



President's Message...page 1-2

Recreation Report...page 3-4

Recreation Program "wish list" ...page 4

Planning Director's Report...page 5-6

Winter Patrol...page 6

Cottage for Rent...page 6

Newsletter Update...page 6

Georgian Bay Township Noise By-law....page 7

## President's Message

*Doug Deeks*

It's mid-February and the ice is finally in, though coverage across the broader Bay and across the upper lakes is very limited relative to average coverage for this time of year. Ice cover and consistent cold weather play a significant role in the annual water cycle of the lakes, acting as a regulator by slowing water losses while also building a reserve in the snow pack to replenish levels come spring. In 2012 this regulator was absent, providing minimal ice cover to protect against evaporation and virtually no reserve. Those conditions,

combined with a year of precipitation that fell 10% below the average for the upper lakes watershed, has resulted in the distress that many have expressed over the last 3 months as levels have bobbed along at *the* all-time low.

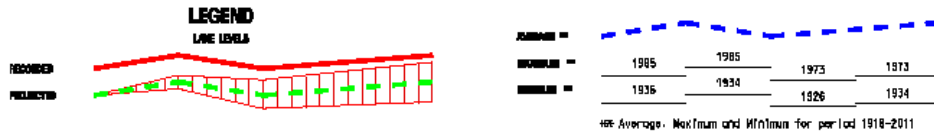
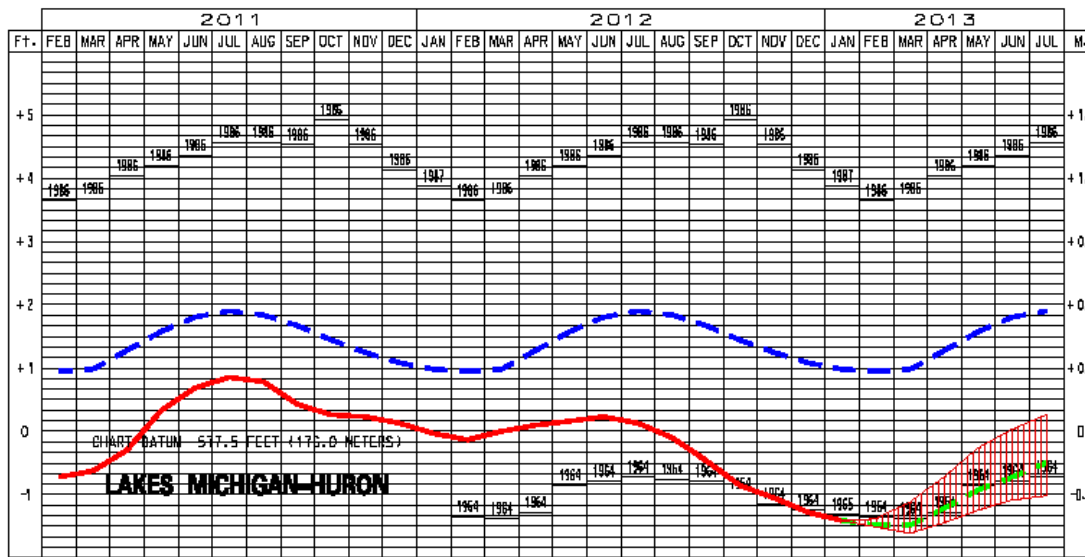
Levels for the Bay are currently 40 cm (15") below this time last year. We are now past the low point of the annual water cycle (Dec/Jan) and under normal conditions levels would start to rise from now until July when they would start down the backside of the cycle. In 2012, the upside of the cycle never took place. The levels in July were the same as those for January, and it is that fact that offers some

reason to expect the current water levels to rise between now and when you next grace your shores in the spring. How much of a rise will entirely depend on how long winter persists (and acts as the "regulator") and how much precipitation comes down.

I still expect levels in the spring to be very low but as it appears now, they will lift off somewhat from the all-time low. The projection for 2013 from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) looks like this:

(Continued page 2)

LAKES MICHIGAN-HURON WATER LEVELS - FEBRUARY 2013



Within that chart you can see that the annual cycle typically experiences a swing of about 20cm (8") and over the last 12 months the Bay has experienced double that amount and when combined with the downward trajectory of the last 15 years, we are indeed now about 75cms (2.5') below the long term average. That is a lot of water now sitting in the Atlantic Ocean.

