

PICA NEWSLETTER

March 2017

PARRY ISLAND COTTAGER'S ASSOCIATION

Message from the President

Happy St Patrick's Day everyone! Although it may not feel like it with several feet of snow still blanketing Parry Island, Spring is just around the corner.

It's been a busy fall and winter for both PICA and WFN. To begin, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Rob Mills from Lot 226 and I'm taking over as president for Harry Stein. I want to thank Harry for his contribution to PICA and all of the time he spent working on issues for us all. I hope to move many of these issues forward this year and to continue the work Harry has been doing for us all.

As many of you are aware, WFN has been working to develop their own Land Code, and the ratification vote to adopt the WFN Land Code occurred on February 25th of this year. WFN voted 76% in favour of adopting the WFN Land Code.

In brief, what this means is that the WFN Land Code "will be the basic land law of the First Nation and will replace the land management provisions of the *Indian Act*. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will no longer be involved in the management and decision making of a First Nation's reserve lands." WFN will begin to manage their lands directly.

What this means to us: As far as PICA members go, in the near term, our current leases are in effect until 2032, and they will remain as such. These agreements are protected under this framework and we have confirmed this with legal counsel. Chief Warren also confirmed this to everyone present at the AGM last summer.

With the change to the WFN Land Code, WFN can in the future, negotiate with us directly to extend and create new leases. Neither the Crown nor WLI will be required to be involved in the process down the road. For those of you who were in attendance at the AGM last year, you know that Chief Warren attended the meeting and committed to working together with PICA in this regard. He stated that WFN 'wants to be in the leasing business' and is committed to continue leasing lots to the current leasees. He went so far as to suggest that WFN is interested in negotiating a more typical lease agreement in the future, along the lines of a 99-year agreement, which is more common for these types of leased land arrangements in Canada.

Obviously this is good news and would be beneficial to cottagers and to WFN. Chief Warren also stated that he would be interested in renegotiating the current lease earlier if that was possible. This would take the agreement of all three parties, WFN, WLI, and PICA members to do so, and we intend to support Chief Warren in this regard. There is no guarantee that WLI will agree to do this, but we will work with both WFN and WLI toward this goal.

These changes will require an adjustment period and WFN and WLI will require time to process and integrate them. I would ask you all to be patient and give them the opportunity to begin this process, as it will not happen overnight. In the meantime, we will continue to work with WLI to clear up any misinterpretations regarding lease requirements, inspections etc. and try to improve the relationship

between WLI and cottagers.

This was also an election year for WFN and I'm happy to be able to congratulate Chief Warren on his re-election. The WFN community improvements happening under his tenure will benefit from this continuity in leadership as will our work to renegotiate and extend the current lease agreement.

Happy belated New Year to everyone, looking forward to getting back up to the island.

President - PICA

Membership Report:

Below, you will see an updated list by cottage number – effective , June 10, 2016, of all of the cottagers who have **currently paid** their “special assessment”. This special assessment was unanimously approved at the PICA Annual General Meeting on July 20, 2013. If you have paid and don't see your cottage number on this list, please contact Carol Heaslip (see below). If you don't see your neighbour's cottage on this list, then go talk to them. Tell them how important this is for everyone to participate.

	2	3	4		6		8		10	11	12
13	14	15	16				20	21	22	23	24
	26			29	30		32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40					45	46		48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55		57	58	59	
	62	63	64		66	67		69	70	71	
73		75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
85	86		88	89		91	92	93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100	101	102		104		106		108
109		111	112	113	114	115	116	117		119	120
	122			125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132
		135	136	137				141	142		144
	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153		155	156
	158			161	162		164		166	167	
	170	171				175				179	180
	182	183		185	186	187	188		190	191	192
	194	195		197	198	199	200	201			204
205	206	207	208	209	210		212	213	214	215	
217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228
		231	232			235	236		238		240
241	242	243	244								

To those that have paid, we say “thank you very much”, your support of our negotiation committee's endeavour to get an extension to our current sub-lease (due to expire in 2032), is very much appreciated.

As you can see, we do not have full support of all the cottagers YET. PICA's intent is to have the PICA Special Assessment paid up to date for every cottage. Since PICA is representing and negotiating the lease extension for the “membership” and the membership approved introduction of the Special Assessment, only those paid up members will be represented in the lease renegotiations.

If you wish to confirm your payment record, please email Carol Heaslip (eric.heaslip008@sympatico.ca) or you can send your cheque to: PICA, P.O. Box 686, Parry Sound ON P2A 2Z1. We truly appreciate your continued support!

A reminder to all cottagers to have your water supply checked on a regular basis. The West Parry Sound Health Centre has a kiosk in the Mall at the North end of Parry Sound. You can pick up your water testing kits there along with instructions.

General :

A kindly reminder about your information as it pertains to your cottage. A detailed list is kept for each cottage but of course lists are only worthwhile if they are kept up to date. So if you change/sell your cottage; change the leaseholders name on your cottage; your home address; cottage telephone number or your home/cell telephone number(s) and if you change or add an email, would you be so kind as to let Carol Heaslip know as soon as possible. And if you sell your property, please share this PICA information with the new owners or the real estate agent.

At the Annual General Meeting on July 16, 2016, the members present did a “pass the hat” donation (third year), the monies to be given to the youth of Wasauksing First Nations. We are happy to report that the collection was \$922. PICA added an additional \$278 to make the total donation \$1,200. On September 13, 2016, Carol Heaslip visited Chief Warren to make the donation a formality.



Emails and information can be sent to the website via parryislandcottagers@gmail.com . You can also access the information on the website at www.parryislandcottagers.com .

Contacts:

Carol Heaslip (Lot 37) – eric.heaslip008@sympatico.ca or 705-746-9535 – Membership Chair

John Bick (Lot 51) – johnbick@globalserve.net or 905-304-7250 – Secretary

Rob Mills (Lot 226) – robkmills@hotmail.com or 416-731-8117 - President

NEXT:

PICA (Parry Island Cottager's Association) – AGM (Annual General Meeting)

Saturday, July 15, 2017

9:00 a.m. – Registration and payment of dues

9:30 a.m. – meeting

Location: Upstairs – Bobby Orr Arena, 7 Mary Street, Parry Sound ON