



BSRA NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2012

Calendar Note: **BSRA Annual Meeting** at 10:00 am on **Saturday, August 25th, 2012**
at St. Peter's Church Hall, just north of St. Joseph on Highway 21
Coffee at 9:30 am

2012 BSRA Annual Meeting

Will your Association be represented at this meeting? Join us for coffee at 9:30 am. Hear updates on current shoreline issues. Learn about the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation from our Guest Speaker, Karen Alexander. Karen is a biologist/invasive species specialist at the Centre and her primary interest is the highly invasive common reed (*Phragmites australis*).

Water Meter Installation/Retrofit in Bluewater – yes, yours as well

The Municipality of Bluewater is implementing a system-wide program in which all water customers will pay for water based on their consumption. Currently, some Bluewater residents pay for water on a metered basis, while others pay a flat rate. This program will create fairness for all Bluewater water users and will encourage homeowners to practise water conservation. Further, with radio-readable meters in place, efficiencies will be realized in the costs associated with reading the water meters each quarter.

If your existing meter is old, it will be replaced with a new radio-readable meter. Newer water meters may only need retrofitting with a radio reader. The installation program is already underway along the shoreline and must be completed by December 2012. You may already have had this work done – or, have your appointment already booked. If you have not been contacted yet, please call 1-877-256-4763 to book your appointment. The installers are working Monday to Saturday, from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, and will require about an hour of time to complete the work.

More Paved Roads in Bluewater

In the next two years, you will see more roads paved in Bluewater. Because of significant funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (\$2,335,000.00), their requirement that the funding be spent on road infrastructure upgrades, and their timeline that the work be completed by 2014, Bluewater is acting now to pave several municipal roads – work that may not have been done otherwise. West of Highway 21, this paving project will include: Crystal Springs Road, Blue Bluff Road, Centennial Road, Staffa Road, Danceland Road, Sararas Road and Schadeview Road. Also included in this project are plans to pave three streets in Hensall, one street in Zurich and the section of Centennial Road located between Highway 4 and Airport Line.

AREA SEWERS PROJECT

There are indications that Grand Bend's Sewage Treatment Facility (STF) is getting another serious look. Stantec Consulting, the second consulting firm to examine the issue, has hinted that there may be a far less expensive system than the \$27,000,000 one proposed by Dillon Consulting, and Lambton Shores Council is interested. While Bluewater is no longer officially part of the study group, their reinstatement could probably be easily arranged. That would rekindle the whole issue of a sanitary sewer system for the shoreline subdivisions in the southern part of the Hay West Ward. We hope that this time there is no consideration of grinder pumps.

The Green Slimy Stuff

The excessive growth of green algae in the lake makes the swimming experience less-than-pleasant (some might say “icky”) and leads to unappealing piles of rotting algae on the beach. This overabundance of algae is due, in part, to higher than normal levels of phosphorous in the water. As a shoreline resident, there are several steps you can take to reduce your contribution to this excess level:

- Keep your septic system functioning properly. Have it pumped and inspected on a regular basis to avoid problems.
- Be sure you are using household detergents that are phosphorous-free.
- Limit your use of inorganic lawn fertilizers. If your lawn needs additional nutrients (you can test for this), use compost or slow-release organic fertilizers. Avoid fertilizing if heavy rain is expected.

Bluewater's Roads Grant

In many cottage subdivisions in Bluewater, the road is maintained by the cottagers' association. Since 2002, the Municipality of Bluewater has made a Roads Grant available to duly-constituted associations to assist them with the expenses they pay to maintain their roads. In 2012 the Roads Grant is set at a maximum of \$3,040.00/km plus a \$550.00 administrative fee. Costs associated with grading, gravel, dust control, snow removal and drainage work may be covered by this Grant.

To qualify for this Grant, an Association must submit the completed application form and paid invoices for the completed work by November 30th of the current year. (The required forms can be found on the Bluewater website: www.town.bluewater.on.ca > Departments>Treasury Division)

Note: If there are signs indicating “Private Road” or “No Trespassing” posted along the subdivision road, then the Grant request will be denied.

Wind Turbines in Bluewater - an Update

- Auditor General Jim McCarter has asked the provincial government to provide the public with objective research results and notes that the cost to taxpayers of electrical oversupply in the last six years has been **\$1.8 billion** (November 2011)
- Huron-Perth MPP Lisa Thompson has asked for a ban on wind turbine construction until medical studies are completed (July 2012)
- July 10, 2012-Health Canada is conducting a \$1.8 million study with Statistics Canada to measure the potential health effects of low-frequency noise by monitoring 2000 randomly selected dwellings near 8 to12 wind farms. Results are expected in 2014
- Bluewater Municipal Council voted unanimously against construction of wind turbines in our municipality (June 2012)
- The Municipality of Plympton-Wyoming has asked for a 2 km setback and \$200,000 deposit on each wind turbine and is willing to go to court to protect its wishes (July 2012)
- Doug Pedlar (president-elect of the London-St.Thomas Association of Realtors) has a you-tube video condemning wind turbines and notes that the provincial association of realtors (OREA) has written the provincial government asking for the production of energy at the right price with the right guidelines, the proper assessment of health/environment consequences and the restoration of local municipal power in this area (July 2012)
- Grey County realtor Mike McMurray notes that two insurance companies are refusing to insure properties with wind turbines and that at least one of Canada's major banks is considering a policy whereby it will **not** mortgage wind turbine properties (July 2012)
- July 18, 2012-Dr. Arlene King (Chief Medical Officer of Ontario) has been ordered by Superior Justice Sanderson to testify in the Drennan lawsuit against the provincial energy policy on her knowledge of the health effects of turbines
- Maps of the proposed wind turbine projects can be found at: <http://ontario-wind-turbines.org>

Keeping in Touch

This Summer Newsletter is BSRA's final issue for 2012. However, you can still keep in touch with shoreline news in two ways: visit the BSRA website on a regular basis and/or sign up for the BSRA e-Bulletin which is emailed to interested shoreline residents on a monthly basis from spring to fall.