



*A Unique Waterfront Community*

# The **Bayshore Banner**

The Official Newsmagazine of the Bayshore Village Association  
Volume 12 Number 1 Winter 2018

Speeding in Bayshore p. 6  
Social events pp. 8-14  
Baltic Cruise p. 26  
White Squirrels p. 32





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**BVA Board of Directors, 2017-2018.** Back row, L to R: Steve Goulter, Director of Common Lands; Catherine Hermans, President; Bill Pike, Director of Harbours and Storage Yard; Rick Matthews, Director of Finance and Administration.  
Front row, L to R: Dawn Kelly, Director of Social Events; Kathi Kerr, Corporate Secretary & Director of Common Waters; Doug Davies, Ex-Officio; Tim Young, Director of Hayloft Amenities; Astrid Bruce, Vice President and Director of Architecture.

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BVA Board of Directors photo, p. 3: by Ted Gryzick

The next issue will be published in April 2018.

## The Bayshore Banner



## President's Article

**"It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."**

*Harry S. Truman*



Catherine Hermans  
President, BVA

Hi Everyone, and Happy New Year!

I hope this issue of our newsmagazine finds you healthy and resting from the activities of the holiday season. Herb and I had the pleasure of visiting my brother and his family in Indiana over Christmas, and we met the newest member of our family – our great-nephew, Logan! Our sons and their families came to celebrate with us when we returned. We reveled in every moment of our festi-

ties, but we're looking forward to a much quieter January!

The quotation at the top of this article really spoke to me when I first read it. It accurately portrays the leadership in Bayshore, whether it's referring to Committees, the Directors or our members who so diligently volunteer behind the scenes. Your Board of Directors has been working industriously over the past several months...working on regular business as well as professionally managing new situations that have arisen. I'm proud to tell you about how well we're operating together to fulfill promises that we've made to our members, most of which arose through the Survey you completed several months ago. In order to stay informed, please be sure to continue reading the Minutes of our regular Board meetings that are posted on the website in the "Members Only" area and the emails that are sent electronically or posted on the information board outside the Hayloft.

Recently, we had a working Board meeting and passed several "Terms of Reference" which define how our Committees will function. Through the Directors, we had updates from several committees – Youth Committee which is still looking for volunteers; Tree Committee; Architectural Committee as well as the Communication and Promotion Committee, just to name a few. Directors' positions of responsibilities (job descriptions) have been reviewed and updated as required and our Hayloft Rental Agreement was reassessed and revised also. Several issues were discussed at this meeting: i.e. speeding in Bayshore; water testing; and the Hayloft water meter process and invoice status. In our efforts to be safety conscious, Directors also received a copy of the recently written "Hayloft Emergency and Elevator Operation" booklet. Lots happening in Bayshore, that's for sure. Thank you to all those who volunteer on the Board or on Committees to make our Village the wonderful place it truly is!

Here's wishing you abundant good health, serenity, strength and happiness in 2018.

*Catherine Hermans  
President, Bayshore Village Association*

## Corporate Secretary



Kathi Kerr  
Common Waters

It's been a busy few months for your Board of Directors here in Bayshore.

As promised to our Membership, and under the skilled leadership of Jon Wagner, your President Catherine Hermans, the Director of Finance and Administration, Rick Matthews and myself, in the role of Corporate Board Secretary, we have had the opportunity to work together to complete, distribute and analyze results for the 2017 Membership survey. We thank all of you who participated and Jon, who organized and presented the survey results at the Annual General Meeting this past September.

Volunteers have stepped up to offer their time, knowledge, and commitment to serve on committees that will address recurring themes from the survey.

Four main initiatives that will be addressed are:

- BVA Bylaws,
- The Pool,
- Young Families and Youth,
- Telecommunications.

New Committees have been established to address these four initiatives. Committee members have begun to develop Terms of Reference that will help to guide them.

Your Board of Directors, and The Communications and Promotions Committee are working closely to keep you well informed by utilizing a variety of resources.

The Bayshore Web Site content has been expanded to include more information and is regularly updated by Jon Wagner and John Waldon to keep you informed and entertained. Event icons include upcoming events, activity groups, pictures and more for your enjoyment. If you have a picture that you would like posted, please contact Jon or John. We have many talented photographers in Bayshore, so please send along your event/wildlife pictures for everyone to enjoy.

In 2018, the Telephone Directory will be updated on the Members Only section of the Web Site as changes occur. We plan to add member e-mail addresses for your convenience.

The Board Meeting Agenda and Director reports are now available on our Web Site and will be e-mailed prior to the Board meeting in order to let you know what will be discussed. You may wish to attend. Board Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (excluding December and January) at 9:30 a.m. in the Great Room of the Hayloft.

Noel Cooper, the Bayshore Banner Editor, has welcomed some new members to his team. Jack and Jill Pignatelli have taken on the Advertising role. Jack signs up advertisers and Jill invoices them. John Waldon is now assisting Noel with editing functions. If you would like to send in an article for the Banner, please e-mail Noel Cooper at [noelc@cottagecountry.net](mailto:noelc@cottagecountry.net)

In 2018, there are lots of exciting things happening in Bayshore Village.

Happy New Year!

*Kathi Kerr, Corporate Secretary*



## Director, Common Lands

### BAYSHORE VILLAGE TREE COMMITTEE

#### Preamble

Many of the trees in Bayshore Village are reaching maturity after 35 to 40 years and we are entering a period where some are going to be past their prime for one reason or another. The point is that, going forward into the future, some of our biggest trees will be removed over time as is typical in a subdivision such as ours. We therefore need to begin programs to educate home owners that this need not be the case, and develop plans to replace these, starting now.

There is a bylaw here at Bayshore Village (2016.004.14) that requires a homeowner to ask permission from the BVA to remove any tree larger than three inches diameter at its base. This request should be made to the office or to the Vice President (Astrid Bruce). The intent behind this bylaw is to honour the fact that our trees are a very important part of our environment and that we want to protect them as much as possible. They are beautiful to look at, provide a much-needed wind break, generate oxygen and provide homes and refuge to many birds, animals and insects. Our trees are a major factor in providing our community with an ambiance that is unmatched in most subdivisions.

Most of our trees are on private properties and the amount of control that the Bayshore Village Association (BVA) has over what a home owner does is limited. It is natural for a home owner to try to limit liability concerns due to a falling tree or large limb across driveways, onto their house or their neighbouring properties. The cost of removal is another factor that needs to be kept in mind – the larger a tree gets the more it will cost to remove. Also, many trees can become rotten in the middle, at the base or in the roots, resulting in the need for premature removal. All these decisions are the responsibility of the home owner, of course, but as you will read later in this article, the newly formed Tree Committee will be able to give some unbiased advice to assist home owners to make these difficult decisions.

The process involves a visit from a member of the BVA (or a delegate) who will look at the tree in question, understand the homeowner's concerns, and possibly discuss alternatives. All of the points mentioned above need to be considered in this discussion. If agreed, a letter or e-mail is generated and given to the homeowner (with a copy to the office) to provide a

record and to give us here in Bayshore an awareness of what is happening with our trees in general. A lawn sign is placed on the front yard indicating to neighbours that the removal is authorized and prevents panic calls to the office when the process of removal is underway.

In this way, some measure of awareness can be generated – the BVA is aware of our members' needs and the homeowner is made aware of how important our trees are to us all. The visit should involve a discussion and awareness of what is killing our trees, what arborists and tree maintenance experts are telling us and give encouragement to replace any tree removed with an appropriate species, where and when to replace, etc.

Now, let's introduce into this article the problems that the Emerald Ash Borer will create in Bayshore. I say "will," because it is a matter of time; not "if"! Or so we are told – I hope they are wrong on this, but all indications are that, unless we take aggressive action to protect our ash trees, our community will look very different after the bugs have finished snacking!

We have at least 1000 ash trees in Bayshore! A survey was conducted over a year ago by a group of volunteers and we have lists, street by street, so this count is accurate enough to quantify the magnitude of the issue. These ash trees are spread all around – on Common Lands, private lots, private residences, parks, marinas, golf course, etc. The count did not include the Eco Park, where there are also many more. We are fortunate to be somewhat isolated here on our peninsula, surrounded by swamp and the lake, but we are being told that the Ash Borer can fly many kilometers in one flight, so the chances of being spared are nil to zero! Having said that, traps set up by Simcoe County in Bayshore this past Summer/Fall showed no sign that the ash borer has arrived to date. This is no guarantee, but it is good news. However, there is solid evidence that they have arrived in Orillia and Brechin.

So, we have a unique opportunity here in Bayshore to implement an aggressive plan this Spring, spanning at least five years into the future, that has the potential to save at least some of our Ash trees. Our isolation on the peninsula, our resident expertise and our collective will to accomplish what has not been done anywhere else is an exciting prospect.

We are on our own in this – no level of Government has funds or plans in place –  
(continued on page 6)



Steve Goulter  
Director,  
Common Lands



A beautiful elm visible from Concession 7.

### TREES

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.*

by Joyce Kilmer

Kilmer (1886-1918) is best remembered for this short poem, with its famous opening couplet: "I think that I shall never see / A poem lovely as a tree." The poet was a man, whose full name was Alfred Joyce Kilmer; he was killed at the Second Battle of Marne, France, in July 1918.



## Director, Common Lands

they simply plan to let all ash trees die! Simcoe County will not be installing their traps in the future – that program has apparently ended as of the end of 2017.

### Purpose and Scope of the Tree Committee

The intent behind a Tree Committee is to monitor the health of all of our trees, to work with Bayshore Members, tree experts, Ramara Township, environmental authorities, and anyone else who could help us to plan how to manage our precious resource over the foreseeable future. Activities could range from pruning trees that overhang ditches, planting shrubs/bushes/wildflowers/trees to stabilize shorelines, working with specialists to educate ourselves and our members, negotiating with professionals to obtain attractive pricing on tree removal/tree care/tree fertilization/vaccinations for ash trees/ etc. Other activities would include long range planning, planting of trees in our parks, getting permission from Ramara to do plantings in their parks, creating a “nursery” of young trees, helping to advise homeowners with respect to trees on their properties, stabilizing their shore lines, and probably many other topics that will come up as we work through the process as a committee. All ideas are needed and will be welcomed.

