



Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association

Newsletter

www.oursturgeonbay.ca

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0
Fall 2005

Volume 5,

Report from the President

By: Steve Sadler
sssadler@rogers.com

As fall begins to settle in, the memories of a glorious summer on the Bay remain. We were extremely fortunate this year with the great weather we all enjoyed, though as always the water levels could have been a little higher!

The Annual General Meeting went well, though I would have liked to have seen somewhat higher numbers in attendance. We were extremely grateful for Reeve KETCHUM's attendance, as he showed his support for our Association and the efforts we have undertaken to improve the area.

As part of the agenda of the AGM, a new name for our Association was selected. As a result of a motion that I brought forward and the ensuing vote of support, we are now known as **Sturgeon Bay Pointe Au Baril Ratepayers Association**. I am hoping that this new name, in conjunction with our new logo, will give us a renewed focus. We plan to be more political in our dealings with the Township, and resolve to carry forward the important issues, as deemed by our membership, to Council's attention. We want this Association to be the voice of both Sturgeon Bay and Pointe Au Baril, for both seasonal and permanent residents. This new focus will also seek to gain the support of local

business, as we create a business membership that can both show this support trade.

At the AGM, I also showed a brief presentation of the SOLAR BEE system, and it was well received by all in attendance. The power point presentation followed by a question period, showed the efficacy of this system, and how we hope that it will resolve our blue green algae concerns. Council has resolved, with some points yet to be finalised, to install SOLAR BEES for a testing period on the Bay. I am sure that the positive result that this test will yield will ensure continued support for this system by Council for the longer term. Whatever is required to remediate our water, whether it is SOLAR BEE or another solution, we will continue our efforts until the task is complete!

We have had a directors meeting since the AGM and we have instituted designated contact individuals for the various concerns that we are currently dealing with. We hope that you will take the time to look at the members as listed in this newsletter. We look forward to any contact by residents in the area and hope that we can be of assistance for their needs and concerns.

Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers 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
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

President's remarks continued.....

The Association continues to move forward and gain in strength. We will be the voice for this area and we will stridently fight for both environmental issues and regional concerns. If you feel strongly about an issue that affects us all, and feel that appropriate attention has not been drawn to it, please bring it to our attention. It is our resolve to take the issues most important to the majority of area residents and ensure that this same importance is felt at the Township level.

It is my hope that this Association will continue to work closely with the Township and assist in their efforts to make this area the best that it can possibly be. That being said, I want to take this time to thank both Terry Desmasdon and John Cochrane for their support throughout this past year. Though we may not always agree, we hope that this Ratepayer's Association will assist them in their future tasks for the betterment of us all.

The Association was proud to sponsor the successful comedy night on August 27. The talents of Johnny Gardhouse and Wayne Flemming, highly professional comedians, entertained all the guests who attended that night. I want to thank both the comedians for

donating their time and talent, and Barb Cochrane for her efforts in organizing this fund raising event. A good time was had by all, and it raised both funds and focus for our Association

As a final note, our Past President and Director Bob CAUSTON has requested to have his current position vacated. Currently his business does not give him the free time to assist as he would have liked. It was with regret that we accepted his request, and have vacated his position. I want to take this time to personally thank Bob for his efforts through the years. It was Bob who first took the initiative to form this Association and worked diligently to keep our mandate going. His efforts brought us to where we are today, and gave us a solid foundation and direction. He has indicated that he hopes to be available for committees or assistance as time allows, and we gratefully accept his help at any time. Thank You Bob for all that you have done!

Until the spring, enjoy the season and thank you all for continued support. I would be remiss to not remind those that are reading this, and who have not yet become members, to please take the time and join us. Together we will work towards the betterment of our piece of paradise.

★ Logo Contest ★

Congratulations to **Sandra Biskaris**, the designer of our new logo and the winner of our contest. We had quite a job choosing our new logo from the excellent submissions we received and send many thanks to all those who entered.

Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association ***Mission Statement***

The Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association is a non-profit group of area citizens committed to the protection of the natural ecological health and beauty of 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.

COMEDY NIGHT

By Barb Cochrane

Another successful Comedy Night was held on August 27th in Pointe au Baril. Thank you to Cathy Cochrane, Evelyn Hudecki, Gail from Hamilton who assisted at the door selling tickets, Jim White, PAB LION'S CLUB, our many sponsors and of course to our comedians---JOHNNY GARDHOUSE AND WAYNE FLEMMING. These guys donated their time and all proceeds went towards the Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association.

