

NEWSLETTER — October, 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 N0M 2T0**. BSRA's web site is www.bsra.ca, and its e-mail address is [Click here for contact email address](mailto:bsra@bsra.ca).*

This is to remind you to be sure to mark your ballot for Jim Fergusson for Councillor-at-Large for Bluewater Council, and to return your marked ballot promptly so that your vote may be counted.

Municipal Election

You are already aware of the importance of the current Municipal election to the Shoreline Residents in Bluewater. BSRA is attempting to ensure that the new Council has members who are knowledgeable about Shoreline issues that affect each member of BSRA, as well as understand the issues which affect the whole Municipality, including those who are not shoreline residents. For that reason, BSRA endorsed **Bill MacDougall** as a candidate in Hay West ward, **George Irvin** as a candidate in Stanley West ward, and **Jim Fergusson** as a candidate for Councillor-at-large. Nominations have now closed, and Bill MacDougall and George Irvin were acclaimed as Councillors for Hay West and Stanley West wards respectively, and for them the election process has been completed. However, Jim Fergusson is being opposed by Dwayne LaPorte and Steve Harburn, who were both Municipal Councillors prior to amalgamation.

Although Jim has already proven himself to be an excellent member of Bluewater Council, BSRA strongly believes that the same knowledgeability about shoreline issues needs to be brought to Huron County Council, where the Councillor-at-Large has a seat and a voice in the decisions being made about issues under County control. Jim has the distinction of not only understanding shoreline issues, being a shoreline resident, but he was also raised on a dairy farm and then spent many years living in a small town. He is therefore in the enviable position of being able to see issues from various points of view, and able to make just decisions based on his broader background. Thus, not only is it important for the shoreline residents to elect Jim, but it is important for all residents of Bluewater.

Therefore, it is very important that all shoreline residents make an extra effort to elect Jim Fergusson by ensuring that each ballot in this mail-in vote is properly marked in Jim's his favour, and returned promptly after receiving them to ensure that we provide maximum support for Jim. **Every vote counts, so make your household's votes count for Jim Fergusson** and for you! You may be interested to know that Bill Dowson was re-elected Mayor of Bluewater by acclamation, and Paul Klopp was re-elected Deputy Mayor by acclamation, and to both of them we give our heartiest congratulations. If Jim is successful in being elected as Councillor-at-Large, he will join these two on Huron County Council. Except for Zurich, where Marg Deichert was acclaimed as a Councillor, the other four wards in Bluewater have multiple candidates, and elections will take place for each.

Your BSRA Executive Committee is committed to supporting the candidates it endorses, and you will be receiving further information by mail, including a reminder to promptly return your ballot marked for Jim Ferguson.

The Year in Review

At the BSRA Annual General Meeting last month, outgoing President Bob Campbell provided a report on the year's accomplishments. That report is printed below so that the members of BSRA's constituent associations may see it. We are indebted to Bob Campbell for preparing this and other thorough reports.

1. BSRA Reserve Fund

At our 2000 Annual Meeting, the Executive was directed to pursue with the Municipality resolution of the inequity existing with respect to taxes and road services for shoreline subdivisions. BSRA made a written and oral presentation to Bluewater Council in May, 2001, requesting assumption of roads accessing shoreline residences.

Continuing frustration with respect to the priority placed by Council on resolution of the inequity, concerns about inadequate representation of concerns of shoreline constituents by their four ward councillors, and questions about the availability of voting by mail in the upcoming municipal election led to the calling of a Special Meeting of the Association in May, 2002. At a subsequent General Meeting in June, 2002, motions were passed by the member associations:

*"1. That the BSRA establish a separate fund for the purposes of financing: whatever legal action may be required to **protect the interests of shoreline residents**; and political expenses related to the 2003 municipal election.*

2. That the BSRA member associations be requested to contribute to the above fund an amount equal to \$50 for each member of that association.

3. That the Executive Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, be authorized to take appropriate action to protect the interests of shoreline residents, including, where deemed necessary, initiating legal action through either the courts or the Ontario Municipal Board.

4. That the BSRA initiate on behalf of shoreline electors a petition to the Bluewater Council ... to pass a by-law re-dividing the municipality to create one shoreline ward consisting of those lands West of Highway 21 within Hay and Stanley Wards."

