

## APPEC's Report The ERT Decision

By Paula Peel

The Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) on April 26, 2017 issued its final decision on the White Pines Wind Project. Although the ERT did not revoke the Project's REA (Renewable Energy Approval) as APPEC had sought during the hearings, we are still pleased with the decision. The ERT ordered the removal of 18 turbines from the Project's 27 initially-approved turbines, leaving only 9 turbines. This result is a great achievement in this epic and uphill battle for our legal team and fellow appellant John Hirsch.

APPEC is greatly concerned about the remaining 9 turbines. These turbines are those proposed north of Royal Road (Turbines 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10 using the project's labelling).

In its decision, the ERT soundly rejected WPD's mitigation plan for Blanding's turtles (the "NRSI Plan"). While this Plan was ostensibly created to ensure no harm would come to the Blanding's turtles on seasonal municipal roads and on the Project's access roads, the Plan did nothing to alleviate the ERT's concerns that led to their finding in February 2016 that the Project would cause serious and irreversible harm to these turtles. In fact the NRSI Plan seems to have added greatly to their concerns about the Project. In its decision the ERT noted that "the NRSI Plan raises several new concerns about the potential environmental impacts of the construction, removal and restoration activities. The proposal will require more significant and different construction activities than was indicated at the main hearing on the merits phase in this proceeding. This is particularly true for the tertiary road segments, which will require widening by 2.7 m, excavation, installation of geogrid and 500 millimetres ("mm") of gravel, followed by removal activities and restoration of native vegetation. These segments and several of the intersections to be restored occur in areas of prime Blanding's turtle habitat, including some segments adjacent to wetlands."

The Tribunal finds that the unstudied impacts from the proposed measures would include those on the habitat and life cycle of Blanding's turtle, but also potential impacts on the local ecosystems in general.

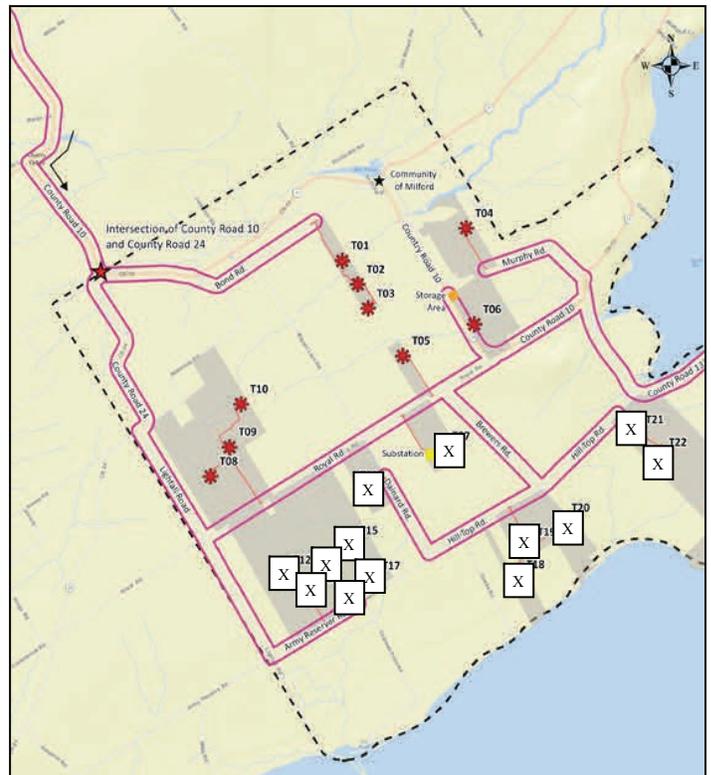
Regrettably, the ERT accepted WPD's mitigation plan for the Little brown bat. However, the ERT did accept APPEC's evidence that these bats would be active at the Project site from sunset to dawn, bringing into question WPD's plan to only implement cut-in speeds between sunset and midnight. The ERT has

amended the REA to adjust cut-in speeds to 5.5 m/s between sunset and sunrise from May 1 to September 30 at all turbines for the operating life of the Project.

The ERT also noted in its decision that no attempt was made to address its findings of February 2016 regarding the significant risk of serious harm to migrating birds posed by the Project.

The White Pines Wind Project has been reduced to one-third its former size - a significant reduction in the size of the project. We do not know what the implications of this are to the project's proponent. We also do not know what next steps the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change or the proponent will take. For example, this ERT decision can be appealed to Divisional Court.