### Priority Activities

1. Locate and interview prospective Committee Members (completed).
2. Arrange experts to get us up to speed ASAP on Emerald Ash Borer (to begin in Jan 2018)
3. Conduct detailed survey of ash trees in order to identify the ones that are prime candidates to try to save.
4. Communicate what we learn as to how to best protect our trees in general, but specifically with respect to the Ash Borer. A critical time will be early Spring – feeding, pruning and plenty of water are very important to allow the tree to fight off any invasive pests or diseases.
5. Start planning for long range activities that encompass all aspects of our trees as outlined above.

A big “Thank You” to all BVA members for taking an interest in this very important subject. We will keep you informed of our plans, which will begin to take shape in January 2018. Everyone in Bayshore has an opportunity to participate in one way or another – whether it be planting trees on your own property, sponsoring the purchase of trees, helping to plant trees, funding removal of distressed trees, looking after your trees, etc. We will be launching an awareness campaign soon that will involve education sessions, an Arbor Day, bulk orders, Bayshore wide pricing on treatment options, etc.

*Steve Goulter, Director of Common Lands*



### A MAJOR SAFETY CONCERN SPEEDING IN BAYSHORE ... An Update

At the Sept AGM there was an appeal made by several BVA Members for the Board of Directors to act on the topic of drivers exceeding the speed limit and not stopping at stop signs within our Village. This topic has been investigated and a summary of what has been learned to date follows.

#### Posted Speed Limit?

Recently the speed limit went down from 50 to 40 km/h and our Village was made a “Community Safety Zone” which means that fines are automatically doubled. The problem is that there is very little enforcement, so these changes have been ineffective to date.

#### Citizen Generated OPP Incidence Reports?

A Bayshore resident has pointed out that there is an existing procedure to report incidences of speeding, vehicles running stop signs and/or any other form of “violation” that we witness. I was told at the OPP station in Orillia that these reports are extremely valuable in that it helps them decide where to deploy cruisers. If they receive enough of these, they will quickly react, especially to areas that are designated “Community Safety Zones” as the revenue potential is so lucrative! We can request their presence all we want, but without hard data, we will just be ignored.

*Here are the steps for using these reports:*

- A. Get the licence plate number, vehicle make and colour, street and time of incident, and direction of travel.
- B. Generate a computer entry report ASAP when you get home by following these instructions:
  1. Go to [opp.ca](http://opp.ca)
  2. Click: **Report a Crime** under **Popular**
  3. Click on **Orillia** on map (expand map to find Orillia)
  4. Select box under **Driving Complaint**
  5. Click **Start Report**
  6. Click **No** to all boxes
  7. Follow instructions to fill out all fields of information
  8. Send the report
  9. **Print** your report
  10. Send a brief e-mail to BVA office so that we can see progress: [bayshorevillageassociation@cottagecountry.net](mailto:bayshorevillageassociation@cottagecountry.net)

This is confidentially reported; your name is not used by the OPP, but a letter is sent to the owner of the vehicle, stating the details of the event and giving a warning. Subsequent reports about that same plate number escalate the severity of the reprimand.

A resident of Bayshore has already been successful in reporting a situation and the driver has been observed to drive more responsibly, proving that this system can be effective.

*If we want the OPP to come to Bayshore on a regular basis, let's get busy and generate lots of these reports.* I suggest that, when out walking, you carry your cell phone in camera mode and snap a picture of any and all vehicles that are travelling noticeably over the 40 km/h



## Director, Common Lands

limit or that have not stopped for a stop sign, etc. When the word gets out that we can do this (i.e., generate a report to the OPP), just the waving of your cell phone at the driver should be enough to make people slow down.

### Add More Stop Signs?

There are 10 intersections in Bayshore, *with the potential to add 15 additional stop signs!* We have all experienced subdivisions with a ridiculous number of stop signs (presumably to slow traffic?) and none of us want to see this happen here. But for just a moment, think of the lucrative revenue stream we would become for the OPP, as many of us do not stop fully for the few stop signs that we now have! A huge fine and 3 demerit points per occurrence would really start to hurt. We would become a magnet for cruisers! Our insurance premiums would skyrocket for those being caught. *So, let's be reasonable, and start obeying the law! It's the simplest solution!*

There is one intersection, however, that does need another stop sign – primarily to address a safety concern. At Bayshore and Bayshore, there is a problem with a westbound vehicle turning left in front of an eastbound vehicle sitting at the stop sign. Very often, the westbound driver does not signal their intention to turn left and the eastbound vehicle proceeds, thinking that the westbound vehicle is going straight through. (Westbound drivers are on autopilot and think the eastbound vehicle will wait for them to turn in front of them!) Most people I talk to feel that this is a safety issue and needs to be addressed by the addition of a stop sign for the westbound traffic.

The Board of Directors have decided to proceed with a request to the Township to add one stop sign at Bayshore/Bayshore for two reasons – one to address this safety concern and, two, to help slow traffic at this important/busy intersection. The Township has informed me that it will cost \$150 to do this. I will try to persuade them that this cost should be to their account.

### BVA to Rent “Paid Duty” OPP?

The Orillia OPP station Duty Officer informed me that this is no longer possible due to lack of manpower to perform their regular duties. At any rate, it was an expensive proposition. “Paid Duty” officers were used in the past in Lagoon City in response to complaints and then everyone complained about the fines!

### BVA to Purchase Mini Radar Sign?

New electronic LED solar-powered internet-connected signs are available for approximately \$3000. They weigh only 11 pounds and can be very easily moved from one location to another. In discussions with the Township, I learned that they are in the process of purchasing one of these for use in Bayshore and Lagoon City, as they are receiving a steady stream of complaints from all around the area about excessive speeding. These devices can collect speed data, time of day and many other parameters, even when dormant, allowing analysis to be done as to their effectiveness when turned on. This data can be supplied to the OPP as proof that they need to send a cruiser. The feedback given to approaching drivers that they are well over the limit is very effective at slowing traffic. One of these units and 4 or 5 “dummies” placed around the Village (rotate the “real” one) would at least tell us how

many vehicles are speeding, how much over the limit and time of day information. This data could be made available to the OPP and they could then act.

### Additional Signage?

As you drive into Bayshore, you will note that there is a 40 km/h and a “Community Safety Zone” sign IMMEDIATELY as you turn the corner. In my opinion, these signs are too close to the entrance and are missed by the average driver. You then travel at least one kilometer before you see another set. Maybe we can get the Township to move these signs closer to the storage yard entrance. Also, we are considering the idea of installing “community” signs – bright orange or some colour that grabs your attention here at critical locations to remind people of the speed limit. I will check with the Township if we would be allowed to do this. Signs like this are readily available and inexpensive.

### Increased Insurance Rates

One BVA member has pointed out that, if the problem of drivers exceeding the speed limit continues, enforcement measures will have to be put in place. Unfortunately, as the number of recorded violations increases, *the insurance rates for everyone may increase.* Residents of other communities (Markham?) have had this happen to them. Some members of Bayshore are already recording violations with make, model, license number and time of day, and filling out police reports. If we do not want to be explaining to our neighbours why our actions have resulted in increased insurance costs for them, *then slow down now!*

### On the Lighter Side?

One of our members had a good idea that I just must pass on! He suggested that we get an orange safety vest, a police hat and an old hair dryer and stand beside the road, point the hair dryer at an oncoming car, wave them down and have a laugh. We could all take turns! This could well be the most effective of all!

*Would all BVA Members please send your comments and ideas on how to further address this important safety issue to Steve Goulter at [goulter255@hotmail.com](mailto:goulter255@hotmail.com). I welcome your input.*



Snowy Owl photo by Herb Hermans



## Director, Common Lands

### STREET NUMBERS/ LAMP POST LIGHTS

An Update



As a follow up to the article in the Fall edition of the Banner, I will give a short update as to progress that has been made on this issue to date.

With a crew of nine volunteers armed with LED lamp bulbs and the correct style of three-inch numbers, many of the deficiencies have been corrected. However, there are a quite a few that remain, for a variety of reasons:

- We have not got to you yet! This job was larger than anticipated.
- Getting permission to come onto your property, with people away/house vacant is trying.
- There are one or two who do not want a number visible!
- As we go around, there are numbers falling off as we speak!
- We ran out of numbers twice and ordering more is at least a nine-day cycle.
- In the odd case, the sensor does not work. We will purchase some and ask for the owner to pay for these.
- There is no power to the lamp post. We will go back and get the owner check the circuit breaker.
- Some owners point out that they have another sign that is adequate and don't see the need to do anything more.
- The cold weather means that the numbers need to be heated in order to "stick."

We have found that some of the lamp heads are in bad shape from corrosion, tabs missing, etc.

Since we have only three or four refurbished lamp heads in stock, and there are several new houses who will be needing one soon, we are reluctant to replace these decrepit ones with the remaining stock, even though the owner would pay for it. Instead, any that can be kept in service or repaired *in-situ* will remain "as-is" for now.

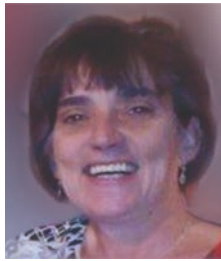
The bottom line is that we need to find a source for replacement lamp heads ASAP, and this is being pursued. I predict that we will require at least 40 or 50 new units over the next 10 years, gauging by the deteriorated state of the existing units. There are already a few that have been replaced by the home owner with units that are quite different than the "regulation" version, but as far as I am concerned, this is not a problem as they are all similar.

Now that winter is here, progress will have to wait until a warmer day comes along. We will keep at this until the deficiencies are minimal (1% target). I have received several phone calls requesting help, so I know you are reading the Banner and the notice boards. Please be patient. We will get to you soon.

