

BLUEWATER DUNES

By Ian Ferguson

The area known as the Bluewater dunes is located at the most southerly end of our community, at the end of Trew Avenue. It is an area of natural beauty and has been dedicated as such by the Municipality of Tiny which owns the property. It was not always protected. For a time it became a dumping area for used appliances, a sand source for municipal beaches, and a possible location for a municipally owned car park. It was the BGW and several local concerned citizens who took the lead in requesting the Municipality to protect these dunes. It started with a two hour strategy meeting in Oct. 2004 at the law offices of Hacker, Gignac and Rice in Midland. The result was a paid invitation to Geoff Peach of The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation to inspect our dunes and on Saturday, May 25, 2005, he gave an open air lecture in the dunes, which was attended by over 100 local residents and invited Council members, on the importance of dune preservation. This was followed by a BGW letter campaign and well over 200 letters being sent to Council. The result was the designation by Council of our dunes as an area of natural protection. A citizen's steering committee was set up by Council and a Trillium Foundation Grant was applied for and received which was used, in part, to fund the building of a boardwalk to allow the public to view the dunes and access the beach. To name just a few of those who took part in the initial effort to preserve these dunes we should thank Christine Gushewski, Andre Claire, Tony Rovito, David Wisemen, James Deep, and the entire membership of the BGW. A file containing the records pertaining to the preservation of the dunes is held in the BGW archives.

