

NEWSLETTER – MAY, 2003

*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. BSRA's Postal address is **BSRA, GMB #411, RR 2, Zurich ON NOM 2T0**. BSRA's web site is www.bsra.ca and its email address is [Click here for contact email address](mailto:bsra@bsra.ca)*

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER, AND BSRA IS INDEBTED TO PRESIDENT BOB CAMPBELL FOR THIS DETAILED REPORT!

1. Bluewater Road Grants

Last October, Council established a per kilometer grant for unassumed shoreline subdivision roads, subject to the following criteria:

“1. The grant is available for roads that were created by Plan of Subdivision or by Reference Plan regardless of the ownership of the road; 2. The road must be open for public use. There cannot be any ‘No Trespassing’ or ‘Private Road’ signs;

3. There must be a formal subdivision association with an executive, constitution, by-laws and bank account. This information

must be provided to the Municipal Office. The cheques will be payable to the subdivision association, not an individual;

4. The grant can be used for maintenance of the roads and capital improvements to the roads. If capital improvements are made, they must be to municipal specifications;

5. If the allotted amount is not spent in the year, it will go into a reserve for that subdivision. The maximum amount of the reserve will not exceed three times the annual allotment. No deficits will be permitted; 6. The allotment is based on \$1900 per km. for 2003 and will be reviewed annually (distance confirmed by the Public Works Mgr.)”

“Subdivisions wishing to participate in the road grant program will need to provide ... the Association information ... to the Manager of Finance, Terri Brandon, by August 15th, 2003. This information does not need to be submitted each year, unless there are changes.”

“The grant will be paid to the subdivision association upon submission of a form, provided by the Municipality, with the invoices attached and proof that the invoices have been paid. Only 1 cheque will be issued to each subdivision annually.

The submission forms must be received no later than November 30th. Any eligible work done in December of a current year (excluding 2002) will be paid with the grant for the following year.”

At that time, Council passed a motion “that the Ad Hoc Roads Grant Committee

remains for 2003 to deal with

any issues relating to the Roads Grant.” However, on March 17/03, Council determined “that the Roads Grant for unassumed roads may *only* be used for grading, snow ploughing, gravel, calcium, grass cutting, drainage including ditch work and catch basins,

road reconstruction (to municipal specifications) and hard surfacing (to municipal specifications) of the roadways.”

A subsequent BSRA request that this motion be referred to Council’s “Ad Hoc Roads Grant Committee” for review and discussion was defeated. (**For: Fergusson** (Hay), **Klopp** (Deputy-Mayor), Parker (Hensall); **Against: Denomme** (Councillor-at-large),

Martin (Stanley), **Govier** (Stanley), **Mousseau** (Hay), Laudenbach (Bayfield), Deichert (Zurich). As a result, it would appear that items such as tree removal, tree trimming, brush trimming, and liability insurance are NOT eligible for reimbursement in 2003.

Council designated **May 1, 2003** as the date by which all “Private” and/or “No Trespassing” signs must be removed from roads in regard to eligibility for the Roads Grant.

2. BSRA Road Services Committee (Don Brazier, Chairperson – 565-5231; 271-6203)

Last fall, BSRA negotiated with Diamond Environmental Inc. to offer snow clearing services for shoreline residents. Shoreline subdivisions that utilized this service this past winter report satisfaction with both the excellent service and

reasonable cost. It is anticipated that similar arrangements will be available for the 2003-04 snow season.

The Committee is currently involved in discussions with a variety of suppliers with respect to road maintenance items: gravel, grading, dust suppression, grass cutting, and brush cutting. More information will be forthcoming within the next month.

3. Member Services Committee (Bob Worthy, Chairperson – 236-7512; 641-0860)

BSRA will make available to member associations sample constitutions and by-laws which would satisfy the Municipal requirement for road grant availability. (See Item 2 above.)

The Committee continues to investigate a number of services, including long distance telephone alternatives and reduced rates when several septic tanks in the same

subdivision are pumped out at the same time. More information within the next month.

4. BSRA Reserve Fund

As you are aware, the member associations of BSRA voted last June to establish a special fund for the purposes of financing whatever legal action may be required to protect the interests of shoreline residents. The specific purposes for the Reserve Fund are:

- A. to finance legal costs (including the cost of petitioning to the OMB to establish a shoreline ward within Bluewater

with Councillor representation proportionate to the number of electors);

- B. to ensure the continuance of voting-by-mail in municipal elections; and

- C. to finance expenses related to the 2003 municipal election to ensure the election of quality candidates

with an understanding of issues important to shoreline residents.

As a direct result of BSRA efforts on behalf of Bluewater shoreline residents, and the known existence of this Reserve Fund:

- A. Council created two shoreline wards – Hay West and Stanley West with one Councillor each (see Item 5 below);
- B. Council voted to conduct the 2003 municipal election utilizing voting by mail (see Item 5 below); and
- C. Council established a grant to shoreline subdivisions of \$1,900 per km. of unassumed roads (see Item 1 above).

