

Residents of Beaver Pond,

Recently, a letter of complaint was circulated regarding high water levels in Beaver Pond. This letter is the response from the Board of Directors addressing the concerns.

The Ponds are an integral part of the Drainage and Grading Plan for ground and storm water management in Bayshore Village. The Director of Common Waters meets with the pond masters and assistants to, by committee, decide a maintenance and water level plan for all Bayshore ponds.

In regard to Beaver Pond specifically, prevailing Westerly winds in the area, push tree limbs, leaves and other vegetation in the water to the East end of the pond where it blocks the pond outflow, causing the pond level to become higher than desired.

In an attempt to overcome this debris issue, pond volunteers installed a “chute” made out of small cement curbs to help direct the flow into a narrow channel, resulting in accelerated flow in order to allow leaves and debris to be swept away, instead of building up. This generally works well and has been an improvement over the previous situation, but does require constant monitoring/maintenance, as larger limbs will still need to be removed by hand. Historically, Beaver pond is one of the better ponds in Bayshore for maintaining water levels. However, in late October and early November, a record amount of rainfall, (approximately 4 inches of rain fell according to the Weather Network) was experienced in Bayshore over several days.

After the big rains, a previous pond volunteer that lives on Maple Gate noticed that the pond level was higher than normal and went down to the East end of Beaver Pond to investigate. He found several big limbs and a huge amount of debris, leaves, etc. creating a natural dam, holding the water back and causing the Pond level to rise. He cleared the debris and ensured that the flow rate was restored. It takes some time for the level of the pond to come down to the “low” winter datum after clearing a blockage.

As Director of Common Lands, Steve Goulter monitors drainage issues throughout the Village and has been working with the Township on this topic for some time. In the case of Beaver Pond, the route taken by the outflow water is very direct and well defined, flowing into Harbour 99 with adequate drop, but there is always room for improvement. In light of recent events regarding blockage of the outflow, Bayshore arranged with a contractor to use a backhoe to clear this area down to about one foot deep, and this work has been completed. This will make the task of manually maintaining the flow much easier to ensure that the pond level is kept at the appropriate level for all residents.

During the summer months, there is a large electric pump located in Harbour 99 and a pipe that allows water to be pumped into Beaver Pond and/or into Vicars Pond, to keep the level from going too low as 34 houses use lawn irrigation systems drawing from the ponds. Indicators on a steel post at the East end of Beaver Pond are used to judge pond levels in order to avoid overfilling the pond. Volunteers install bubblers and aerators to oxygenate the pond water to prevent stagnation. Volunteers also manage weed growth and encourage members not to use fertilizers close to the pond edge to also prevent weed growth.

There are many challenges here in Bayshore when it comes to storm water management. Our subdivision was built in a flat swampy area and there is not adequate slope to provide proper drainage. Our ongoing efforts dealing with drainage issues in Bayshore are well documented in the Bayshore board minutes, presentations, Township deputations and Bayshore budgets for Common Waters and Common Lands over the last several years. All facets of the drainage and grading plan are being worked with the Township including ditches, culverts and the ponds. There is nothing hidden. We have made considerable effort to be an open, honest and responsible Board and we will continue to uphold these Principles.

In summary, our volunteers will continue to make every effort to maintain acceptable pond levels through diligent monitoring and maintenance activities. In addition, they obtain help and guidance from Ramara Township.

In the future, if you think the pond levels are too high, please contact Keith Meadows, Director of Common Waters at 705 484 0471 or Steve Goulter, Director of Common Lands at 705 826 8826.

We trust the above adequately outlines the way in which Bayshore and its volunteers manage the ponds on behalf of all of the membership. If you have further questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to call Keith or Steve.

Thank you,

Bayshore Board of Directors