



Your New CCA Board

Bob Snider, President
Ian Davis, Past President
Andrew Carr, Treasurer
Laura Jarvis, Secretary
Laura Adams, Communications
Sue Carter, Membership
Robyn Corbiere, Rec Program
Catherine Gillespie,
 Community Events
Tom Halpenny, Services
Stephen Jarvis, Municipal
 Affairs
Rolfe Jones, GBA
 Representative
James Maynard, Web Master
Bill Sayers, Planning
Sandy Thompson,
 Environment

Next edition will follow
 mid-winter.

President's Message: *Bob Snider*

Charlotte and I made our last trip to the cottage this past week to pull the water and complete a few final tasks. As I stood on the back dock enjoying the clear skies, warm sun and light breeze I was struck by how high the water level has remained through the fall. A quick check of the Corp of Engineers Daily Water Levels site confirmed that at the end of October year over year Lake Huron is 150 cm (6") higher. I'm guessing the soggy spring, summer and fall is having an impact on lake water levels. Something I am not guessing at is if the water level rises again this next year I will be forced to deal with the ramp that runs up hill to the dock and the shore structure that threatens to float away every time the wind blows an extra foot of water our way. Oh the challenges of the Bay.

Facing new challenges are the six new Board members elected at the AGM in July – Andrew Carr, Treasurer, James Maynard, Communications and Web Master, Catherine Gillespie, Community Events, Rolfe Jones, GBA Representative, Sue Carter, Membership and Robyn Corbiere, Rec Program. Subsequent to the AGM Laura Jarvis has joined as Secretary, a non-voting position. I would encourage you to familiarize yourself with all the Board Members by reading the bios posted on our web site WWW.COGNASHENE.COM

During the summer 5 teams made up of Board and CCA members canvassed some of the non-members in the Cognashene area to invite them to join the CCA. The visits

were well received and the conversations enlightening. A handful of non-members accepted our invitation to receive the CCA eblasts for a period of 6 months and perhaps a few will become members in the future. The program, while small, was considered a success and is likely to continue next summer. If you have a non-member neighbour that you would like to invite connect with Sue Carter or me for a package.

The new membership maps were made available across the community over the summer and from all reports the switch to the colour satellite view was well received. If you have not picked up a map watch for a notice next summer on where and when they will be available.

District and Area Councilor Peter Cooper in this newsletter, has provided an overview of activities both at TGB Council and District of Muskoka Council. I hope you will take a few moments to read his report. I would like to draw your attention to two issues, the District of Muskoka Council Review (which has the potential to significantly decrease our level of Representation) and the impact that our local Council continues to have on Township Planning decisions. Decisions at both our lower and upper tier municipal governments have the potential to precipitate future outcomes that do not benefit our community and may go as far as having a negative impact. I see this as all the more reason to ensure that those eligible to vote in the 2018 municipal election are on the voter list. If you are not certain as to your eligibility or if you are not on the voter list you can contact the Jessica Gunby, Clerk (A) at the Township office to find out what the next steps are for you.

Georgian Bay Forever has made the battle against the invasive phrag one of their lead initiatives. This past summer the GBF with financial support from the CCA put two students in the Cognashene area to assist with the identification, mapping and removal of the invasive phrag. Sandy Thomson in her report provides more detail on these activities. This is an important initiative that will help protect our native species along the shore and in the very important coastal wetlands.

A special Thanks goes out to all the volunteers and supporters who over this past year made the Cottager, Regatta, Long Distance Swim, Art on the Rocks, Canada 150 Fireworks Celebration, Rye Stone Cup, and the Rec Program the successes they were. If you would like to get involved do not hesitate to reach out to any one of our Board members.

With the cottage closed now many will travel to destinations outside of Canada. For those of us left to bear the cold climates watch for notices of special events such as the GBLT Bayfest coming up near the end of November. Whatever your activities are over the winter and in whatever climate, I wish you all the safety and enjoyment possible and look forward to seeing you back on the Bay in the Spring.

president@Cognashene.com

Recreation Report: *Robyn Corbiere & Nicole Scott*

What a beautiful fall we have had! Too bad we didn't have this weather during the summer. Although we had a lot of fun, the weather certainly kept us on our toes. We were lucky that we had very few program cancellations and that a lot of brave and determined families came out regardless of the weather!

