked if the Township should establish a forestry health reserve fund to protect the health of our forests and tree canopy, 71% said yes, 14% said no, and 15% were undecided.

**Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)**

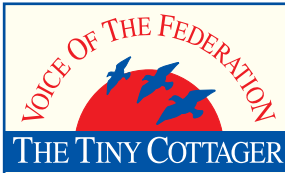
Asked if respondents know what the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA) is, 58% said no. The SSEA is an environmental organization funded by taxpayers in eight municipalities (Tiny, Midland, Penetanguishene, Tay, Springwater, Oro-Medonte, Georgian Bay and Severn).

Another 22% said yes, but the SSEA has been neither helpful nor unhelpful to them; 15% said yes, and the SSEA was helpful; 4% said yes but not helpful.

To see the full survey report, visit [tinycottager.org](http://tinycottager.org).

**Ghost Hotels**— continued from page 5

guests because COVID restrictions wouldn’t allow wedding venues to operate business as normal, with several vehicles parked on our street, where parking is prohibited. When I called By-law, I was insulted and yelled at by the wedding guests. This is not the only time we have been verbally abused by hotel guests and harassed by the owner himself for calling on By-law for the infractions of operating a ghost



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**Thank you! Your support is very much appreciated.**

hotel in a residential area.

My exchanges with By-law and the planning department expressing concerns about this ghost hotel operating a business in a residential area are disappointing. Tiny staff have advised me that this ghost hotel could potentially be grandfathered or granted a STR license, should the proposed licensing program be implemented and passed. After having made many complaints and been told that fines have been levied — with no apparent effect — I have little faith in the ability and commitment of Tiny and their staff to manage and enforce this proposed STR licensing program.

Tiny’s very own legal counsel, Sarah Hahn, has said in

her August 2021 legal opinion that STRs being operating as hotels or banquet halls are a considered commercial use, so what’s the benefit for Tiny to grant properties such as 16 Lorrie Crescent a STR license, leaving residents such as my family frustrated, unprotected and without recourse to enforcement?

This ghost hotel and others have taken the enjoyment of my home away from my family, my neighbours and other Tiny residents.

Debbie Galbo

*This letter has been lightly edited.*



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I am pleased to announce my candidacy for Deputy Mayor of Tiny Township in the upcoming election.

As a current Councillor for Tiny, I work to meet the challenges facing us all. I want to make Tiny the best community in which to live.

My career focus has been in municipal government, serving the needs of residents. That is my calling. I pledge to do the same now, as your Deputy Mayor.

Your input is a critical component for success of local government and democracy in general. I want to hear what you have to say and take action to achieve it.

With your support, I look forward to serving the community as Deputy Mayor. Please visit my Facebook page to review key platform priorities and other important information. Let's work together!

[bryant4deputmayor@gmail.com](mailto:bryant4deputmayor@gmail.com)

John Bryant, Councillor for Tiny



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| Sunday, September 25, 2022  | Franco-Ontarian Day                       |
| Friday, September 30, 2022  | National Day for Truth and Reconciliation |
| Saturday, October 1, 2022   | Farm Crawl                                |
| Monday, October 24, 2022    | Municipal Election Day                    |

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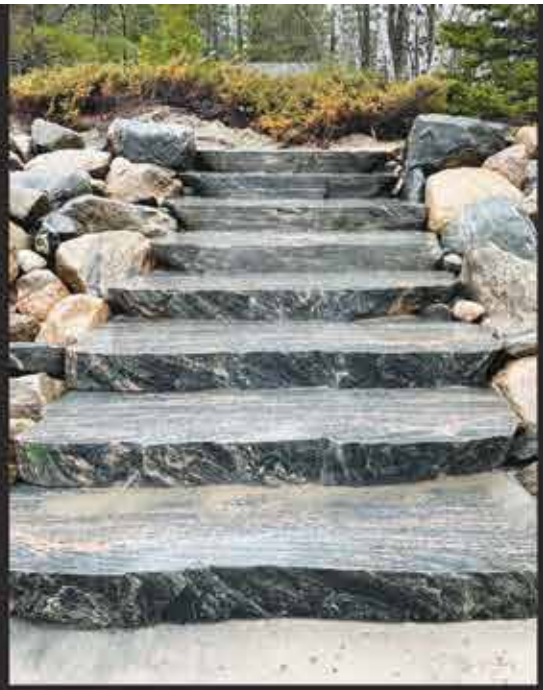
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# Swimming Water Testing Successful

by TARA MARSHALL, Bluewater Beach



advised. Many of our beaches are a significant distance from the Health Unit sampling areas and appreciate the opportunity to test waters more locally.

Early in the season our volunteer samplers are trained on how to take proper samples. All samples are taken to the Aquatic and Environmental Lab in Craighurst where the quality measurement test is performed. This is very important. Gathering this data year after year allows us to track the changes in the quality of our beach water and to advise our members of areas to avoid especially for small children and family pets. All swimmers should be aware if potentially dangerous E. coli levels exist. Also, should a nasty pattern of poor

all of these poor results were well below the guidelines the following week.

Results for the season are posted on the Tiny Cottager website <http://www.tinycottager.org/fotts-volunteer-water-sampling-program/> later in the fall.

As the primary organizer of the recreational water testing program I would like to give special thanks to Susan and Gary Peterson who compile the data to send to the presidents, Barry Goode and Pat and Stan Seymour who pick up the samples and drive them to the Township office for subsequent delivery to the lab and to all of our water sampling volunteers who continue to make this program worthwhile and successful. All of us thank Judith Grant, FoTTSA's past president who started this important work.

Many of you may not realize that the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA) facilitates a recreational water testing program every other year. This year was successful with 18 associations participating and was seamless thanks to 45 volunteers who either waded into the water early Monday mornings to gather the samples, picked up the samples on the north and south shore route or delivered them to the lab.

## Why do we offer a recreational water testing program?

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit samples public beaches only at the following sites: Woodland, Bluewater Dunes, Jackson Park, Balm Beach and Lafontaine Beach Park. It does not monitor the rest of the Township's 70+ kilometres of shore. In addition, traditionally those results for the five sites don't get posted on [tiny.ca](http://tiny.ca) until Thursday or Friday each week.

FoTTSA facilitates the program for any of our member associations who want to test their own beaches. The tests are for E. coli in the water; results are received within 24 hours and are immediately emailed to beach association presidents. E. coli bacteria levels can increase in recreational beach water due to heavy rainfall, a large number of swimmers, a large number of birds, a sewage spill or leaching from a septic bed, shallow water, wet sand, wind and high waves. If an E. coli geometric mean is higher than 200 E. coli per 100 ml of sample, a swimming advisory would be

results develop over a few years, the Health Unit would be notified and possibly action would be taken.

## RESULTS

Typically, poor results can be attributed to nearby culverts and creeks or to adverse weather conditions. Very few tests taken far from streams and culverts exceeded the 200 E. coli per 100 ml of water recreational swimming guidelines and

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# Protecting The World's Purest Water

by JUDITH GRANT, Addison Beach



Adam Chambers, MP & Tara Marshall

The groundwater in the southeast corner of Tiny Township has been scientifically proven to be the world's purest. That area also has an excellent supply of gravel which is being mined by CRH Canada Group Inc in the Teedon Pit. When the gravel is washed, the resultant dirty water threatens to make the groundwater below silty.

With the help of CELA – the Canadian Environmental Law Association – FoTTSA appealed the granting on January 14, 2021 by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) of a 10-year Permit to Take Water to CRH Canada Group Inc. for use in washing gravel. FoTTSA also opposes CRH's proposed extension of the Teedon Pit into French's Hill since French's Hill is a natural filter for the Alliston Aquifer.

