



Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association Newsletter

www.oursturgeonbay.com

P.O.Box 183, Pointe au Baril, Ontario P0G 1K0
Spring 2008

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Report from the President

By: Steve Sadler

sssadler@rogers.com

It is pouring rain on the May 2-4 long weekend as I decide it is time to start my annual spring message for the newsletter. The winter, long and arduous as it was, has finally ended. Life on the Bay has begun its slow movement towards the summer of 2008.

The water quality issue remains at the forefront of the Association's activities. Meetings with the Water Quality Action Committee, chaired by John Cochrane, and bringing together representatives from the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, Parks Ontario, Township Council, and this Association have continued to move forward. As I write this, the final draft of the Gartner Lee report, based on the study commissioned by the Township and supported in part by residents of Sturgeon Bay, is nearing completion. The process is frustratingly slow, but is moving forward, a fact not unexpected I suppose due to the sheer number of stakeholders involved in the process.

I have seen the draft reports including the last Phase Three draft, which highlights various remediation strategies for combating the blue green algae problem. Questions still remain however, about the efficacy of these solutions and it is still too early for the Association to

take a stand on which method, if any, will be supported. Once the final draft has been approved, a copy of the report will be made available on the Association website for all to see. As well, salient details of the report will be discussed during a public meeting (tentatively scheduled for July 27 at the Community Centre), which is likely to happen the same day as our Annual General meeting. At this meeting, the Association will be firm in our response to this report and will look for this support to be matched by the membership. The day will start with the public meeting, followed by a free barbeque and ending with the AGM. I am hoping for a strong turnout by all members and residents for these meetings.

This meeting will be followed up by continued efforts of the Directors and residents towards a solution. Once the Association has reached some consensus on the remediation process, I fully expect that we will have to form some type of political action committee. I understand, based on comments and personal views of some Councillors, that the Township of the Archipelago will not proceed any further in assisting us in our endeavours. The goal of this committee, formed from both Directors and members of the Association, will be to lobby both Provincial and Federal

agencies and seek their assistance. I will bolster this activity by asking PABIA to stand with us and support our efforts.

As residents, results of the report must also be twined with continued vigilance on our part and even greater focus on stewardship in our area. Phosphorus remains the main culprit with regard to the blue green algae problem, and we must endeavour to do all we can to ensure that our impact does not increase these levels even further. We must do all that we can to use environmentally friendly products and remove ourselves from the dependence of fertilizers and green lawns! The fertilizers are adding to the overall phosphorus load and we must strive to eliminate their use in the area.

This reduction of phosphorus load can be combined with the maintenance of healthy septic systems. We must become more aware of the efficacy of our current systems and ensure outdated or non-existent systems are remedied and brought to current standards. I am in favour of stronger control over septic systems in the Archipelago, and the creation of more stringent and coordinated inspections. I am hoping that the Association can convince the various levels of government that septic inspections are a valuable tool to curb excessive phosphorus levels. Even the 3% that septic systems contribute to the overall phosphorus load is vital to monitor, as the scientists say that this type of phosphorus is even more appealing to the blue green algae than that which is naturally occurring. A drop to this 3% load could only help the overall health of our water system.

The non-motorized Poker Run is scheduled again for all members of the Association and will be held on August 23. Again, I would like to thank Bill and Helen Tedford for the gracious use of their property for the event. I am hoping that again the numbers of the participants will increase as we get a chance to come together as a community for a fun event. As always, trophies and prizes will be

awarded for outstanding efforts and the barbeque will operate at a small cost.

As I indicated in my fall newsletter, I will table a motion to increase our membership dues to \$ 100.00 at the AGM. This new fee will include our Association dues, Georgian Bay Association membership (\$25.00) and a parking pass at the Town dock (\$10). Those of us who are members of PABIA as well will be allowed to pay the membership fee alone and thus save paying identical fees twice. We have been associate members for a couple of years now, and I feel it is time to assist this worthy organization by solidifying our relationship and giving them full support. The GBA is at the forefront of the legal struggles with both the American and Canadian governments regarding water levels in Georgian Bay and the effect of the massive water loss through the St Clair river. Our full membership will place us alongside other Cottage organizations and cement our commitment to the GBA causes, both political and environmental. I hope that we all can see the advantage of this membership and that we will all support this motion.

