



FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

CCA BOARD

President - Sue Carter

Vice President - Kara Hunter

Past President - Tom

Halpenny

Treasurer - Andrew Carr

Secretary - Meagan Carney

Membership - Diane Neely

Communications -

Matthew Hawley

Rec. Program - Jenna Lynde

Services - Jim Bowden

Technology - James Maynard

Community Events - Nancy

Bennett

Municipal Affairs - Gregg

Badger

GBA Representative - David

Matthews

Planning - Bill Sayers

Environment - Jack Giroux

Cottager - Barb Russell

Members at large:

Rolfe Jones

Laura Jarvis

Catherine Gillespie

Cam Allen

President's message - Sue Carter

As I sit here at the cottage this Thanksgiving weekend in front of a roaring fire listening to the wind howl and the rain pelt the window panes, I can hardly believe that we were basking in 23 degrees, no wind and sunny skies only one week ago. Wow what a swing! If you were lucky enough to spend time at the cottage in September, you enjoyed the perfect summer weather that didn't really materialize in July and August.

However, it was a good summer and we were able to fully return to all the community events and programs for the first time since the summer of 2019. The summer began with a very well attended AGM for our association held at the Cognashene Community Church in early July. A summary of the AGM can be found in this newsletter. At this year's meeting the Board and membership welcomed a few new directors. Diane Neely joins the Board to take on the Membership portfolio while Kara Hunter moves to the Vice-President role. Meagan Carney assumes the Secretary responsibilities as Laura Jarvis moves to a Member At Large position to continue her work on our By-Law review to be compliant with ONCA (Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act). Catherine Gillespie also moves to a Member At Large position focussing on Art on The Rocks while Nancy Bennett steps into the Community Events portfolio. Cam Allen joins us as a Member At Large director with a focus on learning the ropes of the Service directorship. Welcome to all and I am really looking forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

Our much-loved Rec program returned to a complete and fun filled schedule this past summer due to the hard work of our Rec Director Jenna Harild and our Recreation Head, Sophie Hilliard. There was a full compliment of staff along with several volunteers who kept each week fun and

President's message - Continued

interesting for our participants. This year we had many participants in the younger age bracket (2 to 6) so not only were some early and I'm sure lasting friendships made, it bodes well for the continued success of the program in the coming years. Thank you to Jenna and Sophie and the entire beach staff for running a very successful program.

Once again Scott Metherall and his amazing crew at Big Red Works donated some of their resources to help with our Beach clean up efforts this year and with our Regatta. We'd like to say thank you for continuing to be such an amazing Community partner.

Our regatta was skilfully led by Janet Heisey and Carolyn Wilson this year. The regatta is always supported by an amazing team of volunteers, but it takes some work by the event organizers to pull it all together and they excelled at doing just that. Nancy Bennett once again organized a very successful raffle with the help of Anne Nichols. They acquired some amazing and much sought-after items for the raffle. Thank you both! As always, a huge thank you to the Davis, Kohler and Endress families for generously hosting us all.

Our Long-Distance swim was hosted once again by Val and Rob Thompson. Thank you for continuing to support this community event each year. Mother Nature allowed the favourite Art on The Rocks to take place this year. The weather was fine, and the attendance was excellent. Thank you, Catherine Gillespie, for organizing another great day. And finally, thank you to the Tawaststjerna's for hosting a successful Ryestone Cup.

I wish you all well this Thanksgiving weekend and hope that your close up has gone or will go smoothly. I also wish everyone a safe and healthy winter and I will look forward to seeing many of you back on the Bay next year. Thank you for your continued support. Be well.

Sue Carter
CCA President

Cottager Submissions

The Cognashene Cottager is looking for submissions.

Art, poetry, fiction, photography, and of course articles, memoirs and reminiscences. Sketches and paintings are very welcome but must be photographed in high resolution.

Now is an excellent time to record your memories from Summer '23 before they fade.

Send submissions to cottager@cognashene.ca

Barb Russell
Cognashene Cottager



Rec Program 2023

A huge thank you to everyone for making our summer 2023 program such a success! We loved seeing all of your smiling faces back at Arthur Beach and the Cognashene Church. We were able to return to all of our pre-Covid programming this past summer and it was a blast. Our staff had an amazing time getting to bring out the sail boats and canoes at Watersports, run another successful canoe trip with our senior campers, visit some awesome places around the Bay during Y.P.O.C, and of course spend some (rainy but memorable) days at the beach during Camp Cog making crafts and playing beach games! Swimming lessons and Kinders continued to be community favourites.

I wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all of our incredible staff, Nathalie, Maddie, Eileen, Katie, Lucas, Allie, Sedona and Beck for showing so much love to all our kiddos and arriving at the beach every day with a smile on your face. To our AMAZING volunteers, thank you for being such great help on the beach - we couldn't do it without you. Lastly the biggest thank you to our incredible 'beach mom' and Recreation Program Director, Jenna, who made the whole summer possible - the Cognashene community is so grateful for you.

Sophie Hilliard

Summer 2023 - Head of Program, Cognashene Recreation Program



Rec Program - Summer 2023 Update

The CCA Summer Recreation Program made a triumphant return this past summer with a full 8 week program available for campers in our community. Over 100 campers participated in the Recreation Program this past summer. Families, staff and campers were thrilled to be back at Arthur Beach spending time and making memories with their friends on Georgian Bay.

These memories were made possible by the tremendous work of our program staff and beach volunteers. Thank you to our staff Sophie, Maddie, Nathalie, Alison, Lucas, Sedona, Katie, Beck and Eileen. And thank you to our volunteers Nora, Alexandra, Allison, Carwyn, Katie, Neve, Finn, Charlotte, and Martha. Your collective efforts and positive attitudes make the magic of the Recreation Program come alive.

Plans are already in the works for summer 2024 so be sure to stay up to date with Cognashene communications throughout the winter. We will continue to use our Recreation Program Website to share information and accept applications for staff and volunteer positions. Be sure to watch for any updates in the link below.

Recreation Program Website: sites.google.com/view/cca-rec-program/home

Instagram: @cogrecreation

Facebook: Cognashene Recreation Program

Jenna Lynde

Rec Program Director



Services

Our winter patrol is on schedule to begin starting in November. First patrol by water, the other 2 by ice travel. Please let us know of any new ice bubblers (ie installed over the last 12 months) by writing to support@cognashene.com. We send a pic of the main dwelling and a note as to whether anything seems to be amiss. Our patroller will also note any apparent problems with other structures if that should be identified in the course of checking on the main structure.

Jim Blowden

Services Director

Community Events

It was a busy summer in Cognashene again this summer!!! We had close to 60 swimmers participate in the Long Distance Swim and our Annual Regatta was very well attended. The competition was fierce -particularly in the novelty races!!! –and our younger Cognasheners and those who may be a bit more mature but young at heart, had a wonderful time!! Our regatta raffle was a huge success this year raising just over \$5,000 for our Recreation Program and we want to thank all the businesses, families and Art On The Rocks artists who donated to the raffle. Below is a list of who donated, and we would encourage you to support the businesses and artists who support us!

HONEY HARBOUR BOAT CLUB, HARBOUR HOUSE, GEORGIAN BAY WATER TAXI, GEORGIAN BAY LANDING, NAUTILUS MARINA, A & A SERVICES, THRIVE FOODS, HONEY HARBOUR GENERAL STORE, MICHAEL BENNETT, SUTTON RIVER TRADING CO, BIG RED WORKS, MERRY TREE FARM, GEORGIAN BAY LAND TRUST, CHATHAM POTTERY, KATIE WARD DESIGNS, SUE VALE, LAURA ADAMS, CHRIS BAINES, BENNETT FAMILY, CHRIS BECK & SEAN STEWART, VICKI CARRUTHERS, GIROUX FAMILY, SAYERS FAMILY, MAYNARD FAMILY, MCNIGHT FAMILY, SUE EASTWOOD, JOAN BAINES, JOY UNIAC, PAM SMITH, SUE CARTER, FIONA WILSON, MICHELLE MINK, KATHY SMITH, SUSAN GLUZSKO, SNIDER FAMILY, MAPLE LEAF MARINAS, LARRY ROBITAILLE, MINNICOG ISLAND FAMILIES, JANE LOUGHBOROUGH, SUZANNE BENNETT, CATHIE & CRAIG BOWDEN, HUGHES FAMIY, THOMAS TOWASTSTJERNA, RECECCA & JANET HEISEY, NEELYS, WALKERS, MEAGAN CARNEY/CLARKES, CUTLERS, JAMIE CLARKE, JULIA VANDENOEVER, NOAH LEDUC, OAK BAY GOLF&COUNTRY CLUB, MICHELLE MOORE, HALPENNY FAMILY, WHIFFLE TREE ART QUILTS, WENDY WINGFELDER, LINE BAGS, MWORDS PHOTOGRAPHY, DRAGON'S FORGED JEWELRY, POTTERY BY CATHY, JENNA HARILD, NICK FORGOT, TANYA AND MURRAY RIDEOUT, COGNASHENE COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Rystone Cup sailing race was held again this year and some of our younger members participated in our Pico sailboats.