With the expert help of CELA lawyers and hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland, a settlement was reached regarding the Permit to Take Water (PTTW). CRH can continue to extract and wash gravel, but must install an impermeable liner in the recirculation cell of the company's existing aggregate washing operation within a year of receiving the requisite environmental compliance approval from the MECP.

The purpose of the liner, which may establish a new industry standard of conduct for such operations, is to stop the silt-laden water from aggregate washing from getting into the groundwater system. The settlement includes measures respecting monitoring, inspection, response to complaints, and the prevention of silt discharges to surface water through a catch basin in the site's berm.

CELA continues to represent FoTTSA in a separate case before the Ontario Land Tribunal regarding CRH's proposed

extension of the Teedon Pit into French's Hill, a significant recharge area above the Alliston Aquifer. The hearing on this matter is scheduled for January/February 2023.

In addition to CRH, the Sarjeant Company is a concern. It has a license to take gravel from Waverley Pit No. 2 just west of the Teedon Pit. Even before getting approvals from MECP for Environmental Compliance (ECA) and for a PTTW for a wash water facility and source pond, Sarjeant scraped the vegetation and soil from a huge area. The wash ponds it proposes are immense.

FoTTSA did not have the assistance of CELA on this matter (CELA's budget was cut and many groups seek its support). So we employed hydrogeologist Wilf Ruland to review the Sarjeant Company's application for a PTTW. Ruland raised many concerns about Sarjeant's plan as did R.J. Burnside in its comments for Tiny Township. In due course, many of Burnside's concerns were addressed and stronger safeguards were added to the PTTW conditions.

At the time of writing, the Sarjeant Company had not begun mining and washing gravel. It has been raising French Road to the standard of a haul road and getting the necessary approvals in place, in the expectation of starting to extract gravel and wash it in 2023.

Bill Shoty of the University of Alberta, project lead working on the groundwater research project detailed in the adjoining article, has studied trace elements in the environment. The scientists know how extraordinarily pure this water is. The groundwater contains one part per trillion of lead and is thus cleaner than ancient arctic ice. The groundwater has below-detection limits of nitrates and phosphates. Based on work done to date, chloride is just a little bit less than one milligram per litre. This is amazing, according to Professor John Cherry of the University of Waterloo, since pristine groundwater has less than five milligrams of chloride per litre.

In sum, Shoty observes "This water I'm talking about is not just great water, it's absolutely exceptional water." He adds: "I think we should treasure this water. The Elmvale Foundation that Shoty set up some time ago "will do everything it can to protect this water for future generations."

An on-line federal petition garnering over 4400 signatures will be presented to the parliament later this fall by Adam Chambers MP Simcoe North. The petition states "We, the undersigned, **residents of Canada**, call upon the **Government of Canada** to work under, but not limit itself to, the Canada Water Act to protect the pristine waters of the Simcoe Uplands in Ontario so that research may proceed, and these waters be preserved forever."



PHOTO CREDIT: Tara Marshall

Researchers install the first of up to 30 lysimeters.

## Researchers install the first of up to 30 lysimeters

by SCOTT WILLIAMS, Georgina Beach

Preliminary work has begun on a proposed 5-year groundwater research project that could help determine the environmental impact of two gravel mining operations on French's Hill, at the southeast corner of Tiny Township.

These operations pose potentially catastrophic threats to a natural recharge area for Tiny's pristine groundwater, scientifically tested to be the world's purest water. This is the same water that residents line up for at the Elmvale Flow.

One threat comes from the removal of vegetation, topsoil, subsoil and glacial till, which serve as a natural water filtration system. Another threat comes from drawing millions of litres of groundwater to wash the mined gravel.

The research is being led by an independent team of internationally recognized Canadian scientists who aim to determine the source of the groundwater, which geological and geochemical processes help purify it, and the volume, flow rates and direction of movement.

According to project scientist Michael Powell, an adjunct professor in the University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources, the results could fill in a critical information gap. Provincial authorities lack the scientific information to determine whether these gravel mining operations will affect water quality, he says.

"We know some of it comes from 20 to 30 kilometres to the east travelling through glacial sediments. We know some of it is bubbling up through the ground from bedrock that's hundreds of millions of years old. We know some of it comes from precipitation that falls on the Earth in the form of rain or snow. But how much of each, the importance of each, the geochemical processes that go on once the water is in the soil and is travelling on, the role of soil as a filter (we know it's important but not how important), the role of the glacial sediments filtering that water as it moves laterally through the ground over tens of thousands of years or only a few years, we don't know this yet."

The process begins with the installation of lysimeters, which collect subsurface water, to study changes over the 5-year research period. So far two have been installed: one on French's Hill, the other in the clay plain to the west. Water samples will be collected for analysis two to three times a year.

In subsequent years, lysimeters will be placed in the highlands and valleys to the east. Researchers from the University of Alberta, University of Guelph, University of Ottawa and the Ontario Geological Survey, will also study deep core samples to learn about water coming up from glacial sediments and bedrock.

— continued on page 14

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# MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2022: Tiny Candidates Answer 5 Questions



To help you choose from all the candidates running for mayor, deputy mayor and councillor, we've asked them to respond to five questions reflecting key issues here in Tiny Township. See the table below for each candidate's response.

Here are four more ways to choose the best candidates for you:

- understand the issues so that you can evaluate the candidates' positions
- learn more about the candidates by reading campaign literature, visiting campaign websites and social media platforms, and attending candidate meetings
- watch for questionable tactics, such as name-calling, baiting, making loaded statements, over-promising, and using empty phrases
- assess the candidates by the positions they take on local issues and the qualities you're looking for on Council.

To find out who's running for school board trustee, and for information on how to vote, visit [www.tiny.ca/election](http://www.tiny.ca/election).

To ensure you are on the voter list, visit [www.voterlookup.ca](http://www.voterlookup.ca). Check your mail box for your Vote-By-Mail kit. The suggested deadline for mailing your vote is October 13. After October 13, deposit your ballot at the township office. Details will be posted on [www.tiny.ca/election](http://www.tiny.ca/election).

**1. What steps are you taking to prepare yourself for the position you are running for?**

**2. To fulfil their duties, what percentage of council meetings is it reasonable to expect council members to attend? 100%? 80%? 50%?**

**3. What do you think Council should do about ghost hotels?**

**4. Do you believe Tiny's beaches should be public regardless of the ownership status now?**

**5. Do you believe the Township should oppose CRH's proposed extension of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation into French's Hill?**



**David Evans** for mayor

1. Tiny is facing many new challenges that require steady common-sense leadership. I am a political outsider who brings 30+ years of successful corporate management experience. Tiny needs a new, fresh approach to solving today's issues and preparing for the future. I have the skills required to ensure that my grandchildren see Tiny the same way my grandparents did when they first came here in the 1930s.
2. The position of mayor is a full-time job and attendance at all council meetings should reflect that devotion to duty.
3. Tiny needs a rational, enforceable, and sustainable way to deal with this issue. I fully support the efforts of the outgoing council and mayor to pass By-law 22-017 to license, regulate and govern short-term rental accommodation. This bylaw is a step in the right direction. In the upcoming term, I will propose to continue to work on short-term by-law issues.
4. I would never support an approach which ignored real ownership interests, not only of beach-facing homeowners but also the Township's ownership of properties abutting the lakefront. I also believe that ownership of easements and rights of access to beaches, where they exist, should be afforded the same respect.
5. Clean water is my number one priority. I am committed to working towards a greater partnership with the Province to work with Tiny to plan aggregate operation locations and future development to balance the expectations of industry and citizens. Any project undertaken in Tiny will have strict water quality standards to ensure water purity.



