



Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association Newsletter

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0
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Volume 4,

Report from the President

By: Steve Sadler
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Despite the snow currently falling outside my window, the weather will begin to warm, the clocks will jump forward and the promised days of summer will approach with rapidity and with it, another season on the Bay. I am looking forward to this first full year as President of our Association. I have accepted the torch as passed by our past president Bob CAUSTON and with the help of vice president Dave BROWN and all of our directors, we continue to hold it high. The winter months have been all too long, but your association has not been idle. We have attended meetings with the Township, other cottage Associations and cottage groups and we have continued to make some positive inroads. That being said, I want to personally thank all of our directors for their continuing efforts towards our cause.

My goal at the start of my tenure was two fold; increase the membership of our association, and increase our political pressure within the Township. Through active recruitment, we have indeed brought our membership close to the levels they were when we started. We must continue to meet this goal and get more residents in the area to join. I would like these members to be comprised of permanent residents of Pointe

au Baril and Sturgeon Bay, seasonal residents, as well as the business owners in

the area. With this concept, I will be suggesting a move away from a simple area Association, towards a Rate Payers Organization that will speak for the entire area (see my separate article for further insight into this).

I must admit that I had reservations at the beginning of my tenure as president. I saw a great deal of effort put forth by directors of our Association, as well as residents, to make plans on how we could fix our water problems. At the same time, I did not feel this same commitment coming from the Township. It appeared to me that our efforts were falling on deaf ears. My opinion began to change, however, when I was included in a Sturgeon Bay Water Quality Action Group meeting chaired by Councillor John Cochrane. After this meeting, some of my reservations disappeared, as the township finally agreed that water quality is a major concern. This concern has resulted in a remediation plan, designed by residents and scientists both, that is a direct move towards cleaning up the algae problem in the Bay. For this plan, I would like to thank members of Council, in particular John COCHRANE, for his renewed support. We, as an

Association, must be vigilant however and ensure that pressure is exerted and the comprehensive plan. Our efforts may become a template for all areas of the province to attack this growing problem.

As this idea remains forefront in our minds, we continue to look for ways to remediate the water quality in the Bay, both through active changes to our product uses and other means. The future of our Bay and the entire area depends on the water in the area. We must act aggressively to combat any water problems.

Our Stewardship Information package that we distributed last summer continues to be well received. It continues to educate residents in our area and has brought enough interest from other Associations for them to draw on that package and create their own learning resources particular to their individual areas. We as an association have started a move toward aggressive stewardship of this area. We must continue to be more mindful as to the amount of phosphates that we have introduced into the Bay. With a continued commitment to reducing the amount of phosphates that we as residents add to the water, we can use this commitment to prove to the Township that our efforts alone will not solve the problems with Algae blooms. This will reinforce the need for studies into active remediation and ensure that the Township realizes that environmental issues will always be a major concern for our Association.

We must also look to other matters that will affect our future, as plans for the new Highway 400 route are finalized and finally built. We must come together to ensure that the government bodies concerned realize the

Township will follow through with this

strengths of our area, and do not initiate any changes without our input. The next few years will determine how this area thrives, or dies. We must take the active steps now to ensure the security of our area in the coming years.

I am anxiously awaiting our annual meeting on July 31 and I am hoping that we get good attendance. Together, we can make the positive changes to our area that will increase our property values and our everyday enjoyment. In the interim, I would ask that every current member in our Association actively seek out other residents on the Bay and in the immediate area east of Brignall Banks. We need you to carry the flag for our association and explain the benefits of membership. We need to increase the membership to our Association, for only then will we be able to gather the political support we need to accomplish our goals. Everyone must understand how it is in the best interests of all area residents to band together as a cohesive group and together make the changes to give our Area the economic and environmental longevity it deserves. Help the Association by telling a friend of our work and getting them to join!

Until the meeting, I am hoping that everyone will have a good spring. Let us hope for high water levels and good weather. I am constantly looking for ideas and issues that are of concerns to the residents, so I have attached my e-mail address to this document and am hoping for both ideas and responses, both positive and negative, to our ideas.

Enjoy the summer, and we will see you on the Bay.

