



FBBA

Spring Newsletter 2010

www.frenchbay.ca



Welcome back to another cottage season on French Bay.

Our spring mailing package includes the spring newsletter, a membership form and also a page regarding the blue box recycling program.

Additional membership forms are available on our website at www.frenchbay.ca

Winter Patrol Report

Bett and Sandy McPhee have once again done a wonderful job helping to keep our cottages safe this past winter. They report a fairly uneventful season, with less snow than in other years. They discovered a couple of break-ins; one cottage, and one cottage and shed. They sent out a few emails to report doors left open and trees or branches down. Hopefully, this quiet trend will continue until the end of April, as they finish the last inspections for the 2009-2010 season.

Please remember to check the winter patrol box on the membership form and return it by the deadline to ensure that you remain on the list for the 2010-2011 season. Our annual general meeting in August is a great opportunity for you to meet Bett and Sandy. They would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the winter patrol program.

Janette Baillie is the FBBA director responsible for winter patrol. She can be contacted at 519 422 1288 (cottage) or 519 238 5464 (home) or by email at baillie@hay.net.



Invasive Beach Grass



Phragmites australis, or Common Reed Grass, has been rapidly spreading along the shores of Lake Huron over the last several years. French Bay has a large quantity of this grass that is negatively impacting the ecosystem of the beach. Many cottagers are concerned that the grass is covering the sandy areas and is holding water, making the beach mucky. Perhaps of more concern, *Phragmites* is displacing the rare native species found in the dunes, resulting in a negative impact on insects, birds and other species.

The director team has been working with the Saugeen Band to find solutions for this problem. Last summer, we met with both Kirk Roote from the land management office and Chief Kahgee to express our concern and offer our assistance in eradicating *Phragmites*. In the fall of 2009, the Band experimented with various methods of controlling the grass, including cutting and spraying a small test patch. They have a large scale project planned for this spring that involves cutting, controlled spraying and digging the grass from the shoreline. The size of the project is dependent on funding from the federal government. While waiting for confirmation of this funding, they have begun some preliminary cutting at the Frenchman Bay point.

Any cottagers who wish to cut the grass on their lots are reminded that the best time to cut is in late July, as most of the food reserves produced that season will be removed with the cut portion of the plant, thus reducing the plant's vigor. The cut grass **MUST** be carefully bagged and removed from the site, or burned, to prevent new shoots from forming from the cut grass and to prevent seeds from spreading. This is extremely important, as leaving the cut grass will actually facilitate its spread and do more harm than good. The Band has agreed to come and pick up the bagged grass, so please give the works department a call if this is your plan.

The number for the works department is 519 797 3934.

Eradicating *Phragmites* is a long term project which will require patience and a lot of physical labour to remove the grass. If you wish to help, please contact any of your directors.

FBBA Membership

The 2010 FBBA membership is from May 1st, 2010 to April 30th, 2011. To help us maintain accurate records and ensure that you receive your winter patrol service on time, membership forms must be received by **July 1, 2010**.

SCOI stickers for paid members will be mailed with the fall newsletter or can be picked up at the AGM and SCOI meetings.

For your information, membership remained the same in 2009 with 176 members.

We are currently seeking volunteers for the Membership Drive to hand out information packages on Thompson Ave & Wahbezee. The more volunteers we have to recruit new members, the more unified we will be as an Association during the 2011 lease negotiations. If you are interested, please contact Bob Seftel via email seftel@rogers.com or phone 519-576-6772.

We also encourage you to talk to your cottage neighbours about the benefits of the association or refer them to any of the FBBA Directors for more information.



Help Needed

Our sign at the entrance to French Bay is in need of repair or replacement. If you are able to help us with this project, please call Laura Aldworth at 422-2019 or contact her by email at laurabrillinger@hotmail.com.

Bears

Last summer a few of the directors approached the Works Department in hopes of getting some bear-proof containers for our French Bay area. With many of the cottagers leaving before garbage pickup day, having bear-proof containers would reduce the attraction for the bears and keep the roadsides clean.

We will report any further progress in securing the bear-proof containers in our fall newsletter.

In the meantime, please keep barbeques covered and discontinue the use of seeds in birdfeeders. Place garbage into bins in the morning of pickup days or use the Band dump if you are going home before your garbage pickup day.

Please check the poster regarding the blue box items that is enclosed within this mailing package. Keep it on hand for others who are visiting your cottage.

SCOI

SCOI has advised that as per an email from Chief Randall Kahgee on April 7, 2010, the Band is preparing for the Referendum, and will be voting on the designation and the lease in the fall. Chief Kahgee has indicated that SCOI will be advised on the dates once they have been approved by council. SCOI will be issuing updates (if any) on the SCOI website in-between the official newsletters.

The SCOI annual meeting will be held on Saturday Sept. 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Zion Amabel United Church.

**** We would like to draw your attention to the statement at the bottom of the service fee statement re MOTION #4 and we encourage all cottagers to remit their service fees prior to June of 2010.**

At printing time of this newsletter, the Grey Bruce Health Services on High St. in Southampton continues to operate its emergency department on a 24/7 schedule.

www.scoi.ca

FBBA Directors for 2010

Laura Aldworth	422-2019	98 Thompson Ave.
Janette Baillie	422-1288	77 Thompson Ave.
Cindy Belvedere	422-0173	1401 2 nd Ave. S.
Myron Boyko	422-3403	53 Thompson Ave.
Wilma Clarke	422-0315	31 Wahbezee Dr.
Annelie Conway	422-3626	1415 2 nd Ave. S.
Bob Seftel	422-1439	1371 2 nd Ave S.
Bill Smith	422-2906	30 Thompson Ave.
Barb Young	422-0794	1443 2 nd Ave. S

Our FBBA Annual General Meeting will be held at the South Sauble Community Church on Saturday August 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for supporting the FBBA