

# Shoreline News

Steenburg Lake Cottage Association

April 2001

## Your SLCA Board

Loy Rosati-  
President

Chris Langman-  
Social

Barb Rockwell-  
Membership

Ian Fraser-  
Security

Ken Waddell-  
Treasurer

Kent Anderson-  
Lake Stewardship

Wendy Rudd and  
Kim Cranfield-  
Secretaries and  
Editors

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## President's Report

Dear Residents of Steenburg Lake:

"It's been a long cold lonely winter  
Here comes the sun, I say!!"  
(the Beatles)

Here we go again, another spring and summer on what was known as "Bass Lake".

I hope everyone had a good winter. Up at the lake we have had lots of snow, not too cold of temperature and little action! Welcome back when you arrive.

The response to my first Pres's message was more and less than I expected. *More*, because of the ten people who took the time to contact me about the septic issue. Nine felt that a move to clean up faulty septic tanks was a good idea. The tenth person thought that we might be causing financial and emotional stress on the owners with faulty septics. Although I understand these concerns all to well, I wonder what financial hardships residents will have to endure if the lake dies and our property values plummet to a fraction of their current worth. As well, what hardships the environment will have to endure at the hands of man. Let's think about this seriously and do some proactive planning before we are faced with this possible outcome. Some initiatives might include water testing, arranging "group rates" for economical septic installation, pursuing any funding initiatives, etc.

The response was *less* than I expected as I received a lot of comments last season about the weeds, water quality and clarity so I did expect more responses. We can see with these observations that our lake IS suffering and people ARE concerned. The Association Executive would like more input into this situation and any others that residents have concerning our responsibility for preserving and maintaining the natural and aesthetic beauty of the lake for future generations. Our first order of business, at our June meeting, will be to establish a "Mission Statement" for Steenburg Lake Community Association. This will be a broad statement of our mission, from which more specific goals can be defined. Any ideas about these issues can be forwarded to me at the address at the end of this report. Thank you in advance.


Some sadder news - Yolanda Walsh, a 50-year member of Steenburg Lake, passed away over the winter, in her 90<sup>th</sup> year. On behalf of the Association, we send our condolences to the Walsh family. ☹

I look forward to seeing many you this year and please contact me at:  
Box 325, R.R. #2, Gilmour, KOL 1W0  
(613) 474-2348 or e-mail at  
[bjrockwell@hotmail.com](mailto:bjrockwell@hotmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Loy Rosati  
President - SLCA

WE NEED YOUR HELP




For many years the status of our resident Loons has been reported to the Long Point Bird Study. If you have information about the loons, nesting behavior, the date their chicks hatched, or if a chick disappears please call Anita Waddell at (613) 474 5486. 

Membership Report  
Spring 2001

Welcome back to the lake one and all. This spring has been much longer than the last 2 with the lake solidly frozen still, as I write, and tons of snow to melt. (April 2, 2001) Not a winter for getting into your driveways.

As always, I would like to remind everyone that their friendly canvasser will be visiting this summer to collect the dues. The phone list and flyer of summer activities will also be included. Let your canvasser know of any comments or concerns you may have to be forwarded on and please remember to let them know of any address changes at your principle residence.

*Speaking of canvassers!* I have had a few canvassers retire after many years of dedicated service, including Lucille Luffman who has moved to Bancroft. Thanks Lucille. 2 – 3 more canvassers would be greatly appreciated. Come out, it takes just a few hours and meet your fellow cottagers. It's a great way to see the lake and stay connected. As well, it saves on mailing costs for both the cottagers and the Association. This is International Year of the Volunteer so lets join in!! 

If you wish or need to mail in your dues, please forward to:

SLCA  
c/o B.J. Rockwell  
R. R. #2, Box 325  
Gilmour, ON K0L 1W0

See y'all soon,  
Barb Rockwell  
Membership Chair

Need Cottaging Info? Check out:

[www.foca.ca](http://www.foca.ca)

[www.cottager.org](http://www.cottager.org)

[www.atthecottage.com](http://www.atthecottage.com)

<http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/>



For Sale:

1977 Yamaha GT80 dirt  
bike. Working condition.  
Asking \$300.

Please call:

Ken Waddell 416 284-8098  
cottage 613 474-5486

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**Lake Stewardship: by Kent Anderson**

As reported last fall the water level was lowered due to the ongoing efforts of a number of people. With the heavy snowfall we have experienced this winter the spring runoff will be a major concern this year.

The Rock Bass Derby was again well received last summer. While the number of participants was down, more Rock Bass were caught. We are planning to continue this program this summer. Details will be forthcoming in the annual Membership Canvass.

Last year the largest fish was caught and reported by Ryan Gailer (Cottage #76). It was a large mouth bass weighing just over 5 lbs. and 21.5" long. By all indications last summer was another good year for fish, but very few fishermen took the time to report their success. The program of the award for the largest fish and reporting of fish caught will be reviewed by your Executive at their Spring Meeting and reported to you in the Membership Canvass.

We continue to be concerned about maintaining and improving the water quality of your lake. It is important that all of us take responsibility to keep the water as clean as possible.

Here are some suggestions for protecting our lake:-

1.) To reduce the risk of microbiological contamination ensure that your septic system is functioning properly.

