



"THE WATERSHED" NEWS

- Spring/Summer 2007

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

... Robert B. Waind

It has been a very positive and productive 2006 for the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust. We were thrilled to be the catalyst for the 1,000 trees planted on Black Ash Creek on May 2, 2006 under the leadership of the NVCA with the high school students doing the heavy work. The success of our SOS (Save Our Silver) Fundraising dinner, May 5, 2006 was due to the generosity of our 210 guests and 150 supporters. Our second Watershed Festival on September 16 was a fun and educational day for the community. In November of 2006 we held a one-day retreat focused on our mission and strategy going forward. One of the key action items was to form a Governance Committee to ensure that there is adequate and responsible governance of the BMWTF and that the Board of Directors continues to fulfill its many responsibilities.

The Craigeith Depot restoration is almost complete and what a magnificent building we now have for our community thanks to the huge efforts of so many!

We were well represented at the Castle Glen OMB Hearings and a special thanks goes to Greta McGillivray for the dedication of her time and efforts on our behalf.

We have engaged North South Environmental Inc. to conduct a peer review of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) that has been submitted on behalf of Consulate Developments (Ontario) Inc. and it will be used as part of the OMB Hearing starting on July 30, 2007 focused on the Silver Creek Wetland.

In the Fall of 2006 we were proud to host a special celebration at our home as a small tribute to Greta McGillivray, Frances Roulstone and our Past Chair, Brent Lanktree for their many years of dedication.

We were disappointed when Len and Jerri Popp made a decision last Fall to move to Burlington. We miss Len on the Board and both he and Jerri on the WAG Committee. Their contributions over the years were significant and we wish them well as they settle into their home and community.

We have been very pleased with the open and continued dialogue with the Town of Collingwood, not only with the Mayor, Chris Carrier, but with Senior Staff regarding the Silver Creek Wetlands through our Director, Don Kerr.

We want to especially thank our 130 active members for their continued support!!

At our Annual General Meeting conducted on February 28, 2007 we elected our Board of Directors and announced our Committee Structure all of which is included in this Newsletter.

We encourage everyone to participate on April 20 & 21, 2007 in the **EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS**. Please see Page 5 for all of the details.

We are looking forward to a successful 2007.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS for 2007:

President: Robert B. Waind
Vice-President: Norman Wingrove
Treasurer: Robert Gamble
Secretary: Jeanne Hazell
Recording Secretary: Alison McGillivray



Directors: Lora Gibson
Dorothy Healey
Bryden Jones
Don Kerr
Brent Lanktree
Anne Lennox Brindle

Rick Lloyd
Douglas C. Matthews
Doug Measures
Celine Petsche
Eleanor Ward



Back Row: Rick Lloyd, Bryden Jones, Alison McGillivray, Anne Lennox-Brindle
Douglas Matthews, Jeanne Hazell
Front Row: Robert Gamble, Norman Wingrove, Bob Waind, Lora Gibson,
Dorothy Healey
(Some Board Members were unavailable at photo time)

COMMITTEES & MEMBERS:

- Governance: Don Gibson, Don Kerr (Chair), Rick Lloyd, Bob Waind, Norm Wingrove
- Finance: Robert Gamble (Chair), Rick Lloyd
- WAG (Watershed Action Group): Douglas Cooper, Don Gibson, Hans Eijssenck, Jeanne Hazell, Don Kerr, Greta McGillivray, Garry Reid, Fran Roulstone (Recorder), Bob Waind, Norm Wingrove (Chair)
- Membership/Communication/Publication: Hans Eijssenck, Jeanne Hazell (Chair), Garry Reid
- Education: Bryden Jones, Angela McEwen, Alison McGillivray, Greta McGillivray (Chair)
- Fundraising: Entire Board of Directors
- Craigleith Heritage: Cecile Dales, Suzanne Ferri, George Fleming, Robert Gamble (Treasurer), Charles Garrard, Lora Gibson (Chair), Dorothy Healey, Bud McCannell, Greta McGillivray, Rob Potter, Bob Waind, George Weider

“SNAPSHOTS” OF COMMITTEES IN ACTION:

Governance Committee:

NEW!

(Submitted by Don Kerr)

Our purpose is to ensure that there is adequate and responsible governance of the BMWTF and that the Board of Directors fulfills its legal, ethical and functional responsibilities through adequate governance policy development, recruitment strategies, training programs, monitoring of board activities and evaluation of board members’ performance.

