

Garai News Digest

September 2008 Vol. 11, #3

Published bimonthly by: Galway and Area Ratepayers Association Inc.
Incorporated 1998

Editor: Pete Charters GARAI@sympatico.ca (705)447-2716
1047 White Lake Road, CP 520, RR 1, Kinmount, K0M2A0

Next meeting:
Saturday, September 13, 2008
10:00AM Galway Hall

Featured Speaker:

Dave Pridham

Manager, Environmental and Technical Services
Kawartha Region Conservation Authority

Currently, Kawartha Region Conservation Authority is working on providing the Township of Galway, Cavendish and Harvey information and maps of the land divided according to the Ecological Land Classification System (ELC) for planning purposes. This System classifies land according to the type of cover – open, shrub or treed; deciduous, coniferous or mixed, with emphasis on aggregate locations.

We know that aggregate and mineral exploitation of the Township will increase as resources become scarce south of the Canadian Shield. Already, aggregate trucks are common on roads in Harvey township and are on the increase in Cavendish and the southern part of Galway. How soon will we see them on northern Galway roads?

Will this new classification scheme be useful to protect current property owners or will it be used to provide additional information for exploration?

As a bonus and, as time permits, Dave will also speak on forestry / woodlot management, his favourite area of expertise.

GARAI General Meetings — 2008

January 12	Gerard Pearson, Superintendent of Public Works, GCH
April 12	Pat Kemp - CAO/Deputy Clerk, GCH
July 12	Tom Flynn - Reeve, GCH Ron Gerow - Warden, Peterborough County
September 13	Kawartha Region Conservation Authority
November 8	TBA

July Meeting

Tom Flynn, Reeve of Galway, Cavendish and Harvey came but both he and I were informed only the day before that Ron Gerow, Warden of Peterborough County, would not be coming.

As a result, the Reeve could only take notes on the items we wished to discuss with the Warden.

The Official Plan is taking longer than expected to pass scrutiny at the County and is not expected until later this fall. Previous OPs had to be scrutinized by the Province, a process that sometimes took years; now the County is acting as surrogate for the Province and, it is hoped, the process will be speedier.

The windfall of almost \$1.2 million that the Township received for expenditures on roads has been assigned to various projects and we are seeing extensive work in a number of areas. From personal observation, the Galway Road between Dharma Centre and Clear Bay turn is receiving much needed attention. This work involves extensive ditching, some regrading as well as resurfacing. Long awaited brushing of other roads is ongoing. A hill on White Lake Road that I thought would only be patched has been resurfaced. From the Reeve's comments, we understand that similar upgrading is taking place throughout the balance of the Township.

Council has agreed to continue the ban on Sunday gun hunting in Galway, Cavendish and Harvey.

Council has also agreed to continue the ban on ATVs on township roads. However, the vote was 2 - 2 at a time when the Deputy Reeve was absent. It is, therefore, feasible to reopen this issue at a later time.

One item that was raised with the Reeve was easy disposal of batteries, ink jet print cartridges and cell phones at the transfer station. (See the bottom of Page 4 for further info.)

Should we care about loss of species?

It has become common over the last thirty years or so to read reports of species becoming endangered or extinct with most of the blame for these changes being placed squarely, and fairly, on human activities.

- North Atlantic cod stocks have been depleted to the point where most cod fishing has been banned.
- Rapid melting of the Arctic ice may endanger polar bears.
- Extensive clearing of rain forests is feared to be causing loss of species not even identified as yet.
- A salamander in Southern Ontario is seriously threatened.

At the same time, we read of alien species being introduced. Purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, Asian longhorned beetle (a threat to maple trees) and a host of others have been brought to North America through human activities, some intentional, others through carelessness.

One gets the impression that this is a new and rather disreputable behaviour on the part of the human species. One question is asked or implied over and over — Do we care about our planet?

On the other hand, an examination of the records and the study of evolution shows that species come into existence whenever and wherever there is opportunity for them and they pass out of existence whenever changes occur with which they cannot cope. Every species must compete with other species and it is inevitable that some will be shouldered out of existence. Since the beginning of life on Earth, the species that came into existence and later faded out numbers in the tens or hundreds of trillions.

