

Talpines
Property Owners Association
Newsletter

December

2015

Well, Here it is December already (or is it again?) and another cottage season can be posted in the “Memories Scrapbook”. Things slowly unwound after our September Newsletter in Talpines country and by Thanksgiving, water levels had dropped back to a level more typical of fall and water temperatures also decreased to more usual fall readings.

Water Sampling was continued following the late August round of unrealistically high readings. The next week, samples were back down to normal readings at all 6 locations but it was decided by your Directors to do spot sampling at several locations until roughly Thanksgiving. Those 2 or 3 sets of samples also remained at acceptable levels for recreational purposes although water temperature sort of told one “but it is too cool!”

Cottage Close up for many occurred Thanksgiving weekend however a few were earlier and others were later in the fall. Beautiful weather and temperatures were enjoyed by the later folks.



I had gone up to rake my leaves November 3rd and wore shorts most of the afternoon. The thought of staying overnight crossed my mind even though my cottage had been closed since mid October. Instead, I took this sunset picture, called myself silly and drove back to my home at Peterborough. (Notice the row of rocks now visible after being underwater all summer. I had to look south for this picture instead of west!)

The Federal Election was the big news this fall and although the Liberals put up a strong fight in North Simcoe, MP Bruce Stanton retained the riding. Congratulations Bruce although it will seem different being the opposition this time around.

The Waubaushene Public Elementary school now sits empty and, for the time being, its pupils are being bused to Port McNicoll Elementary School until the expansion is complete at the Victoria Harbour Elementary School.

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

A number of our members attended a Special Council Meeting this fall concerning the Application by the owner of 210 Albin Road to sever a number of lots off the property and to question the work already in progress even before severance had been approved by Tay. Being located in the middle of the Talpines area, our members (especially those bordering that property) felt they should be kept informed and be aware of what changes they could expect to see and share in future.

Still with the municipal level, another attempt was made this fall to give residents of Tay the opportunity to comment on the ongoing development of a “10 Year Strategic Plan for Tay” by offering another Questionnaire on the Tay Web Site for all who wanted could respond. After 2 previous Questionnaires, a hired Consulting firm, a public work shop (2 sessions) a follow-up presentation to Council by the Consultant, another Council session regarding the findings then the latest Questionnaire, I wonder if it will take 10 years to decide and by then, the Plan will be obsolete!

In case you are wondering, according to the Tay Report, it appears the budget for Tay for 2016 will require a property tax increase of 2.8%. This does not include the tax increases expected from the County of Simcoe or the Simcoe Public School Board which have yet to be announced.

Our Councillor Cate Root has had a busy first year. Besides helping with our Pine Street Beach Clean-up, she also did a study & report on senior accommodation and care needs in Tay for Council. This was squeezed in between the several committees she is on representing Council and several Conventions to learn new available programs and receive changes first hand to existing programs. She took on the task of organizing and running Tay Bike Day held in Waubaushene (she insists it wouldn't have been successful without the help of Councillor LaChapelle, local businesses & the volunteers) and it was one of her ways to help not only Tay but also the children & residents of Ward 3.

In late October, I had an e-mail from Councillor Root saying she had nominated Talpines for an Award from the Severn Sound Environmental Association for volunteering & work to clean up the Pine Street Beach however, the Award went to a Group who had cleaned up a portion of the Wye River this year.

The FOCA Fall General Meeting was held in Toronto November 7th and our Secretary Christine Hurlbut represented Talpines P.O.A. and sent our Directors a report of the event. She stated a lot of useful information was presented by the guest speakers through the day but she was captivated by a presentation by Rob Hurst, President of a Cottage Association near Huntsville who discussed their blocking of a planned activity on their Lake this past summer by the “Ontario Watercross Racing Association”. The event was to be Snowmobile Races on their Lake on Father's Day! Rob Hurst continued by saying the Event had been moved to the areas of Gull Lake & Waubaushene!

Christine indicated that like us, most other Cottage Association saw a slight rise in membership numbers this year and from the FOCA questionnaire this fall, over 90 % depend on the internet to keep in contact with their members. (Check the FOCA website for more information)

You read that right. Snow mobile Races on open water! Rules are simple, the track is several bouys placed to make an oval on open water which must be circled a number of times. Apparently speed will keep them afloat so I assume they begin on dry land oh, and no studs! I checked the O.W.R.A website & found their dates & locations for races in 2016. I had noticed an article in the Midland Mirror (on line edition) that Midland Council had approved the races for their town. They will be doing “Puddle Jumping” (Ice to Ice over open water) at the Winterfest February 5th, 2016. Watercross Races at Little Lake Park July 23rd & 24th, 2016 (Open Water Oval Racing). Some refer to this as a Sport?

Cottage Succession. Talpines bought a DVD copy of the 1 hour Cottage Succession presentation as we have been unable to either hold the presentation ourselves or partner with another group in the past. We will run it at our 2016 AGM starting about 9:15 before our regular meeting. As well, next summer, we will loan it out to any of our members who would like to see it while at their cottage. Thanks FOCA for following through with this idea.

