

Newsletter

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0

Volume 2, Spring, 2003

From the President

Greetings!

As we approach spring, once again our thoughts all turn to summer. For some of us, the change in seasons signals a time of increased workload and a seemingly endless race against time. For others, it heralds a chance to get back into the cottage way of life. Either way, as spring turns into summer we all share the anticipation of more wonderful times in the place we all love to be.

For the Association, now that winter is moving out, this is a time to revitalize our energies and renew our commitments for the completion of

several important projects we started last year. These are; 1) the continuation and expansion of the Water Testing Program, and 2) the completion of several components of the Lake Plan, namely; i) the Boat Survey, ii) the Dock Survey, iii) the Shoreline Vegetation/Wildlife Survey, and iv) the Historical Survey. Lots of work has already been done on many of these elements, but there is still lots more work yet to be done for our draft documents to be ready for presentation to the council and the community this fall. Yes, this is an appeal for more volunteers to sign up to assist. Please.

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OUR STURGEON BAY POINTE AU BARIL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Bob Causton..... (home) 905-824-4352..... (cottage) 705-366-2883
VICE PRESIDENT Cathy Kidston.....(home) 519-836-6897(cottage) 705-773-8299
SECRETARY R. Keith Gardner.....(home) 705-366-2489
TREASURER Helen Tedford.....(home) 705-366-2898
DIRECTORS AT LARGE Andrea Bradford.....(home) 905-469-3359.....(cottage) 705-366-2227
Tom Lundy.....(home) 905-875-3760.....(cottage) 705-366-5617

President’s Message continued:

We had a good turn out last year and we’ll need even more help this year. Remember, we want this to be a working plan by this year end to help guide us to better quality water and a healthier shoreline. More participation now can only mean better understanding and community “buy-in” as time goes on. Do I need to remind you of the kind of water quality/clarity issues we saw at the end of our docks last August? No, it wasn’t pine pollen.

Please join in, contact any of the directors and devote a few hours on a few weekends to help us achieve our goals. If this isn’t possible, then help us by joining the Association. Our dues are low and money is a needed resource for our Association. You’ll meet some very nice people!

On a more “fun” note we will be involved in the Chamber of Commerce Canada Day (June 29) parades and events

again this year. Enter your boat or walk along with us, everyone is welcome!

Other good news? The Road Insurance Program has been well received, our membership is up by over 50%, the Shoreline Workshops will continue this year, and we continue to receive great feedback from everyone.

There will be elections this year at the A.G.M. for renewing/replacing three directors on the Board. Please give some thought to this as we always welcome new blood and new viewpoints.

In closing, thanks again to all for the help from everyone. Many of you have worked very hard and we would be lost without you.

Have a good summer.....see you there.

Your President, Bob Causton

***** It’s time to send in your fees for the 2003/2004 membership year. ***
See page 10 for a renewal form.**

REPORT ON STURGEON BAY'S WATER QUALITY

By: Andrea Bradford, Chair, Pointe au Baril Sturgeon Bay Plan Steering Committee

Water Quality Monitoring

Volunteers of Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association regularly monitored bacteria (*E. coli* and Total Coliforms) and water clarity (as an indicator of the effects of phosphorous) at 14 locations in 2002. Dr. Karl Schiefer collected additional information on phosphorous levels in late summer. Dr. Schiefer's 2002 Water Quality Report for the Township of the Archipelago provides a summary of the results.

The levels of Total Coliform in Sturgeon Bay are very high but Dr. Schiefer indicates that this is likely due to natural causes. Sturgeon Bay water is not fit for human consumption without prior treatment, but remains acceptable for recreational use. The average *E. coli* values at all monitoring locations were close to or below 10 colony forming units (cfu) / 100 mL, well below the Provincial objective for *E.coli* in water used for recreational purposes (100 cfu / 100 mL). Individual measurements were also all below the Provincial objective. Higher levels of *E.coli* were detected between late July and early September. At several locations including near the Provincial Park, near the north end of Bigwood Island and near the south end of Bigwood Island, two or three consecutive readings showed levels between 19 and 46 cfu / 100 mL.