For the first time since COVID, Art On The Rocks was held in person. The weather cooperated and twenty artists came and displayed their many varied artistic talents. It was wonderful to have this uniquely Cognashene art show back in full swing on Maxwell Island.

The Ladies of Cognashene had some challenges this year with our weekly get togethers as mother nature chose Thursdays to be the rainy and stormy weather days. However, the gals of Georgian Bay are a hardy group and each Thursday, many braved the elements and made it to the party!! Many thanks to all the ladies who hosted our parties this year.

We had an author visit from our resident best selling author, Bryn Turnbull, who read from her most recent historical fiction novel, The Paris Deception and those who attended learned much about art theft during the second world war.

We had three events this summer organized by the Georgian Bay Land trust – a fundraiser at Rick and Cindy Balaz's cottage, and the annual cocktail party and yoga class both held on the Lizard. If you have any ideas for a community event next year, please contact me at: nancybennett28@gmail.com

I would welcome any suggestions!!

Nancy Bennett
Community Events Director

MEMBERSHIP

What a summer of taking pleasure in all of the joys of Cognashene! There was great involvement in the community on many fronts, from a fantastic turn-out at the CCA's Annual General Meeting, to enthusiastic participation at CCA organized events, social gatherings and other activities. There was also the involvement of many volunteers. To those who volunteered, thank you for your time, generosity and dedication. Your efforts make such a positive and lasting impact on our Cognashene community.

Membership

Our membership continues to be strong with nearly 400 Full and Associate members. A membership renewal notice will be coming soon for membership renewals effective January 1, 2024.

New Member Welcome

Our membership is growing and it is a pleasure to welcome our 16 new Full members and 7 new Associate members:

Full Members

Brian & Sarah Bentham
Cam Allen & Nikki Mills
Cam Fairty
Chris & Vania Dale
Christopher & Cindy Allen
D. Kevin Carroll
Doug & Gayle Wood
George B. & Sandra Boucher
James & Leandra Harris
Jeff Reade
Kate & Rob Ballantyne
Nora Wilson
Scott Murray
Suzanne Bennett & Jim Lisowski
Tristana & Johnny Reid
Winston Daniel Hintze / Family Hintze

Associate Members

Adrienne A. Allison
Catherine Greenwood-Grabas & Greg Grabas
Corry Nicholls
Jennifer Vale
John Bowden & Heather Gottlieb
Johnathan & Jeannine Schickedanz
Meghan & Curtis Eichenberger

We also welcomed back a few Full and Associate members who have rejoined. It is our members that make the CCA so special and we hope that the momentum growing our membership continues into 2024.

Associate Memberships

Associate memberships are beneficial for those that share a cottage with a Full member and would like to receive the benefits, which include the Cognashene Cottager publication, listing in our member directory and discounted rates for the CCA Recreation Program. Memberships also support a variety of fun summer activities and events organized by the CCA. If this describes your situation, consider being an Associate member.

Membership Experience

I am here to support you and to improve your membership experience. If you have questions about CCA membership, you need help accessing your online account or updating your information or you wish to purchase an extra copy of the Cognashene Cottager, please reach out anytime membership@cognashene.com.

All the best for a safe and healthy fall and thank you for your support.

Diane Neely
Membership Director

Municipal Affairs

All is pretty quiet on the municipal front. Not much to report. I would say that Councillors are getting along well with each other.

Council adopted a Strategic Plan where the headlines are: Environmental Protection (top of the list of council); Fiscal Responsibilities (let's hope!) and Technology Efficiencies; Streamline Planning Policies and Procedures (a new Planning Director just started); Customer Experience and Community Engagement; District and Township Relationship (we need better treatment from the District on many fronts); Engage with Indigenous Communities. The plan can be found on the TGB website. Hopefully they will get to benchmarking how they do on each of these areas.

Very soon, one will be able to get a Marriage License from the Township.

The TGB supported the FoodCycler program so us ratepayers can buy one at a huge discount. We have one and like it a lot.

The Georgian Bay Land Trust will be supported by TGB by having road allowances, more or less between Hwy 400 and the Bay, transferred to it.

TGB Council continues to be engaged on solid waste. The hope is to come to a satisfactory resolution in 2024 for implementation in 2025 or 2026.

