

# Shoreline News

Steenburg Lake Community Association

Autumn 2006

## Mission Statement

To source and make available relevant information to the Membership regarding political and environmental changes that impact cottage ownership and take appropriate action on behalf of the Association when deemed necessary by the executive; to promote, educate and encourage responsible lake stewardship and to provide opportunities to meet and socialize at events throughout the year with fellow cottage owners.

## President's Message

Fall, 2006

Dear Members on Steenburg Lake:

Wow! The summer went past us in a rush. The trees are full of colour now, and the cooler weather is upon us. My back is protesting the return of piling wood for (dare I mention it) winter.

The Executive completed the fall meeting, and discussed several issues which will be reported in this newsletter. I am very pleased to report that we have an active and creative group of people which is working on your behalf to improve the lake, and to help each of you enjoy your cottage experience a little more. These are people who deserve a great deal of credit for taking time from their schedules, which are just as busy as yours, to make a difference. Sometimes they don't get recognized for their contribution, so please take a moment when you have the opportunity, to say "thanks" to them.

Of concern to us all is the result of the second test of the lake for Zebra Muscle larvae. Again we obtained a positive reading. So far, we have not had reports of adult zebras, so we speculate that perhaps the tests show that people continue to carelessly bring infected water into the lake, the contents of ballast tanks, boats, and even motors. Please be on guard if you have friends who bring boats to the lake, or if you see strangers launching at the lake. Power washing of the boat is a good precaution, but letting the boat dry in the sun for five days is probably the most certain way to ensure that these invaders do not continue to come to the lake.

This is an election year in the municipalities. Local government cannot change the world, but it is the venue where the first line of policy is formulated to deal with such things as development of our shorelines, preservation (or not) of our forests, the quality of our roads, and the size of our tax bill. Tudor & Cashel council has no representatives from the lakes, so there is nobody who is championing the interests of about half of the property owners on Steenburg Lake. Although it will be four years before this can be changed, there is a need for people to get interested in the political process, and to plan to get involved. The passage of time is unforgiving in its consequences. Once your neighbour is allowed to build his monster home at the water's edge, nothing can be done to remove it, even if the political climate swings in favour of protecting the lake by encouraging development that leaves the shoreline unspoiled. In addition, it is the whole lake that suffers the consequences of such inaction. So please start planning to get involved. Most of us like to complain about the bad effects of big government, but we have little to complain about if we don't spend the time and effort to create some of the solutions.

Here's wishing you a gentle winter, and a safe return to the lake in the spring.

## SOCIAL NEWS

Check web site for pictures and names of the winners of the Regatta.

Winners of the door prizes at the ANNUAL MEETING were:-

Tom Hughes Carving-----Judy Platt

Other winners:- Steve Brown, B. Truscott, Irene Horne,  
Bill Langman, Joe Cameron, Janet George, Barb Lavalley, R. Wallace.

Fishing Derby winner was Connor Newberry nephew of Dave and Chris Langman.

### ROAD CLEAN UP CREW

South Road:- Dave Golem and Barb/Kevin Lavalley

North Road:- Barb Rockwell, Ian Fraser and family, Joe/Kim Kerr & family

## STORIES OF STEENBURG LAKE

I AM STILL LOOKING FOR STORIES. I AM JUST REMINDING YOU THAT I AM LOOKING FOR OLD AND NEW STORIES. WHY DID YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CHOOSE STEENBURG LAKE? FOLLOWING IS THE ONE AND ONLY ONE STORY THAT I HAVE RECEIVED. I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO READ IT AND MAYBE GET SOME IDEAS TO TELL YOUR STORY. HOW ABOUT IT???????

MARLENE POLLARD

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 2006

What a great summer we had! I hope all enjoyed it as much as we did. Memberships went well this year and the canvassers tried hard to get to everyone. Some were missed and I am sending out reminder letters to them. I will be sending out 22 letters. Hopefully they will respond and send in their dues.

To date we have 152 paid members with 10 members on the lake more than 50 years. It was discussed at the AGM that changing the exemption of the SLCA fees for members with greater than 50 year membership.