WAG (Watershed Action Group) Committee:

(Submitted by Norm Wingrove)

It was a decision of the BMWTF Board to fold the Land Acquisition Committee role into the WAG Committee. The WAG Committee continues to monitor potential opportunities to preserve the natural features of the area that may be affected by Official Plan, Zoning and By-law amendments. Len Popp made a presentation on behalf of the BMWTF at the public meeting on the “Georgian Green” proposal. As a result of our input and that of other concerned residents, the agencies had a second look and more of the natural area was protected. In cooperation with the Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy, exploratory talks were held with a landowner whose property is bisected by Silver Creek. Our goal was to preserve environmentally sensitive wetlands and stream corridor via a land donation. After encouraging progress, it appears that the offer to purchase has been withdrawn, so the matter is on hold. We will continue to follow. We are working with the Town of Collingwood and will be following up with landowners to preserve more of the Silver Creek watershed in the Mountain Road area. Some matters on the near horizon that merit our attention are the potential connector road following the 11th Line from Mountain Road north to Highway #26 and the Mountain Road Secondary Plan. Some of the 11th Line road allowance goes through the Silver Creek Wetlands. The Wag Committee is supportive of the *Clean Water Act* and made a submission to the Standing Committee to express this support. We recently commented

on the regulations governing the creation and operation of Source Water Protection Committees.

The BMWTF and the WAG Committee have been focused on and very active on the preservation and protection of this last remaining coastal wetland on the shores of Georgian Bay from Midland to Tobermory. Several initiatives were undertaken in 2006.

On-going initiative include: Meetings with the Town of Collingwood; Peer review of the landowner’s Environmental Impact Study (EIS); OMB Hearings; A Video Documentary “Friends of the Watershed – Saving the Silver Creek Wetlands” and Stream Monitoring.

The Craigleith Heritage Committee:

(Submitted by Lora Gibson)

We have had a very busy and successful year in 2006, having completed the restoration of the Craigleith Depot. In addition, a substantial amount of the landscaping required was done in the Fall and the remainder will be completed in the Spring. The Committee is now working with the Town of The Blue Mountains to complete the interior, a museum and trailhead, which will be open to the public within a few short months. The Committee is very proud of the work it has done and is looking forward to other projects, such as the preservation of the Petun village sites, which relate to the fascinating heritage of the Craigleith community. Thank you to The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation and all of its members for your continued support.

“SNAPSHOTS” OF COMMITTEES IN ACTION
(Cont'd from Page 3)

**Education Committee BMWTF to Partner
with Elephant Thoughts on Developing
Environmental Curriculum:**

(Submitted by Bryden Jones)

The BMWTF Education Committee is entering a relationship with Elephant Thoughts, an organization that develops and delivers supplementary educational programs to schools.

We will collaborate to produce workshops to complement specific curriculum streams for grades 7 and 8, featuring hands-on applications to cultivate an understanding in water-related issues. Activities will develop vocabulary concerning watershed ecology as well as highlight the interdependence of all life and our reliance on natural systems. Workshops will focus on local resources and utilize water and soil samples from local ecosystems in experiments.

Grade 7 workshops will be based on the Earth's Crust and the Interactions with Ecosystems units, using sedimentation models, stream tables, and experimentation with the porosity of soil and its filtration capabilities. Students will investigate the role of water in ecosystems, especially in ecologically sensitive areas. Grade 8 workshops will be based on the Water Systems unit in which working models will demonstrate how rivers are formed, the water cycle, and where water is found on Earth. Students will test local water samples for pollutants and investigate the impact of water contaminants on human health. Future workshop ideas will explore the civic implications of development and sensitive ecosystem protection.

Through this partnership, the BMWTF hopes to help the local community gain a better understanding and recognition of the importance of watershed protection and planning. We hope to raise the profile of the Trust as a leader in raising awareness regarding watershed issues by creating an effective educational program at a fraction of the cost it would require to develop it ourselves. If successful, the partnership model could be expanded to other like-minded organizations, engendering ecological education to a wider audience.

