

This newsletter is written and published on behalf of the membership of the McGregor Bay Association (MBA). We ask you to offer ideas and suggestions for future editions. Please contact any board member with your ideas, photos or any other submissions.



“THE WINTER FREEZE”
Photos by Ron Boton

McGregor Bay Association

Winter Newsletter

February 2007

Photo submitted by Ron Boton

NEWS FROM AROUND THE BAY

What's Inside This Issue...

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Kayaking, Nature, and Other Club News

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Our Changing Water Levels

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and much, much more!!

The Great 2006 Blackout

I was the week before Christmas in July- out in McGregor Bay, without any snow. 'Round 5 pm the skies got dark and the wind did blow, and blow, and blow. Oh my, what a mess was left! So many trees and power lines down! Was this 2006? No fridge! No lights! No ice! No easy fix! But the word went out around the Bay; there were generators to be bought! So off to the nickel belt we go, to see what all the excitement is about. A little gas, a little tug, a mighty roar, and some power is back. We had cold water and ice mugs- alot more peace, and alot more quiet. There was no television or computers... but neighbors helped out neighbors, and we all got along. After all, we were Ontarians- 2000 strong! When asked back home, "how was your summer?" There will be much to tell of the winds that blew, and the fallen trees, and all those hours without any power. How we all made due and learned a thing or two. Of the quiet days, the starry nights, the books we read, the walks we took, and all those hours spent talking. What a good week we spent! Not so bad without power, when you're in the Bay, eh?

Anonymous

Photo submitted by Zoe McDougall

MIBA Board of Directors for 2007

Margaret Beard, President
Charles King, Treasurer
Doris Cowan, Secretary

Darryl Campbell
Stewart Cowan
Zoe McDougall
Ann McGregor
Jeff Merriman

David Randolph
Lynn Rogers
Gillian Woodruffe
Jeff Tripp

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Sailing - Tom Williams and Dianna Flemmer
Environment - Margaret Beard with Darryl Campbell as Assistant
Social - Meridith Randolph
Picnics - For July Zoe McDougall and August Fred Linxweiler
Membership - Jeff Tripp, Gillian Woodruffe
Fishing - Stewart Cowan
Public Relations - Zoe McDougall
Whitefish River First Nations Liason- Ann McGregor, Cheryl Yost
Georgian Bay Assoc.- Charles King
Boating Safety- Cheryl Yost, Stu Cowan
Louis Polk Bursary- Charles King
Nominating- Veronic Martin-Stier, Dick Lockrem, Tom Brown
Fire- John Tompkins
Nature- Gail Robinson and Betsy Frank
Health & Safety- Zoe McDougall



ANN'S BITS & PIECES

The Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands had its Town Council election on the 13th of November. There were three candidates for the position of mayor and two for our Ward One councilor. Schoolteacher and long time councilor, Jim Stringer won over the incumbent Joe Chapman by 60 votes. Newcomer to NEMI politics was Peggy Young who came in third. Jib Turner will again represent us at the council table defeating Christina Jones. Christina sent out a letter of introduction to those on the voters list but for those not on the list, Christina has a cottage at the foot of Bay Fine and lives in Sheguindah. She recently retired from nursing at the Manitoulin Health Centre. We have known Christina and her family for many years. I have taken the liberty to commend Christiana for her interest and for the time and efforts she put into running for council on behalf of the Bay residents.

The numbers are as follows:

Mayor	Ward One Councilor
Jim Stringer	819
Jib Turner	82
JoeChapman	759
Christina Jones	35
Peggy Young	336

There will be many new faces at the council table for the next four years as only three of the total eight councilors were reelected.

It was election time again at the Whitefish River First Nation, as terms are only two years long.

Congratulations to Franklin Paibomsai, (Chief Shining Turtle), he has been re-elected as Chief. The elections took place on December 16th, 2006. Franklin won by only 21 votes over Leona Nehwegahbow, who was Chief here for 20 terms. Read the platform on which Chief Shining Turtle (and others) ran in the 12/6 issue of the Manitoulin Expositor and understand how much has taken place in the Whitefish River First Nation under his leadership.

The Wallace Family who now manage the Fisher Harbour port, whom we previously referred to as

Alexander Industries (ACIL) have now submitted to Whitefish River their study results (noise and water quality) to be included in the second Environmental Study Report for the bands review. You will remember that we expected this report by last May. After an internal review, this study must go to environmental experts to be examined, a costly project. The First Nation has received very little funding in the past year for the Fisher Harbour second consultation process. This is due most likely to the constant change of staff at the Ministry of Natural Resources. We just get to know some of the MNR players at the table, then they are gone and we have to bring a new group up to speed. Accessing funds for this project has been quite a headache for the First Nation.

The Chief has met with Jeff Wallace and has had several telephone conversations with him. I also have met both Wallaces on several occasions and both the Chief and I feel that we are able to have a more open dialogue with the new managers as opposed to the past management team. We hope that after this ESR is examined and the members of the First Nation and the Island communities have had their input, that we can again sit down to the negotiating table and come to an agreement that we all can live with. The Wallaces believe that this can be completed by mid-summer. I think they are very optimistic. This whole thing has really dragged on and I am anxious to be done with it and put my files away.

Another issue affecting the Bay presently is a forth expansion of Killarney Park; this brings its boundaries right up to McGregor Point. Because of the complexity of this move and its effects on our First Nation land claims, I have asked Chief Shining Turtle to write a short article for the newsletter explaining this matter. We also plan to have Whitefish River host a meeting with residents of both the Bay of Islands and McGregor Bay regarding this issue, so that everyone will have a thorough understanding of the land claims and what they mean to the islanders.

All for now,

Ann

NEW NEIGHBORS, BUT OLD FRIENDS

Roger and Susan Collins Saddler, along with daughters Jennifer and Janice- and their families, will be making new summer memories at the original Tom Williams Island, across from Hopper Island.

Larry Bridgeman has sold Echo Lodge to old family friends, the Taggetts.

Jerry and Elizabeth Quin are now at home in their new cottage on Andrew Island.

Andy and Mary Robinson are spending part of the winter working on the inside of their new place on Robinson Island.

Sister Gail has found her own "little piece of heaven" in a new home right in Little Current.

Our own Cheryl Yost, of Little Current, has been welcomed as the new patient advocate.

BIRTHS



William (Will) and Erin Stier welcomed
Alycia Marie
in February of 2006.

Jaon and Carolyn McGregor welcomed
JayLyn Anne
in May of 2006.

Grandparents are Anne and Godfrey McGregor.

Rob, Beth and William Lindner welcomed
Coline William
in March of 2006.

Patrick, Lori, Dalton and Daphne Stier
welcomed baby sister
Dahlia Joanne
in November 2006.

Mary (Linxweiler) and Rev. Christopher Jackson,
had baby *Thomas* last spring. (2006)

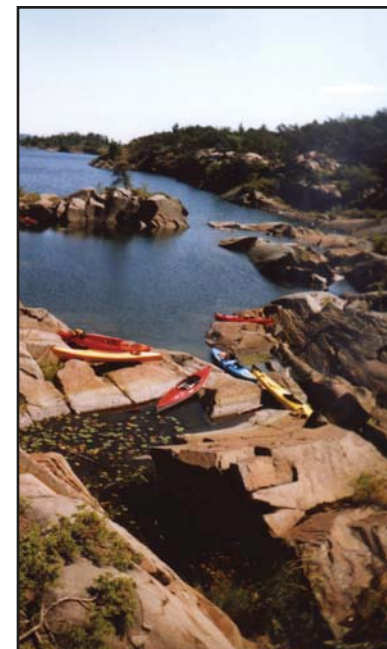


Pam and Eric Linxweiler welcomed
Lauren Dawn
in March of 2006.

