



# 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

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## **Report from the President**

*By: Steve Sadler*

[sssadler@rogers.com](mailto:sssadler@rogers.com)

As I sit and look out the window here at home, I realize how truly long this winter has been! The length of this winter builds the desire to get back on the Bay. These rains will only help to clear the snow, and perhaps raise our water levels!

The Association directors continue to work on behalf of the Bay, politically and with consistent efforts lobbying and working with other Associations.

Our letter writing to politicians has continued, so please check the POLITICAL ACTION section (pg 3) to see where you can send your letters urging the politicians at all levels of government to assist. We met with Minister Clement, who supported our efforts and further assisted us by writing a letter to Minister Prentice describing our predicaments. Minister Cansfield, MPP Miller, and MPP Gerretson have all been contacted and informed about the issues in our Bay.

The political action is even more important as I have just received a letter from Minister Prentice indicating the government does "not support short term solutions". We must

impress upon him, and Tony Clement, that this solution may not be a cure, but it will give us the time, with safer, clean water, to study more permanent and complete solutions. Every solution has its stages.....we need the government to realize this and assist us. PHOSLOCK is not intended as the end of our involvement, but rather part of a continuing, ongoing holistic approach to water stewardship.

We met with representatives of the Township and the Managing Director of PHOSLOCK, whose presentation reaffirmed our belief that this product will help to solve our blue green algae concerns. It is not a cure, but its effect on the blue green algae situation may be profound in its implications. This product appears to be the most cost effective and potentially to have the most effect on our water problems. This product may be able to provide results in a dramatic time, and may well last for years without further application. It is being used on the Lake Simcoe project and we need to have it used on the Bay NOW. Further information on the PHOSLOCK product can be obtained at [www.phoslock.com.au](http://www.phoslock.com.au).

**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
	John Czarny.....	705 366-2446	
	Stephen Bradford....	905 846-1010	or 705 366-5662

President's remarks continued.....

We continue to work with our representatives at Council, John Cochrane and Terry Desmasdon and hope to gain the support of Council for our efforts. Please write the Reeve and explain the importance of defeating the blue green algae problems on the Bay. We have assisted the funding of all the studies we need. It is now time to fund the solution!

Our relationship with other associations and groups continues to grow. We have recently solidified our relationship with the Georgian Bay Association, as our Director Stephen Elliott was named to the GBA board and appointed to the Water Committee. This new alliance will help to garner support from other Associations and will add strength to our requests for assistance from the government. Ties to PABIA and the GBA Foundation remain strong.

Our Poker Run of 2008 was another great success, a community event well attended by our members. We shall continue this new tradition on August 15<sup>th</sup> this year. Bill and Helen Tedford are hosting the event. I am hopeful that even more members will attend this year. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on July 26<sup>th</sup> this year and I am hoping for a strong attendance by both new and existing members.

To help increase our membership, we have created a flyer and are including it in this mailing. The flyer, created by member Melanie Whetham and the Directors, highlights the strength of a ratepayers association and the importance of your membership.

As a proud member of FOCA (The Federation of Ontario Cottagers), I attended the 2009 meeting as a representative of our Association and had the chance to meet with other organizations. FOCA has created a stewardship book, which has also been included in this mailing for our current members. This informative manual will help us to take even better care of the area we love so much. Read it and pass it along to your neighbours so that they may also benefit from it.

We need your help. We cannot rest on our laurels, nor wait for others to act. We must press forward towards our goals and solve our water quality concerns. The Association and its Directors need you to write and lobby for change. The time to act is NOW.

Until we meet, pray for warm weather, increased water levels and another great summer on the Bay.

## **We Now Belong To The Georgian Bay Association**

*By Stephen Elliot*

Our Association is now an Associate Member of The Georgian Bay Association (“GBA”). The GBA is made up of representatives of 22 member Cottage Associations. The Associations represent the coast of Georgian Bay from Bay of Islands, north of Manitoulin Island, down to Honey Harbour in the south. Each Association is entitled to appoint a representative to serve on the Board of Directors of the GBA. These Directors, in turn serve on the many committees of the GBA which cover such matters as the Environment; Boating; Government Relations and Communications and Water Quality.

At the GBA Annual General Meeting held on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, Sturgeon Bay cottager Stephen Elliott was elected to the GBA Board to represent our Association. Stephen will also be serving on the very active Water Quality Committee of the GBA.

As the only organization solely devoted to the specific and distinct concerns of Georgian Bay, the GBA has become a vigilant watchdog about issues that could have a lasting, negative impact on this unique ecosystem. The GBA Website at [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca) has detailed information regarding the important activities of the GBA.

We feel that it is an important step for our Association to be part of the GBA. The GBA is very concerned about water quality issues and water levels in the Bay. The GBA will be able to provide support to our Association in dealing with the particular water quality problems we experience in Sturgeon Bay. The GBA is committed to finding remedial solutions for both the particular problems affecting Sturgeon Bay, as well as those facing other Associations on the Bay. We look forward to this coming year as part of the GBA.

