



## Your CCA Board

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**Sue Carter**, Membership  
**Robyn Corbiere**, Rec Program  
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**Bill Sayers**, Planning  
**Sandy Thompson**,  
 Environment

**Hayley Thomas**, Editor, The  
Cognashene Cottager

Need to connect with a Board  
member? Emails and profiles all  
available at [cognashene.com](http://cognashene.com)

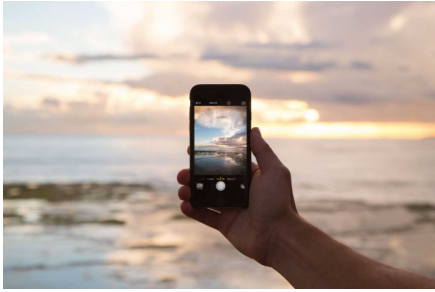
Next edition will follow  
in early May.

## President's Message: *Bob Snider*

I have bookmarked on my internet browser several sites that provide reports on the water levels on Georgian Bay. My go-to site is generally the US Corp of Engineers Daily Water levels page (Google those words if you have not been to the site before). This time of year when I am not at the cottage I find myself staring at the graph trying to visualize what 10 inches of water over last year's level will do to my dock, ramp and shore structure. I am somewhat relieved though that the forecast for July 2018 is water levels no higher than this past summer.

While the water level forecast for July 2018 is still 12 to 14 inches below the HWM, it will again create challenges at the beach that the CCA Rec Program operates from on Arthur Island. As the water level has risen over the past few years the beach available for boat landing, the program's activities, and as an area to just sit and watch has shrunk to almost nothing. While last year's program struggled with the inadequate area of beach, plans are afoot this year to make improvements behind the beach area to allow the program to continue to operate at this location.

Municipal elections will take place in November 2018. Changes to the Municipal Elections Act have changed the nomination deadlines and rules for who needs to register as a lobby group with the Township. By-law changes by the Township eliminated the mail-in ballots in favour of internet and phone-in voting. The Township's Clerk has also taken



## Communications:

*Laura Adams*

Keeping abreast of the latest technologies that continue to emerge, almost daily it seems, can be a challenge. Last year we experimented with sending this newsletter out as digitally only, apart from your May package, which contains the Cottager and Member Directory.

We heard from many of you who truly enjoy the tactile experience of holding paper in hand, and perhaps perusing over a cup of coffee. We listened, and now you can enjoy reading about your cottage community both ways! We'll mail out a copy, along with some other great reading material, and we'll also email you the link to enjoy a full colour digital version on the CCA website.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to reach out and share information, photos, stories and comments...good and bad. We continue to do better when we all work together.

All the best for spring, and fingers crossed on an uneventful first boat trip to the cottage!

steps to ensure that the voter list is more accurate than in past years. It remains incumbent on each property owner to ensure that they are on the voter list, and if not, to take steps to be added. Voting in municipal elections is the first step in ensuring that coastal Georgian Bay has a voice on the Township's Council. More will follow through the summer on how to get on the voter list, who the candidates are, and how to vote.

As this newsletter goes to print, the Georgian Bay Association is winding up their search for a new Executive Director. Bob Duncanson, who has been the ED for ten years, will be stepping down in April. Bob's passion for the Bay, and commitment to addressing the many issues that impact Georgian Bay and the Cottage Associations that line its' shores, has been nothing less than exemplary.

As winter turns to spring and the sense of renewal takes hold, if you find yourself wanting to be more involved in your Association this summer, watch for callouts to assist with the Rec Program beach cleanup or the summer Regatta, boat drivers for Art on the Rocks, canvassers for the non-member dock visits, helpers to remove invasive phragmites or members to fill committee and Board positions. Your involvement helps to ensure a strong association.

We will see you on the Bay (soon),

Bob Snider

President

Come on out and...



...join the fun!

## Recreation Report: *Robyn Corbiere & Nicole Scott*

I think I speak for most of us when I say that this winter can't end soon enough!!! I'm sure we are all dreaming of sunny days, warm nights, relaxing swims and beautiful sunsets!

We are well into the process of planning for summer 2018! We would like to welcome back Molly Giroux as head of the Recreation program and we are in the throws of hiring the rest of the Recreation staff.

The 2018 CCA recreation program will run from July 2nd to August 23rd with the senior canoe trip tentatively scheduled for August 15th-16th and the junior canoe trip tentatively scheduled for July 25-26th. We will continue to have swimming lessons on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the mornings. Camp Cognashene will happen on Tuesdays for kids entering grade 1 to grade 7, water sports for ages 6 and up will take place Wednesday afternoons. Kognashene Kinders will be held on Thursday mornings for ages 2 through senior kindergarten, and YPOC will run Monday afternoons for our older campers.

