

# Talpines

## Property Owners Association

### Newsletter

March

2014

**Winter** has definitely taxed everyone's patience this year. I guess we were spoiled the past few years but having snow on the ground since early November and generous additions every few days to the supply has made winter a long drawn out affair. Fortunately we did not get the extreme cold temperatures however the steady moderate cold combined with seemingly continual winds has evolved into a more "old fashioned winter" than most care to remember.



(34 Lawson Lane Feb. 24th )



(Albin Road Loop Feb. 2nd)

**Streets & Roads** have also suffered this season as excessive snow has left them very narrow and even ice & snow packed, resulting in deep ruts to make driving interesting. Although those of us living in the southern part of the province think we have a lot of snow, cottage country received 2 or 3 times more.

**Hats Off** to the Tay works crew for their perseverance keeping most roadways in reasonable shape through it all and also to those who kept our ice arenas in good shape ... both the artificial and the outdoor natural rinks!

**Water Levels** in the great lakes have shown a slight improvement before freeze-up this past fall. Although much of our snowfall has been fluffy rather than wet, heavy snow, the prospects for better water levels this summer are fairly good. These snow depths are common to the watershed and even though fluffy, combined with the ice cover on the Great Lakes slowing evaporation this winter, all reports and studies to date feel we should see more satisfactory water levels in our Great Lakes in 2014.

**Information Sources** to keep in touch with what is happening in our cottage area, besides our Quarterly Newsletter, information can be received through: (1) by e-mail from [tay.residents@bell.net](mailto:tay.residents@bell.net) (2) Tay web-site [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca) (3) sign up by e-mail to [vfindlay@tay.ca](mailto:vfindlay@tay.ca) enter "ratepayer communication" on the subject line.

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**Tay Shore Trail** has seen very limited use this winter. The only exception appears to be the sector developed last year to accommodate snow-mobile traffic from the Severn section of the Trans Canada Trail through Bridgeview Park to the Esso station in Waubaushene. The rest of the Trail is waist deep in snow!

**FOCA** held their Annual Meeting March 1<sup>st</sup> in Toronto at the University of Toronto Campus. Although I was unable to attend, we were represented by our Secretary Christine Hurlbut and Director Steven Clift.

Thanks to both for forwarding this information for our Newsletter.

“Again, FOCA has seen their Government funding reduced and hope all member groups can increase their membership numbers to compensate for the lost revenue. FOCA also plans to make greater use of the internet rather than depend on the escalating costs of using Canada Post. Guest speakers included Dave Ireland from the Royal Ontario Museum on Biodiversity & Conservation; Ellen Schwartzel, Deputy Environmental Commissioner of Ontario on Environmental Policy & Bill of Rights; Vince Ewing of the MNR on Water Quality Management; Matt Smith on Invasive Species; Tracy Logan on the Lake Partnership Program. To learn more of what FOCA is involved in, check their web site at [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) . Their office has been a great help sharing information with Talpines since we joined.”

**The 2014 Municipal Election** count down has begun in Ontario. This year in Tay, we will be voting by mail. There are a few other changes as well. It is up to the eligible voters to be sure they are listed on the official voters list. Only those listed will receive the “Vote by Mail” kit. To ensure you are registered as a voter in Tay, go to the Tay web site, [www.tay.ca](http://www.tay.ca) and at the top of the home page in blue print is the line (“*check here to see if you are on the voters list*”) click on to access the MPAC form to check if your name is included. (Not in “Municipal Elections 2014”). Another change is the absence of an “Advance Poll”. Besides “Mail In”, there will be “1 Poll” on Election Day at the Tay Office (I believe you still need your “Vote by Mail Kit” to cast your vote there).

To Date, the following have registered their intent to run (These affect our area) Mayor: Scott Warnock. Deputy Mayor: Bill Rawson. Ward 3: Heinrich Naumman.

**Duck Bay Road Bridge** is finally on the Tay menu for work. Consultants have held several sessions this past fall & winter requesting community input and put together a recommendation for a 1 lane replacement bridge without the current weight restrictions. This will solve the access issues to the north eastern portion of Tay for maintenance equipment, school busses and for Emergency Vehicles (particularly during Hwy 400 closures) in our vicinity. It will likely be several years to completion as the steps include a “Heritage Study”, an “EA” and followed by “Tendering the work”.

