

# Steenburg Lake Community Association

STEENBURG LAKE  
HASTINGS COUNTY  
ONTARIO · CANADA

March 31, 1975

Fellow Cottagers!

This is traditionally the time of year your association president sits down and cranks out a letter informing all, of our upcoming membership visitation, date and place of our next annual meeting and generally try to provide answers to any questions submitted by the membership.

Well I can assure you, from all the letters and phone calls I have received since I last wrote you on Sept. 9th, 1974, - we definitely have an association that is very much alive, and concerned. We will be soliciting you again for your membership and support and our next annual meeting will be held Saturday, July 12th, 1975, 7.30 p.m. at St. Ola Orange Hall, (mark this date now!)

Of major concern during the past few months to your executive and I know to all cottagers on Lake Steenburg has been, and still is, the proposed development of the Bass Lake Lodge tent and trailer park.

I should like to recap for you, some of the developments which have taken place and bring you up to-date on our present position.

Before doing so however, I would like to advise, that as directed by you at our 1974 annual meeting, your association was officially "Incorporated" on December 24th, 1974. Your first directors are Mary Patricia Edge, Anita Marie Waddell, Charles Robert Bateman, Percy Allan Saunders and the writer. I would like to thank very much, Thomas Marshall, for his efforts and legal assistance in making this possible.

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Report.

For the benefit of those cottagers who may not be aware, we were officially notified on October 28th, 1974, that a permit was issued by Ministry of Industry & Tourism, permitting the establishment of 100 campsites instead of the 400 originally applied for, and subject to strict environmental controls specified by Ministry of Environment.

(Permit was issued October 21, 1974, to Mrs. E. Sheppy, R.R. #1, Steenburg, Ontario - by Mr. Jim Berry, Industry & Tourism, (Brockville Office).

I think it is worth noting here, that without your 355 name petition and your over 300 letters, addressed to the various Ministries concerned, this permit may have been issued for a larger number. (Not that I condone what has happened, I don't).

In any case congratulations to all who took the time and effort to express their concern for the future of Steenburg Lake.

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Prior to this permit being issued and on the advice of all Ministries we were in constant contact with the Brockville office, Industry & Tourism re - Status of the permit.

On October 9th and again on October 17th information received indicated that this problem was being transferred from the regional office for a decision at Queens' Park, Toronto, within a one month period.

On October 22nd/74 I requested a meeting with Mr. Claude Bennett, Ministry Industry & Tourism or Mr. F.J. Hall, Director, Small Business Operations, Industry & Tourism.

On November 13th/74, Mr. T.A. Lillico, Director, Small Business Operations, Ottawa (Jim Berry's boss) advised me that my request for a meeting crossed in the mail with his letter of October 28th advising us of permit being issued (November 13th letter attached). A meeting was subsequently set up with Mr. T.A. Lillico and Mr. F.J. Hall, on December 11th/74, Queens' Park, Toronto.

Representing Steenburg Lake Community Association at this meeting were Mr. Griff Lloyd and Mr. Ian Fraser, two past presidents of our association and myself.

Our purpose in meeting with representatives of Industry & Tourism was to strongly re-assert our position against their actions of issuing the tent-trailer park permit, and to obtain as much information as possible re the application, permit and actual recommended controls set down by the other ministries involved. Mr. Hall & Mr. Lillico made it quite clear that their primary concern in this matter was the small business man and the promotion of Industry & Tourism. IN fact they stated that their jobs depended on this. In their judgment, after considering all reports they felt that the issuing of the 100 site permit instead of 400 was a good compromise, between the developer & the cottagers. Naturally we had many questions to ask of these representatives, many raised by you, in your letters. It was the conclusion of Griff Lloyd, Ian Fraser and myself that the answers given by this responsible Ministry left much to be desired.

In addition to copies of the application, permit and site drawings, (such as they are) we received for the first time, copies of the actual field report submitted by Natural Resources and Ministry of Environment.

It became evident on reading these reports that there was a genuine concern on the part of the Ministry of Environment as to the desirability or necessity for such a development on Lake Steenburg. In fact I would say their reports were sympathetic to our concern. In each of these reports written and submitted by Environment staff, they state independently, that in their view, a complete "environmental impact study" should be conducted on the "environs of Lake Steenburg" before any further development is allowed.

At an Executive Meeting of your Association held January 15, 1975 -

The following action was taken -

1. Direction was given myself to evaluate with a consulting firm, the reports and reference made to the desirability of an (Environmental Impact Study).
2. Motion was made to retain on a consulting basis, legal counsel, independent of any association affiliation, in case of any future court presentation.
3. A motion was made to contact Limerick Township Council at their next regular council meeting Feb. 7th/75, to request a motion be passed by council - upholding any further work on this project, by Mr. Sheppy, until next council meeting or until a complete on-the-lake report can be prepared by our association for council. (Estimated time for report was Mar. 31/75).