The human species is simply one of tens of millions of species currently on this planet. If our activities interfere with the existence of other species, it is no different than what has happened throughout the span of life on planet Earth. In addition to eliminating some species, human activities have provided niches for the evolution of many new species. One example: it is thought that city bred raccoons are diverging from their country cousins and may someday form a new species. On a more worrisome note, bacteria are evolving in response to the widespread use of antibiotics. Another two “new” species often overlooked are dogs and cats.

On the introduction of alien species, we tend to ignore the fact that most of the wildflowers one sees when traveling country roads are aliens that arrived here when immigrants brought farm seed from the Old World. Ontario was once completely covered by forest and our native wild flowers have adapted to that environment; they do not like open sunlight.

So, should we care about the implications of our activities on other species?

On the one hand, if we don't and just let nature and human activities run their course, the planet is not going to fall apart; new species will evolve to fill any gaps.

On the other hand, there are four good reasons why we should care.

(continued on Page 4)

(continued from Page 3)

1. We don't really know very much yet about ocean species. We have already decimated one highly desirable seafood species and there are increasing warnings that other seafood species are in danger. As a matter of self-interest, we should be passionate about ensuring our own food supply.
2. It is one thing if a species is eliminated in direct competition with us but quite a different situation if the destruction of a species is the result of wanton human behaviour. For instance, global warming is real, the direct result of human greed for energy and is likely to result in the loss of many species but we are not about to give up our standard of living to attempt to halt its effects. The best we can do is to find substitutes for carbon-based energy sources and this is going to take some time. However, the extinction of the passenger pigeon did not serve any human need; flocks were decimated simply because they were a cheap and easy supply of food for slaves and servants.
3. Many species serve as indicators of early problems in the environment. They can give us advance warning of coming ecological catastrophes. The human species is incredibly dirty. We maintain huge dumps for our garbage and sully the land with too many dangerous materials, we foul our water and poison the air. We need those indicator species that will let us know when we are approaching a crisis.
4. Some of us like to keep things much as they are. Change is always worrisome, especially if we don't know where it might lead. The present is familiar, predictable and not overly exciting. So we make an effort to keep the status quo, like erecting signs to warn motorists of turtle crossing areas in an attempt to keep the turtle population at a viable level.

 <p>Building Materials</p>  <p>castle building centres</p> <p>J. AUSTIN & SONS LIMITED LUMBER FOR EVERY PURPOSE KINMOUNT, ONTARIO</p> <p>Office (705) 488-2961 1-877-488-2961 Fax (705) 488-3279</p> <p>JULIE AUSTIN</p>	 <p>WALSTEN Marine</p> <p>WALLY STENDER</p> <p>3613 County Rd. 121 Kinmount, ON K0M 2A0 www.walstenmarine.com</p> <p>Office: 705-488-2811 Fax: 705-488-3234 info@walstenmarine.com</p>
--	---

Score 1 for GARAI

It is reported in the Herald of Sep. 5 that Council authorized Pat Kemp, CAO, to proceed with applying for an amendment to its Certificate of Approval from the Ministry of the Environment to permit the Township to install a bin at each transfer station to accept Household Hazardous Waste in the form of batteries, ink jet cartridges and cell phones. This successful idea is being used currently in Algonquin Highlands and was suggested to the Reeve at the July 12 GARAI meeting.

DUDMAN CONSTRUCTION (1980) LIMITED
 R.R. #2, Burnt River, Ontario K0M 1C0

TEL: (705) 488-2377 1-800-859-6771 FAX: (705) 488-2055

ROCK LANDSCAPING
 FLAGSTONE • CAP ROCK
 SAND • GRAVEL • TOP SOIL
 LIMESTONE AGGREGATES

ROAD BUILDING
 SEPTIC SYSTEMS
 SITE SERVICING
 EQUIPMENT RENTAL

3613 County Rd. 121
 Kilmount, ON
 K0M 2A0

ROYAL LEPAGE
 Kenneth Lake Realty

Bus: (705) 488-3077
 Fax: (705) 488-1317
 Res: (705) 488-2171
 Email: dstender@interhop.net
www.diannestender.com



Dianne Stender
 Sales Representative

Why do we have starlings?