Phosphorous concentrations in 2002 were between 16 and 23 ug/L. Although these concentrations are lower than the 2001 values (33 - 34 ug/L), Dr. Schiefer indicates that "this is likely due to greater plankton and algae blooms in 2002, which would temporarily remove phosphorous from the water column." These high phosphorous levels are the cause of the low water clarity (0.6 – 0.9 m) and the massive plankton blooms. Dr. Schiefer indicates that Sturgeon Bay "is in need of an aggressive water quality remediation plan."

Water quality monitoring will continue in 2003 and volunteers will be prepared to collect algal samples should another bloom of blue-green algae occur this year. For more information on blue-green algae and their potential effects refer to the Health Canada website:

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ehp/ehd/catalogue/general/iyh/algea.htm> (note algae is spelled wrong) or if you do not have internet access, contact me and I can send you a copy of this information.

Septic System Study

Dr. Doug Joy of the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre, University of Guelph, carried out a study entitled, "Pollution Leaving Cottage Septic Systems on Sturgeon Bay, Ontario," for the Township of the Archipelago. Forty-nine systems were included in the study but unfortunately not enough water could be obtained for analysis of phosphorous, nitrogen, and bacteria from all systems. Results varied considerably from system to system but could not be related to water use, system age, or other factors. Dr. Joy confirmed that the conditions in Sturgeon Bay area are not ideal for removal of phosphorous from septic tank effluent. The phosphorous concentration measured in a few samples taken from streams flowing into Sturgeon Bay suggest the need to more closely examine phosphorous sources in the surrounding watershed. For those of you that participated in the study, the results for your system will be mailed to you.

Sturgeon Bay Plan

The planning process to identify and protect the important natural, physical, and social values on the portion of Sturgeon Bay out to Brignall Banks is continuing. Workshops and surveys have been conducted to provide opportunities for seasonal and permanent residents, as well as local business people to provide input. **Water quality has proven to be the most important issue for virtually all stakeholders.** Background information on land use and physical and natural elements, including water quality, has been compiled although much remains to be done in the coming summer. A boating survey to document boat traffic and incidents of unsafe boating in Sturgeon Bay was completed on Labour Day weekend and a second survey is planned for the Civic Weekend this summer. The Sturgeon Bay Plan will identify development policy that should be incorporated in the municipal Official Plan. The Steering Committee will be looking to the community in the late summer and fall for feedback on a draft plan. **Please participate!!**

****** Phosphate free products ******

are available in the stores in Pointe au Baril and in Parry Sound.
Read the labels carefully.

Extract from Summary of Residents Survey

(86 were returned)

Please rate how the following elements add to the personal enjoyment of Sturgeon Bay.

| Personal Values | Very Important | Important | Somewhat Important | Not Important |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Water Quality | 63 | 2 | 2 | |
| Natural Shorelines | 43 | 14 | 7 | 1 |
| Landscapes | 37 | 13 | 7 | 3 |
| Wildlife Viewing | 48 | 12 | 5 | 1 |
| Fishing | 27 | 16 | 12 | 9 |
| Peace and Tranquility | 48 | 14 | 5 | |
| Power Boating | 13 | 18 | 16 | 16 |
| Non-motorized boating | 17 | 19 | 10 | 13 |
| Dark skies (light pollution) | 34 | 14 | 6 | 4 |

Other values mentioned included: privacy, safe boating, seasonal change, snowfall, family atmosphere, clean air

During the past five years how much of a negative impact has the following had on the enjoyment of your property?

| Types of Impacts | Significant Impact | Moderate Impact | Light Impact | No Impact |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Boat Traffic | 14 | 17 | 17 | 12 |
| Personal Water Craft | 24 | 14 | 13 | 10 |
| Daytime Noise | 12 | 9 | 18 | 20 |
| Nighttime Noise | 5 | 10 | 17 | 29 |
| Lighting | 15 | 11 | 11 | 25 |
| Vegetation Removal | 2 | 11 | 14 | 30 |
| Snowmobiles | 2 | 3 | 10 | 43 |
| Development | 8 | 12 | 16 | 23 |
| ATV | 2 | 3 | 7 | 36 |

Other impacts identified included: water quality (4); dogs (3); transient boaters, water level; docks into main channel

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for
Sunday, August 3, 2003

At 10:00 a.m.