Thanks Thanks Thanks

To the Township, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Winter Whirl and many individuals who have donated towards the Bay Plan Implementation.

It's time to send in your fees for the 2005/2006 membership year. Renewal form is enclosed.

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	519 843-3704	or 705 366-2183
	R. Keith Gardner ..	705 366-2489	
	Jim Dodgson	905 584-0218	or 416 577-8066

Should We Become A Ratepayer's Association?

By Steve Sadler

Our Association has continued to strive towards excellence in our dealings both with the residents in the area, as well as the government bodies that surround us. Recent information regarding cottage associations has begun to change throughout the province, as more and more associations realize that strength in numbers is not the sole basis that Townships and Governments look at when they decide how to deal with their citizens. As in all phases of our society, government bodies consider financial issues first and foremost in their dealings with the public.

That realization has led many area associations within the province to change their name, as well as some of their focus. The current trend is to become a RATE PAYER'S ORGANIZATION. The idea behind this change is simple; the phrase "rate payers" denotes the idea that members are financially linked to the area they reside in. It prompts the Townships to remember that it is the residents who provide the financial resources to effect changes within the area; in effect providing for the existence for the Township itself.

This type of organization can also link the members to the businesses within the area, who also have a high financial stake in their community. It is my belief that when this type of association is created, it will link the various disparate groups within our area towards a common cause. As a larger group, an organization of permanent residents, seasonal residents and businesses, will be a force to be reckoned with. It will allow us to gain the political attention we need to accomplish our common goals!

I think the time has come for our Association to follow this model. At the annual general meeting, I will propose that we change our name, and therefore our focus, to THE STURGEON BAY/POINTE AU BARIL RATE PAYERS ORGANIZATION. This, along with the new logo that we want to design, will carry our association forward in the coming years. This new association will give us stronger resolve, and active partnerships within the area will be created. We can then focus on actively promoting the strengths of this Association to all members in our community, and together making our area better in all respects.

I hope that all of us will share some insights and comment on this proposal, either at the general meeting (July 31 at the Community Centre) or prior through e-mail or phone. To contact me and express your viewpoints on this matter phone me (number at top of page) or email me sssadler@rogers.com

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.

Dates to Remember

Friday, July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations
in Pointe au Baril.

Sunday, July 31 – Our 5th Annual General Meeting
at the Pointe au Baril Community Center.

Meeting starts at 10am.
(Registration at 9:30 am.)

Saturday, August 27 – Comedy Night.
As part of Parry Sound Old Home Week
Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association will be presenting
the second Comedy Night

starring **Johnny Gardhouse**

at the Pointe au Baril Community Center.
Tickets cost \$15 each.
Doors open at 6:30. Show starts at 7:30 pm.
Cash bar sponsored by the Lion's Club of Pointe au Baril.
Content for adult audiences only.
Tickets will be available at
the Shell Station or the Pointe,
from a Director or by

calling Barb at 366-2536
NATURE NOTES

Prepared by Terry Carr



Did you know...?

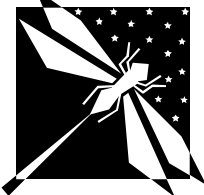
...The tiny **Spring Peeper** (*Hyla crucifer*), one of Ontario's two tree frogs, is probably, gram for gram the loudest animal on Earth. This little amphibian, small enough to fit on a Loonie coin, has a measured sound level of 110 to 120 decibels. Just for comparison the sound level of a 747 taking off on an airport runway is about 120 decibels!

The other Tree Frog found in Sturgeon Bay and over much of Central and Southern Ontario is the **Gray Tree Frog** (*Hyla versicolor*). This one is much larger but quieter. It's about the size of the green Leopard Frog. It has the amazing ability to change its skin colour to match its environment....just like a Cameleon only not quite as quick a change. Both of these frogs are true amphibian, laying their eggs in the water but, unlike our non-tree species they spend the rest of their summer and fall living in trees and shrubs....and occasionally on our cottage decks.

