



Cognashene Cottagers' Association

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President's Message...*Doug Deeks*

For those that get to put summer on extended play and spend September in Cognashene, it must have been glorious.

Less glorious, of course, was the back-to-routine post Labour Day, where all members in my house rebelled against the conclusion of summer and its opportunity for endless adventure!

Part of the routine that hits in September is the backside of the annual Great Lakes water cycle, which will now see a decline through to Christmas before leveling and then rebounding as winter freeze-up gives way to the spring run-off. Water levels, after starting the year at a new record low, eventually pushed substantially above the 2012 high water mark and were continuing to ride about 20cm (8") above that level at the end of September. While good news overall, levels continue to be low relative to the long term average - 50cm's (20") below that mark on October 1st. Mild, dry weather through the fall and winter will push levels down beyond the average while the opposite will push them up, which is just more evidence to support the thesis that what is good for the fair-weather cottager, is generally not good for the environmental conditions; that's the paradox that typifies our relations with the rough shield country at the edge of Georgian Bay.

There were some formidable developments over the summer, and this issue covers many of the highlights in some detail while also shedding light on other points of interest. In addition to what is documented inside, it is with thanks that we acknowledge the tremendous efforts of so many in the putting together of the "real" highlights of the summer that included the Regatta, the recreation program, the Ryestone cup, long distance swim, Art on the Rocks etc.

See past CCA President John Birnbaum's excellent account of the new GB township electoral Ward boundaries, which finally reached conclusion in August with a sensible organization of the communities that make up the Township. The first test of this new configuration is just a year from now when we all will cast votes for our local governance.

While some progress has been made with our local government, there continues to be no shortage of surprises that you should stay apprised of. Bob Snider's report highlights several and it is with thanks that the CCA acknowledges the incredible efforts of Beth Halpenny, Cathy Cooper and our Councilor Pat Edwards, who have been collectively pressing for change in several key areas that affect us including: planning policy, Twp budget, tax rate, electoral ward system and the business of the Official Plan and by-law reviews.

Many of you, in fact more than 50%, have participated in the CCA survey that circulated this summer. This is an

important initiative that will shape the activities of the CCA going forward. Chris Hawley has provided a brief overview of the results and what the next steps will be in this issue.

GBA has also had a busy summer and you will find excellent material in GB Update included in this mailing along with GBF's newsletter.

Before parting, I'll note that in the look ahead we have: a new website coming together; the development of the

Cottager; the initiation of the winter patrol; and the continued involvement with the Township.

Wishing you well for close-up and look forward to engaging with you through the off-season.

Best regards,

Doug Deeks

What is that Gross White Foam?...*Sandy Thompson*

Foam can accumulate on the shores of our lakes and rivers that is usually white but can turn brown as sediments collect in it. Is it harmful? Is it pollution? Has my neighbor's washing machine overflowed? There can be many reasons for foam to form and to accumulate but on our shores it is generally not related to pollution or appliance malfunction; it is naturally occurring due to the introduction of air into the water through things such as in rapids (or riffles) in streams or waves breaking on the shoreline in the presence of surfactants. I know there are some complex chemical and physical explanations to the generation of foam and they are related to the reduction of surface tension (the attraction

between water molecules that allow water striders to skate on the surface of the water) by surfactants and the introduction of air into the water that bubbles to and breaks the surface, causing foam.

But who really wants to talk about that? What we really want to know is if it can hurt us or the lake. Naturally occurring foam is not hazardous or toxic although it might have a slightly fishy or earthy smell. Surfactants, the things that decrease the surface tension, can be naturally occurring or from human sources. Modern detergents (shampoos, toothpaste, cleaning products) generally contain synthetic surfactants (you might see them listed as sodium laureth, ammonium laureth, or lauryl sulfate) which, based on studies, have been found to produce foam which does not persist in the water long, is generally found at the outlet of water treatment plants, and usually smells like the synthetic surfactant (fresh and clean!)