Thanks to everyone for supporting this initiative, especially my volunteers.

*Steve Goulter, BVA Director of Common Lands*  
e-mail at [goulter255@hotmail.com](mailto:goulter255@hotmail.com)  
Phone 705 826 8826

## Social Director



Dawn Kelly  
Social Director

On behalf of the Social Committee, I would like to wish all of our members and their families a Happy New Year. We anticipate that 2018 will be an exciting year and I'm looking forward to working on your behalf. Together, we can continue to make Bayshore an exciting place to live.

Catherine Downie finished her term as Social Director in September 2017. She did a fantastic job in the Social Director role during her term. I feel fortunate to work with such an amazing group of dedicated committee members.

Monthly Happy Hours held at the Hayloft on the 3rd Friday of the month were introduced in 2017 and have been a great success.

We brought in the New Year with great friends and family on New Year's Eve, with great music, dancing, and food at the Hayloft.

I'm very proud to be in the role as Social Director and look forward to the coming year.

On behalf of my fellow Board members, I wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year in 2018.

*Dawn Kelly*  
Social Director



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## Social Life at Bayshore: New Year's Eve



Photos across the top of the page: Linda Bridges welcomed partygoers; Donna Wilson makes her choices aided by Leslie Fielding; Ian Roy serenades the crowd under the watchful eye of Brian Murray and others.

Middle photos: Carlos & Barb Cordeiro, Terri & Mike Papa; Jim Fielding, Leslie Fielding, Donna Wilson, Wayne Perzel.

Below: Romaine and Keastner Dawkins, Leslie Fielding, Dawn Kelly, Linda Bridges.

*All photos by John Waldon*



## Bayshore Carollers



Photo by Reid Drysdale

Carollers L to R: Gail Carter, Kristina Frise, Wendy Hurst, Sally McPherson, Wendy Lucas, Linda Bridges, Nori Drysdale, Nancy Marzano.

Due to the season, many of the Bayshore Carollers were under the weather this year, but eight carollers made it out and brought musical Christmas cheer and hot chocolate to the homes of several Villagers. Nancy and Joe Marzano graciously had the Carollers back to their home for rejuvenating cups of Spanish and Irish coffees and tasty treats.

*Submitted by Wendy Lucas*



## Social Life at Bayshore

### CHRISTMAS HAPPY HOUR - DECEMBER 15, 2017



The Tireless Walking Workers: L to R: Nancy Marzano, Irene Heinz, Sally McPherson, Nori Drysdale, Maura Hughson, Angie Bedford, Bob Bell, Wendy Lucas, John Waldon, Marielle Montemurro, Glenn Lucas. Seated Down in Front: Kay Beacham, Lorne McCaig

Photographer: Kathi Kerr

The December Happy Hour was hosted by the Bayshore Walking Group. We celebrated the holiday season by asking everyone to come in their best festive attire and bring an appetizer to share. Our Bayshore Village members are always happy to oblige. We had a lot of festive-looking people wearing interesting Christmas hats, sweaters, and costumes, including a variety of elves. Of course, we had plenty of food. Once again everyone outdid themselves. We had a lot of delicious foods to snack on.



Irene Heinz organized us in groups to sing a very lively round of "The Twelve Days of Christmas." There were some interesting interpretations of the song

verses! It was a great opportunity to celebrate the holiday season and to catch up with friends and neighbours and meet new ones, as well.

The Walking Group is open to anyone who would like to join in for an early morning walk. We walk and



talk for about an hour beginning around 7:25 a.m., Monday to Friday. We start at the intersection where Bayshore Dr. and Bayshore Dr. meet near Fernwood Dr. We continue on Bayshore along the lake side to Park Lane and Thicketwood, then up to the entrance along the bay side and down Southview. At the corner of Fernwood and Bayshore our four-legged walkers usually get a treat and we say goodbye to the early starters. We continue down Bayshore on the lake side where we eventually say goodbye to each other. You will probably hear us before you see us. Please join us for the exercise and friendly conversation.

Nori Drysdale

### GAMES N GRUB



The 2nd Annual Games N Grub event was held on Saturday, October 28th, hosted by the Mu Eta Sorority. Thanks to our generous Bayshore residents, we were able to raise \$400 for Stamp Out Hunger in Orillia. We raised the \$400 by charging \$10 for the tickets which included a very filling dinner of pizza from Tops in Pizza, Caesar salad, ice-cream bars smothered in whipping cream, berries and chocolate sauce. Once again the participants were very generous in supporting Our Share the Wealth with 50% of the sales going to the cause.



**Top Photo:** Kristina Frise, Beth Smith, Wendy Lucas, Marilyn Richardson, Nancy Marzano, Wayne Richardson, Joe Marzano, Wendy Hurst, Patti Norris-Rigby, Paul Rigby, Donna Scarbeau, Jill Pignatell, Jack Pignatell, Glen Downie, Marie Young, Glenn Lucas, Tim Young, Eva Stosch, Gary Scarbeau, Catherine Downie.

**Middle photo:** Trevor Bedford, Bill Pasel, Wayne Perzel, Donna Wilson, Irene Heinz, Maura Hughson, Karen Dilabaugh, Jeff Drayton.

**Bottom photo:** Margaret Bisset, Gunther Gratzter, Laurel Dewar, Katryna Indewey, Dani Prinzen, Rick Indewey, Calvin Yake, Carol Yake.

Our evening also included playing multiple games and trying to win the most poker chips for prizes. Everyone enjoyed socializing, eating, drinking and playing the great selection of games that were set up. Lucky winners of the Share the Wealth tickets were Eugene Storozinski and Margaret Bisset. 1st place prize winner with the most poker chips was Kati, Rick Indewey's daughter; 2nd place winner was Barb Cordeiro and 3rd place was shared by Fran McVie and Sharon Seaward. Congratulations Winners and thanks again Bayshore for supporting such a worthy cause.

Submitted by Wendy Lucas





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## Ladies' Christmas Luncheon

The Ladies' Christmas Luncheon was held on December 5; approximately 100 women were in attendance. The event was catered by the Hospitality class at Twin Lakes Secondary School, under teacher Tanner Griffin. (For Bayshore members who are interested in similar services, Mr. Griffin can be contacted at [tgriffin@scdsb.on.ca](mailto:tgriffin@scdsb.on.ca))

The Ladies' Lunch Committee would like to thank the sponsors, and everyone who helped, and all those who attended. We were able to raise \$1850 for the Salvation Army Orillia.

We had an enjoyable afternoon with good food, and we played two exciting games of bingo.

Thank you for supporting this event. Hope to keep the giving ongoing in the future.

*Kathy Hutchinson*



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Iris Storozinski

Marg Sharpe, Wendy Hurst, Hazel Schofield and Patti Norris-Rigby admire the items offered at auction.

At left is a list of the sponsors who supported the Ladies Christmas Luncheon, and made it possible for the donation to Salvation Army to be even greater. Many thanks!



Laura Malarczuk enjoys doing her job of guarding the money box.



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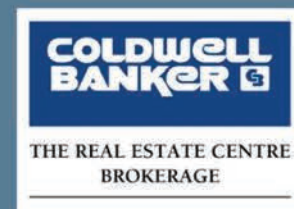


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## Happy Birthday, Ron!



Dart Club Members L to R Back Row: Jim & Leslie Fielding; Bob Bell; Bill Pike; Keith Meadows; Linda Bridges; Craig Child  
L to R Front Row: Wendy Lucas; Ken Moore; **Birthday Boy Ron March**; Donna Wilson; Gary Scarbeau; Bev Joseph; Guy Montemurro. Photo by Glenn Lucas

Ron March turned 90 years young on Oct 23rd, 2017 and the occasion was celebrated in high style at Darts Club on Tuesday Oct 24th. We had delicious cupcakes baked by Linda Bridges and bubbly champagne supplied by Leslie and Jim Fielding. We even played a bit of darts after all the partying and well wishing was done. Ron is one of the original Dart members and rarely misses his Darts night out!

*Wendy Lucas*

## Bayshore Match Play Golf Champion

Every year, members of the Bayshore Men's Wednesday Golf group compete to determine the BVA Match Play Champion. A trophy to honour the best Bayshore resident in the annual tournament was contributed by Lillian Smigelski in honour of her late husband and our long-time golfing comrade, Ernie.

The competition consists of a preliminary round followed by elimination rounds in match play format. Eligible participants compete against each other, with the winner advancing to the next round.

Andy Benoit, a regular player who doesn't live in Bayshore, defeated Bob Plue in the championship match. Bob, as highest standing Bayshore member, is the 2017 recipient of the Ernie J. Smigelski memorial trophy.



Bob Plue is presented the Ernie J. Smigelski memorial trophy by last year's winner, Rick Indewey. Beside Bob is Andy Benoit, who won the final match.

## VON SMART



VON Participants L to R: Linda Bridges, Wendy Lucas, Nori Drysdale, Wendy Hurst, Angie Bedford, Kathi Kerr, Kristina Frise, Fern Kerr, Dawn Smith, Bev Grist, John Waldon, Sharon Miller.

*Photo by Glenn Lucas*

The VON Class enjoying their Christmas get-together after exercising at their last class before Christmas holidays.

VON SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) program offers gentle exercise to improve strength, balance and flexibility. We also use exercise bands and balls provided with great music, chatter and laughter.

Join us Fridays from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. starting up again Friday, January 5, 2018.