KAYAKING IN MCGREGOR BAY

We had another great year for the Kayak group, with trips on almost every Friday from mid June through September.

Next summer we will have more trips all over McGregor Bay to explore and enjoy some of the best kayaking waters in the world and you are invited. No skill is needed, we are on a relaxed schedule and we will see parts of the bay that you may not know exist. If you are hesitate to venture out alone, consider joining us for a Friday outing, the group is a lot of fun and you are most welcome. Our trips are suitable and safe for people of all abilities. An experienced leader is normally stationed at the front and the back of pack of boat to provide direction and assistance for any of the paddlers.



Pot Holes



Kayak club launching at Pot Holes

There will be a full schedule of trips next year. We meet at the church docks on Fridays, at 10 AM during July and August. Although portages are generally not part of the regular trips, we will try to plan at least one longer outing which will include portages (with assistance provided, of course). We never miss a stop at a convenient location on the rocks for lunch and socializing. We usually make it back to the Church by 2:00.

Our club does not have any constitution, dues ,meetings, age maximum or minimum, required level of fitness or experience. Rather we ask that you bring a sense of humor and fun to interact with a rather civilized group of people.

Some of our favorite routes are:

- Over to the Rocky Bottoms area including destinations like the blue heron rookery, Nellie Bay, the Pot Holes, and other interesting stops in the area.
- Around Iroquois Island, including a optional, but "interesting" shortcut back through the swamp between Iroquois Island and Garden island.

?? ? TRIVIA NIGHT ? ? ?

What do Lee Majors, Burt Reynolds, Don Johnson, Mark Hammond, Bill Crosby, Tom Selleck and Anne McGregor all have in common?

Come to Howie Bridges' Trivia Night, at St. Christopher's to learn the answer to this and other questions.

•Out towards Split Rock Channel, including the Old Portage, parts of the East/West channel, Baker's cut, circumnavigations of Middle or East Sampson islands, etc.

•Scow Bay to East/West channel, Hanging Rock channel, heading East to the Big Yacht channel.

•For some trips, we load up the motorboats and start kayaking at some remote location, such as: the channels near McGregor Island, the portage to Low Lake, Lake Ishmael, Storehouse Bay, and the outer bay/South shore.

We hope to return to Storehouse Bay this summer.

Come on out and join us. It's FUN

Chuck Stanich & Jim Stewart



Our leaders, Chuck Stanich and Jim Stewart

CELL PHONE SERVICE IN MCGREGOR BAY

The GBA has been facilitating meetings between the various telephone and cellular phone companies for several years, attempting to get telephone service for its member associations in the underserved areas of Georgian Bay. I have attended these meetings representing McGregor Bay interests.

Initial meetings were mostly focused on Bell Canada's SIP (service improvement program) which would have provided wirelessly, all the features we expect with a standard land line telephone. If you want to find out more about how this initiative came about and some more of the details, I wrote an article that was published in the GBA Update magazine (Volume 14, No 3) which can be downloaded from their website at www.georgianbay.ca/pdf/update/vol14no3.pdf

From the outset, cottage association representatives at these meetings indicated that improved cell phone service would be better received by a large number of their members, as it also gives the benefit of being usable when on the water. Unfortunately the SIP program addressed the situation throughout rural Canada, and was specifically aimed at basic telephone service with no provision for considering cell phone services as an alternative. When the service was finally offered to the public, including McGregor Bay cottagers, the sign up rate was extremely low, which bore out what cottagers and seasonal residents had been saying all along. The subscription rate in our area was such that it is most unlikely that this service will ever be implemented.

Early in 2005 at another meeting set up by the GBA, various member association representatives met with staff from Rogers Wireless, who run one of the largest wireless networks in Canada. The Rogers people seemed genuinely interested in addressing the concerns of the various associations that were represented. They talked about their current coverage areas in detail and about developments for the un-served areas. As a result of this meeting Rogers sent a team to investigate sites at various problem areas in Georgian Bay. We were lucky enough to gain some attention and plans were made to include McGregor Bay and Bay of Islands into the site visits planned for the summer.



The Rogers Wireless Team in McGregor Bay

I met with the Rogers team in July and took them on an extensive tour of the Bay. We were joined by Ted Cowan, President of the Bay of Islands Community Association, who acted as our guide later in the day when we visited Bay of Islands.

We went out as far as Fraser Point and the Lafarge Cement plant to the east and into the heart of the bay including Store Bay and Iroquois Bay. The team consisted of a telecommunications engineer, a land surveyor, a properties manager and a facilities manager. At each location we visited, the team took detailed notes and photographs and attempted to determine if any existing coverage existed. We concluded the visit with a leisurely lunch at the King/Betterton camp on East Sampson Island, where I was able to quiz the team in depth about their work.

The project manager told me it would be very unlikely that any large tower would be built in the Bay. Cell phone companies always attempt to use existing structures wherever possible. Additionally, they prefer sites that have reasonable year-round access, which also rules out the majority of the area's islands. Lastly it is unnecessary.

The team selected two sites for serious consideration. The first site is on Highway 6 just across from the Willisville Road. This site has a pre-existing communications



DESERT WITH A DASH OF HISTORY



June 27, 2007 will start our sixth year with our adult education series, called "Desert with a Dash of History".

Everyone is welcome. If you have any suggestions as to the subject you would like to learn about, just notify any board member.

Come and enjoy dessert and learn a little something about all different subjects.

A three-part program comprised the June gathering of the Desert with a Dash of History. The first part was dedicated to the protection of one's property-inside and out. A marking pen should be used to identify your television, motors, chain saws and even boats. Don't forget to write down those serial numbers.

Don't trust your memory. You may not even miss an item until you go to retrieve it. If you think you found a perfect place to stash the family heirloom rod & reel, write it down on your list and keep that list someplace where you will be sure and find it.

Our memories are not as good as they should be six months after the fact. For some of us, our memory of what we did yesterday is a challenge.

Be sure and place your name, phone number, e-mail or fax number on each and every outside door. Winter

Watch may find your door open but you will need to be notified.

The second part of the program dealt with the danger of fire, and included suggestions on steps to take to prevent fire from destroying your cottage.

To protect your property from fire, make sure your extinguishers are charged and up-to-date. Store your gasoline in proper containers. Don't keep your lamp oil under the kitchen sink or even in the house.

Keep the brush away from your house and the pine needles as well. Keep matches stored in a metal can. It is not a fable that mice can start a fire.

Keeping your cottage safe is the responsibility of every cottage owner. A cottage that you have done our best to protect will give you and your family a lot of piece of mind throughout the winter.

June 25, 2007 at 7:00PM

Roland Shultz will speak about the history and restoration of his beautiful tugboat.

July 23, 2007 at 7:00PM

Doris Cowan revisits us, and speaks about another era in Canadian History.

