



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bryan Young, Georgina Beach

As we head into the holidays, a few words looking back and ahead.

Thank you all again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as president for another term.

Many of you will be settling in for winter, either here or in your winter home. Please take a moment to appreciate all that we have and how fortunate we all are to be neighbours. From the beautiful beaches and breathtaking sunsets to the walking trails and the Jug City ice cream cones and homemade baking, we are all very fortunate.

For those of you who have closed up your cottage for the season, know that your property will be in good hands. As a paid member, Kim Endicott is already conducting her regular rounds to ensure everything is how you have left it. She will do her best to alert you of heavy snow loads or uninvited guests. Please ensure you have filled out the appropriate paperwork with *Bruce Cook* — including up-to-date contact info — if you wish for her to enter your property.

The BGW has had a great summer, and the field day was a huge success. We received a lot of good feedback from participants. We also had a lot of interest in the many new summer activities we offered this year, including Yoga on the beach, Sunday morning running club, painting on the beach, and the boot camp. Next summer we will try for a movie in the park night and adult networking evening.

As for the winter ahead, the township has installed several catch basins along Tiny Beaches Road South, and I will continue to work with them to minimize the risk of road flooding, avoiding further damage to residences and vehicles.

Please continue to support the BGW and all that it has to offer and encourage your friends and neighbours to become members. For a list of all membership benefits, please visit our website: www.yourbgw.ca.

On behalf of the BGW, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter and happiness over the coming holidays

SUCCESSFUL NEW BEACH ACTIVITIES THIS SUMMER = MORE FUN IN 2020

by Jenn Pluimers, Bluewater Beach

Another wonderful summer season has come and gone, and what a fun and busy one it was in our community. Your BGW organized exciting new community-building activities in addition to the Annual Field Day and other amazing events that we have all come to look forward to each year.

Some of the new events that your BGW brought to you this summer included a boot camp on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, sunrise Beach Yoga led by a wonderful local yoga instructor, and two amazing Paint Nights led by our own professional resident artist *Lynn Borysiuk*.

The Annual Field Day was a wonderful success again this year. Mother Nature co-operated and we had a great community turn out with almost 100 registered participants. In addition to the races, we also had two fabulous face painters and a delicious barbeque for our members to enjoy. Registration for the races began at 9:15 am and the races started on time at 10:00 am. Because of the organization and volunteer support we had, we were all wrapped up by noon and were able to head to the beach for the rest of the afternoon. Shown in photo: athletes of tomorrow limbering up for a Field Day shoe toss.

All of these activities were free of charge. With the success of all of these events, we look forward to continuing them next summer and creating together an even stronger sense of community.

Thanks to all of the fantastic volunteers who help us to make these events so successful, and to our paid members who continue to support our community and association. Without you, these events would not be possible.

Please join and follow our *Facebook* and *Instagram* pages to find the most up-to-date information including starting times, pricing and locations for all of our events, as well as important community news.

Wishing you a wonderful winter, and looking forward to seeing you next year at our events!



BOARD of DIRECTORS 2019 -20

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SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR ALL THINGS BGW AND TINY

Stay in touch between newsletters with BGW and FoTTSA social media platforms. With just a few clicks, you can follow and post on these sites:

- BGW website: www.yourbgw.ca
- BGW Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BGWRatePayersAssociation/
- BGW Instagram: www.instagram.com/bluewater-beach/
- FoTTSA Instagram: www.instagram.com/tinycottager_fotts/
- FoTTSA website: www.tinycottager.org

While you're on the FoTTSA website, sign up for *FoTTSA Flash*, an e-newsletter published 5-6 times a year, featuring essential updates on issues important to Tiny's shoreline associations. It's a fast, fun read.

After water levels on all five of the Great Lakes reached historic high levels in July, they visibly began dropping in August, September and October. This may be short-term consolation: the US Army Corps of Engineers’ forecasts that winter levels could be as high as this year, and possibly higher. Water levels may also be lower, depending on the amount of precipitation between now and the spring.*

At the moment, it’s not looking good. The photos above, taken by a Bluewater resident on December 11, show ice build-up from winds that splashed water into the dunes, and further down the beach over an 8-foot retaining wall.

She advises beachfront cottagers to check on their cottages. Because of the high water level, “underground streams are flooding basements and crawl spaces that have been without threat for 33 years. This is beyond the responsibility of your beach association or neighbour.”

It may be tempting to fight back against high water levels with natural or manmade barriers, and perhaps necessary for those with cottages closest to the shore. But for those of us whose cottages aren’t in imminent danger, the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation (LHCCC) has this to say: shoreline hardening — creating artificial barriers like break walls or stone baskets — is not a solution.