*Wendy Lucas*



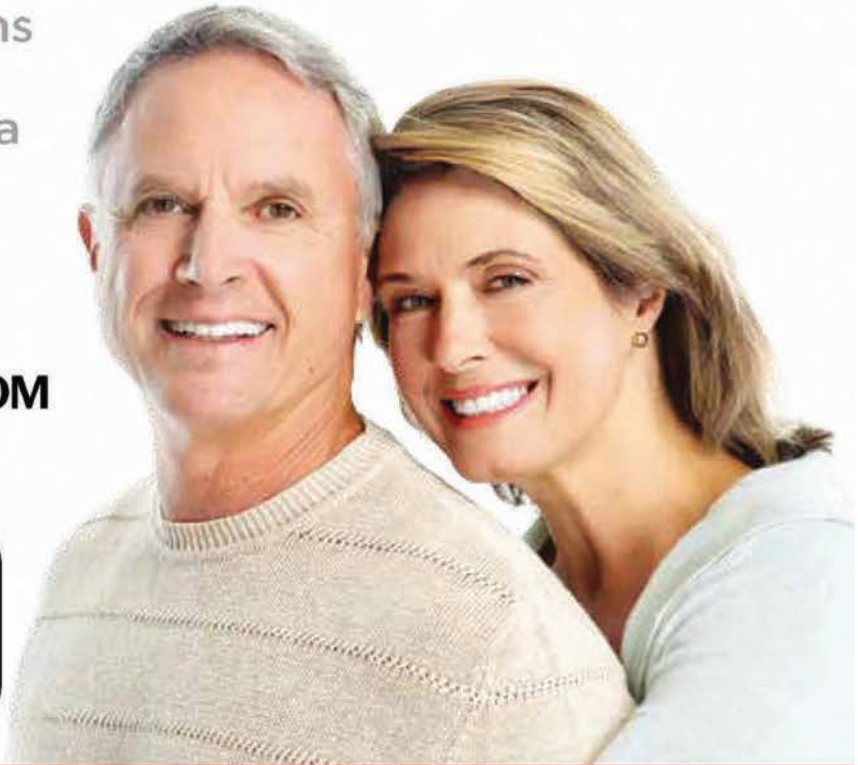


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## Ramara Ward 2 Councillor Marg Sharpe



Marg Sharpe  
Ramara Ward 2

You will receive your Tax payment forms in the mail as usual. Just note the July change, so you are not late making that June payment.

**2018 Budget** was discussed on November 22-23 2017 and was adopted as presented by Council.

Ramara Tax rate increase will be just over 1%. Our finances are looking better, but we still have a way to go.

**Due dates for 2018 Residential Property Tax payments:** Payments are due February 25, April 25, June 25, September 25.

*One residential tax payment due date, formerly July 25th, has been amended to June 25th.*

My duties as Township Councillor do not change. I will be kept informed of Simcoe County Agenda to ensure I am prepared in their absence.

If you have any concerns, questions relating to your roads/culverts/ditches any issue etc., please do not hesitate to contact me. If I don't have an immediate answer I will get it, and communicate back to you in a timely manner.

*Marg Sharpe*

Councillor Ward 2, Township of Ramara  
Council Liaison Works Department

[msharpe@ramara.ca](mailto:msharpe@ramara.ca)

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### Ramara Township Bayshore Effluent Spray Fields

No specific date has been issued yet for the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Review which is due in 2018/19. Once the review timing has been announced, Ramara Township will be ready to work to get the Spray fields recognized by the LSPP and allow the Township to replace the Spray Fields with the preferred Effluent Waste Management System.

The Township held a Special Meeting on November 24th with our MPP Patrick Brown to request his assistance with the Ministry. Ramara Engineers and Township Environmental Manager are putting together a report for MPP Brown on how the new System will affect phosphorous levels going into Lake Simcoe and the benefits of the new systems.

Ramara Environmental Manager will continue to research a System that will work to replace the Spray Fields for future use and growth.

Thank you to the Bayshore Village Association Board and members for all of their support on this very important issue.

### Bill 68: Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act 2016

Bill 68 has an impact on several pieces of legislation affecting municipalities, which are focused in three main areas: 1. Accountability and Transparency 2. Municipal Financial Sustainability 3. Responsible and Flexible Municipal Government

Staff will amend the Procedural Bylaw to reflect the changes of Bill 68 and Councillor Marg Sharpe has been appointed as an alternate member for Simcoe County Council.

The Clerk will prepare the necessary documents and create a public registry in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, effective April 2018.

I will serve in the absence of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor at the Simcoe County Council and its Committees. I will be required to be sworn into office and receive training by County Officials.

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## The Many Health Benefits of Apple Cider Vinegar

No doubt, you've seen them – lists touting the amazing curative power of apple cider vinegar for an amazing number of ills. "ACV" (as it's sometimes referred to in studies) has been praised for its ability to balance your good gut bacteria and help control your weight, as well as many other beneficial things.

Here's the kicker: All those are true, and more besides. One of the most sensational is its ability to balance your blood sugar. This is important and potentially life-changing news as reports indicate that half the country suffers from either high blood sugar or full-blown diabetes. Worse, half that number are unaware of how compromised their health really is.

Just as dramatic are the studies involving ACV's potential for controlling weight. The Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry reported a study on mice that were fed a high-fat diet along with the active ingredient in apple cider vinegar: acetic acid. What this reveals, researchers assert, is that acetic acid can "turn on" trigger genes that initiate the enzymes' ability to break down fat, which prevents weight gain. It also helps you feel full.

A study in Japan conducted a similar double-blind trial on obese adults, each with a similar body weight, waist measurement and body mass index (BMI), and split the subjects into three groups. For 12 weeks, members of one group drank half an ounce of ACV, one group had a beverage with 1 ounce of ACV and the third group had a drink with no ACV. When the study was over, those who drank the cider vinegar had significantly lower body weight and belly fat, smaller waist measurements and lower triglycerides compared to the others.

The scientists wrote: "In conclusion, daily intake of ACV might be useful in the prevention of metabolic syndrome by reducing obesity."

### Apple Cider Vinegar's Effects on Cancer Cells, Immune Support

Another thing apple cider vinegar provides is detoxification of your lymphatic system, which then helps optimize homeostatic function in your body. This may be because of the antioxidants in ACV reducing oxidative damage by free radicals, while improving both your blood and organs. The Truth About Cancer says: "Cider vinegar was recently determined to be a strong antimicrobial agent and alternative to toxic and expensive chemical disinfectants. One of the most fatal bacteria, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, is resistant to disinfectants but is found to be killed by acetic acid. Especially in patients who are immunosuppressed, apple cider vinegar is an excellent natural antimicrobial tonic to rid of harmful bacteria and provide immune support."

Several test tube studies show that vinegar can kill cancer cells. Authority Nutrition cites several studies; one in particular in Japan used several types of fermented vinegars to induce apoptosis (programmed cell death) in leukemia cells.

In another study, malignant breast and colon tumors, as well as lung, bladder and prostate cancers, were all inhibited using rice vinegar, but especially the cancerous colon tumors, which were inhibited by 62 percent.

### Vinegar Punch Recipes for Digestive Health and Sore Throat

If you've had problems such as colitis, ulcers or acid reflux (sometimes due to insufficient acid in your stomach), a double whammy of apple cider vinegar with the added bonus of fermented veggies has the potential to ease several kinds of stomach problems.

The mild acid in fermentation is lactic acid rather than acetic acid, to help improve your gut microbiome. Animal studies have proven helpful when researchers want to test apple cider vinegar on digestion. In one study, Health.com reports: "Apple cider vinegar may also be a boon to digestive health, based on the results of a study done on mice with ulcerative colitis. The researchers found that when acetic acid was added to their drinking water, they had higher levels of good bacteria in their guts, such as *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacteria*, and reduced symptoms of the gastrointestinal disease."



Steve Goulter

For everyday gut health, a mixture of two teaspoons of ACV with a teaspoon of raw honey in a cup of warm water will help. ACV with honey and ginger for a sore throat is a popular and effective remedy. Another mixture for sore throat, recommended by Bonnie K. McMillen, a nurse from the University of Pittsburgh, includes:

- 1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 tbsp. water
- 1 tbsp. raw honey
- ¼ tsp. ground ginger
- Optional: ¼ tsp. cayenne pepper

With this recipe, tiny sips every few hours or so and swallowing slowly for your throat to get the maximum contact of the mixture is recommended. It works! Rather than drinking ACV straight, for other applications, dilute it in a few teaspoons (or a cup) of water to help mask the flavor, which admittedly is a bit stringent.

A simple and yummy recipe to serve over broccoli, asparagus or salad greens includes: 1 tablespoon each of apple cider vinegar and lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon of minced garlic, a dash of ground black pepper and a few fresh basil leaves, chopped.

### ACV for Beauty, Health and a Few Other Things

Some people swear that drinking a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar straight up will get rid of hiccups. The conjecture is that it will "overstimulate" your nerve endings to sort of "shock" the hiccups out of your system. It's certainly worth a try!

Soaking a cloth in ACV and placing it on a bruise is said to reduce inflammation and speed the healing process.

It's no secret that vinegar is highly acidic, but it's this very element that gets several jobs done you may not have been aware of. Due to its potential to change your pH, such as in the case of dandruff and evening out dry, tired skin, it's been used for:

Bug bites	Toning your skin	Sunburn	Poison ivy
Acne	Wounds	Dandruff	Burns
Toenail fungus	Removing warts	Athlete's foot	Detox baths

Then there are the hints that maintain how useful this common household commodity is for cleaning and cooking. One little-known "hack" for any savory soup, from chili to veggie soup, is to add a tablespoon or two of vinegar to increase the brightness and overall flavor.

The acidity in apple cider vinegar is useful as a mouthwash and even to clean your toothbrush (and dentures) because of its antibacterial properties (soaked in a solution of one-half cup of water, 2 tablespoons of ACV and 2 teaspoons of baking soda).

Just remember though – that same acidity can damage your teeth, which one study refers to as "dental erosion," so in all these applications, diluting it with water is best. As opposed to using toxic weed killer, apple cider vinegar is another remedy for weeds, especially in cracks in your driveway or sidewalk.

So, there you have it – give Apple Cider Vinegar a try – my favorite brand is "Braggs."

This article has been condensed by Steve Goulter from a [www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) article.

