



BNIA

Fall/Winter Newsletter
2015 - 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – ANDY FABENS

Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio! I am, I think, the first North American from south of the border to serve as BNIA President. Don't worry: the BNIA off-season base of operations will remain Toronto, much as I would love to invite you all to Cleveland. Already I am deeply indebted to Mary and Peter Perdue for giving Leigh and me a Toronto-area place to land so I could chair our November Directors meeting and to Rob Reed for providing the venue. I will no doubt lean on many of you to help me do my job from a distance.

I am feeling my way into my new responsibilities with a great board of Directors and other supporters to show me the way and back me up. Kathleen Kidd is a tough act to follow. Three years as President, and now she has agreed to take back the editorship of the Directory – perhaps more work than the Presidency. Rob Reed has taken on the Vice Presidency, and Peter Perdue stays on as Treasurer. Mary Perdue, the President before Kathleen, also continues active as ever, and will continue to work on the Directory and other projects. What a depth of experience and tradition of dedication we have! And this goes well beyond the people I have just mentioned.

If you have not already seen the obituary posted on our Website for Buffy Ash, please take a look at it. She served as a BNIA Director and Trustee for many, many years. Perhaps some of you will chime in and tell me just how long. She was Treasurer as far back as I remember. A very sensible, humorous and warm person, who was a joy to know and to work with. We will miss her greatly.

I hope you all will make a point of keeping up with the activities of the Georgian Bay Association. Every full member of the BNIA is automatically a member of the GBA. Their excellent publications are regularly mailed out to you and well worth reading to keep up with what is happening “on the Bay.” Our own John McMullen, as the President of the GBA, helps us widen our focus to encompass issues beyond the immediately vicinity of Bayfield and Nares Inlets. With water levels back up these last two years, there is a danger that the progress toward a solution will come to a halt. The GBA is an organization well situated to lead in the search for such a solution. I think I have followed the debate over the science involved here as well as any layman can. Fluctuation in water levels over the years is a normal aspect of our eco-system. The goal should not be to achieve stability, but we need to head off, as best we can, another prolonged period of extremely low and dropping water levels. The available tools are limited, but one tool certainly is to have the ability to slow the outflow through the St. Clair River. This has not yet been achieved.

The Township of the Archipelago is our government unit and our Ward 2 Councillor, Peter Frost, is extraordinarily active, both in shouldering tremendous responsibility for the workings of Council and in communicating with the BNIA on issues that affect us. The Township is now engaged in its mandatory every-five-years review of the Official Plan, which defines many practices and procedures that affect us in important ways, land use being a major one. That review process is now in the Public Comment phase, meaning they are open to suggestions from any and all parties. I urge you to take a look at the Township website: from the home page go to the Planning tab and click on Official Plan Review. We understand that Pointe au Baril Islanders' Association has made some suggestions, one of which would increase the acreage requirement for a lot split. I also am told that PaBIA will be seeking support from other Islanders Associations. I expect to see something more concrete in the next few weeks. I can see this will be controversial. Any such change could directly affect many of us. So, I urge you all to become acquainted with the process and consider what aspects of the Official Plan might be improved from your point of view.

The BNIA was recognized in September by receiving a complimentary Charter Membership in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. Specifically, the work of Molly Mulloy and Anne Stewart in arranging for the hosting of two GBBR workshops and the dissemination of "Kid's Kits" was commended as furthering the education and outreach efforts of the GBBR. Congratulation to Molly and Anne and all who participated!

The BNIA Directors have been looking for a way to recognize and thank our first responders Butch Folland, Dennis Scale, Don Ord, Peter O'Grady, and Doug Wagener. In our situation in Bayfield-Nares, it is vital that we have people like them ready for the inevitable occasional emergency. We often thank them, but they are very modest and refuse to accept gifts or formal tributes. At our November meeting the Directors voted to make a donation of \$100 to the West Parry Sound Health Centre Foundation in honor of each of them to mark our gratitude and admiration. So we have managed to find a tribute they can't refuse.

Please respond promptly and positively to David Day's 2016 membership notice. David has done great work for us in streamlining our membership renewal process and the result has been stabilization of our numbers at the high end of the year-to-year range. The PayPal payment option has been quite popular along with the \$5 discount that goes along with it.

Happy Holidays!