The total project budget, based on 15 schools and 2 workshops per school, will require an investment by the BMWTF of just over \$9000. This money will be needed to cover workshop fees, workbook writing, and signage, while Elephant Thoughts will provide equipment, program development, as well as covering insurance, reporting, and administrative costs. Douglas Nadler has committed up to \$2000 to the Education Committee from any proceeds from Earth Day 2007, and at least one member of the Trust wants to direct a sizeable donation toward this partnership. We are confident that other community and Trust members will see the value of this worthwhile endeavour and support our effort in environmental education and leadership.

"The Watershed" News

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Editor: Jeanne Hazell
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ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD (OMB) HEARINGS
(submitted by Don Kerr)

CASTLE GLEN

The Ontario Municipal Board issued its decision on Castle Glen Phase II (the lands above the escarpment brow) on December 4, rejecting the arguments of the Niagara Escarpment Commission that the area for development should be sharply reduced. The lone hearing officer “preferred” the evidence provided by the owner, The Town of the Blue Mountains and the County. His explanation was that the evidence of the NEC consultant was “evasive and repetitive” whereas the owner’s consultant was “direct, objective, forthright and honest”. That seems like a preference of style rather than substance. We were also surprised at his comment that the final Castle Glen Official Plan constituted good planning. It may have been legal but certainly was not good planning in today’s context. In his report on both Phase I and II, the submissions by the Participants and the opposition of the public were ignored. Only the Parties were recognized.

The next steps, i. e., the Environmental Constraint Impact Studies and the Plan of Sub-division will provide some possibility for restraining the plans for golf courses and 1064 residences. This is in addition to commercial units and the 500 residential units below the brow that were allowed in Phase I. Our objections to the OMB decision have been raised with the Ontario Government and have been supported from many environmental organizations led by Ontario Nature.

SILVER CREEK WETLAND

The owner’s Environmental Impact Study (EIS) was finally received in late February resulting in a delay of the OMB Hearing which will now commence on July 30, 2007. BMWTF has retained an environmental consultant to review the EIS. NVCA is also reviewing it for the County. It is expected that, at this time, the hearing will only deal with the east portion of the property. A total of 279 residential units are proposed in an upland area surrounded by wetland. In January, a map of the new boundaries of the wetland was issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources. It now shows a small upland area along Highway 26 just west of Princeton Shores Blvd. where the developer

proposes 110 high-density units. We believe no development should occur especially in areas surrounded by or close to the wetland due to potential for harm to the wetland and its ecological functions.

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD REFORM

On January 1, 2007 the government passed into law Bill 51 which, among other things, made some reforms to the OMB process which included greater municipal accountability and fewer appeals to the OMB. We continue to press for further reforms in the selection of OMB hearing officers, the number of officers hearing a case (currently only one person) and for intervener funding. We would also like OMB decisions to reflect the broader questions of what is in the provincial interest rather than mere planning technicalities. It has been difficult to come to grips with this issue.

Silver Creek Wetland

**UPCOMING OMB
(ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD)
HEARINGS**

Pre-Hearing – April 10, 2007

Full-Hearing – July 30, 2007

**Town of Collingwood
Location and Times to be Announced**

Watch our website: www.bmwt.ca

The Education Corner !!

(Submitted by Bryden Jones)

Since I represent the Green Team (the board-appointed group guiding environmental issues in schools) and am the faculty adviser for GAIA (the student environmental group) at CCI, I have become the voice of environmentalism here. I am a.k.a. Eco-dork around my school, a self-inflicted moniker to be sure, but probably apt all the same. I'm the one that's always ranting about the evils of bottled water, the crappy food in the cafeteria, and the destruction of nature around Collingwood in the form of golf courses on wetlands and rural subdivisions.

I do my best to inspire my school community, making them aware of important events and issues in the region, the nation, and the world. When I helped to organize the Watershed Festival, my students were there as volunteers. Many came to see the debut of Sarah Harmer's escarpment video, and even more were there to support a pesticide by-law in Collingwood Town Chambers. I am even organizing a showing of "An Inconvenient Truth" for the one or two people on the planet that have yet to see it.

Speaking of Al Gore, Greta Mc Gillivray, a local earth goddess, is fond of quoting from his book *The Earth in the Balance* when he writes that "we must make the environment the central organizing principle for civilization". Nature, and nature's capital, ecology, as the central organizing principle, proposes a symbiotic educational system whereby the Earth and her natural systems is recognized as the primary teacher. We need to learn to mimic these natural systems in order to move from a human-centred sense of reality toward one which is Earth-centred, from ecological to ecological.

