



FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

CCA BOARD

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Halpenny

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Membership - Kara Hunter

Communications -

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Community Events -

Catherine Gillespie

Municipal Affairs - Gregg
Badger

GBA Representative - Rolfe
Jones

2nd GBA Representative -
David Matthews

Planning - Bill Sayers

Environment - Jack Giroux

President's message - Sue Carter

Hello all. I am writing my first CCA newsletter message to you as your Association President. I am very pleased to be taking on this new role and I am excited about the year ahead. On behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom Halpenny for his leadership and guidance as President over these past three years. He steered our Association through some very challenging times as Covid upended us all in 2020. Tom stays on as Past President and I will be grateful for his continued guidance and support, along with that of all of our amazing and diversely-talented Board members!

We all know that through the summers of 2020 and 2021 there were some very difficult decisions that had to be made as we navigated through all the lockdowns, restrictions and the ensuing fallout on our community, but we all weathered the storm and this summer we were very excited to be able to resurrect the Rec program (albeit a modified version), Long Distance swim, Ladies of the Bay cocktail parties and the Regatta. We had plans to resume Art on the Rocks but Mother Nature had other ideas, or so we thought. We were forced to make the difficult decision to cancel the event due to a thunderstorm forecast for the entire day. Although that weather never really materialized the decision had to be made first thing that morning and we couldn't take chances with severe weather. We look forward to it's return next summer.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Jenna Lynde and Robin Corbiere for getting the Rec program up and running again. They had their challenges with qualified staffing issues but managed to come up with a very successful modified program. A thank you to Val and Rob Thompson for once again offering up their place for the start of the Long Distance Swim. To Jim Bowden, Janet and Rebecca Heisey, a huge thank you for stepping up to take the reins of our Regatta, which concluded in a well run and attended event.

To Catherine Gillespie for the Art on the Rocks (almost) return and to Nancy Bennett for the well organized and communicated Ladies of the Bay events most Thursdays.

I would also like to recognize Scott Metherall and his amazing crew at Big Red Works. They donated some of their resources to help with our Beach clean up efforts this year and with our Regatta and so we'd like to say thank you for being such an amazing Community partner.

This year's board met in person and via Zoom in September and we officially welcomed Jenna Lynde as our Recreation director. All other directors remain in their positions for the 2022-2023 year. A couple of issues that remained on our radar this past summer was Large Garbage Item pick up and community consultations with respect to the planned removal of marina bins. Gregg Badger's report contained in this newsletter will provide more detail with respect to that issue.

Thanks to the Township of Georgian Bay CAO Greg Mariotti's persistence, there were several Large Item Garbage disposal sites set up at the end of the summer. Although these dates were not entirely convenient for many members as they were set up for weekday drop off, a number of people did take advantage of the Cognashene and Honey Harbour drop off sites.

It's hard to believe we are at the end of another Georgian Bay summer but it sure was nice to return to some semblance of normal. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable off-season.

Warm regards,

Sue Carter
CCA President

Membership Update

This was a summer of embracing all of the joys of Cognashene! After two years of curtailed activities, it was wonderful to have the enthusiastic participation back for CCA organized events, social gatherings and other activities that make summer special and fun. To all the volunteers, thank you for your time, dedication and work behind the scenes that made it all possible.

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, 2023.

New Member Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome our 10 new Full members and 5 new Associate members:

Full Members:

Matthew Hawley
Beth Harild and Alexander Steele
Tessa Ohlendorf
Denis and Evan Lahaie
Frank and Monika Mullen
Carolyn Shields
Nancy Bell
Rebecca Pollack and Greg Mason
Paul Taylor
Martin LeMoine

Associate Members

Richard Ward and Sandra Sorenson

Tom Hughes and Erin Walsh

Amy & Sean Williams (Hughes)

Christine Davis and Nariman Haghighi

Catherine and Mark Graham

We also welcome back 8 Full and 4 Associate members who have rejoined. It is our members that make the CCA so special and we hope to see our membership continue to grow in 2023.

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, please consider being an Associate member.

Membership Survey

Thank you to the more than 200 responders who participated in the CCA Membership survey. Key learnings will be communicated to members and help to inform the Board on how we are doing and how we can best represent and coordinate our communal interests. A special thanks to Bob Snider for his input in developing the survey.

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,

Kara Hunter

Membership Director

Cognashene Cottagers Recreation Program – Summer 2022

The summer of 2022 saw the return of a modified Summer Recreation Program in Cognashene. After a two-summer hiatus it was wonderful to be back at Arthur Beach and the Cognashene Community Church with the community. Friends were able to reconnect and, in many ways, it did not feel like there had been a two-year absence as campers, parents and staff reconnected.

Arthur Beach was much larger this summer with water levels down and thus provided a great opportunity for playing Kubb and sand castles/giant hole digging. Swim instruction, while informal, provided campers with increased confidence and strength in the water. Swimming was so popular that our hearty Cognashene Community members even came out in the pouring rain! Our Cognashene Kinders and Senior Workshops were well attended and a highlight of the week for many campers as they were able to socialize with peers and exercise their creativity. Our end of the season party was a big hit! Campers were thrilled when staff popped out of hidden boxes and swung in from the trees.