...Why **Rainbows** appear semi-circular? They actually form a complete circle which can sometimes be seen from an airplane. From the ground only the top portion of the circle is visible because of the angle of view. The bottom portion is always below the horizon. You will notice that a low sun produces a taller rainbow and vice versa.



...The **Pine Sawfly** (*Diprion similes*), which has been doing some damage to our beautiful White Pines, is a native of Europe that became established in Ontario in the 1930's. Over the past 4 or 5 years it has caused some significant defoliation in places around the shores of Sturgeon Bay. Two or three generations of the insect can occur in one year. If a third generation occurs in this area the "caterpillars" will likely die from the cold before they can reach the pupal stage for over-wintering. The good news is that we suffered less damage to our pines this year than in the previous 4 years. For further information on the status of this and other forest pests contact the Ministry of Natural Resources in Parry Sound.



...The **Black Bear** population size is largely determined by the amount of food available each year. If the pregnant female (sow) does not gain enough weight in the summer and fall, due to food shortage, then implantation of the fertilized eggs does not occur and the female's body absorbs the eggs. No cubs are born by that female during that winter

Extra Stewardship Folders are available. Please let us know if you want another or if you have a new neighbour.

Don't forget to buy your phosphate free products. Help save our water.

Fall 2004 Deer Horn Conference Highlights

By Helen Tedford

Roy Schatz, president of the GBA Foundation announced that on October 29, 2004 a new Biosphere Reserve in our area was created by UNESCO. John Birnbaum, Executive Director of GBA made a presentation on the current Bell Canada towers situation. Councilor John Hansuld, Chair of the Planning Committee described the Official Plan Update process to date.

Strategic Planning – Marinas and our neighbourhoods: Reeve Ketchum reviewed the current Official Plan Responsibilities and requirements. Each association gave a short presentation on their thoughts on what the Township responsibilities are to ensure the necessary water access for residents.

Environmental Issues: Roy Schatz went through the handout "Sustainability in the Great Lakes Basin: An eco-Footprint Perspective" from the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference, held in Toronto on October 6, 2004. It was noted that 70% of the wetlands of Lake Ontario are now gone and the remaining 30% are degraded.

Water Quality: Councilor John Seagram advised that the water quality testing program was successful in 2004, with most neighbourhoods undertaking monitoring. The next steps are:

- Review established goals and objectives after six years of testing
- Assess township policy with respect to its impact on water quality
- Review existing programming and assess new needs
- Promote harmonization of monitoring practices among other neighbouring municipalities

John Pepperell and Mary Muter reported on the Baird Report Presentation to the International Joint Commission. The level of the Middle Lakes of the Great Lakes (Huron, Michigan and Georgian Bay) have been permanently lowered by 33 centimeters (13 inches) over the last 30 years or 80 centimeters (31 inches) over the last 140 years. Erosion is continuing and has further reduced water levels by between 20 and 30 centimetres (8 and 12 inches) since 1962, when the major dredging operations in the St. Clair River stopped. It will continue to lower water levels until something can be done about it.

Councilor Gary French discussed the issue of having a centralized Laundromat in Pointe au Baril. Most cottages seem to have washing machines now, which leads to phosphorus loading in Georgian Bay since septic systems do not remove phosphates.

Sturgeon Bay Health Advisory – Councilor Cochrane and Steve Kaegi, CAO gave a report on the advisory. They reported that the number of toxins consumed needs to be very high to cause illness, that the 2004 bloom was smaller and that the MOE took samples. The analysis is still to come. There have been two meetings with scientists leading to agreement that remediation is needed, but no Ministry funding has been promised. It was mentioned that Our Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Association distributed stewardship folders to every household in ward one suggesting how to be good stewards of the water and encouraging the use of phosphate free products.

Full details of this conference can be found on the GBA website - www.georgianbay.ca

Logo Contest

As we head into our fifth year as an Association we think it is time we had our own Association logo for use on letters, hats, shirts, etc. Get your creative juices going and send your ideas by mail to: Logo Contest, 73 Beirnes Ct., Fergus, ON. N1M 3V4 or by email to kidston@sentex.net with 'logo contest' on the subject line. We reserve the right to accept or reject all entries.

The winner will be announced at our AGM.

