



Cognashene Cottagers' Association

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You can find us at www.cognashene.com for contact information, registration forms, events and dates.

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Cognashene Recreation Program

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Watch for your next CCA Newsletter coming early in the new year.

President's Message

Ian Davis

As this is my first newsletter as President of your Association, I would like to begin my message with a thank-you to our Past President; Doug Deeks, but only for his efforts and dedication to the position. I suspect he purposefully kept it a secret from me as to how many hours a week is required to manage our (CCA) affairs. Regardless, I welcome the challenge and the opportunity.

While the summer weather of 2014 may not go down in history as the most memorable, mother nature did cooperate when we most needed it. From our AGM in July, Environment Day, The Regatta, Art on the Rocks to the Georgian Bay Forever update at the Church we were quite fortunate.

For a number of us the weather forced us to brush the dust off our Trivial Pursuit games, cribbage and crokinole boards yet the business of managing the affairs of your Association is a constant. Jane Starr, Laura Hilliard and the staff of the recreation program must once again be recognized for the invaluable contribution they make to ensuring the continuing interest of the young people of Cognashene in swimming programs, sailing and arts and

crafts. The recreation program is the cornerstone of our community and for many participants, the renewal or the beginning of lifelong cottage friendships.

Margaret Eaton and her mob of volunteers must be congratulated in running without fail a most successful Regatta. I would like to congratulate the Merry, Reade and Chubaty families in their successful defense of the canoe fives, but that would be a lie. I already have our four boys training for the Regatta's 90th anniversary, once again scheduled for Townsend Island in August 2015. Nancy Bennett has generously agreed to head a committee to commemorate this community milestone.

This fall brings a number of important issues that your Board and your membership are actively engaged. The upcoming Municipal elections have three members of our community seeking office. Pat Edwards is placing his name once again on the ballot to represent us at the council level. We thank Pat for his unselfish commitment to the Bay and our community. Peter Cooper is seeking to represent us for the position of Area and District Councilor, Wards 2 and 4 and finally in Ward 4 (geographically including Honey Harbour and a portion of the southern boundary of Cognashene) Steven Jarvis is running. We wish all three candidates the best of luck and our support.

There are some in the broader community of Georgian Bay that see these coastal candidates as an attempt to silence the voices of the permanent Honey Harbour community. It is unfortunate these rumours persist and are misguided and malicious in nature. We recognize there is a unique relationship that exists between the cottagers and that of the permanent residents of Honey Harbour. A relationship that will prosper through open dialogue and discussion. Our Association has historically and will continue to support any efforts that will encourage renewed economic growth and prosperity to the Honey Harbour community. Wendy Parker, former President of the CCA will be a member of the HH Waterfront Community Advisory Group that will be asked to provide input on the citizens advisory committee overseeing the Honey Harbour Development Plan Study. We look forward to her updates as the plan takes shape.

In this newsletter Doug Deeks provides further insight on the unusual trend of increasing water levels, a trend that looks like may continue well into next year. It would be nice to report this increase in water levels was a result of concrete action on the part of the International Joint Commission but regrettably that is not the case. Gordon Walker there is still much to do on that front.

The by-law review process; there may be some light at the end of the tunnel on this topic. The fourth and final draft was recently released and a public meeting is scheduled for the 25th of October at the Baxter Community Centre. The draft is on the TGB website and comments from the CCA are available for your viewing. As an aside \$30K will be put into the 2015 budget for consideration of a Township wide shoreline fish habitat zoning study.

The Board will be tracking a number of issues beyond by-laws and the municipal election and include a new

OPP funding model for how the cost of OPP policing will be charged to municipalities where the OPP provides local police services. The impact of the changes in the funding model will be especially significant in communities with low crime rates where there are large numbers of seasonal residents such as around Georgian Bay. The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is advocating on behalf of their membership of which the majority of the GBA members are boat access only properties. The main service we receive from the OPP is from their marine units, which are paid for by the Federal government. Accordingly, the GBA is questioning the fairness of the new model for property owners in their member associations.

