



# Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association

## BSRA NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2013

### Calendar Notes for 2013

BSRA **General Meeting**: Saturday, June 15. **New starting time: 9:30 am.** Coffee ready at 9:00 am

BSRA **Annual Meeting**: Saturday, August 24. Start time: 9:30 am with coffee at 9:00 am

Both meetings at St. Peter's Church Hall just north of St. Joseph on Hwy 21.

### BSRA's GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:30 AM (note the new start time)

*Everyone* is welcome to attend this meeting but, at the very least, make sure your cottagers' association is represented by at least one representative. The agenda includes:

- Learning about the current status of Industrial Wind Turbines (IWTs) in Bluewater, Bluewater Council responses to IWTs and BSRA's IWT position
- Finding out about Bluewater Council's *Lakeshore Roads Study Report* and the steps being taken by Council to move forward to draft policy regarding the lakeshore roads
- Obtaining your copy of the *Bluff Stewardship Guide* (and enough copies for your association members). This new resource, produced by the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, contains valuable information about protecting and preserving the critical feature of our shoreline properties – the bluff.

### IT'S SHORELINE CLEANUP TIME

The Municipality's Bluewater Blooms Committee, with the support of BSRA, is organizing a cleanup of the shoreline. Harlie Johnston is coordinating the cleanup for Bluewater Blooms under the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup national program. Organizing a cleanup event makes it easier for us to get the man-made refuse off the beach and out of your hands. The Municipality will provide garbage bags (if you need them) and collection late this spring. Tires from the beach are included. See [www.bsra.ca](http://www.bsra.ca) and [www.bluewaterblooms.ca](http://www.bluewaterblooms.ca) for more information on how Harlie will help your subdivision do this.

To participate and receive credit for your involvement: please have your subdivision coordinator contact Harlie Johnston at 519 282-6625 or [hjohnst+cleanup@gmail.com](mailto:hjohnst+cleanup@gmail.com). Let's continue a tradition, increase community involvement, and get some help and recognition for our efforts.

### BLUEWATER COUNCIL ADOPTS BY-LAW TO REGULATE OPEN AIR BURNING

At its April 2, 2013 meeting, Bluewater Council adopted a By-Law to regulate Open Air Burning.

For shoreline residents, cooking fires and recreational fires are permissible – with the following conditions: that only acceptable burn materials are used, that the fire is supervised at all times, that an effective method of extinguishing the fire is readily available and that the fire is fully extinguished before it is left unsupervised.

For full By-Law details, go to: <https://bluewater.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=3349>

### **BSRA MEMBERSHIP FEES**

The 2013 BSRA Membership Fees are now due and should be forwarded by your Association to the BSRA Treasurer as soon as possible. On matters that require voting at either the BSRA General or Annual Meeting, each paid-up Association is entitled to one vote, cast by its designated delegate.

### **BSRA KEEPING IN TOUCH – THREE WAYS**

The BSRA website – [www.bsra.ca](http://www.bsra.ca) – has undergone restructuring and is being updated. Please check it out! This is the best way to get current information about shoreline issues in Bluewater. Many of you are signed up to receive the monthly BSRA e-Bulletin. This is a second way to keep current. You can register for the e-Bulletin on the website. BSRA's third communication tool is this newsletter. Issue No. 2 will be delivered to you in August. It should be noted that this may be the last year in which BSRA issues a printed newsletter. More about that at the BSRA Annual Meeting in August.

### **INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINES IN BLUEWATER**

Nextera has received a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) for its Varna Wind project. This will be a Class 4 wind facility consisting of the construction, installation, operation, use and retiring of up to 40 turbines, rated at 1.6 MW generating output capacity, with a total name plate capacity of 60 MW. The wind facility will be connected to Hydro One's distribution system.

This project, known as the Bluewater Wind Energy Centre, consists of areas required for the wind facility components, as well as for the interconnection route. The wind facility is generally bounded by Blackbush/Bronson Line to the west, Mill Road to the north, Concession 5 Road to the east, and Danceland Road/Staffa Road to the south. The interconnection route is generally bounded by Concession 5 Road to the west, Mill Road to the north, Huron Road and Perth 183 Road to the east, and Staffa Road to the south.

### **WATER QUALITY IN THE LAKE**

The water quality testing results from 2012 were disappointing and puzzling. Even though the 2012 summer season was drier than usual, the percentages of lake-water samples that exceeded the provincial standard for swimming at the four test sites were higher than usual! The 2012 results are posted on the BSRA website, as is the full 2012 report. With the (very much appreciated) financial support from Bluewater Council, BSRA will be working again with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) to continue the testing program in 2013.

Also noteworthy is the *South Gullies Watershed Report Card*, issued this spring by ABCA. Our shoreline area is deficient in the three factors that were measured: forest conditions (D), wetland cover (F) and surface water quality (D). Full details for the South Gullies watershed, as well as all other watersheds in the ABCA jurisdiction, can be found at: [www.abca.on.ca](http://www.abca.on.ca)

### **BLUEWATER AREA FAMILY HEALTH TEAM (BAFHT)**

The BAFHT has openings on its Board of Directors for the upcoming year. Board Members must reside in or work in Bluewater. If you have a background in healthcare, business, finance, human resources or law and are interested in giving back to your community, please submit your letter of interest to Geoff Douglas, Chair, PO Box 98, 43 Main Street, Zurich ON N0M 2T0 by Friday, June 7, 2013.

*Keith Locking*

BSRA President

*Jan Purvis*

Newsletter Editor