By the way most of the members that have the 50 years exemption have still paid the yearly fees. It was suggested to drop this as there will be a great number of members who have 50 years on the lake as many have been coming to the lake since childhood. This was motioned by Ken Waddell and seconded by Janet George.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the canvassers who took the time to visit the cottagers can collect the membership fees. They are:- Ian Fraser, Lee Burton, Peter Belsey, Barb Rockwell, Elaine McCarthy, Irene Horne, Ralph Cole, Joanne Boyce, Joe Cameron, Amy Truscott, Garry Goodfellow, Eileen Walsh, Dave McDonald, Sue Jarson. Again THANK YOU.

I would also like to welcome some new cottagers to the lake. They are:

Robert and Jennifer Woodcock from Fergus #190  
Dean and Wendy Butler from Whitby #40  
Len Walser and Brenda Drummond #73  
Ernie and Marilyn Galloway from Oshawa #149  
Brian and Jill Bennett from Trenton #79  
Ken Deboo and Catherine Wilson from Oshawa #181  
Don and Judy Leahy from Whitby #202  
Jim and Susan Bridger from Toronto #127  
Doug and Brenda Rudder from Belleville #174

## Membership report cont'd....

For the members that don't know or who forgot the reason for the two numbers for the cottages, it is necessary for us as the association to have the cottages numbered from 1 to 205. The lake is divided into two townships and each township has its own 911 numbers. Some of the 911 numbers relate to the roads they are on such as number 9 to number 23 on Mowat Lane or 19 to 51 on Moore's Lane. Hope this helps to clear things up.

If there are any other questions just give me a call.

## Marlene Pollard

### Your SLCA Board

-----  
Dave Golem –  
President

Steve Churchill-  
Vice President

Carolyn Dobson –  
Social

Marlene Pollard –  
Membership

Garry Goodfellow  
– Municipal  
Affairs

Glends Opsahl –  
Treasurer

Rick Burke – Lake  
Stewardship

Kim Kerr and  
Barb Lavallee –  
Secretaries and  
Editors

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If anyone has any suggestions or concerns that you would like the SLCA Board to address at the Annual Meeting you may do so by contacting us:

Dave Golem at [dgolem@fyrelytte.net](mailto:dgolem@fyrelytte.net)

Steve Churchill at [schurchill@sympatico.ca](mailto:schurchill@sympatico.ca)

Caroline Dobson at [carolinedobson@sympatico.ca](mailto:carolinedobson@sympatico.ca)

Marlene Pollard at [mpollard@bancom.net](mailto:mpollard@bancom.net)

Garry Goodfellow at [garrygood@hotmail.com](mailto:garrygood@hotmail.com)

Glenda Opsahl at [opsahl\\_assoc@hotmail.com](mailto:opsahl_assoc@hotmail.com)

Rick Burke at [dinrick@rogers.com](mailto:dinrick@rogers.com)

Kim Kerr at [kim.kerr@rogers.com](mailto:kim.kerr@rogers.com)

Barbara Lavallee at [barbaralavallee@rogers.com](mailto:barbaralavallee@rogers.com)

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# BOGNAR



## TREE SERVICES

DANGEROUS TREE REMOVAL

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TRIMMING (Trees and Shrubs)

CHIPPING

1 - 877 - TREE - BOG

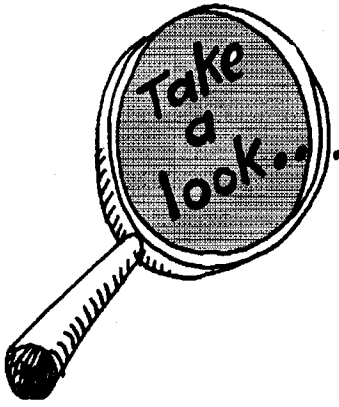
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## LAKE WEB SITE

Make sure to check out our web site. We now have a **PHOTO ALBUM** section and a **BULLETIN BOARD** which has important news and up dates.

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

Please contact Susan Nevins at [steenburglake@aol.com](mailto:steenburglake@aol.com) if you have any suggestions or comments.

## Upcoming Events for 2007

Road Clean-up--July 14, 2007--9:30 a.m.

Canoe Races and Barb-e-que--July 14--11:00 a.m.

Annual General Meeting for SLC--August 5, 2007--9:30 a.m.

