



Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association

Mark your 2015 Calendar now

BSRA **General Meeting**: Saturday, June 6th at 9:30 am. Coffee at 9:00 am

BSRA **Annual Meeting**: Saturday, August 22nd at 9:30 am. Coffee at 9:00 am

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

YOUR COTTAGE INSURANCE: DO YOU HAVE ADEQUATE COVERAGE?

Get the answers you need at the BSRA General Meeting on Saturday, June 6th at 9:30 am. Jon Gaiser, owner of Gaiser Kneale Insurance Brokers in Grand Bend and Exeter, will answer your questions: for example, is my home covered for wind damage, what steps do I need to take if I am away for a long time in the winter, what if I rent my cottage and what liability exposure do I have at the cottage?

CHANGES IN THE MAKEUP OF BLUEWATER'S MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

As a result of last fall's municipal election, changes took place in the makeup of the Bluewater Municipal Council. We extend congratulations to Tyler Hessel, now serving as Mayor of Bluewater, and Jim Fergusson, elected as Deputy Mayor. Newly elected Councillors include Marnie Hill, the Hensall Ward Councillor, and Bill Whetstone, the Bayfield Ward Councillor. Returning to Council are Councillors John Gillespie - Hay West, George Irvine - Stanley West, Dave Roy - Stanley East and John Becker - Hay East. BSRA Board Members continue to monitor the Bluewater Council meetings.

THIS NEWLY-ELECTED BLUEWATER COUNCIL IS BUSY

Bluewater's Municipal Council took office on December 1, 2014 and quickly established a pattern of getting things done. Of note and of interest to shoreline residents are the following actions and initiatives:

- Passed an updated and revised Animal Care and Control By-Law that now includes a ban on exotic pets. [A reminder: dogs may **not** run at large in Bluewater and dog owners **must** stoop-and-scoop.]
- Passed its 2015 budget in early March (compared to May in previous years) with a 5.6% increase
- Initiated a review of Bluewater's Official Plan
- Hired a consultant to undertake the development of a new Bluewater Strategic Plan. Watch the local newspapers and Bluewater's website for your opportunity to provide input.
- Passed a Comprehensive Zoning By-Law to replace the five pre-amalgamation Zoning By-Laws. In this new By-Law the shoreline is now designated a Lakeshore Residential Zone (LR1) and finally reflects the reality of year-round occupancy for many of our shoreline residents. [Another reminder: If you are considering renovations or building projects on your property, it is **your** responsibility to know and understand what structures, building types and setbacks are permitted.]

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Website: www.bsra.ca

email: www.bsra.ca/email

WATER QUALITY TESTING

As a cost-cutting measure Bluewater Council reduced all municipal grants by 40%, and this included BSRA's request for \$13 200 to carry out its water quality testing program with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). Fortunately, the ABCA is able to test the usual four ravines and lake sites (Wildwood, Houston Heights, St. Joseph and Ridgeway) weekly from the end of June to September 1st and these results will be posted on the BSRA website as soon as they are available. At minimum, this will extend the value of the water quality data collected in this unique study during the past nine years.

GARBAGE

- Garbage tags are now \$2.50.
- The Large Household Garbage collection has been cancelled. Instead, Bluewater has introduced two *Half Price Tipping Fee Events* at the Stanley Landfill site: Saturday, June 27 and Monday, October 5, both from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. For more information, go to the Bluewater website at www.town.bluewater.on.ca
- Are you recycling properly? Check out the Bluewater Recycling Association website at www.bra.org. The Bluewater Recycling Association is a rural based non-profit organization that collects our garbage and recyclables. BRA also develops, and maintains facilities on behalf of, and in cooperation with the Municipality of Bluewater and other municipalities in Huron, Perth, Lambton, and Middlesex.

MORE ABOUT GARBAGE – ON THE BEACH

Congratulations to the volunteers in many of our shoreline subdivisions who – for the past two years - have done a spring cleanup of their beaches and have registered their work with the Bluewater Blooms Committee and the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Last year, 9 km of Bluewater's 17 km of shoreline were cleared of bottles, cans, balloon parts, tires, metal, buoys, toys, a 16' sailboat hull, broken canoe and a kayak bow. Let's extend our reach in 2015. Let us include the work we know you already are doing. Go to www.bluewaterblooms.ca for contact information.

INDUSTRIAL WIND FARMS IN BLUEWATER

The two NextEra wind farm projects in Bluewater are now in full operation. Northland Power's Grand Bend Wind Farm is under construction and is expected to be fully operational by 2016. These 48 wind turbines will be constructed north of Grand Bend along the Highway 21 corridor to the Kippen Road. To see where turbines are/will be located in the province, go to www.ontario-wind-turbines.org.

For further information , go to www.windconcernsontario.ca or www.windvictimsontario.com.

BSRA MEMBERSHIP FEES

The 2015 BSRA Membership Fees (the same as last year) are due now 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.

***Watch for the Summer Issue of the BSRA Newsletter in August.
For monthly updates, sign up on the BSRA website to receive the BSRA e-Bulletin***

Keith Locking
BSRA President

Jan Purvis
Newsletter Editor