



BNIA  
Fall Newsletter  
2013



## **President's Message- Kathleen Kidd**

We just returned from a glorious Thanksgiving (Canadian) weekend at the cottage. It was close-up time and I'm already counting the days until I can get back. Hopefully this newsletter and other communications will keep you connected to the cottage during the winter.

The coming year at the BNIA will be one of change. Hopefully that doesn't include water levels. We dodged a bullet in 2013 primarily because of heavy spring rains. Don't expect to dodge that bullet two years in a row. In order to continue to keep the water levels issue in the public eye, we still need to communicate with our MPs, MPPs in Canada and in the U.S. to members of Congress, state representatives and Governors. You can get information on what to say and how to contact your representative by going to the GBA website at [www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca).

There are changes at the BNIA, too. We have a new Treasurer, Peter Perdue. Peter replaces Buffy Ash who took excellent care of our finances for many years. This change in Treasurers means that the BNIA mailing address changes as well. Beginning immediately the address will be: 362 Balsam Drive, Oakville, ON L6J 3X6

Another change to the Board of Directors is our new chair of membership. Cam Hansuld has ably looked after membership for some time. When he decided he needed to spend more time on non-BNIA activities, he found his own replacement – David Day. David's family have been cottagers in Bayfield for 110 years. His career was in IT and he brings incredible expertise to his position.

This leads me to the next change – increased use of the world-wide web. Most of you are reading this newsletter on our website: [www.bnia.ca](http://www.bnia.ca). We had some issues with the website in the late summer but we now have those problems ironed out and are working on making it even better. Please keep checking regularly to see all the updates. My thanks go out to David Day, Frank Pointner and Ed Leslie for all their hard work on the website. One future planned change is the introduction of "members' only" pages.

By upgrading our web-based activity, we hope to introduce the ability to pay membership dues online. The plan would be to mail out 2014 membership forms early in 2014 with two payment options:

- 1) Return your completed form(s) with a cheque/check as in the past. The only change with this option would be the new BNIA address (see above).
- 2) The second option would be to pay your dues using Pay Pal. David Day will provide detailed instructions and these will accompany your membership form. We are hoping that this will make it easier to pay and encourage timely payment so that no names are missed from the Directory.

One final change will be to water-testing. Thanks to our Environment Director, Anne Stewart, the BNIA is one of the recipients of the Lake Simcoe Eastern Georgian Bay Clean-Up Fund. Some background: your board applied last spring for additional funds to expand our already successful and long-standing water testing program. Did you know that the BNIA has been testing water for about 35 years now?

Up until now we have been testing water clarity using the Secchi dish and collecting samples for laboratory analysis of indicating bacteria (total Coliforms and *E.Coli*). In 2011 a pilot testing was conducted testing BOD, phosphorous and nitrates/nitrites. During 2013 low-level phosphorous testing was conducted once a month in Nares Inlet under the Lake Partner Program. We will continue to do this as this program gathers good data that can be compared in many Ontario locations.

Our successful application (\$2280.00) covers testing water every week from the very early spring to late fall in 2 locations (one in Bayfield and one in Nares) and having it analyzed in a laboratory to determine low level phosphorous. In addition to sampling we will be giving out literature and going dock-to-dock to explain about phosphorous, reducing nutrient loading in our watershed and blue-green algae. So, we are looking for volunteers and assistants to take samples, volunteers to write and distribute flyers, and volunteers to talk to cottagers dock-to-dock. Summer 2013 will be a busy summer on the water, and reducing phosphorous!

Keep safe over the winter and have a happy holiday season. See you at the Bay in 2014!

### **Photo Contest – Mary Perdue**

As a photographer myself, I just love receiving the pictures submitted for the annual photo contest. I am more and more impressed by the quality of the photographs. Obviously, a lot of effort goes into the making of these images, from the thoughtful compositions to the selection of the best three to submit. Over the last several years, I have seen an improvement in the technical aspects of the pictures: straight horizons, no extraneous elements on the sides, good exposure, focus, etc.

The winning image for 2013 was Laurie Grantham's "Splashes and Smiles" which will be our cover photo for the 2014 Directory. The runner-up was Colin Perdue for "Silky Water", seen on the first page of this Newsletter.

The theme for the 2014 contest will be **Macro Photography**. This includes close-up photos of insects, small animals, flowers, or anything else that is small. You do not need a special lens for these pictures, just zoom in on the subject and open the aperture (if your camera allows this). The objective is to have the subject in focus and the background somewhat blurry. We will also include a **General** category where the subject is whatever you choose, but your chances of winning are greater if you submit a close-up. **The deadline for submitting these photos is July 17, 2014. Send the files (size 8x10) to [perduemary@live.com](mailto:perduemary@live.com).** Let's have some pictures from the under16 age group (judged separately)! Prizes for winners!!

## **BNIA Outings and Events 2013-2014**

Last summer's outings and events were enthusiastically received by many BNIA members. Next summer's events are currently in the planning stages, and I would welcome suggestions or ideas of desirable offerings. Please email Molly Mulloy at [molly.mulloy7@gmail.com](mailto:molly.mulloy7@gmail.com) or phone 613-967-7899. If any members would like to lead an event, or have a good contact, that would be welcome. At present, we are planning to have one or two geology outings, a puppet show, birding (likely this time on an island that has a substantial resident songbird population), and a photography workshop. We are contemplating a botany/flowers of the Bay outing, an insect workshop (perhaps on butterflies and moths, dragonflies and damselflies), and/or a night skies outing - and are looking for knowledgeable people who can assist. Dates and times are flexible so far, though we will attempt to organize events throughout the summer season.

## **Bayfield Government Dock**

At the recent BNIA board meeting Councillor Hansuld reported that the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has recently advised the Township of the Archipelago (TOA) that the area covered by the Bayfield Water Access Point, better known as the Bayfield Government Dock, covering a boat docking and car parking lot, is the property of the Township. The site has been treated as an orphan for the past twenty years with the MNR claiming ownership and the TOA maintaining the integrity of the docking area through a new gang plank and adding more floating docks as water levels receded. In view of MNR's position the TOA has asked staff to review the situation within the context of other TOA water access points to determine how we may want to maintain the Bayfield site in the future. More specifics will be forthcoming in a spring TOA newsletter.

## **West Parry Sound Health Centre**

The West Parry Sound Health Centre is our local hospital while we're at the cottage; it offers the only Emergency Department on the 300 km (180 miles) route between Barrie and Sudbury. The population serviced by the hospital goes up by over 100,000 during the summer months. This creates unique challenges to ensure adequate staffing. In addition to the 70-bed hospital in Parry Sound, the West Parry Sound Health Centre operates 6 nursing stations including the one used by Bayfield-Nares in Pointe au Baril. Most cottagers have used or will use the services offered by the West Parry Sound Health Centre at some time. Consequently, please consider making a donation. You can get more information on the Foundation website: [https://wpshcf.com/donate\\_now.html](https://wpshcf.com/donate_now.html)