



# Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association Newsletter

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0  
Fall 2004

Volume 3,

## ***Report from the Past President***

*By: Bob Causton*

At this years Annual General Meeting elections were held and this brought two new members to the Board, David Brown and Steve Sadler.

David and his wife Sonja have been cottaging here forever and are well known from Sturgeon Bay to Ojibway. They both have been proactive supporters of our Association and we welcome David.

Steve and his wife Sandy are recent arrivals to our Bay and have jumped in with both feet, obviously willing to do what it takes to advance our Associations efforts. We're lucky to have them all "on board"

Dave and Steve will be replacing Tom Lundy and Ruth Anne Muma respectively. Special thanks goes out to Tom and Ruth Anne for their help and support.

Steve has agreed to be our new President and David will be our Vice President.

Since the AGM Barb Cochrane expressed her wish to resign as a Director, although she will continue as Fund Raising chairperson and Jim Dodgson has agreed to take her place as a Director. We welcome Jim who is our Government Liaison person with the Bay Plan Implementation.

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Past Presidents remarks continued:

The effort that has gone into the early stages of implementation of our Bay Plan has been both a triumph as well as a disappointment. Perhaps, in retrospect, that is because we all enthusiastically signed up to a variety of committees in an attempt to “take on the world” and then discovered that this collective mission would require a ton of work and individual dedication. As a result some of the committees didn’t get off the ground. Or maybe the structure was too loosely defined and for many there was a weak sense of accountability.

There were, however, several groups and a few individuals who, despite all of this, prevailed and made significant progress -progress for which the Association should be very proud and very thankful. These individuals stuck with it and demonstrated what “volunteering” is all about.

Andrea Bradford has been our Project Manager since the Plan was initiated and has done a remarkable job. Now she is off being a Mommy and the reins have been handed back to the Board.

Terry Carr (Shoreline/Wildlife) and Jim Dodgson (Government Liason) have also been very busy with their projects despite having busy personal lives.

The two committees that we owe special thanks to are the Communication/Education Committee and the Water Quality Committee. They have carried the ball and, in fact, moved us forward.

The Education/Communication group met many times throughout the fall and winter last year and collectively turned out an amazing information package that was hand delivered (by more volunteers) throughout our area this past summer season. It is a defining document that provides meaningful and practical information: what each and every one of us can do to make the changes necessary to improve water quality. Since any other means of remediation is still a long way off, this hand-out guides us all with easy solutions. This committee has already formed a plan for next year. If you don’t have a copy of the brochure as yet, or want more, there are still some available. Contact Cathy Kidston or Helen Tedford.

The Water Quality group continued their work doing water sampling and research throughout the year. These guys not only devote their time to the program but also their boats and fuel as well. Without their reliable test data we would have a much more difficult time getting the ear of many relevant government agencies.

While we don’t exactly have an Entertainment committee, Barb Cochrane and her husband John helped organize a very successful Comedy night that helped our bank account significantly. The entertainers were first class and the Association thanks them for their generous donation of their time. The Bay Plan requires funding and this event really helped our cause.

With the reins of the Bay Plan management back in the hands of the Board, we have decided to focus on the more immediate tasks that are required to make the plan an ongoing success. These are Membership (including business membership/sponsorship), Education, Government Liaison and Fund Raising. We are continuing to do research on various alternatives to water quality remediation.

In conclusion, much work was done for the benefit of us all by a handful of very dedicated volunteers. This year we ask anyone seriously concerned about our water quality and

solutions to call us for a copy of the Bay Plan Implementation and volunteer to help out however can.

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

PRESIDENT	Steve Sadler .....	905 623-5922	or 705 366-2168
VICE PRESIDENT	Dave Brown .....	416 444-0406	or 705 366-2232
PAST PRESIDENT	Bob Causton .....	905 824-4352	or 705 366-2883
TREASURER/ SECRETARY	Helen Tedford .....	705 366-2898	
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Cathy Kidston .....	519 836-6897	or 705 366-2183
	R. Keith Gardner ..	705 366-2489	
	Jim Dodgson .....	905 584-0218	or 416 577-8066

**Next Annual Meeting**

Sunday, July 31, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.  
(registration at 9:30 a.m.)