Our instructors; Molly Giroux, Nikki Cutler, Kirsten Duguay, Haley Walker, Will Yeigh, Nick Lash, Anna Limoges, Lauren Cutler and Lily Chubaty were amazing, and all the children loved them! A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with catching boats and for helping with our youngest swimmers who weren't so keen on swimming lessons.

Our usual programs; swimming lessons, Kognashene Kinders, Watersports, Camp Cognashene and YPOC were enjoyed by the kids and kept them busy a lot of the week. The junior and senior canoe trips were a success and the seniors were able to enjoy some sunshine once the trip was postponed to the following day due to bad weather. We continued with the same locations, the juniors at Stocking Island and the seniors at the Musquash. A big thank you to the Davis crew for letting us camp out on your property.

Watersports was very successful and we would like to say thank you to John Limoges for volunteering his time to help with the sailing program. Congratulation to all those that participated in the Rystone Cup and even placed! We were also excited about visiting Honey Harbour for ice cream, a hike on Beausoleil and to meet with the Georgian Bay Land Trust, as well as having a visit from Clear Water Farms.

A big thank you to Cheri Wilson and Kelly Reade for all their hard work and dedication to making the program run so smoothly. Nicole Scott will be joining me to plan the program for summer 2018 and will eventually take over as the future Recreation Director.

We would like to continue to involve the community more; this may be as a guest speaker or sharing unique cottage type skills in a workshop setting. If you have something that you can share, please contact me. (continued page 4)



Applications for next summer's staff and volunteer positions will be accepted from now until January 1st, 2018. All hiring will be completed by mid-February. If you are a motivated, organized, and energetic high school or university student who enjoys working with kids, then this is the job for you!

Please apply online at: http://www.cognashene.com/rec_program_apply.html

If you have any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from new or returning families about their summer at the beach. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts or comments at: RECPGRAM@COGNASHENE.COM

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter (@CCARecProgram) or Facebook (Cognashene Recreation Program).

Rec Program Head: *Molly Giroux*

Hello Cottagers!

As the air becomes colder and the leaves begin to fall I can't help but wish I was back at the beach. This past summer has been nothing short of fantastic despite some colder than usual temperatures. We could not have asked for a more exciting summer filled with games, crafts, swimming and adventure. All of the fun things that happen at the beach would not be possible without the help of the great staff we had this summer. New and returning staff all did a wonderful job at making the beach fun and exciting for all! Alongside the staff, our wonderful group of volunteers was nothing short of amazing, always willing to help out and swim on the coldest of days. Watching all the volunteers tackle responsibility for the first time really showed the value of the beach and opportunity it provides to young cottagers.

Despite mild weather this summer, campers and staff braved the cold waters during swimming lessons and always had smiles on their faces. Camp activities like Amazing Race, Olympics and dress up the councillor were just some of the highlights from this summer! The summer was also filled with lots of crafts and sports, sure to keep all campers busy and having fun. Canoeing and sailing were also a huge hit this summer at the beach. Sailing became the most requested activity at camp and was taken up by many new campers.

This summer we had the privilege of doing some off site trips as well as having visitors come to the beach! In July, we made our way to Beausoleil Island for a hike around Fairy Lake! In August, we were joined by Tilly from Clearwater Farms, who taught the kids all about Agriculture and its effects on Georgian bay. We also had the privileged of having John Limoges help out with sailing lessons every Wednesday afternoon. John was a huge help with sailing, his experience and expertise really help shape some of the newer campers into wonderful, confident sailors. (continued page 5)

The end of summer beach theme was Canada, in honour of Canada 150! All campers came in wonderful and creative costumes with loads of Canadian inspiration. The beach party was filled with fun stations and of course some candy! This year's award recipients are: Sarah Merry (Volunteer of the year), Cameron Corbiere (Kirby Award) and Reese Walker (Most Improved).

