

# Deanlea Beach Association



## Fall 2013 Newsletter

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### President's Message

My first term as President is demonstrating to me how important communication is to understanding different perspectives in our community. We have permanent and seasonal, young and old residents all with different needs.

### Annual General Meeting

In a conversation with a permanent resident, he pointed out that on a long weekend he wanted to get away and thus he was unavailable to attend the annual general meeting. I realized that we weren't taking the permanent residents into account so the Executive decided to hold the next AGM on June 21 at 10am. It isn't a long weekend so not as many residents will have company yet the cottage season has begun.

### Dogs on the Beach

This summer we have had dogs attack another dog; some dogs have exhibited menacing behavior and some owners/renters have failed to comply with the leash bylaw. Given these incidents and a crowded beach we think it is advisable to ask residents to leave their dogs at the cottage between noon and 5pm during July and August. This will preclude the necessity of invoking the Ontario Dog Owners Liability Act. Under the Act owners are responsible for keeping their dogs under control and are liable and can be charged if they don't. The Animal Control Number to report dogs off leash is: 705 549-2289. Anyone can call and the more we address this problem the more likely it will go away.

While we are on the subject of dogs, it is bad form to leave your poop bags in other people's recycling boxes. Please bring the bags back to your cottage and put it into your garbage and please tell anyone else walking the dog to do so as well. If you see someone doing this then speak to them.

### Renter, Owner Responsibility

In another conversation, I was asked to remind landlords to please make their renters familiar with the dos and don'ts of the beach and to remind residents that they have to participate in patrolling their own beach. If you see a boat landing and disembarking with a hibachi, go up to them and gently inform them that this is a private beach. If they tell you that all beaches are public inform them that in Tiny there are many private beaches. You could also direct them to Bluewater. We are all responsible for the beach. I am asking all to do their part so that work is spread around. Speaking of work, I would like to thank those residents who take responsibility for cleaning the footpaths they use. There are still some footpaths that require a little love. If the footpath you are using needs some attention could you step forward and handle this?

Given the number of people who roll into Deanlea from Bluewater, we are planning on erecting a bigger sign at the north end of the beach. Feel free to approach them and inform them that this is a private beach and they are trespassing.

## **Constitution, Letters Patent**

Our executive has received queries about municipal by-laws, our constitution and letters patent . Our Vice President, Phil Spademan, is designing a website which will display this information and other news worthy items. If you have more information requests, send them along. These will determine what is displayed on the website.

## **Working Group on Accessibility to Beach**

Many in our community are aging and we also have an influx of young families; while in the past we travelled lightly to the beach, now we don't. We have formed a working group to examine the present and future transport needs of our residents. The group is composed of Loris Gaiotto, Tom Hards, Rosa Leonardelli, Don Woychyshyn and Linda Phillips. Thank you for your participation and time.

## **Maintaining Our Beach**

We have heard complaints about tents, chairs etc. being left on the beach and have asked residents to remove their chairs, etc from the beach every day. We have decided to clean up the beach and have asked owners to move boats that have been left for years. To address the problem of drifting sand we have erected snow fences at the board walk and fences on the sand dune that has eroded over the years due to foot traffic. We will be endeavoring to restore the dune with grasses. Thanks to Phil, Andre, John, Peter, Jim, Mark, Loris and Nick for working on a cold, wet day to get these assembled. This beach doesn't work without the help of volunteers. As our population ages, we need to tap into the second or third generation. Please consider volunteering your kids. I promise we will send them back home, or, if you like we will keep them. Loris is the guy who looks after roads and footpaths. As I walked around our community I was struck by how nice the posts look. This year we spent more money on roads and judging from the positive feedback it was worth it. We can't do it to this extent every year because we don't have the budget and we are looking at other materials for the roads. If anyone has expertise in this area we would appreciate some advice.

## **Cars vs. Kids on Lakeside**

Wendy Madill is looking at a sign to remind drivers to proceed with caution on Lakeside but we would also ask parents to remind their children that they must stop before they proceed across the road.

## **Fun day**

Our beach is crowded and we took steps to ensure that only our residents participated in Fun day. Thank you Wendy Madill for coming up with the idea of the wrist bands and arranging their purchase and printing.

I would also like to thank Wendy Spademan for buying all the prizes and organizing all the games. She spends a lot of time figuring out age appropriate prizes and I thank you for being so thoughtful. Without Wendy the games would not happen. We need someone who is willing to volunteer for the morning of Fun Day to assist Wendy next year. Wendy was supported by Phil Spademan, her husband Jim and Loris Gaiotto in organizing the games. Great job of MCing, Phil. We have a lot of fun pulling this together and we would love to have more help so if you're interested contact Wendy at [spud.family@sympatico.ca](mailto:spud.family@sympatico.ca). This year and last Cindy Madill did a wonderful job asking for donations from local businesses and residents. Without these donations the raffle would not be the event it is. Thank you so much.