***Comedy Night, August 21<sup>st</sup>,  
Pointe au Baril Community Centre***

*By Barb Cochrane, Fund Raiser Chairman*

Hats off to our talent-Johnny Gardhouse of Yuk Yuk's, People's Comedy Festival, Comedy Network, Gutterball Alley and to Terry McGurrin, cast member on the CTV/Comedy Networks sketch show Comedy Inc. Johnny also appears in several commercials, Cash for life Postman, etc. This very successful Comedy Night raised funds for Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association . Both actors donated all of their talent and expenses. Donations for the door prizes and the baskets for the raffle were greatly appreciated. Judy and Neil Cameron, the Lion's Club and Jim White's contributions were an asset. We are striving to book a similiar comedy night next August. Look for information posters. If you have any ideas, please call Barb at 366 2536.

**Are the Great Lakes running out of water?** You may be interested in the article "*High and Dry*" by *David Lees* in the **May/June 2004 issue of Canadian Geographic magazine.**

## ***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.

## ***Sturgeon Bay Water Quality Action Committee By John Cochrane, Chairman***

This is an inter-governmental committee consisting of representatives from the Township of the Archipelago, provincial and federal ministries, constituents, university researchers and consultants.

The purpose of the committee is to:

- Research the causes of deterioration and methods of limiting algae blooms
- Ensure co ordination of water quality monitoring
- Explore methods of remediation of blue green algae blooms
- Provide mechanisms of liaising with all government entities interested and responsible for water quality in Sturgeon Bay.

This committee has held two meetings with a third meeting pending.

The first meeting was a discussion about the quality of our water and an attempt to determine if all the relevant data has been collected. Government agencies are very reluctant to accept data that they have not collected. It was also agreed that all data collected would be shared.

The second meeting was a scientific meeting. At this meeting we had a number of scientists whose interests included septic systems, blue green algae and water quality. During this meeting a number of possible options for remediation were brought forward. However there was

a consensus among the scientists that more data needed to be collected to determine the true cause of our poor water. One of the ministry scientists stated that his ministry would not support an engineered solution.

After this meeting the Township gathered a number of scientists who have had some experience with poor water quality and remediation in an attempt to try and determine whether it was possible to remediate Sturgeon Bay and if so what type of remediation would be effective.

This sub committee of scientists produced some very interesting recommendations. These recommendations will be placed before the Sturgeon Bay Water Quality Action Committee in the near future and hopefully some positive support will emerge.

One of the common questions Terry Desmasdon and I are asked by the various government representatives is how many members does the Our Sturgeon Bay/Pointe au Baril Association have? They are somewhat shocked to find out that a large number of the residences on this body of water are not active members. This lack of participation by our constituents makes it more difficult for your Township representatives when dealing with these government bodies.

# NATURE NOTES

Prepared by Terry Carr



## Did you know...?

### **...Why leaves turn colour** in the Fall

As summer ends and autumn comes, the days get shorter and shorter. This is how the deciduous trees "know" to begin getting ready for winter. During winter, there is not enough light or water for photosynthesis. The trees will rest, and live off the food they stored during the summer. They begin to shut down their food-making factories. The green chlorophyll disappears from the leaves. As the bright green fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colours. Small amounts of these colours have been in the leaves all along. We just can't see them in the summer, because they are covered up by the green chlorophyll. The bright reds and purples we see in leaves are made mostly in the fall. In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn turn this glucose into a red colour. The brown colour of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves. It is the combination of all these things that make the beautiful colours we enjoy in the fall.