**Tony Mintoff** for mayor

1. I believe that my 40 years of public service, which includes senior management positions in five municipalities that varied in size and complexity, along with six years with the provincial Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, and three years of experience as a councillor in Tiny, have prepared me well to undertake the responsibilities as mayor of Tiny. In my role as councillor, I believe that I earned the reputation as a person who always came to the meetings well prepared and ready to ask intelligent and probing questions on all matters before Council.
2. Legitimate reasons such as serious illness aside, currently, there is an opportunity to attend a specified number of council meetings from afar, given current technology. Having said that, I believe anything less than 90%, for the position of mayor, especially, would be unacceptable to me.
3. I believe that the recently passed zoning by-law amendment and licensing by-law should be repealed by the next council, in order to clarify that ghost hotels are not, nor have they ever been permitted in any residential zone in Tiny, as per the current zoning by-law, prior to the recent amendment. Then, and only then, consideration could be given to if, how many, and in which zones, ghost hotels or dedicated short-term rentals may be permitted to operate in Tiny.
4. I believe that the legal rights of any property owner, whether beachfront or otherwise, must be fully recognized and respected. I also believe that Council should do everything in its power to protect every property that it believes to be in its inventory of public lands, to ensure that all residents have full access, providing that it is safe to do so.
5. Tiny Council must live up to its two Statements of Principle, adopted in 2020:
  - That the Township is fundamentally opposed to the extraction and washing of aggregate in environmentally sensitive areas.
  - That there is presently a groundwater study being undertaken by Dr, Cherry, et al and that the findings of this report be taken into consideration by the province prior to the issuance of any further licenses.

The new council must fight against any continued destruction of French's Hill. A moratorium on all aggregate extraction and washing until the scientific study has been completed and the results analyzed is imperative!



**John Bryant** for deputy mayor

1. I have been a Tiny councillor for nine months and prior to this served on the Tiny Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Heritage Advisory Committee. As a landscape architect, I have over 35 years in municipal government in such locations as the City of Vaughan, Town of Milton, the City of Barrie, and the City of Orillia. Senior management roles included park planning, waterfront development, and maintenance. Public consultation was a huge part of the job.
2. No less than 80% to keep on top of things. Sometimes family priorities, courses or emergencies may come up. If a conflict arises, I would advise the mayor of my position on important issues for the record. Otherwise, I would attend 100% of the time.
3. Not permit them to operate in residential areas period! To run a ghost hotel, which I consider a business, it would have to be zoned commercial and located beside other hotels/motels.
4. Absolutely not. I respect and support a strong public beach inventory. I respect beach associations that own and maintain their own beach locations. I respect and support private ownership of beaches. Hostile attempts of one group to override the rights of other groups is not acceptable. This issue is being blown out of proportion as there are lots of wonderful publicly owned beaches to access.
5. Yes. I believe the dialogue/challenge must continue. There are more than enough approved aggregate pits to meet demand. And pits located over aquifers should be the very last location to be developed and should be reconsidered. More transparent reporting is needed to ensure licensed pits are operating in an environmentally responsible way. In addition, we need to examine the taxes on such operations. I do not feel they are paying their fair share to deal with environmental impacts and impacts on road infrastructure.



**Sean Miskimins** for deputy mayor

1. I have spent time with past and present members of Tiny Council to better understand the role and what our reach is. I have researched the [IT]Municipal Act of Ontario [IT] and completed the Association of Municipalities of Ontario introductory course to being elected to Council. I have spent the last two years speaking to members of the public to better understand what's important to them for Tiny and what they'd like to see Tiny become. I love connecting with residents to understand their concerns so I can properly represent them at the municipal and county level.
2. Members of Council are just like any other people. They are entitled to have some vacation time to spend with their families, and as well deal with health issues that may come up. I think 80% is a reasonable percentage, given that Council meets every three weeks.
3. Tiny has just passed a by-law that goes into effect October 4, 2022 and the new council will ultimately be responsible to ensure its effectiveness. It appears that it is designed to help combat ghost hotels and I will be actively monitoring the results. The by-law can be amended if it does not have the results as intended to ensure that it is fair and reasonable.
4. Private property is private property and needs to be respected. Trying to take private property away will only result in litigation, which would become very expensive and therefore these costs would be passed along to taxpayers.
5. I believe we should protect our natural areas and especially our water. Water is life and we need to ensure that it lasts for multiple generations to come. Influencing our Ontario government will be part of the key to solving this issue as they provide the permit to take water.



**Steve Saltsman** for deputy mayor

1. Research, research, research. While I am familiar with the overall function of how Council operates and the various committees, it is the pressing concerns of residents that I must understand intimately in order to engage and respond in a meaningful way to those concerns. We have recently witnessed how damaging the lack of knowledge and understanding can negatively affect the decision-making process, and it is my responsibility to fully understand the subject matter and implications of all matters that come before Council.

2. The decision to run for public office should not be taken lightly, and it is a serious commitment that I have thought long and hard about. It becomes a component of daily life in addition to the balance of career and family, and must be taken on with the understanding that you have pledged to work on behalf of the community for at least four years. In any other workplace, you are expected on the job 100% of the time. Barring illness or unforeseen emergencies, I don't see why anything less than 100% attendance should not be expected, 90% minimum.

3. Follow the law and guidance set down by the courts and the Ontario Land Tribunal and enforce By-Law 006-001, which does not permit ANY form of temporary accommodation in residential zones. Under that by-law, "traditional" or "customary" cottage rentals of 3-4 weeks a year to cover expenses is recognized as a legal residential use. Full-time, hotel-like rentals have been defined as a totally different use, incompatible with residential neighbourhoods. The proposal unleashed by this outgoing council is an unenforceable recipe for disaster that throws every full-time resident under the bus, and will destroy the peaceful, safe, family-oriented nature of Tiny.

4. I believe in the law, and the right to freehold property by any citizen of this country. With respect to beachfront, the existence of legal documentation and clear title of ownership cannot be dismissed. In our community, this is a contentious issue that must be addressed. I believe the administration should task a committee to collect all relevant data collected over the years, bring all stakeholders to the table and start a dialogue with the intent of eliminating once and for all the question of beach access derived from factual evidence, the law and, above all, goodwill.

5. Absolutely. While we all understand that the Township's authority over the expansion proposal or water-taking licenses is extremely limited, I cannot understand why this outgoing council has withdrawn its objections to the applications. The scientific study to this point has made it clear that this project presents a real threat to our local ecosystem, and that we need to take action. Is it not the duty of local government to represent the interests of its constituency and promote their opposition on a broader scale? Sound stewardship demands strong leadership and a full appreciation of what's at stake on critical issues.



**Anna Aggio** for councillor

1. I am currently examining the concerns of the community. I will do everything in my power and control to bring about a fair resolution to the issues.

2. Council members should try to attend all the meetings 100%.

3. The Council has recently passed an STR by-law that I believe is fair and reasonable in obtaining a conclusion for the safety of the renters as well as addressing residents' issues of noise disturbance.

4. This is a complex issue and we have to make sure we treat everyone fairly. I believe that everyone should have access to the beach and be able to enjoy the water.

5. The Township should oppose the extension of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation as I strongly believe that CRH should have never been allowed to operate an aggregate mining extraction in the first place. I am not opposed to aggregate mining, just not here. The Alliston Aquifer hosts the world's most pristine water source and if the expansion of the pit is granted by the approval authority, it is essential to ensure that strict measures and conditions are in place with specifications that water quality and quantity are not impacted.



**Ema Canadic** for councillor

1. I have been taking every opportunity I can to learn about the issues our community is facing. I will continue to engage with individuals and groups to listen to their concerns, opinions and suggestions, and keep an open mind to all of the information that I hear. I'm also a political science graduate and taking the opportunity to review the literature around municipal politics, to better understand my role and responsibility as a public servant. This includes doing extensive current and historical research in our municipality and other municipalities that are dealing with similar issues.

