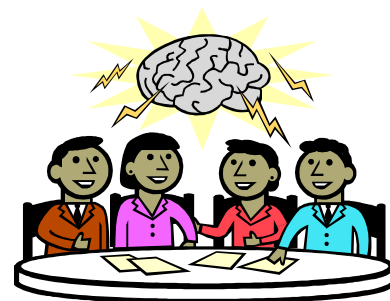


DIRECTORS WANTED!!!!!!

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation seeks board members who have skills and knowledge in the following areas: fund raising, marketing, non-profit administration, financial management, membership building, land use planning issues, conservation issues, and/or legal issues. Interest in environmental and natural resources issues in our community, especially those pertaining to water is important.

A few energetic and committed volunteers are needed for the two-year term commencing February 2006. Board responsibilities include making final decisions on policies relating to programmes, finances, preservation of our natural heritage and public relations. The board provides leadership and expertise with technical needs, legal, accounting, public policy, fundraising, etc. Board members are expected to become familiar with the mission, history, policies and programmes of the BMWTF. You will act as both an informal, and when requested, formal ambassador and spokesperson for the BMWTF. Responsibilities include ensuring financial support to the Trust by participating in fundraising planning and activities.



The Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday, alternating between Collingwood and Thornbury. If wish to volunteer for this challenge, please respond, enclosing your resume listing your qualifications, personal and volunteer and other interests to:

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation
Attention: Norman Wingrove, Vice-President
189 Minnesota Street
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 3S4
Fax (705) 445-8355
bmwt@bmts.com

UPDATE:

The Silver Creek Wetland Complex Land Acquisition Project

The Ontario Municipal Board Prehearing Conference #5 on the various appeals to the Town of Collingwood Official Plan was held on Friday, October 21, 2005. Based on a site visit to the Wetland on October 20 by representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, County of Simcoe, Town of Collingwood and the landowners, a general agreement was reached on revising the Wetland boundaries. There are some minor exceptions and, in addition, the Ministry of Natural Resources will not "sign off" until they can visit the site again in May of 2006. The major change is that two upland areas may be joined, one in the non-expropriation section and the other upland in the land targeted for expropriation directly to the west. Also, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is working

on the determination of the flood plain. The result is that the Town will likely delay expropriation in favour of some negotiations with the owners to see if ownership of the non-developable lands can be obtained without expropriation.

The next OMB Prehearing Conference will be held on February 3, 2006, with a full hearing scheduled to start on September 11, 2006 for three weeks. There will be an evening session to receive comments from the public.

There is no weakness in the resolve of the Town to obtain ownership. As there will be significant costs, the BMWTF will continue to raise funds.

Another small step was taken to raise the awareness of the importance of the Silver Creek Wetland complex at the beginning of October, with the successful conclusion of the Silver Creek Wetlands Festival 2005. The committee consisting of Jim Dawson, Jack Peterson, Michele Rich, Bryden Jones and Angela McEwen, worked extremely hard since the middle of June to carry this event to fruition. The committee's perseverance and dedication created a family-oriented fun, musical day with less than four months to plan, execute and organize this event, which took place at Harbourview Park in Collingwood. It turned out to be a beautiful, sunny day and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves, while highlighting the incredibly diverse array of musical and artistic talent the Georgian Triangle area boasts. Hats off to the many community members, the Town and the businesses who sponsored and willingly gave their time and effort.

Fisher, Samantha Kinoshameg, Rajasi, Strange Potatoes, AntiSocial Butterfly with Peter X Anthony, Hunnay, Mug Shots and Uncle Ubb.

The high school students at Collingwood Collegiate Institute spent many hours helping out, setting up and cleaning up before, during and after the festival. The Town of Collingwood, Blue Mountain Resort, Little Ed's Ski and Bike Shop, Graphic Wearhouse, K. Winter Sanitation Inc., the Environment Network, Roger's Television, the Peak 95.1 FM and the Collingwood Connection were the generous sponsors.