While the specifics are not known the phasing in of the funding formula will be staggered over a 5 year period. Once complete, the impact for individual property owners will be quite significant. The GBA will continue to provide us updates.

Your association welcomes, Bill Sayers, Kim Hume and John Maynard to the Board. John will be our new Director of Finance, Bill our Director of Planning and Kim, Director at Large and occasionally filling in as Secretary.

I encourage you to check out our new website for upcoming events and membership information. You will soon see a new tab on the website that will provide us the vehicle to do impromptu surveys that we hope will allow us to remain current and relevant with issues important to the membership.

As always, please do not hesitate to send me an email should you wish to comment on how the Board is being managed or should you wish to participate more actively.

Municipal Affairs...New Director of Planning and Development

Bob Snider

The Township of Georgian Bay announced that Nicholas (Nick) Popovich joined the Township staff as the new Director of Development Services effective Monday August 25th, 2014. Nick comes to the Township from the Township of Muskoka Lakes where he was a Senior Planner, and will be responsible for overseeing the Township of Georgian Bay Planning and Building Departments. Nick is a Registered Professional Planner with over 15 years of planning experience within the municipal sector and holds a Master Degree in Planning from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Arts, specializing in Urban Geography.

We welcome Nick to Georgian Bay and look forward to his direction in the Township's Economic Development and Planning departments. Mr. Popovich can be reached at npopovich@gbtownship.ca

The Beach

Anne Hughes

With the cold weather now upon us, I can't help but think back to the wonderful summer we had at "The Beach". While this summer was colder than most the Rec Program was a blast for everyone involved.

We were lucky to have a wonderful group of staff and volunteers who made everything possible. I can honestly say our summer would not have been anywhere near as successful without their enthusiasm and dedication!

While the format of the program stayed mostly the same as the previous year, we incorporated many new crafts, activities and trips that were very exciting for everyone involved. We offered all our Red Cross swim levels and Bronze Lifeguarding levels and everyone persevered through the less than ideal weather. I would especially like to congratulate all of the Bronze Med and Cross students who successfully passed their exams at Camp Kitchi at the end of the summer. We continued to offer YPOC, Camp Cognashene, Watersports and Kognashene Kinders. Some highlights included tie



dying, the first annual Cog Rec Olympics, the Amazing Race, the Cognashene scavenger hunt and many wonderful YPOC trips to places such as the Tomb, the Bluff, McCrae Lake and hiking on Beausoleil. We were very fortunate to have a visit from the Coast Guard and to be able to take a day trip to the Lizard to participate in an educational day with the GBLT. We also ran both a junior and senior canoe trip that were very fun for campers and staff.

I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers for their hard work. I would also like to thank all the parents for the help and support they provided us to run a truly phenomenal summer. Finally, I would like to thank Laura and Jane for being such amazing directors. They made sure that everything ran extremely smoothly and there is no way the summer would have been a success without them. They were wonderful leaders and mentors to us while helping the program expand and welcoming many new families to the beach.

I hope that everyone has an amazing winter, and that we see all of you back at "The Beach" in the summer of 2015.

Recreation Program Update

Laura Hilliard & Jane Starr

The weather wasn't as warm as our swimmers would have liked but our fabulous staff and volunteers persevered and we ran a fantastic 8 week program at the beach! Thank you to all the kids who participated and their boat-taxi-driving parents and grandparents! A special congratulations to Anne Hughes, Program Head, and our staff, Aislin and Connor Roth, Leigh-Anne McKnight, Alex Carter, Molly and Jack Giroux and Haydn Walker for making it an awesome summer.

This was our second summer with the new schedule and we made significant improvements in communicating with families about schedules, plans and weather event changes. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter (@CCARecProgram) or Facebook (Cognashene Recreation Program) - Anne diligently posted our plans every day, keeping everyone up-to-date. She also created a fabulous year end video you can view - no Facebook or Twitter account is necessary to read the posts or view the video.

