

Steenburg Lake

"SHORELINE NEWS"

August 1990 - Tom Hughes, Editor

Steenburg Lake Community Assoc.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 32ND ANNUAL MEETING AND WEEKEND EVENTS

On Sunday August 5th at the Limerick Community Center 109 attended the annual dinner with 87 remaining for the meeting. A total of 28 door prizes were drawn, all donated by merchants from Bancroft, Madoc and Gilmour. Wayne Hadley presented to the Quinns, cottage #26 the gas cooker for winning the Rock Bass Derby with a total of 261 Rock Bass. There were a total of 15 entries resulting in 1,119 Rock Bass being removed from the lake. Our hats are off to those entered. Thank you very much.

Weekend Events

Winners of events were presented with plaques.

Regatta - Saturday August 4th

Windsurfers (3 entries)

Jeff Ray - 1st, Brian Williamson - 2nd

Sunfish (3 entries)

Jack Fleming - 1st, Tom Hughes - 2nd

Sailboats (4 entries)

Linda Williamson - 1st, Bruce Flavelle - 2nd

Canoe Races - Sunday August 5th

Youth Class

Shawn Quinn & Matt McCarthy - 1st

Bridgett Duggan & Melissa Walsh - 2nd

Adult Class

Angie Duggan & Steve Crummey - 1st

Gabriel Duggan & John LeGere - 2nd

Senior Class

Ken Waddell & Len Johnson - 1st

Tom & Charlie Quinn - 2nd

We finally had a good wind for the regatta and the times for the course proved it. Less than half the best previous times. Then came Sunday, grey and misty, but the lake was flat as a pancake and the temperature just perfect for canoeing, so both days were perfect for their events.

Meeting Events

Wayne Hadley - Director of Fish Mgt. suggested fishermen on the lake keep a record of catches (time of day, location, type and size) and turn them into Wayne at the end of the season. The danger of Zebra Mussels getting into the lake was noted. A sign will be posted by the Public Beach launch reminding boaters of the danger. Importance of maintaining fish habitat was also covered. Wayne has a supply of an MNR "Guide For The Protection Of Fish Habitat". This is also a guide for undertaking shore line projects that now require an MNR "Work Permit".

Marion Duggan - Social Director thanked all who assisted in the preparations for the meeting. Permanent signs for the meeting were made by Diane Zylka and the family

style meal was greeted with approval by all who attended. Marion also acknowledged those who assisted in picking up the door prizes from the merchants.

Eugene Harrison - Water Quality Director, reported an increase in the chlorophyll content of the water based on the results of last years "Self Help" program with MNR. The Health Unit will no longer test lake water for bacteria, only drinking water from wells. Gene is continuing to pull water sample for the "Self Help" program to evaluate water clarity and chlorophyll content. He emphasized the point that it is our responsibility to look after our own water quality and the sum total of our collective actions will in the end save or ruin the lake. He raised concern over the apparent lack of conformity to code over recent septic systems installed around the lake. The Health Unit in Belleville has been questioned and has also been requested to provide a water analysis based on all of last years testing.

Robert Boyce - Environment Director, encouraged cottagers to complete a Waste Disposal Survey form if they have not yet completed one and to encourage their neighbors to upgrade their systems if appropriate. He stated that it is our lake to kill or clean. He reported the Ormsby dump site is to be closed this Fall and the Limerick Township is conducting a survey to determine the future course of action for the St. Ola site. You should get a form with this newsletter if you live in the Limerick Township. He suggested that you compost garbage (no meat or dairy products) and take your plastic, cans and bottles home with you to reduce the pressure on the single dump site for the town.

The county sprayed our area twice this spring for the gypsy moth, early in the mornings of May 24th and June 4th. The program is to be continued for 1991. Forms were available at the meeting and Anita Waddell may still have some left, if not, you may get a copy from the towns offices. Deadline this year is December 15th and the cost is \$6.00 per acre. The important thing is to get your entire shoreline signed up. The program ends with the 1991 spraying. The Limerick Township has officially created a recycling committee and they will be conducting a survey in the fall. Some type of program is anticipated for 1991.

