

NEWSLETTER — October, 2002

*This Newsletter is produced and distributed by the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association (BSRA), an umbrella group of residents/beach/cottage/subdivision associations, as a service to the shoreline residents in Hay and Stanley Wards. 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, or by e-mail at [Click here for contact email address](#). BSRA's Postal address is **BSRA, GMB #411, RR 2, Zurich ON N0M 2T0**.*

1. At the well-attended **Annual Meeting of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association**, it was noted that there has been an increase in the membership of the Association over last year, and that only a few subdivisions were not yet represented. For the most part, these latter are subdivisions that are not yet "organized" into associations that could be a part of BSRA. However, a number of shoreline residents who find themselves without an association have become Associate Members, and participate in BSRA activities. It was also noted that 26 Associations have now joined in the group insurance plan of BSRA Members with Westlake-McHugh Insurance Brokers. For those who wish more information about the BSRA Group plan, the contact person is Brian McHugh at 236-4391.

While the annual Association dues are adequate for the ordinary operations of the Association, and will continue to be the same for 2003, the Reserve Fund has been supported fairly well, but contributions to the Fund will still be accepted. As has been noted, the Fund is to provide for **a.** any legal fees or other costs incurred by the Association when carrying out the resolutions of the membership, or **b.** funding the off-season distribution of information, etc., to the membership re the 2003 Municipal election, or a similar Association activity .

A presentation was made to the members by Constable Don Shropsall of the OPP about shoreline subdivision security. He noted that Neighbourhood Watch and Cottage Watch programs are operating in our area, and advised homeowners to **a.** engrave valuables and use OPP-provided window stickers to advertise this, **b.** trim vegetation back for better visibility, **c.** use electric lighting for security purposes. He also noted that it is illegal to drive ATVs on roads or beaches.

Six BSRA Committees were established: Economic Development, Environment, Membership Communications, Member Services, Political Action and Road Services. Members of Associations were encouraged to get involved, and were urged to send a note advising of their interests to BSRA's postal address as noted above.

President Bob Campbell reported on the progress toward equity of services for the taxes paid via the road service initiative. It appeared at the time that good progress was being made toward attempting to redress the imbalance in services provided. (Unfortunately, the issue has subsequently become clouded, and some "side issues" have been introduced. Coming Council meetings will be addressing the issue of whether those public access roads which are in private ownership should also receive the benefit of this tax equity initiative the same as the publically owned roads.)

President Bob also reported on the actions of Bluewater Council on the Shoreline Ward issue. He noted that a By-law had been put forward to create a Shoreline Ward as requested in the petition from the Bluewater Shoreline residents, but the Council also moved to reduce the total number of Councillors from 10 to 9, thus giving the Shoreline Ward only **one Councillor**, (for over one-third of Bluewater's taxpayers), in comparison to **five** for under two-thirds of the taxpayers. The population demographics indicate that three Councillors would be more equitable for the Shoreline Ward, and BSRA has put its Solicitor on notice to prepare to present BSRA's case to the Municipal Board. He also announced a meeting for October 7 for public input. (More about this below.)

It was decided that in light of the current important initiatives, that the present Executive Committee should remain in office for another year. Here is a list of the **BSRA Executive Committee** Members for your records.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Subdivision</i>	<i>Home*</i>	<i>Lake*</i>
President:	Bob Campbell	N. Houston Heights	565-5202	
Past Pres.:	Don Brazier	Lakewood	271-6203	565-5231
1 st Vice Pres.:	John Gillespie	St. Joseph Shores	236-7285	
2 nd Vice Pres.:	Doug Kyle	Gendron-Bachand	236-4711	
Secretary:	Jean Irvin	Lakewood Gardens	236-7047	
Treasurer:	Bob Worthy	Sunset Estates	641-0860	236-7512
Membership:	Jim Chapman	Westdell	235-1644	565-5303
Newsletter:	Doug Banks	Houston Heights S.	471-4378	565-2560

* All area code 519. When there is no *Lake* number, this indicates a permanent resident.