Look for more updates on this subject in the GBA Update attached with this mailing.

While water levels seem to have filled the talk of this off-season, there has been plenty of other activity as issues like the Ward boundary and Official Plan

continue to cycle along at the Municipal offices of the Twp of GB with some promise of finality as we break into April. Our refreshed recreation program is looking fantastic and the summer calendar is already filling up! With the ice in, Dennis Robitaille is making swift progress through the second sweep of three through all CCA member properties providing peace of mind while our cottages sit idle and exposed. We are looking for a member of the community to step in and take the helm of the environment portfolio and a great way to get started with that would be to join the Enviro Day committee which is starting to pull plans together

for next summer's event. You can contact me directly on that item.

Please catch up on all of the activity that your Board has been involved in with this issue, and also, with that of GBA and GBF, whose excellent updates are included.

All the best for the balance of the winter!

Doug  
[dougdeeks@gmail.com](mailto:dougdeeks@gmail.com)

## Recreation Report...*Ann Nicholls and Jane Starr*

The results are in and we are listening! Thanks to everyone who responded to the Recreation Survey. Your feedback is appreciated and we are using your suggestions to make changes to the Recreation Program for Summer 2013!

The feedback was incredibly positive. Overall satisfaction with the program was very high with over 50% of respondents indicating that they were either "very satisfied" or "mostly satisfied" with the program. Over 40% of respondents were "mostly satisfied" with Swimming and the Canoe Trip. YPOC and Sailing also ranked very high in overall satisfaction. Crafts seem to be an area that we can make some improvements. We'll be looking into fun and new craft ideas for all ages this summer!

It was also noted that most people feel that the program offers excellent value for the cost. Cottagers recognized that our program is very economical for the activities offered, particularly when compared with other camps and cottager associations. The majority of respondents also indicated that a fee increase would be reasonable. As such, the cost of the program will increase in order to address revenue issues and to be more in line with other swimming and recreation programs. We feel these increases are fair, and remain competitive, not only for those people who use the program all summer, but also for those who may use it less frequently.



There was a recommendation for a Beach "network" on email, so that groups can start "boat pools" for bringing kids back and forth to the programs. This communication system can also share other important information such as Ladies' Party details, changes to program due to weather, or anything else that should be communicated to recreation families.

Many respondents shared plenty of positive feedback and constructive ideas about staffing and staff training, all of which we will share directly with the 2013 staff in the spring. We are fortunate to have a great pool of applicants for the program, all of whom bring unique experiences and qualifications. Our goal is to help them further develop their leadership skills through training and staff team building sessions.

There is demand for an online registration and payment system. It is unlikely that we will have something in place for this coming summer, however we recognize the convenience that such a system would bring and we will look into this for future summers.

Regarding the weekly schedule, many respondents felt that we should continue to keep one full day free of programs so that families can do other outings, or just take the day off. As such, Thursday will be left open, with the exception of Bronze classes and teen programs.

There was a suggestion that we offer a "Teen" program to the members who are 13 and over, such as a dance or bonfire. One respondent suggested that a Teen Community Service Program be started that would encourage teens to volunteer in the community, giving back to others, and the environment in many ways. We will work with our staff

to determine if such activities can be coordinated, and to develop fun and relevant programs for the teenagers of Cognashene.

Additionally, it was suggested that the CCA needs a “clubhouse”: a common building where activities for all ages are offered and a “community” meeting place. While this is not something that will happen quickly, such a facility could become a gathering place for people who do not use the beach, or attend church. It has been added to the wish list and has been recommended to the CCA board.

Again, the feedback from the survey is extremely helpful, not just for this coming summer, but for future planning purposes. We appreciate everyones comments and responses, and will continue to be open to any suggestions that member, as well as non-members, may put forward. Should you wish to contact us, please send your messages to Ann Nicholls ([daveandannie@sympatico.ca](mailto:daveandannie@sympatico.ca)) or Jane Starr ([janestarr23@gmail.com](mailto:janestarr23@gmail.com)) .

## Recreation Program Wish List

As we prepare for next summers Recreation Program, we have created a list of supplies that we will need to make the program work. If you are able to donate any the following items, or have suggestions of where we can purchase them at competitive prices, we would really appreciate it!