**...The male Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, in our area, depart for the south usually in the first week of September. The females and immature "Hummers" don't leave until as much as two weeks later. They fly at approximately 45 km/hr and, in migration, stop to rebuild their fuel supply (fat) between each 170 to 340 Kilometre leg of their journey overland. Some of these amazing "miniatures" fly non-stop for 800 Kilometres across the Gulf of Mexico in 26 hours fuelled on two grams (0.07 ounce) of fat, which makes up about half their body weight before starting out. They will go as far south as northern South America for the winter months and return to Sturgeon Bay in mid-May.

**...Our beloved Common Loon** is the official bird of Ontario. Studies of the Loon have shown that the average time spent underwater is 40 to 45 seconds and the maximum time under the surface was clocked at 3 minutes. The deepest dive was recorded at 70 metres (230 feet) and the average flying speed was found to be 120 km/hr (72 mph). In late September the Common Loon changes its plumage from the dramatic breeding pattern to their dull grey backs and white bellies.

**...The marsh Cattails** bear up to one quarter million seeds per female flower, which is the cylindrical, velvety, dark brown seed head 10 to 15 cm long (4 to 6 inches) that looks like a big hotdog on a roasting stick. This plant is extremely efficient at filtering nutrients and even impurities from the water. The roots of the Cattail have a nutrient content similar to rice and corn and were used by many of our first nation tribes in a powdered form to make flour. The roots are also one of the favorite foods of Moose.

# OUR STURGEON BAY POINTE AU BARIL ASSOCIATION

4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2004

## HIGHLIGHTS

1) CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. There were 25 members present and a quorum was declared.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion** that the minutes of the AGM of August 1, 2003 be approved as circulated. **Moved** by Fred Lefevre, seconded by Barbara Leitch. **Carried**

3) FINANCIAL REPORT:

**Motion** to accept report for the year 2003/2004 as presented. **Moved** by Kim Montgomery, seconded by Bill Tedford. **Carried.**

**Motion** that the appointment of an independent auditor be waived for this fiscal year. **Moved** by Lloyd Posno, seconded by Lauralee Kennedy. **Carried.**

4) PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bob thanked all for their efforts over the past year. He also gave an update on the Lake Plan.

**Motion** to ratify acts and proceedings of the Board of Directors. **Moved** by John Cochrane, seconded by Lloyd Posno. **Carried.**

5) ELECTION OF DIRECTORS Ruth Ann Muma resigned from the Board. Dave Brown and Steve Sadler agreed to stand for election. Bob Causton, Helen Tedford, Cathy Kidston, Barb Cochrane and Keith Gardner agreed to stand for re-election. Tom Lundy resigned so an election was not necessary.

**Motion** to accept, by acclamation the nominees to the Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association Board of Directors. **Moved** by Lloyd Posno, seconded by Terry Carr. **Carried.**

6) GUEST SPEAKERS

- **John Cochrane**, councilor, briefed us on the water quality issue from the Township's perspective and indicated that the Ministries of the Environment, Natural Resources and Municipal Affairs are involved in the algae problem on Sturgeon Bay.
- **Bill Tedford**, gave a report on his water testing. He has noted a decrease in the number of coliforms and e-coli and that the depth tests (clarity) have improved over the last year.
- **Cathy Kidston** gave a report on the stewardship folder that her committee worked on over the winter and indicated that they were or will be hand delivered to every resident in Ward 1.
- **Tonia Blenkarn** spoke on behalf of the Strategic Development Committee of Pointe au Baril indicating their concerns relative to the new highway. She encouraged the Association to write a letter in support of two interchanges for Pointe au Baril.

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting. **Moved** by Bill Tedford, seconded by John Cochrane. **Carried.**

7) ADJOURNMENT: 11.40 a.m

# **REPORT ON 2004 WATER QUALITY TESTING**

*By Bill Tedford*

Once again, in co-operation with the township, we undertook water quality testing of Sturgeon Bay in ward one.. We have fourteen sites that we monitor, the first being the Provincial Park and Sturgeon Bay Marina and the last being the channel off Payne's Marine with twelve other sites in between. We started our testing in June and I will do the final testing the last week of October.. Generally, from June through August we try to do testing twice a month.. The other months, it is only done once.. This year, in co-operation with the Ministry of Natural Resources, we were involved in the Lake Partners program and did testing once a month for them as well.

