

BLUEWATER SHORELINE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - August, 2000

*This Newsletter is produced and distributed by the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association (STCA), an umbrella group of beach/cottage/subdivision associations, as a service to the shoreline residents in Hay and Stanley Townships. It is funded by the Member Associations and its Associate Members. For information on membership, please contact the Membership Secretary, **Jim Chapman**, at (519) 235-1644 or (519) 565-5303. The STCA Executive is pleased to pass on the information that follows.*

Municipal Issues: a Progress Report

This issue of the Newsletter is being distributed now to provide notice of the Association's **Annual General Meeting** at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 11, 1999** in the **Parish Hall of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church** at Drysdale, on Highway 21 opposite Church Road. Our special guest speakers will be members of the new Municipality of Bluewater Management Team who will be discussing some current issues. Other information will be provided, and discussions will help determine the Association's future activities. Although only the official representatives of paid-up recognized constituent Associations actually vote, Associate Members and Members of constituent Associations are welcome to participate in the discussions. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided. Information of significance to shoreline residents in our area is provided below, some of which updates information given in past Newsletters.

Municipal Amalgamation

The decision to go ahead with amalgamation has been made by all of the government bodies involved, and the current process is to make decisions about how to amalgamate, what facilities equipment and personnel will be required, what common by-laws will be needed, etc. Naturally, this is made more difficult by the fact that each amalgamating municipality has its own established policies and practices, and in some cases, its own "turf" to protect. These discussions are being held by a Transition Board under the Chairmanship of Jack Coleman, a group composed of all of the members of the Councils in the amalgamating Municipality of Bluewater. For some issues, consultants have been hired to make recommendations, but the decisions are up to the Transition Board, until the newly elected Municipal Council for Bluewater is installed.

At the same time, decisions are being made about the existing municipalities by the existing Municipal Councils, with the proviso that if a decision involves more than \$10,000.00, agreement must be obtained from the Transition Board, i.e., from the Councils of the other municipalities involved. Decisions are being made about the site of municipal offices, the closure or retention of properties, (including arenas, halls, garages, waste sites), personnel, etc. One of the recent decisions was the selection of the Management Team.

Management Team Announced for the Municipality of Bluewater

Based on the recommendations of their consultants, the Transition Board has decided that the Management team for the Municipality will consist of five members:

Janisse Zimmerman, Clerk-Administrator (from Hay Township); tel. (519) 236-4351

Luanne Phair, Treasurer, Tax Collector and Deputy Clerk (from Hensall); tel. (519) 262-2812

Ross Fisher, Public Works and Property Manager (from Hay Township); tel. (519) 236-4964

Milt Dietrich, Chief Building Official (from Hay Township); tel. (519) 262-3206

Tom Dickins, Facilities Manager (from Hensall); tel. (519) 236-4351

Their employment by the Municipality of Bluewater was effective upon their hiring, and so you may feel free to consult them about issues in Bluewater while it is in the process of coming into being. In addition to those named above, there will be five additional office staff, (from among the eight currently employed), to be named this month, and, (not including retirements), ten of the Public Works staff will be retained, one of which will be responsible for all of the water services including maintenance of the wells and their chlorination systems, as well as pipeline maintenance, meter reading, etc. There will also be about ten staff members employed at the various arenas and other facilities.

So that you may get to know our Bluewater Administrative Staff in case there are some you do not know already, each of them was asked to provide a brief personal outline. Here are the ones submitted prior to publication:

Janisse Zimmerman has been the Clerk-Treasurer of Hay Township since 1990, although she has been in municipal administration since 1987, following several years in office administration. Just last year she was awarded the Certified Municipal Officer (CMO) designation from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers (AMCT). Over the years she has taken a number of extra-curricular upgrading courses to better serve the Councils and ratepayers. She also is active in a variety of organizations in her local community where she has served in a wide variety of offices, including chair, for most of them, as well as in her professional association (AMCT). She lives in Zurich, is married and has one son.