Thank you to the members of the BMWTF who came out and set up the wonderful display and educated many people about the importance of retaining and preserving the Silver Creek Wetland Complex. Roughly 150 people came out to enjoy this great, educational event.

Chii-meegwetch (a heart-felt thank you) to all the performers who donated their time Jason Redman, Doug

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

I am pleased to support the BMWTF in their efforts to save the Silver Creek Wetland Complex. My cheque is enclosed for \$ _____ for deposit to the Silver Creek Fund.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code _____
E-Mail _____

Make cheques payable to: Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation

Send To: BMWTF, 189 Minnesota St., Collingwood, ON L9Y 3S4
Income Tax Receipts Will Be Issued for All Donations

MASTER PLAN FOR WETLAND PRESERVATION

By: Don Kerr

Starting August 29, some members of the Wetland Action Group have been meeting with the Mayor and other Town representatives to coordinate our joint efforts to save the Silver Creek Wetland. We have developed a Master Plan which includes the following:

1. A "Marketing" Plan to promote public awareness of the value of the wetland. Activities include the Wetland Festival and a Speaker series plus other items in the planning stages;
2. A Financial Plan which includes separate fund-raising plans to obtain donations from Corporations, Foundations, Environmental Organizations, Governments and individuals. It also involves the Town's plans for providing payments to the owners when due. With the Town's agreement, the Trust has sent letters to the Province requesting financial support;
3. A Site Management Plan to ensure best use of the resource. It is planned to include a conservation easement in order to reduce the risk of future loss of the wetland; and
4. A Legal Plan to obtain title at minimum cost. This is being handled by the Town. These plans will be developed in more detail as the project unfolds. We appreciate Mayor Geddes' initiative in setting up these meetings.

BMWT SPEAKER SERIES

By: Jeanne L. Hazell



The Education Committee is making great progress on the Speaker Series that has been promoted and supported by the BMWT Board of Directors. The "first" in the series will be an opportunity to try some approaches, learn from them and apply the lessons to future sessions.

On November 18, 2005 we partnered with the Economic Development Council and Catherine Durrant, with whom we have been working with over the past couple of months, to bring a speaker to their Business in Motion Meeting and our community's business audience. These meetings are conducted 4 times a year and draw an audience of approximately 150 interested business people.

We were pleased to be able to bring Bob Willard to them as the Keynote Speaker as the first in our series. Bob is a leading expert on the business value of corporate sustainability strategies and in the last three years has given over 150 keynote presentations to corporations, consultants, academics and non-governmental organizations. He is the author of *The Sustainability Advantage: Seven Business Case Benefits of a Triple Bottom Line* on the business case for sustainability strategies and *The Next Sustainability Wave: Building Boardroom Buy-in* on why some companies are committed to sustainability, why others are not, and how to overcome senior executive resistance to making that commitment. (Website: <http://www.sustainabilityadvantage.com>)

For more information on future dates and speakers please contact Jeanne Hazell at jhazell8511@rogers.com or 705-444-8511.

ONTARIO PLANNING LEGISLATION

By: Don Kerr

Over the past year, there have been several important government initiatives to improve the planning process in Ontario.

PLANNING ACT/PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT

Following a period of public consultation, a new Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) was officially released on March 1/05 and amendments to the Planning Act were passed into law on March 19/05. The PPS provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. Some very useful changes were made from the old PPS but, the most important change was in the Planning Act which used to say "...must have regard to..." the PPS in planning decisions and now says "must be consistent" with the PPS. For example, the new PPS says "Development shall not be permitted in significant coastal wetlands". Previously, it said that "Natural heritage features will be protected from incompatible development...and...will not be permitted in significant wetlands." The new statement is much more rigorous. These changes were too late to stop the Castle Glen development and to ensure that Silver Creek Wetland would be protected while privately owned.