A huge thank you to Robyn Corbiere and Cheri Eason for all their hard work this summer! As well as the CCA board and all the beach parents. The beach truly is a collective effort and would not be able to run without the dedication of the community as a whole.

Good Luck to all campers at school this year! We look forward to seeing you next summer for more fun in the sun!



Community Events: *Catherine Gillespie*

Art on the Rocks 2017 was an *overwhelming* success, partly due to the great weather (probably one of the best weekends of the summer), but largely because of the fantastic volunteers! Thank you the jitney drivers: **Annie Deeks, Russell Deeks, Beau Reade, Ben Limoges, Owen Melhuish** and **Eli Chubaty**. These young folks spent the entire day going back and forth to anchored boats.

And we could not had the wonderful variety of artists if it weren't for the wonderful cottagers who were willing and able to transport artists from Paragon Marina to the show, and back to their free parking places. Many thanks to **Carey Grierson, Doug Good, Don Limoges, Rob Gillespie** and **William Sayer**...who at the last minute added an additional trip to the harbour for a few stranded artists. A heartfelt thank you goes to you all!!

Art on the Rocks 2018 is Sunday July 29. If you know any talented artists, please send them our way.

Cognashene Phrag Summer Wrap Up: *Sandy Thompson*

This summer the CCA joined in with HHA and GBF to support the hiring of summer students to assist in mapping, education and cutting of Phragmites in our area. Four students were hired who worked as a team, although Jack Fitzgerald and Samuel Dale were focusing most of their time in Cognashene. The team was led by Kristin Koetsier again this year and they made incredible gains in the program.

Jack and Sam spent the early summer mapping the phrag on the Cognashene shoreline and stopping in at docks to talk to cottagers who had phrag on their property. They were also available for helping with identification and assisted many in cutting their phrag this summer. Hopefully you ran into them at some point this summer! From all accounts, our members and Cognashene cottagers were just as engaged as last year in managing the Phrag in their areas. Thank you!

As we know, and can clearly be seen from the map, the Phrag in HH is worse than in Cognashene. Sam and Jack also helped out with mapping and cuts in HH to help limit the spread of seeds into Cognashene. The team has been maintaining a Google Map of the locations along the shorelines which includes all the data our members sent in last year and this year. This is an excellent tracking tool for us. I'm encouraged by the lack of orange dots in Cognashene (new 2017 growth) as well as the number of blue locations (cut in previous years and not growing back as much).

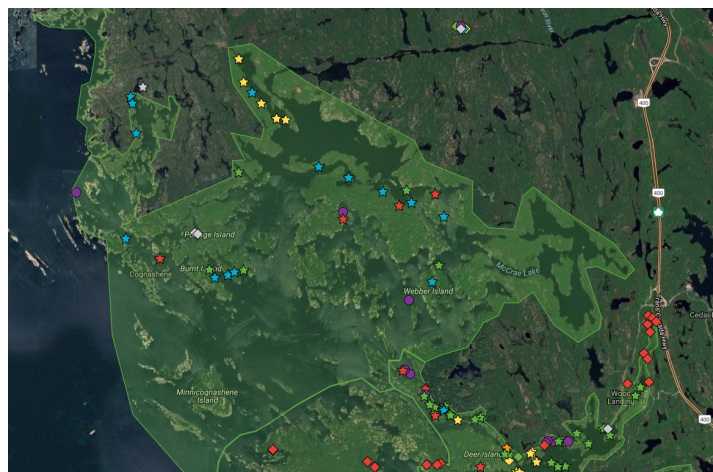
Your efforts over the past 4 years are paying off to slow the spread of Phrag along our shorelines. Keep up the good work and keep talking to your friends and neighbours about it. I was canoeing around Philip Edward Island this summer (near Killarney) and I was surprised to see how many large stands were along the boating channel as well as in the middle of the Island bays. Keep up the great stewardship efforts!