Born and raised in Lambton County, **Luanne Phair** attended elementary and secondary school in Lambton and Kent Counties. Her post-secondary education was obtained at the University of Western Ontario where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree with areas of concentration in Political Science and Economics, as well as a Diploma in Public Administration. She graduated from Western in 1982 and commenced employment with the Town of Seaforth as Deputy Clerk, and was employed with Seaforth until November 1987, at which time she accepted the position of Clerk-Treasurer - Tax Collector and Licensing Officer with the Village of Hensall. Over the years she has completed many courses in relation to her job responsibilities, including the AMCT and Municipal Tax Administration Programs. She finds her work very challenging and enjoyable and looks forward to her employment with the municipality of Bluewater. Raised on a farm, she has a keen interest in agronomy and is involved in the family farm operation. Other interests include architecture, flying, politics and travel. She is also a member and Vice-President of the Hensall Horticultural Society.

Ross Fisher was born and raised on a farm in Hay Township, has lived in the area most of his life, and at present he lives in Zurich. He has one daughter and two grandchildren in whom he delights. During the summer he enjoys playing golf and in the winter he plays hockey and darts. He was educated at South Huron District High School and has since taken numerous road-related courses at the University of Guelph. Prior to working for Hay Township, he worked in construction, and then became a grader operator/sub-foreman for the Huron County Roads Department where he was employed for ten years. He has been the Road Superintendent for Hay Township for the past 21 years. He is looking forward to meeting and serving the citizens of the new Municipality of Bluewater.

Milt Dietrich was born, raised, and still resides in Stephen Township with his wife Barb. They have a daughter Leanne and a son Brad. Leanne is a Phys. Ed. Teacher and coaches various sports at a private school in the Guelph area. Brad works in building construction and lives in the Hensall area. Milt worked in various areas of building construction for many years prior to being hired by Stephen Township as its Chief Building Official in 1986. In 1987 he accepted the duties of By-law Enforcement and Property Standards Officer as well. In 1991, he became employed by Hay Township to provide the same services for Hay as he was performing for Stephen Township, and in 1996 and 1998 the Villages of Hensall and Zurich, (respectively), hired him in the same capacities. Over the years since 1986, Milt has continually participated in various educational courses provided by the Province with relation to the Building Code, to Property Standards, and to Sewage. He obtained certification in 1993 as a Certified Building Code Official.

Tom Dickins

Creating Common By-laws, etc.

Selecting various by-laws to be the ones in force in Bluewater is a formidable task being undertaken by the Transition Board because the job is to blend the by-laws of different municipalities together, hopefully taking the best from each. In practice the Board has selected the by-law which comes closest to embodying the essence of what is desired, and adapting it to the needs of the new Municipality. At the time of writing, the Board is wrestling with animal control by-laws, among others, and this is indicative of the thoroughness with which the creation of a common set of by-laws must be determined.

Group Insurance for BSRA Associations

As you may recall, one of the initiatives taken by this Association was to endeavour to seek possible insurance coverage for our member associations by seeking a group rate for association insurance to reduce insurance costs significantly. Bob Worthy, now our Past President, undertook considerable research, and arranged that our associations could insure with the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA) insurance plan, as long as the association being insured was a *bona fide* member of our association, then called Stanley Township Cottagers' Association, and this plan worked well for a while.

In our May 2000 Newsletter, we mentioned that FOCA was no longer willing to allow any new cottage/community associations to participate in the FOCA insurance group unless the association being insured was a member directly with FOCA. As mentioned, Bob Worthy had tried, in vain, to convince them of the need to expand their thinking as more associations participating may mean lower costs in the future. Bob has since approached several insurance agents to quote on this association group coverage, with special emphasis on liability insurance. At our general meeting, Bob reported favourable quotations from two different insurance agents. It was resolved by the membership at this meeting to let the Executive Committee decide what insurance quotation we should recommend to our members and proceed with a follow-up. The Executive Committee met and received new information on which it based its recommendation after thorough discussion.

