

# Erie Beach Board Report

By Brian Jackson, Chair of the Board

Erie Beach is a central gathering place for many people located in southwestern Ontario. The campground operates from May through to October. The campground offers three areas for trailers and tents, each with multiple electric (15, 30 and 50 amp), and water serviced sites, as well as two separate dormitory buildings with facilities for sleeping overnight. There is a main washroom equipped with showers located near the central trailer area.

The dormitories also have larger rooms that are used as classrooms and general-purpose smaller gatherings. The dorms have accessible facilities for those who require it. The Youth building (380 sq m) is the only building on site provided with heating and air conditioning and is a general-purpose building used for medium-sized gatherings such as movies, youth pizza nights, arts and crafts, board meetings, etc. The youth building is equipped with a kitchenette and washrooms.

The auditorium (370 sq m) is used for camp wide gatherings, worship services and can also accommodate recreational activities. The dorms, auditorium and youth building are located around the peace pad and provide a central gathering location for the entire camp. The campground also has a large dining hall with a fully equipped kitchen for serving meals which continues to be a necessary service for gatherings. There are three small cabins on the campground that are the responsibilities of assigned families and continue to be used and maintained by those assigned to attend camps. Other campground features include a children's playground, ball diamond, outdoor volleyball court, campfire area by the lake, and a beach area for swimming in the lake.

Shoreline protection and erosion prevention is an ongoing challenge. Work done in the previous 5 years to replace decaying jetties with armour stone has shown some improvement and combined with lower water levels in the lake, some success in restoring the beach area has been achieved. This could change quickly should the lake levels rise again. Greater than 50% of the campground budget goes towards property tax and insurance. The remainder of the budget is used to manage ongoing utility expenses, repair, maintenance, and improvement of facility and equipment needs. Approximately half of the income for the campground comes from rental of the property to other organizations and groups. The campground has had a long-standing relationship with multiple groups who continue to return each year, and that income is very important for the ongoing needs of the campground. Rentals increase the demand for volunteers to tend to check in, check out and resolve issues. The remainder of the income is from donations of many individuals and member congregations of the campground association. Looking forward, there is a concern about whether there will be enough volunteers to help with the needs of maintaining the campground and working with tenant groups.