



Volume 10, Issue 7

SANS SOUCI AND  
COPPERHEAD ASSOCIATION  
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## SSCA Fall Newsletter

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## President's Message - Bert Liverance



To All SSCA Members and Families:

Another amazing summer on Georgian Bay has come and gone. As the holiday season is upon us and we count our blessings, one blessing at the top of my list is an idyllic place called Georgian Bay, or more specifically Sans Souci.

Please let me introduce myself: My name is Bert Liverance. I am a fourth generation cottager in the Sans Souci area. Many of you may know me as the starter at our annual Regatta. I have been blessed to be able to come to Sans Souci all of my life only missing two summers since I was born. As a result I am very passionate about protecting and preserving our island paradise.

Our membership has identified three key topics - Waste, Water and Wind - that I am also passionate about. Here are some quick updates:

**WASTE** - Waste is a critical issue for us all. It is one of the key services we receive for our tax dollars. I am pleased to inform you that the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) has decided not to make any major changes in our island waste sites. Proper waste disposal is also our responsibility as stewards of Georgian Bay. I was disappointed to hear of bags of trash left on the dock and comingled recycle at our waste sites. Comingled recycle is treated as waste going directly to the landfill and costs us more to dispose of than recycle. This winter the TOA in response to cottagers' concerns about waste is hosting the Deerhorn Conference on Waste. As your representative, I will update you on the results in the spring newsletter.

**WATER** - Or more specifically water quality. Sandy Phillips has been testing our water for years and communicating the dismal results at our annual general meetings (AGM). This year we passed out tap water sampling kits at the AGM and tested them with the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH):

[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe\\_welltest.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe_welltest.html)

Twenty nine individuals tested their water and in one instance the water was so bad the individuals were advised by the MOH not to even bathe in the water. The Ontario Ministry of Health provides options for water treatment at: [www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe\\_wellwater.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/watersafe/watersafe_wellwater.html)

Do NOT drink untreated water from Georgian Bay unless you have had your tap water tested. The MOH will have a satellite office by the A&P in Parry Sound where you can get sample kits and drop them off for testing. Our Fire and Safety committee will be sponsoring testing sample pick-ups this summer. Check your newsletters for timing and details. I highly encourage you to test your drinking water, ideally three times a summer. A final note on water, the GBA update has great articles about water levels.

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## President's Message - Bert Liverance ... continued from page 1

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**WIND** - The Band on Parry Island has communicated that they will not build wind towers on the south west corner of Parry Island. Peter Stratton has an excellent detailed update in the newsletter.

Our SSCA activities were diverse and numerous this summer offering lots of options like our annual Regatta, lectures about the environment around us, fire and safety events, our Annual General Meeting, Church on the Rock, a banner Day Camp year and much more. I hope you had a chance to take advantage of the super events.

Please join us in recognizing and thanking our retiring president, Bill McNeil, and our retiring directors, Mary Claire Heintzman and Rupert Kindersley, for all their past and ongoing efforts on your behalf. Bill continues to provide sage advice. Rupert retired early so he could become part of the GBA. We will miss their guidance and efforts as members of the board.

We welcome our new directors, Phyllis Lill, David Ashley, Stuart Hatcher and Peter Stratton, and thank them in advance for volunteering their time and efforts for SSCA activities. Each brings much diverse experience. Thanks also to our staff and to the many volunteers who put great amounts of time and effort into our programs.

I encourage all of you to participate with us in protecting and preserving our island paradise. Thank you to the members who have talked to me about your concerns. We can only work on fixing issues we are aware of. You can reach me at bertliverance@xplornet.com

On behalf of the Board, I wish each and every Member and your respective families a very special and safe holiday season. 🌍

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## Dock to Dock Membership Campaign – SSCA Ambassadors Wanted!

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We are determined not to raise your membership fees.

We are also determined to have as strong a voice as possible when it comes to enjoying and preserving our special part of the world.

The goal we want to shoot for is for every cottager in the Sans Souci area to become a member of the SSCA.

You can help!

This summer we are asking you to visit your Georgian Bay neighbours who aren't members yet to tell them about our wonderful association. With brochures and membership applications in hand, you can tell them about our facilities, about all the activities and about the importance of supporting the work of the association. Your visit may introduce them to a whole new facet of living on the Bay that they may not be aware of.

