

Shoreline News

April 2000

From the President's Desk

—Tom Little

Summer Calendar

- Put the following dates on your calendar:

Saturday July 8th – Road clean-up in the morning, followed by the Beach BBQ in the afternoon. Join us for one or both.

Sunday August 6th – Annual meeting and dinner.

Four positions on the executive will be up for election at the annual meeting: President – myself, Treasurer – Ken Waddell, Social – Carol Landon, Municipal Affairs – Gary Goodfellow.

Carol and I will not be standing for re-election so we are looking for at least two candidates. If you are in a position to help the association move forward, please call me or another

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Spring Membership Challenge

— Barb Rockwell

SPRING into 2000 by getting to know your neighbours!! Become a Steenburg Lake Volunteer Canvasser. With only a few hours of effort, you can get fresh air, exercise and collect association dues from cottages close to you. No soliciting as they are expecting you and, you'll be doing a great service to the association by saving them from administration costs. SO JUMP ON BOARD and call Barb today to sign up.

Calling all Cottagers! Remember that your canvasser will be dropping by anytime after June 23rd so have your \$25.00 ready to ensure your membership in the association. If you find a "Sorry I Missed You" card at your door, it means that the canvasser has not found you home. Please call the canvasser at the number on the card to arrange another visit. Easy for everyone. And don't forget to provide us with any new information about your address or phone number for our database to ensure prompt delivery of your newsletter. 📧

Happy Cottaging 2000

With a sad heart

Trudy Van Heersink passed away on November 22 1999 after a brief stay in hospital. Her fight with cancer was done bravely and with courage. Our memories of her will live on in our hearts. 📧

Hey Kids!

Last year I caught 6 different kinds of frogs in our lake, and I saw some other reptiles and amphibians. Why don't you keep a list of the many different kinds you catch? Frogs are a good indicator of pollution so healthy frogs mean a healthy lake! 📧

member of the executive. I can be reached at 613-474-5653 [cottage] or 905-576-5220 [home – Oshawa]. We are committed to having a full slate to present to the membership on August 6th.

Remember that Roland Berry will be donating another hand-carved decoy to be given away to someone attending the association's business meeting.

Municipal elections

- The municipal elections will be held Monday November 13th. We will be asking both Limerick and Tudor Cashel to make it possible to vote by telephone this year, and will keep you apprised of their decisions.

Water level

- Spring came early to Ontario, and unless we get lots of rain we are in for a dry summer. This will also mean low lake levels. Be careful on the water, especially as the summer progresses. Our buoys will help you identify some of the danger points on the lake, but exercise caution any time you are out in a boat.

New boating regulations reminder

- In our last Shoreline News we noted that there are new boating regulations in effect. These include age restrictions for unsupervised operation of boats of various sizes, and an "operating competency card" for all boat drivers obtained through a written test.

News from the spring FOCA meeting

- A presentation at the spring FOCA meeting indicated that two-stroke outboards contribute much more pollution than four strokes. If you are in the market, take this factor into account when making your decision.

- Liquor laws for boats are not well understood. Unless a boat has cooking, sleeping and toilet facilities, it must be moored or anchored before those on board can legally consume alcohol. As soon as the boat is in motion, all alcohol must be put away so it is no longer accessible. According to the police officer making the presentation, over 50% of boating fatalities are alcohol-related, and most involve men 28-48 years old.

- Cottage Life has conducted some research on Ontario cottagers. Each year on average they spend \$900 on recreation products, \$1,900 on boats, \$1,100 on transportation to and from the cottage, \$1,700 on food and entertainment, \$1,000 on utilities, \$1,600 on taxes and \$6,000 on building improvements. In total this adds up to almost \$3 billion dollars for the Ontario economy. Cottage Life also notes that the average cottage household has income of about \$100,000 per year.

The most significant trend in cottaging relates older couples retiring to the lake, living there either all year round or all summer long. At present about 7% of Cottage Life subscribers have retired full time to the cottage. This number is expected to triple in the years to come. The implications of this trend include the upgrading of cottages so they are liveable through the winter months; the need for better infrastructure including roads, hospitals and dumps; and the demand for more recreational activities.

Thanks

- In the last issue I neglected to recognise Richard Fitzsimmons, who sent me a lengthy and illuminating letter about the issue of the lake's water level some time ago. Thanks Richard.
- Since this is my final newsletter as President, I want to express my gratitude to the SLCA Executive, past and present, and to so many others who helped make the association work. Volunteer organisations like SLCA that don't have paid staff are difficult to sustain, and these people have done

Lake Stewardship

– Kent Anderson

Current Status of Steenburg Lake
Water Level and Quality

As reported in the Fall Newsletter, legal proceedings have been initiated by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority concerning the water level for Steenburg Lake. The purpose for this action is to allow the CVCA to monitor the water level of the lake, & to take corrective measures as they deem necessary to correct the water level to the extent possible.

Even beaver do not have the right to back up water flow if it threatens to flood roads & damage private property. Mr. Jack McGeachie continues to take an interest in the well being of Steenburg Lake. Unfortunately, nothing concrete has happened to date from his support, and the efforts of CVCA.

Due to the limited snow fall this winter, and the early spring runoff the water level at this time is not creating a problem. There is concern being expressed by a number of people that the water table will be low without more precipitation, and this could result in lake levels being low this summer. Crowe Valley has installed a gauge on our dock to measure water depth. The water level on March 22/00 was the same as it was on October 21/99.