We would be remiss if we did not thank our wonderful staff who worked very hard to resurrect the program this summer. Sophie, Nathalie, Allison, Eileen, Lucas, Maddie, Katie, and Sedona all put in a tremendous effort. Your dedication and enthusiasm brought the Rec Program back to life for the campers. Additionally, to all the volunteers at the swim beach. Thank you for your time and efforts in catching boats and ensuring campers were taken care of. We hope to see you back as staff in the future.

We hope to run a more robust Summer Recreation Program in 2023 – similar to pre-pandemic programming. This will be contingent on staffing but we anticipate many of our staff from this past summer will be returning with enhanced certifications which will allow this to be possible.

Please follow us on our Instagram account @cogrecreation or on our Facebook Group – Cognashene Recreation Program. Hiring for paid and volunteer positions for the Summer 2023 Recreation Program will begin in January 2023 with programming details out in March so that families can plan for the summer months.



Community Events

Unfortunately, Art on the Rocks was thunderstormed out this year. We say rain, shine or wind but predicted thunderstorms are not safe. We did have a good variety of “local artists” ready to come and show their wares, many of whom have already committed to next year. The event will be Sunday, July 30 2023. We are hoping to again concentrate on artists who do not need transportation from the harbour so if you know of someone or are a talented artist yourself please let us know. Communityevents@cognashene.com

Catherine Gillespie Community Events

communityevents@cognashene.com
Call 716.517.0855
or 705.756.1621



Come and see
great Georgian Bay art
Maxwell/ Whalen's Island
GPS: 44°55'17.7"N
79°55'00.1"W
M42 on CCA map

on Facebook page
Art on the Rocks
Cognashene Georgian Bay

sponsored by CCA

Municipal Affairs

WASTE MANAGEMENT – MARINA BIN SITES

The TGB hired Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. to carry out a Needs and Wants study from residents with respect to marina bin sites. They came up with a series of recommendations for improvements, but they have all been for naught, in that even modified Bin sites look to be a thing of the past. The District of Muskoka is responsible for waste management in our Township and throughout the District. Our Township is charged back for whatever costs are incurred. It has been advised that waste bin sites must comply with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) guidelines by November 30, 2026. In order to get an Environmental Compliance Approval, any site needs to be manned, away from the water, fenced, zoned, capable of reporting, and capable of tracking waste ownership. So, we are faced with taking waste to an approved transfer stations at certain times. The chances of getting the regulations changed are nil, especially because the District has no interest nor incentive to do so. All other Townships in the District have become, or are in the process of becoming compliant, and the District has not seen any adverse effects during the transition, like garbage being dumped on roadsides, for example. And TGB has much higher waste tonnage per capita than other townships in the District, presumably because of transient and 'live aboard' boaters.

I don't like being the bearer of this news, but apparently the District nor the MoE are for the turning on leaving the bin sites as they are. Nevertheless, our Township's Mayor intends to meet directly with the local MoE to see what options might be available.

There are two possible options for compromise discussed with the District, which could be taken in combination, and which the Consultant, The District and The Township will summarize and take to the MoE for their preliminary review and endorsement, hopefully. One would be to have lakeside collection service where a truck would come to a water access point at certain times. The other would be to have bearproof bins for each ratepayer at marinas or close by to the marina. These systems maintain ownership tracking and oversight. Waste ownership is crucial in the MoE's eyes. Ownership of waste will also be key to successful transitioning of blue box materials. The plastics producers are targeting an extremely low 4% contamination rate and anything higher than that would result in contamination fees and higher taxes.

The plan would be to pilot trial these options at one or two locations to gauge effectiveness of these alternatives.

An organic waste program is to be implemented by the District over the coming years, and an organic FoodCycler option is being explored by the TGB, which could reduce the waste going into the system. Food Cyclers are not cheap, so the Township is actively pursuing funding opportunities to minimize implementation costs.

ELECTION - NO VOTING REQUIRED

The Mayor, Peter Koetsier; Ward 2 Councillor Stephen Jarvis and District Councillor for Wards 2 & 4, Peter Cooper, have all been acclaimed. Those are CCA reps. Congratulations to each of them. Outside of our Ward, existing Councilors Allan Hazelton and Brian Bocek (District Councillor) have also been acclaimed. Cynthia Douglas and Paul Wianko are retiring. The only contested Ward is 3.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregg Badger
Municipal Affairs

Environment Update

Let's talk about waste!