Each shoreline association was asked to contribute an amount equal to \$50 for each property owner. It should be noted that **the direct financial benefit to each property owner will be significantly larger than the requested contribution of \$ 50.** Shoreline residents who have not made such a contribution to this common cause to protect our mutual interests are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Cheques should be made payable to the “BSRA Reserve Fund” and sent to the Association mailing address.

5. 2003 Municipal Election – Questions & Answers

Q. *Why is this election important for shoreline residents?*

A. The responsibilities of our Bluewater Council include developing the vision and long-range plan for our community; establishing municipal policies and practices through its by-laws; determining the level and equity of services provided across

the community; planning and approving long-term capital projects; and approving the expenditures which ratepayers finance

through their property taxes. In addition, 3 members of Bluewater Council (Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, Councillor-at-large)

serve on the Huron County Council. County taxes represent the largest portion of shoreline residents' property taxes.

Q. *What changes have been made in the Bluewater ward structure?*

A. As a result of the petition signed by 1,134 shoreline electors and the input received at two public meetings,

Bluewater Council voted unanimously to create two shoreline wards (Hay West and Stanley West) by dividing the

existing Hay and Stanley Wards along Highway 21. Each of the 7 resulting wards will be represented by one councillor.

The related referral to the Ontario Municipal Board was subsequently withdrawn by BSRA.

Q. *What are the Council positions for which shoreline electors can vote?*

A. Shoreline electors can vote for 5 of the 10 Council seats:

Ward Councillor (Hay West **or** Stanley West), Councillor-at-large, Deputy-Mayor, and Mayor.

The other ward Councillors (Bayfield, Hay East, Hensall, Stanley East, Zurich) are determined by the electors resident in that ward.

Q. *Can shoreline residents affect the outcome of this municipal election?*

A. Shoreline residents are the largest single group of electors in Bluewater.

The weight of this vote could determine the election for the positions of Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, and Councillor-at-large.

In addition, shoreline residents will elect the 2 Councillors representing their own ward

(Hay West or Stanley West).

Q. *What are the qualities expected in our elected representatives?*

A. The qualities necessary to effectively fulfill the responsibilities of elected municipal office would include:

a vision of what Bluewater could become, and a plan to achieve it; an awareness and understanding of a broad range of issues

vital to the health and prosperity of our community as a whole; the ability to look beyond the parochial interests of one ward;

sense of fairness and equity, and a lack of bias; an understanding of the respective roles of elected and administrative officials; analytical skills, sound judgement, and fiscal responsibility.

Q. *What role will BSRA play in this election?*

A. For **incumbents seeking re-election**, the BSRA *Political Action* Committee will assess the degree to which each

has demonstrated the above qualities, and, in particular, their track record with respect to knowledge and support of

shoreline residents' issues as reflected in presentations, questions, public comments, debate and voting record.

(Note: BSRA representatives attend virtually all Council meetings.) A decision will be made as to whether or not

individual incumbents should be supported in their bid for re-election. Where incumbents cannot be endorsed,

other residents demonstrating the desired qualities will be encouraged to contest those positions on Bluewater Council.

After the close of nominations, shoreline electors will be mailed a list of those individuals whose candidacy is endorsed.

Direct assistance will be provided in the election campaigns of **recommended** candidates.

Q. *What should I do as an individual shoreline elector?*

- A. Attend election meetings, where possible; study the BSRA recommendations re endorsed candidates; and

complete and return your ballot as soon as it is received in the mail. *Every vote counts!*

6. Subdivision Association Meetings.

As indicated above, the approaching municipal election is of vital importance to our community as a whole,

and for the interests of the shoreline residents in particular. It is important that all shoreline residents understand

the importance of voting this fall to ensure the highest quality elected representatives for the next three years.

The BSRA “Political Action” Committee is currently developing detailed plans for Association involvement in the election.

The BSRA Executive Committee is seeking the opportunity to share these plans with all our shoreline residents. Accordingly, your shoreline subdivision has been requested to provide the opportunity for a member of the BSRA Executive to make a brief presentation at a meeting of your subdivision association before September.

7. BSRA General Meeting – Saturday, June 21.

10:00 a.m. at St. Peter’s Roman Catholic Church Hall on Highway 21 north of St. Joseph’s, opposite Church Lane.

There will be reports from several of our Committees, along with a detailed update from the Executive on current issues, including plans for the fall municipal election. While only the official representative of each paid-up member Association is entitled to a vote, all members of constituent Associations and all Associate Members are invited to attend, and may participate in the meeting.

8. BSRA Website.

Check out our new Association website, www.bsra.ca – another way for our Communications Committee (Jim Chapman, Chairman) to provide you with current information and emerging news. Melodie Northey (Copper’s Cove) is our “webmaster” who will arrange for periodic updating of the website. Special thanks to Harlie Johnston, an Elmwood shoreline resident, for his expertise and contribution of considerable time to get this project off the ground. You can now contact BSRA by e-mail ([Click here for contact email address](#)).

9. Special Household Garbage Collection

Saturday, May 31, 2003
a.m.

7:00

See yellow flyer from Municipality of Bluewater for details.