Starlings are a European bird species and not native to North America. In fact, before 1890 there was not one starling on the continent.

However, Shakespeare (in the late 1590s) introduced starlings into his play Henry IV when he has Hotspur say "I'll have a starling shall be taught to speak nothing but 'Mortimer.'"

The American Acclimatization Society decided to import to New York City every bird mentioned in Shakespeare's plays. A main member of the society was Eugene Schieffelin, a druggist in the Bronx. In 1890 he imported 60 starlings to New York City and the next year another 40.

Since that time, the starling has proliferated and now is present throughout North America from east to west and from Hudson Bay south into Mexico with numbers estimated at close to a billion birds.

Why did Shakespeare say the starling could be taught to say "Mortimer"? The starling is noted for being a great mimic of other sounds. It has been said the starling can mimic the ringing of a telephone, barking of a dog and quacking of a duck and, perhaps, "Mortimer".

Although most of the imported 'Shakespeare' bird species did not survive, the house sparrow is another successful species of bird brought in by this group. It is not so obvious since it is a relatively quiet little bird that does not compete with humans for food. The starling is raucous and costs farmers many millions of dollars annually.

The biggest problem with starlings is their feeding habits which include grain, fruits and vegetables. They are a direct or indirect competitor with humans, eating much the same foods as humans or the animals humans eat. Farmers grain feeding hogs in preparation for market often find that huge flocks of starlings have eaten a portion of the grain and fouled the rest.

Starlings were once accused of seriously competing with other, more desirable birds such as bluebirds. However recent studies have found the starling does not seriously interfere with other birds in nesting sites.

In the end, North American humans have traded passenger pigeons for starlings. Did we gain? Does anyone care?



BRYAN HUGHES
Service Supervisor

Hwy. 35 & 121
Box 367, Minden, ON
K0M 2K0

Office: (705) 286-1088
Fax: (705) 286-4278
TOLL FREE: 1-800-413-3305



RE/MAX

County-Town Realty Inc., Brokerage
Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing

DIANNE SPRING

Broker

4980 Monck Rd. (CTY. RD. 49)
Kinmount, ON K0M 2A0
Office: (705) 488-3000
Office Fax: (705) 488-3480

E-Mail: dspring@sympatco.ca

www.diannespring.com

1-800-305-3611

Fax: (705) 488-3100



Kathleen Lang
Mike Carpenter
Owners



Kinmount TIM-BR Mart
(Div. of 755091 ONT. INC.)
Highway #121, P.O. Box 179
Kinmount, Ontario K0M 2A0
Phone: (705) 488-2000
Fax: (705) 488-3439
E-mail: timbrmart_kinmount@sympatco.ca

Nightingales



Certified Organics
Herbs & Veggies

Liz & Nick Case

Phone: (705) 488-1307

1260 Galway Rd. Kinmount, ON K0M 2A0 email: Lcase@ballnet.on.ca

HEATH'S OFFICE SERVICES

Small Business Accounting & Tax Prep

GEORGE HEATH

173 Galway Rd. R.R. 1
Kinmount, ON K0M 2A0

Tel: 705-488-1211
Fax: 705-488-1232

Peter Franzen
Sales Representative



ROYAL LePAGE

LAKES OF HALIBURTON

REALTY INC. (REALTOR) (705) 488-1234

10 Bobcaygeon Road, Box 760
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Bus: (705)286-1234 ext 222

Fax: (705)286-2222

Res: (705)488-2554

peterfranzen@sympatco.ca



SUE STRONG

*Assistant Branch Manager
Little Britain and Kinmount*

TEL (705) 488-9963

FAX (705) 488-9965

EMAIL sstrong@kawarthaqu.com

WEB www.kawarthaqu.com

4075 Main Street
P.O. Box 69
Kinmount, ON K0M 2A0

**Kinmount Artisans
Marketplace**

(705) 488-1414



- Fine Art
- Locally Crafted Gifts
- Arts & Crafts Courses
- Host Gallery of Kinmount's
Thanksgiving Studio Tour

Kinmount Community Ctr
Lower Level
City Rts 121 & 45
Kinmount, ON, K0M 2A0