To make this drive both fun and successful, we are looking for captains to coordinate members' efforts in each area of Sans Souci. And we have wonderful incentives! The **captain** whose group brings in the most members **wins a case of wine!** And the **individual** who brings in the most members **wins an original *pleine aire* painting** by renowned local artist Bert Liverance!

Please contact me to sign up as an SSCA membership ambassador and especially to volunteer as a captain in your area.

Helen Notzl

Membership Director

T: 905 838-0081, E: helen.notzl@sympatico.ca

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## Interview with Julie Gregoire – Wally King

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The following is an abridged interview by Wally King, (a former Past-President of our Association) with Julie Gregoire, our caretaker, Sans Souci Association property, Frying Pan Island, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008. She and her husband Ron prepare for freeze-up and the winter months.

**W.K.:** Good morning, Julie. I suppose the first question is, "How is the water level?"

**J.G.:** It's low today. In the fall the water does usually stay low and stays that way until freeze-up. It may get higher for a day with a west wind. It is now about a foot lower than in September.

**W.K. -** I guess you and Ron are getting ready for winter. This must be quite an undertaking, getting food supplies, propane, and gas to last all winter!

**J.G. -** Yes. We get supplies of frozen vegetables. Vegetables such as turnip, carrot, and cabbage last well. Potatoes start growing on me by January! We don't need propane or oil. We have electric heat and a wood stove, and we bring in umpteen 5 gallon cans of gas – about 15 to 20 cans.

**W.K. -** I suppose you have electric baseboard heaters, but I noticed in one of my visits to your home that you have one of those efficiency wood stoves that you mentioned above. In the likely event of a power failure, would that stove keep you comfortable? Even if the failure lasted some days?

**J.G. -** Yes we have electric baseboard heaters but the efficiency wood stove works very well, and we use that as our primary source of heat. In a power failure we also cook on it. Even in a 5 to 6 day power failure, the stove did well.

**W.K. -** And what do you do for lighting in the long evenings?

**J.G. -** When there is a power failure we have a generator, so we always have some light. If that fails, then we have old fashioned coal-oil lamps, and we have used those on occasions.

**W.K. -** In the event of a medical emergency in winter, what response if any, do you expect.



**J.G. -** We have had helicopter responses, even landing in the tennis courts! Emergency here is much the same as in town, but instead of an ambulance we get a helicopter. That is how Bell checks and repairs phone service and how Hydro One gets here in winter for power outages and repairs. Also it would be the way, heaven forbid, we would get to hospital if anyone should get hurt or fall ill. In some cases they could get here faster than in some rural places on mainland.

**W.K. -** How do you spend your time? I suppose there is a lot to do just keeping things operational. For instance what happened last winter when the water pump failed?

**J.G. -** Well, Ron walked out onto the ice with a chain saw and made a big hole in the ice. He pulled out the pump and repaired and replaced it. That took the best part of the day. Our workshop is heated, but not as much as we would like! Everything takes a long time to do up here.

**W.K. -** With the potential of power failure, and even the back-up of generators and batteries, the telephone system could fail. I understand, for example, that the new Rogers tower back-up generator, during a power failure, ran out of gas.

**J.G. -** Yes! We had to phone Rogers to let them know the tower light had gone out, as it was a hazard to planes. With the Bell system, the batteries are good for five days, but last year they only

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## Property Update – Geoff Hyland

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The summer of 2008 will go down as one the wettest on record, but the rain did nothing to dampen the activity levels at the Association. In early June the annual work day was held with volunteers working on various projects from planting to clean up and salvage of the L pier dock materials. This latter activity was a big undertaking and was made possible with the generous donation of the use of both Cameron Wardlaw's and Chris Goulding's barge boats to haul waste materials to the dump.



This year, final work was completed on the Dock Project which included improvements to the anchoring system for the south docks and completion of the railing to the north of the dock house. Again, many thanks to the numerous families who donated to make this critical project a reality.