But there are many sources of naturally occurring surfactants (also called dissolved organic compounds), including those released from algae and plants when they decompose. These natural surfactants can be carried in larger quantities to the lake by rain or runoff and also give a lake its brown 'tea' colour. Add to that increased wind and wave action that usually accompanies our storms, and we have the conditions for making foam. So, in Cognashene, we may see increases in foam following a drop in water temperature causing the death of an algal bloom, during spring runoff bringing more natural surfactants into the lake from the naturally vegetated areas, or after a storm with increased wave action on the shore. Heavy boat activity has been identified alongside wind and rapidly flowing water as a source of the air bubbles below the surface that cause foam, but not as a source of increased surfactants. In some lakes and oceans around the world foam can be more than 3 feet deep when conditions are right. Now that would be a sight!



Municipal Affairs...*Bob Snider*

Township Hires New Chief Administrative Officer

The Township announced in August that Laurie Kennard, CPA, CA had been hired as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), replacing interim CAO Ted Walker. Ms. Kennard most recently held the position of Deputy CAO/Director of Finance with the Township of Springwater. Previously she held senior financial management roles in the public sector in both Ontario and British Columbia. Ms. Kennard took on her new CAO role on Monday, September 16, 2013 and can be reached thru email at lkennard@gbtownship.ca. We wish Ms. Kennard all the best in her new role.

Ward Boundary Review

At a Public Meeting (that was well attended by Cognashene residents) on Saturday August 24 the Township Councilors unanimously approved the revision of the Ward Boundaries from three wards to four (see full storey in this newsletter). This proposed revision had been strongly supported by members of our community, the CCA, as well as the other coastal cottage associations in the Township. An OMB hearing will be held on October 16, 2013 at the Township office to hear concerns from the petitioners, if any.

Official Plan Amendment

At the invitation of Council three Planners, Bob List, Kathy Pounder and Beth Halpenny from Cognashene, along with Jill Lewis, Director of Planning for the Township and Kris Menzies the consultant from MHBC were invited to review the OPA with the objective of identifying and correcting inconsistencies that may exist in the OPA before it is finalized. Inconsistencies identified included not only those within the text itself, but with the District OP as well as the Provincial Policy Statement and various legislation including the OBC (Ontario Building Code).

On September, 9th, 2013, Kris Menzies presented her final recommendations for the OPA to Council. Most notable of the 28 recommendations was the inclusion of the Six Mile Lake Road assumption policy which in draft 3 of the OPA had been removed. The CCA's position is that there should be no assumption of private roads.

In the end Private Roads in the OPA are handled as follows:

Specific prohibitions on roads in the coastal community plans (this includes Cognashene) will be repeated in the Transportation section of the OPA.

A modified Six Mile Lake policy has been re-inserted in the OPA. Added to the policy was "Prior to assumption, Council may require that any road improvements required be at the cost of the affected landowners. The Township may consider the use of infrastructure funding where available to pay for the cost of private road assumption."

Not included in the OPA is a prohibition on new private roads or the extension of private roads outside of the Coastal areas.

Per Jill Lewis, Director of Planning, the Committee of the Whole has recommended to Council that the Township will not consider the expansion of any private roads, the development of new private roads or the assumption of any private roads until such time as a Public Meeting has occurred under the Planning Act with respect to an amendment to the Official Plan. The Planning Department will bring report forward to the next Council meeting to seek budget approval to retain MHBC to initiate this Official Plan Amendment process to develop a policy framework for private roads.

The final draft of the OPA is now on the Township web site at <http://www.gbtownship.ca/content/official-plan-review> and will go to Council at a special meeting on October 21, 2013 at 9:00 AM, for adoption. The Official Plan will not come into effect until the District of Muskoka approves the plan which may take until early 2014.

Zoning By-Law Amendment

The Consultants at MHBC have been working on the Zoning By-Law amendment since the public information gathering session was held in the Spring. The first draft is expected to be ready by the 3rd or 4th week in October. Council and the Township Planning Committee will hold a special meeting on October 25, 2013 to review the first draft. This is not a public meeting but the public may attend.

Jill Lewis, Director of Planning for the Township stated the she "fully expect(s) the new Zoning By-law to go through several revisions."

The new Official Plan must be in full force before the ZBL is passed by Council. The process of passing the ZBL may be delayed depending on if the entire new OP is appealed

to the OMB or if just sections of the new OP are appealed to the OMB.