Executive Meeting of your Association held March 3rd/75.

Reports:

1. Retained Bird and Hale Ltd., 1263 Bay St., Toronto, (February 19, 1975), to prepare for Lake Steenburg Community Association an - Environmental Assessment Study. (Bird & Hale Ltd. are an independent Consulting Firm actively engaged in this type of assessment for Government, Private Developers and cottagers).
2. Retained lawyer Thomas L. Forbes, 21 King St. Toronto, as consulting legal counsel.
3. Griff Lloyd and myself, met with Limerick Township Council - Feb. 7th/75. Our meeting was very cordial, there was a very real concern expressed by council that they had received absolutely no information on the development nor had they seen Mr. Sheppy since our last meeting with council July/74. We reviewed the reports from our file obtained from Industry & Tourism, Toronto, including the site drawings which they had as yet, not seen.

There was particular concern expressed regarding the commitments the township would have to comply with re the water works system on the site and the obvious additional heavy expenditures which would be required to enlarge and maintain the existing disposal facilities. Reeve Frank Robbins stated that he wanted to be fair to both sides and felt Mr. Sheppy should be allowed a development of some 50 sites.

We reiterated our position again stating that a 50 cottage development was upheld by the government in 1970 for basically the same reasons we have put forth now. Further, we feel that now there is a methodology for determining the capacity of a resort lake to support a given population, we want to apply that methodology to Lake Steenburg.

Hence our Report:

At our request the following motion was passed -

"That as requested by Steenburg Lake Community Association, that further plans or development regarding the establishment of "Tent and Trailer Park" proposed by Mr. Eric Sheppy, be withheld until next regular meeting of council or until clarification is received from the Ministry of Environment, regarding difference in reports relative to said Park"

Council agreed to advise Mr. Sheppy of this motion and request of him, complete detailed drawings of his proposed park, for their information.

Before leaving council we agreed to keep one another completely informed re this subject. We expected our report by March 31st, and agreed to keep in close contact re this report.

In a telephone conversation with Mrs. Irma Phillips, March 5th and later with Reeve Robbins on Friday March 7th, I reported our progress in our "Environmental Assessment Study" was being held up awaiting drawings from Industry & Tourism. I told Reeve Robbins we would not be at the March 7th meeting but expected to be at the April meeting. He said he would convey this report to council.

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On March 17th/75, I received a letter from Mrs. Irma Phillips, advising us of a motion made by Councillors MacKillican & Boomhour, recinding a portion of our motion (see attached letter).

On March 22nd/75 while at the lake, I spoke to Reeve Robbins re council recinding part of our motion. He said he was not really in favour of the original motion and couldn't understand why council passed it, as it tied up Mr. Sheppy indefinitely. I reminded him that despite how he felt, this was not the intention or purpose of the motion, and as agreed we had kept council completely informed re the status of this report.

I reminded him that it was because of the Ministry of Environment's concern for the over development of Lake Steenburg and their recommendation that a study be conducted first, before any further development proceeded, that we were having this study prepared, and for that reason only.

I pointed out that as he and council, have a responsibility to all property owners and tax payers in Limerick Township, so have the executive of our Association a responsibility to persue any means at their disposal, for determining the capacity of Lake Steenburg to support any additional development and "As the old saying goes, if you want something done, you do it yourself".

I concluded by saying, that as originally agreed to, at the February 7th, council meeting, we would make our report available to council as well as other ~~governmental~~ agencies immediately on it's completion.

End of my report \* Wes Moffatt

"Financial Contribution Required"

"As early as last July, at our annual meeting and many times since, members have indicated their willingness to contribute financially, to what ever course of action, would do the most to protect their investment in "Lake Steenburg".

In our view an "Environmental Assessment Study" to determine the capacity of Lake Steenburg to support any additional development, being prepared at this time, is money well invested to-day and in the future.

At our March 3rd/75 executive meeting it was moved to improve our financial position by two methods -

One - to increase our annual membership from \$2.00 to \$5.00 annually, and secondly to assess each individual cottage owner willing to contribute a minimum of \$5.00 towards costs of the above study. (Any amounts above this minimum will naturally be gratefully appreciated).

See attached - membership & assessment form.



Ontario

TOWNSHIP OF LAMBERT

CLERK - TREASURER

BOX 14, R.R. #1

GLIMBURN, ONTARIO

Ministry of  
Industry and  
Tourism

Telephone: (613) 237-6280

Small Business Operations Div.,  
Suite 1100, 1 Nicholas Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario. K1N 7B7  
November 13th, 1974.

