



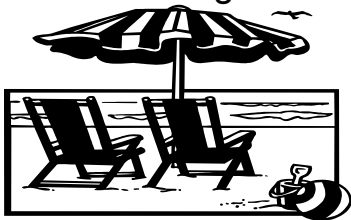
2006

Winter Issue

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Port Elgin & Saugeen Township
Beachers Organization



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Beachers' News

NOVEMBER 2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The November Elections are now a memory but we are pleased to provide the following list of the members of your Saugeen Shores Council:

Mayor:	Mike Smith
Deputy Mayor:	Doug Freiburger
Vice Deputy Mayor:	Doug Gowanlock
Councillors:	
Port Elgin Ward:	Fred Schildroth
	Victoria Serda
Saugeen Ward:	Jane Barber
	Luke Charbonneau
Southampton Ward:	Diane Huber
	Thead Seaman

In an effort to continue to improve communications between our Organization & Council we have invited the Councillors to attend our Board meetings so that we can discuss issues of mutual concern in a somewhat informal setting. Each one has indicated a willingness to do so. In addition, all the Council members place a very high priority on protecting the natural beauty of our beach environment, and we intend to hold them to it!!!

2006/2007 BEACHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:
John Kyles
Vice President/Secretary
Larry Main

Directors
Mac Cambbell
Phyllis Fagan
Dave Martin
Dr. Clare Rennie
Glenn Reist
Mike Duquette

Past President:
Margaret Grottenthaler

Directors
Philip Kortenaar
Penny Young
Bill Rose
John Mann
Anne McNeilly
Chris Meyer

BLUE FLAG

For those who are not familiar with the BLUE FLAG program details are available at www.blueflag.ca The previous Council decided to study it in detail and to defer application for two years. However, they did agree with it in principle and will implement some positive steps almost immediately. Beach preservation and water safety are our first concerns. We have offered to assist in this process and will keep you informed as it moves along.

SHIPLEY PATH

One of the "hot topics" of discussion was the closing of the Shipley path. We have written to Mike Myatt Director of Community Services urging him to attempt to bring together all the parties involved (property owners & Town representatives) in the hope that a new and improved alternate pathway can be in place by the Victoria Holiday weekend. Needless to say, this would come as a relief to everyone.

GOOD GRASS - BAD GRASS

Another matter that drew considerable interest was the problem of the rampant and inexorable advancing of the *Phragmites australis* (Common reed) which is now being referred to by many as the BAD GRASS.

Attached is a report provided by our Vice President Larry Main which will attest to the seriousness of the situation. What an anomaly---- on the one hand, our lake level keeps dropping while at the same time this invasive grass gobbles up the beach. We are encouraged that the Town is taking positive steps to meet this problem head-on. It is especially comforting that they have engaged the services of Geoff Peach from the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Preservation. We all know the amazing success he had with the sand dunes recovery project in Southampton. In our next newsletter we will provide details of how you and your neighbors can help.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FEES

The Southampton Ratepayers Association has asked us to support them in requesting that the Town impose residential building fees for newly constructed homes. Up to this point, the fees have applied only to commercial and industrial developments. At first blush this seems like a good idea. If you have any thoughts on this matter please drop us a note.

AGM NOTICE

To those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting we say thank-you for showing your on-going interest and support. Details of the time and location of next year's AGM will be included in our Spring newsletter.

"GOOD GRASS vs BAD GRASS"

Over the years we have been advised that the presence, and continued growth of grass, is a major contributing factor to the regeneration of the sand dunes that were prevalent to our Saugeen shoreline. Little did we know that there is "bad" grass as well as "good" grass. Over the last 3-5 yrs our shoreline has been invaded with a bad grass referred to as Common Reed or (*Phragmites Australis*). Fortunately, the bad grass has been identified, and plans are underway to control, and hopefully eradicate this grass. The **Beachers' Organization**, in concert with Geoff Peach, Coastal Resource Manager, The Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation, has been instrumental in bringing this issue to the attention of The Town of Saugeen Shores. We can also say, that through the office of Mike Myatt, Director of Community Services, the Town has responded in a positive manner.

Please find enclosed a copy of an article provided by The Lake Huron Centre For Coastal Conservation. This article provides a description of the grass, and the recommend control procedures which will be implemented by the Town.

Also find enclosed a copy of a letter from the Town of Saugeen Shores outlining the initial test programs which have been implemented in November. The test sites will be monitored by Geoff Peach.

As mentioned in the Town's letter, volunteer groups from the **Beachers' Organization** will be required at the appropriate time in July. The actual control procedures will be under the direction of Geoff Peach. The cutting, or other recommended work, will be the responsibility of the Town, under the direction of Geoff Peach. The bagging of the cut grass will be the responsibility of the volunteer groups. In addition to members families of the **Beachers' Organization**, we would anticipate that non-member families will also volunteer their efforts towards the program. We are also pleased to advise that the Southampton Ratepayers' Association (SRA) has volunteered to have a number of their members participate in the required cleanup. We are hopeful that we can conclude the cleanup day with a social event. Our Spring Newsletter will provide a further update to this extremely important program.

PS

You may wish to mention this program to neighbors who are not members of the **Beachers' Organization**. As part of the communication process, a copy of the article, and the Town's covering letter will be hand delivered to their doors in early Spring.

Four of our Board members are permanent residents of Port Elgin/Saugeen Township. Over the winter months we will be involved with the Town in helping to develop a better program of road signage, particularly with an eye to the safety of children, cyclists, joggers, pedestrians & roller bladers. In addition, we have been invited to attend the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce. It is hoped that the Executive of the Business Improvement Association will be revived. Their main thrust is to beautify the downtown core. Again we have offered to become involved in the process. We will also attempt to keep you informed of anything that we feel may be of interest or cause you concern. We welcome your input so please do not hesitate to contact us.

In closing we would remind you that you can receive your newsletter by email. This goes a long way in saving us the cost of printing and postage.

We hope you winter well.