August 20, 2007 at 7:00PM TBA

BAT AWARENESS TIPS

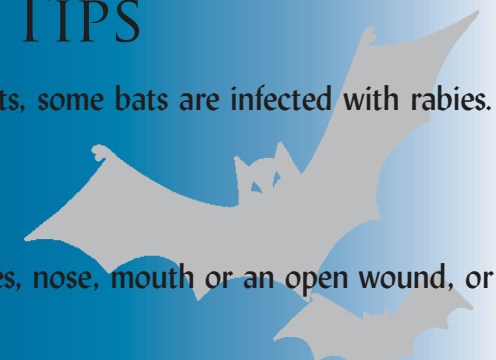
Although bats may be helpful to humans by consuming insect pests, some bats are infected with rabies. People and animals can get rabies if exposed to a rabid bat.

Most U.S. human rabies deaths are from bat rabies.

Rabies exposure includes a bite, scratch, saliva contact to your eyes, nose, mouth or an open wound, or other physical contact with a bat.

In some situations, it is possible that a bat bite could go undetected, e.g., when a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person.

For further information about bats, there will be information sheets available on the table on the porch of the parish hall.



SAILING RACES

Regular races were held as usual during July and August. The major races were the circumnavigation of Iroquois Island, won by Elizabeth Green and the Outer Bay, won by Rick Nees and young Griffin Wigert.

The Iroquois race had incidents of barging by sailors not intending to be in the race or to finish the race, but what a great race it is. Some guy named Nees created this race 40 years ago and now his daughter, Diana Nees Flemer, is our Commodore!

Please refer to your Bay calendar for dates and times for this year's races



JUNIOR SAILING

Jr. Sailing was very successful with loads of kids participating on 3 new Laser Picos on three Wednesday's in July with Griffin Wigert winning the Jr. Sailing most improved trophy.

This year we will have four (4) Laser Picos and will sail from the church docks on Wednesday mornings. Please refer to your MBA calendar for dates and times.

If you cannot attend with your child, please arrange for another adult to be responsible for your child during sailing instruction.

Prepared by Lee Williams



ETC...

As our Ward I Town Counsellor at NEMI, Jib Turner has recently begun a "blog" on the Internet that we could use to share our thoughts on various topics, and make sure that he receives feedback.

Please take note that our Association is not taking any positions at this point on any issues that our Board has not had an opportunity to discuss.

Presently, the discussions have revolved around how garbage pickup and fire protection for Ward I might be handled, but I imagine other topics will soon begin to appear.

Here is the URL where you can read other people's comments, and add your own:
<http://www.nemiwardone.blogspot.com>

And so we move on to the 21st Century in McGregor Bay.
Charles King, Treasurer



Cell phone service, continued..

tower and has the advantage of being owned by Allstream. Rogers has a 30% ownership stake in this company, which greatly simplifies negotiations at all levels. When I recently spoke to the project manager, site space had been arranged together with Cell plans to extend the tower by another 5 meters approx. These upgrades, to accommodate the new equipment, are planned for the Spring of 2007. If you are anywhere on the south shore of the Bay, which has a view to the north, you can easily see this tower. If you can see it, it is very likely your compatible cell phone should work reliably.

In the afternoon we toured Bay of Islands and it was very obvious that the Willisville site would easily provide very good coverage for this area including Whitefish Falls and Birch Island. Later in the afternoon the team headed down to the Lafarge location by road to get an accurate idea of the height of the buildings at the plant. Most recent plans included additional coverage from this second location.

It was interesting to hear about the team's confusion, when planning the visit, over the local names for the various locations. The tower site I have described is referred to as both the Willisville tower and the Whitefish Falls tower. The Lafarge cement terminal is described as the Whitefish terminal although it is several kilometers south of Whitefish Falls and Birch island landing. It was good to be able to clear up these issues for the Rogers group.

With a little luck we may have some cell phone service in the bay some time in 2007. For those of you who are interested, Cingular phones use the same modulation systems as Rogers (GSM/GPRS 850/900/1800/1900 MHz) so these are the units that are the most likely to work with this service. With a Blackberry, you should also be able to access your email through this service. I will keep in touch with the Rogers team and provide updates as we move towards the next cottage season.

Andy Betterton

MCGREGOR BAY GARDEN CLUB

An organizational meeting of the McGregor Bay Garden Club will be held at Veronica Stier's on Monday, June 25, 2007. Lunch will be served.

We will be organizing a calendar at the luncheon.

Following the luncheon, we will meet and do some "weeding" at Parish Hall. Besides weeding and watering, the club will share knowledge and ideas of what grows well in McGregor Bay. Sometimes during the summer, there will be a plant exchange.

This is an equal opportunity organization. So, all you men with green thumbs are welcome as well!

So, if you like to play in dirt, we will see you in June.

Sincerely,

Veronica Martin - Stier





LETS TALK WATER

Thoughts from your
Environment Committee Chair-
Margaret Beard



As all of you know we have been doing a water quality survey for the past number of years, monitoring the pH of our Bay, and the presence (or not) of total coliform bacteria and of E. coli bacteria. The total coliform count gives us an indication of overall water quality; the E. coli count is an indicator of whether human pathogens (this bacterium or others) are present. What has become clear from our survey.

First - Our water is not acidic. The Bay's pH has varied from near neutral or a little basic at the beginning of the summer to slightly acidic at the end of the summer.

Second - when we have rain, the bacterial counts go up and do not drop back down to background/baseline for at least 24 hours. Since our survey is of surface water and because wind most often accompanies rain, I cannot say whether after a rain any one test site that has a bacterial load above the government standards for either swimming or drinking. The wind disperses the surface water. The best advice is not to swallow the water when swimming and particularly after a heavy rain.

Third - the water in enclosed bays (such as dead horse base) with only a narrow opening show increasing bacterial load throughout the summer. This is not unexpected since the water cannot exchange as fully into these enclosed bodies of water. When these bays also receive a lot of contamination from pets and/or native animals and/or human, the coliform load is even heavier. So - again if you swim late in the summer in such a bay, simply spit out water from your mouth. If you live on such a Bay - take all precautions.

Fourth - even though we expect the outer Bay area to a lower load of bacteria, and it does, this does not mean that there are none. Counts, while not disturbing are higher nearer shore, e.g. Red Sand Beach and in sites where yachts anchor. However, when there are many yachts anchored in the East-West Channel and along the ship canal, the counts have on occasion become very worrisome.

Although we have no direct evidence (the survey is not a policing project), some contamination of our water may well come from over-loaded septic drainage fields. Why do I make this rather disturbing statement? Septic fields have a limitation. They have a perc or percolation rate and they can fill up (i.e. the sand and gravel accumulate non-soluble debris; roots penetrate the field) in which case they perc less well. Even a septic field that is operating properly can shed unprocessed water when there is a heavy rain.

If your septic system is like mine, it was constructed to match the expected occupancy of the island per the number of beds at the camp. When there are more than this number of people on an island, especially for an extended period of time, the septic system can become overloaded and over worked, resulting in septic water and content reaching our Bay water. Why? A septic system can only process so much effluent at one time; the more volume that goes into the tank in any period of time means the more volume that is coming out into the field. If the biochemical action in the tank and/or in the field is not given enough time to destroy fully pathogenic material, then the water and its contents that eventually reach the Bay may well contaminate the Bay water.

What can we do? The first thing is to have your tank pumped out regularly (even yearly if your camp is used all summer) and your field checked to verify the filtration capability and also show if you have a break in a drainage tile. The second thing is to be aware of the volume of water and content that is going into your system - i.e. simply know your system's limitations. If you are concerned that too much water is going into your septic system, you might consider constructing a grey water pit that would receive kitchen sink/dishwasher/washing machine and bathroom sink/shower water. Your septic system might thank you. Your islands trees and shrubs might thank you for putting water onto two sites not just one. Your grandchildren will thank all of us for being careful with our precious water resource.