2. 90-100%

3. On the issue of "ghost hotels" in Tiny and what Council should do about them, I would say that Council cannot address a matter that isn't clearly defined and acknowledged in the bylaws. From there, Council can work with our community and other municipalities to refine how this activity and industry can be addressed and regulated. Thoughtful progress, instead of instant perfection, should be our guiding arrow. Transparency and collaboration should be our bow.

4. In reference to making our beaches public regardless of current ownership status, I believe it's critical to understand the importance of property ownership to Canadian democracy. The government is regularly tasked with weighing private rights and the public good to determine how policy should be framed and carried out. Any laws/decisions that affect private rights, such as current beach ownership status, must be afforded due care and consideration. Likewise, matters of public importance and public good, such as public beach use, must receive equal care and consideration.

5. Tiny Township is home to some of the purest water in the world. I believe the Township should oppose CRH's proposed extension of the Teedon Pit into French's Hill, and support the groundwater study being conducted whose results will eventually help to inform new policy around protecting the water.



**Dave Brunelle** for councillor

1. Choosing to run for a seat as a councillor is a big decision. I've not taken this lightly. There is much to learn and absorb. To prepare, I continue to study a primary piece of legislation, being the *Municipal Act of 2001*, and minutes and reports of past council meetings. I have been speaking with full-time and seasonal residents to better understand their needs. The main roles of councillor are that of representative, policy maker and stewardship. It is ultimately Council's decisions that shape the future health and welfare of our communities.

2. I expect council members to attend 100% of the meetings. Is this reasonable? Probably not, 90% would be realistic.

3. Tiny is experiencing an increase of ghost hotels, which are short-term rentals that are purpose built or purchased houses which are not occupied by the owner and act as high-turnover accommodation. I feel the current Council has made a good first step with the introduction of a comprehensive by-law dealing with STRs. With several requirements in the by-law, including one that states a licensee shall only be an individual(s), not a corporation, and secondly, to designate a responsible person who can be contacted within 30 minutes and respond on site within 60 minutes,

it should eliminate most ghost hotels.

4. Tiny has designated six types of beach ownership, with all six granting ownership to the water's edge. I believe the public should be allowed to walk along Tiny's beach shoreline without obstruction regardless of the ownership status. There are several public beaches in Tiny; Awenda Provincial Park, five township parks and other municipal properties for public use and activity along the shoreline. I'm in favour of creating a register of municipal lands, which is standard practice for municipalities in Ontario, that would settle disputes over land title and be available in the municipal office for all to access.

5. While Council had initially resolved to fight the idea of granting new quarry and water taking permits, they reversed course in May 2021, leaving local environmental protection groups as the primary voices of opposition. I believe the Township should oppose the proposed extension until there's evidence put forth or concessions made that show no possible way for their pit operations to negatively impact the water supply.



**Mario Galluzzo** for councillor

1. I have worked with various groups in Tiny to reunite our fractured communities. During that time of community and business involvement I have worked with groups such as Save the Beaches, Tiny Residents Working Together and Business Association of Balm Beach. During this time I also ran several businesses from Insurance to tourism. This has given me a unique skill set in dealing with the issues that confront Tiny Residents.

2. With the abilities provided through Technology there is no reason why attendance cannot be 90 percent.

3. Ghost hotels and irresponsible accommodation providers have no place in Tiny. We must also acknowledge there has been Traditional Responsible Accommodation providers that have been an economic driver in this township and should not be treated in the same manner as ghost hotels.

4. Very good question historically and backed by court cases such as the "Gibbs case." Community beaches are public and no fashion of privatization will change the historical use of the beaches.

5. The ground water aquifer is a resource that needs to be protected and not exploited for profit.



**Kelly Peter Helowka** for councillor

1. In order to act, you must have all the facts. Then you must listen to the opinions of those involved. Then you can prepare an action plan, and follow up with action.

2. At least 80%.

3. Zero tolerance should have meant zero tolerance. Why was this policy not followed?

4. Yes, based on historical use.

5. Yes, 100%.

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2022: Tiny Candidates Answer 5 Questions - *continued*

1. What steps are you taking to prepare yourself for the position you are running for?
2. To fulfil their duties, what percentage of council meetings is it reasonable to expect council members to attend? 100%? 80%? 50%?
3. What do you think Council should do about ghost hotels?
4. Do you believe Tiny's beaches should be public regardless of the ownership status now?
5. Do you believe the Township should oppose CRH's proposed extension of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation into French's Hill?



**Stephen Mcnamara** for councillor

1. Currently I am working on the following:

- Door to door canvassing to talk with residents and hear their concerns.
- Registered for the "Lead Where You Live: A guide on running for municipal council" program which was recommended on the Tiny Township elections page.
- Reading the *Ontario municipal councillors guide*.
- I have attended two town hall style meetings with constituents in Balm Beach.
- Reached out to current members of Council and other candidates to discuss issues and what's working for Tiny Township.
- Discussions with the Ministry of the Environment and provincial and federal parliament members regarding residents' concerns.

2. If I showed up to my work tomorrow and asked my employer what percentage of the time would be reasonable to attend work, they would reply 100%. Council's job is to represent the constituents of Tiny township 100% of the time. It's a job.

3. Corporate run rental businesses "ghost hotels" in residential areas shouldn't be allowed. While the recent proposed by-law makes an attempt to regulate short-term rentals it will inevitably be challenged. It goes too far in some instances and not far enough in others. I feel that it should have been left for the incoming council to talk to people on both sides of the issue.

4. For generations Tiny's beaches have been enjoyed by its residents and visitors alike. Together we can continue this mutual enjoyment of the beaches by respecting everyone's rights.

All Tiny residents, private property owners, those who own to the water's edge, those whose property abuts the beach, those with deeded access, easements and the visiting public.

5. YES! Tiny Township along with neighbouring municipalities need to work together to present a united front to protect our precious resources.

**Erik Schomann** for councillor



1. Developing an understanding of what the job of councillor entails has involved watching hours of recorded council meetings; diving into the *Municipal Act*; meeting with other candidates to share where we stand on issues and gauge how well we could work together; and consulting with former members of Council to listen and learn from their experiences. Making hard decisions means I will not be able to please everyone and I've started reading a book called *The Courage to Be Disliked* by Ichiro Kishimi and Fumitake Koga, which I am afraid is going to be valuable but I'm up to the task.

2. Attending council meetings is probably the bare minimum that needs to be done and, barring any emergencies, I don't see anything less than 80% to be justifiable. Being well prepared is the more important element of that commitment and this would involve "doing my homework" by thoroughly reading reports and recommendations from staff; researching what other jurisdictions have done that has and hasn't worked; as well being sure to consult as much as possible with various stakeholders in order to develop as well-rounded and complete a vision as possible of the issues at hand.

3. Operating residential properties as de-facto hotels for online short-term rentals, rather than much-needed housing for Tiny township residents, violates existing zoning ordinances. Turning residential units into unregulated and unsupervised commercial operations not only increases demand for property and further drives up housing costs but their operations are disruptive to the community at large. If any business is found to be operating in this way, I would

like to see the township empower by-law officers to advise the owner of the violation, and then to impose ever increasing fines until the "hotel" is either compliant or shuts down entirely.

4. Having lived in many different regions in the world, it is extremely unusual, in my experience, that anyone can own a beach. In Tiny, people do own beaches and access rights are a divisive issue with a confusing patchwork of ownership patterns with legitimate and false claims, issues surrounding implementation of the *Boundaries Act*, and arguments from historical usage, making it a highly emotionally charged issue. I would like to see a mediated task force established that squarely determines rights and communicates those rights to the public, but most importantly brings the different sides together for much needed dialogue.