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**Our 2014 Annual Meeting** will be held June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Legion Hall, Willow Street, Waubaushene, Ont . Doors will open at 9:00 am for registration (also to bring your membership up to date if not already done) and the meeting will begin at 9:30 am.

Our guest this Year will be Alison Thomas, Clerk of Tay Township. As Chief Elections Officer for our municipality, she will be explaining and showing the workings of the “Vote by Mail” system being used this fall in Tay.

Perhaps our MP and MPP will also drop by to bring us up to date with Federal & Provincial issues that will affect us here in Tay Cottage Country.

Our Business Meeting will follow and will include the nominations & Election of Directors for the coming year. (Remember, your 2014 membership Dues must be paid before you are eligible to vote on the issues of the meeting). There will be more information in our Late May Newsletter. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend.

**A Reminder**, like your home municipality, Tay has specific by-laws & regulations to adhere to as well. Among them is dog tags & regulations, littering &/or yard clutter and burning. All outdoor fires require a **current burn permit** (including camp fires) and may be obtained at the Tay Office or one of the 3 Libraries in Tay. Garbage pick-up is a Simcoe County service so any inquiries pertaining to this service should be directed to the County of Simcoe.

**The struggle between** Tay and Skyline appears to have finally been resolved over the winter. This should lead to renewed activity in Port McNicoll as the next phase of development may start this spring. The **Keewatin** group are hoping to have the ship tours starting in early to mid May this year. As they complete the restoration project, they have also incorporated a model ship display as an added attraction.

**Although** Tay decided last summer to fix up the “public boat launch” in Victoria Harbour, the winter weather has kept the project on hold. Among the improvements was a dredging for boaters to access deeper water and although permission was obtained and equipment arrived on site, not much else has occurred to date. I understand the works department has been shopping for concrete pads to facilitate a safe launch area.

**The Santa Clause Parade** in Waubaushene was a huge success this year by all reports. Our congratulations to the volunteers who made it happen. It sounds like there is already some discussion and planning for a bigger event next Christmas season.

**Just Reading**, the Great Lakes are 91% ice covered as of March 5<sup>th</sup>. This is the second highest ice cover recorded and second only to the 94% recorded in 1979. The article states this could mean a later spring and cooler, dryer summer than we have had for some time.



**Looking towards summer**, so we can once again enjoy our cottage experience and catch that perfect sunset in pictures, one only has to look at our memories from years past to once again “get in the mood”. In case this winter has dulled your memory, this sunset picture was taken late August 2013 on our Sturgeon Bay.

**Just a reminder**, our membership year ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. Even though we have been involved with a number of programs, we have been able to maintain our yearly dues at \$30.00 for 2014. Be sure you receive a receipt when paying your dues and that we have your current postal address, e-mail address and telephone number. Cheques may be mailed to our postal address or payments may be made to any Director of Talpines as well as at the AGM. Please help us increase our numbers by talking to your neighbours and friends and asking them to become members also.

By renewing your membership before the start of our AGM, you will be entitled to vote on and bring items from the floor for discussion at the AGM as well as nominate and/or run for the Talpines Board of Directors.

As well, you will receive our Quarterly Newsletter plus periodical special notices which usually occur after our Bay Water Test results arrive from the Lab. You will also become a member of FOCA which as well as receiving their monthly News Letter (FOCA Elert), entitles members to some FOCA Sponsor product discounts!

Your Talpines Directors & Executive try to get answers for your questions & concerns from the various levels of Government and try to keep you informed of Municipal issues.

**Please note: the FOCA Elert is only sent out by e-mail.**

**As well, Talpines sends Newsletters & notices by e-mail providing you have an e-mail address to keep our costs down.** The few without internet will receive our Newsletter by post mail but may not receive other notices.

#### **Contact Information:**

Canada Post: P.O. Box 9, Waubaushene, On., L0K 2C0

E-mail: [talpines@sympatico.ca](mailto:talpines@sympatico.ca)

#### **Directors**

David Cornish, President (home) 705-295-4241 (cell) 705-559-6711 e-mail: [dlcornish@msn.com](mailto:dlcornish@msn.com)

Clem Carelse, Vice President 416-493-8556

Christine Hurlbut, Secretary-Treasurer 416-493-8556

Andrew Allan 416-240-8815

Steven Clift 905-430-7424

Tom Goetz, Past President 705-538-1665

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