In June, 2003, a recommendation of the Environmental Committee resulted in a General Meeting resolution: *"that the water testing program presently being done at St. Joseph be expanded to include the rest of the Bluewater shoreline and that this be funded by the BSRA Reserve Fund up to \$2,000."*

This action, designed to effect improvement in the quality of our surface water, is intended "to protect the interests of shoreline residents" – the principle upon which the Reserve Fund was established.

It is anticipated that the Reserve Fund will be available for any contingencies that may arise in the

November 14	Ward Restructuring Proposal # 2
December 18	2003 Tender for Gravel / Grading
April 23	Limitation on types of eligible expenditures – road maintenance grant program
May	Observations re: Preliminary Bluewater Budget; Roads Department Budget
May 22	Shift in Tax Burden to Hay West and Stanley West Wards
June	Observations re method of financing – new arena facility
June 9	Roads Policy / “Road Standards”
July 3	Request to Freeze Rezoning Applications, pending development of Bluewater Official Plan
July 29	Environmental Issue – Surface Water Quality

5. 2003 Municipal Election

BSRA involvement in the 2003 municipal election includes the following: seeking quality candidates; endorsing those candidates whose qualifications, experience, and track record are consistent with the expectations the Association has defined as the ideal qualities for elected representatives; assisting in the election campaigns of endorsed candidates; and recommending in a letter to shoreline electors those candidates that the Political Action Committee believes will best contribute to making Bluewater Council effective over the next three years.

To date, [as of Sept. 6], BSRA has announced its endorsement of candidates for the following positions:

Councillor-at-large Jim Fergusson

Hay West Councillor

Bill MacDougall

Stanley West Councillor George Irvin

Shoreline electors are strongly urged to vote for BSRA-endorsed candidates. [See new info above.]

6. Establishment of BSRA Committees

At the 2002 Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee announced the establishment of the following six committees:

Communications; Economic Development; Environment; Member Services; Political Action; and Road Services. The objectives of this initiative are: to enable the Association to deal more effectively with a broader range of increasingly complex issues of concern or interest to shoreline

residents; and to utilize the various skills, experiences, or interests of a greater number of shoreline residents in the work of the Association.

Section 2.0 of this report, "*Summary of Committee Initiatives / Activities: 2002-03*", [not included], documents our progress to date. It is anticipated that even more shoreline residents will become involved in committee work during 2003-04.

7. *New Initiatives in 2002-2003*

[These] new initiatives warrant highlighting:

- I. the establishment of our Association website: www.bsra.ca
- II. the development of a member data base to enable the future production of a Shoreline Resident Directory.
- III. the provision of a reliable snow-blowing service at reasonable cost.
- IV. our program of testing water quality at several Lake Huron sites within Bluewater on a weekly basis.
- V. Association involvement in the 2003 election campaign with a view to contributing to the quality of the next Bluewater Council, [as well as Huron County Council], and ensuring effective representation for shoreline residents.

8. *Priorities for 2003-2004*

Nine Priorities were detailed to the membership, including the following:

- Continue to act on behalf of our member associations and associate members to protect and enhance the interests of Bluewater shoreline residents.
- Continue to identify and investigate areas where BSRA can provide to shoreline residents, or their member associations, services that are not readily available through other sources, or that can be obtained at lower cost through group purchasing.

BSRA Annual Election of Officers

As at each BSRA Annual Meeting, members of the BSRA Executive Committee were elected for 2003-2004.

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>	<i>e-mail</i>
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President:	John Gillespie	St. Joseph Shores	236-7285	Click here for contact email address
Past Pres.:	Don Brazier	Lakewood	271-6203	565-5231
1 st Vice Pres.:	Glen May	Homestead Heights	236-7119	
2 nd Vice Pres.:	Melodie Northey	Copper's Cove	236-7568	
Secretary:	Bob Campbell	N. Houston Heights	565-5202	
Treasurer:	Harlie Johnston	Elmwood	238-2843	
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.

Shoreline residents are welcome to contact these Officers for information or to report concerns. To contact the Bluewater Municipal Office, call 236-4351 or 565-5212, or you may e-mail bluewater@town.bluewater.on.ca. A Directory of municipal telephone numbers is at www.town.bluewater.on.ca or under Municipal Government Services (phone book)

John Gillespie, President

Compiled by Douglas Banks, Newsletter Editor

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