Bob suggested that individual letters to FOCA (address is in the Cottage Life magazine) to have that organization bring pressure on the Ministry to modify the 1974 EPA act to require cottages that have waste disposal systems installed prior to 1974 to be inspected prior to the final sale, and if needed, to have those systems upgraded to the current standard. Under that law all such systems were

Don't Look To The Ministries.....

A number of events have convinced us that you cannot look to the various ministries for the salvation of our environment or the lake. If anything of consequence is going to be done, we, who have cottages around the lake are going to have to be the ones to do it. The town is taking a positive step in establishing, through an objective method, just how many cottages each of its 16 lakes can safely handle and still maintain good water quality. We can only hope that the study will show that Steenburg Lake is all ready over developed and that no further development will be allowed on the lake. Remember the last study we did on behalf of the lake indicated that the lake could safely support 76 cottages. We now have 206 around the lake. This very definitely indicates that we must exercise care and caution in how we treat the lake. We don't want another Muskoka area on our hands. The individual actions that each family takes toward honoring that body of water is what in the end will be its salvation or ruination.

These are examples of things that we can do:

- Know what you have for a waste disposal system. Improve it if it needs it and perform maintenance on it ie: have it pumped out every 3 to 4 years. Keep the weeping field open to the sunlight. If ponding or odors become apparent, repair the fault.
- Restore the shore line to a natural state. Don't try to make it look like your home back in the city with lawn and trees cut down to enhance the view. Natural vegetation is the best guard you have to provide filtration of pollutants before they reach the lake.
- Don't bathe, wash your hair, your car or your boat in the lake.
- Reduce water use in the cottage so that less is put into your system, ie:
 - Install water flow reducers in your sinks and shower heads.
 - Repair leaky faucets and toilets.
 - Don't run water continuously when handwashing dishes.
 - Only do full load if you use a dishwasher.
 - Put food scraps into garbage or compost not into a sink garbage-disposal unit. They waste water and the solids are not good for your septic system.
 - When washing or shaving, partially fill the sink rather than let the water run continuously. Same when brushing your teeth.
 - Take "sailors showers", that is turn off the water while you are soaping and shampooing and then rinse off quickly.
 - Place one or two bricks in your toilet to reduce the amount of water per flush.
 - Insulate your hot water pipes so you don't have to run water to finally get hot water.

- Take laundry off the lake, ie: home or to a laudromat.

- Use only cleaning products that will not harm the environment. Buy phosphate free detergents.
- Don't dispose of hazardous wastes around the lake or in the landfill. Take them home and dispose of them on special collection days in your community.
- Don't fertilize garden or lawns around your cottage.
- Stop erosion into the lake by terracing and plant vegetation that is native to the area.
- Keep your dog loads picked up and take them to the landfill.
- If you don't have a septic system, seriously consider a biological toilet. They are simple and produce no residue or sludge. They of course do nothing for your grey water.

This is not an exhaustive list but it does give you some food for thought as to positive actions that your family can take that will cut down on pollutants that get into the lake. Only you can take these actions.....not any ministry, not the Health Unit, no one but you.

MOE Booklet on the Environment

A limited number of copies of the booklet "What We Can Do For Our Environment" were available at the meeting. Bob Boyce may still have some copies left. You may secure this booklet from the Ministry of the Environment. The catalogue number is En21-77/1990E. It is well organized and covers all the areas of your daily life.

What Does The Association Do For You ?

Marker buoys in and out every year
Newsletters to members
Arrange annual dinner and meeting
FOCA/BACA interface - identify issues for action
Water testing
Social Events - regattas, Rock Bass Derby, VCanoe races
Members listing for Fire Dept and OPP.
Attend land division meetings in Belleville.
Interface with the townships and councils.
Represent association at OMB hearings.
Ministry interfaces

Off hand you would not think a group that has no official standing or enforcement power would be very effective or have the ability to accomplish anything, however in joining other groups and pursuing issues with a few loyal people much can be done. It does, however, take your support and assistance.