Septic Setback and Inspection

The last few months have seen much attention given to the septic setbacks. The issue arose when it became known that the Township's Building Department has issued permits, without a variance, for septic systems that are not set back the distance required in the zoning by-law. The Building Department's position being that the Ontario Building Code supersedes the ZBL and only requires 15 meter setback.

After many reports by staff, pressure from Beth Halpenny on behalf of the Coastal Communities and input from the Ministry of Community Affairs and Housing, the Township Building Department has agreed that permits will not be issued for septic systems unless the system meets the 20m or 30m setback requirement depending on zoning. Variances for a lesser setback may be applied for and may require installation of a tertiary septic system.

As to existing non-complying septic systems Council agreed at a meeting on September 12, that septic systems

built before 1998 and approved by the MOE (Ministry of Environment) will be considered legal and can be rebuilt on the same site but as far back as possible. For systems built after 1998, the Planning Department will be bringing a report to the Special October 21 meeting for Council to consider.

Per Dave Fedoriw, Acting Chief Building Officer for the Township, the septic re-inspection program does not specifically target septic systems of a certain age or type. Inspection areas are based on the water quality reports along with a few other factors and complaints. In early 2014 a report will go to Council summarizing what issues were found in 2013 along with the proposed program for the year ahead.

Township Email List

Jessica Gunby, Deputy Clerk for the Township is maintaining an email list that the Township will use to send notices and Township news to residents. If you are interested in being on this list contact Ms. Gunby directly at jgunby@gbtownship.ca.

Recreation Program...*Alexander Limoges Friend (aka: Zander)*

Now that summer has come to a close and I am back at university, I find myself fondly remembering various details of a tremendous summer. Whether it be the canoe trips or sumo wrestling at water sports, the Rec program was always fun! There are so many stories of fun times as the staff, volunteers and kids got along so well together.

This summer was a transition year for the Rec Program and I was asked to implement several new ideas that had been generated by the Cognashene community. I have to admit, after spending almost every summer of my life on the "Beach", I was a bit reluctant to make changes to some of the established features. However, I

realized that the Rec Program had been evolving since its inception. My goal for the summer therefore, was to help the staff keep the positive traditions that contribute to the culture of Cognashene, while adapting to the evolving needs of the community. Based on your feedback, I think we succeeded! This successful transition was only possible because of the great work of the staff and volunteers. So, congratulations go to them! I would specifically like to thank





the volunteers, as the Rec program would not be the same without the volunteers running activities during swimming lessons and helping during activities such as water sports and YPOC.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank Annie and Jane, who were great bosses this past summer. They managed to strike a perfect balance between support and involvement, which let us run the program with independence and creativity.

I am looking forward already to summer 2014! Hopefully we will have another great turn out of volunteers, staff and even more kids.

Cottager and Newsletter Updates...*Laura Adams*

Just a reminder to start downloading your photos and jotting down story ideas for the next edition of the "Cognashene Cottager". Submissions are due by January 31, 2014, however while summer is still fresh, feel free to send them anytime to lauraeadams@sympatico.ca. When sending photos please include who took the shot, as well as a bit of information about the picture: names of the individuals, the event, and / or location.

Also, just a reminder that this newsletter is meant as an information vehicle for and about our association and cottage community. Should you have something that you would like to share, feel free to email the details to me. I will do my best to get it out there!

FYI... www.cognashene.com will soon have a new look! Stay tuned.

