



# Sturgeon Point Association

84 Irene Avenue, Sturgeon Point, Ontario, K0M 1N0

August 29, 2011

Dear Members:

We're now in the last days of summer. The weather has been good, the water warm, and I'm hoping it continues well into September.

This newsletter reports presents news on some recent events, a reminder of the upcoming AGM, as well as some notices and other information that I hope you find useful.

## Blue Green Algae Bloom – Precautionary Warning Lifted

If there was one flaw on an otherwise beautiful summer at Sturgeon Point, it was the posting of our Public Beach because of the Algae Bloom. The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District (HKPRD) Health Unit finally lifted the warning on August 25, a full 20 days after it was first



posted. Our beach was not the only one affected; the entire eastern leg of Sturgeon Lake between Sturgeon Point and Bobcaygeon was subject to the same warning.

The Public Beach was unusually quiet as most people heeded the warning. Not everyone stayed out of the water though, and for the most part there seemed to be no ill effects. There were several claims of illness attributed to the algae bloom, but these were all anecdotal reports and to our knowledge no

direct link to the algae bloom was confirmed.

SPA was in touch with the Health Unit regularly throughout the duration of the warning. They were helpful in communicating the status as the situation evolved, and we posted occasional updates on the SPA web site to reflect those updates. We hope that this helped keep you up to date. In spite of this, I think it's fair to say that we would have liked to see more specific and timely information about the water quality. The warning was very general, loosely covering half of the lake. Testing was minimal and results were not reported until a week later, rendering the information of more historical interest than a useful indicator of the current state of the water. This was a little frustrating, to say the least. While the environment and health authorities are undoubtedly facing budget constraints, we can hope that similar events in the future will show improvements in the quality and specificity of the information available to our community.

I hope we don't see a repeat of this episode for a very, very long time.

## **SPA Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Union Church. We've invited a special guest. Al Horsman, the City of Kawartha Lakes' new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), will be making a short presentation to be followed up with a short question and answer session. As the CAO, Al is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City and reports directly to Council, providing them with the information they need to make decisions. This will be an excellent chance for us to meet the new CAO and for Al to get to know Sturgeon Point.

Of course the AGM will include a number of other reports that deal with issues closer to home. Please review the attached agenda for more detail. And don't forget that the AGM is an opportunity for all members of the community to ask questions, voice concerns or to make suggestions to the SPA Board.

I think you'll find the AGM to be an informative meeting. There will refreshments served outside afterwards and a chance for some informal discussion and socializing too. I hope to see many of you there.

## **Upper Wharf Trustee Property Upgrade**

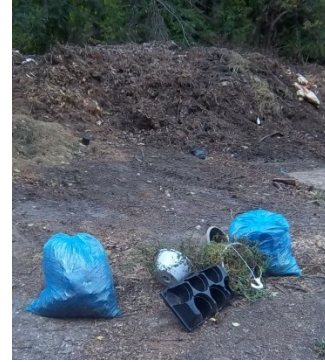
As reported previously, SPA will be installing a stairway at the Upper Wharf this year. There was some delay as the City worked out plans for a "swale" (i.e. gutter) along Lake Road to deal with the water runoff problem that has been causing the erosion on the existing path. Those plans and responsibilities have now been finalized and we are hoping that work can go ahead in September.

The eroded pathway will be replaced with a stairway made up of a several sections, with each section made up of two or three steps followed by a landing. The steps will be made of natural stone that has been cut to form very regular stair treads. The landings between the short flights will be made of concrete. These materials will be immune to erosion and will not require regular maintenance, if any at all. Every effort will be made to ensure that the stairs fit in with the surroundings and provide convenient and safe access to the water front.

An "ad-hoc" committee of interested Sturgeon Pointers has been formed to provide guidance and help formulate decisions on the improvements to the Upper Wharf. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please contact SPA at [spa@sturgeonpoint.com](mailto:spa@sturgeonpoint.com) or by phone at (705) 887-6221.

## Leaf Dump

We are rapidly approaching the season when the Leaf Dump will once again be a frequent destination for those of us who rake leaves. The Leaf Dump serves as a convenient and environmentally friendly place to dispose of leaves and grass cuttings for compost. There is no “tipping fee”, and upkeep is underwritten by SPA. Unfortunately we have seen some dumping of brush and even garbage on this site.



I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Leaf Dump is intended for leaves and grass cuttings only. Brush and other garbage are not acceptable and should be brought to any of the City's dump sites. Inappropriate use of the Leaf Dump requires that the unwanted material be hauled away at SPA's expense. These are dollars that SPA would prefer to spend in a more productive way. We will be posting a new sign at the dump this fall to remind everyone of the intended use.

## Sturgeon Point Hotel Poster

The second printing of the Sturgeon Point Hotel Poster has been ordered and will be delivered this week. If you have your name on the list, you will be contacted as soon as the prints arrive. Note that we've ordered a small number of extra prints. If you are interested in purchasing one of these then please contact us. This will be the last printing for the foreseeable future. Don't miss this chance to own a unique piece of Sturgeon Point history.

## Map History Project

Most of you have probably seen the new Sturgeon Point Residents Map. (If you don't have one, please contact us to get one.) An even more interesting aspect of that project is a web-based map application that we will post on the SPA web site in the coming months. This application will show the history of the Village of Sturgeon Point through old and new photographs taken in various locations around the Village. We believe that this will be a very interesting way to explore the history of the Village, and we hope that it will attract additional photographic contributions as more people view it. We'll keep you posted as the application is implemented on the web.

## Membership

Thank you to all who have already taken out a membership this year. We have reached about 85% of our targeted membership level. At this time of year it's not that unusual for SPA to have to do a little extra work to bring the membership rolls up to that level. If you or your family members haven't paid for a 2011 SPA membership yet, please do so today. And don't forget:

this year members get a bonus – the new and improved edition of the Sturgeon Point Residents Map!

We've made membership purchase even easier to do with our online credit card payment option. Many have already taken advantage of the convenience this payment method provides. There's a link the membership page below. Old-school cheques work great too. You can mail us you payment or just drop it in the SPA mailbox at the Park. Printable membership forms are available on the SPA website. (Link provided below.)

To pay for you membership online (credit card or PayPal accepted) please navigate to the following page on SPA's website: <http://www.sturgeonpoint.com/spa-membership/>

To print out a membership form, please follow this link and print out the form: <http://www.sturgeonpoint.com/wp-content/uploads/SPA-2011-Membership-Form.pdf>

If you don't have access to the internet and require a membership form please contact us and we'll mail you one or drop it off at your cottage.

## Bears

It's that time of year again. A young black bear was spotted on Sturgeon Point Road just outside the Village sign several days ago. Bears are often seen within the Village throughout late



summer and into the fall. Please exercise caution if you see a bear.

The best way to keep bears out of the Village is not to attract them in the first place. You can help by making sure that your garbage is well-sealed in plastic garbage bags to reduce the odour. Don't put your garbage out until Monday morning's garbage collection. Above all, keep your garbage in raccoon and bear-proof garbage bins.

You can get more information from the Bear-wise web site:

<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Bearwise>

Enjoy the rest of the season, everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Isbrucker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'V'.

Victor Isbrucker  
President,  
Sturgeon Point Association