Picture this, it's the end of a meal and its time to do the dishes. A mountain of scraps, rinds, peels, bones, and juices await our attention. We scrape our leftover food waste into the bin, collect it at the end of the weekend and take it down to the harbor. Into the dumpster it goes, along with a multitude of other household waste products. This conglomerate of trash is likely picked up, compacted, and dumped into a landfill. Problem solved, or so we think. This process is repeated across the bay by hundreds of cottagers every weekend, typically late in the Sunday afternoon. This mountain of trash can easily overwhelm marina bin sites, filling them to the brim. Unfortunately, this means that some of the waste ends up as litter, polluting our roads, forests and lakes. What if I told you there was a way to reduce the volume of trash entering bin sites by up to 40%. Imagine that, almost half of your garbage just disappeared. Think of all the extra space in the boat! According to the Federal Government, "Biodegradable material such as food waste constitutes approximately 40% of the residential waste stream in Canada". Composting is an effective and environmentally friendly way of reducing the waste volume. Diverting organics from landfill helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. However, being boat access cottagers makes finding a solution to our waste problem a unique challenge. Many of us have pets that understandably prevent traditional composting methods. Pests, racoons, and bears also present a challenge. So, what's the solution?

Countertop Composting, electric plug-in composters the size on your toaster oven. These machines simply accelerate the natural decomposition process by cooking your organic waste overnight. By morning you have a small pile of soil ready to be used in the garden. No odour, no mess. In a matter of 12h, all your organic waste has been turned into organic fertilizer. And remember, that's a 40% reduction in your overall garbage volume.

I have provided links to purchasing websites at the bottom of this article. I encourage everyone to check them out online.

Links to Counter top Composters:

- [Lomi Composter – Pela Earth](#)
- [foodcycler-production](#)

Source: [Municipal solid waste organics processing: technical document summary - Canada.ca](#)

Jack Giroux
Environmental Affairs

Services - Winter Patrol

Once again Dennis Robitaille will be undertaking our winter patrols. 3 patrols in all, the first by boat starting the beginning of November, the other two by ice travel. We are very grateful for Dennis's service for this year and for his many many years of service in the past. Thank you, Dennis.

BUBBLERS: In the event you have installed a dock bubbler this year, or will be doing so before freeze-up, please let us know via e mail to jbowden@lbrlaw.ca. At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, this really can be a matter of life or death. So please advise straight away before it slips off your radar.

Jim Bowden
Services

2022 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Cognashene Community Church on Saturday July 9th, 2022. The guest speakers included Peter Cooper and Stephen Jarvis, our Township Councillors; Peter Koetsier, Mayor, Township of Georgian Bay; Rebecca Pollock & Greg Mason, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve; Ian Davis, Board Chair, Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) and Rolfe Jones, President, Georgian Bay Association.

From the AGM - Did You Know?

The Georgian Bay Biosphere (GBB) is also now called Mnidoo Gamii, one Anishinabek name for Georgian Bay, which loosely translates to 'Spirit Lake'. Our biosphere encompasses the eastern coast of Georgian Bay and stretches approximately 175 kilometres from the Severn River to the French River. This part of Lake Huron contains the largest collection of freshwater islands in the world. The Georgian Bay Biosphere is a UNESCO biosphere and is situated within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and Williams Treaty of 1923, and located on Anishinabek territory.

Question: How many biosphere reserves are in Ontario? There are 4: Niagara Escarpment, Georgian Bay, Frontenac Arch and Long Point.

Question: What is another name for the Blue-Tailed Skink (the only native lizard in Ontario)? The Common Five-lined Skink!

The Georgian Bay Land Trust (GBLT) works in a region where shoreline has great significance. The 1-2 kilometres wide shoreline zone where land meets water are the ribbons of life and are crucial incubators of biodiversity. The shoreline is nearly 45,000 kilometres long, that's ten times the distance from Halifax to Vancouver to protect.

Songbird Research: The GBLT is a partner with researchers out of a field station in Go Home Bay for a North American study looking at the decline in migratory songbirds. North America's migratory birds are in major decline with 1 billion songbirds lost. There are towers throughout North America to research and track bird movement from winter nesting to Georgian Bay.

We encourage all members to attend the AGM. It is a great way to kick-off the summer, meet fellow CCA members, hear about key topics in our community and learn more about Georgian Bay firsthand.

Cottager - NEW SUBMISSIONS!

Get your 2022 memories into the Cottager before you forget!

Now is an excellent time to look through your summer pictures and start writing your summer memories before they fade.

Please send contributions for the Cognashene Cottager to cottager@cognashene.com

Submit, fiction, memoirs, histories, poetry, and, of course, pictures!

Please ensure that all photographs have a resolution of 1MB or higher.

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2023.

Looking forward to seeing and reading your submissions!

Barb Russell
Cottager



Thank you from your CCA Board

The 2022/2023 CCA Board (Left to right: Greg Badger - Municipal Affairs, Jack Giroux - Environment, Matthew Hawley - Communications, Kara Hunter - Membership, Jenna Lynde - Recreation Program, Bill Sayers - Planning, Tom Halpenny - Past President, Sue Carter - President, Catherine Gillespie - Community Events, Jim Bowden - Services; not photographed: Laura Jarvis - Secretary, Barb Russell - Cottager, GBA Representative - Rolfe Jones, GBA Representative - David Matthews, Treasurer - Andrew Carr, James Maynary - Technology)