5. Yes. Opposing the extension of operations of the Teedon Pit is the least the township should do. Over 50 peer-reviewed studies over 12 years of research have established the water under French's Hill as the purest known to science. I was party to the recent drafting and submission of a petition to the House of Commons requesting federal intervention on the issue and in August I met with MP Adam Chambers to discuss his presentation of the petition to Parliament in September. I would like operations to cease until current research conducted by hydrogeologists Drs. Powell and Shotyk is completed.



**David Sparrock** for councillor

1. I am currently reviewing past council meetings to familiarize myself with policies and procedures and identify current issues. I have enrolled in an online course provided by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario called "Lead Where You Live," which is a guide on running for council. I believe my past experience of 33 years as a police officer will be beneficial solving problems and resolving conflicts. I can look at both sides of an issue and come up with positive solutions based on fairness and integrity.

2. 100%. I plan to attend all council meetings. I am retired and can commit the necessary time to prepare for and attend all meetings. There is always a possibility a meeting might be missed due to illness or a holiday but that should be a rare occasion in my view.

3. I believe ghost hotels in Tiny have become a major problem. Ghost hotels are not permitted under the current zoning by-law. The entire short-term rental regulation framework needs to be overhauled. The current Council has the number of short-term rentals far lower than the actual number, with

many of these identified as ghost hotels. I would like to see a task force set up to deal with this issue. Council would need to identify these properties and a complaint registry could be set up.

4. No, I do not believe that Tiny's beaches should be public regardless of ownership status now. Tiny has beaches that are provincial parks, First Nation, public and private. I believe that legal rights of all Tiny property owners must be respected. The public beaches in Tiny should be protected to make sure that the Tiny taxpayers and public have safe access to those beaches.

5. I believe the Township should aggressively oppose the proposed extension of the Teedon Pit aggregate operation into French's Hill. This aggregate washing will contaminate the ground water which is the purest water in Ontario. This will be devastating to the environment and ecosystem and cause irreparable damage. I support a moratorium on gravel extraction on the existing site as this is also a sensitive area and the pristine water will be contaminated. We stopped Site 41 12 years ago and we must fight this with the same tenacity and vigilance to protect our water for future generations.



**Steffen Walma** for councillor

Professional development is something I take very seriously. To date, I have used my council allowance to take a Masters in Municipal Leadership at York University and a Certificate in Negotiation Business from Harvard Business School. I am currently working on completing a certificate program in Conflict Management and Mediation at Waterloo University.

1. I consider myself a lifelong learner and will continue to take opportunities to better my knowledge and skills for the Township.

2. 110%, lol I jest. I believe 70-80% is reasonable attendance at Council. Every person, no matter what profession needs a vacation, and on top of that life happens. The important aspect of this is staying current on council matters. If you do have to miss a meeting, read the agenda and ask questions of staff when you are available. We are also lucky to have the live streaming technology enabling us to watch past meetings/ deputations. A valuable tool.

3. I believe that the licensing program that has been implemented is the most responsible course of action. The Township's legal team informed us that STRs are a legal enterprise and to ban them would result in costly litigation. By creating a by-law we are now able to closely monitor and control existing

STRs. Hopefully a first step to eliminate "ghost hotels" and promote responsible STR operations.

4. I believe that legal ownership should be respected. I also believe that historical use should be respected. I do believe the municipality should do a better job promoting municipally owned beaches, delineate the beaches they do own, and acquire/ purchase more beach properties.
5. The Township already opposed the extension of the pit based on 25+ concerns cited by R.J. Burnside and Associates. CRH rectified all cited concerns, adding additional well/water monitoring, a phased environmental rehabilitation program, removal of asphalt recycling on site, and many other positive changes. As a result, the Township removed its appeal to the OLT. Since the municipality is not the approval authority, they should continue to monitor the pit operators for compliance of provincial rules and support further study into the area by professionals.



**Gibb Wishart** for councillor

1. I am trying to learn about the other people who are running so that I can understand where they stand on the issues that they will face on Council. As an incumbent I already know the role of a councillor and what the job entails.
2. A councillor should try their very best to be at every meeting (100%) except when very serious issues such as illness etc. arise unexpectedly. In 12 years on Council, I cannot remember missing any meetings, plus I was for the last 40 months the only fully employed person outside of Council.
3. Ghost hotels are the very opposite of a community in the middle of a residential zone. I for one think as do many others they should simply not be permitted. The current Council has put in place and is working on a by-law process with a consultant that will slowly weed out the bad actors, but it will be expensive and slow and for the moment will not deal with density in a given area.
4. NO! The Township owns what it owns and private property owners own what they own. Now, should a cottager wish to sell and their property abuts the Township's public beachfront, the Township could make them an offer for their entire property and if accepted the Township can sever the beachfront off and sell the cottage as a beachfront cottage instead of a waterfront cottage. This does not work if the private waterfront is not abutting the Township. Expropriation is a non starter!

5. Yes! But if you follow the Ministry of Natural Resources' rules of engagement you will lose the battle. The current government is led by the nose when it comes to issuing permits for gravel extraction and water taking. The Council should join forces with other municipalities that have a similar issue, throw the scientific water study into the pot, and be a committed group that the political types worry about. Then maybe they will protect the water and restrict extraction as it nears the aquifer. Ontario has enough gravel pits to last a long time.

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# ESTELLE TURNS 100

by IRENE WILSON, Wendake Beach



Grandma with her daughter Sharron and her two boys, Alan and Matt.

Surrounded by four generations of family and friends, Estelle Dover can't believe she turned 100 years of age on June 27, 2022, in the original cottage that she and her husband Bob purchased 72 years ago. They would have also celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary this year, but Bob passed away 6 years ago at 97.

Their enduring romance began in 1938 when Estelle was 16 and Bob was 18. They had been invited to a cottage on Stuart's Island in Honey Harbour.

Many couples have memories of summer romances, set against the beautiful backdrop of a sunset or starry night on the shores of Georgian Bay. Bob and Estelle's courtship was filled with music, house parties, dancing at the Palais Royale on Toronto's Lake Shore Boulevard, and lots of beach and cottage getaways.

They were married on June 27, 1942, with the reception at Estelle's family home in Toronto. Bob was exempt from military service as he was considered to be of more value to the war effort in his position at Canadian General Electric. Estelle had been working at the *Toronto Star*, but the paper's employment policy did not allow newly-married women to continue working unless their husbands were in the service. She found part-time employment until they purchased their own home in 1947.

Bob and Estelle were introduced to Balm Beach in 1945 by May Thompson, a family friend. For several summers they rented "The Chalet," a small apartment over a garage behind the Thompson cottage. When their family grew to include a third child in 1950, it was time to look for more spacious accommodations. A new cottage nearby was being constructed by Albert Lesperance, and they negotiated a purchase price of \$1,800 with a down payment of \$800. Bob and Estelle agreed to pay the balance with 4 payments per year of \$25 for 10 years. Albert's wife wrote and signed the contract since Albert could neither read nor write.

Bob and Estelle named their new summer home "The White Cliffs of Dover." People contributed furniture, pots, pans and cast-offs to make it functional. Albert provided materials to build screens, shutters and steps so that Bob could complete enough of the structure to make it habitable.

Life at the cottage was pretty basic in those early days. An outside handpump supplied drinking water, and an outhouse out back was the bathroom facility. A 50-gallon rain

barrel provided water to the kitchen sink for washing and cleaning up. Children were bathed in a galvanized washtub filled with water heated on the wood stove, while adults soaped up and went for a dip in Georgian Bay. Electrical power allowed for amenities such as lights and a stove. In due course the ice box was replaced with a fridge.



