

Newsletter

Report on Sturgeon Bay Plan Implementation

By: Andrea Bradford, Coordinator, Sturgeon Bay Action Plan Implementation

Watch out for a folder “**Sturgeon Bay Stewardship**” coming to you this spring. Since last fall, dedicated volunteers have successfully begun implementation of the Sturgeon Bay Plan despite their many other commitments. Activities that have taken place over the winter months include:

- Writing contributions to the fall newsletter
- Circulation of Thanksgiving workshop summary (no comments or corrections received)
- Attending Township of the Archipelago meetings / presentations by Karl Schiefer on results of Sturgeon Bay water quality study
- Application to TD Friends of the Environment for funding for stewardship activities
- Correspondence with Township of the Archipelago, Province of Ontario, Superintendent of Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park and Ontario Parks

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**Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association
Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT	Bob Causton.....	905-824-4352...(cottage)	705-366-2883
VICE PRESIDENT	Tom Lundy.....	905-875-3760...(cottage)	705-366-5617
SECRETARY/ TREASURER	Helen Tedford.....	705-366-2898	
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Cathy Kidston.....	519-836-6897...(cottage)	705-773-8299
	R. Keith Gardner.....	705-366-2489	
	Ruth Ann Muma.....	705-366-2866	
	Barb Cochrane.....	705-366-2536	

Bay Plan Implementation continued:

- Completion of flyer with Overview of Sturgeon Bay Plan
- Preparation of materials for stewardship folder (factsheets on septic maintenance, composting toilets, water conservation, inspiring neighbours, a green guest guide, laminated daily reminders, collection of materials on phosphorus free products and other relevant topics)
- Research on alternative on-site systems, in-lake phosphorus management alternatives and stewardship approaches

I want to particularly thank Cathy and Phil Kidston, Jim Dodgson, Terry Carr, Gerry Trakalo, Jan Papineau, Noel Staunton, and Cristina Mitchell for their contributions and commitment over the last several months.

We hope to build momentum for implementation of the Sturgeon Bay Plan over the summer. We plan to continue our government liaison, research and water quality monitoring activities. We look forward to meeting and speaking with you as we deliver stewardship packages to all residents on Sturgeon Bay. Please contact me with your ideas on other activities we can undertake to improve the water quality of Sturgeon Bay!

Email: abradfor@uoguelph.ca

Phone: (905) 469-3359

*****It's time to send in your fees for the 2004/2005 membership year***
See page 8 for a renewal form.**

THIS IS A PHOSPHATE FREE ZONE (or is that possible?)

As discussed in our last newsletter, high phosphorus concentrations in the Bay water are causing the poor water quality. Although there are natural sources of phosphorus, our water quality problem is caused by phosphorus coming from human sources, namely human faeces and the phosphate rich fertilizers and cleaning products that we use. The Township has a by-law no longer permitting the use of fertilizers. We can reduce or eliminate our use of phosphates from cleaning products.

It is up to us to make good choices with respect to what we use for cleaning. According to Karl Schiefer there is a hierarchy of cleaning products.

At the top are the phosphate free products that are made of natural materials. - they biodegrade quickly and are safe for septic systems. These are brands such as **Nature Clean** and **Simply Clean** and products we make ourselves using things like soap flakes, baking soda, washing soda, borax, vinegar, ammonia, lemon juice, mineral oil and lots of elbow grease.

The next level of products are those that are phosphate free, but may have some chemicals in them - they are not totally biodegradable.

Phosphate free products that have been submitted by our readers and are available locally are: **Palmolive, Sunlight, Mr. Clean, Lysol, Comet, 2000 Flushes, Citrus Magic** and some **Watkins products**.

It is important to read the labels carefully. We need to be using **phosphate free products** and preferably those that are fully **biodegradable**. The old adage "You get what you pay for" applies. The most beneficial products are not competitively priced. If it is within your means – our Bay is worth the investment.

Sturgeon Bay Stewardship Folders Help Spread the Word

You can help spread the word about good stewardship practices and discuss the contents of our new Sturgeon Bay Stewardship folders with approximately ten of your neighbours. To prepare you for this leadership role, a one hour workshop will be put on. At that time you will be able to pick up your packages, receive further information on the contents and "coaching" on what information we would like you to convey to the recipients of the packages.

