



WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

CCA BOARD

President - Sue Carter
Vice President - Vacant
Past President - Tom Halpenny
Treasurer - Andrew Carr
Secretary - Laura Jarvis
Membership - Kara Hunter

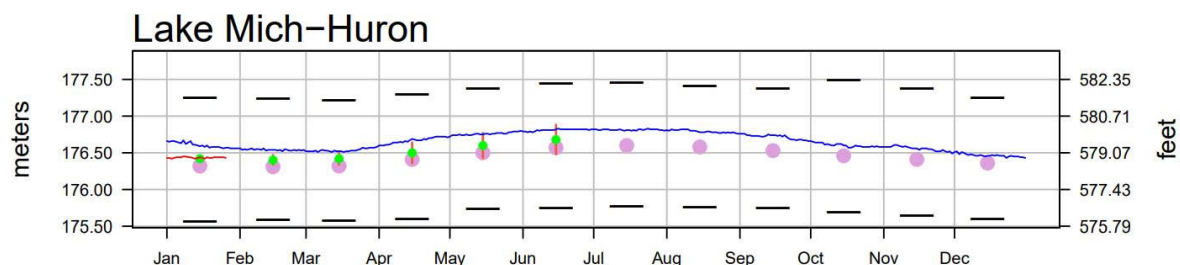
Communications - Matthew Hawley
Rec. Program - Jenna Lynde
Cottager - Barb Russell
Services - Jim Bowden
Technology - James Maynard
Community Events - Catherine Gillespie

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 and happy 2023 to all our CCA families! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday with family and friends. It seems so distant now however we all know that this is when the countdown begins to cottage season!

As we are all aware, temperatures have been above normal so far this season throughout the basin. Lake Michigan-Huron continues to be below the level it was at this time last year. The United States Army Corps of Engineers is predicting that the most likely outcome is that the Lake Michigan-Huron level will continue declining through January, levelling off in February, and then rising through March and into May.



It has been a busy fall for your CCA board members. The Ontario government's Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 was very quickly passed by the Legislature and received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. This, amid a tremendous amount of criticism and concern that it will significantly undermine environmental protections and, remove safeguards in the planning approval process. Your Board shares these potential concerns and, with the GBA's help, we sent out an e-blast to our members encouraging a campaign of letter writing to your local MPP voicing your concerns. To date I believe they have received over 550 emails from the cottagers' campaign. We will be keeping our eye on how things unfold going forward.

The Township of Georgian Bay is going through the budgeting process for 2023 as I write this report. The initial drafts proposed a significant tax increase to the taxpayers and as such your association sent a letter to the Mayor and Council on behalf of our members voicing our concerns and opposition to such an increase. The Council met again this past Monday (Jan 30th) and you can find further information on that meeting in Gregg Badger's submission for Municipal Affairs in this newsletter.

Also going on in the background is the monitoring of the Winter Patrol, the interviewing and hiring of Recreation staff, the gathering of pictures and articles for compilation in this year's Cottager, work on a new community map and membership renewals to name a few. We have a wonderful group of volunteers serving on your Board without whom these events, advocacies and services could not exist for our community. So thank you one and all!

I wish everyone a continued safe and healthy winter and look forward to seeing you on the Bay in a few short months!

Warm regards,

Sue Carter
CCA President

Municipal Affairs

Taxes, taxes, taxes are the main issue at the Township of Georgian Bay ("TGB") these days. The first drafts of the 2023 budget had taxes going up some 47% over 4 years. The last draft #3 submitted Jan 30 had a 21.7% increase in the TGB portion (about 1/3 of our total tax bill, with District of Muskoka and Education being the balance), supporting a TGB operating deficit of about \$1.4mm on an \$8mm TGB budget.

I wrote personally to Council expressing my dismay early in the process, and CCA wrote to Council before their last meeting expressing our collective concern and offering to suggest services we could do without, once CCA gets answers to a host of questions.