Mr. Wes Moffatt, President,  
Steenburg Lake Community Association,  
19 Oakworth Crescent,  
Scarborough, Ontario.  
MK 3T7

Dear Mr. Moffatt:

I have just received from the Minister's Office  
your letter of October 23rd, 1974, once again expressing  
concern over the proposed 400 campsite development on  
Steenburg Lake.

From the dates of your letter and the receipt of it  
in the Minister's Office and our receipt of it here, I  
gather that your letter crossed with my letter dated October  
28th, 1974, which I sent out not only to you but to other  
cottagers in the Association explaining the action we have  
taken.

I feel quite certain that the Ministry of Environment  
controls which must be complied with by the campground  
operator and which cover water supply, refuse disposal, air  
pollution and noise pollution will give adequate safeguards  
to the cottagers and the lake environment.

Since Mr. Hall is on a business trip and will not be  
back until early December and I will not be in Toronto until  
early December, it will be rather difficult to arrange a  
meeting prior to that, but if you have any unanswered questions  
on this, please do not hesitate to contact either one of our  
offices and we will try to arrange a meeting at that time.

Yours sincerely,

*T. A. Lillico*

T. A. Lillico, - (WHEN IN TORONTO?)

TAL:lg

NEVER LCC  
OCT. 28th  
LETTER

WHAT DATE?

# TOWNSHIP OF LIMERICK

CLERK - TREASURER

BOX 154, R.R. No. 1

GILMOUR, ONTARIO



March 17th, 1975.

Mr. W. Moffatt,  
President, S.L.C. Assoc.,  
19 Oakworth Cres.,  
Scarborough, Ont.  
MLK 3T7.

Dear Mr. Moffatt;

In conjunction with your request at our February meeting that your Association be notified of resolutions passed by the Council, concerning your Lake, please be advised of the following, passed at the last Council meeting:

MacKillican-Boomhour: that we rescind portion of resolution #3, of February 7th, 1975, " or until clarification is received from the Ministry of the Environment, regarding the difference in reports relative to said Park".

Yours very truly,

Irma Phillips,  
Clerk-Treasurer.

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING - SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1970  
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The Annual Meeting was held in the Council Chambers in St. Ola, at 7:30 pm. Sixty-two cottagers were present.

President's Report

Mr. Mathieson advised that in the last two years, the Executive had held 8 meetings. He introduced the officers - Mr. John Maunder, Vice-President; Mrs. Edith Shrieve, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Andy Szmik; Mr. Milton Shields; Mr. Warren Lloyd; Mr. Keith Little, representing the Past Presidents.

It was reported that Mrs. Reg Hodgkins had died in the past year. Roy F. Johncox's cottage had been burglarized during the winter. The culprits have been apprehended, due to the alertness of Don Fitzgibbon. Fire has demolished the boathouse owned by Mr. John Daley.

Mr. Mathieson reported that the taxes in Tudor and Cashel are due on July 15th and in Limerick on August 1st. Mail strikes may cause delay in cottagers receiving their notices.

Association Business

On a motion of Mr. Keith Little and Mrs. Arthur Walsh, the Minutes of the meeting of August 9, 1969, as read by Mrs. Shrieve, were adopted.

On a motion of Mr. Milton Shields and Mr. Arnold Wilson, the Treasurer's report, showing a bank balance to this date of \$270.29 was received. The President advised that it is impossible to close the books for a few days because of outstanding receipts and expenses.

Pollution Probe

Mr. Edward Thompson of the University of Toronto was introduced by the President. Mr. Thompson, assigned by Pollution Probe to a team in this area, outlined the aims and objectives of the survey. In his remarks he covered the necessity of education of everyone in matters of the prevention of pollution. He congratulated this Association on its alertness and early start on this problem. He touched on the banning of insecticides, detergents, and proper waste disposal and answered questions on all aspects of polluting the environment. He distributed pertinent posters and pamphlets to those present.

// \* Newspaper reports indicated that a Watchdog Committee, made up of civil servants from five Government departments, held high priority for the investigation of the problems of Steenburg Lake.

Mr. Warrent Lloyd stressed the need for education of campers in the exclusive use of non-detergent products on the Lake. Mrs. Shrieve reported that there are no detergents being sold at Millar's Marina.



### Garbage Dumps

The President reported that the Township Dumps were rumoured to have been condemned by the Department of Health. This rumour had been substantiated at a meeting of the Limerick Council, attended by Mr. Mathieson and Mr. Lloyd on July 3rd. At the moment, Council have no equipment available for the necessary bulldozing, sanitary fill, nor do they have the authority to incinerate. However, they had promised that some remedial action would be taken by July 18th.

Mrs. Edgar Bateman recommended that the incoming executive investigate the possibility of a weekly garbage pick-up, similar to that employed by the Westlemkoon Cottagers' Association.