The Dover's original cottage.

Life at the beach was filled with a strong sense of community. Mothers and children would spend the entire summer there, with husbands joining on weekends and vacation times. Life before television included activities no longer available or popular. The stables at Ossossane Beach were a favourite hangout for teenagers, where they could meet up with friends and ride along the beach or various trails such as Concession 9, which was just a muddy track back then. Creativity flourished with summer theatre produced by children of various ages, with some help from an available adult or two. The neighbourhood provided the audience; the sandy dunes, natural seating; the beach, the stage. A variety of board games, puzzles, cards and inventive play kept everyone engaged all summer, especially on rainy days. Diving off homemade rafts, sailing homebuilt boats, swimming, and fishing in the Wye River were popular water activities. Bonfires, roasting wieners, marshmallows and star gazing were enjoyed after sunset.

### Adapting to a growing family

As the family expanded, Bob and his father built a principal bedroom addition in 1955 and then an 8-foot addition

across the front of the cottage providing room for family members and the children's friends.

After the birth of their fourth child, Estelle stopped scraping soiled cloth diapers into the outhouse and insisted on an indoor bathroom. In 1955 Bob and his father converted one of the existing bedrooms into a bathroom and built a master bedroom addition. Sheets, diapers and clothing were still washed with a bar of Sunlight soap and rinsed in the bay by the children.

In 1965, Bob and Estelle bought "Mum's Place," a former used-car sales office brought up from Toronto to use as a cottage. It was winterized, which extended their time at Balm Beach beyond Thanksgiving. It became the hub of winter activities and New Year's Eve get-togethers. Cross country skiing was a favourite pastime, including skiing the trails in Awenda Park.

In 1971, the family purchased "Dad's Place," which they rented out in the summers along with "Mum's Place." Maintaining the three properties kept the family busy, especially Bob who was known in the neighbourhood as a talented handyman and often helped people with their building projects, plumbing problems and small appliance repairs.

In 1993, Bob and Estelle passed the three cottages on to the next generation, their three daughters. Their son had established his life in British Columbia and was not planning on returning to Ontario.

### The Dovers today

The original cottage still stands, looking much like it did 70 years ago. It has a long history as a gathering place and has been known to host 20 for Thanksgiving dinner, an annual event that everyone looks forward to. Memorabilia and assorted souvenirs are displayed on shelves throughout the main living area. Estelle says there is a story behind every item.

As I interviewed Estelle with her eldest daughter and a grandson filling in the gaps, a strong sense of family values and respect for the community emerged. Bob and Estelle built enduring, harmonious relationships with neighbours and friends. Successive generations of their children's friends and neighbours have great respect and affection for this family. Their legacy lives on as there is now a fourth generation enjoying Balm Beach at "The White Cliffs of Dover."

## FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS

**VOTE**  
**STEFFEN WALMA**  
**FOR COUNCILLOR**

ON OCTOBER 24

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- **SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS**
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### Researchers install the first — continued from page 9

Powell believes that what the researchers learn from the project could have world-wide application, helping governments to improve their ability to understand and manage water resources.

The entire project is estimated to cost about \$9 million. The project team intends to submit an application for \$7.5 million to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. However, they must raise \$2.5 million beforehand. At least 10 government, municipal and civil society groups are in the process of formalizing support for the project.

[www.tinycottager.org](http://www.tinycottager.org)

**REPORT ON COUNCIL**—continued from page 4**NEW ZONING BY-LAW continued...**

outdoor lighting (dark sky compliant lighting now required), retaining walls, slopes, storage containers, county waste bins (may be housed in accessory structures). In addition, there are important directions regarding EP1 and EP2 zones, a new Greenlands Zone (GL Zone), private sports courts, main building height, accessory structure height, wind turbines and solar facilities, and affordable housing.

On July 21, the second draft of the New Zoning By-law was presented. The statutory public meeting was held on August 10, and the By-law is to be considered at the October 12 Council Meeting. For more information see New Zoning By-law on [tiny.ca](http://tiny.ca).

**SARJEANT COMPANY'S PERMIT TO TAKE WATER:**

The PTTW for Waverley Pit No. 2 (adjacent to the Teedon Pit in Concession 1) was approved by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. After ascertaining that the Township's comments (i.e. those recommended by R.J. Burnside & Associates) had been heeded, on June 29 Council decided to take no further action. Burnside's comments resulted in the removal of one of the two wash ponds from the operation, in improvements to the lining of the remaining ponds, and in monitoring of water levels in on-site wells and off-site private wells, reduction of the duration of the PTTW from 10 years to 5, and use of data loggers to collect water level measurements every 4 hours.

**REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT AND FUNDING:**

In July, Mary Muter and Paul Cowley of the Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation provided Council with an update on Georgian Bay water levels and requested a letter of support and funding for their work. The funding request is to the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Industry for continuing support for GBGLF'S research and for retention of the consulting firm of W.F. Baird to develop a model of the St. Clair River in terms of stabilization and water retention in the middle lakes. Their request to Tiny's Council for \$10,000 in funding is to be considered during Council's 2023 Budget deliberations.

**TWO COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL MERGE:**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Tiny Trails Active Transportation Committee have been amalgamated as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC).

**MOVEMBER CAMPAIGN:**

Deputy Mayor Walma asked for Council's support in initiating a friendly competition with the City of Toronto regarding fundraising efforts for the 2022 Movember campaign in support of men's health initiatives. Last year the Township's Fire Department raised over \$65,000, placing 1st out of all fire departments in North America (Toronto Fire Services finished 2nd). Staff was directed to formally challenge Toronto Fire Services to a fundraising competition and Tiny's Fire Chief was instructed to challenge Toronto's Fire Chief Pegg to a "friendly" competition in the name of men's health and mental health awareness.

**MORNEAU COMMUNITY PROJECT:**

This concerns Frank Morneau's plan to build a luxury club house, expand the 5-hole golf course to 9 holes on his lands at the end of West Shore Drive and those off Melissa Drive and increase the number of luxury building lots in the area. Morneau wanted to bypass municipal and county planning processes by having the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing issue a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO). The lands in question are currently zoned Greenland/Significant Forest/ANSI and rural.

In August, residents of Thunder Beach (all members of the Thunder Beach Alliance) made deputations to Council in opposition to the proposal: Peter Stubbins, Diane Robinson, and William Inwood expressed concerns about the many negative impacts the development would have on the natural assets in the area and on the community of Thunder Beach.

Arguments were presented by Frank Morneau and Connor Houston in support of the Project and the use of a Ministerial Zoning Order.

The Morneau Community Project was withdrawn on August 31.

**OPP CONTRACT RENEWED:**

Council renewed the Township's *Police Services Act* contract with the Ontario Provincial Police for three years beginning January 1, 2023.

**SHORT-TERM RENTALS:**

On August 11, several residents made deputations about Short Term Rentals, among them Dan O'Rourke, Aidan Black Allen, Debbie Galbo, Jennifer Kierholzer, and Edward Galbo. They took diverse positions on the issue.

A representative of Granicus provided an overview of its Short-Term Rental Management Software Program.

Council received a legal opinion from Sarah Hahn of Barriston Law regarding the draft licensing by-law. It also reviewed the draft Short-Term Rental Licensing By-law, staffing implications, and an implementation plan prior to passing By-law 22-017 to Licence, Regulate and Govern Short-Term Rental Accommodations on August 31. The By-law came into effect immediately. Staff was instructed to develop a density policy for Council's future consideration.