Registration will begin the end of April - beginning of May and the early bird discount will be in effect until May 31st. We encourage everyone to register as early as possible so we can better plan our summer program. We hope to avoid registrations at the beach as it is difficult to facilitate.

Our primary means of communication will be through Twitter (@CCARecProgram) this summer so be sure to download the app and enable notifications in order to receive the most up-to-date information on the program.

We look forward to seeing you on the beach!

## Active Enjoyment of the Bay: *Sandy Thompson*

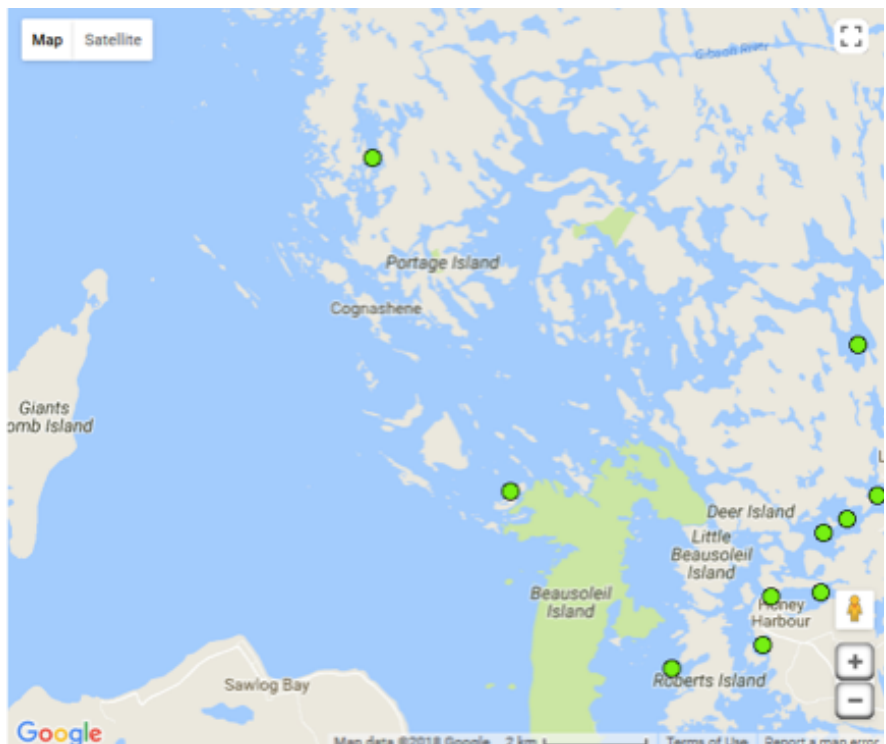
With the never ending snow and cold in Ontario this winter, it is hard to think about black flies, mosquitoes and warm summer nights. But, a quick flip through photos from last summer on our phones, and we can easily imagine that in only a few months we will be loading the boat again and heading out on the Bay. For most of us, the opening of the cottage and those first few weekends are filled with cleaning, inspecting and possibly fixing things that might have been damaged over the winter. Hopefully, it also includes seeing new and old friends and neighbours, and catching up on the dock. As you start to put together your actual, or mental, to-do list for the spring and summer, consider adding a new action or two to support the environment and the Bay.

As stewards and lovers of Georgian Bay, we have learned a lot over the past decades, and we know that dumping (or spilling) fuels and chemicals in the lake is not ok. The solution to pollution is NOT dilution. We are diligent about cleaning off our boats when we move between regions so as not to spread invasive species (Zebra Mussels highlighted this for us!). We do not bathe or wash in the lake (biodegradable soaps still affect the water chemistry and can affect aquatic species). The list of things that we now know to be environmentally harmful at the cottage goes on and on.

So what else can we do, pro-actively? Some of these things you have heard from me before, however I thought I would highlight a few of the more important ones for you here:

### **Water Sampling:**

Last winter in the newsletter I wrote an article about joining the Lake Partner Program (LLP) run by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change which is a volunteer sampling program that monitors total phosphorus and water clarity. <http://www.desc.ca/programs/lpp> It involves taking a water sample at the beginning and end of the season and taking water clarity measurements (with a supplied secchi disk) at least every two weeks. As you can see from the map on the LPP website, there are lots of spots available that we can help out with (N.B. I am not sure all of last year's locations have been updated.)