Even though this decision brings the nearly two-year-long ERT appeal to a conclusion, concerned residents can rest assured that APPEC will keep up the battle until these kinds of projects are no longer a threat to our community.



A map of the south shore illustrating some of the turbines that were removed from the White Pines wind project by the ERT decision. The remaining nine turbine sites are located north of Royal Road in and around Milford.

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## Thank You...

The Milford Easter Parade and Egg Hunt was again a huge success thanks to the members of the South Marysburgh Recreation Board, and a group of community volunteers that included Karen and Doug Gyde for buying and scattering approximately six thousand foil-wrapped Easter eggs; Leon McConnell for organizing the parade; Helen Ward and Jesse Parker who cooked and served 120 hot dogs along with hot chocolate; Candace & Ron Keays for their help in decorating the parade route with plastic Easter eggs; Mary Mouck and Julie Ackerman who stepped in at the last minute to demonstrate the knitting of the giant scarf and collecting donations for the new hospital; Kathy Empringham and Witney Shantz for hosting the hat decorating at the Library; Randy York and volunteer firefighters Brent Walker, Jacob Found, Rick Leavitt and Tim Noxon for traffic control, and the PEC Roads Department for facilitating the necessary permits; the media for their promotion and coverage of the event; and finally, the Easter Bunny who delighted young and old again this year.



Bruce Dowdell

Chair, South Marysburgh Recreation Board

## Information About Lake Ontario's Water Levels

By Sam Lanfranco

If you are dealing with higher Lake Ontario water levels, they are not just a result of the higher spring rains. They are also a result of the Plan 2014 for regulating the waters of Lake Ontario, a plan put into practice in January of this year. See <http://www.ijc.org/en/Plan2014/home>

Shoreline communities in New York are upset by the rising water level, especially since they had designed infrastructure and home sites based on the 70 year old previous water level agreements. Here is a link to the concerns of the New York shoreline communities: <http://wrvo.org/post/katko-calls-action-if-plan-2014-causes-flood-damage>

Some are suggesting applying for Federal funding relief since this is the result of a Federal International (Canada/USA) Joint Commission agreement. For coastal flooding and erosion see [http://www.ijc.org/en/Plan2014/Response\\_Document\\_6](http://www.ijc.org/en/Plan2014/Response_Document_6).



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Milford Town Hall

#### Milford Artisan & Flea Market

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[nacomeau@me.com](mailto:nacomeau@me.com)

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[vidvar@kos.net](mailto:vidvar@kos.net) OR  
Leon McConnell at 613.476.6606*



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# Rearview Mirror

Nostalgic Images of People and Life  
in South Marysburgh



*A view of the village of Milford looking south west circa 1900, presumably taken from the Steeple of Mt. Tabor,*

## Todd Smith, MPP

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# Gossip!

*Personal Notices, Announcements  
& Random Notes*

## **Is It Jim's Timing or Jim's Influence?**

Former South Marysburgh resident, Jim McPherson, has for several years submitted articles to the Toronto Sun about the folly of the Green Energy Act and turbine installations on the south shore. Below, a letter to the Toronto Star dated April 24th, one day before the ERT decision was announced:

### **Turtles vs Turbines**

*On page two of the April 23rd Sunday Star, Kristen Rushowy reported that Ontario has just made it illegal to trap or kill snapping turtles, an endangered species. Rushowy also reported that habitat loss and road kill are threatening extinction of this species.*

*So why is the Wynne government allowing wpd Canada to destroy turtle habitat in the White Pines wind project area of Prince Edward County, where snapping turtles have dwelt for decades? (wpd Canada's own consultants have reported that Snapping turtles inhabit that project area.)*

*Last year a wind turbine project in neighbouring Ostrander Point was disallowed because it threatened the smiling and beloved Blanding's turtle. Now, even though the White Pines project has not yet obtained provincial approval, the Ontario government is allowing the developer to clear vegetation in that project's area, where Blanding's turtles also reside. Will larger, more fearsome snapping turtles now be able to protect a territory where smaller, more placid Blanding's turtles have been ignored by developers and by government?*

*Jim McPherson, Tweed, Ontario April 24, 2017*

## **There's A Salamander Man? Really?**

This sounds kind of cool. Quinte Conservation will be hosting award-winning Salamander Conservationist Matt Ellerbeck (A.K.A The Salamander Man) for an insightful and educational presentation on salamanders. It takes place at the Quinte Conservation Office, 2061 Old Highway 2, Belleville, on Friday, May 5 at 3:00pm and 4:00pm.

