

NEWSLETTER — October, 2005

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 West and Stanley West Wards. It is funded by the Member Associations, its Affiliate Associations and Individuals. For information on membership, please contact the Membership Secretary, **Jim Chapman**, at (519) 235-1644 or (519) 565-5303, or by e-mail at this email link. 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 BSRA information.

New BSRA Officers

At the Annual General Meeting, Don Brazier retired after long and faithful service, for which he deserves great thanks. He still plans to undertake some responsibilities with BSRA. Diane Blackall takes over as Secretary, freeing Bob Campbell to actually be the Past President. Those who offer or agree to serve are very much appreciated. As is customary in the Newsletter, here is a list of the newly elected Officers of BSRA which you may **keep for your reference**.

Office	Name	Subdivision	Home*	Lake*	e-mail	Special Responsibility of the Office◆
President:	John Gillespie	St. Joseph Shores	236-7285		{note email	Political Action
Past Pres.:	Bob Campbell	N. Houston Heights	565-5202		addresses	
1 st Vice Pres.:	Paul Mennill	Cedarbank	238-1240		removed to	Environment
2 nd Vice Pres.:	Gary Rose	Sunset Cove	(248) 305-8639	236-7417	reduce spam}	Member Services
Secretary:	Diane Blackall	Snowden NN	850-7084	691-5342		
Treasurer:	Harlie Johnston	Elmwood	238-2843		See paper	
Membership:	Jim Chapman	Westdell	235-1644	565-5303	newsletter or	Member Relations
Communications	Doug Banks	Houston Heights S.	471-4378	565-2560	www.bsra.ca	Newsletter, etc.

* All area code 519 except as shown. When there is no Lake number, this indicates a "permanent resident". 691-5342 is a cellphone, and is long distance from Bluewater in area code. (519) ◆Subject to change

Constitution and By-law Revisions

Some noticeable changes were made to BSRA's enabling documents: its Constitution and its By-law No. 1. The need to revise the formal enabling documentation of BSRA was driven by a number of factors, including:

- ◆ changing external circumstances, (e.g., Ministry Reports and insurance issues),
- ◆ changing internal policies and practices, (e.g. new responsibilities),
- ◆ the need for congruity in the documentation, (i.e., making both documents say the same thing),
- ◆ simple "housekeeping" issues, including ensuring that there is appropriate formatting of documents, correct capitalization, spelling, etc.,
- ◆ etc.

The initial motivation was to provide congruity between the Constitution and By-law No. 1, although a few other items have also been included that have been identified. Later in the revision process, it was realized external forces, e.g., insurers and government, were forcing BSRA to change its nomenclature. Thus, in the revised version, the Executive Committee becomes the Board of Directors, while the former Directors become Delegates. However, the function of the Constituent Associations remains unchanged, and the role and responsibilities of the (now) Delegates who represent the interests of the Constituent Associations have not changed. Only the names have changed; the players remain the same. However, the names of two officers have changed to reflect their assigned responsibilities.

The process of change was to:

- have an *ad hoc* sub-committee make proposed changes to the documents based on policy decisions by the (then) Executive Committee, (and the process was repeated as needed),
- draft documents were presented to the existing Executive Committee, (Board of Directors to be), for its approval, and when approved
- the proposed draft was presented to the (then) Board of Directors for its approval at the Annual General Meeting. The draft presented was approved in the proper and legal manner.

To have the most complete documentation to work from, the Constitution and By-law No. 1 were printed in their entirety, with proposed deletions made by ~~striking out~~ words to be removed and by double underlining words, etc., to be added. These were distributed to all those at the Annual General Meeting who wished to have a copy.

Re grammar, punctuation, style, etc., in English, words are capitalized to distinguish the specific from the generic. As a simple example, the word "board", (in our corporate context, and in our documents), means any body of persons so designated, whereas the word "Board" refers specifically to the BSRA Board of Directors. Such minor changes to the documents, as well as standard formatting, have been made as an editing task, and are not specifically identified. To see where this has occurred, compare with the previous versions of the documents then in force.

Above all, clarity of communication is most desirable. Sometimes, communication can be distinctly improved by the mere addition of a comma or other punctuation, while at other times the addition of word may help the reader's

understanding considerably. In fact, the addition of a simple comma, for instance, may give a whole new meaning to what has been written. Often, the writer thoroughly understands what he/she is trying to say, and may not realize that the reader might not comprehend what is meant. The documents have also been edited to improve the flow of communication where possible. Again, to see where this has occurred, compare with the draft presented for approval, or with the versions of the documents being revised.