Again this year, we were fortunate to have the capable services of Julie Gregoire as caretaker for the property and tennis facilities and who also supervised the daily activities of the dock house. The dock house was staffed throughout the summer months with Jordan, Josh and Katelynn all of whom did a great job to keep the operation running smoothly.

While there were no major projects undertaken this past year, I would like to acknowledge the contribution from Stuart Bell who built the new planters for the concrete deck in front of the dock house, to Pete Conacher who organized the painting of the Brand cottage and to Chris Goulding who provided services to repair and prepare the tennis docks for the winter season.

In early August, the gala pig n chicken banquet was organized and hosted by John Crossby and Don Giffin to raise money in support of the Community Centre. A great event and a great effort. On behalf of the Association, many thanks to you both.

The Association can only operate with the contribution and support from its many members and we always encourage everyone to use the facilities and to bring friends and family to enjoy the many events held through the summer months. We look forward to seeing you all again in the spring. 🌞

### **Party Guys and Gals Needed!**

Come be a part of organizing the SSCA party of the year! A blow-out summer party at the SSCA Community Centre with fabulous food, live music and dancing. Where you can party with your friends and make new ones. We'll have it early in July to kick off the 2009 season. Proceeds will go to the SSCA – again, to stave off increases in membership dues and support the important work of the association.

We need committee members, especially if you're a great party planner. Let's get started in the New Year. Contact Helen Notzl or Nancy Bowen to sign on.

Helen Notzl  
Membership Director  
[helen.notzl@sympatico.ca](mailto:helen.notzl@sympatico.ca)

Nancy Bowen  
Program Director  
[nancy@bowens.ca](mailto:nancy@bowens.ca)

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## Environmental Committee Report – Nancy Powis

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The Environment Committee started the summer by planting a wildflower garden in memory of Mary Anne Brinckman. Mary Anne had planted a small patch of wildflowers in front of McNamara House several years earlier and had a passionate desire to plant a larger butterfly garden on adjacent SSCA land. This desire was fulfilled in June 2008. With the much appreciated help of Mary Claire Heintzman, Cathie Singer and Chris Goulding, we planted a number of wildflowers known to attract butterflies including Joe Pye Weed, New England Asters, Wild Roses and Cardinal Flowers. Thanks to a rainy summer, the garden fared well. However, the very showy Cardinal Flowers that were planted at the water's edge were decimated when someone parked their canoe on top of them at the regatta. Please do not use the wildflowers as canoe or kayak racks. We plan to build proper canoe/kayak racks next year, so there will be no excuse! We also plan to continue to do more work on Mary Anne's garden at the SSCA workday in 2009 and in the years to come.

Environment Day was held on the second Saturday in August. Unfortunately, the weather was not so helpful in this regard. Heavy rain and thunder forced us to consider delaying or cancelling the event. But, the decision was made for us when Bill Scully (alias Batboy) braved the weather and arrived at the Community Centre with some bats, as well as bat houses for the small but enthusiastic crowd to decorate.



The rain let up enough to enable us to have a barbeque lunch. Then Wendy Cooper, Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Land Trust, shared her wealth of knowledge of native plants in a wonderfully informative presentation. In addition to identifying numerous native and invasive species, she stressed the importance of letting nature take its course. For example, trees that have fallen should ideally be left to rot and decompose, as this creates soil – a precious commodity in Georgian Bay.

Look for next year's exciting initiatives in the Spring Newsletter. If you would like to join the Environmental Committee or have any suggestions, please e-mail Peter Andras ([pandras@lcs.on.ca](mailto:pandras@lcs.on.ca)) or myself ([nancypowis@gmail.com](mailto:nancypowis@gmail.com)).

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## SSCA Wind Farm Update – Peter Stratton

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We are continuing to consider our options and alternatives about the Wind Farms on Parry Island based upon information and input we have received from the GBA, TOA, and our membership. We continue to monitor the situation. We will work in concert with the GBA, TOA, ORW and other cottager associations in our area to oppose the wind farm development on Parry Island.

While it might appear that little wind farm activity has occurred on Parry Island since a number of test towers were erected in 2006, many things have been going on behind the scenes. In February of 2008 the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) awarded Skypower contracts for a total of 36 Megawatts (MW) of wind generation on Parry Island. Today's industry standards are to use 1.5MW turbines, which for this project translates into a 24 turbine wind farm. Skypower also has another application with the OPA for an additional 150MW, or 100 turbine wind farm on Parry Island. The OPA will announce by year end if this application has been accepted. In summary Parry Island appears to be slated for a combined wind farm totalling 186MW, or 124 (400' tall) turbines.