This event is part of an initiative started by the Foundation for the Conservation of Salamanders to raise awareness about salamanders, their habitats, and their role in the ecosystem. The presentations will feature many live salamanders for visitors to meet, including both local and exotic species.

[www.southmarysburghmirror.com](http://www.southmarysburghmirror.com)

## **Rick Conroy**

I refer to *The Wellington Times* as 'Council's weekly report card': sometimes we pass, sometimes we fail; most times, if not all, Rick Conroy points out that there's room for improvement and we need to work harder!

I can't say I agreed with everything he wrote, but more often than not Rick gave residents of Prince Edward County something to think about each week. His often insightful, well researched and articulated stories and op/ed columns tackled everything from local issues to those affecting a much wider population than that of just The County.

By the time you read this, Rick Conroy will no longer be the owner and publisher of *The Times*, having handed those responsibilities to staff member Corey Engelsdorfer and editing duties to Mihal Zada, effective May 1st. Although he may contribute columns on an occasional basis, the weekly grind of creating thought-provoking articles will be behind him.

There is an untold amount of work that goes into producing a weekly publication, and I wish Corey and Mihal all the best as they go forward.

And on behalf of the many *South Marysburgh Mirror* readers who read *The Times*, I wish Rick all the best as moves on to another chapter in his life.

## **A Cheesie Mother's Day**

Black River Cheese has a slate of events coming up, including May 14th. Take her to Black River Cheese where she will receive a Free small Ice Cream Cone. The first 50 Mothers to visit will also receive a carnation. And enter her name into the free draw for a gift basket! They're offering 20% off Honey Cheddar all day, too!

## **Oops**

George Plow called to remind me that he said he'd start the cooking column in June, not May.

## **Zest for 'Knife'**

There is no kitchen tool less effective than a dull knife: paring, utility, boning, chef's, carving - you name it, a dull knife blade can make a wreck of anything it's employed to cut. (That, and using the wrong knife for the wrong task, but that's a separate issue.)

Thus, *The Mirror's* test kitchen was delighted to discover that Kyle Otsuka, the co-owner of Picton cookware shop, Zest, provides professional knife sharpening services at reasonable cost. And with exceptional results—a \$20 investment gave several knives a new lease on life and much better performance!

## **ST. PHILIP'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Monday, May 22	Annual Black Creek Canoe Trip
Wednesday, August 9	Pork & Corn Roast
Saturday, October 7	Yard & Rummage Sale
Saturday, November 25	Christmas Bazaar & Tea



## Life In The Past

Nelson Hicks' Journals  
May 1927

Transcribed by Sarah Moran Collier

**Sun. 1** - Lloyd and Luise were down to Cecil Bongards. Kathleen and Floral went over to Picton with them Mirt and I went up the Valley to church

**Mon. 2** - We had a little rain last night work Back in the after noon

**Tue. 3** - Commenced to rain in the after noon.

**Wed. 4** - Rained most of the day I helped Mirt with the Kitchen cleaning it.

**Thu. 5** - To wet to work in the land so I painted the Kitchen cieling.

**Fri. 6** - Royden and I spray the McInscots. After dinner went over after Floral.

**Sat. 7** - Cultivated and got the rest of the land for sowing Back Kathleen came home with Tom Mouck. Alice Watson came with her.

**Sun. 8** - Went to church at the Bay. Large crowd out After dinner Kathleen Alice Mirt and I went for a row down to the Flats. After Tea took the girls over to Picton

**Mon. 9** - I went back and finished up sowing. Just got done and it commenced to rain and had a nice rain.

**Tue. 10** - Help Mirt around the house move stoves and put down carpets.

**Wed. 11** - Royden Wrex and I picked corn stubble quite a nice day

**Thu. 12** - Lloyd was down Came down with a truck that he has We finished up our corn stubble.

**Fri. 13** - Royden dragged the grain back I trim trees. After dinner Mirt and I went over to Picton fetched Floral home with us.

