

Dear South Channelers,

As I write this, our Annual General Meeting is history by two whole months. Remember that the date was changed from Sunday on the Civic weekend, and the location from Glenn Burney Marina to Glenn Burney Lodge. But in spite of, or maybe because of those changes, the general response was very positive. Wayne Jefferey wrote: "The new venue was excellent. We have stayed at the lodge several times, but never considered it as a venue for a large meeting. With the addition of the P.A. system, it worked very well. The meeting was terrific, with great leadership, interesting reports and a high level of involvement from the attendees, only limited by time constraints."

Certainly, there was a lot of fun, even in the presentations by Constable Tim Nicksy and Bob Duncanson. And Councillor Rick Zanussi held his own by his humourous, yet serious sallies into the bear problem. No one has been more informed and helpful on the distress cottagers have either experienced or feared from rampaging bears this season.

Two notes: 1. Stemming from the plaudits we have heard on every side for Shawn Jackson's outstanding attitude and work at the Devil's Elbow Waste Management location, your SCA Executive gave him a letter of appreciation, which he could use as a future reference.

2. In addition to a gift to the library (\$400), we also sent \$1,000 to the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation (the hospital), Georgian Bay Forever (\$200) and G.B.L.T. (\$400). In a thank you response from the hospital, it was pointed out that "the Parry Sound area has a population of only 20,000 that expands seasonally to 120,000. It is only through the support of full-time and seasonal residents that the Foundation is able to purchase much needed equipment. Thank you for your generous spirit." Out of a mailing to 6,000 people, the hospital received a donation from 136 !!

Back to the bear problem. Of course, bears being so large and powerful pose the biggest threat. But creatures of nature of all kinds also can be an annoyance. A lady lamented to me recently that deer had eaten her cottage flowers--not too serious. Beaver cause flooding here and there. Canada geese are on the up-swing, and we know the remembrances they leave in parks and on beaches. And though in the category of insect, I have been reading about the Mountain Pine Beetle, which has munched its way through some 17.5 million hectares of British Columbia forest (more than 5 times the size of Vancouver Island). The claim is that they will infest trees all the way to the Maritimes.

So, folks, once we step outdoors and confront the natural world, we need both to protect ourselves and protect some of these antagonists at the same time. Good luck!

This copy of On The Waterfront will reach you in the month of October, along with the GB. Update, our first joint venture. Cottage pleasantries of 2011 will only be a memory as late Fall and Winter loom up. Your SCA Executive will be glad to deal with any issues important to you between now and Spring...so, let us hear from you if something is crucial. Meantime, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from us to you.

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