Bass Derby--August 4, 2007

\*A more detailed notice to follow in the spring newsletter

## Courteous Cottaging

A quick reminder to all residents of Steenburg Lake to be aware of the noise that may be coming from your cottage. Remember that sound carries with great effectiveness over the water so when playing music outside it is best to direct your speakers away from the lake and keep the volume at a respectable level. Also when children are playing in the lake please discourage them from yelling phrases such as "Help me!" or "Save me!" unless of course it is a real emergency.

Good neighbourly practices and keeping the noise level to a minimum will ensure that we 'all' enjoy our time at the cottage to the maximum!!

# Steenburg Lake Clothing Order Form

Once again, in the true tradition of Cottage life at Steenburg Lake, we can proudly wear some great clothing. Brought to you by the Steenburg Lake Cottage Association.

We'll start with a T shirt this fall, if all goes well, we will offer a few more items next spring.

Please make cheque to Steenburg Lake Association mail to Barb Lavallee at address below. This is a limited time offer. Orders must be submitted by November 15/06 to guarantee Christmas delivery.

**IMPORTANT:** Please circle the appropriate size and choice of logo and pick up location.

*Note the youth sizes. S(4-5), M(6-8), L(10-12), XL(12)*

Description	Colour	Size	Quantity	Cost	Total
<i>Price</i>					
T - Shirt Adult	Brown	S M L XL XXL XXXL		X \$20.00	
T - Shirt Youth	Brown	S M L XL		X \$20.00	
T - Shirt Ladies	Brown	S M L XL		X \$20.00	
# of items ordered _____			taxes included	total	

order form cont'd next page...

Circle Choice

Embroidered logo Puffed(raised) logo

Circle choice of pick up location:  
(Orders must be picked up)

**Barbara Lavallee**  
4 Downey Drive  
Brooklin, Ontario  
L1M 1J3  
905-655-9743

**Pollard, Ron & Marlene**  
629 Steenburg Lake North Road  
Gilmour, Ontario K0L 1W0 \*  
613-474-2392

*Clothing may not be returned once order arrives.*



Did you know that Cottagers can get their name on the Voters list  
by calling 1-866-296-6722?

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Wayne Pickard at 613 4742075 or  
Pauline Bilodeau at 613-474-0588***

**Don't forget to BUY WHERE YOU RIDE!  
and support your local club and volunteers!**

visit our web site at [www.bancroftoldhastings.com](http://www.bancroftoldhastings.com) for a list of merchants or to purchase  
your pass online... Buy before December 1st and save \$50 on your pass price!



## 35 Yrs. Ago

I never wanted a cottage!

Back in 1969 I was busy raising 2 little boys and their baby sister. I would sit on my front porch and watch the neighbour across the street, line the boxes up in their carport on Friday afternoon, her husband would arrive home from work, back the car into the driveway and pack the car. Then on Sunday evening, the reverse action would take place.

No, no, cottage life was not for! I enjoyed the comforts of home. I had been to friends' cottages over the past years. Hauling water, gathering firewood, outdoor privies. You've got to be kidding.

But, I had married a huntin', fishin', kind of guy. A friend offered to rent us their cottage for week that summer. Indoor plumbing, running water, very civilized. The boys could go fishing. Not bad!

The following summer, being pregnant with our 4<sup>th</sup> child, (I know, unimaginable in today's 2 child per household families) when a Sunday drive north to cottage country was suggested, I was all for it. I loved car trips. Then, it was an inexpensive days entertainment. It started slowly, stopping to look in real estate windows, 'cottage for sale' signs. Then a "why not just take a look" visit. I figured I'd just play along. At least we were enjoying all these wonderful little tourist towns. Eating out. Nothing was ever in our price range. I was safe.

Then we ran into our friends from the rental cottage, and guess what? The 'wee cottage' right next door to them was for sale. Come up next weekend and check it out. We'd make acceptable neighbours.

So, on a pleasant sunny Saturday we drove up to Steenburg lake south road and checked out several cottages available. No decisions were made and I figured I was safe again.

The 'wee cottage' had not sold all summer and was off the market. Why not approach the owners and make an offer?