**Sat. 14** - Royden cultivated corn ground. Rained most of the after noon After tea Mirt Floral Royden and I went over to Picton Kathleen came home with us.

**Sun. 15** - Went around to Church still we are having Back Ward weather Cold.

**Mon. 16** - Cleaned the corn stubble and John Loney sprayed it. Royden and I drew out some manure.

**Tue. 17** - Royden and I drew manure. Quite a nice day

**Wed. 18** - Rained last night. I fixed fence down to the Flats. Lloyd came down drove his truck

**Thu. 19** - Drew manure most of the day We are not having much sun and the weather is quite cold

**Fri. 20** - Mirt and I Floss Loney went back to Lloyds got back about Ten Oclock After Dinner Mirt Luise Floss went over to Belleville It was a very nice day Another rain last night

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**Sat. 21** - Royden and I sprayed the McInstock to day Along about Five O'clock. It commenced to rain.

**Sun. 22** - Went to church at the Carman had another big rain last night Lloyd Luise children Harry Cathern Murphy came down and were here for tea.

**Mon. 23** - showery most of the day Royden and I made a chicken coop.

**Tue. 24** - Also it rain big showers all day. No body went over to Picton

**Wed. 25** - I took Floral up to Hamilton to go over to Picton to school. Rain came to day

**Thu. 26** - I trimmed trees. Royden did road work some nicer to day.

**Fri. 27** - Drew manure around the apple trees After Dinner Mirt and I went over to Picton Floral went back to Lloyds We got a new Linoleum for the room

**Sat. 28** - Drew manure down on the corn ground. Kathleen came home with Henry McConnal. they were going out to Len Hudgins.

**Sun. 29** - All went around to church Roy Dulmage came over for the after noon.

**Mon. 30** - Royden and I drew manure down on the corn ground. Along about Four O'clock Fran had a fine colt. The name we have decided to is Blaze.

**Tue. 31** - drew out manure having very nice weather now.

*(See Sarah's Research Notes on page 9)*

The *South Marysburgh* Mirror

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# Druella Acantha Malvina's Column

*Gem for the month: Always tell the truth - then you don't have to remember what you said.*

## More Old Words - New Meanings

Left Bank - (left' bangk') What the robber did when his bag was full of loot.

Misty - (mis-tee') How golfers create divots.

Paradox - (par'-u-doks') Two physicians.

Parasites - (par'-ih-sites') What you see from the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Pharmacist - (farm'-uh-sist) A helper on the farm.

Polarize - (po'-lur-ize') What penguins see with.

Primate - (pri'-mate') Removing your spouse from in front of the T.V.

Relief - (ree-leef) What trees do in the Spring.

Selfish - (sel'-fish) What the owner of a seafood store does.

**Do you have trouble sleeping?** Here are a few tips to help you get a good nights sleep.

- (1) Make sure your room is dark, quiet and your bed is comfortable.
- (2) Get up and go to bed at the same time every day.
- (3) Limit caffeine and nicotine use. Eat dinner at least 3 hours before bedtime.
- (4) Exercise regularly, but not too vigorously before going to bed.
- (5) If you take longer than 1/2 hour to get to sleep, get up and do something that calms you such as reading, knitting, etc.
- (6) Develop a relaxing preslee ritual - warm bath, herbal tea or whatever works for you.

## Smart diet ideas from different countries

Japan - They replace meat with legumes, use soy foods do not fry foods, eat raw fish or grill or broil it.

Greenland - The Inuit diet eat lots of marine fats which are high in Omega 3 which helps decrease the risk of stroke or heart attack.

Mediterranean Area - They use olive oil which lowers "bad" cholesterol, consume lots of seafood, nuts and seeds which contain heart-healthy fats.

India - Most Hindus are vegetarians, using lentils and vegetables in curries accompanied by whole-wheat bread.

## Housework Shortcuts

- 1) Use a fabric softener sheet to dust T.V. and computer screens. It makes the dust stick and keeps it off for awhile.
- 2) Rub your rubber-gloved hands over sofa to remove pet hair.
- 3) To deodorize and remove gunk from microwave oven, spritz a wet dish cloth with lemon and nuke for 40 seconds. The steam softens the mess and you can wipe it off with the cloth when it cools.
- 4) Use toothpaste to remove scuff marks from linoleum.
- 5) Spray shaving cream on bathroom mirror, leave for a minute and wipe off. This should keep the glass fog free for more than a week.
- 6) Fill a spray bottle with bleach or vinegar and squirt under the rim of the toilet bowl, making 2 or 3 full circles. Leave overnight. When you flush the bowl should be clean.

