



# Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association

## Newsletter

[www.oursturgeonbay.com](http://www.oursturgeonbay.com)

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0  
Spring 2006

Volume 5,

---

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

*By: Steve Sadler*  
ssadler@rogers.com

The rainstorm outside my window indicates that the final end to winter may be drawing near, and with it the start of another cottage season. Though some of us enjoy our cottages all year round, it is the spring and May 24 weekend which usually beckons all of us back to Sturgeon Bay.

The winter has been steady for the Association Executive. After many months of thought and consideration, the Executive finally stepped forward and joined the Georgian Bay Association. This large body, joining cottage associations throughout the Georgian Bay area, is a strong voice to government and is a potent lobby group for change. The voice of the GBA is heard far and wide, and by joining this revered group, we add the strength of our voice. This alliance, which I hope we can expand to the entire membership of our Association at our next General meeting, makes us stronger and gives us strong friends to assist us in the accomplishment of the many challenges that might lie ahead of us.

Certainly the biggest challenge for this new year will remain to be the standard of our water system. Township meetings have continued with this focus, and we are currently awaiting the results of the coring samples that were taken in the fall. I am

hopeful that these results will provide the definitive evidence we need to force the Township to take the appropriate measures to remediate our water system. Whether this solution is the Solar Bee project that I have been lobbying for, or some other solution, I am hopeful that the Township will listen to our concerns and ensure that we take whatever action is necessary to solve our collective problems.

The Association is hoping to sponsor some events this summer that will expand the knowledge and enjoyment that we have in the area. A motor free poker run is currently being planned, as well as the possibility of guided environmental nature excursions throughout the area. The biggest event is scheduled for the August 26 weekend, when we will again be hosting the Pointe Au Baril Comedy Night. Further details will follow for this event, but please keep this night open and support this wildly entertaining evening.

All of these things make this Association strong and vital. We are not here to merely become the watchdog for the Township, but I also hope that the events we sponsor and support will assist in bringing us all together in the community and show the vibrant nature of our area.

.....continued on page 2

**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.....

This being said, there is another concern that has troubled me over the past few months. I am beginning to sense a feeling of apathy towards our efforts. The Association Executive has struggled to get the assistance from all of our residents, both permanent and seasonal, and yet the majority of the work that is required is done by a small handful of members. I urgently wish other residents would take a stand and assist us in our efforts. The Association Executive is currently short one member, and I would be ecstatic if someone would step up and assume that role. If that is not possible, any assistance that you can provide, whether it is attending Township meetings, assisting with our mailings or assisting us in recruitment, would be greatly appreciated. Without further work and assistance from all of us, the Association will lose its focus and the ability to effectively lobby the Township for the changes that are necessary to keep our Bay pristine.

I believe we are at the turning point for our efforts. The scientific results which will soon

be revealed will lead us to a solution of our collective problems. We, as an Association, can stand idly by and fail to participate, or we can assume a leadership role and assist in making these changes. I implore all of you who read this to join us in our efforts and become members. As well, I request that any of you that have the desire and passion to assist us in our efforts will stand up and be counted. Take the stand now to assist us in the continuing efforts we take on your behalf.

I will try to keep you up to date via our website ([www.oursturgeonbay.com](http://www.oursturgeonbay.com)) with links, reports or any relevant information. Please feel free to contact me with any of your questions and concerns. Any input I receive from you can only assist our efforts.

I hope to see all of you at the General Meeting, to be held on August 6 at the community centre. Until then, enjoy the splendour that is Sturgeon Bay, and we shall see you on the water.

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

***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.

***Dates to Remember***

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

**Float Boat Nature Excursion**

Date to be determined  
See Shoreline and Wildlife Report on page 5

**Sunday, August 6 - Our 6th Annual General Meeting**  
at the Pointe au Baril Community Center.  
Meeting starts at 10am.  
(Registration at 9:30 am.)

**Saturday, August 19 - Poker Run**

An afternoon of fun on the water using non-motorized watercraft.  
More details on page 5

**Saturday, August 26 - Comedy Night**

**MC - Johnny Gardhouse**

at the Pointe au Baril Community Center.  
Tickets cost \$15 each.

**Monday, November 13 -  
Township of the Archipelago municipal elections**

# Nature Notes

Prepared by Terry Carr

## **Sounds of Spring**

One of the memorable experiences for all of us is to be greeted by the host of spring “songs” that herald the start of another wonderful season on our Sturgeon Bay. Just the sounds themselves are exciting and bring back memories of all those earlier springs... even back to our childhood. Here is a sample of **who** might greet you as you arrive to open the cottage in late April or May.

**Can you name these “Musicians of Spring”?** (See answers on page 7)

### The Choristers



### The Drummers



### The Soloists



## ***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

## **Shoreline and Wildlife Committee**

This summer, if sufficient interest is shown, we will be starting up a group to study our Sturgeon Bay's shorelines and wildlife. The intention is to form a committee of interested residents. This committee will then build an inventory of existing conditions along our shorelines, by on-site field work. We feel that, along with enjoyable natural history outings there is also a need to look into the changes that have occurred over the years. This would be accomplished by interviews and research of the historical records. Hopefully, with an understanding of the past and a solid knowledge of the present vegetation and wildlife, we will be better prepared to conserve what many of us feel are vital components of Sturgeon Bay.



