



Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association

BSRA NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2019

Calendar Note: **BSRA Annual Meeting** - Saturday, **August 17**, 2019 at 9:30 am. Coffee at 9:00 am
Location: St. Peter's Parish Hall, 73334 Bluewater Highway

THE BSRA NEWSLETTER NOW DISTRIBUTED ELECTRONICALLY ONLY

Beginning with this issue, the BSRA Newsletter is being produced electronically only. Please encourage your neighbours and Association members to sign up for the BSRA Newsletter and the BSRA e-Bulletin on the BSRA website: www.bsra.ca. Keep informed about the issues that affect Bluewater's shoreline residents.

ARE SEPTIC REPAIRS ON YOUR AGENDA?

Is your septic system old and in need of repairs or upgrades? You may be eligible for financial help. The Huron Clean Water Project (HCWP) is allocating a total of \$40,000 to the septic system upgrade category in 2019 with a maximum grant of \$2,000 per project. Residences west of Highway 21 are a high priority because of their systems' potential impact on swimming beaches. Staff will help landowners complete the application form which is evaluated by the grant review committee. Applicants will need a cost estimate from a licensed contractor in order to apply. When the project is approved, completed and paid for, staff do a final site visit. If you are interested in this opportunity, you are invited to call Kate Monk at the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (519-235-2610, extension 227).

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT LAKE HURON?

1. Do you ever wonder what the lake looks like when you are not there? Check the yacht club and municipal webcams in Grand Bend at www.gbyc.ca.
2. Are you wondering *where* that storm over the lake is going to come onshore? Check the radar map generated by the weather radar station at Exeter at www.weather.gc.ca.
3. Are you wondering about the boating conditions out on the lake? You can text a buoy to receive the necessary weather information! Environment Canada has a buoy (its number is 45149) close to the middle of Lake Huron and west of Bayfield. If you text 705-710-8011 (Canadian line) or 866-218-9973 and enter 45149 in the message, you will receive an immediate response. Further information about Great Lakes buoys can be found at glbuoys.glos.us
4. Are you wondering about the lake level and what might happen over the summer months? There are two websites to visit: Environment Canada's website at www.canada.ca/en/environment and the US Army Corps of Engineers site at www.lre.usace.army.mil.
5. Are you wondering about what steps you might take to stabilize your bluff and beach? Go to the Coastal Centre website at www.lakehuron.ca. There you will find a wealth of information about best practices, stewardship and planting guides.

BEACH CLEANUP

In some shoreline subdivisions the cottagers' association organizes an annual beach cleanup. In other shoreline areas, individuals make it their responsibility to regularly collect the garbage that accumulates on the beach. Whichever approach applies – thank you. This ongoing and regular beach cleanup – especially getting plastics and cigarette butts off the beach - is important.

Plastic products play a significant and important role in our everyday lives but at the cottage we see the down side of this material. When these plastics turn up on our beaches they are exposed to sunlight, sand and wave action and break up into smaller and smaller pieces. As micro-size plastic fibres and fragments, they will persist in the environment for decades, have the potential to be mistaken for food by fish and birds, and, depending on their composition, may release toxic chemicals into the lake.

Please continue to do your part to get and keep plastic and cigarette butts off our beaches. Your help with this makes a difference.

WATER QUALITY AT BLUEWATER'S BEACHES

In 2018 the Aubsable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) carried out water quality testing for BSRA at the Ridgeway and Wildwood ravines and beaches. As always, the water quality in the ravine water was well beyond the acceptable standard for swimming. At Ridgeway, all the lake water samples taken through the summer of 2018 met the acceptable standard for swimming. At Wildwood 12% of the samples exceeded the acceptable standard. In 2019 ABCA will carry out its testing program for BSRA again and the results will be posted on the BSRA website as soon as they are available. Test results for the public beaches in Bluewater are available on the Huron County Health Unit website at www.huronhealthunit.ca. It should be noted that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care changed the acceptable standard for swimming in 2018. The standard is now 200 E. coli units/ 100 mL water, rather than the previous 100 E. coli units/100 mL water.

BLUEWATER COUNCIL PASSES ITS 2019 BUDGET

At its May 21, 2019 meeting the Bluewater Municipal Council passed its 2019 budget with net expenditures of \$7.7 million. This is a *slight decrease* from last year. Your 2019 tax bill should not change very much from last year's taxes (unless you have had a significant increase in your assessment value.) Keep in mind, however, that your tax bill covers not only your Bluewater taxes but also County of Huron taxes (up from last year) and the school board tax (down slightly from last year).

Your tax dollars cover a wide range of expenditures including, for example: roads, bridges and culverts, garbage collection and the landfill sites, fire service, OPP service, utilities and insurance, recreation facilities, and planning/building/economic development services.

KEEP US INFORMED

Does your cottage association have a new President or Treasurer? Please help BSRA keep its records up-to-date and let us know about changes in your association. Contact us through the BSRA website. And, by the way, association fees for 2019 are now due.

Keep up to date on shoreline issues. Check the BSRA website at www.bsra.ca. Follow us on Facebook

Robin Glenny BSRA President

Jan Purvis Newsletter Editor