A man and his wife are sitting quietly in the living room. "Just so you know", he says to her, "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

She immediately gets up and unplugs the T.V.

## Why Canadians trail so many other countries in math

I was sitting in a cafeteria recently, next to a woman who was engrossed in her newspaper. One of the headlines blared: "12 Brazilian Soldiers Killed"

She shook her head at the sad news, then turned to me and asked, "How many is a Brazilian?"

## Need an excuse for being late for work?

Here are a few suggestions:

- (1) I dreamed I was fired, so I didn't bother to get up.
- (2) I got all the way to work, realized I was in my pajamas so had to go back home to change.
- (3) I stopped for a bagel, the store was robbed and the police required everyone to stay for questioning.
- (4) I wet my pants and went home to change.
- (5) I ran over a goat and had to dress it up.

**Exit line: Ever notice that "A Penny For Your Thoughts" is now a Quarter?**



Add more joy and balance to your life and make your mind and body feel great.

I have recently become a Yoga instructor with certification from Sivananda Yogo Centre in the Bahamas, and will be conducting classes in my home at 106 Morrison Point Road beginning on April 3rd.

Classes are every Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and are limited to 5 people per class, so reservations are recommended. Private classes are also available.

Please call or text Vicki Emlaw at 613.848.7791 for more information and to reserve your space.

## Municipal Council Update

By Steve Ferguson, Councillor for South Marysburgh

April was a hectic month at Council and Committee of the Whole meetings.

We received the Picton Harbour Development Vision that outlined future plans for the harbour and outlying areas; we approved the Civic Recognition Nomination for Judy Kent for her tireless volunteerism and many contributions to the County, particularly in the area of community building and artistic promotion. Judy is the recipient of many awards at the local, Provincial, National and International level, including the first person to be inducted into the Commonwealth Games Federation Order of Merit for exceptional service to the organization. The award will be presented at a later date.

Council approved updates to its Procedural By-law, and also approved the use of Internet and paper ballot voting for the 2018 election.

On planning issues, we heard a report, and subsequently approved disposition of the right of way between County Road 18 and Outlet Beach, and as you may have heard our decision did not meet with the approval of several nearby residents when it came to council for adoption; and we approved the site plan for Alex Fida's ongoing restoration of the House of Falconer on Walton Street.

Deputations were made by Cheryl Anderson regarding Birding Month in the County and presentation of PEPtBO's new publication, "Nature Matters!" that was featured on the cover of last month's Mirror; Angus Ross made a timely and disturbing presentation regarding the proliferation of vacation rental properties and their effect on local communities, particularly Wellington, including removing housing stock that otherwise would be available to families or elderly retirees. Staff has been asked to provide a report so council can understand and act on options.

Patricia McDermott, co-owner of The Agrarian Market, presented a proposal for use of the Millennium Trail at Lake Street as a farmers' market which was universally agreed to in principle. Also, last week Council agreed to the continuation of using municipal lands in Delhi Park in Picton for Community Gardens, and the establishment of a Community Garden in Wellington on the grounds of the Wellington Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Other deputations were made by Brian Etherington, Board Member of Save Picton Bay, concerning the differing legal opinions about the zoning of Picton Terminals; and representatives of the Picton Splash Pad Committee addressed Council regarding the staff report on the agenda endorsing the purchase of splash pad equipment.

As the council representative, I attended the monthly PEHAC meeting, and two Canada 150/PEC 225 meetings.

Finally, Sophiasburgh Councillor Bill Roberts made a good-natured remark about the state of my balding head at the April 27th Committee of the Whole meeting that warranted a response. Regrettably, the opportunity didn't present itself. If it had, I would have reminded Councillor Roberts—in a good-natured way - that "the state of my pate" is illustrative of the fact that one can't grow grass on a busy street, a condition with which he is clearly unfamiliar.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful May, and a Happy Mother's Day to all our moms!

