

## **Ward 3 Councillor's Report**

### **Trash Service:**

Seems waste management has been our predominant focus now for several years. Last year, there were significant changes to the management of trash at Pointe au Baril. You may also have been aware that the township had been looking for a possible alternate site for the bins in order to address aesthetic and other concerns. Unfortunately, after much work over many years, no such site was found that met the operational needs of water to road access. In January, after closely examining a number of sites in the station area, a decision was made to remain at the existing site, with minor modifications and improved landscaping. This has been a difficult decision, but now that it has been made it is important that we move forward recognizing and respecting the concerns of a number of local residents with respect to abuse and trash being left on the road or dock.

Last year was a learning experience for all of us as we had to adapt to the fact that the site was not open 24/7. Although, most of us recognized the importance of respecting the rules and not leaving garbage when the site was closed, regrettably, some garbage was left outside the bins and even on the dock. Not only is this illegal, seagulls will quickly rip open the bags and spread the contents about, creating a dreadful mess. It is important that we respect our neighbours and not leave garbage when the site is not manned. If the site is NOT open, take your trash with you.

This summer, please take the time to become familiar with the hours of operation. The township has provided extended hours of service to meet the vast majority of resident's needs. This summer there will be strict enforcement of the rules by the township enforcement officer. The fine for illegally leaving garbage at the transfer site or on the dock is a minimum \$300!

The township also intends to proceed with the full implementation of the **clear bag policy** township wide in order to ensure maximum diversion of all recyclables from the landfill. The costs of a new landfill would be astronomical. Therefore, it is essential that we do everything possible now to minimize the waste going into the landfill.

Again this year, there will be three free large item pick up days at the Pointe au Baril dock – tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>.

More detail regarding the specifics of this summer's operation will be provided through mailings, on the township website and signs at the transfer station. Please take the time to read them carefully and please respect your neighbours and the community.

### **Pointe au Baril Wharf**

Work continues on the reconstruction of the Pointe au Baril wharf. The first of three contracts, completed last year was to remove the old dock & cribs and to complete the rough grading for the roadwork. Also, last year, a second contract was awarded to complete the road pavement and sidewalks. For each of these the township is very appreciative of the support we have received from both the Federal and Provincial governments. At the time of writing this report, we are awaiting word on whether we will also be successful in our bid for continued funding support for the third and final contract for the proposed washrooms, gazebo, docks and final landscaping. When it's all done, we will have a village main street to be proud of.

### **Site Alteration Bylaw:**

Although the resolution of the trash transfer bins has occupied a lot of our attention, that's not to say council hasn't been looking at a number of other issues. Perhaps the most interesting new initiative falls within planning and how might the township deal with site alteration. Over the past few years, a number of concerns relating to placing fill or blasting have been raised. Staff have investigated a number of options as well as assessed similar initiatives in neighbouring municipalities. To this end, a new bylaw,

tentatively called the “**Site Alteration Bylaw**” is currently being prepared to address these sorts of issues and how they might be controlled. This material will be available for public input over the next while.

### **Forest Health & Environmental**

But not everything in the township is about bylaws and regulation. There are indeed a number of environmental initiatives that the township has been promoting for a number of years. We're all familiar with the water quality monitoring. Another is the Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council which has traditionally promoted fisheries issues through volunteer networks and is now looking for other opportunities to engage volunteers in environmental initiatives.

Another monitors forest health. BioForest Technologies has been providing residents and cottagers a variety of forest health services since 2001. Each year, experienced forest health specialists conduct a series of field surveys monitoring tree conditions and pest populations. The focus is on pro-active management rather than reactive management of pests. Field activities include:

- Ground and aerial surveys;
- Plot networks to monitor pests;
- Landowner consultations – one on one visits to diagnose and discuss problems;
- Public information and communications – workshops, presentations to cottage associations, website resources;
- Forest Health Reports (~3 per year) available through the Township or BioForest websites ([www.bioforest.ca](http://www.bioforest.ca));
- Development of pest management strategies.

In 2007, BioForest initiated the Volunteer Forest Health Network (VFHN) to encourage cottagers and residents to participate in annual surveys on private lands. Changes in forest health are often subtle, occurring over many years. The key objective of the VFHN is to collect forest health data over decades to more accurately document change. Volunteers establish at least one monitoring plot on their property and evaluate tree condition annually. The process was designed to minimize the time commitment of the volunteer but maximize the data quality. BioForest provides training and website resources. As well we conduct several audits each year to work with volunteers and address issues and questions that arise from the survey.

A “soft” approach to managing the forest environment in the Township is promoted, especially on the shallow soils of the shoreline and islands of Georgian Bay. For example fertilizers, imported plants, trees and soils are strongly discouraged. **We would also like to remind folks not to bring firewood to the cottage from the city. The risk of spreading various invasive species such as Emerald Ash Borer and others is just too great.**

We encourage you to become involved in any of these initiatives. For more information, please contact the township office or either of us. Our contact information is available through the township or within this directory.

Gary French & Ken Williams

Councillors Ward 3