The Association had many other items that it is monitoring and investigating, including the exploration of charitable status for the Association, maintenance of our contacts with council through John Cochrane and Terry Desmasdon and attendance at Council meetings, ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Natural Resources regarding land use and continued contact with PABIA on relevant issues.

As always, I welcome any of your comments or questions, and I can be reached by e-mail (sssadler@rogers.com) or phone at the numbers listed in this newsletter. I hope for a great summer, higher water levels and an increased sense of community as we continue to move forward. Now it is time to stop writing and start enjoying the great outdoors.....Have a great summer on the Bay!

Please renew your membership now. See the back page. Many thanks.

Sturgeon Bay Pointe au Baril Ratepayers Association

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	Steve Sadler	905 623-5922	or 705 366-2168
VICE PRESIDENT	Ian MacLeod	905-642-9819	or 705 366-9347
TREASURER/ SECRETARY	Helen Tedford	705 366-2898	
DIRECTORS AT LARGE	Stephen Elliott	905 841-3688	or 705 366-5661
	R. Keith Gardner ..	705 746-6293	
	John Czarny.....	705 366-2446	
	Stephen Bradford....	905 846-1010	or 705 366-5662

Please mark your Calendar

June 29 – Canada Day
Celebrations,
Arts and Crafts Fair
Pointe au Baril
Community Center
(see page 5)

July 27 – Our 8th AGM
& Gartner Lee report
and public meeting
Pointe au Baril
Community Center
(more info to follow)

August 23 – Our 3rd
non-motorized
Poker Run
2pm at Tedford's dock

Items of Interest

1) This fall Ontario home and **cottage owners** will receive an **assessment covering the past three years**. Unless further reforms are introduced, this will again shift further taxes onto waterfront properties across the province. If you wish to sign an online petition from WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxes) visit their website at www.wraft.com and Coalition After Property Tax Reform at www.captr.org.

2) Township of the Archipelago – **Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring 2007 Results** is available at the township website at www.thearchipelago.on.ca

3) Bioforest Technologies has provided the results of their **Gypsy Moth Results** based on traps hung by volunteers. The Gypsy Moths per trap for Sturgeon Bay in 2006 was 2: in 2007 - 249!!! Defoliation on some trees in the Township is likely to be quite heavy in 2008. This is strong evidence that another gypsy moth outbreak is building in the Township. Full results per area are available at www.bioforest.ca.

4) We are having **Association T-shirts** printed and they will be available for sale at the AGM and Poker Run or from Helen Tedford if people want to get them early. The price will be \$20.00.

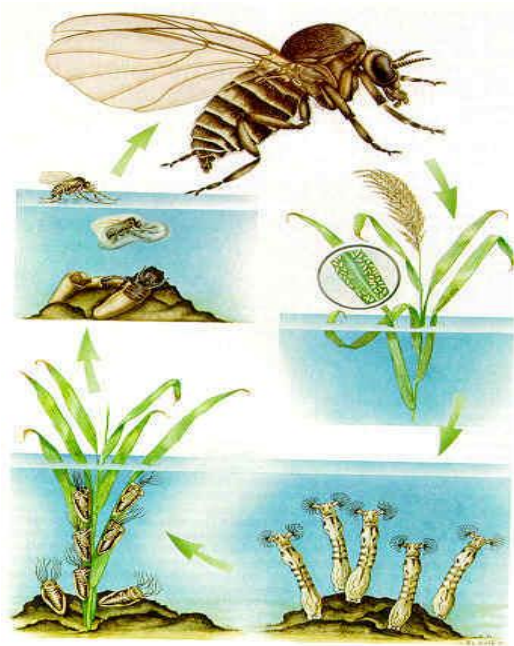
Markers on Sturgeon Bay

By Ian MacLeod

Hopefully by the time you read this you will have noticed markers in Sturgeon Bay. This came about as a result of the concern of your Board of Directors' regarding low water levels creating some potentially serious underwater hazards. At our annual meeting I committed to speak with Graham Smith, a fellow Director on the PABIA Board whose portfolio includes maps and markers. He readily agreed to place markers on Sturgeon Bay this spring. This is a sign of the cooperation we can achieve between PABIA and our Association. Thanks to Graham and PABIA for their quick and timely assistance, the Bay is now a safer place for all to enjoy.