POINTE AU BARIL CORNER

By Ruth Ann Muma

As I am writing this the trees in our area are at their peak. Fall is the time of the year here in Pointe au Baril where our summer residents have all gone and the village is once again quiet. The ladies church group annual rummage sale was once again a success. The ladies will accept donations of good clothing or household goods when you are doing your fall cleaning, a note to remember for next year. Once again our little village was successful with the Terry Fox Run with donations just a little over \$2150.00. Thanks for all the support with this endeavor. The next on the agenda for entertainment in Pointe au Baril comes with our annual Winter Whirl. This is the first week in February. If you need a break from the city, why go south, come north for a good time that weekend. After our hot summer with little rain I personally wish you all a wonderful winter with moderate snowfall. See you all at Winter Whirl in February.

Want More Information ?

Some of our members have agreed to help if needed. Contacts are listed below.

MEMBERSHIPS:	Helen Tedford.....	rattlebear@vianet.ca
BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS:	Jim Dodgson.....	jtdodgson@sympatico.ca
SOLAR BEE:	Steve Sadler.....	sssadler@rogers.com
WATER QUALITY:	Bill Tedford.....	rattlebear@vianet.ca
FOREST HEALTH:	Phil Kidston.....	kidston@sentex.net
SHORELINE AND WILDLIFE:	Terry Carr.....	tcarr@vianet.ca

Water Quality Report

By Bill Tedford

During the spring, summer, and fall of 2005, Phil Kidston, John Cochrane and I have been involved in our annual testing of the Sturgeon Bay area from Brignal Banks to Pointe Au Baril harbour and upper Sturgeon Bay. We have continued to monitor the 14 sites that we originally set up, for water clarity, temperature and bacteria levels. I have noticed some changes this year over other years:

- Water clarity has been better than previous years averaging two metres.
- Shoreline weed growth has been high – reminds me of ten years ago.
- Minnow populations have been substantial around our docks.
- Bass have been hooked by the grandkids off our dock and are of good size
- Total Coliform bacteria levels seem to be about the same
- E-Coli bacteria levels have been testing higher than in the past (Canada Geese?), which is a concern.

The water levels have been up slightly. We had very hot dry spells for several weeks at a time in July. The water temperatures were very warm with surface temperatures in the 24degree range. Due to these factors, I was expecting to see an early blue-green algae bloom and yet it did not occur until 02 October 2005. More on this later.

We also have been involved in testing the water under the Lake Partners Program of the Ministry of the Environment. Once a

month since May, we have been submitting samples to the Ministry of Environment at Dorset Ontario for measuring of nutrient levels.

During September 2005, the Township contracted for core sampling of our Bay. This was done by Dr. Carl Scheifer and Dr. Eric Scheifer assisted by councilor John Cochrane, township employee Greg Mason and myself as observer. Several core samples were taken of the bottom sediments of one of the deepest parts of upper Sturgeon Bay (about 16 metres). The purpose was to establish a history of what has been taking place in our bay hopefully over the past 150 years. Results will not likely be available until sometime in 2006.

Today, Sunday, October 02, 2005, at 07:30, I observed a blue-green algae bloom off our dock and along the shoreline. I documented and photographed the formations. Councilor John Cochrane has been notified and will notify the proper Ministries that are involved in this study. Our annual blooms are continuing. This is a serious health issue. Your ratepayers association requires your full support if we are ever going to remediate this problem. We must keep pressure on the various government agencies which have the funding and power to assist us. Please forward your concerns, questions, suggestions to your association directors, your councilors, John Cochrane and Terry Desmasdon and the Township at www.thearchipelago.on.ca

Good News

In September the Ministry of Natural Resources did a catch and bio sampling of Sturgeon Bay. In a preliminary summary they stated that, as a general impression, the fish community of Sturgeon Bay is in an extremely productive waterbody. Although most of the biomass is concentrated in coarse fish species, the game fish (walleye, smallmouth, largemouth, pike and crappie) will probably be at or above the area average. Almost all species showed a wide size distribution, suggesting good reproduction and successful recruitment of most year-classes. There are few readily apparent detrimental impacts on the fish community related to poor water quality, other than the preponderance of coarse fish that do better in nutrient rich waters.