KALAKUKKO

A Traditional Finnish Dish- Submitted by Doris Cowan

Fish baked in a heavy rye crust, sliced and served with new potatoes and cucumber

DOUGH -1 package of active dry yeast
1 cup warm water
1 tsp. salt
4 tbs soft butter
1 and 1/2 cups rye flour
1 and 1/2 cups white flour
2 tsp caraway seeds (optional)

FILLING- 1lb small boneless fish fillets
1 tsp salt
dash of pepper
4 slices of bacon, cut into 1 inch pieces

Dissolve yeast in a bowl. Add butter and salt. Slowly stir in rye and white flour (and caraway) until dough is well combined and stiff. Knead lightly on a floured board until smooth. Return dough to bowl, let rise until double in bulk. On a floured board, pat into a 1/2 inch thick oval, 12 inches long, 10 inches wide. Rub dough surface with flour to dry it. Arrange fish side by side on dough. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Top with bacon. Bring dough up and over fish to cover completely. Dampen outside of dough with water to seal the top. If dough cracks, reseal after moistening the broken edge. Shape the Kalakukko like a loaf of bread. Place in a heavy buttered casserole dish with a lid. Put 2 tsp. water into the dish and cover. Bake at 300 degrees for four hours. After the first hour, brush loaf with melted butter. After the third hour, remove the dish from the oven, wrap Kalakukko in aluminum foil, return to the uncovered dish to bake for one more hour. Remove from the oven. Allow it to cool in the foil. This will soften the crust. Slice crossways. SERVES SIX.



PASSING ON THE COTTAGE U.S. STYLE UNDERSTANDING LLC'S

There has been a lot of discussion around the Bay this past summer about LLCs. Many families are looking for strategies to pass their cottages down to the next generation with a minimum of tax and expense, and LLCs seem to offer some advantages.

Currently there appears to be a strategy whereby a "foreign" LLC (one formed in the U.S.) can be used to minimize the Canadian capital gains tax on the transfer of cottage property. I am just an Ohio lawyer with no knowledge of Canadian taxes, thus I intend to express no opinion on this tax issue. Canadian counsel must be sought. But this strategy has certainly heightened the interest in LLCs.

In participating in some of the discussions this past summer I have sensed a basic confusion as to exactly what an LLC is and how it is formed and operated. The purpose of this article is to try to clear up some of these basic questions. LLC is short for "limited liability company". An LLC is a form of business entity that is fairly recent in origin, only about 10 years. It is formed under specific state statutes, now found in all states. Formerly we basically had two common business entities, corporations and partnerships. Each had their own favorable attributes, but each had disadvantages. Spurred by a change in federal tax regulations, it became possible for the "invention" of the LLC, which combined the best of both former entities, generally limited liability to the owners against entity creditors, and pass-through taxation as a partnership. Thus all states quickly jumped on the bandwagon to pass their own LLC statutes. Most state statutes are similar, but all some have some peculiarities.

The basic formation of an LLC is fairly simple. Articles of organization are filed with your state secretary of state or other official office, and if they are found to be in order, and the name chosen is unique in the state, they are approved. You can do this without the assistance of an attorney, but I do not advise it, for now the hard part begins.

LLCs are used for a variety of business, and non-business arrangements due to their favorable attributes relating to liability protection and taxation, but also due to their tremendous flexibility in organization and management. The operation of an LLC is controlled by its operating

agreement. This is basically its "constitution and by-laws" all rolled into one document. This agreement governs the relationship of the owners (called Members) to each other; the management of the entity; any "buy-sell" arrangements; and restrictions on the transfer of ownership interests. Rather than having several documents that control the entity, all issues can be covered in one agreement. The drafting of the operating agreement, which is thus critical to the successful operation of the LLC, is complicated, and calls for professional assistance.

In the setting of family cottage ownership an LLC allows all issues dealing with the management and succession of the cottage to be covered in one, well-planned operating agreement. The issues to be covered may include schedules for use by various family members; decisionmaking procedures on repairs and improvements; contributions for expenses; and succession of interests upon the death or other withdrawal of owners.

Once the real estate is titled in the name of the LLC, the ownership and management of the LLC can change without any further action or transfer required in Canada. But this requires a considerable amount of thought and planning at the family level to satisfactorily cover all of the issues. Families may be able to do this on their own and then turn the results over to an attorney for drafting of the operating agreement, but most families would benefit from some sort of third-party guidance through this process. Most family members are too close to the situation to be entirely objective.

Yes, LLCs offer many tax and non-tax advantages, but they should be approached with much caution and careful planning. Once your cottage is placed into a "foreign" LLC, it will be very difficult and expensive to get it out, or even transfer it to a third party, so you must be sure you "cover all the bases" before proceeding. Whatever time and expense you incur in the planning stage will be well worth it.

Kenneth L. Lather
Attorney At Law
Board Certified Specialist in
Estate Planning,
Trust and Probate Law
Findlay, Ohio



MORE ABOUT WATER

I second Jib's request that we contact folks in our representative government agencies. Our personal concern about water levels stems from our reliance upon open channels for boats and having our docks in the water, not above the water. Water levels in Lakes Michigan and Huron are definitely going down and yes are impacted by outflow along the St. Claire River. However, other factors contribute to our low water levels, including draw-down from cities bordering Lakes Michigan and Huron, such as Chicago and others (Green Bay, WI and surrounding area will for the first time get all of their water from the Great Lakes in 2007). Furthermore, global warming is now a documented factor contributing to the fact that the Great lakes are not freezing Over for much of the winter. And because of this are losing water to snow in Buffalo and elsewhere. Unfrozen water evaporates, frozen water does not. So in addition to contacting the IJC urging action on their part, individually we need to be stewards of our water by not contributing to global warming in our own lives and by lobbying our respective governments regarding corrective measures for this emerging potential catastrophe.

Until later - Cheers - Margaret

MEMO FROM NEMI COUNCILOR

Representing Ward I -
McGregor Bay and Bay of Islands

First, I would like to thank my supporters for their votes in November.

It was an interesting election with a turnover of two thirds of council.

We have a new Mayor, Jim Stringer. He won by sixty-two votes over Joe Chapman. I hope the new council will be able to control spending at the municipal level, as we will certainly see increases from DSSAB and policing.

Water levels continue to be very low. An urgent response is needed from each of us to the International Joint Commission. {It is our grave concern that water levels will continue to go down if action is not taken}. They are doing the upper-lakes portion of the study work. Their website is: <http://www.ijc.org/>.

Please get involved by lobbying higher levels of Government, and support The Georgian Bay Association in the great on-going efforts they are supplying to this critical problem.

As always I am available turners@manitoulin.net.

By Jib Turner

PARISH HALL PROVIDES BABY ITEMS TO COMMUNITY

As a service to everyone in the McGregor Bay community, St. Christopher's is collecting and making available to you, baby items that we all need on occasion when the grandchildren come to visit. In the upstairs room in the parish hall, you will find a baby crib, play pak, small life jackets, potty and booster chairs, etc. All these items are available to be loaned - just sign them out and bring them back when finished. And if you have such items taking up space in your cottage that you would like to donate, we will be glad to accept them if they are in good condition. You can also bring those partly used packages of diapers - they never fit the next year! For questions, see or call Jan Rogers (285-5114) or Jan Grant (866-7043).