By-law 22-017 defines Short-Term Rental Accommodation as "the secondary use of a residential dwelling unit that offers a place of accommodation or temporary residence, or occupancy by way of concession, permit, lease, licence, rental agreement or similar arrangement for twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days or fewer with no on-site management throughout all or part of the year. Short-term rental accommodation uses shall not mean a motel, hotel, bed and breakfast establishment, tourist establishment, tourist cabin establishment, or similar commercial accommodation use."

**FARLAIN LAKE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE UPDATE:**

On August 31, Aisha Chiandret of the Severn Sound Environmental Association presented a report about Blue Green Algae which appeared in Farlain Lake in July and August. Testing on July 27 at two locations confirmed the presence of three main types of the algae, all capable of producing toxins. Of two major toxin groups, one was less than the detection limit, the other was less than the recreational contact limit but greater than the drinking water limit. On August 3, sampling detected very low levels at three locations. Two of the species identified in 2022 were present in 1996, 2011 and 2016. Detailed research has revealed that factors contributing to algae blooms may be rainfall, a heat wave, sun and no wind.

Controlling the amount of phosphorus that gets into the lake is important in reducing the potential for algae growth. Local septic systems should be pumped out every 3-5 years, fertilizer use within 100m of the shore eliminated, a natural shoreline (no lawns) maintained, soil erosion and boat wakes reduced, native rooted aquatic plant growth along the shore encouraged, natural water circulation maintained, and invasive species in/out of the lake avoided.

**MANAGEMENT OF TINY'S DYNAMIC SHORELINE:**

On August 31, Tim Leitch, the Township's Director of Public Works, presented a report about managing the Township's dynamic shoreline. He undertook this investigation in response to residents' concerns about structures being constructed that inhibit walkers' free traversal of the water's edge and that change the natural dynamic shoreline and affect the environment.

With an initial budget of \$34,000, a team comprised of individuals from Aqua Solutions, Planning Solutions, and Gardner Roberts LLPs was charged with establishing whether

**a)** the Township has the authority to manage dynamic/shoreline activity whether it is municipally owned property or not **b)** the Township would be liable by either not managing or managing its dynamic shore **c)** there are tools in place already or that could be created to implement a management plan and **d)** other municipalities have shoreline management plans.

The team is also to work with staff to develop a shoreline management plan.

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## The Mills of Wyebridge

by BONNIE REYNOLDS



Water-powered sawmill on the Wye River.



A flood washed out the dam in 1912.

Located beside the Huronia Museum in Midland are a couple of old millstones from the grist mill that operated in Wyebridge from 1859 until 1912. These stones were moved to the museum with the aid of Gordon and Harold Boyd's tow truck and wrecker some time in the 1940s. This was no small feat, as the stones weighed upwards of 760 kilograms. The stones had been used to grind farmers' wheat and corn until the 1880s, when they were replaced by steel rollers. Howard Lummis later donated them to the Huronia Museum.

While looking for information on the grist mill, I discovered that at one time a cluster of mills bordered the Wye River.

James Plewes was the first owner/operator of the grist or flour mill, a 2½-storey building with an attached 1½-storey storehouse. His five sons — James, Angus, John, Simon and George — all worked in the mill, and later owned mills of their own in other parts of the province.

Pioneer farmers from as far away as Lafontaine, Elmvale and Hillsdale would bring their grain to be ground into flour or animal feed. "Those were the days when flour was really flour and bread baked from it had some taste and substance," wrote William Casselman, a Wyebridge pioneer.

The mill stones were made from "Buhr stones" brought across the ocean from France. Buhr stone is a hard rock containing silica, fossils and cavities. Individual pieces would be fitted and cemented together, and then hooped with strong

iron bands. The grinding faces were "dressed" or grooved in such a way that the upper stone revolved over the lower stone with a scissor-like action, thus shearing as well as grinding the kernels. On average the stones needed to be "dressed" by a qualified craftsman every 140 hours. These heavy stones were moved into position for dressing by a wooden crane permanently attached to the floor and ceiling. Two water wheels operating in a horizontal plane in about 8 to 10 feet of water powered the shaft high up in the mill.

A column in the *Northern Advance* (November 4, 1860) notes, "Mr. James Plewes, in his quiet retreat on the Wye ... has erected a first class grist mill, capable with one run of stone of consuming 80 bushels of wheat a day. He has settled in a good farming neighbourhood ... Already there is a store and several dwellings besides a tavern in course of erection, and when Mr. Plewes gets his lumber mill going, Wyebridge will be a considerable village."

James Plewes later built a saw mill and woollen or carding mill across the river from the flour mill. Mr. William Cronkhite operated the woollen mill until the 1870s. The "Poetical Directory" of the district by A.G. Churchill includes the following poem about the mill.

*Where the Wye River does constantly flow,  
Swift cards, shears, and spindles, and shuttles do go;  
Do picking and carding, they spin, weave and full  
Do shearing and pressing, yarn colouring or wool;*

*Their late burr extractor is noble and grand,  
Exceeds all possible picking by hand.  
If farmers wash sheep or their fleeces all clean,  
To pass the burr picker and carding machine,  
They hint to their customers dwelling all round,  
Will pick grease and card wool for five cents  
a pound;  
Cronkhite can dress up a regiment of men  
At his mills and his stores in the Wye River glen;  
Domestic and foreign, all kinds that they need -  
Overalls, coating, broadcloth and tweed,  
Pressed cloth and winceys for the feminine train,  
Stripes, changeable, checkered, the figured  
and plain.*

In the early 1870s, John Lummis purchased the grist, saw and woollen mills from Plewes, and his son Adolphus took them over in 1895.

The grist mill operated until a dam on the Wye River washed out in "the great flood" on Easter Saturday, April 6, 1912. By this time the woollen mill had already closed. It may have been in financial difficulty for some time as an entry in Adolphus Lummis' diary for January 24, 1898 states, "Go to see Watson Copeland about putting the cheese factory in the carding mill."

At the time that John Lummis purchased the saw mill, the Wye River was much nobler than today's narrow, slow, meandering river. It was wide enough to allow tugs such as the "Busy Bee" and Thomas Robin's "Minnie Hall" to tow logs from Georgian Bay to Wyebridge. A shingle mill often ran in conjunction with the saw mill. The last building to be built with lumber from these mills was a barn south of the village, across from the former Wyebridge Central School. Subsequent owners include James Carruthers, Thomas Robins, William Preston, and George Copeland.

William Casselman sums up Wyebridge's mills with these words: "There were four different mills on the river when Wyebridge was in its prime. Three of them were run by waterpower. The river was dammed back, and each of the three mills had a separate flume ... The woollen mill made a very fine quality of rugs, quilts, sheets, etc., as well as carding wool and manufacturing yarn for the use of the settlers. Naturally, with all of these mills working, Wyebridge was a busy place. At the end of the season the lumbermen would often spend their whole winter's wages in a day or two's spree. The hotel keepers got it all."

Bonnie Reynolds is a member of the Township of Tiny Heritage Advisory Committee. She is a passionate genealogist and local historian.

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# Mayor's Golf Tournament Raises \$50,000 for 16 Local Charities

by LINDA ANDREWS, Wahnekeewening Community Association



The official cheque presentation of proceeds from the 2022 Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. L-R: Tiny Councillors John Bryant and Gibb Wishart, FoTTSA president Paul Cowley, Deputy-Mayor Steffen Walma, Mayor George Cornell and Councillor Cindy Hastings.

The eighth annual Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament, which took place on June 17, 2022, at the Orr Lake Golf Club, continues a strong community fundraising tradition. Many individuals and businesses support the tournament, which this year helped it achieve its fundraising goal of \$50,000. Since 2015 the event has raised \$360,000 for local charitable organizations.

FoTTSA's *The Tiny Cottager* is the tournament's founding sponsor. "We are proud to support community initiatives like this tournament which help so many in our area," says FoTTSA president Paul Cowley. Here are this year's fundraising recipients.