Cottage Composting...*Sandy Thompson*

The wildlife in Cognashene is amazing! Well, amazing until the ants munch through our cross beams, the 'brown bugs' settle in our shoes every night, or the furry burly bears come looking for lunch. Black bears are a part of the southern Georgian Bay ecosystem and some years we see them more than others. They eat our blueberries (how dare they!) and have been known to help themselves to light beer in the beer fridge – even if it is padlocked it seems. Bears are not something that we want to attract to our immediate cottage area due to the potential danger of human-bear interactions. At our cottage, we considered getting rid of the composter after it was knocked over a few times and we heard from neighbors that the bears were getting into a number of composters. Seed-filled bird feeders will attract hungry bears along with other common cottage items such as sweet, fruit-filled, composters and dirty BBQs. Actions that encourage bears to look for food near humans should be discouraged as they will learn to seek the easier food sources if they are available and interactions with humans near composters and feeders can lead to injuries and, more likely, increased bear killings. At our cottage we like the idea of composting as it reduces the garbage that goes to the landfill and makes great soil for our planters. When we considered the bear problem we thought that other than getting rid of the composter, we could either build solid stone composters that the bears can't get into or we could make the composter uninteresting as a food source. Composters need both green and brown materials to stay healthy and not get smelly; a balanced and aerated composter is not likely of interest to a bear. For the past 4 years at our cottage we have continued to compost on a more limited basis during the spring and summer months by eliminating the sweet materials that the bears seem to be attracted to. Fruit, such as blueberries, strawberries, or peaches, and any meat, protein or fatty products go into the garbage when necessary. We still compost other materials such as tea bags, green leafy veggies, cucumber and carrot peels, coffee grounds, and even banana peels. While we have had bears around the cottage, we have watched them walk straight past the composter with no interest. Each cottage and family have different situations but perhaps a modified approach to composting is right for you?



Environment...Sandy Thompson

The bottle says it's Biodegradable, so I can wash my hair in the lake, right?

As consumers, we see all sorts of terms used on packaging and in marketing these days. As cottagers and stewards of the Cognashene environment, we need to be cautious and somewhat skeptical about claims on products to ensure that we are not inadvertently damaging the lake or the environment. The term biodegradable is one of those that has been used and misused widely, it's no wonder there is confusion. It's a common belief that if something is 'biodegradable' that it can be thrown on the ground or disposed of in the lake and it will 'be fine' or will not 'pollute' the environment.

The misuse of these words is also called "Greenwashing" to make something sound 'green' or good for commercial purposes. The word 'biodegradable' has a wide variety of meanings and there is very little regulation or agreement on what can be labeled as biodegradable. Some examples of definitions include:

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary (online): capable of being broken down especially into innocuous products by the action of living things (as microorganisms)

- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM): a degradation caused by biological activity, especially by enzymatic action, leading to a significant change in the chemical structure of the material.

- The European Union deems a material biodegradable if it will break down into mostly water, carbon dioxide and organic matter within six months

Most sources agree that for something to biodegrade there needs to be an aerobic system (meaning that there is oxygen present) that has light, air, and a living organism to break the material down (there are special bacteria that live and thrive in anaerobic environments but they are not

in Georgian Bay). For a material or chemical in a product to biodegrade, the temperature, amount of light and water, type of bacteria/microorganism all have to be right for that specific product. The challenge with labeling products as biodegradable is that the manufacturer would have to define the specific conditions under which they tested their product and we would have to ensure to dispose of the product in just that way for the product to break down as advertised.

In the past I have asked cosmetic companies, with products labeled as biodegradable, to define what they mean and how long it takes for their product to biodegrade. I have yet to get a response from any of them. Recently I saw a new shampoo that was marketed as "Biodegradable" from a cosmetics line that I use and trust, making it sound like I should be able to jump in and wash my hair in the lake with it. When you read the details of the shampoo further, they state that 92% of the materials in the shampoo are biodegradable.

They do not give the conditions, time for the biodegradation to occur or what happens to the other 8% of the product? Do these other chemicals just bio accumulate in the lake or could they actually be toxic to other plant and aquatic life in the lake?

Camp soaps are often labeled as biodegradable and they are, if they are used properly. Camp soap is not intended to be used directly in the lake. It is intended to be disposed of in a pit on land (or a dug latrine on a campsite) that allows for the biodegradation materials in the soil before the by-products reach the

water. Similarly, our septic systems are designed to provide an active aerobic environment that allows for the biodegradation of our commonly used and disposed of household materials before they enter the environment and possibly migrate back to the lake (the rest gets pumped out and treated at a municipal wastewater treatment plant). The proper maintenance, siting (it has to be far enough from the water to allow for the biodegradation to occur fully), and care regarding to what

Breakdown time of some common products scattered about as litter:

Cotton rags...	1-5 months
Paper...	2-5 months
Rope...	3-14 months
Orange peels...	6 months
Wool socks...	1 to 5 years
Cigarette butts...	1 to 12 years
Plastic coated paper milk cartons...	5 years
Leather shoes...	25 to 40 years
Nylon fabric...	30 to 40 years
Plastic 6-pack holder Rings...	450 years
Glass bottles...	1 million years
Plastic bottles...	Forever

is put into your septic system is important to for it to do its job controlling contamination from entering our lakes.

