

# **SOUTHAMPTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**PO Box 1081 Southampton ON N0H 2L0 Email: [www.southamptonontario.org](http://www.southamptonontario.org)**

## **ENSURING TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT WISELY FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE TOWN**

### **SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

What a wonderful summer we had in Southampton. We hope you all enjoyed time with friends and family. Now everyone is planning fall and winter activities and we thought it would be a good time to cover some of the issues and happenings before us. The SRA has been working on a number of the priorities set out earlier this year. Firstly a reminder to those who have been too busy to renew their membership. **PLEASE FILL IN THE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM AND MAIL IN YOUR CHEQUE.** Forms are online or contact one of the board members. We can't provide cottage patrol to those who want it if you don't renew.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The meeting held on July 17 was well attended and allowed a good interchange of information and ideas. Mayor Mike Smith, Deputy Mayor Doug Frieburger, and five councilors attended. The minutes of the AGM are on the SRA website and key aspects are updated in this newsletter. Three new board members, Wayne MacDonald, Warren Melrose and John Wolfe were elected as well as three returning members. Your Board now consists of:

President	Ken Robertson		
Past President	Rod McLeod	Tim Andersen	George Calder
Vice President	Mike Stirling	Don Dal Bianco	Ann Marie Harding
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Larry Leonard	Jane Kramer	Wayne MacDonald
Treasurer	Ken Harlock	Bruce Martin	Warren Melrose
Secretary	Jim Henning	John Wolfe	

### **Municipal Elections**

Nominations closed on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the final list is released September 16<sup>th</sup>. Election Day is October 25<sup>th</sup> and as previously you can vote in person or by mail. Thead Seaman and Dianne Huber in Southampton will be opposed by Sunny Cushnie but Marcel Legault and Fred Schildroth are unopposed in Port Elgin. There will be a three way race for the two positions in Saugeen between Taun Frosst, Cindy Cartwright and Gary Brown. Luke Carbonneau is challenging Doug Freiburger for Deputy Major and Mike Smith will face off with Victoria Serda for Mayor. Doug Gowanlock for Vice Deputy Mayor is currently unopposed. The Chamber will be holding an All Candidates Night on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The SRA is planning to hold one for the Southampton candidates on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Southampton Hospital Emergency Room**

The SRA Board and Ken Robertson in particular have been lobbying all levels of Government, the L.H.I.N. and the Hospital administration to ensure 24/7 Emergency Service continues at the Southampton Hospital. The next deadline is the end of September to find a satisfactory solution. Despite hiring some new doctors, coverage at nights and weekend remains difficult and expensive if locums have to be brought in from Health Force Ontario. The Doctor Recruitment Group is working desperately to hire additional emergency doctors for Southampton and Port Elgin. Bruce Power is providing funding over two years to support this effort. The Ontario Health Coalition raised the possibility that the Province could convert Emergency Rooms to Urgent Care Centres in smaller communities, northern centres and rural areas as was done in the Niagara Region. The SRA supports the position taken by the Ontario Health Coalition that closing the **Emergency Rooms in rural Ontario Hospitals will cost lives**. Closures or conversion to Urgent Care Centres will mean more people will have to travel further for emergency care. “The Golden Hour”, (life saving time frame) will be compromised. Urgent Care Centres do not accept ambulances or critically ill patients and we are opposed to any Provincial Ministry of Health or Grey Bruce Health Services proposal to convert the ER to an Urgent Care centre.

### **Emergency Rooms Treat:**

Chest pain  
Shortness of breath  
Severe abdominal pain  
Dizziness  
Sudden, severe headaches, vision problems, sudden weakness, numbness and/or tingling in the face, arm or leg, trouble speaking, or dizziness (stroke symptoms)  
Numbness in your arms or hands  
Major injuries  
Mental health issues

### **Urgent Care Centres Treat:**

Broken bones, sprains, sports injuries  
Cuts that may need stitches  
Minor burns  
Minor pain, (nausea, vomiting, flu)  
Ear, nose and throat problems  
Coughs and colds  
Eye problems

The Urgent Care Centres would not treat any of the life threatening situations where rapid medical care is vitally needed, such as stroke, heart attack, need for stabilizing before emergency operation or serious car accidents. This rapid response cannot be handled by paramedics in ambulances because the majority are not qualified or permitted to do so. This requires a level three paramedic and there are very few of them across Ontario.

Rest assured that we are following this developing story closely and will try and add more details as they become available.