Canvassers Needed

The following cottage areas need replacement canvassers for next year, call Anita Waddell if you can assist.

190 - 192 & 1 - 12
54 - 66
86 - 96
110 - 122
166 - 178

Boat Launch Survey

The letters of inquiry about a public launch have been sent to the townships as mentioned earlier and two people have volunteered to be on the committee. We still need one more volunteer. The committee will not be requested start work until we learn the intent of the towns.. The summary of the 25 responses to date is listed below the survey form. Please complete one regardless of how you feel; we must have a consensus of the members to either proceed for forget it.

BOAT LAUNCH SURVEY		yes	no
•Do you have a boat to launch?		_____	_____
•Do you have a location to launch other than the marina?		_____	_____
•Would you be in favor of a private Assoc. launch?		_____	_____
•How would you prefer to finance such a project?			
- A one time assessment		_____	_____
- Through dues with Assoc. taking on a loan		_____	_____
•How often during a season do you pull your boat in & out including your guests?		_____	_____
	2	_____	_____
	3 - 5	_____	_____
	more	_____	_____
Signed:			
Member:		_____	
Cottage Number		_____	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Steenburg Lake Community Association

Boat Launch Survey Summary

Responses Received: 25 (8/6/90)

Boat to Launch		Alt. Location Available to You		In Favor of Assoc. Private Launch	
yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
20	5	13	12	20	5

Launch Financing By Members			Frequency of Launch During Season			
Onetime Assessment	Loan plus Dues	No Response	0	2	3 - 5	more
12	7	6	5	15	2	3

NOTICE SLCA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Directors and officers meet Saturday, September 1st, at 10:00AM, cottage #30 Tom Hughes. Plans and events for 1991 - candidates for elections.

Birth Notice

Momma & Poppa loon wish to announce the birth of chicks Frick and Frak on the 25th and 26th of July on Bateman's land. All seem to be doing well. Six loons have been seen on the lake this year but only one pair of nesting loons. Makes you think we haven't fouled up everything yet.

Waste Disposal Survey

Between this newsletter and the last, 26 survey forms were received putting us at the 37% response level after almost two years of pleading. This is a one time effort to establish a base condition. Hopefully you will advise if you make a change once we stop publishing the survey form so we can keep our base current. This is the last issue in which this form will be included, so please complete one if you have not done so to date.

Waste Disposal Survey	
Name:	_____
Cottage #	_____
Type of system (check all you have)	
Septic tank w/leach fields	_____
Approx. installation date	_____
Privy	_____
Last time moved	_____
Use: Prime	_____
# of feet from the lake	_____
or backup	_____
Chemical	_____
Holding Tank	_____
Other (describe)	_____

Where does your kitchen waste go * ?	_____
* This question relates to waste water, not garbage	
Do you have any plans to up grade your present system?	_____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

STEENBURG LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL SURVEY SUMMARY

Systems Surveyed: 77 (8/5/90)

'Types and number in use

Septic	Privies*	Holding Tank	Chemical	Other
63	8	4	0	2

System upgrades under consideration 8

'Routing of Kitchen Waste

Septic	Dry Well	Leach Fld.	Sand Bed	Hold Tank	None	Privy
55	12	2	3	2	2	1

Septic systems installed prior to EPA (1974) : 15

* Privies used on a regular basis, not as back up

A Note Of Concern For Water Skiers

Between the island off Poplar Island (Walsh #194) and Mathieson's point (#20) there is a very shallow channel. Boats make it through with little water to spare under the keel, but should a skier come through that channel at high speed and fall there could be a very bad accident. Numerous skiers have been observed going through, fortunately no one has fallen at that spot yet. If continued, Murphy's Law could come into play.

Kietha Ward of cottage #61 passed away this past spring. Kietha was one of our canvassers. She will be missed around the lake.