(registration at 9:30 a.m.)

At the Pointe Au Baril Community Center
For our 3rd Annual Meeting

On effluence and affluence: Read and save thousands

By Sally Gillis, Director, FOCA Environment Committee
(taken from the Report to the FOCA Membership, Summer 2002)

At stakeholders meetings conducted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (and attended by FOCA, of course) professionals in the septic system industry have recommended that effluent filters be made a standard part of all new septic systems. Although this is not yet a legal requirement, FOCA is encouraging all members with septic systems to consider the installation of an effluent filter. The good news is that effluent filters can be installed cheaply even on existing systems, not just new ones.

As explained to us by Doug Joy of the Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre at the University of Guelph, effluent filters can potentially save you thousands of dollars. As your tank begins to accumulate solids, more solids will try to leave the tank. Without an effluent filter these solids, and the associated biological loadings, will go into the absorption bed, and will ultimately lead to earlier failure of the bed. If, on the other hand, the system has an effluent filter, the filter will trap the solids, and the slowing down of drains and toilets will alert the homeowner to the fact that it's time for the filter to be cleaned. The cleaning and pumping cost is around \$100. Compare that with the cost of replacing the absorption bed, which could be in excess of \$15,000. More importantly, the homeowner with the effluent filter will have avoided the surface and groundwater contamination resulting from surface ponding and insufficient treatment in the absorption bed should it fail.

The approximate cost of the installation of an effluent filter and associated access risers is \$300 - or less if they are installed on a brand new system right at the start. This seems a small price to pay compared to the financial and environmental costs of a failed absorption bed. So, you see, dealing with effluence does not require affluence .

Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association Mission Statement

The Our Sturgeon Bay/Pointe au Baril Association is a non-profit, non-political group of area citizens committed to the protection of the natural ecological health and beauty of our Sturgeon Bay. Recognizing the natural uniqueness of our area we, working together, are dedicated to ensure the ongoing quality of life for every thing and for everyone makes this treasure a natural heritage.

Pointe Au Baril

Chamber of Commerce

Canada Day Celebrations, Sunday, 29 June, 2003

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| Boat | 3:00 |
| Parade | |
| Street | 4:30 |
| Parade | |
| Silent | 5:00 |
| Auction | |
| Dinner/ | 6:00 |
| entertainment | |
| Reptile | 6:30 |
| Awareness | |
| Fireworks | 10 pm |

Each year our Canada Day Celebrations get bigger and better and this is all due to your participation. This years events will include a boat parade, our famous mouth watering pickerel dinner, games and prizes for the best in red and white and a street parade where everyone is welcome to join in. We will be ending the evening off with a spectacular display of fireworks. Show your pride in Canada and join the community for a fun filled day. This year the Sturgeon Bay Pointe Au Baril Association is sponsoring a reptile awareness program. It should be very informative

We would also like to thank the volunteers and contributors for making this a success. Also the Lions, the Township of the Archipelago, and PaBIA for their donations to help make this day possible year after year.

*Thanks,
Chamber of Commerce*



Educational Seminars This Summer

Reptiles at Risk

This Reptile Awareness Program is a joint initiative of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Parry Sound and Midhurst districts and Ontario Parks' Central Zone. Come and learn more about these at-risk species and how you can help create and preserve reptile friendly habitat.