Pointe au Baril Corner

by Ruth Ann Muma

It's the middle of April and things around the Pointe are starting to move. The ice is finally leaving the bay. It seems to have been a very long winter here in Pointe Au Baril. I think I speak for everyone here saying 'bring on summer'.

The following events are scheduled for our little village this year. Canada Day celebrations will be held. Contact Lauralee if you can help out. The Lion's Club will be having their annual Lobsterfest in July. This year marks the celebration of our nursing station's 20 year anniversary. As far as I know there will be a celebration for this in August. We also have the annual Terry Fox run in Pointe Au Baril in Sept. This year marks the 25th anniversary of Terry's journey. To round things off in October the ladies church group will hold their annual rummage sale. So if you're cottage cleaning don't throw out recyclables. The ladies of the church will love you for it.

Looking forward to seeing all our summer residents and guests soon. Take care and wishing you a sunny summer

Spring FOCA Meeting

by Dave Brown

I attended my first meeting of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations and was agreeably impressed. Topics covered were:

1. Invasive species in our lakes
2. How do we landscape to make our lands and shoreline strong and resilient
3. Cottage country wetlands - contributing to water quantity and quality.
4. Lake health - you are what you eat. What is the ideal diet for your lake?

They regard marshes as a very valuable resource as marshes act as nature's sponge to store and distribute water while also filtering & purifying the water. They stress that the biggest single source of changes to a lake are the actions of property owners within the watershed or along the shoreline. If landscaping is needed you should use native plants. FOCA is looking for solutions to cottager's problems and is an educational force. It is in our interest to continue to support them and attend their meetings

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

John Cochran

Terry Desmasdon

Winter of 2005 has been a busy time for your councilors. As you may recall last year we had workshops in regards to the Economic Strategic Plan for Pointe au Baril. During these workshops everyone had an opportunity to comment on how they would visualize Pointe au Baril in the future. When this Strategic Plan was completed it was presented to Council where it was accepted in principle. Council then created a Strategic Plan Implementation Committee. This committee consists of three components, (1) Economic Development, (2) Beautification, (3) Water Quality. The original strategic planning process identified that the major concern of the population of the Pointe au Baril area was the location and the appearance of the garbage bins. The Beautification Committee held a public information session in January and twenty-four people attended. The unanimous opinion of these 24 people was that the garbage bins needed to be moved off the main street of Pointe au Baril. Your councilors took this opinion to the North Liaison Committee of Council and this opinion created a heated debate. Other councilors felt that 24 opinions were not representative of the majority and there was a great deal of discussion as to where the water access residences would deposit their garbage. Some of our local residence even sent communication to the Pointe au Baril Islanders Association asking them to intervene and keep the bins where they are. These residences did not express an opinion to their councilors. The end result is the survey that you were recently asked to complete. The following is the results of the survey.

Option #1—Relocate to Site #9	21%
Option #2—Find a new site in the village	25%
Option #3—Modify Current Site	31%
Option #4—Status Quo	23%

We were surprised at the results because we are constantly told that the bins are an eyesore and that they should not be on the main street of Pointe au Baril.

Continuing on with Strategic Planning, the Implementation Committee has been informed by Council that the Township is prepared to apply for a COMRIF grant in order to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Plan.

Water Quality has not been forgotten with all the other activities. In February we had our third meeting of the Sturgeon Bay Water Quality Action Committee and from that meeting it was determined that we need to obtain a core sample of our sediment to determine the history of our Bay and this will happen this summer. Winter under the ice analysis was also done by Dr. Schieffer with the assistance of Bill Tedford and Greg Mason. Meetings with the MOE staff in Toronto, the Minister of Northern Affairs and Mines and our Federal MP, Hon Andy Mitchell were held. The various government agencies know that we exist but to date are reluctant to commit. Small gains are occurring however.

Over the fall and winter there were two meetings in regards to the proposed new highway. Concerns were expressed over the number and the placement of access ramps and the number of businesses and homes that would be affected. The design process is still ongoing but the designers are well aware of the local opinion. We expect that there will be another public open house with further design characteristics presented this summer.