One copy of the revised Constitution and of By-law No. 1 are being delivered with this Newsletter to your association's BSRA contact person, who will lend you the copy for your perusal. You also have permission to photocopy the two documents for your personal use if you wish, or you may download from www.bsra.ca.

Charting the Course

As has become customary, the Board of Directors set out some priorities as an action plan for 2005-2006. Perhaps the key priority is the first one, to continue to act on behalf of our Member Associations and Affiliate Members to protect and enhance the interests of Bluewater shoreline residents. The others may be summarized in paraphrased form as:

- to continue to provide ongoing liaison with our political representatives
- to continue to share information and make recommendations to the various levels of government
- to monitor issues affecting the shoreline residents in Bluewater
- to prepare for the 2006 municipal election by monitoring Council, recommending candidates, and election activities
- to be pro-active in communicating with interested parties
- to produce a Shoreline Residents Directory.
- to continue to identify and investigate areas where BSRA can provide services.

For the accurate and complete list, check with bsra.ca.

Water Quality Testing

One of the major successes of BSRA has been the Water Quality Testing Program, originally begun by the St. Joseph's Shore Association to monitor the creek emptying into Lake Huron there. This was expanded by BSRA, and more recently, funding has been provided by Bluewater. The goal is threefold; to track the source of the pollution and the extent of the problem, to monitor changes over the years, and to solve the problem. The key results from this year's testing program are listed below, with 2004 listed for comparison.

Summary	Ravines	Beaches
No. of Test Areas	4	12
2005 – % with three or more e-coli readings greater than 100 per 100 ml	100%	100%
2004 – % with three or more e-coli readings greater than 100 per 100 ml	100%	100%
Total Tests to Date – 2005 (In 2004 there were 43 and 177 tests respectively)	36	176
2005 – % with E. coli readings greater than 100 per 100 ml	83.3%	37.5%
2004 – % with E. coli readings greater than 100 per 100 ml	95%	43%
Highest E. coli reading in organisms per 100 ml in 2005	14,300	2,200
Highest E. coli reading in organisms per 100 ml in 2004	29,800	7,700
Median E. coli reading in organisms per 100 ml in 2005	860	2,200
Median E. coli reading in organisms per 100 ml in 2004	1450	70

Thus, this is both a good news and bad news report. The good news seems to be that there is some improvement over last year's results, while the bad news is that we still have a long way to go. The inescapable conclusion from examining these data is that the ravines are a much greater problem than the beaches. In this month's issue of *Better Farming*, in a report on sources of Lake Huron pollution, the sub-leader tells us that "Gulls and Canada geese appear to be leading culprits". Since no one has yet been able to herd gulls, the implication is that since nothing can be done about the gulls, therefore there is no problem to be dealt with. Some may consider this a classic case of rationalization.

Assessment Changes

The explanatory pamphlet included with your assessment notice provides good explanations, pointing out that your taxes are only indirectly tied to your assessment. Your taxes really depend on how much the various taxing agencies, (Municipality, County, Schools), decide to spend. Incidentally, although the average increase in assessment was 18.53%, a brief informal poll so far indicates a range from 7% to 44% increases.

Be aware that there is an appeal mechanism re assessment, but there is a deadline which must be met. Please

refer to the insert included with the notice from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). For very general information, you may wish to attend the Bluewater Council meeting on Monday, October 17, when a representative from MPAC will be attending Council at 7:45 to comment on the new assessments

Please remember that in 2006 your taxes will be collected in 10 payments, if you choose to opt for that method of payment, and so each payment will be relatively smaller, although the total paid will be the same at the end of the year, no matter which option you choose.

WRAFT

The Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation organization is pushing ahead with its plans to increase its pressure on the Government of Ontario to establish policies that would keep sky-rocketing tax increases within reasonable bounds. To mount an effective program, funds are needed. As a supporter of WRAFT, BSRA urges its members and member associations to consider making an extra contribution to the efforts of this worthy organization. Further information can be obtained from www.wraft.com, and by e-mail at wraft@sympatico.ca.

Your BSRA Board of Directors at Work

While it may appear that there is less BSRA activity during the Winter, you should be aware that your Board of Directors remains alert to the interests of the Shoreline Residents during this period. For example, a team of Board Members attends every Bluewater Council meeting to monitor issues, activities and performance. A list of Council dates is established, and Board Members are assigned to specific meetings. Here are usually four Members of the Board in attendance at each meeting.

If you become aware of an issue you think should be investigated by the Board of Directors, please contact any of the Board members listed above.

John Gillespie, President

compiled by Doug Banks, Communications Chairperson