

NEWSLETTER – Fall, 2006

Your VOTE Counts

This fall shoreline electors have the opportunity to choose who will represent them as Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor-at-large, and Ward Councillor on Bluewater Council. Since the term of municipal council is now four years, the quality of those elected becomes even more critical, both for Bluewater as a whole and for shoreline residents in particular. To assist you in your choice, you will receive a letter from BSRA around mid-October.

The number of electors in the Wards of Hay West and Stanley West represents the voting power to ensure the election of competent candidates who demonstrate an understanding of, and concern about, issues important to shoreline residents. However, if only one couple in each subdivision fails to vote, there are 100 missing votes. **YOUR vote is important** – in a close election, we can make the difference – but **only if we all vote**.

When you receive your ballot in the mail, you should do the following:

- **Consider the BSRA recommendations.**
- **Mark your ballot.** (Carefully follow the instructions re envelope insertion to ensure your ballot is not rejected).
- **Return your ballot immediately.**
- Then call your subdivision neighbours to make sure they have mailed their ballots.

BSRA Communications – Evolving to Meet Changing Circumstances

The past decade has been a period of significant change. Although the printed word remains an effective means of communication, the increasing use of the internet and e-mail in our society has dramatically changed both how we communicate with others and how we receive information. The nature of our linear shoreline community has also changed significantly as many more properties represent the sole permanent residences of their owners. The majority of shoreline residents are now regular users of both the internet and e-mail, and many of our seasonal residents have access to the internet at both their cottage and primary residence. In recognition of these changes, BSRA created its own website.

Over the next year, our communications program will evolve further in this direction through the following:

- **Newsletter** 3 issues per year (May, July, September) which you should receive through your subdivision contact person not later than the Victoria Day, Civic Holiday, and Thanksgiving Day holiday weekends. Although the *Newsletter* will continue to highlight issues of importance to shoreline residents, more detailed information on *Newsletter* items will shift to our website. As a result, the format of the *Newsletter* has changed to letter-sized paper, punched to assist in retention for future reference.
- **Website** www.bsra.ca provides the capability to provide information on emerging issues immediately and to make available more detailed information on a greater variety of subjects. Our website manager, Harlie Johnston, deserves the credit for both creating the website and updating it on a regular basis. To keep up-to-date on issues of importance for shoreline residents, make a habit of visiting the website at least weekly.
- **e-mail** A further expansion of our communications will be through the increased use of e-mail. Our President, Paul Mennill, plans to send on a periodic basis an e-mail to subdivision contact persons, updating them on emerging issues or items requiring action. Individual shoreline residents are encouraged to send comments or questions to the Association via e-mail – [<click here>](#)

Water Quality (Monitor www.bsra.ca for information updates)

Past President John Gillespie is coordinating BSRA activities on this issue. BSRA is considering further responses to the recent manure spill in the St. Joseph watershed.

The recent conference, “*It All Ends Up In The Lake*”, was highly successful in terms of the quality of the program and the number of attendees. BSRA is one of the co-sponsors of the conference. Bob Slow, Chairperson of the BSRA Environment Committee, deserves recognition for his efforts in making the conference a success in raising public awareness about this ongoing concern. Doug Banks created an excellent display promoting BSRA and providing a dramatic visual “Anatomy of a Manure Spill”.

Shoreline Implementation Policy – Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)

Under the authority of Ontario Regulation 147/06, ABCA now regulates lands adjacent to Lake Huron. Since this policy will determine which activities within the designated shoreline zone will require ABCA approval, it is of particular significance for shoreline residents. BSRA had representation on the committee reviewing the proposed policy for implementing the regulation along our shoreline, and made a number of recommendations which are

included in the final draft. When the ABCA Board of Directors approves the policy this fall, further information will be posted on our website.

Density Standards

Bluewater is currently studying the creation of development standards for the Ward of Bayfield. Since the review is likely to cover the entire "Bayfield settlement area" which includes the northern portion of Stanley West, BSRA is participating in the discussion groups organized to study this issue.

2006 - 07 Board of Directors

| <i>Office</i> | <i>Name</i> | <i>Subdivision</i> | <i>Home (519)</i> | <i>e-mail</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| President | Paul Mennill | Cedarbank | 238 - 1240 | |
| 1 st Vice President | Harlie Johnston | Elmwood | 238 - 2843 | |
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| Membership | Larry Marchand | Sunset Cove | 236 - 7614 | |
| Communications | Bob Campbell | North Houston Heights | 565 - 5202 | |

* Denotes cellphone in area code 519; long distance charges apply from Bluewater

Association Founders

In the fall of 1990, a meeting of representatives of existing beach associations was called to consider establishing a cottagers' association for Stanley Township. The purpose was to provide a forum to share ideas and information and to provide numerical strength when coping with specific issues of concern. It is interesting to note that the three issues of interest identified at that time remain our concerns in 2006: *"relatively high taxation for relatively fewer services; environmental quality (the quality of Lake Huron water as affected by surface runoff, dumping, etc.); and government regulations and policies affecting the cottage areas and the shoreline."*

Jim Chapman and **Doug Banks** had the vision to recognize both the need for, and the potential of, such an organization. They were the primary catalysts in the formation of the *Stanley Township Cottagers' Association* (STCA) in September, 1991. STCA evolved into the *Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association* in 1999 in preparation for the Bluewater amalgamation.

Jim Chapman served as STCA's first president, followed by Doug Banks a year later. Both have served on the Association Board of Directors ever since in a variety of roles. Jim, through his tireless efforts as Membership Chairperson, is largely responsible for the growth and resulting strength of our Association. Doug, in addition to being our Constitution / By-law expert, has educated us all through his informative *Newsletters* over the years. After 15 consecutive years of service, both Jim and Doug have decided to pass the torch to others. For their hard work and all their various contributions over these many years, we owe them a debt of gratitude – many benefits that shoreline residents now enjoy are a direct result of the vision that Jim and Doug had 16 years ago.

Paul Mennill, President

Bob Campbell, Communications Director