I want to say a huge thank you to Jane Starr who did an absolutely amazing job as Recreation Director over the last few years. She further refined the changes that Ann Nicholls made and I'm grateful to them for the countless hours they poured into the program. I am pleased that Kelly Reade will be my new partner (and future Recreation Director) as we work to plan the 2015 summer!

We will not be conducting a survey this fall as we did last year however, please feel free to contact Kelly or myself with any thoughts or comments on this past summer's program.

Can't wait to see you all in 2015!

Applications for summer 2015 being accepted now

We will be accepting applications for next summer's staff from now until January 1st, 2015. We plan to complete our hiring by mid-February. If you are a motivated, organized, energetic high school or university student who enjoys working with kids, we need you!

Please send your cover letter and resume by January 1st to:

Laura Hilliard lhilliard@sympatico.ca AND Kelly Reade kdreade@gmail.com

or apply online at:

http://www.cognashene.com/rec_program_apply.html

We will also need parent volunteers to assist with interviews in January and February (done in the evening via conference call).

If you are willing to help, please contact us asap.

Boating License

The Recreation Program is looking into offering a workshop/course for kids who want to earn their boating license. The minimum age is 8 years old (birth year 2006) and we would likely need a minimum of 10 kids. The instructor who offered the course previously (two summers ago) is no longer doing so and we are investigating other options.

If you have a child who would like to do the Boat License course and the exam next summer, please email Laura Hilliard at lhilliard@sympatico.ca. If there is sufficient interest, we will try to arrange a course date in mid-summer.



For Your Interest...Getting your own Water Pump

Derek Friend

Why should you have your own water pump at the cottage? Well, the answer might relate to how much you paid for your wooden cottage. Before I talk about fire pumps, I want to state that fire prevention is the most important way to preserve our cottages. Inspect your wiring, use heavy gauge extension cords, have proper smoke detectors (check the batteries!), do not overload circuits, always watch your bonfires, never leave candles unattended, keep flammables away from baseboards, and have an escape plan in the event of fire.

Given the value of your cottage, and the potential for a single pump to suppress a small fire, I suggest that having a pump is a good idea. As a bonus, it can be of help to pump out a sinking boat, spray drying trees and vegetation, and deter unwanted cottage guests. The pumps are not overly expensive. For example, a local dealer estimates the following costs:

Pump and suction hose @ \$500

100' Discharge hose (\$1.50/foot) @ \$150

Nozzle @ \$50

Foot valve @ \$40...for a total cost of about \$750 plus tax.

If you purchase a few extras and a storage device, your total cost can be under \$1000.00.



I have a Honda pump with a full frame that fits in one huge Rubbermaid bin with a hinged lid. I keep a small jerry can of extra gas inside the bin as well. I keep the intake and discharge hoses in a second bin (with a small boat fender and short line to keep the intake hose off the bottom of the lake). I like my system of two containers as it is inexpensive, fits almost anywhere and is instantly portable.

There are a number of brands of water pump. I chose Honda, as have most of the cottagers in Cognashene, but other brands are likely good too.

Tips:

1. Hose: Measure from the water to the farthest position on where it might be needed (to the bonfire, shed, bunkie, etc.). Long lengths are great, but having a few short lengths gives options and can make moving and draining the hose easier.
2. Intake hose: Put a foot valve on your intake hose. The open screen type works too, but upgrading is worth the money. The best way to prime a "self priming pump" is to submerge the intake hose to fill it up and then quickly connect it to the pump – voila – your hose and pump are primed. The foot valve, unlike the screen, traps water in the hose to assist the prime.
3. Clog prevention: To keep the intake off the bottom of the bay, and prevent the hose from clogging with weeds or mud, tie a two foot line to the foot valve end of the intake hose, and attach a small fender to float the foot valve. Alternatively, the line can be used to tie off to a dock cleat.
4. Fuel: Use premium gas. A lesser grade is likely to include ethanol which absorbs water over time. Immediately put some fuel stabilizer in fresh fuel to keep it from degrading which can occur (I am told) within 5-6 months. Mark the Jerry can "fire pump premium fuel no oil".
5. Carrying: In addition to the "bin method" described above, you can tie a rope "strap style" to the frame and carry the pump off one shoulder (the manifold gets hot so wait for the pump to cool).
6. Nozzle: The plastic ones are less expensive.
7. Mark your name on your pump and hose: if you lend your pump or are attending a multi-pump event this can help ensure you get your pump back.
8. Maintenance: Read the manual; drain the pump of water after every use; drain/run off fuel at the end of the season and, store away from snow.