The results of the “Lake Partner Program”, sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment have not been received. Your Executive is planning to submit samples again this summer.

The Rock Bass Derby was well-received last summer, and we are

planning to continue this program this summer. Details will be forthcoming at the annual Membership Canvas. Participation in the summation of fishing on our lake has been very poor in recent years. In conjunction with the MNR we have been attempting to determine the fish activity in our lake. It can only happen if the people who fish take the time to report their fishing activity, & turn in their results at the end of the season. Last year the largest fish recorded was caught & reported by David Hughes (Cottage # 30) It was a large mouth bass weighing 4 lbs., 10 ounces, and measuring 20 ½ “ long with a girth of 13 ½ inches. By all indications last summer was a good year for fish, but very few fishermen took the time to report their success.

Last year a national Marine Competency Certificate system was started. (Boat Driver’s License) The program is to be phased in over a 10-year period, so by September 2009 all boat operators in Canada will require a competency certificate.

Since September of last year all operators born after April 1,1983 who drive a pleasure boat fitted with a motor and used for recreational purposes, need a boater’s driver’s license. Check with your local marine dealer or the Canadian Coast Guard for information on who is doing Marine Competency testing in your community. The Boating Safety Infoline is 1-800-267-6687; the Canadian Coast Guard web site is www.ccg.gcc.gc.ca.

Let’s have another good summer on the lake! 🇺🇸

Rock Markers

If anyone is aware of a rock within the normal areas of passage would you please contact Ken Waddell at the cottage (613) 474-5486 or in Toronto at (416) 284-8098. He will investigate the area and place a marker if warranted.

The rock markers will be out on or before the May 24 weekend. 🇺🇸

Events being held at the Limerick Community Centre

May 27 - Variety Night - 7:30 p.m. Admission \$2.00

June 24 - Strawberry Supper, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Admission \$9.00 and \$5.00

July 7 - St. Ola United Church Anniversary Supper, 5:30

Oct. 14 - Octoberfest Dinner, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 4 - Craft Sale, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Nov. 10 - Hunter's Bean Fest

Dec. 9 - Christmas Dinner/Dance

"You are cordially invited to attend St. Ola United Church services at 11:45 a.m.

St. Ola's 112th anniversary will be held on July 2, 10:00 a.m." 🏰

I remember

Charles Bateman of Bateman Island told me this bit of Steenburg Lake history. There was a quaint bachelor who owned the cottage on Wilson's Island named Sam Adams. He used to bring a servant up with him to the cottage. The servant would take him for trips around the lake which gave him the nickname Lord of Limerick. 🏰

Social Report

– Carol Landon

Saturday July 8/00

Beach games and barbecue will be held July 8 at 1:00 PM. Bring your canoes, paddle boats and join in the fun. {Please bring your own lifejackets} A balloon toss will be held with prizes for everyone. Hot dogs and drinks will be served for lunch.

Sunday August 6/00

Our annual meeting and dinner will be held at the Limerick Community Centre on Sunday Aug 6. The Ladies of Limerick, who will be preparing and serving our meal, have a new menu planned for our dining pleasure.

Tickets may be purchased from Tom and Judy Hughes, Rick and Diane Burke or Carol and Bill Landon. If you have something you would like to donate as a door prize just call the Landon cottage at 474-5360. 🏰

- Meeting: 3:30PM
- Happy Hour: 5:00PM
- Dinner: 6 PM

Remember the new boating rules apply to canoes

A canoe under 17 feet has to have a PFD or lifejacket for each person, a buoyant heaving line, a manual propelling device (they mean a paddle; as if you would be out in your canoe without one), a bailer, a sound signalling device, and if you are out at night a waterproof light. Seat cushions are no longer substitutes for life jackets and life jackets must fit the wearer – so a 200-pound guy can't count the child's lifejacket in the boat. Need ideas for a buoyant heaving line? Try a ski rope with a handle or cut the end off of a noodle and tie a rope on to it. Put a whistle on the zip of your life jacket, toss in a plastic bottle with a handle on it and the bottom cut out for a bailer and you're all set. 🏰

From the Editors

While working on this issue of the newsletter my thoughts have turned to my cottage. I am hoping to get up there on Easter and be able to boat across to Loon Island but as each day brings snow I worry but remain hopeful the weather will get warmer. I was thrilled to get the letter from Charles Bateman about some of the history of our lake. I started thinking of what has changed in my lifetime up there. Do you remember the well that used to be near Millar's Marina? My Mom tells me there was also a well on the South road near Lot 119 and that she would walk down to get water from there. I remember painted turtles near my parents' cottage but that was many years ago. What are your memories, perhaps you'd like to share them. I hope to hear from you this summer.

Do you want to receive this newsletter electronically? Please let me know at wendyr172@home.com

Was that winter? Because I think I blinked and missed it. In case you have not been up this season, the ice is gone from the lake and depending on the next couple of weeks, the snow should be as well. Easter last year sure was different.

Much credit for this newsletter belongs with Wendy. My thanks to her for keeping us on track as Editors.

Some of my memories of Steenburg Lake were the gigantic bull frogs near our cottage and the old farmhouse up the back of the south road.

Clip this out and keep it on your fridge (at home or the lake) as a reminder of events this summer. Hope to see you there.

July 8th - Road Clean up and BBQ
Morning – Road clean up
1:00pm – Beach games and BBQ

August 6th – Annual Meeting
3:30pm – Meeting
5:00pm – Happy Hour
6:00pm - Dinner