- Coolers to store kids' lunch bags in on longer days
- Portable sound system (battery or solar-powered)
- Gently used kayaks and paddles
- New craft supplies (foam shapes, paper, paints, paint brushes, glue, scissors, glitter, construction paper, yarn, markers, craft paper, etc)
- New spinal board
- New buoys
- Garbage pail
- “Lily Pad” raft
- Sports equipment: various balls, pylons, nets, racquets, bean bags, pool noodles, hula hoops, etc.
- 2-3 shelters to be erected on very hot or wet days (such as the tent tops used at parties/events, can be purchased at Costco)

Please contact Jane Starr ([janestarr23@gmail.com](mailto:janestarr23@gmail.com)) or Ann Nicholls ([daveandannie@sympatico.ca](mailto:daveandannie@sympatico.ca)) if you are able to help. Thank You.

## Planning Director's Report...*Ian Davis*

The 2nd Draft of the Official Plan is being rolled out. Two public meetings are scheduled, and the notice below is a copy of the communication sent to residents and cottagers alike.

This second important planning announcement is an amendment to By-law 91-19. At present the amendment does not include Cognashene yet the Township is seeking comments from the Cognashene community. The proposed amendment will allow for a substantial increase in dock lengths. The present by-law restricts dock length to 20m (66'), the proposed amendment will allow dock lengths to increase up to a maximum length of 40m (132'). Please note, Go Home Bay (GHB) has opted out, therefore any increase in dock lengths beyond the 20m limit will require a minor variance and approval by the Committee of Adjustment.

The amendment will use a formula to calculate the allowable increase in dock length. As I understand the by-law, if you currently have water depth at the end of your dock that provides 5' of height from the bottom to the top of your dock you will not be permitted an increase if you are at the by-law maximum of 20m. On the other hand, should the depth at the end of your dock equal a value less than 5', you will be able to add to your dock length to a distance that will provide the 5' depth but not to exceed 40m. Any extension to must be a floating dock. The draft by-law can be viewed on the Township Website.

Please send any comments to me at [ian@fullcirclesys.com](mailto:ian@fullcirclesys.com) or any member of your CCA executive.

Lastly, we our seeking support for our Honey Harbour Marina Operators. Due to low water levels many of our marina operators have applied for permission to dredge simply to maintain their existing inventory of accessible docks for their customers. The problem that they are encountering include, significant delays for approval, and much red tape.

**HAVE YOUR SAY, GEORGIAN BAY!**  
**We invite you to join us on**  
**Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 at 2:00**  
**p.m.**  
**at the Baxter Ward Community Centre**  
**(279 Honey Harbour Road, Port Severn)**  
**OR**  
**Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013 at 7:00**  
**p.m.**  
**at Homewood Suites by Hilton in Vaughan**  
**(618 Applewood Crescent, Room York 'A')**  
**for a**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**regarding the**  
**2ND DRAFT OF THE OFFICIAL PLAN**

The Public Meetings will involve a presentation by the Planning Consultant, followed by a comment, question and answer period. The presentations at both Public Meetings will be identical.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the Official Plan can be viewed on the Township of Georgian Bay's website at [www.gbtownship.ca/content/official-plan-review](http://www.gbtownship.ca/content/official-plan-review) or viewed at the Township's Administration Building (99 Lone Pine Road, Port Severn).

Submit your comments and questions about the 2nd Draft of the Official Plan to the Deputy Clerk, Jessica Gunby at [jgunby@gbtownship.ca](mailto:jgunby@gbtownship.ca).

(Continues Page 5)

Should you have the time a letter or email directed to your local MP, MPP and Minister of Natural Resources will emphasize the urgency and hardship their delay in approvals is creating.

Please direct your correspondence to any, or all of, the following individuals:

**Norm Miller M.P.P.**

Room 440, Legislative Building, Queen's Park

Toronto, Ontario

M7A 1A8 Canada

Phone: 416.325.1012

Fax: 416.325.1153

Email: [norm.miller@pc.ola.org](mailto:norm.miller@pc.ola.org)

**Tony Clement M.P**

44A King William Street (Main Office)

Huntsville, Ontario

P1H 1G3

Phone: 705.789.4640

Fax: 705.789.885

Email: [Tony.Clement@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Clement@parl.gc.ca)

**Hon. David Oraziotti - Minister of Natural Resources**

Ministry of Natural Resources

Suite 6521, 6th Floor, Whitney Block

99 Wellesley Street West

Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

Phone: 416-314-6467

Fax: 416-314-6470

Email: [doraziotti.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:doraziotti.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

**Looking forward to spring!**

**Ian Davis**

**Director of Planning**

**Winter Patrol...Wendy Parker**



Dennis Robitaille has just finished the second cottage inspection and all is well except for one break-in which has been reported to the owner. The final inspection should be completed in March before the ice goes out. Thanks Dennis!

