



Sturgeon Point Association

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

December 6, 2010

Dear Members:

We're into December and we've just received our first snowfall. It was a small one, but big enough to bring out the snow plow, which seems to have made the rounds without incident. At least one intrepid sculptor (or sculptors?) left us with a magnificent snowman in the Park on the weekend. I hope it is the first of many. I've included an image for your enjoyment.

This newsletter presents some of the recent events at the Point and some plans for the coming months

Halloween

The Halloween event was a tremendous success, with about 40 costumed kids attending the Park for some fun activities on the afternoon of Saturday, October 30. Trick or treating was conducted that evening instead of the traditional Sunday (October 31) to allow cottagers and their children to enjoy Halloween at the Point. Numerous households participated by putting their lights on, displaying pumpkins, and handing out treats. There were more trick or treaters that evening than there have been in well over a decade of Halloweens, even though it rained for much of the evening.



Thanks to all of you who handed out candy that Saturday evening. A special thanks goes out to Patricia Aspinwall and her fellow conspirators who planned, organized and executed this successful event. Plans are afoot to repeat this event next year. I'm sure the kids will be looking forward to it.

City of Kawartha Lakes Municipal Election

For those of you who don't know, the COKL election was held on October 25. Sturgeon Point is located within the boundaries of Ward 7, which was won by Brian Junkin. Brian was first elected as our Councillor in 2009 after Pete Cziraky passed away. Brian defeated Gail Thomassen by 166 votes, a relatively narrow margin. Incumbent Ric McGee defeated challenger Andy Latham by 1128 votes in the mayoral race. Lynne Boldt was a distant third. Our congratulations go out to Mayor McGee and Councillor Junkin. We look forward to working with them in the future.

These were both fairly tight races. The difference in the Councillor's race represented about 8% of the votes cast for that contest, and the difference between McGee and Latham represented about 4% of the votes cast. The significance of each individual vote becomes quite obvious at the municipal level. The margins of victory (and of defeat) indicate that a little village such as ours can have a very real impact in the municipal elections. The candidates certainly felt this way: all five candidates for these two races attended an all-candidates meeting here in Sturgeon Point several weeks before election day.

The upshot for Sturgeon Point is a positive one. Both Ric McGee and Brian Junkin have shown themselves to be friends of Sturgeon Point in the past, and SPA will continue to place a high priority on the good working relationship that we have established with the City. We are looking forward to a productive four years.

The Village Sign

Some of you may have noticed that the Village sign at the entrance to Sturgeon Point has been missing for several weeks. The wooden frame that was holding up the sign was in a serious state of decay and is being replaced. The new frame will be made of steel, rust-proofed inside and out, and should provide a solid maintenance-free structure for our sign for many years to come. The new frame is being fabricated by Cottrell and Krell. While the frame is being fabricated we're taking the opportunity to clean up the original sign. John Lyon is touching it up to restore its original lustre. The area around the sign has also been cleaned up to provide improved visibility of this landmark. We expect the new structure, along with the sign, to be installed within the coming weeks.

I should point out that the CoKL is funding part of this work through a matching grant program targeted at local beautification projects. SPA has been a beneficiary of this granting program in the past and we hope to do so in the future as well.

Trust Lands Insurance

As some of you may be aware, liability insurance for the trust lands presented us with some serious challenges over the past year. These lands include the Playground and the Public Beach area. One sticking point was the swim raft at the Public Beach, an asset that is very well used by many of us every summer.

As reported at the AGM by Lynne Manning, we have succeeded in securing insurance for our trust lands and we can continue to operate them on behalf of the Trustees as we have in the past. Fortunately, insurance premiums will remain at roughly the same level that we've seen over the past several years.

Thanks to Tom Anders and Chris Appleton, as well as others in the community, for seeing this very important issue through to a successful conclusion.

Annual General Meeting

The Sturgeon Point Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on September 5th, 2010. The meeting was well attended and started off with an interesting presentation about bears by Don Little of the M.N.R. Other presentations included one by Dave Kennedy who provided a report on the local irrigation system. (Dave manages the system for our community with help from Bob Miller.) Jeanne DesBrisay followed with a description of the trust lands and their history. The balance of the meeting followed the usual agenda with reports from the various directors. The minutes of the meeting will be made available on the SPA website for those interested.

An important part of the AGM is the nomination of new directors to replace those who are stepping down. This year two directors stepped down after three years of service: Greg Taylor and Chris Appleton. Greg played a principal role in the renovation of the park project, which stands as SPA's most ambitious project to date. The success of that project will be enjoyed by all who use the Park for many years to come. Chris was tireless as the Board's Secretary. He represented SPA at numerous environmental events and meetings and will continue to represent Sturgeon Point as a member of the Community Advisory Panel of the Sturgeon Lake Management Plan. Chris also provided invaluable guidance as the SPA's unofficial legal adviser. We thank both Greg and Chris for their contributions to SPA and to the community.

Lynne Manning announced that she would be stepping down as the President of the Sturgeon Point Association after a three year term. Lynne's commitment to our community has been outstanding. Lynne was the first President of the organization when it started in 2000, and she accomplished a great deal in her second term. Everything always seemed to run smoothly under Lynne's leadership. Lynne has agreed to stay on for one more year in the role of Past President. Her continued presence on the Board will provide continuity to the activities of the organization.

Two new Board members were nominated at the AGM. Paula McMurtry and Jeremy Hall both accepted nominations to sit on the Board as Directors. Both are very capable individuals and we welcome them to the Board.

Immediately following the AGM the Board held a short meeting at which the responsibilities of the Directors were established. These are tabulated below.

SPA Board 2010-2011	Portfolio
Victor Isbrucker	President
Tom Anders	Vice President
Lynne Manning	Past President
Colleen Clynych	Treasurer
Jeremy Hall	Communications
Paula McMurtry	Secretary
Eric Jordan	Maintenance
Ed Warlow	Communications/History
Ramona Kozak	Membership
Liz Wallis	Social

Table 1 Sturgeon Point Association Board of Directors.

Future Activities

Over the winter months SPA will be focusing on some “back office” maintenance issues related to streamlining our membership database and the introduction of a new Family membership. We will be planning improvements to the web site, with an eye to making it more useful and more interesting. Part of this effort will involve creating more content. These efforts are already under way.

We will continue to monitor the City’s plans regarding the paving of our roads. They are very aware that we expect our side streets to be paved this coming summer, completing the long awaited repair to our roads. We will keep you informed as we learn of the City’s plans.

Of course the coming year will feature all of the social events that we’ve become accustomed to in the past: Saturday in the Park in early July and the Civic Weekend festivities. But that’s still a long way off. There will be much snow to shovel before then.

I’m looking forward to serving as the President of SPA this year, and I hope to hear from you if you have any comments or concerns. You can email me directly at victor@sturgeonpoint.com or if you prefer, just call me: (705) 887-6221.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday and a wonderful New Year.

Sincerely,



Victor Isbrucker
President,
Sturgeon Point Association