Steve Goulter

*This article expresses the point of view of the author. Readers are encouraged to consult their health professional for a further opinion.*



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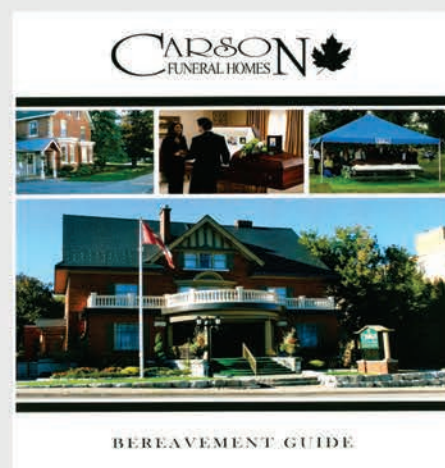


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## The History of Bayshore Village: How It All Began

*An earlier form of this article was published in the Banner in 2014. We offer it again because so many new people have come to Bayshore Village in recent years. The author and a current director have updated the article.*



Aerial photo of Bayshore Village taken around 1980. In the picture, you can follow the current route of Bayshore Drive, notice Lavender Court, Misty Court and Sandlewood Dr., Lantern Court, and Thicketwood Place leading down close to McGinnis Point. Park Lane is in centre foreground, and Southview Dr. (with its shoreline cottages that are not part of Bayshore Village) is barely visible near the top right. The first homes in Bayshore Village can be seen on Park Lane; the Hayloft is accessed by a circular driveway.

In 1838, Mara Township was opened for settlement. The early settlers hailed from Glengarry, near Ottawa, and directly from Ireland. In 1862, McGinnis Point was owned by Henry Van Sittart. The Point was named after Captain

McGinnis who operated one of the early steamboats on Lake Simcoe. In 1877, Austin O'Boyle was the recorded owner of the Point, which remained in the O'Boyle family until 1939. Two sisters, the last of the O'Boyle family, put the 200 acre farm with approximately five miles of shoreline up for sale, with an advertisement place in the Globe and Mail.

In response to that advertisement, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Brown flew from Winnipeg to Toronto. They borrowed a car and drove up to view the property and found that there was no road into the point. The nearest electric power was five miles away at Highway 12, and the arable land amounted to 80 acres while the remaining 200 acres consisted of bush and swamp.

There was a dilapidated two-storey farmhouse still standing. The barn had been built on cedar post, spanning a natural gully. The posts had rotted and the barn was sagging badly. However, the timbers were of hand-hewn ash and appeared to be in good condition. The Browns purchased the farm and hired Fred Johnson, formerly a construction foreman for Northern Manitoba, to develop a construction program to build a road into the property, a new farm house at 131 Bayshore Drive (now occupied by Walter and Sue Plumbohm), a garage and an implement shed, plus the rebuilding of the barn (now the Hayloft). Arrangements were made to build a power line from Uptergrove to the farm.

Starting in 1941, Mrs. Brown and their three children spent the summer holidays on the farm. Fred Johnson continued to look after the farm until 1944. In 1945, arrangements were made with an architect to design a house to be built on the Point. After the war-time restrictions were lifted, the house was completed in 1946. This house is now occupied by Harold Oswald and family.

As the nearest school was four miles away with no bus service, arrangements were made to operate a private school. The school had a qualified teacher; because it was inspected on a regular basis by the Mara School Board, the Brown children and their cousins were recognized as having proper student standing. The school operated until 1949.

Because of the recommendations to freeze development on certain parts of the Lake Simcoe shoreline, and because aerial pictures of McGinnis Point were used as an example, the Brown family put the Point property up for sale in 1973.

### THE VISION TAKES HOLD

The vision of Bayshore Village began with Gerry Meharg's discovery that McGinnis Point was for sale. He envisioned a lake side development and

after a brief survey brought Larry Doble, a builder and contractor to the Point to review the property. They formed a partnership and purchased the property in 1973, taking possession in 1974.

The planning began with Gerry and Eleanor Meharg modeling Bayshore Village after adult lifestyle communities that they had visited in Florida where retirement communities were growing in popularity.

### THE WORK BEGINS

The plan of subdivision was developed and submitted, lots registered, and covenants registered on each lot to ensure the developers' vision was respected.

What is now our Hayloft was a barn housing 200 pigs when first inspected by Meharg and Doble. It was cleaned; the entire interior was sandblasted; three inches of cement were poured in the top floor and the barn was renovated to become our community centre.

Roads were laid out; underground hydro, water and sewers were installed along with the sewage treatment ponds and effluent spraying on Side Road 20. Ponds were dug to provide fill for low parts of the Point.

Two harbours, 33 and 66, were dug; the fill was put to use in low-lying areas.

Four model homes were built and sales began. In 1981 lots sold for between \$21000 and \$61000 and a home could be purchased for \$80000.

Unfortunately for the partners, a combination of factors including economic downturns, slower than expected sales, taxes imposed by Ramara on unsold lots and interest rates spiking to 21% in 1981 led to Gerry Meharg relinquishing control to Doble. Subsequently, in 1983, Doble was forced to sell to POL, a group of developers and investors.

In 1988 POL transferred management and voting rights for Bayshore Village Development to the Bayshore Village Association, and BVA became a nonprofit corporation of our residents.



In 1989 POL assumed the obligations of the developer under the registered subdivision agreement with Mara Township. During this time Harbour 99 was started but never completed and it was left to deteriorate when in 1991 POL's loan was called by The Royal Bank. Mara was advised they would not be able to continue with Bayshore development as set out in the subdivision plan. Bank-owned lots were sold and some were controlled by UMA Engineering who had construction liens. Ownership of lots became very fragmented amongst investors, builders and banks.

Gradually since the early 90s, the lots have been sold off and custom-designed homes built, contributing to the unique character of Bayshore Village.

In 1999 a farsighted board purchased the current storage yard lots and the area of Eco Park from UMA Engineering. In return for forgiving unpaid dues, BVA took over these two areas.

The ponds in Bayshore have an interesting history but without going into a very confusing ownership history, it is sufficient to comment on the current situation. The many BVA boards over the past years have agreed that the ponds along with other BVA assets add an important aesthetic value and enhance our overall property values. Continued maintenance of all of these assets is critical for our current and future enjoyment and value.

By early 2000, the floating docks in Harbour 66 were deteriorating badly, as muskrats were eating the Styrofoam flotation and it was becoming waterlogged. The board approved expenditures to replace all docks and over a two- year period in 2005-2006, under the guidance of Paul Ash and his team, the steel wall and permanent docks were completed.

In 2010, planning started for the restoration of Harbour 99 as there were limited spaces for larger, deeper draft boats. Under the guidance of Stan Mathewson, it was learned that BVA could obtain a significant grant (\$50,000) from the government if we embarked on an environmentally-sensitive shoreline restoration as part of rebuilding Harbour 99. The board approved the plan and work started in 2011. The results speak for themselves. Bayshore was awarded the 2012 Water Conservation Award by Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority for shoreline stabilization to reduce erosion and nutrient loading. Incorporated into the restoration were a dozen shaded gravel spawning beds at the base of the sloping granite shoreline. In 2013, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and BVA volunteers planted native shrubs along the shores of both Harbours 66 and 99 to assist in shoreline stabilization. In 2015 and 2016 improvements continued in the Harbours with three new 30-foot finger docks in 99, and repairs to docks in both 33 and 66. In the Fall of 2017, and thanks to volunteers Jim Bruce and Pat Murphy, the electrical panel in Harbour 66 was enclosed.

The much-anticipated dredging of Harbour 33 was completed under the direction of Harbour Director Bill Pike, thus allowing access to the harbour for deeper-draft boats.

Over the past five years there have been significant improvements in our Hayloft. In 2009 a handicap washroom was added on the ground floor, followed in 2010 with the removal of the fireplace from the Great Room, which could no longer be used due to fire regulations. Later in 2010, the upstairs kitchen was renovated and the floor was raised to eliminate a dangerous step down. In the spring of 2011, the deck overlooking the golf course was replaced, allowing us to use it as an upper level patio. A sprinkler system was added in 2011 at the insistence of our insurance company. In 2012,

the much anticipated elevator was added to provide access to the upper level for all members requiring this assistance. With the completion of an additional stairway from the upper level deck and new flooring for the Great Room, the Hayloft is a community centre that Bayshore can be proud of. Most of this planning and implementation was spearheaded by Ron Thompson. Improvements continued under Doug Davies' direction in our Hayloft with new cabinets, counters and flooring in the downstairs kitchen, and installation of air conditioning in the party room. The pool was converted to salt water for easier maintenance, and repainted. The tennis courts were resurfaced and repainted to accommodate both tennis and pickleball.

Don Lawrie, an original Bayshore member who passed away in 2014 after 38 years in Bayshore, provided the early history from an interview with Mr. and Mrs. Brown in the summer of 1983. Eldon Brown made the comment, "Meharg and Doble did a darn good job of it. We enjoyed many years on the point and now many more will get pleasure and enjoyment living here."

On a personal note, Liz and I had been searching for a place to eventually retire and we looked from Parry Sound to Port Perry only to stumble on Bayshore through an internet advertisement posted by Greg Finucan. Imagine the shock Gerry Meharg had when his nephew told him that he had discovered this wonderful development, Bayshore Village. Gerry came back to Bayshore Village in 1999 with us and helped Liz and me choose our lot, and he came back a number of times four years later as our home was built. He is delighted that his vision has turned out exactly as he had planned.

We are blessed to be able to live in our "unique waterfront community" and share it with family, friends and neighbours.

Hope you enjoyed the history.