Biodegrading and having a chemical “break down” are not the same thing. Even harmful chemicals such as the banned pesticide DDT can break down into daughter compounds that can be just as harmful to humans and the environment. To biodegrade the material should end up as water, carbon dioxide and organic matter so that these building blocks can be reused in the natural environment.

So, after all that.....What can we do?

- Never use soap/detergents/shampoos directly in the lake or where they can drain directly into the lake
- Read labels critically for “Greenwashing” terms when deciding what to use at the cottage (or home)



The Bay is not a bathtub, please do not use soaps and shampoos in the lake!

•A good rule of thumb – if you wouldn’t drink it, it shouldn’t go directly into our water source

•In the city, remember that washing a car in your driveway with soap usually puts that soap directly into the lake without any treatment as city storm sewers usually lead directly to the lakes and rivers.

•Clean up trash and cigarette butts that can allow chemicals to leach into the lake. Cigarette butts are not ‘biodegradable’. Depending on where they are dropped they can take from 1-12 years to breakdown and can add chemicals, such as nicotine, to our

drinking water source which water treatment systems are not designed to deal with.

•Keep chemicals and fuels away from the water so they do not ‘wash’ in accidentally

Regatta...Margaret Eaton-Kent

The 88th Annual Cognashene Cottagers Association Regatta was blessed with wonderful weather and the enthusiastic contributions of volunteers and participants! Once again, we were graciously hosted by the Kohler, Davis and Endress families, many thanks for all your help. The Regatta truly runs through the efforts of the volunteers, a tremendous group of individuals, many of whom have been involved for years, and this year was no different. From set-up to clean-up, everyone really gave of their time, their expertise and sound judgement to create a fun experience for everyone. It's a very social event!



I am delighted to take my turn running one of Cognashene's foundational events, in which I am indebted to all my predecessors, whose organizational expertise and support made the task, if not entirely simple, enjoyable, and not entirely nerve-wracking! Special thanks goes to Nancy Bennett for her invaluable guidance, the Raffle team (Nancy Bennett, Joy Uniac, Joy Rychlik) for all the great donations and sponsorships, and to the special guests we welcomed this year: the Coast Guard (Nancy Setchell's idea and invitation: thank-you!) and Stop the Drop. And congratulations to all the winners and participants, we all had fun together! Look for pictures by Matthew Hawley (thank-you!) and others on the website.

The teams all did a fabulous job of organizing the selves and working together: the set-up crew, race starters, judges, scorekeepers, boat holders and rescue people, the Raffle group, the cupcake crew, and after-party presenters! Thank-you all so much! And thank-you to everyone for supporting the Raffle: it covered the trophies, medals and ribbons, volunteer T-shirts (which I must say looked great!) pop and after-party food and drinks, and we still were able to give \$741 to the CCA for the Recreation program!



There is a tremendous amount of interconnectedness in the design of the Regatta events, that supports the way our community develops in one of the most beautiful places in the world. It is a privilege for me to take part in the event. Many of the volunteers have developed such an expertise that it is a marvel to behold! Some volunteers may wish to develop further, or more, or less, involvement, next year. Please let me know of any requests, at meatonkent@gmail.com. Of course, donations to the Raffle are always welcome!

"Please remember to appreciate the contributions of local businesses to the Regatta, we can support them as they support us." Maybe put it in after the bit about interconnectedness developing our community...

Your CCA Board

Doug Deeks: President



I grew up in Cognashene. Three generations came before me on Minnicog island, in the southwest quarter of the area, and my wife Melanie and I seem to have now pushed the family lines to a fifth generation as we count 4 in tow. Kirby's beach, the Store and Aunt Edna's were all familiar spots to my youth as was the Mead/Grant bay for regatta. Along with my cousin Mike McCullough, I pioneered the paper route and picked up the now long forgotten garbage route from others, spending all hours of my teenage days traversing the islands of Cognashene. A keen interest in the natural environment led to an invitation to join the Board of the CCA in 2005, where I have served with past presidents David Allen, David Matthews, Craig Bowden and Wendy Parker along with some 40 other members of our community. In my spare time, I manage the capital and project planning program for a commercial rooftop solar developer and am based in Toronto.