ANNUAL DUES – DAVID DAY and PETER PERDUE

Now is the time to renew your membership. We would also ask that you encourage family members or neighbours, who are not members, to join. David Day will be sending out an email reminder to you shortly.

Most of you paid your dues last year by PayPal. You will be getting a reminder from PayPal regarding the 2016 dues. For those of you who did not use PayPal last year, please consider it for this year. It is easy, saves you and the Association money (eliminates bank and post charges) and helps us efficiently keep track of the membership. **And, as a special incentive, there will again be a \$5 reduction for everyone that uses PayPal this year.**

And as a Special, Special incentive, this year we will hold a draw of all members who are using PayPal for the first time and the winner will receive an Apple iPad mini !! Regardless of how you pay, please do so by February 7th. This deadline may seem early but we want to get the list finalized for the Directory as soon as possible.

Happy 2016 to Everyone!

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – PETER FROST

Beyond wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, there are three Township items I would like to touch on.

Despite all the time and effort we have put into the developing **an alternative police force** in our area, it appears that it will not get off the ground. In a nutshell, there is not enough support from the surrounding communities to make it a viable alternative because the savings (if any) are difficult to quantify and so are the risks. We will continue to monitor the situation but there is little appetite on Council to proceed.

The **Pine Sawfly** infestation that we saw in our area hit Pt au Baril much harder. Work is being done this fall and winter to investigate ways we might deal with this invasive pest. Unfortunately, chemical pesticides are probably not available to us due to their extreme toxicity. Also, unfortunately, stressed trees on thin soils seem most vulnerable. In other words, just the conditions we have on the islands and nearby mainland. Early reports by the experts suggest that some of our more stress- damaged pines may not survive.

The ToA is in the process of reviewing its **Official Plan** and is now at the stage of seeking public consultation. Very little response has been received at the Township except from PaBIA. PaBIA has proposed a wide-ranging set of amendments, some that relate to the OP, but many that need to be considered in the Comprehensive Zoning By Law. Regardless, the unifying theme of their suggested amendments is to seek to reduce and further control the amount of building that can take place within the ToA. Perhaps the most controversial one is a request to have the size of a property eligible for severance increased significantly. (Even within Pt au Baril there is major opposition, and I personally would not support it) Planning staff is currently reviewing these proposals as well as any others received to date. I will be circulating an update on the OP Review early in the New Year. There is still plenty of time for comment.

PHOTO CONTEST – MARY PERDUE

The competition deadline was changed this year to late September instead of mid July. As a result, we did not get as many submissions as usual. Perhaps by September, everyone was occupied with other endeavours, and finding those files from the summer was a bit of a chore. So next year (2016), we will go back to the traditional deadline of mid July. Consult your Directory in June for the exact date and theme.

There were 14 submissions (7 in the "Landscape" category and 7 in the "General" category), including several that were inadvertently omitted from the previous competition. The judging was done (via email) by five BNIA Directors who did not know the identity of the submitting photographers.

Amazingly, the winner in both categories was Molly Mulloy. The winning image in "Landscapes" will be featured on the cover of the 2016 Directory. The winning image in the "General" category is the image on the front page of this Newsletter, entitled "Hello, Mr. Froggie". Molly will have complimentary membership in the BNIA for the coming season.

NARES INLET BOOK PROJECT – MARY PERDUE

The book project “Cottages and Cottagers of Nares Inlet” got off to a slow start. This was in part due to the birth of a second grandchild and associated childcare activities in Oakville. In addition, Peter had ankle surgery mid-summer which limited our time at the Bay. I did manage to get some shots of the Scales at Springhaven and also was able to capture a number of images inside the Thompson cottage.

I am hoping to make more progress this coming summer. I want to record images of the current cottages and their occupants. Please contact me about making a date for your session – just grab me at the dock or email me: perduemary@live.com.

I have had a couple of volunteers to help collect family stories, but more are needed. Let me know if you can help!

SPRINGHAVEN PURCHASE UPDATE – PETER PERDUE

Nares Landing Association has been legally created to purchase and run the Springhaven property. There are so far 41 members. The documents are all signed and the purchase closing is scheduled for December 31. A Board of Directors has been created and will have its first meeting in mid January. Garry Scale has agreed to stay on as an employee and Dennis will continue to run his business from the property.

This is a great achievement. The Nares Inleters came together to create a solution that would allow the Scales to sell while ensuring that the Inleters have perpetual access to their cottages along with marina and parking facilities.