Thankfully, concerns of taxpayers have been taken to heart and each councilor supported a motion to: 1) analyze expenses per object/service for the last 5 years, which would at least give visibility to where TGB expenses have gone off-side; 2) analyze what has been downloaded from other levels of government and other costs (like insurance) that TGB has no flexibility on; and 3) give staff a mandate to review their portfolios and come up with 20% savings. So Council is looking for ways to cut and/or to give a rationale for why taxes need to go up. The overall tax increase would be more like 9%, because education goes up 0% and the District 5%, but that doesn't mitigate the fact that TGB's finances look to be out of control. CCA cannot count on much of a TGB grant this year.

Stay tuned. More info will come in e-blasts as matters develop. The next Council meeting is Feb 13. Anyone can tune in through the TGB Council portal and the budget presentations are also available there should you wish to be further informed.

Gregg Badger
Municipal Affairs Director

Rec Program 2023

The Rec Program has begun the hiring process for Summer 2023. Registration for the Rec Program will open sometime in March to families.

A new Summer Recreation Program website has also been launched. This website will deal specifically with information about the Recreation Program and will serve as a source of frequently updated information during the summer months for things like:

- Swimming lesson times
- Weather updates
- Schedules
- Staff bios
- and much more

We encourage families of participants to check back regularly as the summer approaches for new updates and information.

The Cognashene Summer Recreation Program Website:

https://secure-web.cisco.com/1-2K6fJNlRzQdFk0PihxFyxI58jEkYPTUPcM9XjxzEqu-n2j148eDVxbU0YEnyHJ0ImvU61TG2k6da1MsvUSik79cf6airTc-dLtkY12qmRhs6XL3OAAh-Sktf8PL5AjxXasB7NTOw-pr7F2KtHR8OGdT4KSIXF0o8tJDZVvGT-yrd-cdmj2jWMOQaVTbUuDjdpXuJ9g-51P04SGFfpPxbCtPAkSCswyeyJaFCKnkDhPah5zIcwXFIZuDD5a0wCFV_gh7RHVGI6ssEFOYGknKTTuATtgIprxSYcKCL6deMHqgMiHsilnsY77DLGWG/https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fview%2Fcca-rec-program

Applications to Staff and Volunteers can also be submitted through the above website.

Additional information to the CCA Rec Program 2023 will be sent out March 2023.

In addition you can follow us on Instagram at @cogrecreation or on Facebook at Cognashene Recreation Program.

Thanks!

Jenna Lynde
Rec Program Director



Community Events

CALL FOR ARTISTS

On Sunday JULY 30 12-4:30, the CCA board will hold Art on the Rocks © concentrating on artists who have local connections. The show is located at the southern tip of Maxwell/Whalen Island (at the Gillespie's CCA map M42). We provide a free shuttle/jitney service to larger boats that anchor in the bay as the dock space is limited.

In previous shows, artists and crafters have displayed a wide variety of artwork including paintings, pottery, photography, stained glass, woodwork, jewelry and culinary arts. We encourage artworks that are inspired by the unique Georgian Bay landscape. The event is well attended by Cognashene and Honey Harbour cottagers, their friends and neighbours from surrounding communities. It is a great way to get together outside with people you have been missing for the past few summers.

Hopefully, this year there will be no pandemic restrictions and no thunderstorms and we can all gather to see your Georgian Bay Friends and Family while perusing wonderful art inspired by the place we all love!

If you know or are a talented artist, especially if they employ an outdoor or Georgian Bay theme and they have access to water transportation, Please have them contact communityevents@cognashene.com All the proceeds of artists fees go to Cognashene Cottagers Association.

Catherine Gillespie
Community Events



ART on the ROCKS
Sunday July 30

12:00-4:30
rain, shine or wind

30th Event
Maxwell/ Whalen's Island
on the inside main channel
M42 on Cognashene map

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

Questions? 705.756.1621
or 716.517.0855

CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS
contact
communityevents@cognashene.com