Dr. Tom Puk, in his research report *Ecological Literacy as the First Imperative* (faculty of Education, Lakehead University, 2001) states that "the non-awareness of environmental problems indicates lack of knowledge and the failure of institutions to promote awareness. The future health of the ecosphere will depend on participation and knowledge of the masses (through public education)".

Discrete Environmental Science courses were dropped from the current curriculum in Ontario because they were "not very popular", and a commitment was made to integrate environmental science into the core curriculum. Dr. Puk's study asked teachers if and how much they taught each environmentally oriented topic and how much time they spent outdoors. The results showed that either some topics are not being taught at all or very little time is spent on some, partly because a small number of expectations in the new curriculum involve environmental concepts. There is a lack of sequential order for the development of ecological literacy that has led to an "activity guide mentality", using activities to cover the environmental topic of the day-week-month.

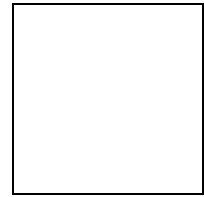
That is why the Education Committee of the BMWTF is so excited about our partnership with Elephant Thoughts, an organization dedicated to bringing meaningful and fun science into (mostly) elementary classrooms. We have an opportunity to help develop relevant lessons in ecology that will allow students to connect at an age that can set them on the path to a more meaningful and yes, spiritual relationship with the natural world.

Educators must avoid simple concepts that lead people to think they are significant (i.e. the 3 R's) and introduce a 4th R – rethink – rethink our relationship with the natural world. Sequential, continuous ecological education interconnected with all other disciplines can begin to move ecology toward becoming the central organizing principle that Mr. Gore envisioned for the world.





RECOMMENDED READING & SCREENING



READINGS:

Evening Thoughts, Reflecting on Earth as Sacred Community – Thomas Berry, 2006

Berry opens our eyes to the full dimensions of the ecological crisis, framing it as a crisis of spiritual vision. Applying his formidable erudition in cultural history, science, and comparative religions, he forges a compelling narrative of creation and communion that reconciles modern evolutionary thinking and traditional religious insights concerning our integral role in Earth's society. While sounding an urgent alarm at our current dilemma, Berry inspires us to reclaim our role as the consciousness of the universe and thereby begin to create a true partnership with the Earth community. With *Evening Thoughts*, this wise elder has lit another beacon to lead us home. (Recommended by Greta McGillivray)

The Omnivores Dilemma – A Natural History of 4 Meals – Michael Pollan, 2006

Michael Pollan, bestselling author of *THE BOTANY OF DESIRE*, explores how Americans eat. According to Pollan, a lack of cultural cohesion and lengthy history surrounding how and what to eat has caused a "national eating disorder." Tracing the mind-boggling path of corn from seed to plate, Pollan analyzes industrial agriculture after considering the contents of a fast food meal. Then he looks at the pastoral ("organic") food chain by working on a small Virginia farm. Finally, he investigates the hunter-gatherer lifestyle by foraging and hunting, to turn out a meal directly from the original sources of what we eat. His book is a tour de force. (Recommended by Eleanor Ward)

Heat – How to Stop the Planet from Burning – George Monbiot, October 2006

We all know that climate change is the greatest problem facing our world - it's being rammed home by new evidence every day. But does that mean the problem is now too big to deal with? Or can we solve it? In *HEAT*, George Monbiot, one of the world's leading environmental activists proves, with passion and rigorous analysis, that there is a way. It now seems certain that we need a 90% cut in our greenhouse gas emissions within 25 years if we are to stop ourselves reaching the point where the "climate feedback"

becomes unstoppable, and our world becomes largely uninhabitable. (Recommended by Don Kerr)

SCREENINGS:

The End of Suburbia – Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream 2004 Documentary- Directed by Gregory Greene

"We're literally stuck up a cul-de-sac in a cement SUV without a fill-up."