The eastern shores of Georgian Bay are home to almost all of Ontario's amphibian and reptile species, including many species listed as "At Risk". No wonder most herp enthusiasts love to visit the wetlands and swamps scattered over these shores.

I had a chance to visit the McGregor Bay area, and the wonderfully warm cottagers that make up the McGregor Bay Cottage Association. The Association wanted to learn more about Stewardship opportunities and resources available in Ontario, ones that they might apply to their own watershed. I was pleased to travel north with my daughter Gaea to teach the Association about Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme.

The Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond Programme is celebrating 15 years of wetland conservation. Bob Johnson and the Amphibian Interest Group at the Zoo initiated the programme in 1991 in response to apparent global amphibian declines. Since these early days, the programme has emerged as a leading community-based conservation project that provides resources and opportunities for a growing base of Ontarian stewards interested in preserving and restoring wetland habitats and the amphibians and reptiles that call them home.

Adopt-A-Pond is probably best known for coordinating Frog Watch Ontario. Indeed, Adopt-A-Pondstaff pioneered the community-based frog and toad monitoring programme that has grown to international proportions. Environment Canada's EMAN (Ecological Monitoring and Assessment) Programme has done a wonderful job standardizing the FrogWatch programme throughout Canada.

In 2002, the Adopt-A-Pond programme launched the Ontario Turtle Tally. Like FrogWatch, the Turtle Tally empowers everyday citizens to learn to identify local turtle species using our laminated, two-page Turtles of Ontario Identification Guide and our website www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtletally.asp. Turtle Talliers, as they have become affectionately known, take this knowledge to their local wetland in spring, summer, and early fall where they record turtle observations. Data is either entered directly into our online database or is recorded on standard Tally Forms and sent via snail-mail. The Adopt-A-Pond coordinator manages this data and maintains a communication link with the Natural Heritage Information Centre (MNR, Peterborough). These observations will

become increasingly important to scientists and municipal planners as turtle populations continue to experience dramatic reductions in size and range. The Ontario Turtle Tally has 68 participants, 24 of whom registered in 2006.

Data collected in 2006 illustrates the general abundance patterns of turtles in south central Ontario: common turtles, like the midland painted and snapping, were observed the most, and rare turtles, like the wood and the spotted, were not observed at all.

Midland painted turtle	95
Snapping turtle	42
Northern map turtle	8
Blanding's turtle	5
Spiny softshell turtle	3
Stinkpot	1
Western painted turtle	0
Spotted turtle	0
Wood turtle	0



The most interesting and exciting story to emerge from the 2006 Turtle Tally season was the observation of a female spiny softshell digging a nest and depositing 11 eggs in late June. Gavin Stairs and Penn Kemp of the Thames River area in southern Ontario submitted the observation. These veteran Turtle Talliers attribute much of their knowledge of turtles and turtle behaviour to the Adopt-A-Pond Programme and resources we provide.

Community-based wildlife monitoring can be empirical and rigorous. However, there first needs to be programmes with dominant educational components that, if nurtured, will produce citizen scientists capable of participating in larger projects or with more specific scientific groups. This is the goal and niche of the Adopt-A-Pond Wetland Conservation Programme at the Toronto Zoo.



HOW ABOUT THEM MAYFLIES



TOP VIEW - ADULT



TOP VIEW - NYMPH OR NAIAD



SIDE VIEW - ADULT

I am sure all of you have seen Mayflies during the summer and wondered what the story was about them. They swarm in late June and early July. These annoying insects may fly into one's face, ears, hair, land on clothing, crawl behind eyeglasses and splatter car windshields.

Mayflies do not bite or sting nor feed on homes, furnishings, food, etc. They are a good thing because they are an indicator of clean water and a healthy environment. Their chief importance lies in their value as food for fish, dragonfly nymphs and birds.

In the 1950s, scientists documented as many as 300 to 1,000 immature mayflies (nymphs or naiads) in a single square meter of lake bottom. Since 1991, their annual average densities in the sediment have increased dramatically. In 1995, there were 34 nymphs per square meter and in 1996, 102 per square meter which corresponds with an increase in the sizes of adult swarms along the lakeshore of Lake Erie - I don't think we have it that bad-. This just demonstrates how clean the water has gotten in Lake Erie

LIFE CYCLE AND HABITS

Mayflies are classified in the Insect Order Ephemeroptera, meaning in Greek "lasting but a day." As winged adults, they survive only a few hours or at most a few days, nothing is eaten, nor do they crawl or walk. They only fly and mate within dancing swarms, usually in late afternoon or evening. Mating normally occurs the same day adulthood is achieved. Females release as many as 8,000 fertile, oval eggs over the water, often scattering them or, in some species, in mass in a suitable place. After eggs are laid, females fall to the water and float, often drifting onto beaches in nuisance piles or windrows.

Eggs gradually sink to the bottom and, after a few days or several months, hatch into tiny aquatic nymphs well adapted for living at the bottom of quiet bodies of water or rapidly flowing streams. Some species burrow into the lake sediment to feed on algae, diatoms, aquatic vegetation, other aquatic insects, etc. When mature, nymphs swim to the surface or climb up plant stems or rocks where they break the nymphal skin, wait briefly for the wings to dry, and fly off.

They are one reason we have white foam (we call it frog spit) on windy days. The foam is just protein that accrues from many things. It is not pollution, just one extra benefit we get from windy days.

By Dick Lockrem

FROM THE MNR CONSERVATION OFFICER

Once again I have been offered, and appreciate, the opportunity to write a piece for the newsletter. And once again, it's been a busy year.

In April, I was zipping around with 22,600 pounds of walleye fingerlings and two McGregor Bay Association members in my boat as helpers. 2006 was the year to stock walleye into certain secret areas of The Bay. (the Kirk Creek area may be a good place to fish for walleye after 2009) It went well. The ice went out just in time, the winds stayed down, and we had sunshine most of the day. There were almost zero casualties in the handling. They weighed 15.5 grams- they were good stocky fish, and I had great help. As well, in June, 1 million additional walleye fry were stocked in the Bay. These walleye originated from the Whitefish River, where egg collection is ongoing every year.

I didn't get into the Bay to start patrols until mid June, as I was taking a month-long boating course in Parry Sound with the OPP Launch operators. Power Boat Television accompanied us for a few days to Tobermory, to film for an upcoming episode. You will see my smiling face pulling a dummy out of the water during Search and Rescue operations with the Canada Coast Guard.

During patrols with OPP, the usual violations were found this year; forgot the license at camp, no license, not enough lifejackets for people, not all the required boat safety equipment on board, i.e.: Whistle or horn, buoyant heaving line, working flash light, anchor or paddle. We did not write one ticket for alcohol this year.

I ran into a few people I met last year, which I thought was pretty cool. I thought that I was getting around pretty well, and doing a great job meeting everyone, until I checked a very nice group that has been coming since 1952. They had never met a game warden, or bought a fishing license! I thought that was such a fantastic story. I hinted that it might come up in the newsletter.

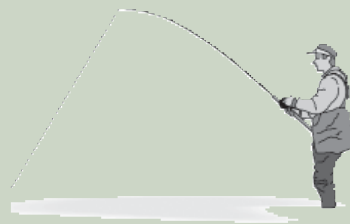
The cormorant oiling program was cancelled this summer, and instead a dietary study was launched. When more information becomes available on this I will be able to elaborate.