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## What's going on at The Library

By Liz Zylstra

### ***Come to the Cabaret on May 13th - support the M.I.L.L.!***

As you may already know, the Milford Branch of the Library is home to the Musical Instrument Lending Library. It continues to be well-used and has inspired the start of a weekly rock jam in Picton with Mario Panacci, and a ukulele group in Wellington. Volunteer Don Hinde shares, "Many County musicians have volunteered their time and talent as well as donated instruments to provide a chance for people to try an instrument at a very small cost. The M.I.L.L. needs some help after loaning out many musical instruments at a tiny cost. This program is a big hit and now needs some community support."

To help raise funds for new instruments, we're excited to announce that Friends of the Picton and Wellington Branches of the Library will host a music-filled evening at the Prince Edward Yacht Club on Saturday, May 13th from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. "Come to the Cabaret" will feature classical, contemporary and country music for all ages and feature the talents of Don Hinde, Mario Panacci and friends. There will be a cash bar, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. You can purchase a \$25 ticket at any PEC Library branch. For more information, please call Doug Sloane at (613) 476-3277 or Don Hinde at (613) 476-7125. If you're interested in finding out more or would like to join the Friends of the Milford Branch, drop by the branch or give us a call (613) 476-4130.

We're also planning to have an occasional booth at the Milford Market selling books. If you're interested in contributing some time to staff the booth (it's a great excuse to be at the Market and meet up with your neighbours!) please do let us know.

Functional fitness is happening Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. It's a fun and relaxed group and all are welcome. Functional fitness is chair based, incorporates some standing exercises and promotes strength, balance, flexibility and mobility. These contribute to continued independence, fall prevention and increased well-being. \$3 per class.

The Knitting Club meets Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. – it's a growing group that always has a great time while working on their projects.

Summer hours will return after the May long weekend – we look forward to returning to the 5-days-a-week schedule.

Derrick Tuttle  
Owner/Operator



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### **Sarah's Research Notes** **Insight, Information & Anecdotes** **About Nelson Hicks' Journal Entries**

*It really feels like spring on the farm. Foals being born, spring cleaning in the house and lots of preparation for the growing season. Twice Nelson mentions spraying, probably Macintosh apple trees. This would have been the time of year to apply insecticide to kill off overwintering aphids before the blossoms arrive.*

*They're also prepping the ground. Horses were still the most important farm animal and the key source of power. Nelson mentions drawing manure onto the corn and also cultivating. He would use horse drawn machinery for both these jobs. A spreader for the manure and a plow and harrow to cultivate. The teeth protruding from the bottom of a harrow loosened the soil and broke up clods before sowing. Here's a spreader and harrow from the era.*



*Beulah driving a four-horse team hitched to a harrow c.1920*



*Horse drawn manure spreader on the Usher farm (click for larger view)*

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## 22ND ANNUAL ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH VICTORIA DAY CANOE TRIP

### KEEP CALM



## PADDLE A CANOE

On Monday, May 22, bring your canoe, kayak or paddle board to Harley and Karen Guernsey's home at 17 Chapman Crescent in Milford. Launch time is 11:00 a.m. The destination is the dock at Black River Bed and Breakfast at 68 Morrison Point Road.

Enjoy live music by Bill McBurney, salads provided by the volunteers at St. Philip's Church, and from BBQ master Bill Cowan will come not only sizzling hotdogs donated by the Gurenseys, but delicious pastured pork and bacon burgers courtesy of Bob and Shelia Burkinshaw of Morrison Point Farm.

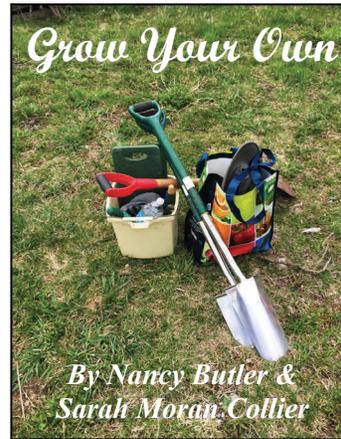
#### Further information:

*Emily Cowan*                      **613 885 2299**

*Conrad Biernacki*                **613 476 7346**

#### Questions about canoes:

*Ben Cowan*                        **613 827 7157**



We have a strong feeling of community at the Milford Fair when we come together with samples of the year's harvest. There's an implicit feeling of community at other key seasons too. Right now, many of us are dreaming and planning the year's growing, doing it all at the same time, taking the same first watchful

steps, even though we are not actually together. It has been so down through the ages and around the world.