Is There Anything Good About Black Flies?

Author: Brenda Clark / Submitted to this newsletter by Terry Carr



Black Flies: Northerners brag about surviving them. Festivals are held “in their honour”, and they are famous in song and film. But can we find it in our hearts to love them?

In its “youth”, the Black Fly does not need our friendship - it has little chance to be lonely. One still evening around sunset, it will begin life as an egg laid near or on the surface of clean, flowing water – along with three million others in a ten meter section of stream! Upon hatching, up to 8 months later, this crowd will look like moss. Each larva glues a pad of silk (spun in its mouth) to a rock. It attaches itself to the pad by means of hooks on its abdomen, head dangling down, and will move only short distances on a silk safety line. Because of this sedentary lifestyle, the larva must be in a current that will float algae, bacteria, and oxygen into its fan-like “traps” above its mouth.

After a couple of months of “hanging around” the larva will build a cocoon - the pupa stage. In about a week it will be an adult, ready one morning to burst out of its watery nursery. Burst out it does...the cocoon case tears open and the adult rockets to the surface in the escaping bubble of air! From there it will just keep flying, looking for nectar and sap – and a mate. Mating occurs in such romantic places as over waterfalls or host species, and then the females of some species will seek our blood to nourish their eggs.

In Ontario, this habit drives us and the moose mad. Yet the sharp bites of local species are no more than irritations to all but those with allergies, and the very young. In other areas of the world, Black Fly species have been known to reduce milk and egg production, spread serious diseases among animals, and cause River Blindness in humans in the tropics. Thankfully, this does not happen in Ontario. This does little to attract human fondness for the Black Fly.

Sadly, Black Flies reproduce at a faster rate in warmer water, so global warming may mean more of them. Given the right conditions, some species can have 14 generations a year!

Many articles advise how to avoid bites. Black Flies are attracted to a wonderful combination of perfumes, body odour, carbon dioxide, skin texture, heat, and moisture – most of which is made worse by the netted clothing often worn! Choosing to be active where there is no foliage, when the temperature is below 10°C (50°F) in a windy, bright location helps. So does being in your tent or car –flies sense being trapped and do not bite in their frenzy to escape!

It has been reported that a successful attempt was once made to eradicate all Black Flies in a portion of a northeastern state. For a long time after, there were also no birds, frogs, or many other kinds of animals in the area. Evidently, those little beasts that aim for our eyes, ears, hairlines and cuffs are an essential link in the food chain. In the Boreal forest, their enormous adult population provides many birds with an abundant food supply for their young, while assisting in pollination of blueberry plants, among others. Dragonflies, frogs and surface-feeding fish snack on the adult Black Flies. In riffles, salmon and rainbow trout love their larvae. Studies show that Black Fly larvae make up almost 70% of the diet of trout in early summer months. Wiping out the Black Fly is not an option!

Love ‘em or not, those Black Flies are good for us!

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2008 & 1st Annual ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

at the Pointe au Baril Community Centre, South Shore Road, Pointe au Baril
Sunday, June 29, 2008

Arts & Crafts Fair and Sale – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Adult Horseshoe Tournament – Registration at 10 a.m.

“Not So Silent” Auction – 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Delicious Pickerel Lunch – 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Boat Parade begins at Noon from Brignall Banks

Walking Parade begins at 1 p.m.

Official Flag Raising Ceremonies – 1:30 p.m.

Muskoka Wildlife Centre – REAL WILD ANIMALS! 2 pm sharp

Terrific All Day Kids Entertainment & Activities

Fantastic Firework Display at Sundown!

Lots of things to see and do ...

Something for everyone!!!

Please join us to celebrate Canada's Birthday
with this fun filled day for the whole family!

Sponsored by your Pointe au Baril Chamber of Commerce
www.pointeaurilchamber.com

Sturgeon Bay Pointe-au-Baril Ratepayers Association Membership Form 2008 / 2009

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 to non property owners – members of your family, friends, relatives, and visitors at \$25.00 per member. Your Association looks forward to your continued support during 2008 / 2009

<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

<input type="text"/> <i>Full Membership Dues @ \$70.00</i>	
<input type="text"/> <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:

**Sturgeon Bay Pointe-au-Baril Ratepayers 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.