June 29. 6:30 pm for kids, outside at the Pointe au Baril Community Center
7:00 pm for adults in the Pointe au Baril Community Center

State of Our Sturgeon Bay "Water Quality and Shoreline Management"

Back by popular demand. Come and learn about the results of recent water quality testing and action being taken by Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association. Find out how you can help protect and improve the quality of our Sturgeon Bay. Bring your questions

Seminars will be led by Dr. Andrea Bradford, Water Resources Engineering, University of Guelph - Director at Large of our Association and a cottager on Sturgeon Bay.

July 12. 10:00 am. Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park. Meet at the swimming beach.

August 3. 9:30 am. - prior to the Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association's Annual General Meeting (at 10:00 am.) Pointe au Baril Community Centre.

Your concerns - as taken from the Business Workshop

"water quality affects all of us, whether we live on the shore or not"

"the insects are destroying the trees and the cormorants are eating all the fish"

"there is not enough full-time year round employment or industry"

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCILLORS WARD ONE REPORT

The political landscape has changed completely since the November 2000 election in Ward 1. In June of 2001 Rick Tedford sold his property and resigned from Council. Dr. John Cochrane was elected in a by-election in September 2001. In December 2002 Hugh Bracken resigned after he sold his property. Terry Desmasdon was appointed by Council in January 2003 to replace Hugh for the balance of his term. We all know that John and Terry together will have an extremely hard time filling Hugh's shoes. Hugh and his wife Liz are going to be sincerely missed by the community and by the council of the T.O.A.

The Pointe au Baril Station is undergoing some exciting initiatives this year, which will benefit all of us, seasonal and permanent residents alike, in years to come. The first of these is the expected completion of the Sturgeon Bay Lake Plan. Last summer the surveys were completed, and the workshops conducted, and this summer the surveys and workshops will continue, with the Lake Plan report expected in late 2003. This plan should help identify for all of us the areas that we need to address to try to improve the water quality in our area .

Exciting News For Pointe Au Baril Area

FedNor, The Township of the Archipelago, the Pointe au Baril Chamber of Commerce, The Lions Club and representatives from the business community have begun an economic development strategy for the area. This project will give EVERYONE (permanent, seasonal and business people) an opportunity to share their vision for Pointe au Baril. With the new highway coming in the near future and other changes that will affect us, we all need to be proactive in creating and protecting our future. There will be a survey and public meetings where your input will be critical to the success of this project. You are also welcome to contact any of the member of the committee, which includes: both of us, Gary French and Roy Schatz, Lauralee Kennedy and Peter Weber (Chamber of Commerce), Mark Payne, Helen Tedford and Tonia Blenkarn (Chairperson). We have also received a lot of support from Bill Spinney, General Manager of the Parry Sound Area CB & DC, and Greg Corbett Chief Planner of the TOA.

The Business community in Pointe Au Baril was pleased to be invited to participate in the Fall Deerhorn conference.

The Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe Au Baril Association is growing at a predictable rate. This young association is working very hard on the Lake Plan, and without this association the Lake Plan would not be feasible. Just as all associations would say, a few more active members would be a bonus.

John Cochrane

Terry Desmasdon

Please Join/ Renew Now!!!

Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe-au-Baril Association Membership Form

Our membership year now runs from July 1 to June 30. Fees are \$50.00 per property, which includes one voting membership. Associate membership (non-voting) is available for \$25.00 annually. We look forward to your membership in the Association for 2003/2004.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Name: | |
| Home Street Address: | |
| City: | Postal Code: |
| Telephone Number: () | |
| Cottage Address: | |
| Lot number: | |
| City: Pointe-au-Baril | Postal Code: |
| Telephone Number: () | |
| Email address: | |

Please complete and return with cheque or money order to:

**Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe-au-Baril Association
P.O. Box 183,
Pointe au Baril, Ontario, P0G 1K0**

What you Value - as taken from the Residents Workshop

“a place to teach my children about nature and life”
“good times with good friends”
“the community of Pointe au Baril and its people”