

Talpines

Property Owners Association

Newsletter

September

2013



Summer has passed by rather quickly it seems. It appears the cool damp spring is going to re-occur as a cool damp fall. Actually, anyone not a big fan of the usual hot dry summers must be all smiles this year as only 1 week in July and 2 days in August were in the 30 degree range and humid.

Lake Partnership Program was entered into this year with the MNR and FOCA and our member Peter Davis has been faithfully doing the actual water sampling and clarity readings in Sturgeon Bay & forwarding them to the MNR in Dorset, Ontario. Their tests are to evaluate the health of the Bay water as it affects fish and plant life. Thanks Peter for paddling your canoe to just the right spot each month.

Sturgeon Bay Water Sampling as to its condition for recreational purposes has been carried out by Talpines this summer in half a dozen shoreline locations and analyzed by C.O.A.L., a laboratory in Orillia specializing in well & recreational water quality. We will be doing one more test in September and then will try to piece together a summary of our findings this year for our members. Results have ranged from “very good” to “extremely disappointing” this year and show a pattern of wind direction being very influential to our results obtained for the Bay water. We also did a May test of the Albin Road Spring and was very pleased with our findings there.

Tay Shore Trail has been very busy this year in the Talpines area and thanks partially to the re-installation of the “Barriers” has not seen nearly as much illegal traffic annoying and endangering users. One incident in July of two “high speed Motorcycles” between Tanner & Albin roads was reported and drew the attention of both the OPP and the Tay Recreation Department. Although no follow-up has been received, things have been fairly quiet ever since.

“Preserving Our Heritage....Protecting our Future”

Talpines Annual Meeting was held June 1st at the Waubauskene Legion Hall. Turnout was not as great as expected however, all were actively discussing any issues that came forward. Unfortunately, our guest from the **OPP** was unable to attend but did send a great deal of information for our scrutiny. Thanks to **MP Bruce Stanton** for dropping in and giving us an update on the Government position on the Great Lakes Water Levels.

Between those present and the mail in votes, the upgrading of our **Constitution** to better represent our situation and area was unanimously passed by over 80% of our eligible voters. The gathering also approved and passed a motion to **continue sampling** Sturgeon Bay Water for Recreational purposes monthly that was started in May through & including September at our expense since no sampling was being carried out by the Township or the Simcoe-Muskoka Health Unit.

A motion was made and approved to continue our affiliation with **FOCA** even though their membership fee schedule has increased this year.

It was moved and approved that our **Talpines Membership** should remain at \$30.00 per year. It should be noted, **Talpines fiscal year** ends March 31st each year and all memberships are then due and must be received before our Annual Meeting the first Saturday of June to be eligible to vote or hold office.

The election of **Directors** for 2013 saw the return of Christine Hurlbut, Clem Carelse, Andrew Allan & David Cornish and new to the Board, Steven Clift. Tom Goetz remains as Past President. The Executive would be decided at the first Directors Meeting.

Draw winner for a free Membership for 2014 was member Nola Hewett. Congratulations!

It was decided to forgo a late summer get together (**corn roast**) again this year. Turned out just as well as weather was catchy and the sweet corn crop was late appearing this year.

Directors Meeting at our first directors meeting following the Annual Meeting, the Executive chosen was President: David Cornish; Vice President: Clem Carelse; Secretary-Treasurer: Christine Hurlbut. It was decided since membership was down slightly this year that we would continue on with Andrew Allan and Steven Clift as our only Directors at large.

It was agreed to continue our Quarterly Newsletter and also to follow up on setting up our own Web-Site. Discussion centered on how to increase our member numbers as well as our involvement in our community.

Property Sales in our area seem quite active this year although not many appear to be receiving their list price. There have been or are three places in each of our areas listed this year and we will hate to see these members move away. Hopefully we can mount a membership drive to attract the new owners to join our ranks. Also noticeable has been the number of places opened later this season and very little time spent at them.

