

# High water causes erosion and property damage

Because of high water levels this year, beaches along Georgian Bay are eroding at an abnormally fast rate. Some property owners have suffered

thousands of dollars in damage and have lost most of their waterfront over the last 10 years.

Property along the sandier beaches have suffered

the most erosion. In Bluewater, beach residents have had filter-cloth installed to prevent their backyards from disappearing into the Bay.

One long-time Bluewater resident says the beach was 150 feet from his property line. Now, there isn't much of a beach, he says.

Keith Phillpott, of Keith Phillpott Consulting Limited, says, "Some Bluewater beach residents have lost 20 to 30 feet of

bluff in the last two to three months." Phillpott's company was hired by the Ministry of Parks and Recreation to design the filter-cloth and save the beach.

"We're specialists in coastal engineering," Phillpott says.

"Nature has created the problem with high water levels and natural erosion but people have made it worse by placing buildings so close to the waterline,"

he says.

When cottages were built along the beach, they were 50 to 70 feet from the edge but now are only five to ten feet away.

"We're trying to stop people's houses from falling in," Phillpott says. "This is what the cloth is designed to do."

The cloth is laid along the edge of the beach and held down with rocks and boulders rolled up in the edges. The filter is made of

synthetic fiber that allows water to flow through but holds the sand underneath in place.

"This type of procedure is standard practice in these circumstances," Phillpott says. "The cloth should be totally covered but I've had complaints from some of the residents that cloth is showing and wearing away."

The cloth is supposed to be permanent, lasting up to 15 years according to

Phillpott. It costs about \$100 per square foot. A typical lot is 50 feet and would cost \$5,000 to cover.

Property owners must pay the costs themselves but the provincial government offers a low-interest loan for the project. Provided the local municipality has a by-law that allows for such a loan, and Tiny Township does, the low-interest loans are available to Bluewater beach and nearby areas.

## Perkinsfield Park set for facelift

Perkinsfield's parks and recreation board are starting work on a facelift to their ice shack at Perkinsfield park along with the addition of a soccer field and horseshoe pits to their present facilities.

According to Tiny Township Recreation Coordinator Stephen St. Amant, the group has requested financial assistance from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for the projects.

Up to one third of the value of the renovations

can be obtained through capital project grants and capital conservation grants to help the local organization.

The creation of the soccer field and pits, along with work putting safety roofs on the sand boxes in the park and the renovating of the ice shack with aluminum siding and shingles is estimated to cost the board \$10,700.

St. Amant said even without the help of the Ministry the local group will continue the projects through their own funding.

## Talent show Saturday

Final plans are underway this week for this weekend's Decouverte '86 show being sponsored by the Centre d'Activites Francaises in Penetanguishene and CKMP Radio.

Saturday night, performers will take to the stage at 7:30 p.m. at the En Action Lafontaine vying for the top prize in the talent contest, \$250.

The first place finisher will also win a spot on the

line-up of performers at the Centre's Festivale des Quenouilles that is being staged at Lafontaine's Maple Valley Club on Aug. 9.

Everyone is invited to attend the evening of French music that will be followed by a huge bonfire celebrating St. John Baptiste Day.

Tickets for the show are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors and \$5 for the whole family.

## Board one person short

With the resignation due to other pressing commitments of Shirley Whittington, from the Midland Public Library board, the nine member board has a vacancy.

Residents of Tiny and Tay Townships, and of Medonte Townships, are eligible to join the board, as well as residents of

Midland. The three townships each give the library an annual grant. Township residents who use the library have the fee charged non-Midland residents refunded.

The vacant position to be filled will last until the next municipal election, 2 1/2 years from now.

## Tickets available

Tickets are still available for Huronia Performing Arts for Children's series of entertainment for children age eight to twelve. Shows feature Cascade Theatre, Bill Usher in Drums!, Rag and Bone Puppet Theatre, and the Ontario Ballet Theatre.

Series A, for children age three to seven is sold out. Ticket price for Series B is \$8 until June 30. After that it will be \$10.

For more information

contact Joan Gallagher-Main (526-3585).

## Driveway Sale

Annual Diabetes Association will be holding a Driveway Sale June 21st, 9 a.m. - at Golf Club Road, 5th house up road.

If you have any items to donate, call 526-5295 if pick-up needed.



## Water damage

Because of abnormally high water levels, some Bluewater Beach residents have suffered thousands of dollars in damage

from erosion. Some residents have had filter-cloth installed to keep the beach from falling into Georgian Bay. The cloth

is designed to let water through but hold sand underneath in place.

## Community to find support in new foundation

With the assistance of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture a new foundation for francophones across the province is being created that will encompass this area.

According to Odette Bussiere, the Huronia representative of the French Canadian Association of Ontario (ACFO), with a \$100,000 grant from Lily Munro's office the Foundation franco-ontarienne will be formed which will help to improve

the services available in French communities.

Bussiere said out of the \$100,000 grant, each of the 22 AFCO organizations across the province will receive \$1,500 to be used in the promotion and publicity of a special campaign to raise money to fund the foundation.

The balance of the grant will be put towards administration costs of the foundation that will operate totally autonomous of ACFO and will be based

in Ottawa.

Bussiere, as the Huronia representative for ACFO, is responsible for the local section of the program that hopes to raise a total of \$2 million in Ontario.

Already, from only 11 contacts, Bussiere says she has raised \$4,000 of their \$30,000 goal for the area.

"This is not an unrealistic goal for the pro-

vince," said Bussiere, "when there are over 500,000 franco-phones in Ontario."

The interest from the \$2 million raised will be available to the various French communities to assist in areas such as health, sports and leisure, arts and culture, education and community services. Bussiere says anyone

who donates over \$100 to the foundation will become a voting member of the group. Then a board of directors will be decided on by the membership to administer the money to the various groups.

The local fund raising for the program will continue until the end of August or September, according to Bussiere.

## Why every teenager should take a driver training course.

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