A fun "float-boat" natural history excursion, sometime this summer, will start this whole process. Terry Carr, a retired Outdoor Education specialist, will conduct this initial survey of shorelines and wildlife to provide you with an overview. Should you be interested please call or e-mail Terry on Bigwood Island (after May 30, 2006) at the following: Telephone 366-2923 or E-mail [tcarr@vianet.ca](mailto:tcarr@vianet.ca) Registration is required and the field trip date will be determined in consultation with our registered participants.

## **Poker Run – August 19**

Join us for an afternoon of fun on the water followed by a social get-together. Using your non-motorized water-craft (canoe, kayak, sailboat, rowboat, paddleboat, etc) you will collect a playing card at each of several locations. The best poker hand wins!

This will take place in the part of Sturgeon Bay north of Skunk Island. Open to members and their guests. More details will be provided during pre-registration. Sign up at the AGM on August 6 or phone Phil after that date at 366-2183.

# REPORT - FALL FOCA MEETING

*By Steve Sadler*

In November of 2005, I had the opportunity to attend the annual FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) meeting which was held in Toronto. In this report, I will attempt to address the issues that were discussed on this date.

The meeting opened with a session on estate planning. The stress of this session was to ensure that cottage ownership was appropriately dealt with when it came time to dealing with overall estate issues. The focus was on keeping the cottage in the family, and dealt with many issues about cottage inheritance and appropriate compensations for all family members. It is clear that any type of estate plan should be made with representation of someone with specific cottage inheritance knowledge, and should not be left to the last minute or the amateur.

Insurance was the next topic, specifically liability insurance for cottage associations. In this time of frequent lawsuits, it stressed the need for all associations to have the coverage required to deal with any lawsuit. The fact of the matter is that insufficient insurance has been the death of many cottage associations, and limits the number and types of activities that Associations can sponsor or engage in. FOCA now has the ability to offer group insurance for Association Executives, and we will be looking at this new package in the near future.

The results of the 2005 DOCKTALK program, a FOCA sponsored education resource for cottagers, was also explained. This program has been successful in assisting Associations in conducting workshops and educating cottagers about environmentally viable

alternatives to cottage landscapes and land use. Further information about this program is available for all to read at the FOCA website. [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

The last, and certainly most all encompassing issue, dealt with the recent increases to our assessment values. The WRAFT (Water Residents after Fair Tax) lobby group, which represents some 180 Associations in total (including ours), has been after the government to amend these assessments and institute a fair system of assessment Province wide. This group has suggested the following tactics to assist this endeavour:

1. Write your local M.P.P
2. Send a copy to the Finance Minister
3. Send these same letters to the local papers
4. Monitor the WRAFT website and follow their efforts.

We, as an association, have sent a letter asking for the assessments to be reviewed. As cottage owners, we should all watch the efforts of WRAFT and assist them to get this system changed. More information about this group is available on their website and I urge you to support their efforts. [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com)

All of these issues were important for cottage owners throughout the Province. The presence of our Association at such meetings as this sends the message that we care about our environment and any government actions that can potentially affect us. We must be seen as individuals who are willing to fight for the changes that we feel are important. For more information, please take the time to visit the FOCA website.

**It's time to send in your fees for the 2006/2007 membership year.  
Membership form is enclosed.**

# Councilors' Report

## **Garbage:**

To date the debate over where to place our Garbage Bins is unsettled. We have been told by the Leisure Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee that transfer of the Garbage Bins to Site 9 is the best solution. The Township sent out a survey last year and although this survey had its faults the majority seemed to prefer that the Garbage Bins be located in Pointe au Baril. We are often told that the present location of these Bins is not acceptable but finding another acceptable site is difficult. Thus your Ward 1 Councilors will be sending out another survey shortly. This survey consists of simple yes or no answers and hopefully it will give us the direction that the majority wants. Any ideas would be appreciated.

## **Water Quality:**

Since our last report we have had meetings with the Ministry of the Environment, scientists and the Minister. These meetings have been positive and although we seem to be taking baby steps we are moving forward. Presently the MOE staff and the Township staff are working on a protocol for remediation and a program that will be able to monitor the nutrient shift in our water over time.

The Core sample taken last September has been carbon dated and the microscopic work is in progress at Queens University but unfortunately we do not have any data at this time.

## **Comprehensive Zoning Bylaws:**

A complete review of the Zoning Bylaws is under way in order to allow our zoning bylaws to match our new Official Plan and the Provinces Planning Policy Statements The Township has hired a consultant to help us through this very difficult task. Some of the changes will be controversial and will in our opinion create significant discussion. We suggest that when you receive the proposed changes that you take the time to read the document and carefully consider how these proposed changes will affect you and your family and the Township as a whole. There will be two Public information sessions in late March and early April. These dates will be available with the mailed information. These sessions are for the sole purpose of receiving feedback from our constituents. Before the Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw is eventually passed there will be a formal Public Meeting.

*John Cochrane*  
705 366-2536  
[drjgc@vianet.ca](mailto:drjgc@vianet.ca)

*Terry Desmasdon*  
705 366-2513  
[tbd@vianet.on.ca](mailto:tbd@vianet.on.ca)

### **\*\*\* Answers for Quiz - Musicians of Spring**

A. Wood Frog B. Spring Peeper C. Leopard Frog D. Bullfrog  
E. Ruffed Grouse F. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
G. Yellow-rumped Warbler H. Eastern Phoebe I. Belted Kingfisher J. White-throated Sparrow

## 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