Left at the Limerick Centre after the meeting
two beige jackets, one is at cottage #19 and the other is at cottage # 159.

COTTAGERS AND CONSERVATION

TEN STEPS TOWARDS A CONSERVATION ETHIC FOR COTTAGERS

1. KEEP IT NATURAL - adopt a conservation ethic for your property.
2. KEEP IN TOUCH - contact your local MNR office before carrying out any work in or near the water.
3. PROTECT WATER QUALITY - ensure waste disposal systems are properly installed and functioning.
4. REDUCE POLLUTION - avoid or restrict the use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals near the water and use environmentally safe products wherever possible.
5. MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL DISTURBANCE - leave aquatic plants, logs, stumps, and rocks in place adjacent to shorelines, and take care when using motorboats around wildlife or wildlife habitat.
6. PROTECT SHORELINES - maintain a corridor of shrubs and/or trees along shorelines to reduce soil erosion, to create a buffer against fertilization of lakes, and to conserve wildlife habitat.
7. KNOW YOUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS - familiarize yourself with plant and animal species, basic ecology and fish and wildlife communities of your lake ecosystem.
8. COOPERATE FOR CONSERVATION - participate with conservation agencies by monitoring lake conditions and fish habitat, by participating in voluntary creel censuses and by obeying fishing regulations.
9. GET INVOLVED - initiate habitat conservation projects through community involvement programs.
10. SPREAD THE WORD - talk about conservation with your children, neighbours, and other cottagers.



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario



Classified:

FOR SALE

18 HP Evinrude outboard excellent condition, asking \$500 call 474 - 5532

3 rolls slated surfaced green roofing 18" wide, 47 1/2 lb. 58 sq. ft. per roll - all for \$45.00 call 474-5753

32 sq ft. of asphalt tiles - marbelized sand color, \$6.00 call 474 - 5753

Trailer - new tires, excellent for snowmobile, asking \$125 call 474 - 5753

Kitchen cupboard set- upper and lower (4plus 4 drawers) stainless steel sink and faucet

Counter top

5 gallon hot water tank - electric

22" electric stove

Refrigerator

Kitchen table with 4 chairs

Vinyl armchair

Rosemarie Baudo (#114) call 474 - 2267

WANTED

Outboard engine used, up to 10 HP - Fred Neub #177 - 474 - 2377

Last issue of the Shoreline News will be mailed to your home in November, call 474-5753 if you have any items for classified for that issue.

This page is from the Cottage Country Environmental Manual and it should answer some questions raised at the meeting about composting.

Try Composting Cottage Wastes

Many cottage areas are simply not equipped to dispose of vast quantities of garbage. So anything you can do to reduce the garbage volume will help.

When you shop, avoid heavily packaged items. Buy returnable bottles. And return them!

At the end of your stay at the cottage, consider taking your garbage back to the city (especially in winter when garbage pick-up may not be as frequent). Also, consider composting.

Many cottagers are becoming avid compost gardeners. In this way, you can recover tangible benefit from your garbage and thus reduce the volume of solid waste requiring disposal.

The humus material from a compost heap has long been accepted as an inexpensive soil additive and mulching agent. When added to the top soil, it improves texture, porosity and water holding capacity, and increases the organic content of the soil.

How to Compost

Generally speaking, composting involves taking organic waste material and placing it in a soil culture rich in natural organisms.

The following steps provide a simple, inexpensive approach to constructing a compost heap.

Locate Away from Water

You can locate your compost heap in an inconspicuous corner of your cottage property, or you can choose a central site and decorate it to suit the landscape.

Be sure, however, that the spot is airy and sunny. Also be sure that it is away from waterways and wells and at least 30 cm above the water table.

Construction

Composting is best done in some form of enclosure. Choose a size convenient to your needs, whether it's a 1-m square box or an enclosure 3 m per side. The pile can be as shallow as 30 cm or as deep as 1.5 m.