*Dave Meharg*



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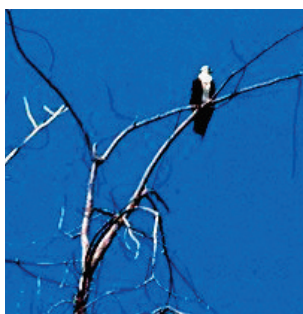
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## The Bald Eagles of Barnstable Bay



Eagle photo by former resident  
Peter Manwaring

One of the main attractions that brought us to Bayshore Village was the prospect of living on Lake Simcoe. Little did we know at that time that we would find ourselves on one of the most ecologically diverse areas of the lake, specifically Barnstable Bay. It took a year of observations after moving in to our new home to discover and truly appreciate how our wildlife friends manage to survive and, most interestingly, engage with each other in the process.

It was in the spring of 2015 when we first realized that we had the privilege of observing a pair of resident bald eagles constructing their nest high in a tree on the island across the bay from our home. The fun part was watching them retrieve branches for the construction. Never picking them from the ground, they would fly up to a branch from underneath, grip and then drop their weight. The majority of the time, the branch would snap and they would catch themselves in flight and swoop up to continue on back to the nest, purposely placing and continually rearranging everything to their satisfaction. Lining for the nest was mainly gathered from several of the numerous muskrat mounds in the various reed patches. The eagles would stand on the mound and continuously grip and pull up on the dried vegetation until a good accumulation was arranged, then with a good grip of both feet they would haul a mass across the bay to the nest.

It was only then that I started to research the mighty bald eagle and discovered by observation that, as majestic a bird of prey as they are renowned to be, they are actually nothing more than a glorified seagull. They do not hunt and kill their own food. They are a scavenger falling between the herring gull and a turkey vulture.

### The circle of life

Let's start with the spring – March – and the ice is starting to break up. First to appear in the open water are the merganser ducks who are quick to forage on the abundant bait fish prolific in Barnstable Bay – shiners and perch. Where you have a number of fish ducks like our merganser, alongside them are the gulls, and watching from his perch tree is the bald eagle.

So here's how it goes: The mergansers, working as a team, follow and dive to catch the forage fish. When they catch one of a significant size, they need to surface to position their prize in a head first position for an easy swallow.

In comes the gull. Hovering a few feet above the surface, he immediately attacks the duck to startle it in hopes that it will let go of the fat little fish. Then, in a flash, the gull retrieves the fish and takes to flight with its prize.

In order to consume the fish, the gull will carry it to the edge of the ice flow so it can grip it under its feet and, with a sharp beak, proceed to consume the meal. This is exactly what the eagle has been waiting for. At more than twice the size of the gull, the eagle leaves its perch and attacks the seagull who, without question, abandons the meal and flees for safety. The mighty eagle merely swoops to a landing to claim the meal. What a bully!

And so the saga continues. Soon after the ice has fully vanished the ospreys arrive. Again, an osprey is about half the size of the bald eagle but a true hunter. It is not uncommon to observe as many as eight osprey flying around Barnstable Bay in search of visible fish in the shallow water. Osprey can dive about three feet, hitting the water with their talons spread in front their face to lance into an unsuspecting fish. Once clasped, the bird surfaces and takes flight. But on many occasions the fish caught is heavy, and the osprey has difficulty getting it off the water. Again, just what the eagle has been waiting for! The bald eagle leaves its perch to pursue the osprey laden with a heavy fish, constantly and with much persistence pestering it until the fish

is dropped. The eagle swoops around and picks up his prize.

This drama unfolds daily through the summer until the fall when the ospreys leave the area on their migration south. In the meantime there are plenty of cormorants fishing in the bay and the typical pattern sets up again. A cormorant surfaces with a fish clamped in its beak, the always-present seagull attacks, and finally the bald eagle swoops in for the steal. As the winter arrives, the cormorants start to dissipate and the mergansers return.

After the ice is well established, the real fun begins with the appearance of the river otters that feed in the bay. How they find open pockets in the ice is a mystery to me but they just appear. Popping up in totally unexpected places. River otters are by far the most efficient at catching fish. It seems mere seconds after diving that they return to the surface of the ice with their 'catch' and enjoy their meal – that is, if the eagle does not want it. Commonly the bald eagle will swoop down on the otter from behind, startling him. The otter abandons the fish and disappears through the hole in the ice to the safety of the water. The eagle has scavenged another meal and still has not had to kill a thing for itself. Sometimes the scavenger is not so brazen and will be content to land on the ice, usually about 10 feet from the otter and is content to wait for the otter to finish his share, after which the eagle walks over to clean up the scraps.

*Des Barnes*



## Happy Valentine's Day



At the suggestion of Jill Pignatelli, *The Banner* plans to have a seasonal recipe corner in every future issue. This time, we feature a recipe that will make your Valentine's Day celebration even happier.

### EASY RASPBERRY-GANACHE TARTS

- 1 pkg Betty Crocker cookie mix
  - 1 cup chocolate chips (dark)
  - ¾ cup whipping cream
  - 32 fresh raspberries
- (makes 32 tarts)



#### Cookie Cups:

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spray 32 mini muffin tins with cooking spray
2. Make cookie dough as directed. Scoop a tablespoon of dough into each cup.
3. Bake 8 minutes. Using back of spoon, press dough into each cup. Bake 3 more minutes. Press dough again with spoon. (Cups will hold shape after second pressing.) Bake 5 minutes more.
4. Cool completely on rack.

#### Ganache:

In large microwaveable measuring cup, mix chocolate and cream on High for 30 second intervals, stirring between each, until smooth.

Spoon into cookie cups; top each with a raspberry. Refrigerate about 30 minutes to set. Store covered in refrigerator.

This recipe is not found in the "Best of Bayshore" cookbook, but there is a recipe on page 118 for "Barbara's Low-Fat Chocolate Éclair Cake" that might be just as special. Some copies of the Bayshore cookbook, published in 2016, are still available for \$10; contact Dee MacLeod at the Hayloft Office 484-0754.



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## Travel Tales: Valloria

In August 2008 Jim and I rented a beautiful old farmhouse in the municipality of Dolcedo, Italy for a family celebration. That's when we came upon this unique village of Valloria (in the region of Liguria, northeast of the Riviera). It has developed into an extraordinary open-air museum of fascinating and interesting paintings. Each year many different artists are again invited, and they redesign the doors in Valloria in complete artistic freedom.

Nobody knows exactly who initiated the idea about this practice. However it has grown today into an annual tradition, which generally takes place on the first weekend of July. Because of that Valloria has managed to get into the group of artistically organized villages.

The residents of Valloria are very upright and hospitable. This is reflected time and again on the first weekend in July and August. On those days the legendary summer feasts take place in the village. The feasts are under the Motto "A Valloria fai baldoria" this means fig-

uratively, that there is a lot of celebration there.

The two functions are, among other things, also organized along gastronomical lines. Ligurian delicacies abound in plenty. There is always something for every taste. Subsequently people dance together with great joy and make friends. This is something people are always eager to return to!

Dolcedo municipality is comprised of several divisions one of which is the village of Valloria. The name of the place is derived from "Vallis Aurea", which translates as the "valley of wind" or "valley of gold". Gold in this case stands for olives. This is one of the main economic activities in the Ligurian region.

*Astrid Bruce*

Photos show a street scene (with a few doorways) and a couple of the painted doors of Valloria.



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## Travel Tales: Cruise the Baltic Sea



If you enjoy cruises, and would like to visit a part of the world that perhaps you've never seen before, you might be interested to hear about the summertime cruise we took on the Baltic Sea (Princess Lines) a few years ago.

The 11-day cruise began in Copenhagen and sailed to major cities in Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, and Poland before returning to Scandinavia at Oslo, and finally back to Copenhagen. Land tours in every city came at extra cost, but we figured we should go for the whole enchilada since we might never be back there again, and we're glad we did.

We arrived in Copenhagen a couple of days before sailing, and stayed in a hotel room that was about three feet wider than the bed; wash-room facilities down the hall were shared with several other rooms. Cost was only \$300/night, inexpensive compared to what others paid in that city.

Using a two-day bus pass that enabled us to go anywhere in the city, we visited some major sights, including Tivoli Gardens, which is an amusement park with outdoor concert venues, restaurant centre, and horticultural display all packed into one large downtown area.

Once the cruise began, the port of Stockholm was too small for our ship, so we came ashore at a suburban port using tenders, and took a bus tour of the city from there. Stockholm's city hall is the site of Nobel prize presentation ceremonies every year. In all the cities we visited, one feels surrounded by history that is measured in many more centuries than what we are familiar with in post-colonial North America.



Jean Sibelius is a renowned Finnish composer who came to fame in the early 20th century, and died as recently as 1957 at the age of 92. One of his most famous works is *Finlandia*, which portrays the struggle of his people to stay free in the face of their dominant neighbour Russia. Sibelius and his wife Aino lived outside Helsinki in a home that is open to visitors. In its living room, over the piano, is a moving painting showing the death of a child – a fate that Sibelius and his wife suffered when one of their six daughters died of typhoid at an early age. One can only imagine what effect the painting would have on Sibelius' music as he sat at his piano and composed his concertos. Our tour of Helsinki and environs included the important sights of the city, plus a visit to the rural homes of Sibelius and another Finnish artist, whose lakeside studio reminded me of the scenery of Muskoka.

The two full-day tours of St. Petersburg were quite expensive, and had a little smell of mystery, as Russia was the only country on the tour that required us to go through ominous long lineups to have our visas inspected before we could leave the ship. In the city, we got the whole story of the mad monk Rasputin, at the very place where he was poisoned and shot... and still didn't die.

We also attended a performance of *Swan Lake* at a ballet theatre in St. Petersburg. My ballet aficionado bride was quite critical of the production, but most of us tourists thought we had witnessed a cultural event.

