

# Balsam Chutes Road Association

## Winter Newsletter 2014

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### Dates To Remember:

- March 31, 2013 road fees due
- Sunday, June 11, 2014 AGM at the Port Sydney Community Center
- Thursday after Victoria Day weekly garbage pick-up begins



Balsam Chutes Road Association  
Box 62, Bracebridge,  
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[www.balsamchutes.com](http://www.balsamchutes.com)

## Message from the President

It is a very rare thing to have a group of people, from such varied backgrounds and with such an age spread, come together and not only work really well together but also build friendships. So, it is with a heavy heart that I thank Jake Provost, Chris Kosela, and Else & Scott Cameron for their years of service.

With their departure, Gib Piche, former director, has now stepped into the Treasurer's role, Seth Harder, Mary-Ann Kosela, Lawrence Stevenson and John Strickland are continuing in their current positions, and it is my great pleasure to welcome Michelle Gardiner, Jordi Heath, Sylvia Iden and Don Whalen, to the board as acting directors until the AGM when they will hopefully run for the official directors positions.

Looking back, over the year we tackled some big drainage issues during "construction" season, but we didn't get the new gravel down as we had hoped to. This was in part due to scheduling challenges but mostly due to the weather. We received A LOT of rain in the months of August, September and October. With any luck this summer will be a bit drier and thus more productive.

On that note, I would like to thank those residents who have provided us with feedback either through letters, e-mails, or in person with regards to the state of the road and their thoughts on how to make it better. Whether positive or negative, your opinion is important to us.

See you on the road,  
Holly Strickland, BCRA, President

## Snow, Snow, Woe, Snow!

We have received a record amount of snow since the beginning of December. Our plowing company, Muskoka Landscaping, has worked hard to keep the road clear however they have nowhere to push snow except to shoulder of the road and that includes any driveways in their path. We realize this causes some hardship and we ask for your understanding as their main goal is to make our road as safe as possible.

As a reminder, as per the Town of Huntsville By-Laws, do not push the snow from your driveway across the road. Instead pile all snow from your driveway and walkways on your property - not on the road. When clearing your driveway pile snow on the right side of your driveway if you are facing the street. This will help reduce the amount of snow pushed back into your driveway by a plow. Additionally, if you hire a plowing

company to clear your driveway please make sure they are also abiding by this. Pushing the snow across the road into the snowbank adjacent your property narrows the road, causes plowing problems for our plowing trucks and can lead to accidents.

You can also help by not parking on the road, especially during or after a snowfall. Parking on the road makes it extremely difficult for our plow trucks to properly remove the snow.

Lastly, on garbage day, place your garbage and recycling containers close to the edge of the road but not so close as to interfere with snow removal.

On behalf of our plowing company, thank you for your help in keeping our road safe and clear of snow.



## FOCA and WRAFT Join Forces

Taken from FOCA's Hot Topics

### Local Information

Drinking water testing  
1-877-721-7520

Bracebridge landfill hours  
of operation:  
• Monday to Friday 8-4:30  
• Saturdays 9-4:30  
• Sundays 11-4:30



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The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and the Waterfront Rate-payers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) have announced the merger of their efforts to fight for fair property taxation for Ontario's residential property owners.

The two organizations recently announced their on-going commitment to hold the Province of Ontario accountable for the fair treatment of Ontario's homeowners.

WRAFT's vice-chairman, Alan Morson, spoke to the on-going discrepancies in property assessment recently outlined by Ontario's Auditor General, and described the inflexible approach to the volatility issue in the current system: "While the use of property valuation is a widespread basis for assessing property taxes in North America," said Morson, "unlike other jurisdictions, Ontario refuses to mitigate the drastic financial impacts of real estate fluctuations." The original legislative plan that would have dealt with the inaccuracy of

individual assessments was never implemented, giving rise to WRAFT's suggestions of a 5% annual assessment cap to mitigate the unfairness.

"The underlying problems with heavily-burdened municipal tax bills, assessed through current value assessment remain," states FOCA's Executive Director, Terry Rees. "It is incumbent on all property owners in this Province to voice their concerns to their candidates for Provincial elected office this year. Rural, waterfront homeowners are the backbone of many of our municipalities," says Rees, "and this undue financial pressure levied on neighbourhoods across the Province signals an on-going disregard for their plight."

To learn how to challenge your property assessment, or to send a message to your MPP about your property taxation concerns, contact [wraft@nexicom.net](mailto:wraft@nexicom.net), and visit [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca).

## Are You 72hrs Ready??

Storms and other emergencies happen but are you 72 hours ready? Here's what you should include in a basic emergency kit:

- **Emergency plan:** make sure your family knows where the kit is and knows the plan
- **Water**
- **Non-perishable food**
- **Manual can opener**
- **Wind-up or battery-powered flashlight**
- **Wind-up or battery-powered radio**
- **First aid kit**
- **Extra items:** candles and matches or lighter, change of clothing and footwear for each household member, sleeping bag

- or warm blanket for each household member, toiletries, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, utensils, garbage bags, water purifying tablets, basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, work gloves, pocket knife) small fuel-operated stove and fuel, whistle or air horn, duct tape
- **Special Needs:** pet food, prescription medications, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities
- **Extra keys** for your car and house
- **Cash:** include smaller bills such as \$10 bills and change for payphones (Yes, they do still exist!)

For more information visit:  
[www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)