Simple Enclosure

For small-scale, easy composting, the simplest approach is to take a large garbage can, a barrel or a wooden box. Knock out the bottom and set it up to receive your organic wastes.

Custom Enclosure

A composting enclosure can also be tailor-made in any size. These directions show how to build an enclosure 1 m square rising 30 cm above ground level.

- Mark off a 1-m square on the ground and dig a pit 30 to 50 cm deep. The pit provides some warmth in winter and keeps the compost damp in summer.

- Drive four stakes 60 cm long into the ground at the corners, leaving 30 cm of the stake above ground. From a sheet of 6 mm aspenite plywood, cut four 30 cm by 1 m rectangles and nail them to the stakes, forming a 1 m by 1 m enclosure. Leave a small space, about 2.5 cm around the bottom so that air can circulate up through the heap. The remaining half of the sheet will be used as a cover for your heap during the winter. In summer, a sheet of heavy-gauge plastic placed on 1 m square frame will be used as a cover. This keeps your compost heap from becoming a breeding ground for insects — and will also help retain moisture. Your composting bin is now ready to receive organic wastes.

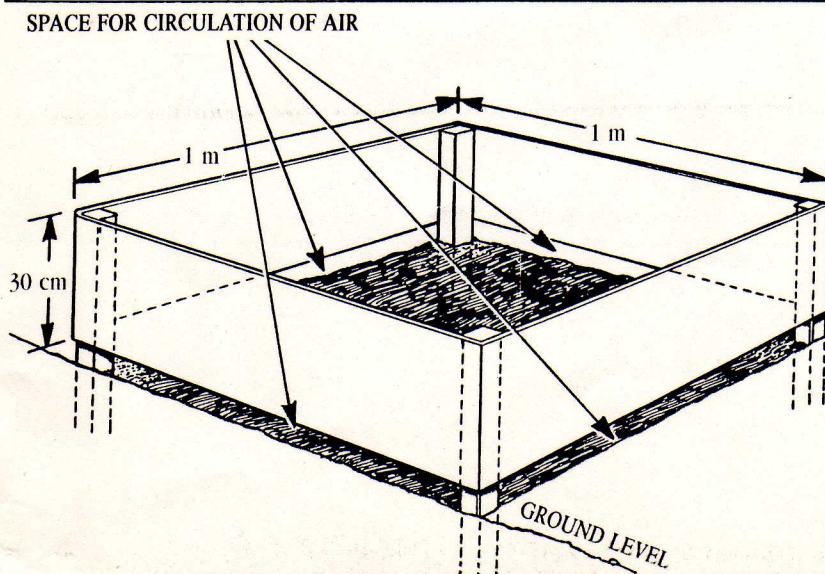
Composting Methods

Many methods for adding waste material to compost heaps are used. The simplest is to add material as it becomes available. Be sure not to add thick layers of finely ground material such as sawdust. These materials will pack tight and prevent adequate circulation of air.

Another method is to arrange your compost heap into layers by placing a thin layer of a commercial starter (or fertilizer) between each 15 to 20 cm of garbage. The starter is used to increase the bacterial count, and the fertilizer will increase the nutrient content of your pile.

Whichever method you choose, remember that for your compost to function adequately, the heap must be kept moist, but not soggy. Every two or three weeks the pile should be turned to mix and aerate the raw compost.

While the garbage is decomposing, heat is produced which should be contained by covering the pile. Heat is essential to keep the compost functioning effectively and decompose the waste.



m- Metre	3' 3" - 1 metre
cm- Centimetre	1" - 2.5 centimetres
mm- Millimetre	1" - 25 millimetres

"grandfathered", meaning that they are acceptable forever.

Anita Waddell - Membership Director reported that the canvassing is going slow this year as people have not been up on a regular basis. Some feed back from the canvassers include: party noise, boat speeds, dues increase, road maintenance and excessive speed of cars on the roads. Anita expressed a need for some replacement canvassers for next year. It is a pleasant task and helps you to get to know your neighbors, please call her if you would like to help. A full report on the canvass will be included in the fall newsletter.

