



BSRA NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2016

Mark Your Calendar.

BSRA Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 27 at 9:30 am. Coffee ready at 9:00 am
*A short business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Geoff Cade from the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA). ****

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

HIGH WATER LEVELS -- SHORELINE EROSION -- AND YOU, THE SHORELINE PROPERTY OWNER

Bluewater shoreline residents continue to face high water levels in Lake Huron (in spite of the lack of rain in the Bluewater area) and the predictive models indicate that these higher-than-average levels will persist into the fall. One major concern about this high water cycle is the extent to which shoreline erosion has occurred already or will occur in the months ahead.

In early August, members of the ABCA Board of Directors, the ABCA Foundation, the ABCA Shoreline Management Steering Committee and the BSRA Board of Directors did a tour of the shoreline within the ABCA watershed to see what has already happened. There are cottages now in imminent danger of going over the bank. Slopes are sliding, along with vegetation. Seawalls are having to be repaired. And beaches are considerably narrower or, in places, non-existent. (And this is all prior to the shoreline being subjected to fall and winter storms!)

Currently, ABCA is in the midst of a timely review of its *Shoreline Management Plan* – a document designed to address the hazards of shoreline erosion and its impact on shoreline properties. The newly-revised plan may set out new boundaries for hazardous zones along the shoreline, may reset the “top of the bluff” line, will continue to affect future shoreline development and will set out parameters/restrictions for shoreline protection projects that property owners might want to undertake. In other words, ***this review and planning process affects your shoreline property.***

What can you do as a Bluewater shoreline property owner?

1. Educate yourself. The ABCA website at www.abca.on.ca is one source of information where you will find the current Shoreline Management Plan, newsletters about the review process and discussion papers about *Climate Change Impacts on the Great Lakes* and *Erosion of Cohesive Bluff Shorelines* (i.e. Bluewater's shoreline).
2. *** Attend the Aug. 27th BSRA Annual Meeting to hear Geoff Cade from ABCA discuss the process being undertaken to review the Shoreline Management Plan, the draft plan

that has been developed, what happens next, and how and when property owners will have an opportunity to comment on the draft document.

3. Monitor the ABCA website for the posting of the draft Shoreline Management Plan. This should appear on the website in the next two to three weeks.
4. If you are fortunate enough to have dune grass on your beach, protect it! The dune grass is the best natural defense you have to protect the toe of the bank.

OPEN AIR FIRE BAN STILL IN EFFECT

The Open Air Fire Ban issued by Huron County in mid-July is still in effect. Due to the extremely dry conditions in our area, this means no use of brush pile burns, recreational fires, burn barrels, or outdoor fireplaces/chimineas. Municipal fines can be applied, should this ban be ignored.

For updates, go to www.municipalityofbluewater.ca.

Note, as a reminder, that floating lanterns are banned in Bluewater.

HURON COUNTY HEALTH UNIT CONTEMPLATES HEALTH STUDY

Earlier in the year, the Huron County Health Unit (HCHU) considered undertaking an investigation into potential health concerns related to wind turbines. Although this particular project did not materialize, another approach to this issue is now being considered by the Huron County Health Board.

At the August HCHU Board meeting, Jane Wilson, President of Wind Concern Ontario (WCO), proposed that Huron County collaborate with WCO and the University of Waterloo so that the investigation started by Huron County can move forward. Phase One would involve gathering and forwarding data with appropriate permissions and identify issues that require follow-up. Phase Two would implement a thirty-day test in six locations to measure actual noise and monitor other factors, including weather conditions at the time. The Health Unit and the Huron County Acting Chief Officer of Health have now delivered thirteen questions to WCO to be answered and have also asked for a staff report regarding the feasibility of the project and the staff costs related to the study. Ms Wilson suggested that WCO would find funding for the project and that there would be little financial impact on Huron County. Further discussions will take place at the HCHU September Board meeting.

Be an informed Bluewater shoreline resident.

For regular updates about shoreline issues, check the BSRA website and sign up to receive the monthly BSRA e-Bulletin.

You also can follow us on Facebook.

Sue Haskett
BSRA President

Jan Purvis
Newsletter Editor