Outside the city, the summer palace of the czars was built in the 18th century to rival Versailles, and doubtless provided motivation for



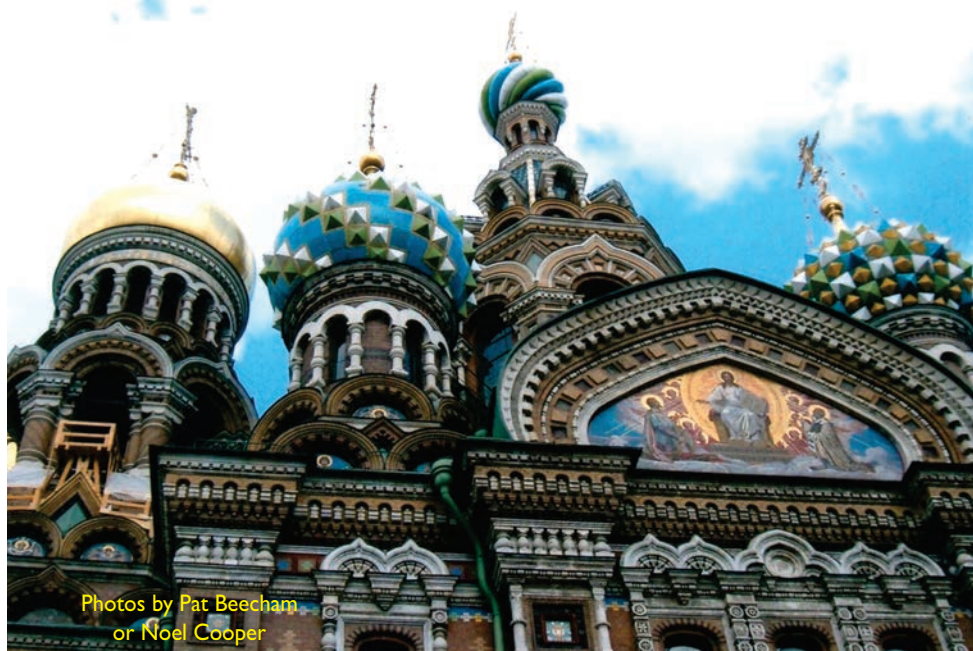
Top photo: Part of the gardens at the czars' summer palace outside St. Petersburg. Makes you wonder why the Russian Revolution didn't happen sooner.

Above: Sibelius' living room with piano and painting;

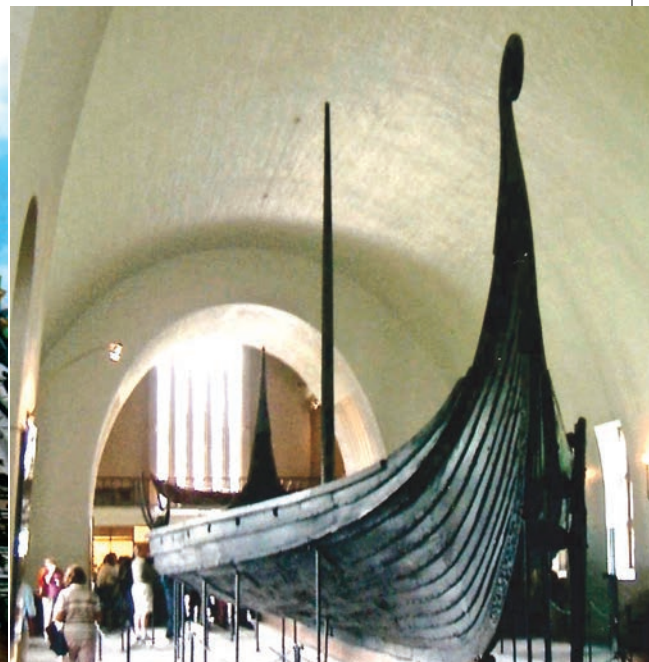
The Little Mermaid in Copenhagen harbour.

Next page: Church of the Spilled Blood in St. Petersburg where Czar Alexander II was assassinated; Viking museum.





Photos by Pat Beecham  
or Noel Cooper



the Russian revolution in 1917. We had a leisurely tour of those rural grounds, but when we got to the heart of the city and entered the czars' Winter Palace, now a famed art gallery known as the Hermitage, our group was a small part of the 30,000 daily visitors (!), herded quickly from one room to another. "Through that door is the Rembrandt room. No time. Keep moving." Except for those minutes, St. Petersburg was memorable.

Tallin, Estonia, was a window on the war and politics of the 20th century, and now the 21st, as the citizens of the Baltic states strive to pursue their national freedom. Gdansk, Poland (known as Danzig in German) gave us another perspective on war, communism, capitalism and poverty.

Finally, Oslo offered a great variety of interesting sights: the Viking museum had well-preserved ships and carvings; Norway's World War II

museum offers memories that are very different from ours; hundreds of statues in a remarkable sculpture garden depict family life, the seasons, and the cycle of life. Norway is proudly independent, and though it belongs to the UN and NATO, it has never been a member of the European Union. As a result of Norway's go-it-alone semi-socialist economy, prices are very high despite major oil discoveries in the 1960s. We enjoyed further travel in Norway after our cruise was over, but that may be the topic of a future travel article.

I'm not a useful commentator about cruise amenities, but I was happy with life and food on board the ship. For us, though, the best part of our cruise was what we saw when we were off the ship.

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## Bridge News

Here are the results of the bridge scores from October 30 - December 27, 2017:

**GENERAL BRIDGE:** This group meets on Monday nights in the card room from April till the end of November at 7:00 p.m.

Highest score was by Dave McVie with 5720 pts, then Fran McVie with 5440 points and in third place was Noel Cooper with 5050 points. Congratulations Dave, for your big win!

**LADIES' BRIDGE:** The ladies play in the Great Room on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm, from April to the end of November.

Highest score was achieved by Fran McVie with 6450 points, followed by Pat Beecham-Cooper with 5280 points and in third place, Fran McVie (again!!) with 5160 points. Honorable mention to Patti Rigby-Norris who came fourth with 4730 points – her first win with the ladies!

**COMBINED BRIDGE:** During the winter months, due to decreasing numbers as the Snowbirds flee the cold, the two groups are combined and play on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 in the Great Room from December to the end of March.

Results for the combined bridge are: Highest score: Claudette Smith with 6460 points; in second place is Karen Jones with 4930 points, and the third highest winner was Catherine Downie with 4460. This is Catherine's first victory.

**MEN'S BRIDGE:** The men play on Thursday mornings. Newsworthy scores include a grand slam by Ken Jones and Rick Tarullo. The final bid by Ken jumped from 3 diamonds to 7 NT– bid and made! On December 21, Lloyd Lockhart's total score was 7670. The following week, he surpassed that record by scoring 8230. Of course, he went home with first place money both weeks.


Congratulations to all. General Bridge meets on Monday nights in the Card Room at 7:00 p.m. Ladies Bridge meet in the Great Room on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. From Dec. to March the Combined Bridge plays in the Ladies' time slot on Wednesday. All are welcome. If you would like to join us, please contact Pat Beecham-Cooper at 705 484-0221. Both groups are very friendly and welcoming.

If you would like to learn to play bridge, or brush up on the latest conventions, Pat Beecham-Cooper will be giving bridge lessons in the Great Room on Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Contact her to make arrangements.

Both Patti and Catherine are new players, and have been taking part in the bridge lessons on Friday mornings. Congratulations to both of them for achieving such good scores!

Congratulations to all players for contributing to such enjoyable outings!

*Pat Beecham-Cooper*



*Watercolours  
by Patricia Beecham*

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We are particularly hoping that more crafters, woodworkers and authors will take part along with our wonderful visual artists.

If you would like to take part in the show, please contact Pat Beecham-Cooper at 705 484-0221, or at [beecoop@cottagecountry.net](mailto:beecoop@cottagecountry.net) for further information.

If you know of residents in the Village who you think should be showing their work, please encourage them to take part.

In the meantime, get busy and let your creative juices flow!

I'm waiting to hear from you!

*Pat Beecham-Cooper*



Photo by Laurel Dewar



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## Task Force Afghanistan – Operation Athena



They told me it'd be the adventure of a lifetime. And they were right. "They" being the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA), for whom I was working at the time as General Manager of two golf courses at Camp Borden. (Yes, the military owns 15 golf courses across Canada...who knew?) The CFPSA's motto is "Serving those who serve," with their goal being to provide welfare and morale services to our military members throughout the world. All military bases have a variety of services that are managed by civilians hired by the CFPSA.

The military base at Kandahar Afghanistan was no exception and it had approximately 90 civilians staffing the various amenities offered to our soldiers. Support for the base was funneled through Camp Mirage which was located at the Al Minhad Air Force base in the United Emirates just outside of Dubai in the desert. Between the two, some 2,500 soldiers were channeled back and forth to Canada every six months.

Ten years ago I volunteered for a six-month tour of duty with Task Force Afghanistan and was offered the position of Site Manager at Camp Mirage which was home to some 600 soldiers and 11 civilians. The job would require me to fly into Kandahar on a regular basis to meet and discuss operational strategies with military personnel. I accepted and was eager to get going.

Prior to deployment, we completed two weeks of training in Kingston. There they taught us things like getting yourself out of a mine field, proper fitting of gas masks and flak jackets, procedures to protect yourself during rocket attacks, and how to integrate with the locals. In between there was an endless session of vaccinations and medical examinations including a facial x-ray to provide surgeons with information should "reconstruction" be necessary. That thought certainly raised our eyebrows!

Next we ended up in Ottawa for a week being briefed on military administrative procedures and

how they would interact with our civilian duties and responsibilities. Simply put, there was "our way," (which didn't matter) and "their way," (which was carved in stone). At least you knew exactly what was required of you. And most of all, they emphasized the three most important words... "Chain of Command."

When I arrived, it didn't take long for reality to kick in. Staring down a barrel of a 50 mm gun at check points, sitting in bunkers during rocket attacks, vehicles being searched for explosives, drones, jets and helicopters continuously circling up above, dust, dirt, smell, and the heat...my God it was hot! And the mother of all... the repatriation ceremonies for the soldiers killed in action. There were 13 of them during my six months. My first one was the day after I arrived.