5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

1) CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion that the minutes of the AGM of August 1, 2004 be approved as circulated. **Moved** by Lloyd Posno, seconded by Terry Carr. **Carried.**

3) FINANCIAL REPORT

Motion to accept the report for the year 2004/2005 as presented. **Moved** by Bill Tedford, seconded by Barb Cochrane. **Carried.**

Motion to accept proposed Budget for the year 2005/2006 as presented. **Moved** by Lloyd Posno and seconded by John Cochrane. **Carried.**

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

4) PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Steve thanked Reeve Peter Ketchum for attending our meeting and our councilors for their support. He stressed the need for more members and volunteers. He then gave a presentation on Solar Bee and discussed the function, use and results forecasted in Sturgeon Bay.

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

5) GUEST SPEAKER

Reeve Peter Ketchum spoke on the formation of the PAB Strategic Development Committee and gave a brief synopsis of the Fire Marshall's Certificate of Compliance the township just received. He advised there were free smoke detectors for people to take.

6) OTHER BUSINESS

- Phil Kidston reported on the **Forest Health Workshop** held this spring.
- Cathy Kidston reported on the success of the **Stewardship Folders** handed out last summer. Our **website** has a new webmaster and will be used to keep members updated on issues.
- Keith Gardner reported on **town business**: an Eco Plan meeting, Kennedy's West Parry Sound Health Fundraiser, the Nursing Station 25 Year Celebration, the Chamber of Commerce funds raised on Canada Day and Comedy Night to be held August 27.
- Steve Sadler spoke about **changing our name** to a Ratepayers Association. **Motion** to change the name of our Association to Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association. **Moved** by Bill Tedford, seconded by Lauralee Kennedy. **Carried**
- Bill Tedford spoke about the work of the **Georgian Bay Foundation with the International Joint Commission**. **Moved** by Bill and seconded by John Cochrane that the Association donate \$500.00 to them. **Carried.**
- Our **Logo Contest** has been extended to Labour day.

Moved by Jack Newell, seconded by Lloyd Posno that the membership appreciates the work of the Directors on our Association. **Carried**

7) ADJOURNMENT: 11.50 a.m.

NATURE NOTES

Prepared by Terry Carr

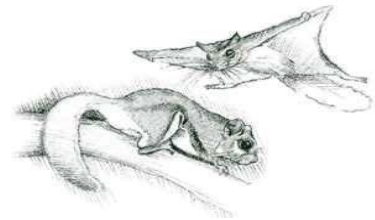


A Few of Sturgeon Bay's Small Mammals:

The **Little Brown Bat** is Ontario's most common bat species. Bats are the only mammal to really fly. Using its echo location sonar the Little Brown Bat can catch and eat more than 10 mosquitoes a minute on the wing, scooping them up in its wide tail membrane and flipping them into its mouth. In a single night, the little brown can eat enough mosquitoes to equal half its weight. Think about getting a pattern and building yourself a bat house. Have fewer mosquitoes bites! These little creatures do not migrate. They hibernate in colonies in caves or abandoned mine shafts. They may travel up to 800 kilometres (480 miles) to return to traditional hibernaculas (group hibernating sites).



Flying squirrels do not fly in the same sense as birds or bats - they don't employ powered flight. Rather, they glide: once they have launched themselves into the air, they have no means of forward propulsion. They are true gliders: that is, unlike a human-made sailplane, they do not use upcurrents in the air to soar, so they will lose height during a glide. However, they can steer themselves very adroitly while in a glide. They do not steer with their tails, as is commonly but erroneously reported. Steering is accomplished by adjusting tautness of the patagium (the flap of skin that forms the "wings") and positioning of the forelegs. The tail acts as a stabilizer in flight, much like the tail of a kite, and as an adjunct aerofoil when "braking" prior to landing on a tree trunk. Flying squirrels are just as common in our Sturgeon Bay area as are their larger, noisy cousins, the Red Squirrels but because they are *nocturnal* (active only at night) it is very seldom that we are lucky enough to see one. Favorite food – Mushrooms.



Weasels: The **Mink** is probably the most commonly seen species of the weasel family in the Sturgeon Bay area because they frequent the shorelines and other open sites. It is a fierce and agile carnivore (meat eater) and includes on its daily menu the following: fish, frogs, crayfish, muskrats, mice voles, hares, rabbits, squirrels, waterfowl, small birds, eggs, snakes, slugs and many kinds of insects. Throughout their home range in this area there are other weasel species that you might encounter, if you're lucky. They include the largest, the **River Otter** (weighing up to 14 kilograms or 30 pounds); the **Short-tailed Weasel** which turns almost totally white in the winter and is known then as **Ermine**; less common Fishers and Martens. The **Fisher** is only slightly larger than a mink but with much longer pointed ears and catches its prey, mostly red squirrels, in the coniferous trees. The **Marten** is much larger and hunts mostly on the ground in deep forest lands. Many of the weasel species were trapped for their valuable furs and almost became extinct in this area.