2. As you may know, Councillor Tony Denomme, one of the two Councillors from Hay Ward on Bluewater Council, moved to Goderich, and so resigned from Bluewater Council. The Council advertised for qualified residents to serve as a replacement for Councillor Denomme for the remainder of his term of office. At the Council Meeting of September 30, the Council interviewed in open Council the five applicants who were prepared to serve. The applicants were sequestered, and each was interviewed singly in alphabetical order. At the conclusion of this process, the Council voted to select **Jim Fergusson**, and he was sworn in as a Councillor.

Councillor Fergusson is a year-round lakefront resident in Houston Heights subdivision. Originally from Ingersoll, Jim has been a Bluewater resident for over three years, and during that time he attended many meetings of Stanley Township Council and of the Transition Board. He has seldom missed a meeting of Bluewater Council since its inception, and has an excellent grasp of the issues facing the Council as well as good knowledge of the background of many issues discussed by the Councils whose meetings he has attended. As well, he has served as a representative of the Shoreline area of Bluewater on the Nutrient Management Working Group to develop the current County-based Nutrient Management By-law. In its wisdom, the Council certainly chose the applicant with the greatest knowledgeability about Council issues. As a Councillor for Hay Ward, he plans to work at familiarizing himself with all of the Ward, its concerns and issues, and especially invites Hay Ward residents to contact him at 565-5883, write to him at RR 1, Bayfield ON N0M 1G0, or e-mail him at aparker@mail.odessey.on.ca. Naturally, he will make himself available to serve all Bluewater Residents.

You should also be aware that Luanne Phair has resigned as Treasurer, Tax Collector and Deputy Clerk of Bluewater, and is now with the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Office in London. Bluewater Council is now in the process of hiring a replacement.

3. Of particular interest to BSRA Members was the Public Input Meeting on October 7 re the By-law to restructure the

Bluewater Council to create a Shoreline Ward. The entire Council was present to hear input from interested ratepayers. Most of the ratepayers present were Shoreline residents, with only one resident from East of Highway 21 in attendance. The Solicitor for BSRA, John Judson of Lerner and Associates of London, made a presentation in which he encouraged the Council Members to increase the number of Councillors in the proposed Shoreline Ward from one to two, not even the three which would provide more equitable representation, as noted above.

A variety of comments from those present supported this position, particularly arguing that, on the one hand, the issue of choosing a Councillor-at-Large could be solved by having one Councillor selected by the Council to that post, if the number of Councillors were to be only 9 as proposed. Although it was argued that reducing the Council to 9 members would save \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year, it was also noted that in light of the total municipal budget, that such an amount is a tiny percentage of the taxes collected. It should also be noted that in light of the suggestions at the meeting that certain committees should be appointed to undertake specific tasks not currently being pursued vigorously, that the tenth member of Council could reduce the load for all Councillors in comparison to 9 Councillors undertaking the same tasks.

The nature of the Shoreline Community was also noted again, as was the fact that the Shoreline Ward has special needs which can be better addressed by having specific representation. The existence of a Shoreline Ward did not appear to meet with much opposition, and the issue instead revolved around the number of Councillors it should have. It was later pointed out that the Council could save the \$15,000 or so cost of retaining the same number of Councillors as it currently has by enacting a By-law providing two Councillors for the Shoreline Ward, and avoid spending that amount or more at an Ontario Municipal Board Hearing, as will happen unless such action is taken.

For your information, that Municipal Board Hearing at which this issue is scheduled to be resolved will be held in the Stanley Complex at Varna. Three days have been set aside beginning Monday, November 18, and Shoreline Residents are urged to be present if the hearing goes ahead. One of the requirements for the hearing is that all of the 1134 petitioners must be advised of the hearing at least 35 days in advance of the hearing date. Currently, plans to fulfill this requirement in addition to this Newsletter item are being investigated. Please share this information with your neighbours who signed the petition.

4. With all of the discussion about a Shoreline Ward, it is appropriate to let you see just what is being talked about. Below is a map of the Proposed Wards under the By-law.

Bob Campbell, President Compiled by Doug Banks, Newsletter Editor