In addition to the charities listed below, in partnership with **Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Ukrainian Catholic Church** (located in Tiny), \$10,000 of the funds raised will go to aid humanitarian efforts supporting those impacted by the crisis in Ukraine.

**Angels with Backpacks:** Distributed by the Midland Salvation Army and Chigamik Community Health

Centre, these backpacks contain a survival kit for homeless people: a blanket, water bottle, flashlight, rain poncho, toiletries, seasonal clothing, and food.

**BGC North Simcoe:** Through after-school programs and summer camps, the clubs engage young people in activities that help them develop the healthy minds and bodies that will make them Canada's future leaders.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Simcoe:** Through regular outings, relationships built on trust and consistency develop between boys and girls and their uniquely matched Big Brothers and Big Sisters to help children become more self-confident and develop enhanced social skills.

**Community Living Huronia Foundation** supports CLH Developmental Support Services who provide specialized services such as Supported Independent Living and Transitional Aged Youth to those with developmental support needs creating an environment of acceptance, encouragement and life-long learning.

**Gateway Centre for Learning** teaches reading, writing, math and computer skills to adults in a manner that provides everyone an opportunity to develop the literary skills needed for life, learning and work.

Hospice Huronia provides support to those diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses and those needing hospice care and bereavement support through programs at Tomkins House or with volunteer visitors.

**Huronian Community Foundation** provides local grants and scholarships to help support the arts, culture, youth, seniors and the environment.

**Independent Living Services Simcoe County (ILS)** provides individualized services such as homemaking, reassurance

checks, and mobility or medication assistance for people with disabilities and seniors to promote independent living and to help people remain active members of their communities and thrive in their own homes.

**Midland Public Library** provides many programs and services which add to the vibrancy of the town.

**Penetanguishene Public Library** is a bilingual, community-oriented partner that fosters leisure reading and lifelong learning, while striving to keep abreast of all new technologies that support these goals.

**Quest Art School + Gallery** in partnership with Waypoint Mental Health Services, North Simcoe Youth Wellness Hub, Community Living Huronia and local schools, brings arts and culture to the north Simcoe community through exhibitions, art classes and workshops for people of all ages.



Members of the Sistema Huronia Music Academy perform during Tiny's Community BBQ on July 23.

**Scientists in School** engages children and youth in hands-on STEM learning in the classroom, community and family workshops to open the wonders of science, engineering and technology to everyone, and encourage children to discover the relevancy of science in their everyday world.

**Sistema Huronia Music Academy** builds and sustains an intensive social program that provides free, ensemble-based music lessons, inspiring children to realize their full potential as students, musicians and citizens.

**We Are The Villagers** sponsors children in need so they may take part in sports, music, art or other special interest activities without being restricted by registration fees and equipment costs with an aim to nurture, support, inspire, motivate, validate, and bring joy.

**Wendat Community Programs** serves seniors with care needs and adults with mental health needs empowering people to achieve optimum health and well-being in their community where they live, work and socialize.

**Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre** connects people with nature and promotes an understanding of the importance of environmental stewardship and of the vital role wetlands play within the environment.

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## UNESCO designation may be a slam dunk

by Kate Harries AWARE News Network



Members of the Chigamik Hand Drum Circle at the UNESCO Geopark meeting, in front of panelists Tony Pigott, Jack Contin, Nick Eyles and Kirsten Kennedy. – AWARE Simcoe photo

Interest was high, with 120 people in attendance as a panel from the Georgian Bay Geopark Network went public with its plan for a UNESCO-backed park at its first town hall meeting, in the Midland Cultural Centre on August 11.

It's the unique geology of Georgian Bay that makes it a "slam dunk" prospect for selection by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said Nick Eyles, professor of environmental sciences at the University of Toronto and the author of *Georgian Bay: A Unique North American Ecosystem*.

Geologists are story-tellers, said Eyles, "and Georgian Bay is one of those places that tells a lot of stories because we have 2.5 billion years of Earth history preserved on our doorstep – so just up there, we have more than half of the Earth's evolution recorded in a very small place."

The stories to be told will be based on the principle of Two-Eyed Seeing, which brings the indigenous perspective into balance with western scientific research methods, said panelist Jack Contin, a member of the network's indigenous leaders' group and a candidate for the deputy mayoral

position in the current municipal election.

"We want to incorporate the Dish With One Spoon," Contin added, referring to early treaties between indigenous nations that required signatories to take on "a shared responsibility in the protection of Mother Earth." The dish represents the land, the spoon is how people partake of resources, sustainably.

The potential is high for attracting UNESCO designation that will drive tourism, economic development and education opportunities, said marketing expert Tony Pigott, a former CEO of the advertising company J. Walter Thompson Canada, who was moderating the meeting.

But hopes that the initiative, if successful, might thwart environmentally unfriendly development around the bay, were dashed.

"No UNESCO Geopark, unfortunately, has any interventionist power," Pigott said when fielding questions about Midland Bay Landing, a 40-acre waterfront property owned by the town for which a developer has recently been selected, and about the TC Energy pumped-storage project

proposed for the Niagara Escarpment land near Meaford owned by the federal Department of National Defence.

Activists involved in efforts to protect the pristine Waverley or Simcoe Uplands groundwater, presently threatened by intensified aggregate extraction, took heart from a positive response to a question from AWARE Simcoe's Sandy Agnew.

"There are several scientists that are wanting to study that water," Agnew noted. "It's been tested already to be the purest in the world. Is this an aspect that fits in with the Geopark?"

"Yes, very much so," replied Eyles, adding that the hydrogeological research that's to take place at the Waverley Uplands will provide a lot of information that can be used by the public, government and conservation groups. "That's a really good example right there of the value of the Geopark."

Local resident Brent Graham, who spearheaded an effort to get UNESCO World Heritage site designation for the Waverley Uplands, noted that this is a protective measure. In fact, to qualify as a World Heritage site there has to be a plan for protection of the feature to be designated.

In contrast, a UNESCO Geopark is a passive designation, Graham suggested. Pigott agreed.

Georgian Bay Métis Council's Senator Gwen Lindsay gave the opening and closing prayers at the meeting, which started with drumming from members of the Chigamik Hand Drum Circle.

There are 177 Geoparks around the world, five of which are in Canada, namely Discovery in Newfoundland, the Cliffs of Fundy in Nova Scotia, Stonehammer in New Brunswick, Percé in Quebec and Tumbler Ridge in British Columbia. Another seven Canadian sites, including Georgian Bay, are "aspiring" Geoparks.

Data and information to support education and research is already being collected by Kirsten Kennedy, a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Toronto. With backing from research funding organization Mitacs, she is using drone systems for ecological and geological spatial mapping around Georgian Bay.

The Geopark will take the form of over 100 "hubs" around Georgian Bay, to be selected with community input, Pigott said.

He explained: "The model that UNESCO has created is one whereby the technology through the website, provides the tools, the guidelines, the networks, the resources that local communities access in order to really implement and bring alive the Geopark for their particular part of Georgian Bay."

The park will not have boundaries but instead will be defined by hubs with virtual information that can be accessed at the site or from anywhere in the world through the website [georgianbaygeopark.com](http://georgianbaygeopark.com), unveiled on the day of the meeting.

Instead of physical signage on the ground, visitors will use their smart phones as a guide.

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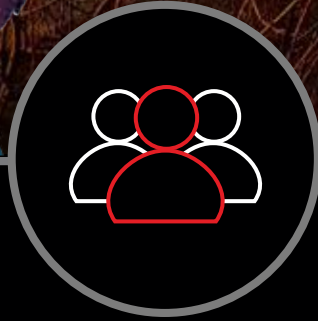
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