Ward One Report (September 2005)

In the last newsletter we discussed the possibility of placing Solar Bees in the water in an attempt to reduce or eliminate the Blue Green Algae. The Township of the Archipelago approved the installation of 3-6 Solar Bees providing that the Sturgeon Bay Water Quality Committee was on side. In early September this committee met and felt that it was premature to install the Solar Bees at this time. This committee consists of representatives of the MOE, Environment Canada plus other Ministries, Township Staff and citizens. The committee felt that there were baseline studies that still needed to be done prior to taking this remedial action. They felt that without the baseline studies it would be too difficult to determine the effect of the Solar Bees. One of the baseline studies referred to was taking a core sample of the sediments. This study is under way as the core samples were taken on September 16th. The cores were taken to Queens University where carbon dating and microscopic studies will be done to determine the organic history of Sturgeon Bay water. The results from this study should be available in late Winter/early Spring 2006. The committee also suggested a number of other studies that will probably be done in 2006. The importance of this September meeting was that for the first time we had the MOE and Environment Canada offering to work with the TOA. This does not mean that the concept of the Solar Bees is on the back burner. In fact your Association intends to make a presentation to the Environment Committee in October.

The Strategic Plan for Pointe au Baril is another topic that seems to move along at a snails pace. The Township has applied for a COMRIF grant that if awarded will allow us to implement the majority of the recommendations put forward by the Strategic Plan Action Committee. If the COMRIF grant is not awarded then we have other sources of possible grant money that we will explore.

By the time you read this report you will have received your Assessment notice. You will note that the overall assessment in the Township has risen by 43%. This is the highest rise in assessment in the whole West Parry Sound area. When this information was presented at Council your local councilors asked about a special assessment for Sturgeon Bay considering our water quality problems. We were told that Sturgeon Bay had its own code. If you wish more information about your assessment you should call **mpac** at 1 866 296-6722

If you have any questions or concerns about what is happening in this Township please feel free to call.

Terry Desmasdon
705 366-2581

John Cochrane
705 366-2536

Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association Current Members 2005-2006

Adamanda Custom Builders
Brian Adams/Melanie Whetham
Shane & Gail Ardiel
Suzie Arsenault*
Wolfgang Bestig
Ernie & Gloria Bradford
Steve & Kathy Bradford
Dave & Sonja Brown
Greg Brown
William Burgess
Neil & Judy Cameron
Terry Carr
John & Barbara Cochrane
Allan Coughlin
John & Patty Czarny
Desmasdon Boat Works
Jim Dodgson
Mr. Bill Draper*
Paul Adamson & Eleanor Duthie
Lawrence & Judy Earl
Stephen & Barbara Elliott
Jerry & Pat Evoy
Les Franks
Gordon & Diane Froggatt
Keith Gardner
Kim Garnett
Bob Causton & Judy Gast
Michael Granka & Laurine Emery
Charles Green
Walter & Evelyn Guderian
Bob Hodge
John & Barbara Hodgson
Wes & Karen Hodgson
Wes Hodgson*
Harry & Carol Hodson
Mark Hodson*
Margaret Jennings
C. C. Kennedy Co. Ltd
Bill & Lauralee Kennedy
Phil & Cathy Kidston
Tom & Gerry Kirton

Paul & Anna Kopcok
Fred & Nancy Lefevre
Reg & Sheila Lewis*
Russell & Nancy Ley
Terry & Kathy Lunan
Tom Lundy & Jan Papineau
Brian MacDonald
Rowan Marsh
Michael & Jane Marshall
Doug Miller
David & Kim Montgomery
John Newall
North Shore Barge & Marine Limited
Pointe au Baril Chamber of Commerce
James & Gloria Porteous
Lloyd & Pat Posno
Peter Pylypiv
Railway Lane Association
Rick & Anne Randall
Rattlebear Road Association
Andrew Robinson
Vada Robinson
Eric Rohrbasser & Debbie Tedford*
Brian & Hilda Rolph*
Steve & Sandy Sadler
Dennis Scale
Ted Simmonds
Martin & Vera Smits
Ronald Stanek
Jann Stahlmann
John Stirling
Sturgeon Bay Marine
Bill & Helen Tedford
Heather Trakalo
Jim & Linda Wagler
Joanna Waugh
Joe Williams
Larry & Janet Young
Steve Zakreski

* Associate Member