## **Beach and Dunes**

One of the key priorities for 2010/2011 is the maintenance of our pristine beaches. This includes water quality, protecting the dunes, development of a Dune Management Policy and supporting By-law enforcement on our beaches. A sub-committee including some residents along the waterfront has met several times to establish priorities in different parts of the beach and what actions should be taken. The beach front breaks down naturally into four sections with varying needs and problems – the Main

Southampton Beach, Chantry View Rd to Gerry's Fries and Gerry's Fries to the South Beach, including the dunes in front of Harmer St. The North Shore has also been added as items need attention there. The main issues are:

1. **Main Beach – High St to Gerry's Fries**

- Remove weeds, secondary scrub growth within the roped perimeter and all growth beyond roped perimeters in existing plots and a protocol for maintaining all of the above and height;
- Assessment of the wisdom and acceptability of planting beach grass between the existing plots with the same maintenance and height restriction protocol as above;
- Informed consultation with directly affected residents on all issues.

2. **Gerry's Fries to Bay St (Includes Harmer Street)**

- Preserve but clean the natural dunes and beach grass and reopen the pathways the Town created several years ago but has not maintained;
- This issue, like many of these issues relate to maintenance of the dunes. The SRA is totally in favor of dune protection and would like to see more dunes planted in key areas to further protect our beaches as long as the dunes can be properly controlled. We feel that a maintenance program to care for the dunes will work to their betterment. Geoff Peach in fact recommended this in his report to the Town several years ago;
- The dune in front of Harmer St has grown excessively because of lack of maintenance and possibly of Town work on the drain to the north and the Pump House to the south. The SRA has hired an engineering consultant experienced in the dynamics of dunes to look at this area and provide an expert opinion and the height needed to be fully effective. Rod McLeod recently made a presentation to council on these issues asking them to bring in Geoff Peach to recommend a dune reduction and maintenance program for the Harmer St dunes only. As a result the Council unanimously approved a resolution to contract Geoff Peach from The Lake Huron Center for Coastal Conservation to develop a program to adjust dune height and design a subsequent annual maintenance program. These are positive developments after many years of persistent hard work by the SRA;
- Look at the removal of scrub trees, poplar trees, weeds and other unnecessary secondary growth which are excess to naturally formed dunes with beach grass;
- Re-opening the sidewalk from Gerry's Fries to the pump house with appropriate safety lighting;
- Re-opening and maintaining East/West paths between an extended (to the pump house) sidewalk and the water;
- Informed consultation with residents directly affected on all issues.

3. **South Beach – Bay St to South St**

- Assessing the problem (even with low water) of lack of sandy space for public swimming and beaching;
- Lack of parking;
- Removing weeds, secondary scrub growth and unsightly and unnecessary trees/bushes;
- Dune repair at pump house to the west and south;
- Informed consultation with directly affected residents on all issues.

4. **North Shore**

- Scubby's Point – cut scrub and trees blocking view at parking lot;
- Regular spring clean up of debris.

The Beach Subcommittee of the Board would welcome any suggestions for additions, subtractions or variations to this list. Please send to SRA Box 1081 Southampton. They are currently prioritizing the list and Ken Robertson will be sending it to the Town shortly but it can always be improved.

The SRA has followed up with the Grey Bruce Health Unit on **water testing**. No testing is currently done in Southampton as they claim no adverse results have been recorded over several years. This testing was done once a month on good weather days. We feel some baseline testing should be done and as a start have requested that the storm water and stream discharges be tested. We have not yet received a response. Sauble Beach was closed for 7 to 10 days this summer due to high e-coli from an unidentified source and the beaches from Kincardine south passed Grand Bend are regularly closed due to pollution and we don't want to see these happen here. The Saugeen River and Chantry Island bird population are other potential hot spots. At a recent conference, "Is the Coast Clear" a presenter said e-coli tests take 24 hours to run and can vary day to day. Sunlight will destroy bacteria quite rapidly so occasional testing on good days is next to useless. He also said swimmers should be warned not to swim after 1/2 inch of rain or when one's feet are not visible in waist high water.

### **Saugeen Memorial Hospital Auxiliary – SRA Golf Tournament**

The golf tournament was a great success with 119 golfers and 12 dinner only attendees. Due to wonderful community support of sponsorships and donations, a total of \$16,000 was raised for hospital equipment. The committee of Auxiliary and SRA members should be congratulated for all their hard work in making this happen.

### **North Shore Sewer Project**

This project is progressing operationally as well as can be expected with significant disruption in traffic and access but communications to residents on power and cable outages are still lacking. There has not been any reports of project costs and additional environmental studies may be needed adding to the already high expenditures. Drilling under the Saugeen River has started.

### **Out and About Town**

The Marine Heritage is replacing the old Peerless with a new boat that will be delivered in time for next year's Island trips. They held a volunteer appreciation night with well over 100 volunteers in attendance. Mike Stirling has completed the renovations to the Stokes Bay Lighthouse which is now located behind the main Museum building. This took countless hours of work. It will form a key part of the Museum's lighthouse display.

Have a good and safe Fall.

Tim Andersen for the Board

September, 2010