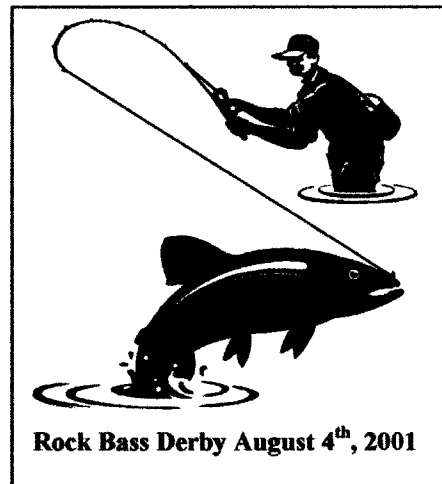
2.) Make sure your system is set well back from the lake in accordance with ministry regulations

3.) Do not discharge grey water directly into the lake.

4.) Reduce the phosphates you put into your sewage system.

5.) Do NOT wash vehicles, shampoo or bathe in the lake, even with "camping" suds & avoid using fertilizers.

6.) Look for products with the Environmental Choice Eco Logo or use natural alternatives such as baking soda, borax, soap flakes and vinegar. ♻️



**Get the Lead Out!!**

Lead sinkers and jigs cause a significant amount of death to

loons. Lead sinkers and jigs are banned in National Parks and wildlife areas and in some U.S. states as well as all of Great Britain.

What can you do about this? Replace your lead weights with inexpensive alternatives.

The loons die of lead poisoning when they ingest sinkers or jigs in fish they catch and eat. ♻️

### Please Don't Feed Those Cute Bandits

Our (racoons)) originated in the Florida Everglades. From there, they marched up the Atlantic coast from garage dump to garbage dump. By 1900, they were firmly entrenched on the north shore of Lake Ontario. It was 1920 when we found the first tracks in the sand along our beach (Cottage #5). Now a biologist friend, working in Alberta, advises they have reached that province.

The latest estimate I have seen is that there are 30,000 plus in the greater Toronto area. And one prominent activist was quoted in the press that the increase in the city was due to the elimination of suitable habitat in the countryside forcing them into the city to forage for food. Of course the opposite is true.

They have devastated our crustaceans, invertebrates and reptiles. And they have been a factor in the elimination of ground nesting birds such as Savannah and Vesper Sparrows and low cavity nesters such as Blue Birds and Great Crested Flycatchers. The last year we were at the cottage, Robert and I each found a Mallard Duck's nest and each were full of cracked eggshells but there were no ducklings on Bass Creek. (Racoons) were the likely predators although skunks could have been to blame.

Steps should be taken to reduce coon numbers. But much of a reduction is patently impossible. The only respite may come from the coon rabies epidemic but that is a threat to man as well as other animals. The first case in Ontario was identified in an area north of Brockville and has been eradicated but for how long is debatable. The defence line of live traps, along the Niagara and St. Lawrence frontiers, have helped but (racoons) have been found in empty freight cars and highway transports so a complete barrier is impossible. New Brunswick has been devastated by an influx from Maine.

The last information I had was that there wasn't yet enough material for large-scale production of a serum. The existing rabies shots are ineffective. So pet cats and dogs are at risk if left to run loose. Please be careful. ♻️

Sincerely, Jack McGeachie

#### From the Editors:

Some events to keep in mind for this year are:

Summer BBQ & Spring Road Cleanup –Community service certificates will be issued to those highschool students who are able to help us out this year with the road clean up.

Rock Bass Derby – Great prizes and good for the Lake.

Annual Dinner and Meeting – Good food and company. Come and get to know your neighbours.

See enclosed sheet for more details.

Christine Suthers has put together a great little site, bulletin board and events listing for Steenburg Lake and surrounding area. Check it out:

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/c.suthers/Steenburg/index.htm>

Reminder, there has been a change in the management of the rock markers. This will now be the responsibility of Adam Burke (#97) and Kris Landon (#139).

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail let us know at [kim.d.cranfield@aexp.com](mailto:kim.d.cranfield@aexp.com) OR [w.rudd@home.com](mailto:w.rudd@home.com).

We also welcome your views, comments and submissions. ♻️



Bonnie McLean-Dyas resides on North Steenburg Lake Road at Murphy's Corner's, and is a 10 year area resident.

If you are thinking of Buying, Selling or Relocating, call Bonnie for a **FREE** (no obligation) market evaluation of your property.

Call 1 877 670 SOLD (7653)  
or 613 474 2257

**RE/MAX**®

**ROAD CLEANUP AND BEACH BBQ/REGATTA**

***Saturday, July 14, 2001***

***Cleanup***                      9:30 a.m.

Meet at the Beach for North Road

Meet at the first fork for South Road

***BBQ and Regatta***    1:00 p.m.

At the Beach

Bring canoes, paddle boats, life jackets and your  
appetite for food and fun!!

**ROCK BASS DERBY**

***All day on Saturday, August 4, 2001***

Report your catch to Kent Anderson on  
Sunday, August 5th by noon at 474-2031

**ANNUAL DINNER AND MEETING**

***Sunday, August 5, 2001***

Meeting                      3:30 p.m.

Social Hour                5:00 p.m.

Dinner                      6:00 p.m.

Get your tickets at

Landon's #139 South Road at 474-5360

or Hughes #30 North Road at 474-5753