### **POLITICAL ACTION**

*These are the politicians we should be contacting. For sample letters look at our website [www.oursturgeonbay.com](http://www.oursturgeonbay.com)*

**MPP Norm Miller**

Constituency Office  
17 James St  
Parry Sound ON P2A 1T4  
[norm.millerco@pc.ola.org](mailto:norm.millerco@pc.ola.org)

**Hon. John Gerretson**

**Minister of the Environment**

135 St. Clair Ave W, 15th Flr  
Toronto ON M4V 1P5  
[jgerretson.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:jgerretson.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**Hon Donna Cansfield**

**Minister of Natural Resources**

6630- 99 Wellesley St W, 6th Flr, Whitney Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
[dcansfield.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:dcansfield.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

**Hon. Tony Clement**

**Minister of Industry**

Office of The Honourable Tony Clement,  
Member of Parliament for Parry Sound - Muskoka  
2-202 Main Street West, Huntsville, ON P1H 1X9  
(705) 789-4640 - telephone  
1-866-375-8669 - toll free  
[Clement.T@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Clement.T@parl.gc.ca)

**Hon. Jim Prentice**

**Minister of the Environment**

Suite 105  
1318 Centre St NE  
Calgary, Alberta T2E 2R7  
403 216-7777  
Fax 403 230-4368  
[Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Prentice.J@parl.gc.ca)

## **DEERHORN CONFERENCE 2009**

*By Ian MacLeod*

Deerhorn 2009 was very interesting this year as we spent the majority of the time talking trash....garbage, that is.

First we had a presentation by the MNR of the new Endangered Species Act which became law on June 30, 2008. This will have far-reaching effects on our membership, as it allows for no development or site alteration where there exists significant habitat of threatened or endangered species OR on adjacent lands. This could apply to a severance/ lot creation beside a wet land or building permit/ septic permit. The law has no status with the building permit process, therefore the onus is on the applicant to make sure they do not contravene the law (ie.- you get a septic permit and your contractor notices a fox snake den. You must now relocate the septic.....applicable fines for breaking the law are up to \$250,000 for an individual and up to \$1,000,000 for a corporation). More info at [www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk](http://www.ontario.ca/speciesatrisk)

Next was a presentation by Cale Henderson, Head Planner for the Township of the Archipelago. He explained the pilot program in use in The Township of Lake of Bays, the Development Permit System, and its possible adoption for use regarding blasting and filling which is unregulated in the T of A. This is a more streamlined process than the system in place now and allows for a shorter and limited appeals process. This could later be expanded to tree removal, environmental protection etc.

MNR then gave a breakdown of the property acquisition process. This was related to the creation of a garbage transfer station. An application would include the location, purpose, alternatives, consultation with local property owners to mitigate impact, public consultation re: impact on roads, waterways, visual, smell etc., commenting agencies: MOE certification requirements includes Fisheries and Oceans, Transport Canada- navigable waterways....Then there is an appeals process. Considering the contention surrounding this issue, I can not see a new transfer site as having any chance of being approved.

We then had the senior environmental officer from MOE, North Bay office outline the certificate of approval process for a garbage transfer station. Bottom line was that Marinas are not approved transfer stations and are breaking the law in taking trash. When transfer stations are open 24/7 they become opportune sites for abuse by residents and non-residents alike. All newer stations must have an attendant and restricted hours of operation.

This brought us to the T of A head of Public Works, Glenn Kargus, who outlined the new pilot program being implemented in Pointe au Baril. The Township has purchased a truck and three compactor bins which will fit where the bins are presently. One will be for containers (glass and plastic), one for household waste, and one for fibres. These compactors will allow for a greater density of waste for shipping, about 4:1 for garbage and fibre and about 2:1 for containers. This means fewer trips, less fuel used, less wear and tear on the truck. The cost is estimated at net \$0 as compared to our current contracts with MCS. These compactors are also bear proof and leak proof and lockable.

We then broke off into round table discussions and came up with a 2009 strategy. There will be staffing over the summer 8-8 from Monday to Saturday, 8-10 on Sundays or holiday Mondays. Security is also being considered for closed hours. This will cut down on the waste stream coming off the highway and misuse of hazardous and construction waste being dumped at our expense.

Long term, PABIA is pushing for curb side/ dock side pickup, which the Township is studying.

Should be an interesting summer!

## **Parry Sound North Star, Our Opinion**

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

The Township of the Archipelago not only leads the province in trash per person, with almost 1,500 kg each, but sits bags and bags above the provincial average of 385 kg. No matter how you try to decompose that information, it's disgusting.

Archipelago officials question how their trash total is calculated by Waste Diversion Ontario, disputing the people per household count. But with most of the information coming from the municipality itself, and such a wide margin separating Archipelago from every other District of Parry Sound municipality, there's clearly more than enough room for error without changing the fact island residents are the biggest polluters around.

It takes a certain amount of audacity to deny there's a problem considering that last week, during a regular meeting of Archipelago council, elected officials debated what to do with an overflowing eyesore that is the municipal trash bin. It's a conversation they've had before. Several times, in fact, over the past three years.

We assume that people who choose to live on Georgian Bay islands and shorelines have an affinity for the pristine outdoors and the beauty of cottage country. That's why residents' inability to reduce their trash volume has us scratching our heads. Carling Township, also considered cottage country as well as tourism territory, being the home of Killbear Provincial Park, produces 166 kg of garbage per person. That fact alone aerates Archipelago's defence.

You own cottages, homes and properties in one of the most beautiful parts of the planet. For goodness sake, recycle, and reduce your embarrassing impact on the environment. Everyone else seems to be able to do it.

### **Dates to Mark on Your Calendar**

**June 28** - Canada Day Celebrations in Pointe au Baril

Check events at [www.pointeabarilchamber.com](http://www.pointeabarilchamber.com)

**July 1** – Membership renewal is due. See yellow sheet.

**July 26** - Our 9<sup>th</sup> AGM at the Pt au B Community Centre

Registration 9:30 am. Meeting 10 am.

**August 15** - Our 4<sup>th</sup> non-motorized Poker Run

2 pm at Tedford's dock.