I'd be very interested in your feedback on your experience having the students in our area this summer. Please call or email me with any comments. Thank you!

environment@Cognashene.com

You can see the full map, with the legend, at

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1ntcypCvyqnlzVqcds77l5TglPYU&ll=44.915009319151096%2C-79.87047674999997&tz=12>



Winter Patrol Report: *Tom Halpenny*

It's hard to believe we are talking about winter patrol when we just had a weekend of sunshine and 21C temperatures. Regardless, we are moving forward with plans for this year. Dennis Robitaille and CCA have established an agreement for the next two years. We have spent additional time this year addressing some of the past issues in an attempt to avoid the problems we had last year. Dennis is now equipped with two phones in an effort to reduce the wasted time caused by the phone going dead quickly in the cold. He would then have to abandon his rounds until it was recharged.

Additionally, some members last year had the wrong cottage photographed, or had no reports provided. The new map will be a big help for Dennis as he was still using the old map for some cottage locations.

As you can imagine, weather is the largest factor in the quality of the report Dennis can provide. He will attempt to send a picture with a minimal report if there are no problems, and longer report if there are issues. Unless it's a easy fix, like closing a door or turning off a light, he will report the problem and it is then up to the cottage owner to engage someone (maybe Dennis) to fix the problem if it needs labour or materials. Dennis puts safety first and will only travel for the patrol when there is no imminent danger. The quality of the picture depends a lot on the temperature and conditions. Patrols done on a cold, windy day will have lower quality images than on sunny warm days, partly because of the human factor and partly because the phones are being used in outdoor conditions that are not within their normal ambient operating environment.

Dennis and I are confident that this year, the CCA winter patrol will be considerably smoother with the changes we have made and a better map and member lists.

services@Cognashene.com

Cognashene Cottager: *Hayley Thomas*

Hello my fellow cottagers!

This is your friendly reminder for all Cottager submissions. If there are any photos, stories or poems that you would like to contribute to the next issue, please send them to cottager@cognashene.com. The **deadline is February 4, 2018**, but feel free to send them in sooner while the summer is still fresh in our minds.

I hope you all have a safe and wonderful winter, and I look forward to hearing from all of you.

cottager@Cognashene.com

Membership News: *Susan Carter*

As I write this newsletter submission, to date we have welcomed 17 new CCA members in 2017. Two stated goals of the Board are to increase our membership base and to improve the overall membership experience. This summer the CCA Membership committee and board members began a campaign of dock visits to potential and former members of the CCA. The visits are to inform non-member cottagers about the association and its many benefits, but also to gather feedback from former members as to how we might improve upon the services the CCA offers its many members. The dock visits will continue next summer, and we look forward to hopefully meeting with many more potential new members face-to-face to hear what they have to say and to tell the CCA story!

Membership renewal time is just around the corner and we are pleased to announce that there will be no increases in membership fees for 2018! The Full Member rate continues at \$155 (\$145 if paid by Dec 31/17); and the Associate Member rate stays at \$135 (\$125 if paid by Dec 31/17). Watch for your eBlast renewal reminder in December **and remember - if you have any updates to make to your CCA account, please login and make the necessary changes.** If you experience any difficulties logging into your account please feel free to contact me at: membership@cognashene.com

membership@cognashene.com

Municipal Election 2018: *Steven Jarvis*

WE NEED YOUR VOTE...Next fall will be election time for Municipal and District Councils. It is important for everyone to vote! In past elections, despite there being a significantly larger seasonal population than permanent, we have lacked the voice we need to have at both Councils. Voting will be easier in November 2018 as it will be either electronic or by phone so you do not have to leave your cottage/home to vote. The Clerk in the Town Offices is keen to make sure the voters' list is correct and up to date. To make sure you are on the voters' list please contact Jessica Gunby at: jgunby@gbtownship.ca



To find out if you are eligible to vote, either check this link:<https://georgianbay.civicweb.net/document/159901/Get%20On%20the%20Voters%20List%20Email%20ver%20Sept%2023%20Final%202.pdf> or again, contact Jessica Gunby.