**Cottage for Rent...Pass it on!**

Very comfortable, well furnished Cognashene cottage near Kennebeck Island and the Freddy Channel. Available the first two weeks of July and/or last two weeks of August, or month of September. Sleeps 5-7

For more information please contact Nancy @ [nancyhoggson@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhoggson@gmail.com) or call 802.649.5740.

**Newsletter Updates...Laura Adams**

Watch for the next CCA Newsletter coming to you towards the end of May. **If you would like to include content** (rental property, services of interest etc.) in the next edition, **please forward to me @ [lauraeadams@sympatico.ca](mailto:lauraeadams@sympatico.ca)** .

Also, please visit [www.cognashene.com](http://www.cognashene.com) for contact information, registration forms, events and dates.

Enjoy what remains of winter; looking forward to spring!

## Georgian Bay Township Noise By-law (2012-100)...*Bob Snider*

For several months now the Georgian Bay Township staff and Council have been considering a new Noise By-law. In February 2013, this new By-law will again come before council to be approved. It will replace By-law 80-474. By-Law 2012-100 is not yet posted on the Township's Civic website, but as of the writing of this article, the most recent version can be found here:

<https://georgianbay.civicweb.net/FileStorage/EFDA1BF24DFF4D93BCD712A570235DB5-By-law%2012-100%20NoiseCotrolBy-law.pdf>

**What is the purpose of the Noise By-law?** The by-law states that residents of the Township "should have an environment free from unusual, unnecessary or excessive noise which may degrade the quality and tranquility of their life or cause nuisance or disruption." I think all residents would agree with this.

**When is a noise a noise?** You often hear the question "if a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" The by-law takes a similar approach. A noise is a noise if clearly audible at a point of reception. Point of reception does not include any point on the premises where the sound originates from. In other words, you cannot walk over to your neighbor's property and complain about their dog barking all night unless you can clearly hear the dog at your property.

**When does a noise become a nuisance or disruption?** The by-law divides the emission of sound into two categories – those sounds that shall not be emitted at any time (General Prohibition) and those activities that emit sound and are not permitted during specific times and locations (Limitations by Time and Place). Sounds which cannot be heard beyond your premises are not considered a nuisance or disruption.

**What is covered by the General Prohibition?** The following are some of the noises included under the General Prohibition: squealing tires, an unmuffled combustion engine, barking by a dog continuously for more than 30 minutes, human sounds (yelling, singing

etc) after 11 PM and before 7 AM and discharge of fire arms for other than lawful hunting, gun clubs or law enforcement.

**What is covered by the Limitations by Time and Place?** The following are some of the activities included under the Limitation by Time and Place in waterfront areas: sound from electronic devices with speakers - restricted from 11 PM to 7 AM, operation of construction equipment including chain saws – restricted from 9 PM to 7 AM except on Sundays when the restriction is extended to 9 AM, operation of a motorized conveyance (includes cars, trucks, atvs and snowmobiles, but not boats & air boats) other than on a highway or authorized trail – restricted from 11 PM to 7 AM.

**Are there exemptions from the Noise by-law?** There are several exemptions to the by-law including, emergency measures, normal farming activities, exemptions granted by the Township by application for up to 6 months, religious activities and a few others.

**How is the by-law enforced?** Enforcement of the by-law may be done by any "Officer" whether a Township By-Law Officer, Peace Officer or Conservation Officer. Officers may respond by their own initiative or in response to a complaint. Complaints to the By-Law Enforcement Officer may be made through the Township offices.

**What are the penalties for contravention of the by-law?** Fines under the by-law for causing or permitting an infraction are set at \$150.00.

Specific questions on interpretation should be forwarded to the Chief Administrative Officer at the Township. Questions and concerns to either Councilor Pat Edwards ([edwardsgbtwp@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsgbtwp@gmail.com)) or Councilor Paul Wiancko ([paul.wiancko@gmail.com](mailto:paul.wiancko@gmail.com)).