That being said, the job itself was very rewarding. A great deal of my time required regular dealings with local businessmen, suppliers, and LEPs (Local Employed Persons). It was a very interesting culture to deal with, and it opened my eyes to how trivial some of our western world problems really are. I enjoyed meeting the people, eating their food, learning their customs and traditions etc. (I once accidentally stepped on a prayer rug... THAT would have likely cost my head in the old days!!)

I like to think that our time there made a difference to the people of Afghanistan. Building and repairing roads, bridges, schools, and community buildings will certainly help them, but their way of life will hopefully improve as well. Many of those I dealt with seemed to understand and recognize that treating others with dignity and respect is the right thing to do. There was plenty about their culture I didn't understand or agree with, but it made me appreciate their perspective of our Western culture. I found it amusing to see Arabs dressed in traditional robes yet wearing Nike running shoes in place of sandals. Working and living amongst them provided a two-way street to learn about each other and I for one came away a wiser man.

My six month deployment went by quickly, with each day having brought a new challenge to deal with. Prior to leaving I was presented with the Canadian General Service Medal which was a great honor and made me feel proud to have contributed to the efforts of our troops.

I think everyone that ever took part in Task Force Afghanistan asks themselves if our efforts made a difference. I'm convinced they have, but I guess only time will tell.

*Gunther Gratzner, CFM, IFC*



Photos, top to bottom: The crew at Camp Mirage; Gunther Gratzner with Bob Treithart at the main crossroads in Camp Mirage, which is a long way from everywhere, it seems. Staff quarters at Camp Mirage; "the wire" around the camp; Lt-Col Mulclair presents the Canadian General Service Medal to Gunther.





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## The White Squirrels of Bayshore



Photo by Donna Sverdrup

New residents in Bayshore and the many visitors who come to our village are often surprised to see a number of white squirrels that frequent our yards and parks in the area. While some of these squirrels are albino (having pink eyes), many are not. The others are called white morphs. This is a different genetic aberration; it

is a very rare naturally-occurring trait of eastern grey squirrels. The result is called Leucism, which is a condition in which there is a partial loss of pigmentation resulting in white, pale or patchy colouration of the fur or hair but not the eyes.

Small populations of white squirrels are found all over North America and we have a healthy population of grey, black and white squirrels right here in Bayshore. Several beautiful greys can be found with white chests, paws or even white ear tufts frequenting the bird feeders on our peninsula.

It is an interesting phenomenon, and we are privileged to enjoy the company of these squirrels in Bayshore.

In Exeter ON, white squirrels have become the town's mascots. The population appears to be fairly abundant. The town decorates their garbage cans, lampposts and some retail stores on the main St. with white squirrel motifs. This has even become a tourist draw for visitors to the area.

There are some who believe that the population of white squirrels is increasing. In the United States some towns have trapped black and grey squirrels to promote more white ones.

While the white variation should make these squirrels more at risk from predators it doesn't seem to be a huge factor. However I have observed one being carried away in the mouth of a red fox in the early morning hours of a summer day in 2016. The other squirrels seem to accept them as their own and squirrels of many colours can be seen under bird feeders competing for the seed that has fallen. It is humorous to watch them chase each other away from the food only to have another slip in behind and eat to its hearts content!

Yes, we in Bayshore are fortunate to enjoy the wildlife around us in such a beautiful setting. It is a pleasure to watch the white squirrels in their daily tasks, along with the other animals that we share this rural environment with in all seasons of the year.

Keep your eyes on the lookout!! There could be a white squirrel out in your yard right now. And if your timing is right you just might get a picture to prove that you really saw one!

Marilyn Goulter

## Ramara Speaks Her Mind

My mother, to put it succinctly, was, in one word, gorgeous. There is no other way to describe her lovely self. Any one who knew her recognized her ultimate beauty. To top this off, she harbored a singular inner grace, a virtuous character, prized among all.

How well I remember her sweet warmth. Whenever my siblings and I needed her (there were nine of us) she hurried to shelter us. We fought for her attention, which we needn't have done since she loved us all equally. There is no other love ever so comforting.

However, as gratifying as this life's beginning sounds, it didn't last long. As we grew into playful little beings, one by one we were wrenched from our loving family by strangers who had their weird criteria. Which one of us was stronger? bigger? cuter? longer haired? So... one by one... I lost my sisters and brothers. My mother had no say in this catastrophe.

It seems I lacked the appeal of my sisters and brothers, so I was left behind, which might at first glance appear to be unfortunate. It wasn't. I had that radiant maternal affection all to myself. Of course, just like all mothers' children, I wanted to know my history. How did she meet my father? Was it a love affair like no other? And where did he come from? Some exotic place I'd never heard of?

Well... my mother preferred to change the subject whenever I broached this topic. Instead of relating individual personal detail, she chose to interest me in a more general history of cat ancestry. Unbelievably, to me anyway, she had retained some cat lore passed along through generations. Since we had this gift of extra time together, she passed her surprisingly quite extended knowledge along to me.

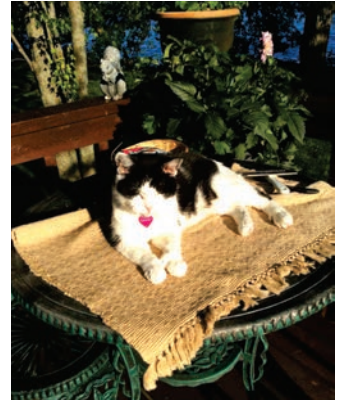
"All domestic cats," my mother declared, "descended from a Middle Eastern wildcat, *Felix Sylvestris*, which literally means 'cat of the woods.' We cats were first domesticated in the Near East. And this happened," she related, "about twelve thousand years ago." "You don't say," I said. I had never seen this serious side of her.

She continued. "In ancient Egypt, people revered cats. In fact to be convicted of killing a cat could mean a death sentence for the offender." "As it should be," I remarked while nodding my head solemnly. A sense of affirmation, of distinction stirred in me. Wow. My mother not only had beauty, she had brains! We were probably descendants of a pair of inhabitants of that famously destroyed library in Cairo! Who knew?

There was a downside to this lore, though. She told me that in Europe in the Middle Ages people associated cats with evil. We were witches' familiars. I purposely did not pay much attention to this part of our history. Too gory. After a long thoughtful pause I asked my mom, "Sooooo, how on earth did we get here? In North America?"

"Well," she hesitated. "The only way was on the explorers' ships from Europe. My great grandmother had been told that a couple cats came over with Christopher Columbus. They were charged with keeping the rat population down on the ships." "I bet they were real cool cats!" I remarked. I looked over to see and hear my mother's response. She was asleep. She had put herself asleep with her own history lecture. I hope with all my might, dear reader, that this story of mine did not have the same soporific effect on you. Are you still awake?

Yours, Ramara  
(as told to Gail Carter)





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Happy 2018! We hope this year will be great to you and that perhaps the library will be a part of your New Year's Resolution! Programming will kick off in February, so be sure to keep an eye out for our NEW winter newsletter in your mailbox.

For the winter months try out our HYGGE corner, the popular Danish lifestyle! Melt away the winter stress by enjoying a coffee with other patrons, put together our puzzle, do a crossword or Sudoku, or relax in our cozy armchairs. Drop by the Atherley branch to see what we are talking about!

During the months of January & February, your library is accepting gently used winter clothing (coats, snow pants, boots, accessories etc.) to be on display for others in our community to take!

Our Ramara Quilting Club and Fibre Friends are back in action in January. If you are an avid quilter, or a crafter with a project to finish, why not consider joining either of these groups? Contact us for more information on these wonderful programs.

Received a great eReader or tablet from your family to access those handy eBooks but don't know where to start? Book a librarian to teach you the basics! Call 705-325-5776 to make an appointment.

To register for the above-mentioned programs, please call or register on our website. Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter (including new fiction and movies)! Memberships are FREE and allow access to materials and computers in both branches, including eBooks! As always, your library card is available for use at BOTH our Brechin and Atherley branches and is your passport to FREE education, information and recreation!

*Rebecca Taylor*

## In Our Extended Community

### Report from Ramara Trails Committee



The multi-use trail will follow the old railway berms for part of its route

There has been a lot of good news regarding the work accomplished by this committee enthusiastically chaired by Larry Barton and fully supported by Ramara Township Council.

As highlighted in a former article, the committee has been focusing its work on developing a multi-use trail between Lagoon City and the 7th concession of Ramara Township.

Since that last article, the committee with Council's assistance, has had discussions regarding land usage with the rail bed landowners resulting in a 5 year lease agreement for a major portion of the trail, has secured a permit from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) to do work on a large part of the rail bed and has been successful in obtaining funding for future work. The committee had applied for a Trillium Grant of \$60,000 in order to have a feasibility and nature study completed on the proposed trail. This grant was awarded and the firm of Skelton Brumwell and Associates has been hired to do this as well as the Natural Heritage Study as required by the LSRCA.

Part of their study includes a survey to Ramara Township residents asking about your preferences for the trail. Please type the following link into your browser <https://tinyurl.com/yb8uzux6> and complete the survey. It will only take a couple of minutes.

In October, the committee approached Ramara Township Council for \$10,000 to be included in the 2018 budget and this was passed. There are plans to apply for a matching grant from Simcoe County. Lastly, the committee had submitted a proposal for \$25,000 from the Municipal Commuter Cycling Program and news was just received that we were successful in having this granted.

Thus, for 2018, we are in a good position to do a fair amount of work on the trail. There was work completed in the fall which included the replacement of one of the bridges which was done by volunteers, brushing along the rail bed, and the purchase of some materials such as culverts and screening needed for work in 2018.

Bayshore residents will be pleased to know that hiking, biking, and snowmobile trails will be so close for our enjoyment with most of the work financed through grants and work done by volunteers.

*submitted by Arlena Hutchison*

### 5 Canadian Challenges



1. Feeling the need to apologize when other people bump into you.
2. Trying to text with gloves on.
3. Waiting forever for geese to waddle slowly across the street.
4. Spellcheck changing all your 'ou' words to 'o' because our neighbours can't spell.
5. "This video is not available in your country."

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