You may have heard about new fishing regulations that are proposed for 2007. The changes are meant to streamline fishing regulations and make them easier to understand. The total number of zones (formerly fishing divisions) has been reduced to 20 from 37 across Ontario. For the Bay, it is mostly status quo. The walleye closure will still be in place and the restrictive regulations for Iroquois Bay Lake trout will also be maintained. Remaining regulations will be consistent with those that were rolled out in 2003 for walleye, pike, bass and perch. The only changes for the area will be dates for walleye sanctuaries, and the removal of some old bass sanctuaries in the North Channel. There will be an area around Manitoulin where rainbow trout limits will stay at five, whereas elsewhere the limit will be reduced to two.

Hope you had a safe fun summer. See you next year.

Terry Johnson

Conservation Officer



MUSINGS ON SUMMER 2006

As I reflect back on Summer 2006, I realize that in its own way Summer 2006 was just as exciting as Summer 2005. No! There wasn't a fire at the Parish Hall but there were two rather striking examples of Mother Nature's power. Although the winds in one storm were of hurricane force for a time, we didn't experience Hurricane Katrina. We have not been displaced. We are still in the Bay. Some buildings suffered damage but were not completely destroyed. As trees fell, I kept thinking that good old Mother N. was simply giving us a "haircut". As the hail of the second storm acted like sandpaper and stripped paint off my boathouse, I realized that probably paint was needed anyway. Truthfully, we were very lucky. Folk who were caught out in boats out on the water amidst the powerful winds are still with us, for which we give grateful thanks. The Marinas made sure that ice was available during the power outages. Hydro One restored power really quite quickly and was most responsive to our calls. We weathered the storms and now call them "experiences to remember"

Summer 2006 also saw two wonderful picnics. The weather was perfect at the Red Sand Beach for both. Adults sat and relaxed (until the tug of war) and children frolicked in the water, bobbed for apples, hunted treasures in the sand. Many, many thanks to all who made these two summer traditions happen - especially this year to Zoe (Chip) McDougal who organized the games; to Chuck Stanich and Fred Linxwiller whose shopping makes set up so easy; and to the numerous chefs and volunteers who see that food is set out and clean up happens.

The Nature "Walks", organized by Betsy Frank and Gail Robinson are always highly anticipated, and this year was no exception. Those of us who have been part of the Nature Walk group over the years are saddened by the death of Keith Winterhalter, the much appreciated botanist who taught us so patiently year after year. (See the article about Keth by Gail in this Newsletter). An exciting addition to the Nature events schedule was the "Frog Talk" given by Dave Ireland of the Toronto Zoo. (See accompanying article by Dave). We have Sue Nyhof to thank for this event

and I understand that we may well see Dave back in the Bay again.

Water activities of two sorts are among our most popular. On any Friday, if you look in the right place, you will see a flotilla of kayaks, exploring Split Rock or the S-Narrows or the lakes north of Iroquois Bay. On Saturdays the sails of diverse sail boats can be seen around Iroquois Island, through West Bay, out in the Outer Bay and on many Wednesdays small sail boats can be found near the Church Docks. Adult sailing has been a significant activity in the Bay for many many years - to wit the named races that draw a lot of interest. Junior Sailing is once again on the ascendancy all because the initiative and leadership of Tom and Lee Williams and family. Tom found new boats appropriate for young people, and interested parents in the program. It was reported that upwards of 20 children each week were learning how to steer, to tack, as well as to right over-turned boats. Watch for announcements about the 2007 program on the Association Bulletin Board in the Parish/Community Hall.

We always mourn the loss of our friends who were part of our Bay community over many years. This year we acknowledge with gratitude the contributions of Ann and Dolph Thorne not only those they made to our Bay while they were in residence high up on the island by which we all pass as we return from Birch Island Landing, but for their generous gifts, through their estate, to the McGregor Bay Association and to St. Christopher's Church (see accompany report on Church activities). Bequests such as these allow each to participate in the life of the greater Manitoulin Community in important ways. This year the Association supported the Manitoulin Island Junior Hockey team with money for new jerseys and the newly built school at Birch Island with money for the library, particularly books.

On a final note, we extend congratulations to Cheif Franklin Paibomsai on his re-election, and also to Jim Stringer on his election as Mayor of NEMI.

Margaret Beard-MBA President

OUR CHANGING WATER LEVELS....

WHY? WHAT IS BEING DONE?

RECENT NEWS FROM THE GBA/GBA FOUNDATION

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION BEGINS UPPER LAKES STUDY

WATER LEVEL NEWS: SUPERIOR DECLINES. HURON/MICHIGAN ON THE RISE

MINI- BAIRD REPORT

In September the GBA Foundation received the results of the most recent W.F.Baird & Associates mini-study to estimate how much the change in the St. Clair River bed character may be affecting the levels of Lake Michigan-Huron. Baird estimates that a net volume loss of 31,700 cubic meters of sediment along the deepest parts at the "critical section of the river, where flow velocities are highest and changes to the bathymetry have the largest impact on the flow regime." The study based on computational fluid dynamic modeling, estimates that on average changes to the river bed may be responsible for lowering the lake level by about 0.8 cm (0.31 inches) per year. While the influence of the river bed changes on lake levels is small compared with the 30 cm/year influence from changes in weather patterns as discussed above, every bit does count. In the distant future it is conceivable that the impacts of climate change may necessitate more aggressive control of the St. Clair River as a long term strategy to manage a changing ecosystem in the Upper Great Lakes. The good efforts of the GBA will

ensure that the characteristics of the St. Clair River are considered in both the short and long term IJC strategies.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION'S UPPER GREAT LAKES STUDY

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has begun a major Study of the Upper Great Lakes. Major topics for investigation include determining the factors that affect water levels and flows, developing and testing the performance of potential new regulation plans including under climate change scenarios, and assessing the impacts of these potential plans on the ecosystem and human interests.

The original Plan of Study was expanded to incorporate the concerns voiced by the Georgian Bay Association (GBA) that shoreline alteration, historical aggregate riverbed mining and navigational dredging are resulting in ongoing erosion of the bottom of the St. Clair River and have resulted in the permanent and continuing lowering of water levels on Lake Michigan-Huron. Physical changes in the St. Clair River will be investigated early in the study as one factor that might be affecting water levels and flows. Depending on the nature and extent of the physical changes, and their potential impact on water levels and flows, the study may also explore potential remediation options.

The IJC has appointed a binational study board and public advisory group, and work with the governments

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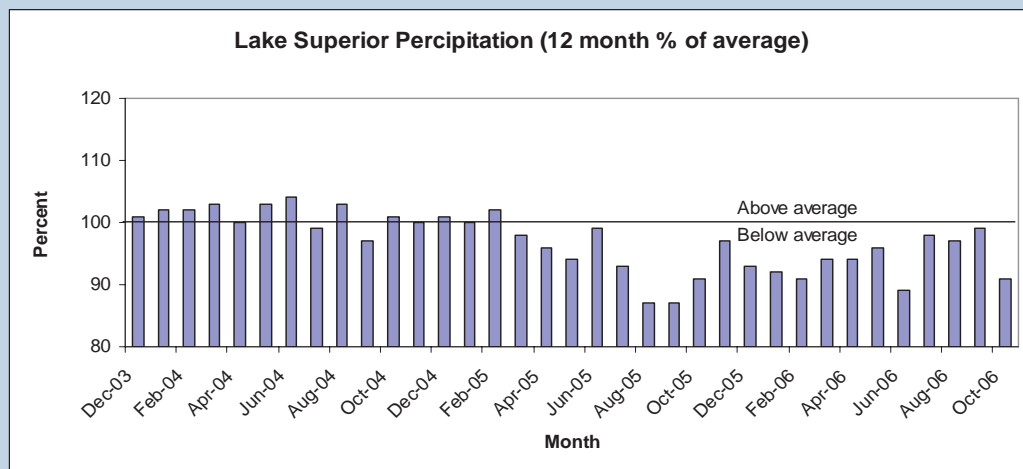
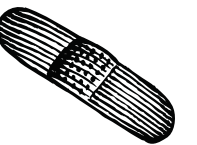


Figure 1: Lake Superior and Precipitation



FIRST AID AT THE COTTAGE

Written by Zoe McDougall



On Monday June 26th, the first in the series of Dessert with a Dash of History was held at the Parish Hall. The speaker, Zoe McDougall, was present to share with a group of about 20 folks, some suggestions as to what should be included in a cottage First Aid Kit. Others of the attendees were able to add to the list some of the items that Zoe had not thought to include. All in all, there was a great sharing of ideas and suggestions and resources.