REFORM OF THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD

In the summer of 2004, the government issued a discussion paper about OMB reform. The BMWT commented along with many others. We said it should

be more independent and impartial and that it seemed to be skewed toward favoring the developers. We proposed better recruitment policies and methods of selection for appointments to the OMB. Other recommendations were also made. We expect there will be an announcement of the reforms by early winter.

THE GREENBELT PLAN

The Greenbelt Plan took effect on December 16/04 under the Greenbelt Act. It establishes a very large green belt around the Toronto region which supplements the Niagara Escarpment Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine. It will be very important in controlling urban sprawl and promoting infill of existing urban communities. This will result in preservation of many natural areas with beneficial effects on watersheds and biodiversity.

PLACES TO GROW ACT

Earlier this year, an act was passed which enables regulations which would specify the areas where growth and development is to be concentrated. Suggested areas in the discussion paper included Barrie, Newmarket, Kitchener-Waterloo, etc. We commented that it is not necessary to accept population growth predictions (plus 50% over the next 25 years!) without first asking the question "What amount of growth can be tolerated without damaging the natural heritage and biological diversity of the region?" Regulations are pending.

WETLANDS ACTION GROUP COMMITTEE REPORT – FALL 2005

By: Norman Wingrove, Chair



Silver Creek Wetlands Complex:

In May, the BMWTF Board passed a resolution pledging their best efforts to raise up to \$100,000 in support of the Town in the acquisition of the Silver Creek Wetland Complex.

This summer, BMWTF Director, Len Popp, presented a ceremonial down-payment of \$10,000 to Mayor Geddes and Council in recognition of the council's persistent focus on the preservation of the Silver Creek and the Silver Creek Wetland.

At the following meeting, Collingwood Town Council unanimously passed a by-law which begins the process of expropriating three key parcels of land comprising the major parts of the Wetland. This is a courageous step for which we would like to thank Mayor Geddes and Councillors.



Nipissing Ridge Golf Course Community:

This proposal is for a golf course and residential development on a parcel of land north of Monterra Road in The Town of The Blue Mountains. The land is zoned Escarpment Recreational in the Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP) and contains a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW). In April, WAG Committee members met with The Blue Mountains Senior Planner to review the revised proposal. The original proposal was for 18 golf holes, some in the PSW. This was opposed by the Town and the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The revised plan calls for nine golf holes and the PSW is not to be disturbed and is protected by a 120 meter buffer zone. This, and other requirements included in the proposal at the request of the Town, MNR and Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), will, in our opinion, protect the wetlands.



Castle Glen Resort Community:

The Castle Glen Ratepayers' Association (CGRA) continues to solicit donations to retire their debt from Phase I of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearing. Donations can be sent to Environmental Defence Canada, Attention Castle Glen Fund, 615 Yonge Street, Suite 500, Toronto ON M4Y 1Z5. Tax receipts will be issued.

The CGRA has had discussions with Castle Glen Development Corp. regarding purchase of the more environmentally-sensitive Phase II lands. They expect that the OMB hearing on Phase II will commence in January 2006.

Combined Environmental Assessment (EA) Master Plan for Craigleith, Castle Glen and Osler Service Areas:

This study has been undertaken by The Town of The Blue Mountains to address water and sewage servicing in these areas where the Town is expanding. Implementation of the OMB Decision on Castle Glen Phase I is delayed until the EA is completed. WAG Committee members Don Kerr and Greta McGillivray have attended public meetings and submitted input on behalf of the BMWTF.

We raised concerns with the Town regarding the duration of a short term water supply and the implications of the Phase II development in Castle Glen not proceeding. The Town advised that this issue has also been raised by the Ministry of the Environment and is being addressed by the study team. The BMWTF also recommended that the Town should implement water conservation. The Town advised that they are installing water meters and have a lawn watering by-law in place. The Town's report is expected this fall.

MEMBERSHIP DUES – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!!!!!!

The BMWTF Financial Year starts on October 1st. If you have not done so, please take a few minutes to fill out the membership form below and forward it along with your cheque.

Income tax receipts will be issued for all donations received. Thank you for your continued support.