If you think this is important to the future of Sturgeon Bay and want to help, please contact – Noel Staunton at stauntonn@golden.net or (519) 584-4023

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar for
Sunday, August 1, 2004

At 10:00 a.m.

(registration at 9:30 a.m.)

At the Pointe Au Baril Community Center
For our 4th Annual Meeting

Pointe Au Baril Corner

By Ruth Ann Muma

Well winter is finally showing signs of being over. As I write this little column for you its Good Friday and the ice is slowly but surely leaving us. Its been a long winter for most of us in Pointe Au Baril. We had a slow start on the snowmobile season , but on the other hand it was great for driving.

I see around the Pointe people are gearing up for another summer season. Moose Lake Trading Post has opened for another year and so has the chip wagon at the Shell Station. These are both good signs that summer is approaching us fast.

It is with great sadness that I must tell you of the passing of Gail Oldfield this past January. Gail was our postmistress for the last few years. She will certainly be missed by both locals and cottagers. Kim Kemp who worked with Gail at the post office is trying to be our new postmistress. We all wish her well and hope that she succeeds in getting this postion.

When you come up this summer either to stay for a few days or a few weeks or the lucky ones who join us all summer please consider volunteering in our little community. We have Canada Day celebrations, Lobsterfest, Arts on the Bay and our own Pointe Au Baril Sturgeon Bay Association who would gladly accept new volunteers. Just ask around and I am sure you will be pointed in the right direction on who to contact for any volunteer work.

So as I end this column I would like to say welcome back. Also remember to check your fishing guides for the new rules and restrictions on fishing

Did You Know?

Sewage from our holding and septic tanks is taken to the sewage lagoons in the Industrial Park in Carling Township

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.

Wildlife and Shoreline Vegetation – Data Collecting Field Trips



This summer Terry Carr, a retired Outdoor Education specialist and resident on Bigwood Island, is prepared to offer water based outings (on his pontoon craft) to make a start at an inventory of wildlife and vegetation along the shores of Sturgeon Bay. The opportunity to spend a few hours visiting various shoreline habitats and using our powers of observation to learn more about the natural history of our Bay should prove to be both enjoyable and informative. The data recorded will supplement the limited existing information that was summarized in our Bay Plan. In order to gauge the interest in this activity Terry would like you to contact him, as soon as possible, and register as a potential participant. The dates and frequency of the outings will be planned based on the responses. Interested individuals of all skill levels, from absolute beginners to trained naturalists, are welcome to participate.

e-mail: tcarr@vianet.ca
telephone: 705-366-2923

Poison Ivy

“Leaves of three, let them be!!!!” The middle leaf has a much larger stalk. Edges may be smooth or toothed. Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac have urushiol in the roots, stems, leaves and fruit. It is released when the plant is bruised. A rash shows up after direct contact or through contact with contaminated items, e.g. boots, clothing or animals.

Treatment: wash with soap within 15 minutes of skin contact (may help). Nasty stuff - learn to recognize and stay away from this noxious plant.

There are patches of this in our area.

Pointe Au Baril

Chamber of Commerce

Canada Day Celebrations, Sunday, 27 June, 2004

Schedule of Events

Boat Parade	3:00
Street Parade	4:30
Silent Auction, Dinner and Entertainment	6:00
Water Awareness	6:30
Fireworks	10:00

We would like to thank the many volunteers and contributors for making each year a successful event including the Lions, The Township of the Archipelago, Pabia and the Our Sturgeon Bay Association. **Thanks**

The Information Booth on Highway 69 will be open again this year from April to October. In order for the Chamber to continue to grow we need your support.

Memberships are available for businesses, associations and families. Call for more information. Links to our web site are free with membership. Check us out at www.pointeaurilchamber.com

Electronic Version of the Newsletter

The Our Sturgeon Bay Point au Baril Association Newsletter is now available on our website www.oursturgeonbay.com. It would result in substantial savings to the Association if members who have access to e-mail would read the Newsletter online instead of receiving a paper copy via regular mail.

Naturally we would continue to print and mail out a newsletter to those who do not have e-mail addresses and to those who prefer paper. Under no circumstances would we release your e-mail address to anyone else. Please check off the box on your membership form under Electronic Newsletter Notification.