The 2024 Budget is already in process and the hope is that it will be approved by Christmas. Results will be closely watched. Recall that our taxes went up by 5.4% in 2023; with TGB itself exceeding the previous year by over 11%. So far, the 2023 Budget is tracking as it should. To follow along on monthly meetings, a summary can be found in "Council Connect" on the TGB website.

Have a great winter!

Gregg Badger
Municipal Affairs Director

2023 AGM

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Cognashene Cottagers Association was held on Saturday, July 8 at the Cognashene Community Church. There were more than 90 people in attendance with 47 voting members plus 20 proxies.

The minutes of the AGM will be published in the 2024 Cottager but has become our practice we send out a summary of the AGM shortly after the meeting with a meeting highlights and a summary of guest speakers remarks.

Highlights of the meeting were updates from

- Kara Hunter about the results of the membership summary from last summer
- Sophie Hilliard and Natalie Ward regarding the return to a full summer recreation program
- Matthew Hawley outlined the new social media platforms for CCA and how to sign up for accounts
- Jim Bowden received kudos for the new colour map and introduced Scott Murray who will be starting winter patrol. If you want to be included in the 2023-24 winter patrol you must have renewed this year's membership no later than September 1
- Nancy Setchell, President of Cognashene Community Church explained their dock replacement needs and costs. Original cost of \$200,000 has been whittled down to about \$60,000 and work is scheduled to start on July 19th. All donations over \$25.00 will receive a tax receipt.
- Tom Halpenny thanked Dennis Robitaille for his 37 years of CCA Winter Patrol. He and Karen were made Honourary Life Members of the CCA and he was presented with a pair of snowshoes for a recreational way of getting around the Bay.

Guest Speakers

Mayor Koetsier referenced the new Honey Harbour Pickle Ball Courts are planned to be open by Sunday, October 1st in time for the 5th annual Honey Bee Festival. He is very happy that the Planning Department in particular and Township overall are nearly at full staff. He introduced Stephanie Clare, CEO of the TGB libraries.

The Township continues to work to find solutions for garbage but it is a slow process and patience is needed. The subsidized food cyler program should be introduced very soon. This will eliminate the need for cottagers to transport organic waste. The Cognashene large garbage pick up will be at the church on August 14.

When questioned about the ongoing fire ban, he explained that it is now set by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and continues to be at the "Extreme" level. This is partially because all Ontario fire crews are currently fighting existing fires. There is a ban on fireworks and several fines were levied after Canada Day.

Floating Homes continue to be an issue. The province is now on side but need to get to Federal MPs to change the definition of a vessel. There is a petition available for signature and Mayor Koetsier is working with other Mayors and Councils to have them pass motions against floating homes.

The Georgian Bay Forever who's mandate is to protect, enhance, and restore the aquatic ecosystem of Georgian was represented by **Nicole Carpenter**, Science Project Manager. She spoke about Cognashene being a phragmites success story in part because of the summer students from Cognashene funded in part by the CCA. Other interesting projects of the GBF include first Autonomous Underwater Vehicle

In Canada for efficient, high tech, real time water quality data, trash tracking and a citizen science project about nuisance algae. More information on all the projects and donations can be found at [the website https://www.georgianbayforever.org/](https://www.georgianbayforever.org/)

2023 AGM - Continued

Liz Phillips, President of the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) started her remarks by recognizing Rolfe Jones and thanking him in absentia for his kindness, guidance, mentorship and for all he accomplished in his term as GBA President. There was a round of applause for Rolfe that hopefully he could hear in Nova Scotia.

The GBA has been our voice since 1916 and currently has three buckets of projects which Liz outlined

- Coastal Protection: including inventorying all municipal planning regulations in the five coastal municipalities to establish and promote best practices and working towards regulating floating homes
- Safety: for both fire and boating and keeping membership advised of current regulations and upcoming changes
- Water: many projects such as eradication of unencapsulated foam (from now on to be known as "devil foam"), washing machine filters, guide for septic systems and vigilance around aquaculture. Liz asked if the GBA was meeting the CCA membership needs and encouraged members to reach out to her. The GBA website is www.georgianbay.ca

Ian Davis is now the Past Chair and Director at Large for the Georgian Bay Land Trust. He brought us up to date on the status and activities of the GBLT. It is the 4th largest land trust in Canada by assets and as well as land donation and conservation agreement is very involved in protecting species at risk and eliminating invasive species. Recent grants have been received for study of the four species of bats in Georgian Bay and the Jefferson salamander. The GBLT offers a number of social and educational events over the summer such as Yoga on the Lizard on July 30. Check out the website for more information www.gbtl.org
