

BREAKING NEWS!

The clamouring issue we face on our beloved Georgian Bay is without doubt the disasterous low water level. If we are to have any affect with Government policy to correct it, we need to have more cottagers sign on as members of the SCA. So, if you know that your neighbour is not a member, please urge them to join.

We are currently about 1/3 of the potential strength. DO YOUR BEST !!! IT IS CRUTIAL FOR THEM AS WELL AS US."

Gervis

Dear South Channelers:

Our Fall newsletter "On the Waterfront" was in the hands of our editor, Robin Argenta, but it didn't go out to our 110 members due to a time glitch with the G.B.A. mailing which jumped the gun on us.

Let me quickly sum up a couple of items in it.

1. Just to let you know what quality of people represent you on our Executive, both Stephen and Pat Blundy were named last Fall to the Sheridan College 'Hall of Fame' in Oakville, Ontario. They had both served with great distinction in the athletic department there for over 30 years prior to retirement in 2007. For over 11 years, these two sterling people served as Convenors of Membership for the S.C.A., the most demanding job on the Executive. Pat is still a hard-working member.
2. If you were at our A.G.M. AT Glenn Burney Lodge in August or read the minutes, you will know of the fee hike voted almost unanimously from \$63.00 to \$75.00. The G.B.A. has received \$40.00 of it for over a decade without an increase, and were forced to use reserves to maintain its vital work for us all. They asked for an extra \$5.00. The mood of the A.G.M. was in favour of that plus a further \$7.00, which rounded out at \$75.00. The Sans Souci Association, we understand, has its annual fee set at \$150.00. Thank you, Members, for your caring and generosity. And while we are still talking money, we can tell you that out of our own funds last summer, we again donated \$1,000.00 to the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation. You also made possible sizable donations to the Parry Sound Public Library, Georgian Bay Forever and Georgian Bay Land Trust. **Thank you, everyone !!**

So, when the reminder comes in the Spring for us to send in our \$75.00, please recall the good it all does, and as one couple claimed: "Georgian Bay is magical. It's the wind and the water and the rocks. And for us, it is family, a place where generations build memories. We want the place to be as special for our grandkids as it was for our grandparents."

I wish I could charm you with an announcement that 2012 was the last season of disasterously low water levels. One of our Executive directors, Paul Morgan, reported dinging his prop in a channel he has used for years...along with having major trouble getting a boat out and onto the boat track at his cottage. How many others? Year 2012 may have uncovered the biggest beaches in decades, but at what price?

Related to this is the sad fate of our wetlands and its impact on countless creatures, especially Bay fish, by turning those wetlands into meadows. Enough talk, enough studies, enough semi-civilized debate has fastened on the culprit, that being the St. Clair River. It seems clear now that there is an engineering solution waiting to be engaged in, as Penny Pepperall concluded in a masterful treatment of our predicament. "We can't, and we shouldn't, stand by while Georgian Bay washes away." (GBF, July 2012)

I hope that you wrote to the right political figures regarding your concern and call for action. Liane and I heard back from Prime Minister Harper. He said:"Please be assured that your comments have been given careful consideration. As the matter you have raised is of particular interest to

the Hon. Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment and the Hon. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs, I have taken the liberty of forwarding copies of your letter to them. I am certain that the Ministers will appreciate being made aware of your views.”

Finally, while it's no laughing matter to encounter a marauding bear, and some of our members have sad tales to tell, let me finish with this one:

A Catholic Priest, a Baptist Preacher and a Rabbi all served as Chaplains to the students of Northern Michigan University at Marquette in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. They would get together two or three times a week for coffee and to talk shop.

One day, someone made the comment that preaching to people isn't really all that hard, a real challenge would be to preach to a bear. One thing led to another, and they decided to do an experiment. They would all go out into the woods, find a bear, preach to it and attempt to convert it to their religion. Seven days later, they all came together to discuss their experiences.

Father Flannery, who had his arm in a sling, was on crutches, and had various bandages on his body and limbs, went first. "Well", he said, "I went into the woods to find me a bear. And when I found him, I began to read to him from the Catechism. Well, that bear wanted nothing to do with me and began to slap me around. So, I quickly grabbed my holy water, sprinkled him and, Holy Mary, Mother of God, he became as gentle as a lamb. The Bishop is coming out next week to give him first communion and confirmation."

Reverend Billy Bob spoke next. He was in a wheelchair, had one arm and both legs in casts, and had an IV drip. In his best fire-and-brimstone oratory, he exclaimed, "Well, brothers, you KNOW that we Baptists don't sprinkle. I went out and I FOUND me a bear. And then I began to read to my bear from God's HOLY WORD! But the bear wanted nothing to do with me...so, I took HOLD of him and we began to wrestle. We wrestled down one hill.., up another and down another until we came to a creek. So I quickly DUNKED him and BAPTIZED his hairy soul. And just like you said, he became as gentle as a lamb. We spent the rest of the day praising the Lord. Hallelujah! The Priest and the Reverend both looked down at the Rabbi, who was lying in a hospital bed. He was in a body cast and traction with IV's and monitors running in and out of him. He was in really bad shape. The Rabbi looked up and said: "Looking back on it...circumcision may not have been the best way to start."

Gervis

lianemb22@hotmail.com