There is a difference with regard to the testing.. The township program involves testing for bacterial counts involving bacteria levels: total coliform and E. coli.. In those tests, we collect the samples and then incubate them in coliplates at my residence and record the results.. At the end of the season, these results are submitted to the township for an in-depth analysis and the following year, a water quality report for the township as a whole is issued identifying different areas.. For the Lake Partners program, we take samples from four specific sites once a month and submit those samples to the township who then forwards them to the MNR at Dorset Ontario for final analysis.. Those tests are for phosphate quantities and algae blooms which MAY be or could have the potential to become toxic.. Unfortunately, we do not usually hear back from them with regard to results.. Most times the results are obvious in the latter part of August and then September and October.

Because I live here year round, I have the opportunity to observe the lake going through its different stages and water levels.. At the conclusion of the fall of 2003 and before freeze up, the water levels were low.. In late spring of 2004 because of greater snowfalls and heavy spring rains, the levels were up by about 30 cm (12-14 inches).. This made a significant difference in both early water clarity and quality.. One of our tests involves water clarity where we observe the depth that a secchi disc can be read before it disappears from sight.. In the past few years the clarity of our bay has been pretty dismal yet in 2004 there was a distinct improvement continuing throughout the summer despite late summer algae blooms.. I credit this improvement to the increased water levels..

With regard to the bacterial levels, there was generally an improvement this year over the last couple of years.. In reality, the bacterial levels (total coliform and E. coli) have been pretty good and appear to be within the provincial guidelines for recreational use.. Do not confuse this with algae blooms that occur late in the summer.. This is a different type of growth which has to be monitored closely by qualified lab technicians and is not something we can test at home..

Once again this year, despite the higher water levels, we have experienced algae blooms.. I do know that two Provincial Ministries, MNR and Muskoka-Parry Sound Department of Health have taken samples, However, we have yet to hear from them about their findings which is a little disturbing.. It would be nice to know in a timely fashion what the results are.. We have all seen the "green" algae forms.. These, apparently are not necessarily all bad, although aesthetically speaking, they stink. It is when they form "Blue-Green" algae that there is a real danger

In conclusion, I can say I did see a favourable change in our water quality most likely due to dilution by more rain and snow.. As well, heavier winds this year pushed in more water from

time to time causing a diluting effect.. One thing that did not change, was the lack of oxygen in the deep parts of our bay.. It is this oxygen problem which causes the release of the phosphates from the bottom of the bay.

If we continue to get heavier snowfalls, and if we continue to receive more spring and fall rains and if our lake levels continue to rise ( a lot of ifs there) we may see more improvement again next year.. BUT there is one thing to remember. All of those factors will not permanently cure our problems in this bay.. There are several remedies for introducing oxygen to the deep part of the bay and those are being studied by other people in conjunction with the township.. As well, our own good stewardship is required for now and future generations..

Your Sturgeon Bay – Pointe Au Baril Association is working hard through volunteers and others to make a difference, a good difference, in this bay.. Your help is required through membership dues, donations and volunteer help.. **GET INVOLVED.. DO YOUR PART ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.. DO NOT LEAVE IT TO OTHERS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS.. THERE IS AN OLD SAYING.. “IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION, THEN YOU MUST BE PART OF THE PROBLEM”.. THINK ABOUT IT...**

I would like to acknowledge Phil Kidston and councilor John Cochrane, my work boat buddies who are always willing to jump in and help with the testing despite the weather..

We need more members. Our current membership suggests  
**only 14%** of residents on the Bay care. **Is this true?**  
Please encourage your neighbours and friends on the Bay to join.