Instead, on high-energy beaches like ours the best long-term defence is a healthy vegetated buffer between your cottage and the water. This method allows the beach to take the brunt of wave energy and maintains the area’s natural ecosystems.

In its August 2019 newsletter, the LHCCC recommended several species of plants to stabilize Great Lakes beaches:

- marram (dune) grass
- wheat grass
- wild rye
- dune willows

Once these plants are established and flourishing writes the LHCCC, plant the following species:

- sand cherry
- choke cherry



To learn more about protecting your shoreline with vegetation, check out the resources available on the LHCCC website:

www.lakehuron.ca. Check the US Army Corps of Engineers’ monthly forecasts here:

www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Great-Lakes-Information/Great-Lakes-Water-Levels/Water-Level-Forecast/Long-Term-Forecast/

Photos by Ruslan Valeev on Unsplash

SSEA 2020 TREE SEEDLING DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Severn Sound Environmental Association and several North Simcoe municipalities, including Tiny, are working together to implement the 2020 Tree Seedling Distribution Program.

The goal: encourage property owners to improve the area’s environmental health by planting native trees and shrubs.

What you need to know

- Various species are available in bundles of 10. Among the species: pine, spruce, cedar, fir, sugar maple, and more.
- The cost varies by species. If 10 are too many, consider sharing with your neighbours. Order seedlings by **January 17th**.
- Place your order by phone or email.
- Seedlings will be available for pick-up in early spring
- Information on planting and caring for your seedlings is available on the program website

Find out more here: <https://www.severnsound.ca/Pages/Tree-Seedling-Distribution.aspx>

Photo by Daiga Ellaby on Unsplash



In November the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA) conducted a 10-question online survey exploring how respondents felt about short-term vacation rentals. A full report on the results will be published by FoTTSA online and in the spring issue of *The Tiny Cottager*, but for now here's a quick look at what FoTTSA learned from the almost 400 respondents.

Neighbours of short-term rental properties had few concerns about weekly rentals to known renters (e.g., couples or families known to the owners and who often rent in successive years). However, great concern was expressed about absentee owners who rent their property as a party house, appear not to apply or enforce rules, and don't clean up after renters. A number of respondents complained about loud music, overcrowded beaches, and litter.

(Shown in photo: our worst fears about short-term rentals.)

Many respondents also shared their experiences with short-term rentals as rental owners, renters and neighbours, and their thoughts on what, if anything, the township should do about short-term rentals.

Watch for more in the spring issue of *The Tiny Cottager*.

Photo by Lukas Eggers on Unsplash



SIGN UP to receive "THE TINY COTTAGER" ONLINE



Your BGWBRA is the largest association of 17 shoreline groups. Pressing concerns going forward will initiate FoTTSA to take notice of the diminishing residential beach front use in our communities from Wasaga Beach to Thunder Beach.

Now you can receive a digital version of *The Tiny Cottager*, a newsletter published twice yearly by the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA), by signing up on the federation's website: www.tinycottager.org/sitev2/.

You'll also receive *FoTTSA Flash*, an e-newsletter published 5-6 times a year. To protect your privacy, FoTTSA keeps all email addresses confidential, and does not share them with any other organization.

FoTTSA is an umbrella organization that represents the interests of participating beach associations in Tiny Township. FoTTSA reports highlights of every Council meeting, defends shoreline owners' interests in discussions with Tiny Township (e.g., the development of Tiny's new Official Plan), tests lake water in over 100 locations every other summer, and much more. Bluewater Georgina Wendake Beaches and Ratepayers Association is a proud supporting member of FoTTSA.

WATER LEVELS ARE NOT RECEDING

by Jayme Brown, Bluewater Beach

Dec 11th 2019 winds splashed waves into the dunes on Trew Ave raising the pond level that the 8 foot retaining wall could not hold back from the icy waves. Sand point wells all along the Bluewater waterfront are being threatened with contamination. The last time the water was this high was 1986, what is different?

By late September 1986 the water receded and stayed at normal levels till 2017, now the level is continuing to rise.

Beachfront cottagers ... **make sure** you check your cottage. There are also underground streams that are flooding basements and crawl spaces that have been without threat for 33 years.

This is beyond the responsibility of your beach associations' weekly patrol or neighbour.

If you are interested in what is happening; there are a number of newsletters you can join. Stay warm and stay informed.

Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation: info@georgianbaygreatlakesfoundation.com

Follow us at www.yourbgw.ca A copy of this newsletter and detailed community information is available.

Note: All information is updated as necessary to maintain accuracy. Please contact the Webmaster