As usual we were treated to some of Veronica Stier's wonderful baking!!

Thanks to Veronica for utilizing the resources of McGregor Bay for an information sharing session.

Suggestions for the kit-An old tool box or tackle box is quite appropriate, as long as it is clean! Many of the items on this list are possibly already in your home, they may just need to be all in a central location, ie your first aid kit.

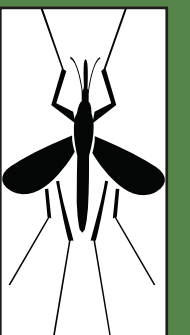
- Band-aids
- Antiseptic
- Slings (double duty-use as a sling on an injured limb, or use 2 and a board to stabilize a possible fracture while in transit to the hospital)
- Duct Tape or Electrical Tape
(to tape an injured limb to a board or stick)
- Tensor Bandages
(to tape an injured limb to a board or stick)
- Thermometer
- Wire Cutters
- Scissors

- Sterile Gauze
- Sterile non-stick bandages
- Ice pack (in freezer) for pain and/or swelling
- Antihistamine, ie. Benadryl
- Antibacterial Ointment
- Butterfly band-aids
- GPS co-ordinates for your cottage in the event that a helicopter must be called
- Pen and paper
- 1-2 pairs of plastic gloves
- Flashlight



BUG BITES

Keep some essential oil of Lavender on hand for this year's black fly and mosquito season. When someone in your family gets chomped, just place one drop of lavender oil directly on the bite. For multiple bites, make a blend of 1-cup cider vinegar, or the juice of two lemons, mixed with 10 drops of lavender oil and 5 drops of thyme essential oil. Add the mixture into a tub of water, and swirl it around before you or your child gets in. Soak a washcloth or sponge and liberally wipe down the bites. Keep the water away from eyes.



NATURE PROGRAM 2006

CO-CHAIRWOMEN BETSY FRANK AND GAIL ROBINSON



July 13, 2006: It is common knowledge that the health of a temperate ecosystem is only as good as the condition of its wetlands. We were most fortunate to have Toronto Zoo's Dr. David Ireland and his daughter, Gaia, with us on July 13th to introduce us to.....FROGS! After David's excellent video presentation in the Parish Hall, we were generously offered colorful posters and related materials on Ontario's amphibians and reptiles. Then, armed with nets and buckets, the action really began as almost fifty adults and eager children headed into the Iroquois Marsh in search of any of these animal types. Various frog species in assorted stages of development were netted and later released back into the shallow marsh, as well as some very old and interesting litter. So, in spite of the disturbance, we believe we left this marsh better than we found it. Many thanks go to Sue Miller Nyhof who contacted Dr. Ireland and convinced him to visit our Bay and share his passion for amphibians. Dr. Ireland hopes some of us will join his Ontario Frog Watch Program, a citizen scientist monitoring program to help determine the health of our Bay's frog-life. The program involves first learning to distinguish the various frog calls out there, then providing counts for each species heard. Those people who attended this event now realize all frogs are not alike and enjoy identifying the different species.

The big picture of course is how the overall decline of one third of the world's amphibian population will eventually relate to the well-being of the human population and other life forms. Dr. Ireland informed us that habitat loss and pollution are the two leading causes for the steep decline of amphibians.



Dr. David Ireland, from the Toronto Zoo speaks about frogs.

July 25, 2006: Six boats brought almost twenty people into a picturesque bay near the southern end of the Little Canal. From there we bushwhacked back to Lake Beatrix, following our naturalist leader, Marshall Morrow. (Thank you, Marshall, for getting us safely up to the lake, and later back to our boats.) Our group was very international in composition, with guests from Great Britain as well as interested Canadians and Americans. Back in lake Beatrix we met Stu Cowan who helped to show us the whereabouts of the lovely bright yellow swollen bladderworts, Calopogons or grasspink orchids, and blooming insectivorous pitcher-plants and sundew. The group marveled at the many wind-downed pines from the recent July 17th storm.

August 15, 2006: Winding up our summer's programs was our final botany hike which wound its way up Baldy Mountain. Twenty-six individuals including eight children enjoyed a leisurely climb up the mountain on this most beautiful sunny breezy day. Meadow wildflowers at the start quickly gave way to a shady forest dominated by birch, hemlock, and maple. At the summit Jack and White pine dominated, along with blueberry bushes. Mushrooms were frequently encountered due to several recent rains. It was indeed a congenial group and a perfect day for a climb.

Programs for the summer of 2007 will be held on the Tuesdays of July 10th and August 14th. Your chairwomen hope to offer a program on Georgian Bay wetlands in July, and a geology field program on August 14th. Please let Gail or me hear from you if you know of a special ecology, geology, or biology speaker, or have a special interest in a topic that we have not addressed in recent years. And don't be shy to tell us if you have an expertise you would be willing to share with our information-thirsty, and most appreciative, McGregor Bay members.

Betsy Frank: jrfrank@mindspring.com

Gail Robinson: grobinson@newcanaannature.org

OUR CHANGING WATER LEVELS , CONT.

of the United States and Canada to put their funding mechanisms and other needed resources in place. The binational study is expected to take five years to complete and will cost \$17.5 million.

WATER LEVELS NEWS

Lake Superior took a severe beating recently with its water level dropping 29 cm (almost 12 inches) in the past year (based on October levels). It has long been the most stable of the Upper Great Lakes making this very sudden change in water level all the more remarkable. The October water level is now below the all time lowest October water level ever recorded since record keeping began in 1865 (the year the U.S. Civil War ended and two years prior to Canadian confederation). This is truly a matter of historical significance. The combination of low precipitation and high evaporation has taken its toll on Lake Superior. Since February 2005 the monthly precipitation feeding the Lake Superior watershed has been continually below average. This not good for water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron as flow from Superior accounts for approximately 35% of the water entering Lake Michigan-Huron from all sources including precipitation.

Now for some good news. Precipitation in the Michigan-Huron watershed this year has been above average every month since May. This ends a sustained period of below average monthly precipitation over the Michigan-Huron watershed that lasted from May 2005 to May 2006. The weather patterns seem to have shifted in favor of Lake Michigan-Huron at the expense of Lake Superior. It has stopped the decline in Lake Michigan-Huron water levels which are, as of early November, 28 mm (3 inches) higher than they were at this time last year. We have no idea if this trend towards more precipitation will continue. Looking at the historical data for Lake Michigan-Huron,

we find that it is common to have several successive years of diminishing water levels followed by years of increasing water levels. Our last major water level change was over the three year period 1997 and 2000 when the level dropped 1.01 m (40 inches). Since that time the average annual water level has been hovering at about the same level (± 12 cm ± 4.5 inches). It is an unusual period of water level stability that has not been seen since 1932 to 1938. A further point of interest is that 1932 marked the end famous Midwest drought and coincided with the Great Depression that consumed most of the decade.