When the next Newsletter is published we will send you an e-message indicating that the latest issue is now available on the website.

If you are on our e-mail listing we will also be able to send you more regular updates and information about the Bay Plan and our Association.

COUNCILLORS REPORT WARD 1

As we approach the summer of 2004 water quality in Sturgeon Bay is still a major concern. As you may recall last September we had another bout of Blue Green Algae.

The Ministry of the Environment in North Bay was contacted and they in turn contacted the Muskoka, Parry Sound Health Unit. The health unit then issued a do not use the water warning because potentially deadly toxins could be present in the Blue Green Algae.

Dr Karl Schiefer was retained by the Township of the Archipelago to study the watershed, the phosphorous levels and the thermal inclines in Sturgeon Bay. Dr Schiefer noted that for purposes of description Sturgeon Bay consists of two separate bodies of water (lake A & lake B) as determined by mixing rates. He noted that Lake A (north of Bigwood Island) turns over once every 1.5 to two years whereas Lake B turns over once every 0.5 years. Dr. Schiefer in his report to Council made a number of recommendations for remediation. The recommendation that affects all of us in our daily activities on Sturgeon Bay is to reduce our use of phosphate. The full report can be downloaded from the Township of the Archipelago web site

Since the receipt of Dr. Schiefer's report the Township has met with the Minister of the Environment and other related Ministries in an attempt to partner with the Ontario Government in a remediation program. We have not yet

received a positive response from the government. The Hon. Andy Mitchell M.P. has also been given a copy of Dr Schiefer's report and he has agreed to pass this report along to the appropriate people in the Federal Government.

Government can help with the major projects that may be needed for remediation. However if we are going to remediate Sturgeon Bay then we need the co operation of every resident in Ward 1. We must reduce the amount of phosphate that we input into the water. One of the ways you can help is by using only phosphate free products. These products are available in our local businesses.

One of the most important ways you can help is by joining and becoming an active member of the Sturgeon Bay/Pointe au Baril Association. This organization has spent countless hours developing a Lake Plan for Sturgeon Bay and now they are spending a similar amount of time working to implement the Plan. Without your membership and your volunteer help their efforts will not be as fruitful as all of us would like.

The cost of joining the Sturgeon Bay/Pointe au Baril Association is 70 dollars per family. You can join by sending a cheque to Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario, P0G1K0.

Remember your quality of life on Sturgeon Bay and the value of your property depends upon pristine clear water.

John Cochrane
705-366-2536
drjgc@vianet.ca

Terry Desmasdon
705-366-2144
tbd@vianet.on.ca

Did You Know?

Associate memberships are available for members of your family, friends, relatives, visitors and non-property owners who enjoy Sturgeon Bay.

Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe-au-Baril Membership Form 2004 / 2005

Our membership year runs from July 1st to June 30th. Fees are \$70.00 per property, which includes one voting membership. Annual Associate Membership (non-voting) is available at \$25.00 per member. Your Association looks forward to your continued support during 2004 / 2005.

<i>Name:</i>	
<i>Home Address:</i>	
<i>City:</i>	<i>Postal Code:</i>
<i>Home Telephone:</i>	<i>Cottage Telephone:</i>
<i>E-Mail Address:</i>	<i>Electronic Newsletter Notification YES / NO</i>
<i>Cottage Address</i>	
<i>City:</i> Pointe au Baril	<i>Postal Code:</i> P0G 1K0

Membership Calculation

<u> </u> <i>Full Membership Dues @ \$70.00</i>	
<u> </u> <i>Associate Membership(s) Dues @ \$25.00 (List Names & Addresses on Bottom of this Form)</i>	
<i>Donation</i>	
TOTAL	

Please complete and return with cheque or money order to:

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

THE PRIVACY ACT:

The Privacy Act became law January 1, 2004. Our understanding is that we are allowed to compile, keep or share a mailing list as long as it is:

- *Gathered with the knowledge and consent of the individuals involved*
- *Collected for a reasonable purpose*
- *Used only for the reasons for which it was gathered*
- *Accurate and up to date*
- *Open for inspection for the individuals involved*
- *Stored securely*

Our interpretation is that we are in compliance. Should any individual wish to have any information removed from our Mailing List / Directory, please direct our Treasurer, Helen Tedford, to do so.