## Active Enjoyment of the Bay continued: *Sandy Thompson*

### **Report Animal Sightings:**

Helping to track the natural species, especially those that are threatened, in our area is helpful for scientists monitoring changes in Ontario and the Bay. Last year, I highlighted the Toronto Zoo Adopt-a-Pond program for reporting sightings of Turtles and Frogs in Ontario. Even better, this year is the **Adopt-a-Pond App** so you can record your sightings immediately. It also includes identification guides. You can find it at the IOS App Store or Android Google Play Store (it's free). If you prefer birding, you can input your sightings into the **eBird Canada website** (<http://ebird.ca/sightings.jsp>).

### **Manage your Shoreline:**

And you thought you'd get through an article without me mentioning Phragmites! I won't say much other than to say "keep up the great work!" If you are new to Cognashene, and don't know about 'Phrag' yet, please reach out to me or one of your neighbours to learn about the programs we have available to identify and manage the invasive reed. We are winning with our efforts! Good management of our shorelines means encouraging the growth of natural grass and reed species and careful removal of invasive species. Try to resist the urge to pull out or cut all the grasses to create a beach. The grasses and reeds are nesting grounds for many aquatic species as well as providing natural protection for young fish and aquatic species. All of these areas, along with our wetlands, are the nurseries that keep our waters healthy. They also help buffer the effects of changing water levels and shoreline erosion...water is expected to be higher than the long term average again this year!

### **Plastics and Microplastics:**

Microbeads will be banned in toiletries in Canada starting July 1, 2018, and are being voluntarily removed by manufacturers before this. If you still have any scrubs or exfoliating body washes with microbeads in them, the best way to dispose of them is in the garbage. There is also an ongoing and growing problem with microplastics in all lakes and oceans. These are from filaments like fishing lines, and plastics such as bags and bottles, that get broken up in the water, but do not decompose or disappear – they only get small enough so they are hard to see. You can help reduce microplastics by keeping plastic out of the water through cleaning up your shoreline of all (even tiny) plastic pieces in the spring, picking up any floating plastics you see during the summer, and limiting your use of plastics at the cottage (do you really need a straw?)

Adding one or two of these actions to your spring/summer to-do list will hopefully engage your family and friends in appreciating the beauty and complex ecosystem of Georgian Bay, and will go a long way to supporting the health of the Bay for years to come.

See you on the Bay very soon!

## Cognashene Community Church: *Caroline Coulson, President*

As we ride out this roller coaster of a winter, I find myself standing on the top of the escarpment at Craighleith looking longingly northeast toward Cognashene. We may close up the cottage every fall, but I firmly believe that we leave a piece of our hearts there to hibernate all winter long. Thankfully, it won't be long now before we can throw open those cottage doors and windows and start another amazing season in Cognashene.

The Cognashene Community Church's 112<sup>th</sup> season is coming together nicely. The first service is Sunday, July 1st at 10:30 a.m. Our roster is almost full. Thanks to the generosity of our cottager hosts, we have a diverse lineup of ministers who will be delivering thought-provoking and warm services for us. We do have one opening on July 29<sup>th</sup> so if you would like to invite a minister to the Church, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Jackson Shibley will soon be placing his order for Sunday school crafts and will, once again, be inviting our younger members and guests to join him for a little creativity during the service. We invite all Cognashene children to grab Mom and Dad or Grandma and Grandpa and join us on Sundays.

If you have a teenager who needs some community service hours, please have them get in touch with me at [carolinecoulson@mac.com](mailto:carolinecoulson@mac.com). There are a lot of chores that we need to get done to open the Church on the Rocks and to put that pesky boardwalk back together again.

Members of the Cognashene Community Church are invited to add a name of a lost loved one to the bronze plaques on the sides of the structure over the pulpit. They cost \$50 per name. If you're interested in adding a plaque to the Tranquility Garden, please contact Larry Ward or Rob Thompson.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at The Church on the Rocks!

### Membership News: *Sue Carter*

As we approach the end of February, membership renewals are at about 60% for 2018. A great start, but if you have not yet renewed for this year, I invite you to please take a few moments to do so. Anyone interested in enrolling their children in the Cognashene Recreation program this summer will be required to be a paid up member for 2018 prior to enrolment. May 1<sup>st</sup> will be the deadline for renewals in order to receive your new Cottager by mail. **And remember, if you have any updates to make to your CCA account, please login and make the necessary changes.** In order to continue receiving the newsletters and e-blasts your email address must be up to date. If you experience any difficulties logging into your account please feel free to contact me at: [membership@cognashene.com](mailto:membership@cognashene.com).

As mentioned in this past November's newsletter, the Membership Committee plans to continue our initiative of dock visits of potential and former members this summer. We will be looking for volunteers to be part of a team to conduct these visits, so if you would be interested in participating I would love to hear from you. Please use the above email address to find out more or to communicate your interest in volunteering.