municipalaffairs@cognashene.com

Municipal Report: *Peter Cooper*

The District is contemplating a reduction in the number of representatives on its council. In order to do that, it is trying to get a handle on total population. Since 1970, the District has counted the seasonal residents at a rate of 50% to that of permanent residents. This practice has allowed the 3 towns of Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville to have more representatives at council so they could dominate the 3 waterfront townships. Although using 'Total Population' numbers became the accepted norm in 1991, the District is now contemplating the use of *Electors* instead of total population. The TGB's elector numbers have been reduced to 1995 levels by 2 MPAC 'purges', so this concept of using the number of voters would seriously disadvantage our township, overall, and seasonal residents in particular. It will also ignore a Supreme Court decision (the Carter case) which affirmed representation for all constituents, every man, woman, child, including and non-Canadian (Americans etc.) resident/ratepayers and their families. So a large extended family each of whom spend more than the prescribed annual minimum at the cottage would be counted if total population count were used. But through this current approach only one or two electors would be counted.

Township: Council recently made what could be a precedent-setting decision on an undersized islet on Georgian Bay. It involved an application that was so far outside of the intent of the Official Plan that it required that an *Official Plan Amendment be passed by the council to make it legal:*

The tiny islet in question is in a zone that prohibits any further expansions or additional

structures, yet the property owner expanded one building and added a deck, which appears to sit at the water's edge, without planning permission or a building permit. The majority on Council voted (not Edwards and Cooper) to approve the non-compliant development on this property. I am hearing from a number of constituents that this decision sends the message, "It is better to build now without permission and then ask for forgiveness later". The other concern communicated to me is that the decision casts doubt on any by-law that restricts development on undersized islands.

Also on the same site, approval was given to an application for a septic system that critics suggest does not meet the minimum requirements of the *Ontario Building Code*. The OBC sets the absolute minimum set-back under the law. Additionally, the septic system will be located upstream from a communal water intake for the Rope residential subdivision in Tay Township. I am told that the *Source Protection Act* requires a higher quality septic system than the standard one that is normally used, but critics tell me that this mandatory requirement was completely overlooked.

Members of the local community have appealed both decisions to the OMB. They say they are worried that this application may set dangerous precedents for water quality and overdevelopment in south-eastern Georgian Bay.

A resolution by Councillor Edwards to address the unauthorized lease agreement between the Township and its tenant, the SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce, was pre-empted by a resolution from Mayor Braid. His resolution was approved by 5 council members who appear in the 2017 SEGBAY Membership

Directory or are deemed as members. The resolution prohibits any near term attempts to rectify the unauthorized changes to the lease that continue to disadvantage ratepayers to the benefit of the tenant. This will remain in place until after the courts decide on the Municipal Conflict of Interest (MCIA) motions described below.

On November 1 and 2, the Superior Court of Ontario in Barrie will hear two motions filed against several members of the TGB Council. The respondents include Mayor Braid, Councillors Paul Wiancko, Cynthia Douglas, Kathy Kay and Brian Bocek. The purpose is to have the judge determine if they contravened the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act by voting to award public funding to a business marketing organization to which they belong. In question are numerous votes occurring in 2015, 2016 and 2017, in which the respondents ignored multiple cautions that they had a conflict due to membership in the

SEGBAY Chamber of Commerce and should not vote to fund their own organization. The Act requires elected officials to disqualify themselves from voting when they have a private interest in an outside organization or body. Elected officials owe a duty to their constituents to remain at arm’s length and be objective when spending the public’s money, because “No man can serve two masters at the same time.”

As you can imagine there are also a number of other matters which I have dealt with over the last few months, but in this report I have tried to provide you with some of the more important issues and particularly those which will impact the residents of our township. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or any other matters.

Peter Cooper, District / Area Councillor,
Muskoka & Georgian Bay; 905-727-0088

Communications: *Laura Adams*

The communications tools that the CCA uses to engage and connect with members are always at your disposal. Our newsletters keep you abreast of your Boards activities, however they have also helped our youth find employment, our members elicit help or maybe even rent out their cottage for a while. Our website is packed with information, and our social media platforms are growing, and perfect for capturing attention quickly, like when you find a wayward boat, or need a quick response.

If there is anything that you would like to relay or share, please don’t hesitate to get in touch. We’ll do our best to make sure your message gets noticed. communications@Coganshene.com

Fun will be had...

...so save the date!