From the historical water level data, probability analysis suggests that we can expect a more rapid change in water levels in Lake Michigan-Huron over the next few years and the odds are that change is more likely to be towards increasing water levels. But we are now faced with the unexpected decrease the Lake Superiors water level and a reduced water supply flowing from Superior to Huron which may well throttle the anticipated rapid rise in Lake Michigan-Huron water levels. Now factor in the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration confirmation in September that a weak El Nino has formed and will last into 2007. El-Nino is an extreme warming of equatorial waters in the Pacific Ocean which effects world wide weather patters. The NOAA's Climate Prediction Center said the El Nino probably will spur warmer-than-average temperatures this winter over western and central Canada and the western and northern United States. This may reduce the ice cover on the lakes resulting in greater evaporation. All of the "surprise factors" seem to be conspiring against increased water levels. It is a classic example of the interdependency of the Great Lakes System and the extraneous and unpredictable factors affecting water level change.

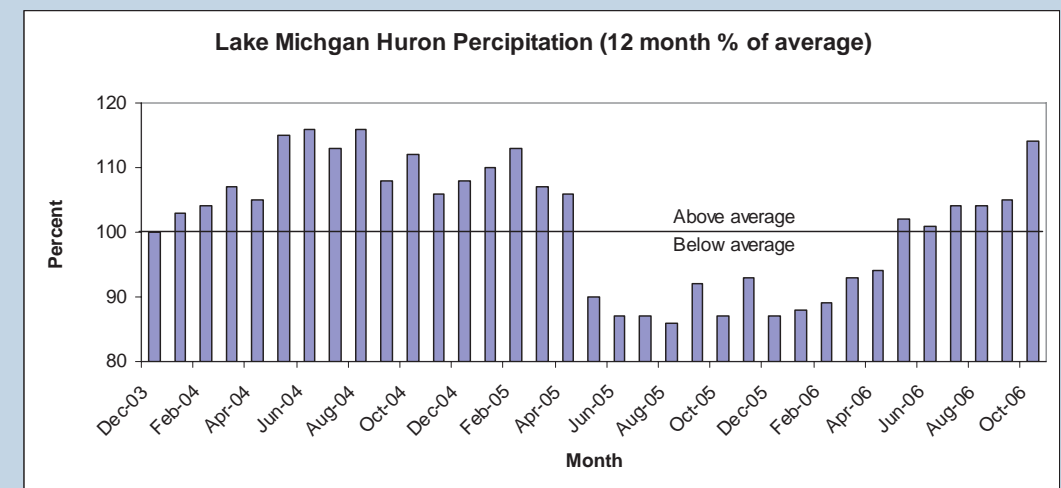


Figure 2: Lake Michigan-Huron Precipitation



*Dear people of MacGregor Bay
and Bay of Islands,*

I'm writing this letter to inform people about the conditions of the garbage service. First I would like everyone to please note that J&G Marina does NOT work under a contract with NEMI to dispose of its taxpayer's garbage. We have NOT been bound to a contract in 3 years. This service of garbage drop off and island pick up that we provide, is in hopes that it makes your stay in the Bay a little nicer and a little easier in respects that the garbage is one less thing that you have to worry about.

We will be providing garbage drop off in the summer of 2007 at our marina in the dump truck as the same as last year for the rate of \$4.00 per clear bag. It must be in a clear bag, this is not our rule this is NEMI's rule so that they can police what's going into their landfill site. They are trying to encourage people to recycle. If your garbage is not in a clear bag there will be a charge of \$20.00, because when we get to the landfill the employees take inventory of what's in the garbage truck, if anything other than clear bags is found they turn our truck away. Please understand that this can become very costly in the operation of our service.

We will also be providing our island pick up service that we have always had in the past. One day a week we will drive to your island and pick up your household trash and recyclables etc. for a fee of \$16.50 for the first 1 or 2 bags and a charge of \$4.00 per bag for any extra. The day of the week will be posted in May 2007, and you can register for this service with J&G Marina upon your arrival to the Bay.

We also provide an area for recycling this service FREE for the NEMI taxpayers, the only requirement is to follow the rules, each bin is clearly marked for what is to be recycled in it. There is to be NO HOUSEHOLD garbage placed into these bins as the contractor will refuse to empty the bin till someone gets in and properly disposes of any garbage, this can also become very costly for this service.

In order for these services to continue we strongly suggest that people follow the rules. These services will be closely monitored and people will be FINED for any mishandling of garbage. I hope that by writing this letter that it clarifies any misconceptions of the conditions of the garbage.

We would like to thank the people of the Bay for their past business and we look forward to a great 2007 summer season.

If anyone has questions or concerns about this service, please contact J&G Marina at (705) 285-4293, or e-mail us at jg_marina@hotmail.com.

Have a great winter, see you in the spring!

Your friends at J&G Marina,

Nathy and Gerry MacGregor



Remembering Keith Winterhalder

It is with sorrow that we relay that the Bays long standing friend of the Nature Walk Committee, Keith Winterhalder, died Oct. 05 of scleroderma.

Zoë and Jock Fleming first brought Keith into the Bay in 1978 and he continued hiking and teaching us the wildflowers annually for the next 26 years. Keith was responsible for the Greening of Sudbury, during his tenure as researcher and professor at Laurentian University, and was a linguist and musician as well. His Executrix has sent one of his books from his collection, The Field Guide to the Birds of North America (3 edition), for our use.

We will miss and remember him always.

For a copy of his obituary, contact Gail Robinson before March 1 at:

grobinson@newcanaannature.org.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE

Please come join us for duplicate bridge!!!

It is not for pros! But it is a good way to sharpen basic bridge skills and have a good time doing it. Last year we had as many as 5 tables. The group meets at the Parish Community Hall, on Wednesdays at 10 AM, the months of June - July - August- and into September. We have lunch after 3 rounds and then play 2 more. We are complete at about 2:30. There is much free time for other activities the remainder of the day. So bring a partner, a Tooney per person, lunch, and a partner. Enjoy a "stress-free" day of cards.

FRIENDS WE HAVE LOST...

Julia Botan Tyrrell passed away spring 2006.

Barney Turner passed away winter 2006

Barbara Linxweiler passed away winter 2006

Michael Fleming- January 2007

The MBA extends their deepest sympathy to all who have suffered the loss of a love one.

OVERHEARD

Not once. Not twice, but actually more than a dozen times this summer, there were mutterings when people gathered together about narrow channels and boating safety.

The concerns seem to be two; (1) that there isn't enough space for small boats to turn into the wake (be it the lower wake of higher speed, or the larger wake of lower speed) in order to cross the wake safely. So - slowing down to no wake, when boats are passing close on each other, would be the prudent thing.

(2) that there are blind corners and boats going at high speed cannot see hazards ahead, such as people swimming in Hanging Rock Channel, aka The Little Canal or at the S-curve, aka Dog Leg, on the route in from Birch Island Landing. Again, slowing down is the answer. Lets all be conscious of boating safety. We really don't want that accident waiting to happen to actually happen, do we?