Wendy Parker: Past President...and acting Secretary

First and foremost, I am a cottager, and have been since arriving here as a baby. Our particular version of Eden has been in family for more that a hundred years and most of the property remains as untamed as it was in the beginning.

I was invited to join the board in 2005 and have been busy with the affairs of the 'Bay' ever since, as SPG member, GBA Rep, secretary, vice president, president and past president with the secretarial position intertwined where needed. During my tenure as GBA rep I've been chair of their Lands and Forest Committee. Before that I was a somewhat reclusive cottager who depended on others to look after what I enjoyed most, the peace and incredible beauty of the place.

I am hoping to return soon, to my status as a retired Veterinarian and Clinical professor at the Ontario Veterinary College, U of G. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the board and the caring and devoted community of Cognashene. Who new you were all such a wonderful bunch of folks? I know the CCA will be in good hands for the future.



Doug Carr: Treasurer

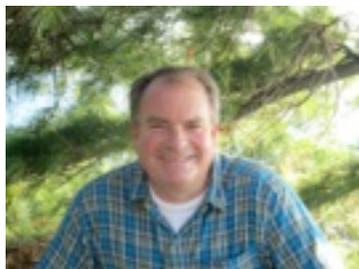
Doug acquired his love of Georgian Bay as a boy at Camp Hurontario in Twelve Mile Bay, and shortly thereafter acquired a cottage in Cognashene. 80% of his kids have been campers and counsellors at Hurontario. He is a fellow of the Institutes of Chartered Professional Accountants and Chartered Accountants of Ontario, who spent most of his career as a partner of KPMG. Following retirement from KPMG he was then the Chief Financial Officer of the Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan for several years. He has served on the boards of a number of companies, as well as many health, educational, and arts related organizations. He has been on the Board and Treasurer of the Cognashene Cottagers' Association for the last five years. He and his wife Margarete have 5 children and 6 grandchildren, who all enjoy the cottage as often as they can.



Ian Davis: Director of Planning

A lifelong resident of Cognashene from April through October with family history dating back to the early 1900's. Married to Rose Davis (nee Hewitt) born and raised in Honey Harbour with family roots as far back as the 18th century. Our four boys Spencer, William, Robert and Kerr share our love of the bay and have spent most of their summers either in the Rec program, delivering papers, painting, clearing brush and just about anything that is asked of them except for cleaning their rooms.

We cottage on Townsend Island, the last island to the east just before you enter the open bay. We are a rather congested island, yet share it with siblings, relatives and friends. I winter in Brampton not far from where I grew up and where my parents still live to this day. I own Full Circle Systems Inc. of Richmond Hill which specializes in Energy and Project Management Services.



My portfolio (Director of Planning) is relatively new, and was established shortly after the passing of the Cognashene Community Plan. As Director of Planning I have responsibilities that include input into the Official Plan, as well as most development applications that appear before the Committee of Adjustment and/or Council. It is a challenging portfolio yet with the assistance of the Cognashene

Planning Advisory Group (CPAG), the Board and select members of the Cognashene Community we try our best to strike a balance between development and the preservation of our community plan.

For more information or should you wish to become more involved please feel free to contact me through the CCA.

Derek Friend: Services Director, Planning and Advisory Group Member

Derek is a life long cottager and who came to Georgian Bay in 1984. He enjoys canoeing, stand up paddle boarding, and cottage repair. He is a lawyer in Midland and has a Bachelor of Arts degree, a Master of Arts degree, a Bachelor of Laws, and a Master of Laws. He's an active mediator and adjudicates civil disputes. Derek is an active boater and is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (Search and Rescue) in Penetanguishene. He and Jacqueline share their cottage with Zander and Quinn.



Jane Starr: Rec Program

Jane Starr joined the Board this year on the Recreation portfolio. For three years, Jane was a member of the Hiring Committee, and this past summer was co-Director of the Recreation Program alongside Ann Nicholls. Jane worked as a teacher and administrator for the Toronto Board of Education and Kingsway College School, and now runs Right Track Educational Services, supporting children and families through their educational journeys. Jane is a busy volunteer in her community during the cottage off-season, and enjoys sports, movies, and social media. Along with her two kids, dog, cat, and husband, Jane is counting down the days until cottage season 2014!