We are pleased to advise you that **Westlake-McHugh Insurance Brokers Ltd.** in Zurich negotiated the best package for our associations, providing a comprehensive general liability for member associations of BSRA. Each association would be issued an individual policy under the master policy which provides for \$2,000,000 for bodily injury and property damage and for non-owned auto and tenants' legal of \$250,000 for an annual premium of **\$325**. This is a savings for most associations currently with the FOCA program and a substantial savings from another insurance broker who may have covered, (or who currently covers), your own association.

If you are interested in further information about this association comprehensive insurance coverage, please contact Pat McHugh or Brian McHugh at (519) 236-4391 or fax your request to (519) 236-4271. They will also be able to talk to you about other insurance, such as Directors' Errors and Omissions insurance and residential insurance. The Executive Committee highly recommends that member associations and their own members be financially protected by taking advantage of this **liability insurance** at our low group rate.

911 Cutover Ceremonies

The most recent announcement from the **911** Project Committee is that the Cutover Ceremonies for **911** service will be held at Noon on September 6, 2000, after which time **911** service should be in effect in Huron County. It appears that there are still a few "bugs" to work out, including the problem of getting the correct municipal addresses for all residents. Even so, call display, (and thus automatic address identification), will work in the dispatching office only if the caller has a private line. For multiparty lines, someone must be able to inform the dispatcher of the correct address, and it is probably a good idea to have a printed copy of the address next to or adhered to each telephone in the residence for use in emergencies. This will be particularly helpful for family, renters and guests.

Don Brazier, President

Compiled by Doug Banks, Newsletter Editor

Some Glimmer of Relief from Increasing Pollution

As was reported some time ago in these Newsletters, the Farming and Food Protection Act in Ontario directed that no municipal by-law was permitted to interfere with “normal farming practices” as determined in specific cases by an appointed group called the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board. This meant that it was virtually impossible to control the spread of factory farms, nor to meaningfully control their disposal of manure when and where it was deemed inappropriate. In spite of the best efforts of municipalities, wilful offenders are difficult to bring under control as evidenced in Ashfield Township, which is “up” the lake from Bluewater, and from where we, too, receive lake water pollution, especially from the heavy precipitation “cleansing” the fields and “flushing” topsoil, debris, chemicals and manure into Lake Huron in early Summer.

On June 26, Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, (OMAFRA), issued a directive to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board that an agricultural operation proposed to be carried on in an area subject to an interim control by-law, (a method of municipal control under the Planning Act), shall not be permitted to be carried on as a normal farming practice until the municipality has passed a by-law that provides nutrient management planning, minimum distance separation and manure storage standards. This directive does little to establish new controls, (even ones considered to be reasonable by all sides), over the size and location of factory farms, but it does reinforce to the Board the political will to respect the importance of nutrient management plans, minimum separation distances and manure storage standards. By the way, Hay and Stanley Townships both have such by-laws in place.

As a follow-up to the above, on July 10 Minister Hardeman announced that legislation would be introduced in the Fall to impose “strict environmental safeguards for agricultural practices.” The proposed legislation would include:

- defining categories for types of farms including livestock operations,
- developing standards according to the size of farms, for agricultural practices including manure handling, storage and application, and
- providing strict enforcement authority, and setting out penalties and fines for infractions.

In the report by Dr. Douglas Galt MPP and Toby Barrett MPP which will form the basis for discussions, and likely for the legislation to follow, they recommend categorization of farms into 4 categories, the first three of which are defined by the number of “Livestock Units” (LU). For example, category 3 is defined by having greater than 450 Livestock Units, (450 cattle or 1800 hogs, for example), and it is proposed that the operator have an Intensive Agricultural Operations Certificate, suggested components of which include nutrient management plans, minimum separation distances, engineered building plans, soil investigations of the site, landscaping around the site, and possibly the use of odour treatment technology and liquid manure treatment/processing technology. This requirement should thus provide for the suspension or cancellation of the Certificate for flagrant violators such as the notorious one in Ashfield Township. Thus, if the legislation goes through as indicated, there should be some improvement in the quality of the Lake, and a reduction of the health hazards associated with polluted water in Lake Huron.