9. Learn how to use your pump and teach your family too - how cool is that?
10. Be a good neighbor and show them where you keep your pump and how to use it and offer it in the event of an emergency.
11. Share this information with others.

Dealers order their inventory in January and February and some sell out. The CCA is compiling a list of cottage owned pumps in the hopes of adding that information to the directory for use in the event of an emergency. For questions or comments I can be reached at dfriend@derekfriendlawfirm.com

Environment...CCA Invasive Species Committee - Call for committee members

Sandy Thompson

Phragmites is the most recent invasive species to affect our environment in Cognashene. The Cognashene community and the surrounding organizations and communities are all concerned about its spread and our efforts to limit its progress and stop it taking over our wetlands and shorelines. The GBA has formed a committee that will work on educational materials and coordination of community efforts. The CCA is forming a committee to be our front line for our community which will be responsible for the mapping and tracking of Phragmites stands annually, interacting with property owners of affected properties, educational efforts, and assisting in and organizing removal efforts as needed.

We expect the fight against Phragmites to take several years and we may need to expand beyond Phragmites in the future to other invasive species but we are kicking off our committee focusing on Phragmites. Please join me in protecting the biodiversity of our favourite place! If you are interested in volunteering for the committee, please contact me through environment@cognashene.ca.



Membership

Chris Hawley

To date we have close to 400 members. The board personally delivered New Members Packages to 12 of the 14 new members this summer. This approach was very well received, with new members getting to meet a cottager, and the board member closest to them. A few new members don't have cottages yet, so delivery was a bit of a challenge.

The packages included: Cognashene map, Cottager, Directory, Kaignashene to Cognashene book, environmental information, GBA and GBF newsletters, letters of introduction from Ian and myself, and an emergency contact list.

We have added the capability of doing unlimited surveys on our web site. Using this link we will be surveying our non and ex-members of the CCA to gain their input on how we can better improve our association.

As well, over the winter the board members associated with membership will be meeting to discuss several matters, including how to use pay pal more efficiently.

I hope you all have a good winter, and look forward to communicating our progress in our next newsletter.

Long Distance Swim and Regatta 2014

Margaet Eaton-Kent

Saturday July 26 was the 25th Annual Long Distance Swim, with a record number of 50 participants! Started by Rob Thompson in 1989 to provide a non-competitive adjunct to the Regatta, the Long Distance Swim has been cheerfully and graciously hosted by Rob and Val Thompson ever since, rain or shine! This year the weather was calm, and although the water was cool, (21.667 degrees Centigrade), there were several triple crossings. Congratulations to all participants, and thanks to the Coast Guard, whose presence, once again, alerted passing powerboats to the swimmers. The Coast Guard also intervened when the kayak of one of the spotters accompanying a swimmer became over loaded when the swimmer climbed on. Good planning to get a ride in the Coast Guard boat?!

The 26th Annual Long Distance Swim is planned for Saturday July 25, 2015, at 1 pm, rain or shine!

The 89th CCA Regatta was blessed, once again, by good weather and wonderful hosts, volunteers and participants! Amazingly, the winds held off during most of the day, and we were able to run the races very smoothly. Although attendance seemed to be a bit diminished, everyone present appeared to enjoy the events and the raffle. And...we had the unusual result of not one, but two pairs of Overall Champions: Jenna Baron and Molly Giroux for the Girls, and Thomas Merry and Owen Melhuish for the Boys! Well done!

This year we introduced paddleboarding as a novelty event, and the participants provided entertainment with lots of energy and a big splash!



The Raffle Group certainly outdid themselves in obtaining wonderful donations, and the results of the raffle were excellent: \$1084 went to the CCA for the Recreation Program wish list!