Treasurer - Colin Gaddas reported that the dues for this year are not all in as yet as well as expenses. The biggest expenses since October 1989 have been: mailing, prizes, and distribution of the newsletters. The fall newsletter will include a full financial report. Present cash balance is \$1,435.00.

Other Items of Business

Ron Rampton reported on the **Crowe Valley Presidents Association's** annual meeting on the 15th of July. It's main purpose is availability and sharing of information.

Bancroft Area Conservation Association - Secretary Tom Hughes attended the final organizational meeting where the by-laws were finalized. This organization is made up of all the lakes in the area covered by the Bancroft office of the MNR. A motion was made and passed for S.L.C.A. to join B.A.C.A. The cost will be less than \$50.00 for the year and our association will have two votes in that body. We need some one to step forward to be our representative to ACA and there should also be a backup person. If this would interest you please call Tom Hughes. BACA is strongly endorsed by FOCA and will provide greater regional focus on environmental issues.

Limerick Township Lake Capacity Study - Reeve Moffatt provided a summary of where the study stands. The study is being done in 3 phases: sample collection, water analysis, report preparation. Included in the report will be modifications for the town plan. There will be public hearings in October concerning the revision of the town plan and we are encouraged to participate in those hearings. This will be your opportunity to bring up things like: lot sizes around the lakes, zoning restrictions, speed limits on the roads, recycling, etc....**We need someone to step forward and represent the association at these hearings, better even two representatives.** This is a fine chance to make a contribution and if we do nothing we have no one to blame but ourselves. Please call Tom Hughes if you are interested in taking this on. The Association's Executive committee earmarked \$1,000 to support this study should those funds be needed. The first phase was not fully funded. The total cost of the study will approach \$45,000

Boat Launch - As of the meeting there had only been 5 survey forms turned in so no report could be given as to how members viewed this situation. By the end of the meeting there were 25 forms turned in and those are summarized further on in this newsletter. Generally the discussion indicated that a public launch was not wanted. The Secretary was requested to write letters to both townships represented on the lake to pose the question "Do you plan on putting in a public boat launch on Steenburg Lake?". Both townships own property on the lake. A request was made for 3 volunteers to serve on a committee to investigate the various options for a private boat launch. If the response from the surveys is favorable to the idea then the committee will be activated. Two volunteers came forward at the meeting, one additional member is needed.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30

LOCAL MERCHANTS SUPPORT SLCA

The following merchants donated merchandise and services as door prizes for the annual dinner and meeting of the SLCA. Please express your thanks to them as you trade with them over the season..They were most generous.

Bancroft:

Stedmans - 18 pc party set
IGA - Deck Umbrella
Whitfields - Rubber biscuit (water fun)
MOM's Restaurant - Gift Certificate
Cashway - Under cabinet knife rack
Wilson Home Centre - Olympic Stain
POP Shoppe - Gift Certificate
Bancroft Sport Centre - Gift Certificate
Canadian Tire - Set of four Italian glasses
L'Amable Sports - 3 in 1 lantern
Dixie Lee - Gift Certificate
Mary Brown - Gift Certificates
Garnet's Tire - Inner tubes
Dairy Queen - Gift Certificates
L & M Esso - 2 ltrs of 2 cycle oil
Bancroft Sport Marine - Air Horn

Gilmour:

Trudy's - Fruit plate
Stan's - Bait Box and Gas container
Lighthouse Restaurant - Gift Certificates
Beaver Lumber - Voucher for lumber
Buddy French (Bowes & Cocks) - airplane ride for two
Sam's Country Kitchen - Gift Certificates

Madoc:

Two Loons Restaurant - Gift Certificate for brunch
Eldorado Cheese - 2 large blocks of cheese
IGA - 2 cases of Coca-Cola

Thanks to Mike Duggan for making all the phone calls and to John Savage, Tom Hughes and Eileen Walsh for picking up the gifts

AUGUST 1990

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