Since World War II North Americans have invested much of their newfound wealth in suburbia. It has promised a sense of space, affordability, family life and upward mobility. As the population of suburban sprawl has exploded in the past 50 years, so too the suburban way of life has become embedded in the American consciousness. Suburbia, and all it promises, has become the American Dream. But as we enter the 21st century, serious questions are beginning to emerge about the sustainability of this way of life. With brutal honesty and a touch of irony, *The End of Suburbia* explores the American Way of Life and its prospects as the planet approaches a critical era, as global demand for fossil fuels begins to outstrip supply. World Oil Peak and the inevitable decline of fossil fuels are upon us now, some scientists and policy makers argue in this documentary. The consequences of inaction in the face of this global crisis are enormous. What does Oil Peak mean for North America? As energy prices skyrocket in the coming years, how will the populations of suburbia react to the collapse of their dream? Are today's suburbs destined to become the slums of tomorrow? And what can be done NOW, individually and collectively, to avoid *The End of Suburbia*?

(Recommended by Bryden Jones)

Who Killed the Electric Car (2006)

Running solely on electricity, General Motors' fleet of EV-1 electric vehicles were so efficient, they were on the brink of altering the future of driving in America -- perhaps even the world. Those lucky enough to drive one gave it glowing reviews. So why were they all destroyed? Narrated by Martin Sheen and featuring on screen contributions with Ed Begley Jr., Ralph Nader and Alexandra Paul, *Who Killed the Electric Car?* Is a

murder mystery like no other, as it unravels the puzzling demise of a vehicle that could have saved the environment and America's dangerous addiction to foreign oil.

(Recommended by Jeanne Hazell)

To All Members (and Friends) of the Blue Mountain Watershed Trust

Become a Part of Our Future !!

A friend of mine has said, **"If we could tap into the knowledge and experiences of all the people now living in our area, as a group we could do anything!"** You are one of those people and we need your help.

As a group of environmentally conscious individuals we attempt to bring focus and activities that educate and inform, protect and preserve important natural features vital to our health and enjoyment and for our grandchildren's grandchildren to enjoy.

We need you to tell us what you would like us to be concentrating on as an organization.

Do you have a special talent that you would share with us on a project basis or in an advisory capacity? Maybe you have a background in legal affairs, environmental, fund raising, media, not for profit organizations, natural resources, political affairs, education and computers, or you have a friend that does and you could convince them to help us on a project basis. We recognize that everyone is busy but to have someone to call on for short term help is invaluable.

We have outlined our Committees that you could join if you have the time, such as, the Wetlands Action Group, Education Committee, Membership/Communication/Publication or maybe there is an issue that you have that could be served by a committee you could lead.

Global Warming is here to stay for a while, sad to say. You have a choice to help us to do what we can.

Please share your treasures, talents and time to help us try and do what we can to make our world a little better than we found it.

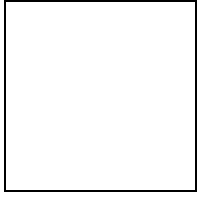
(Submitted by Garry Reid)

THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR IDEAS AND/OR INTEREST IN HELPING TO:

bmwt@bmts.com

OR

Phone: 705-445-6391



YOUR E-MAIL WOULD BE APPRECIATED:

It would be most helpful for the BMWTF to have your e-mail in our database so that we can communicate with you electronically on important matters affecting our Membership. This will save paper, mailing costs and volunteer time as well as improve the amount of time it takes for our Newsletters and key messages to be delivered. The BMWTF mailing list will not be shared and will only be used for BMWTF business matters.

Thank you for sending your email address to our Jeanne Hazell, Secretary BMTWF: jhazell8511@rogers.com

WE INVITE YOU TO WORK WITH US! BECOME A MEMBER, YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

The BMWTF Financial Year starts on October 1st. You can become a member for one calendar year. You will be invited to attend our Annual General Meeting in February, receive our semi-annual newsletters and be kept informed of our activities and accomplishments

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting	\$ 100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member	\$1,000.00 or more

Please make your cheque payable to: Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation
(Income Tax Receipts Will Be Issued for Donations of \$10.00 or more)

WE ALWAYS NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

I am pleased to support the BMWTF in their efforts to save the Silver Creek Watershed and it's wetlands.
My cheque is enclosed for \$_____ for deposit to the Silver Creek Fund.

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

Please make your cheque payable to: Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation – Silver Creek Fund

Send To: BMWTF, P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON L9Y 4E8
Income Tax Receipts Will Be Issued for Donations of \$10.00 or more

Send to: BMWTF, P.O. Box 605, Collingwood, ON L9Y 4E8