## Municipal Council Report: *Steven Jarvis*

There were two Municipal Conflict of Interest actions heard by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on Jan 5, 2018 and a decision was made by Jan 22. The first, initiated by Catherine Cooper, Louise Rivett and Lorne Cameron cited Councilors Cynthia Douglas, Paul Wianko and Kathy Kay to be in conflict of interest regarding SEGBAY (Southeast Georgian Bay Chamber of Commerce). The application was dismissed with the judge stating that it was unlikely that there was any benefit from the relevant Council decisions to Councilors Wianko and Kay and, in the case of Councilor Douglas, any conflict was due more to ignorance than intent.

The second action was initiated by Louise Rivett citing Mayor Larry Braid, Councilors Paul Wianko, Kathy Kay and Brian Bocek to be in conflict of interest regarding a specific vote at Council on whether an audit of the lease agreement between the Municipality and SEGBAY for use of Municipal space should go ahead or not. This action was also dismissed by the judge.

It would require a full reading of the two decisions to fully understand the how's and why's of what transpired at the hearing. Both are available on the Ontariocourts.ca website or contact me at ([municipalaffairs@cognashene.com](mailto:municipalaffairs@cognashene.com)) if you wish a copy. If you have any interest in how our court system works particularly with regards to this type of action, the decisions are interesting reading.

Since these decisions, there have been a number of votes at Council where Councilors recused themselves due to possible perception of a conflict of interest – an interesting development.

**We are always looking for new, creative and talented artists. Please contact us!!**



**ART on the ROCKS**  
Sunday July 29  
12:00-4:30  
rain, shine or wind

**28th Annual**  
Maxwell/ Whalen's Island  
on the inside main channel  
M42 on Coenashene map

**Come and see  
great Georgian Bay  
art & visit with  
friends!**

CALL FOR ARTISTS contact  
[gillespie.cath@gmail.com](mailto:gillespie.cath@gmail.com)

Questions? Call 756.1621  
or 519.217.1415





Join us for the 28th annual Art on the Rocks

This year's show highlights an excellent variety of arts and crafts of exceptional quality. Come, enjoy the show, meet the talented artists & artisans, buy a piece of artwork or a unique craft for your cottage! Don't forget about Holiday and wedding gifts!

Come and visit with fellow cottagers and help make Art on the Rocks~2018 another successful Cognashene event!

Catherine Gillespie and Geoff Kalk  
[gillespie.cath@gmail.com](mailto:gillespie.cath@gmail.com)



## Classified Ads & Cottage Rentals

### **Jack's Island Paper Delivery**

Spring/Summer 2018 Newspaper Schedule

delivering

The Globe & Mail and The Toronto Star

available soon

Please contact:

Jack Giroux

416-904-2272

[jackgiroux98@hotmail.com](mailto:jackgiroux98@hotmail.com)

### **Cottage for Rent**

If you're looking to rent a cottage with a view in June or September 2018, let me know!

6 year old 3 bedroom cottage located at the Cognashene Narrows offers modern amenities with views to the horizon. Includes use of kayaks and offers sunset views.

Please contact Scott Setchell ([scottsetchell@me.com](mailto:scottsetchell@me.com), 902-718-6289)

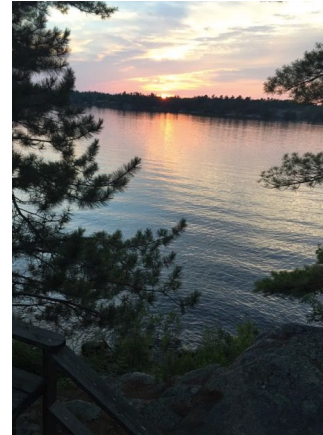




### Cottage Rental

3-bedroom cottage, separate living and dining rooms, screened verandah, large backyard, beautiful western exposure from large decking. Cabin overlooking water with 1 queen bed, 1 double pull-out and 2-pc. bath. 3-slip boat house with 2 kayaks, 1 canoe.

Contact Penny Elliot at [cppenny@mac.com](mailto:cppenny@mac.com)



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## **Cognashene Cottage available for rent June 28th-July 28th**

Built in 1992, this 1,500 sq. ft. cottage has all the amenities; spacious fully equipped kitchen with pantry, large screened in veranda, deck with bbq and seating for 8. Sleeps 6...master bedroom with ensuite bathroom with whirlpool tub, guest bedroom with queen bed, queen futon bed in alcove. Large flat screen tv with satellite, wifi, sound system with speakers in living room, dining room, screened in veranda and master bedroom. 2 kayaks, a double and a single, a canoe and a 14 ft. Rossiter Shoreline outboard with Yamaha 4 stroke engine included.

Contact Bob Baines at [bbaines@gmail.com](mailto:bbaines@gmail.com) or call 705-756-4727