From across time and space, here's a man describing this growing, in the UK, in 1785, and in poetry!

"The seed selected wisely, plump and smooth  
And glossy, he commits to pots of size  
Diminutive, well filled with well-prepared  
And fruitful soil, that has been treasured long,  
And drunk no moisture from the dripping clouds.  
These on the warm and genial earth that hides  
The smoking manure and overspreads it all,  
He places lightly, and as time subdues  
The rage of fermentation, plunges deep  
In the soft medium, till they stand immersed.  
Then rise the tender germs upstarting quick  
And spreading wide their spongy lobes, at first  
Pale, wan, and livid, but assuming soon,  
If fanned by balmy and nutritious air  
Strained through the friendly mats, a vivid green.  
Two leaves produced, two rough, indented leaves,  
Cautious he pinches from the second stalk  
A pimple that portends a future sprout,  
And interdicts its growth. Thence straight succeed  
The branches, sturdy to his utmost wish,  
Prolific all and harbingers of more."  
(*The Task* by William Cowper)

Couldn't that just as easily be you? Enjoy this season of fresh start.

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## Necessities of Life

By George Underhill

We were talking the other day about roughing it in the woods. We did it because there are several reality TV shows on the subject these days. In fact, my brother's son was in a TV show titled *Naked and Afraid* where a couple is released in the bush to sustain themselves without clothes or tools. I worked for five summers in the woods, three of them living in tents in pretty remote places. They don't talk about going to the bathroom on these TV shows, and it is one of the most uncomfortable and challenging acts when you are roughing it in the woods.

One of the first tasks when you are setting up camp is to make a latrine. I don't know the proper way to do it, but I know how we used to do it. You nail a sturdy tree branch between two trees. It must be the right height and level, then you dig a trench underneath it and drive a spike into the tree to hold the toilet paper. Now it is ready to receive visitors. This is not a place for contemplation, nor would you bring a magazine because every blackfly and mosquito, sensing that there will be a bare bum to feast upon, rushes to the area.

In this age of equality, 2017, I have to assume that the bush crew is not all male. Therefore, I don't know how the outdoor latrine has changed. Would you put privacy guards around the latrine? When the crew is out in the bush, do you avert your eyes when the female members have to pee, or do they wander off into the woods for privacy? It's complicated.

In camp, we took pains to pee a little distance from our tents, and to unfailingly use the latrine to evacuate our bowels...except for one occasion. There were a dozen of us living in tents and several of us contracted "beaver fever". This is an ailment characterized by severe diarrhea caused by drinking water contaminated by the excrement of animals, probably beavers. This caused our camp to be unlivable so when most of us had recovered we packed up our tents and moved a quarter mile away.

We had a cook and a cook tent with a stove and a long table. The cook was an imaginative guy, as he had to be to feed a dozen people with primitive cooking equipment. For a brief time a bear bothered us. He would explore the cook tent early in the morning and, at first, would scamper away when he was yelled at. But then he wouldn't run away, and he made a mess eating the condiments left on the table and breaking into the containers holding food. The cook was equipped with a rifle and, at first, its report scared away the bear...and then it didn't. I felt the bear brush against my tent on his way to the kitchen one morning, then heard a gunshot. We found the cook in his underwear standing over a dead bear. None of us were sorry.

Bathing is another challenge. There was usually water near our camps, but it was ice cold. Bathing in ice water is the equivalent to torture in order to extract

information from a captive. I don't think they make soap that will lather in ice water either. Mostly we just stank, but we all smelled pretty rank so no one noticed in camp, but I expect when we reached civilization people were aware of our unbathed state. Then again, the civilizations we reached were quite primitive so I'm not sure anyone cared.

Of course, we were all bearded because shaving was difficult and nobody cared how you looked. One time we camped near a solitary man who lived with his horse in a long abandoned lumber camp. He dressed in woolen army pants and jacket even in the hottest weather. He set records for the lack of personal hygiene. In fact he had just changed rooms with his horse. I never checked, but I believe the stable was cleaner and less smelly than where he bedded for the night.

They don't cover these sorts of things on reality TV.



*Sandbanks PP Superintendent Robin Reilly likely has more success herding visitors on a summer long weekend at the park than he did with a couple of sheep recently. These two came for a visit to The Mirror after they escaped from their enclosure at his house and crossed over County Road 13.*

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&  
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