Wind farms allow other forms of conventional generation to back off into a sort of standby mode while the wind is blowing. Other conventional generators still have to be there and still produce emissions when running in standby, albeit the emissions are at a reduced rate. On average wind turbines are expected to produce ~30% of their nameplate capacity. A 186MW wind farm would have an output similar to a traditional 56MW generator. For stability reasons there is also a limit to how much wind generation the power system can handle, in Ontario this would at most be around 20%.

Typically wind farms of this size have to complete the province's Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Provincial EA's give members of the public an opportunity to have their concerns heard and set guidelines as to what environmental impacts are acceptable to Ontarians. Since Parry Island is part of a federally regulated Reserve a provincial EA would not be required. It remains unclear whether a federal EA would be required, and if so what degree of public consultation is mandated.

ToA representatives met recently with one of the Band councillors from the Wasauksing First Nation to discuss wind farms. The Band stated that for environmental reasons they were not considering putting turbines on the southwest part of the Island and offered to hold public meetings concerning the projects in 2009. The ToA officials were pleased with the positive tone of the meeting.

A number of SSCA members have established an independent community group called Ontarians for Responsible Wind (ORW). The ORW feel strongly that for ecological, cultural and economic reasons that Georgian Bay is not the right place for industrial wind development. The ORW's Georgian Bay chapter's aim is to monitor plans for wind farm development on the Bay and engage stakeholders about the impacts these installations would have on our environment and community. If you would like to get involved please email:

[ORW.GBay@gmail.com](mailto:ORW.GBay@gmail.com)

Peter Stratton, SSCA Board Member

## Interview with Julie Gregoire - Wally King ...continued from page 3

lasted for three days and then we had no phone.

**W.K.** - What about seeing wildlife: birds, deer, foxes, wolves?

**J.G.** - Yes we see lots of wildlife. There is a friendly fox that comes every winter and eats here. There are deer across the ice, and beside us in spring. We see the odd wolf, and an occasional bear.

**W.K.** - Does the garbage transfer site continue to operate during winter?

**J.G.** - We do bring our garbage down, but it doesn't get transferred. The transfer site doesn't really fill up as there are not many people here during winter. No-one else has winterized cottages. We take the garbage by Skidoo.

**W.K.** - Tell me honestly, do you and Ron enjoy being there during freeze-up, winter, and spring thaw, particularly during the "shoulder" months of winter when traveling is next to impossible and frankly dangerous?

**J.G.** - Yes we really enjoy it. We hate to have to go to town. The danger? If you are smart enough to stay home and you get enough supplies in to survive then it is fine. It can be hard to bring fresh fruit and vegetable in during winter.

**W.K.** - Do you use a Scoot? Would you describe that for us?

**J.G.** - We use a Scoot sometimes. It looks like a boat with an aircraft engine mounted high on the back, and a rudder for steering. It is hard to steer, as it catches the wind easily, but I have the best Scoot driver in the area! The Scoot will travel on water and ice.

**W.K.** - Many of us seasonal/summer residents think of our water-based recreational homes which in large measure are put to bed, so to speak, for the winter. Some of us may even dream in retirement of spending quality time in winter at Sans Souci, but here you are choosing the life, indeed without any qualification, such as going to Florida.

**J.G.** - I have been away. Last winter I went to Tennessee for two weeks, but how can you get anywhere more beautiful than here?

**W.K.** - I suppose when traveling permits, you would be pleased to have visitors?

**J.G.** - Yes it is the highlight of the winter when someone drops in. That provides some of our happiest winter memories. It helps if people call first – incase we are outside mending the pump! But we are always pleased to have visitors.

**W.K.** - I do want to thank you for this opportunity to speak to you and to assure you that your seasonal friends and neighbours send their warmest wishes to you for the Christmas season.

**J.G.** - I also extend Christmas greetings, the blessing of the season, health and happiness for the New Year to them 🌍