Special thanks to Denis Robitaille for the placement and removal of the essential and much appreciated port-a-potti, and to the Honey Harbour Boat Club for donation of paddles for the six age-group first place winners, as well as the lifejackets for the age 2-3 and 4-6 swims! We are very fortunate to enjoy the support of the local businesses as well as the generous donations of many of our members, and the wonderful contributions of the Regatta hosts and volunteers, who make the event.

Next year will be the CCA Regatta's 90th year! We look forward to seeing you, your family and your cottage guests out to celebrate this incredible milestone... 'til then.



Communications Update...Website

Brian Neely

Thank you for your feedback on our new website.

It has been a busy first year for our site and we've had very positive comments, especially about having Cognashene weather and Honey Harbour web cams available. Not surprising is the usage on Thursday and Friday. Also, our Winter Warm Up web cam seems to be extremely busy in January and February. BVI's here we come!!!

As you know, we launched Online Membership and Rec Program payments via Pay Pal. While we had some occasional launch glitches, for the most part our new process was well received. A significant number of our members either paid for membership and/or registered for the Rec Program online, which is great. We will be working on upgrading our Rec Program section over the winter months with a view to simplifying our offering.

New "Survey" Ability

Check out our home page, you'll notice we have added "Take our Survey". This exciting communications addition will allow you to give us your feedback/input on a variety of topics. Watch for our eBlasts on topics and timeframes.

Gallery

Check out our Gallery within your members only section. Our Regatta 2014 pics are now posted. Send your Cognashene Pics to Communications@cognashene.com. Whatever the season, we'll post them in our Gallery.

As always, any questions, comments or suggestions regarding your web site can be sent to communications@cognashene.com.

Communications Update...eBlasts, Newsletter & Cottager

Laura Adams

Having just closed up our cottage this past weekend, it's time for the pinning to begin! Spring can never come soon enough once all the docks, boats and deck furniture has been tucked away. The nice thing is, I get to enjoy all your photos and stories of the past summer over the chilly months ahead while working on **The Cottager**. Thank you to all who have already sent material, and for all those who have yet to contribute, feel free to send along anytime. The deadline this year is January 15th. Also, if you or anyone you know would like to advertise in the Cottager, our rates are great, and the book gets passed to a lot of eyeballs.

I'm working on a piece about cottage gardening (food mostly), so if you have any tips, tricks or suggestions I'd love to hear them. Photos are welcome too.

Our next **Newsletter** will be out early in the new year, so if you have anything you want to share, please let me know. If immediacy is important, our **eBlasts** go out on a continual basis.

Don't forget, we also have a Facebook presence, and a twitter feed for the Rec Program.

You can reach me at communications@cognashene.com or personally at lauraeadams@sympatico.ca. Have a happy winter!

Water Levels...and other Notes

Doug Deeks

At October 12 Michigan-Huron was 45cm (19") above the level of one year ago. This puts water levels above the long term average, for this time of year, which is a trend that started in late August, persisted throughout September and will stick around at least into next year. If you're wondering how long it has been since Georgian Bay experienced a month with water levels that met the long term average, I provide this quote to confirm that it has been a long time (like, when I was unmarried, did not have 4 children, did not own a house, was not responsible for the docks...):

"September marks the first month since December 1998 that Lake Michigan-Huron was above long-term average." Monthly Bulletin Basin Hydrology report USACE/Environment Canada <http://www.glerl.noaa.gov>

I can't say what this means for long term water levels, but in the short term what is a near certainty is that levels will not drop off this winter and will instead stay relatively steady until spring where, dependent on the extent of ice cover, temperature and levels of precipitation, we can expect to have higher water going into the dock season come May 1st. I recommend planning for water levels at least as high as they are currently and likely a further 4-10" higher in the spring. If you haven't put your docks to bed yet along with any other items that hug your shore through the winter, I recommend pulling them up higher than what has become normal over the last 15 years. If your docks stay out on chains, then let the chains out a little more than normal to manage any surges through the winter/spring.

