

NEWSLETTER – Fall, 2007

2008 BSRA Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendar

June 7 Spring General Meeting

August 23 2008 Annual Meeting

**“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world –
Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has!”** Margaret Meade

CT Scanner – Huron County

(See www.bsra.ca for additional information)

CT scanners are the standard diagnostic tool in modern medicine in the treatment of trauma, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, cancers, and musculoskeletal disorders. Unfortunately, Huron is the only county in southern Ontario without a CT scanner. As a result, Huron County patients must be transported to a hospital in a neighbouring county. This places shoreline residents and visitors at a disadvantage since abnormally long wait times at these hospitals may mean that a CT scan must be bypassed. Also, the lack of a CT scanner in our county is a negative factor in attracting new doctors to alleviate the demonstrated shortage in our community.

The Ministry of Health approval of the plan to purchase a CT scanner to be located at the Goderich hospital simply means that OHIP will pay the cost of CT scans for in-hospital patients. However, there is no Provincial funding for either ongoing operating costs which must be met from the annual hospital budget or the initial equipment purchase. As a result, the Hospital Foundation has committed to raise the necessary funds for the purchase of the CT scanner. This community initiative is obviously of benefit to all residents and visitors to our county.

BSRA is pleased to support this campaign through both publicizing the need on our website and encouraging our shoreline residents to contribute financially. However, in order that the scanner may be acquired as soon as possible, **volunteers are needed** to assist in the fund-raising campaign. If you are able to contribute a few hours to this worthy cause, **contact Gordon Hill at 519 - 233 - 3307.**

2007- 08 BSRA Board of Directors

Office	Name	Subdivision	Home (519)	e-mail (x =@)
President	Paul Mennill	Cedarbank	238 - 1240	pmennill x gmail.com
1 st Vice President	Jan Purvis	Houston Heights South Lake	663 - 2046 565 - 5263	purvisjd x executlink.com
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The Environment

➤ **“It All Ends Up In The Lake” Conference** August 11/07

The theme of this 4th annual conference was “*Working Towards Clean & Clear*”. The keynote speaker, Dr. Kirsty Duncan, discussed “Canada in a Warmer World: Impacts, Responsibility, and Action”. Bob Slow, Chairperson of the BSRA Environment Committee, was a member of the planning committee which deserves credit for making the conference a success in terms of the program itself, the quality and breadth of exhibitor displays, and the number of attendees.

BSRA's recognized leadership with respect to raising public awareness about this ongoing concern was demonstrated by its co-sponsorship of the conference, Past President John Gillespie's excellent presentation outlining the highlights of the BSRA Water Quality Report (see *below*), and an informative BSRA display booth. Other “water quality report cards” were presented by the Ashfield Colborne Lakefront Association, Huron County Health Unit, Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley

Conservation Authorities, Ministry of the Environment, and the County of Huron. These “water quality report cards” demonstrated that additional measures are necessary to improve the quality of water entering Lake Huron.

➤ **BSRA Water Quality Report** (See www.bsra.ca)

The three primary sources of E. coli found in water samples taken from our ravines and beaches are known to be agricultural practices, inadequate municipal sewage treatment, and faulty septic systems. The long-term BSRA goal is to make improvements in the water quality of the Bluewater ravines and beaches so that the water testing consistently meets the provincial E. coli standard 100% of the time. This summer, BSRA released a Water Quality Report which presented an overview of information collected over a 10-year period, identified the current issues, and made recommendations for further action by various levels of government: Federal, Provincial, County of Huron and the Municipality of Bluewater.

One indicator of water quality is the percentage of time test results are over the provincial standard. Using this measure as an indicator of success leads to the obvious conclusion that water quality is not improving. In particular, ravines continue to be a concern as the test results are well above the Provincial standard over 70 percent of the time.

This BSRA report was sent to all Federal and Provincial Cabinet Ministers whose areas of responsibility relate to water quality, soliciting their response to the concerns and recommendations, all incumbent elected representatives, and media outlets (local, regional, and national). It will also be sent to the Environment Commissioner and Provincial Ombudsman.

➤ **Sewer Option for Southwest Bluewater**

Bluewater Council has unanimously agreed to participate in the purchase of additional capacity in the new Grand Bend sewage treatment facility and the oversizing of the sewage line to the southern Bluewater boundary.

This will leave open the future option of constructing sewers to service both the lakeshore area north to St. Joseph and Dashwood, should that be considered desirable at some point in the future. If Bluewater had not agreed to join Lambton Shores and South Huron by providing the necessary capacity at this time, the option would not have been available in the future. See www.bsra.ca for complete details.

Municipality of Bluewater

➤ **Administrative Restructuring**

When Bluewater was created seven years ago, the administrative structure adopted was modelled after the structures that were adequate in previous years to meet the needs of the smaller amalgamating municipalities. However, much has changed over the intervening years as Bluewater now faces more issues, many of which are new, more complex, and larger in their scope than those faced by the former municipalities.

Members of Council are to be commended for recognizing the effects of such changes by commissioning an organizational review to determine how operations and procedures could be streamlined to enhance service to our community. The major change resulting from this review was the creation of the additional position of Chief Administrative Officer to which all managerial positions would report (see *below*). Another streamlining change was appointing Janisse Zimmerman to the newly-created position of Clerk and Planning Administrator.

➤ **Chief Administrative Officer**

Bluewater’s shoreline residents welcome Lori Wolfe to Ontario’s West Coast and look forward to a positive working relationship with her in the future. A St. Marys’ native, Lori grew up in Stratford, is married with 3 children, and her husband holds an administrative position with the City of Stratford. Lori brings a broad background to the position, including administrative experience with the Avon-Maitland District School Board, Municipality of Canmore (AB), and most recently as Deputy CAO and Director of Human Resources for the Town of St. Marys.

Since Lori assumed this position, several refinements in municipal procedures are already evident, reflecting the benefit of her experience in other jurisdictions. She can be contacted by telephone: 519-236-5351 (Ext. 226) or by e-mail: l.wolfe@town.bluewater.on.ca.

Paul Mennill
President

Bob Campbell
Communications Director