Mr. Thompson suggested that counsel could be obtained from Mr. Ellenton, Department of Health, Belleville, in these matters.

### \* New Cottage Developments

A brief, prepared by Mr. Cross for the Association and forwarded to Mr. Darcy McKeough, MPP, Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs, dated April 9th, was read. The brief stressed the impracticability of selling small-size lots on the property known as the Headlands, and the resulting pollution problems which would follow if the subdivision plans were approved. Mr. McKeough acknowledged this brief on July 3rd indicating that he was consulting the O. W. R. C. and the Department of Lands and Forests before making a decision.

At this time, Mr. Thompson stressed the need for the cottagers to exert pressure on local Councils and the possibility of trying for representation on them. The new executive would be asked to look into this problem.

Mrs. Savage reported that property north of the West Road had been sold, and plans were being drafted for a five-street subdivision. This impractical plan should be halted, was the unanimous decision of the meeting.

Note: a letter from Mrs. D. Santo, Senior Planner of the Subdivision Section, Community Planning Branch, Department of Municipal Affairs, to Mr. Herb Moore, dated July 2nd, regarding the Headlands states:

"Further to our study of the proposal by ourselves and a number of interested agencies and after careful consideration of all the items that must be regarded under Subsection 4 of Section 28 of The Planning Act, this is to inform you that we have recommended that approval be withheld."

### East Road

Mr. Warren Lloyd, who had been appointed by the executive to study and report, then told the meeting that he had been successful on behalf of the 30 cottagers involved, in getting a maximum figure for road construction for the bad stretch on the East Road, of \$5000. The meeting agreed that this was now a problem for the cottagers affected, to form their own committee and perhaps arrange payment through taxes, under a local improvement condition. Mr. Szmik thanked Mr. Lloyd for his successful negotiations.

### Other Road Work

Mr. Merton Hamm, Reeve of Limerick Township, had advised Mr. Mathieson that the North Road would be levelled at the Tripp Hill this year. The meeting requested the incoming executive to petition Council to have similar work done at a bad hill near Millar's Marina.

### Post Office

To no avail, the Association have petitioned the Canada Post Office to maintain service to Steenburg Lake. Our Post Office is now R.R. #1 Gilmour. Millar's Marina have offered a daily service if "c/o Millar's Marina" is added. An additional element of confusion is that Westlemkoon Lake mail also goes to Gilmour. The Postmistress, Mrs. Jenkins, has been given a list of the cottagers on Steenburg Lake by Mr. Warren Lloyd, to expedite service. Personal road mail-boxes, built to specifications, may be used by individual cottagers.

### Buoys

The installation, removal, and maintenance of this safety device for boaters, is handled by Mr. Bruce Fitzgibbon for \$100 a year. New markers have been located in 1970, at the request of certain cottagers. Mr. Fitzgibbon had advised that bullet-holes have been found in some of the sunken buoys. The whole matter of the improper use of firearms by unqualified juveniles was then discussed by the meeting. Correspondence on this subject from one of the summer residents was read. It was agreed that the Provincial Police should be advised by the new executive of this problem. Cottagers may individually notify police rather than wait for executive action.

### Young People

The young people who had attended the meeting and were commended for this enthusiasm, indicated that they were not interested in the Association promoting a 'Get-Acquainted-Party' for them. However, the President agreed to investigate the possibility of renting the building owned by the Trenton Boy Scouts, which is located near the Marina, for future Senior and Junior Association activities. Mr. Jim Page, Manager of Trenton P.U.C. is the contact.

### Fishing

Mr. Milton Shields requested the incoming executive to investigate and report on the cost of putting a fish gate at the Creek outlet for Steenburg Lake. The Game Warden for the area, whose name is not known, is to be contacted.

Mrs. Bateman wanted to know about the possibility of seeding the Lake with fingerlings instead of roe.

Information was given about out-of-season fishing by cottagers and local people. This should be reported to the Game Warden.

### Social Night

The outgoing executive are investigating the possibility of a social evening and Campers' Dinner for Saturday, August 8th. Notices will be placed at the Marina, if this function can be arranged.

### Election of Officers

The following officers were nominated and elected, following the presentation of a slate of officers by the executive, and a nomination from the floor. The incoming executive were directed to choose their own officers and would meet with the outgoing executive, at the earliest opportunity.

The officers for the next two years will be: Mr. Ed Cross; Mr. David Cross, representing the young people; Mr. Percy Barnes; Mr. Wm. Burton; Mr. Douglas and Mrs. Vivian Prowse. Mr. John R. Savage volunteered to act as a consultant for matters in Belleville. Mr. Mathieson will be the Past President.

Prior to the adjournment of the meeting, Mr. Ian Fraser expressed his appreciation to the President and the Executive, on behalf of the membership, for the past two years' work.