Our Area received almost a foot of snow November 21st and by a picture sent to me of my cottage by neighbour Bob Clayton, there was still between 4 & 6 inches on everything November 29th. I haven't had any reports on the Santa Claus Parade in Waubaushene last Sunday but expect Santa was all smiles what with fresh snow and all!

The Tay Report this past week stated the Township was looking into the fight to eradicate or at least control the occurrences of Phragmites in Tay. Apparently there may be a Government Grant for this according to Councillor Root and rather than leave it up to staff who are taking holidays and busy with Parks & Trails, she suggested resident volunteers could perhaps pick up the slack if asked. The Tay Report ended the article by mentioning the success of the Talpines volunteer clean up of the Pine Street Beach last summer. Tay Report and our Councillor have become great publicists and boosters for our Association and we thank them.



The Pine Street Beach after Talpines & other volunteers reclaimed it for the residents and visitors in 2015

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



Sunset, November 3rd, 2015. Pine Street Beach, Waubaushene, Ontario.

Duck Bay Bridge construction is complete and the Bridge will be “Officially Opened” Friday December 4th at 10:30 am. Although it did require a few days more than planned, the construction was still completed before poor weather returned to our area. Hopefully the Pine Street reconstruction next year will go as smoothly and on time.

Provincial Politics although never far from making news headlines, became front and center in North Simcoe when our long time MPP Garfield Dunlop retired and stepped aside to allow the newly chosen leader of the Conservative Party riding to contest a by-election for a seat in the Legislature. Although the Liberal candidate put up a strong fight, Patrick Brown won and became our new MPP and now sits in the Legislature as leader of the Opposition. Congratulations Patrick & we look forward to meeting you next summer in Talpines cottage country.

Just When I was finishing up the Halloween candy that I had overstocked for Halloween and now starting to stock up on Christmas goodies for the family, Councillor Root e-mailed me to say there is something in Midland she thinks I would find interesting. The Severn Sound Environmental Association is having a presentation and work shop regarding “Invasive Species” December 10th and as space is limited, I should go on their website & sign up right away to reserve my spot. Well, I did and the up side is it is free. The down side, according to the agenda, it starts at 8:30 am and ends at noon It is December and Midland is a 3 hour drive from home! I hope they serve coffee & cookies!

Glad to hear our Director/Treasurer Steven Clift is getting around again although he states not all the discomfort has cleared up. I think it was mid October he said he was trimming some trees or branches at the cottage & up a ladder when his body raced the branch to the ground and he landed on his back. He said somehow, he managed to just lock up & drive back home to Whitby. After at least a month of Therapy, he managed to go back up and close the cottage for winter before anything got frozen or damaged. Guess that Muskie you were after this summer will have to come back next year Steven!

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Unfortunately, the Tay Residents Group that used to meet fairly regular with our Mayor and our CAO decided to call it quits late this year. As a member of the executive, I felt we had and were making a difference for the residents with a noticeable improvement in communication through newsletters and automatic e-mails and the development of the new Tay Website. Although not all issues that were discussed were resolved, a good many adjustments and minor improvements have been trickling down the system. It is hoped that from this initiative, Tay will again bring back Town Hall style meetings or (at least) Councillors will pick up the ball with Town Hall type discussions in their respective Wards with those they represent.

Talpines is your Association and as a member it is hoped all will feel free to pass on information to your directors or question what is happening. Not only is your feedback important but your help in carrying out the plans is also necessary for us to remain strong and to move forward. It does get difficult at times when our homes and our cottages are far apart, demands of work and family functions need to be balanced but it is rewarding to realize, we all make a difference by contributing when and however we can.

Membership is still only \$30.00 per year which runs from June 1st to May 31st. This amount also includes your membership to FOCA & all their benefits, Our Quarterly Newsletter and special newsletters such as water sample results and important Township & OPP notices that affect our members' area.

Several other sources of local information

Tay Township Website www.tay.ca
Midland OPP at susan.jessop@opp.ca
John & Cathy Cole, The Tay Report tayreport@rogers.com
Ward 3 Councillor Cate Root croot@tay.ca

Contact us:

Canada Post Talpines P.O.A. P.O. Box 9, Waubaushene, Ontario, L0K 2C0
E-mail talpines@sympatico.ca

Directors

David Cornish, Pres. Home 1-705-295-4241 Cell 1-705-559-6711 dlcornish@msn.com
Clem Carelse, Vice-Pres., 1-416-493-8556
Christine Hurlbut, Sec., 1-416-493-8556
Steven Clift, Treasurer, 1-905-430-7424
Vicki Lucier, 1-705-538-1463
Andrew Allan, 1-416-240-8815
Tom Goetz, Past Pres., 1-705-538-1665

Our next Issue will be sent in early March!

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



Sharing these wishes amongst all our members and friends



(Newsletter prepared and pictures by David Cornish)

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