If you're wondering what has precipitated the rise in the water back to average levels and why they are likely to stay there at least into next year, the reason is simple enough: weather. Over the last year the upper Great Lakes have experienced higher than average precipitation (108% of average) and below average temperatures. The combination of high inflows to the lakes, the reduced evaporation and extensive ice cover of last winter has caused the water to rise steadily since last fall.

Additionally, the dam on the St Mary's River that connects Superior and Michigan-Huron has been kept open by the IJC into the autumn and the inflows to M-H have been substantially higher than normal as a result. If you had a chance to visit the Muskoka's in late summer you will also have noticed that the lakes that drain down to Georgian Bay were also higher than average late in the year, indicating that run-off to GB will continue to be high this fall. I went up the Musquash with my brood on Labour Day and the water was flowing at Spring-like levels. I nearly lost a couple of children in the force of the middle rapid while body surfing!

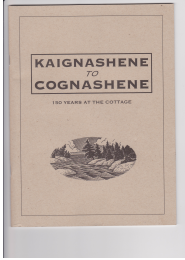
Weather prognosticators appear to be calling for a cold winter and where that will further influence the change in water levels, it will also impact another issue which started in the late '90's, which was a rise in the populations of several pests that have caused much discussion: common pine shoot borer, wood tick. You will have noticed that your pines that previously suffered from drooping shoots in Augusts past stayed mostly intact this year and that is because the pest of greatest consequence – the common pine shoot borer - froze to death last winter! A good long cold snap is Mother Nature's remedy for many ills it seems.

Other notes from the summer: you couldn't have missed the resurgent mosquito population that persisted right through August and perhaps it was no coincidence that the Little Brown Bat once again graced our evening skies swooping and diving after the clouds of mosquitoes that harassed your efforts at eating outdoors.

All for now, enjoy that last visit out to the islands should you get the chance!

Kaignashene to Cognashene Booklet

Doug Carr



As reported at the Annual General Meeting, this booklet of anecdotes of the last 150 years in our area was published this summer, and a copy has been provided to every member family. The primary author of this booklet (along with tremendous support and advice from Susan McGibbon) was T.D. (Duggan) Melhuish, an active member of our association for many of the more than 80 years he spent here. Many of you will know that T.D. passed away about a month ago. He had authored several books about Georgian Bay and the Cognashene area in particular, and this last booklet is a valuable legacy he has left with us.

Many of you have asked how you might obtain additional copies of the booklet for other family members or friends. These are available, at a cost of \$15 each to CCA members and \$25 each if purchased by non-members. As it would be quite expensive to mail the booklets to purchasers, your Board has decided to make them available for purchase from five members of the Board, whose cottages cover four quadrants of Cognashene as well as the centre. These Board members are:

Ian Davis (north-west), Laura Adams (north-east), Bill Sayers (south-west), Chris Hawley (south-east), Bob Snider (centre).

You should be able to easily find contact information for these people from your Directory or on the website. We hope all will continue to enjoy this excellent booklet!



Don't miss the Bayscapes Art Auction...

...featuring the works of Ed Bartram and John Hartman, not to mention our community painters Gill Cameron, Cathy Griggs, and more. In addition, we feature custom works from Jim Lorriman and Terry Sheard. Silent auction will include Georgian Bay based adventures, such as a trip to Brebeuf Island with lunch and scavenger hunt.

This event sees 250 "Georgian Bayers" getting together to preserve the Bay. Come sip Georgian Bay Gin and Georgian Bay Beer with summer friends, catch up, and support the place you love.

Where: St. James Event Centre, 65 Church St., Toronto

When: November 14th 2014 @ 6:30pm

Auction times: 8:15 & 8:45 closings

For tickets: eventbrite.ca/e/gblt-bayscapes-art-auction-tickets-13434660431

Parking: <http://www.stjamescathedral.on.ca/Portals/0/ParkingNearStJames.pdf>

View our Gallery: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/33019839@N02/sets/72157647643270925/>

Wishing everyone a fantastic fall & winter, a wonderful holiday season, and a terrific New Year's celebration!