Food preparation was organized by Marc Armstrong. Andrea and Dave Madill and wieners donated by Richard LaRose. It's a hot, stressful job to cook enough food to feed 545 people and to serve it to them. A new volunteer, Rita Cipolla, bravely stepped forward to help serve the food.

Thank you Joan Condie for helping Michael all day taking dues and handing out wrist bands. All of the people who volunteered put their families second in order to deliver an amazing fun day.

I am so grateful to have such a wonderful executive to work with and to Phil Spademan who brings a wonderful new energy to his V.P. role. We need young people on this board.

### **Accessing Bluewater Beach**

For as long as I can remember people have been using lot 197 which is in front of the last four waterfront cottages at the north end of Deanlea Beach, accessed from Pinnacle Ave. to get to Bluewater Beach. The lot has four owners who use this lot as their right of way access to their cottages because originally the 5 lots were one. This is not Deanlea Beach property; it is private property and should only be used with the permission of the owners. Please use the footpath between 8 and 12 Pinnacle Ave. We will be checking to see if some work needs to be done on it.

### **Folks who don't want to pay**

I am often asked by folks who don't want to pay, "What does the Association do for me?" I have decided to answer this question through a public forum so that you have ammunition for your neighbours who are not paying:

Each of your Executive members gives hours to ensure that the beach runs smoothly. Roads are repaired, trees are cut down, paths are cleared, and markers indicating pathways are erected and maintained. The beach does not run by itself. We work behind the scenes to create a pleasant environment for residents. This spring two dead deer and a raccoon were removed from the beach in addition to the annual beach cleanup. One year a bulldozer had to remove the dead fish and birds. Cottages on our beach fetch a premium because our beach is well maintained and even if residents don't use the beach their property values are reflected in a well maintained beach. We are constantly contacting real estate agents to stop using Deanlea Beach in their sales blurbs because it is perceived as a premium beach. We are one of the few beaches that has an access path for the disabled. We are very lucky to have a private beach but we have to pay taxes and insurance in order to maintain a private beach. If we don't pay taxes the municipality can seize our beach. The association provides services that go beyond the immediate beach. We attend council meetings and provide reports to residents so they know what our politicians are spending their tax dollars on. We send out reports on issues that impact residents. Thanks to your Association's and others' efforts, the municipality has just voted to take a broader approach on how to handle septage. Because we spend so much time at Township council meetings we get good service from the municipality. Public Works took the time to show me the design of their snow fences and where to buy the materials. They also gave us ideas of where to put the snow fences for maximum impact. We erected snow fences this year to help control the shifting sand on the boardwalk and boat launch. The association is a body that you can bring your concerns to and a platform on which to share perspectives, concerns, grievances, hopes etc. We can't always help and we don't like to get in the middle of disputes with neighbours but we will update the rules of the beach to take into account concerns people have. We will hold discussions so that all can have a say. It's the discussions that allow us to see other points of view and thereby come to an understanding and accommodation. The association is planning for the future, i.e. as our population ages, how we make it easier to access the beach. We provide information to residents, i.e. bylaws. Some residents objected to a dues

increase when we have a surplus fund. The fund is there to deal with emergencies or issues that strongly impact our lives. Many years ago the Association was faced with the prospect of having to pay some hefty legal fees so they raised the money and fortunately didn't need it. We are not a wealthy association and may not be able to quickly raise the money we need so we retain the surplus. Even if we decided to use it to cover yearly shortfalls, what happens when we run out? Where do we go then? Sixty dollars per year is a bargain for maintaining Deanlea.

If you have questions that I can address, please send them to [president@deanleabeach.ca](mailto:president@deanleabeach.ca)

### **Condolences**

Our deepest sympathies to the families of these owners who passed away last year: Charles Braid (2 Dale), John Kiss (18 Lakeside), Dawn Fiddes (15 Victoria) and Pola Kowalenko (12 Bay). A donation will be made in their memory to the Georgian Bay General Hospitals Foundation as part of FoTTSA's fund raising initiative

### **Treasurer's Corner**

The association has collected 185 out of a possible 216 membership dues this year which reflects the continued high level of participation by our community but we really should be collecting 216 out of 216 just like property taxes. A special thanks to Gini Hamer for her constant efforts every year to collect during the summer – she shouldn't have to. Your \$60 payment is a necessary beach and beach access maintenance cost and the reason it's so low is because of the tremendous volunteer effort that goes into making this a very special beach community; those of you who have not paid are invited to send in your \$60 in as soon as possible. Those of you who want to pay in advance for 2014 can do so by sending in \$50 to benefit from the early payment discount.

We can accept payment anytime by mail or in person to 36 Rosemary Rd, RR1, Tiny, ON L0L 2T0 or online if you are a BMO client. We also take Interac e-transfers: please send them to: [treasurer@deanleabeach.ca](mailto:treasurer@deanleabeach.ca).