



Looking through the old willow over the snowy Bay, Waubaushene Jan 2021

## TALPINES POA JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hello from Lockdown. Here we are again, staying home, staying safe, but missing our friends and family, and all of our usual activities. BUT, there's good news: our local nursing home and retirement home residents, and our health care heroes are receiving their vaccines. Also on the good news front: the Marco Mancini foundation has donated 5 million dollars to Georgian Bay General Hospital, an astounding and transformational gift.

### **WINTER SAFETY**

The volunteer Community Policing Committee will be holding a public meeting with speakers on February 8, 2021 at 7 p.m. about winter safety. Please join by ZOOM if you can: 831 5526 2540

There have been three tragic deaths of snowmobilers in our area in the last several weeks, when they went out on the bay and fell through the ice. The OPP is warning that ice conditions are NOT SAFE, and the snow hides the open water. There has not been a consistent period of freezing weather. Rescue teams did their best, at great hazard to themselves.


Also, impaired driving charges were laid against a Severn Township man when he crashed his snowmobile into the Waubaushene Pier on January 12, 2021. 😞

## **WAUBAUSHENE ACTION GROUP**

The WAG Committee is presenting a delegation to Council on February 27, 2021 urging Council to consider purchasing the Pine Street School for use as a community centre, or to plan for a community centre at Bridgeview Park. ZOOM in to watch the delegation. **ZOOM NUMBER 836 2929 7656** Or go to [tay.ca](http://tay.ca) "Your Municipality" "Mayor and Council" then "Calendar" and look at the agenda posted on January 27, 2021 to view their presentation. GO WAG! Check out this Midland Today article that features WAG's goals : <https://www.midlandtoday.ca/local-news/tay-councillors-enthusiasm-of-buying-former-waubauskene-school-put-on-hold-3278335>

Thanks to all those who signed the petition or wrote to Council! Your support makes a difference.

## **OUR LIBRARY NEEDS YOU!**

Please support the Waubauskene Library Branch.  In 2016 the Township hired consultants to prepare a Library Master Plan. This process was comprehensive and studied the strengths and weaknesses of the three branch system, the hours of operation, the cost, the building repairs needed, population trends and users. The community was extensively consulted and surveyed. The Master Plan made numerous recommendations, not all of which have been completed to date. The Master Plan was adopted by Council, and Council's long term Strategic Plan notes the importance of the Library. But lately, our Library seems to be suffering from a turnover of staff. New Board personnel seem to want to cut hours, staff and budgets. At the latest meeting they instigated an ad hoc review of the Master Plan. This was NOT on the agenda, and is totally without public input. Show them you use the Library! Please use your library branch, even during Covid they will renew your card by phone, help you with accessing electronic books, help you with book selection, kits for kids, curb side pick up, good food boxes, and story time that they post on line. Check out their website at [tay.library.on.ca](http://tay.library.on.ca) or call them: 705-538-1122.

Local residents are sending letters to Council to protest the Board's random undermining of our Library branch, the Library Master Plan and their own

staff. Here's a sample attached that you could use or modify to email the mayor at [twalker@tay.ca](mailto:twalker@tay.ca) and the Clerk at [cbonneville@tay.ca](mailto:cbonneville@tay.ca)

**STAY SAFE! THE VACCINES ARE COMING (EVENTUALLY) 👍**

**Victoria Reaume, President, Talpines POA**

*SAMPLE*

*To: Library Chair*

*Members of the Board*

*Mayor Walker and Tay Council*

*We write to you following the Library Board's recent meeting. Our Tay Library has experienced unprecedented disruption recently. We are in a COVID epidemic with intermittent lockdowns; library hours have been slashed; the Library CEO is on leave, and an interim CEO has been appointed; the former Chair of the Board resigned suddenly, apparently in protest; former appointed Councillors have departed and new ones appointed, and public members supportive of the library have been replaced.*

*There is no doubt that branch usage has declined during Covid—we must understand that this is an aberration. Yet, at yesterday's meeting the Library Chair introduced a discussion (without it appearing on the agenda) seeking to undermine the Library's Master Plan. The Plan was developed with the input of expert consultants, at great expense to taxpayers; and with active participation from residents from all three branch areas, members of Council, and members of the Library Board. Surveys were done, citizens were canvassed and interviewed and experts assessed population, usage and service trends, and infrastructure.*

*The Library Chair, supported by the Deputy Mayor, led a motion to direct the interim CEO to study library usage and service and population over the last many years, all the while questioning the utility of the Master Plan. All of this without public input.*

*We urge the Township to halt this hasty and ill-planned process. If a new strategic plan is to be prepared, we request that it be done with an outside, expert, arms-length consulting firm, and only after widespread public consultation. The Library currently has a \$96,000 surplus, so perhaps part of this should fund a fair, and arms length Master Plan Update. Tay's Strategic Plan, adopted in 2019, recognizes the importance of the Library and its three branch system.*

*Signed: Citizen in support of the Waubaushene Library Branch*