Chris Hawley: Chair, Membership Committee



From Monday-Thursday I am known as Dr. Hawley, even at home. Friday - Sunday it's Chris.

I am fortunate enough to be a 3rd generation cottager in the Honey Harbour and Cognashene area. As I commonly say, "I work in the city, I live at the cottage". I am extremely happily married to my first and only, amazing wife Nina for 33 yrs. We have 2 offspring: Sarah, 26, and Matthew (the regatta photographer), 23. Both are passionate about the cottage or at least the social life around it. In actual fact, they grew up through the rec programme and their life long friends have developed from there.

I have been involved in the development of our Community OP (official plan), CPAG, and now "volunteered" to the Chair of the Membership Committee. My passion (other than my wife), is that my children can enjoy Cognashene as I have, for the past 60 yrs. Participating in the development of our OP and watching the affects and effects of our OP on several fronts, has focused my efforts on not only the environment, but the community spirit of Cognashene. My first goal was the development of the CCA Survey. I hope those of you who filled it out had a fabulous experience. My next goal is to increase and improve the membership experience. If you have any comments or suggestions please contact me through the CCA Website (only positive comments accepted).

Bob Snider: Director of Municipal Affairs

Growing up, family outings during the summer always included launching the "big boat" in the Bay at North West Basin and heading for Honey Harbour, Big Chute or the Musquash River. After many years of cruising Georgian Bay and waters as far south as the Bahamas, we returned to Georgian Bay and purchased Delasco Island in the Musquash Channel.

I believe that all members of the Cognashene community are stewards of the natural heritage and have a shared responsibility to ensure that the distinctive community character is preserved for future generations. As Director of Municipal Affairs I pay attention to activities at the Municipal level and how proposed changes or lack of action may affect the community of Cognashene.

Married to Charlotte, with one daughter, Andrea, I am an engineer by training and now retired after two decades of business ownership in the manufacturing sector.



Brian Neely: Director of Communication



My first trip to Cognashene was in the summer of '72. Up until then I had been spending my summers in Muskoka. We were very fortunate to have friends on the Bay who continually invited us back and in 1988 Diane and I purchased the most northern point on Burnt Island, at the mouth of the shadow. Over the next four years we built our cottage (that's not entirely accurate as I feel we're constantly under construction) and along with our daughter Heather and son Michael we have met and made lifetime friends. I have been assisting the CCA over the last 8 years as a member of the SPG working on the Community Plan.

Today, I am the Chief Operating Officer of Comlink Telecommunications, a software application development company, and with my two partners we over see an operation with offices in Toronto, Seattle, Washington DC, New York and Mumbai.

Sandy Thompson: Environment Director

Sandy has loved every minute of the time she has had at her family cottage on Portage Island for the last 29 years and is excited to be back in Ontario and able to spend more time in Cognashene. Sandy has a BScH in Biology from Queens and a BEd from the University of Windsor. Sandy worked as a naturalist at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Center and taught Grade 7 and 8 science in Toronto before moving to Chicago to start her career as an environmental consultant where she lived for 10 years.

Sandy moved back to Toronto 2 years ago and continues to work as an environmental consultant out of Toronto. This is actually Sandy's second time joining the CCA board, the first time being right before her move to Chicago which resulted in that position being cut very short. Sandy is in endless awe of the beauty and resilience of nature and is continually learning about the species and ecosystems in Georgian Bay and their unique qualities. Sandy has a keen interest in water quality, water levels, biodiversity, our role as stewards of the Bay, any cool random facts about the flora, fauna, geology, history etc. related to Georgian Bay and Cognashene, and sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with CCA members young and old. Sandy looks forward to meeting those that she has not met and hearing about your interests, concerns, and knowledge of the Bay.



Classified...



FOR RENT:

Cognashene cottage available the last week of June and the first week of July, summer 2014. The cottage sleeps 8 comfortably. There is also a boat with 40 HP 4 stroke Yamaha engine included.

Please contact Robert Baines at bbaines@gmail.com for further information.

Hope you have, or had, a wonderful Thanksgiving!