Another Tay Senior Staff Change is currently taking place. CAO Simone Latham announced her retirement at the beginning of summer to take effect this month. Her years of experience will be missed by all in Tay. A successor has yet to be named but interviews have been carrying on and the list narrowed to 2 or 3 last I heard.

“Preserving our Heritage....Protecting our Future”

Giant Hogweed is still to be found in Tay unfortunately. It seems odd that many don't recognize the plant until it is head & shoulders high, flowering and starting to produce seeds! Apparently Tay has had several employees trained in the safe removal of the plant but, it seems they would rather wait for the flower head, cap it and then remove the seed pods. Staff appeared surprised that a couple shots of **Round-Up** spray will kill the young plant! This should be a lot safer action to take than waiting for the sap to become abundant and risk spreading the seeds as well.

The new Tourist attraction **Keewatin** opened for business this summer in Port McNicholl and by all reports, it has been well received and worth the time and fee to tour the last remaining CP ship that called the Port, home for the first half of the last century.

Pine Street Beach Area has seen some well deserved work this summer. It is a remarkable view of the Severn Sound and area to the north from the Pier now that the growth of brush & trees has been removed. Many have probably never seen the Sound from up the hill on Pine Street until now. Not to go un-noticed is the Works crew keeping the sandy shoreline area tilled up this summer. Perhaps next year, the bull rushes along the south side of the Pier could disappear and a few picnic tables could show up by the old playground area.

It appears the work on the outdoor rinks floors ran into a snag called "Insufficient Funds Available" to do the suggested work this year.

Looking for something to do on a windy day? Go to the Pine Street Beach and watch the "**Wind Kite Surfers**" practising their sport ... truly amazing!



Good to Hear that Member Rosalie Pratt's husband Roger is pretty much over his surgery this past spring. Good thing as they have been entertaining their grand children all summer.

Also Member Vicki Lucier is starting to get up and about again after surgery this summer to correct a problem with both feet. Look forward to seeing you get those little pinkies back on the Trail real soon.

As well it was a shock to hear member Rick Stanton was rushed to a Toronto Hospital a short time ago but glad to hear he is back home again recently. We are wishing you a complete recovery and hope to see you out and about real soon too.

Seems the shocks just never cease regarding the **Septic Inspection Program** for many of our people and fellow residents in the area. What was described as something to look forward to every 5 years is back after only 3! Ain't this new math wonderful?

"Preserving our Heritage....Protecting our Future"

Next year is Municipal Election Year. After the dismal turnout of the number of voters for the 2010 Election, it was felt something had to be done as Tay had “bottomed” the list for voter percentage in the County of Simcoe. To address the issue, **alternate voting methods** were explored by Tay Staff. With the second Tax Bill mailing, they requested feedback from the property owners (Voters) as the last item on the back of the news updates. Their questionnaires were not enclosed but you had to find one to respond. Some found it on the Tay web-site, some at the Tay Office and some at the public Libraries. Unlike the last Election, only 20 voters responded!

It would appear this was all that was needed for several members of Council to vote against introducing an Alternative Method of Voting even though Staff recommended a change to Mail in Voting at the August Council Meeting. It comes up again at the Council Meeting Wednesday September 11th for final Approval or Defeat of the motion to provide an Alternative Voting Method.

Those with e-mail got our SPECIAL NOTICE. Did you follow up on it??

As mentioned earlier in our Newsletter, our numbers have dropped off about 5% this year. We are asking for your help to get the word out and help recruit new members for the coming year. There are a number of new neighbours in our area that we haven't approached or succeeded to entice them to join Talpines to date.

A question to our members ... several have asked why their cheques have not been cleared at their banks yet? Would you please check your bank statements to ensure that the transaction was completed if you paid your dues by cheque? You may respond to either David or Christine. Thank you.

We have bought our web site domain name! Now it is a matter of getting our site put together and we will inform all when we have it up and running. Who will we be when it is ready? www.Talpines.ca (Well, it is a start!)

You can contact us by e-mail at talpines@sympatico.ca

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Directors

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