Our first Thanksgiving spent on Steenburg Lake was in October, 1970. "It's a good investment" my husband assured me. The 'wee cottage' was ours. Two bedrooms, a great room and a closet sized indoor toilet. (No bath) That was all that was required because he just wanted somewhere to hang his hat and take the boys fishing. Fine with me, I would stay back with 22 little girls in the comfort of our city home.

1971 arrived and we were anticipating this new concept of summer life. Our first visit was overwhelming. Not a lot of attention had been given to the property and it was rather intimidating the obvious work and inconveniences ahead of us. I had 2 in diapers and not disposable in those days. No hot water. Bunk beds, a single and a

crib in the big bedroom (10 x 8) and a double bed and dresser in our room (8 x 8).  
Was I nuts?

Then we met the neighbours on the other side and life changed forever. A wonderful Irish couple whose 2 boys had outgrown vacationing with the parents very often. They welcomed us with open homes and open hearts. I was the daughter they had lost in infancy with the same name. We played cards, we swam and boated, we worked, we laughed together. Our kids adored them. Our friendship was true and unwavering. When he died at age 61 I wanted to sell. I couldn't imagine fun on Steenburg Lake without him.

But by now the cottage was a huge part of all our family. Our boys loved even the work involved and helped wherever and whenever they could, selflessly, willingly. The girls too. It had been an agreement from the first that either everyone pitched in with all the chores or we'd sell.

It hadn't taken long after established our life at the lake, that I was the one lining up the boxes for the weekends and then holidays at the lake. Actually looking forward to it. Let's face it. A family with 4 kids doesn't get invited anywhere too often so it was a good thing we had somewhere to go. In those days, Kids didn't stay free when you travelled.

Naturally with 4 kids, and a dog, it wasn't long before a bunkie had been built. Otherwise we could never invite friends up. And of course, a screened porch (I hate bugs). Eventually a new kitchen and bathroom (shower) was added with hot water a given. A new septic system a must. The 'wee cottage' had grown.

My husband was right 35 years ago about it being an investment. All we've done over the years is invest, invest, invest. But not just money. Time, life and interests, too.

As I reflect over the 35 years this coming Thanksgiving brings, I can't imagine life without Steenburg Lake. Our neighbours are all still the same. Five cottages in a row still enjoy the pleasures that cottage life has to offer. A history. The next generation are now visiting and what fun to see all the new little faces of the grandchildren as they befriend each other as our kids did before them. Not near as many in numbers and geographically challenged for visits.

We are now retired, grandparents, and don't have to rely on just weekends or 2 week holidays. No dog. Our original neighbours are still close friends. Other friends have since bought on the lake. Our kids all played together and now all our grandchildren play together.

Life without Steenburg Lake? Never.

Irene Horne  
Oct. 5, 2005

## Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are freshwater mollusks native to the Black and Caspian Sea region of Asia. Zebra mussels have been spread unintentionally by people into waterways such as the Trent-Severn and Rideau Canal and some inland lakes in southern and central Ontario.

### Characteristics

Zebra mussels are relatively small (3 cm in length) and live approximately 2-3 years. Their shell is brown, cream and yellow striped and triangular in shape with one edge flattened.

Zebra mussels have spread very quickly in Ontario waters. Female zebra mussels can produce between 40,000 and 1 million eggs per season. Zebra mussels prefer warm, shallow water, and slow currents.

### Distribution

Zebra mussels have now spread to all the Great Lakes and are showing up in inland waterways and lakes throughout North America. The spread of zebra mussels has been more rapid than initially predicted by the experts.

### Impact

Significant changes to aquatic ecosystems have been documented as a result of the introduction of zebra mussels. Zebra mussels filter out large amounts of phytoplankton, and compete with many species of zooplankton which are **an important food source for young fish**. This may further have an impact on sport fish such as adult salmon, trout and walleye.

The feeding activity of zebra mussels results in changes in the normal energy cycle within a water column. Each mussel can filter about one litre of lake water per day. This filtering causes the water to become clearer allowing more sunlight to penetrate the water column. Changes in weed growth patterns occur and force some fish, such as walleye that are light sensitive, to find new habitat.

When zebra mussels filter the water, they also remove contaminants which become concentrated in their tissues. Although this may sound like a positive thing, organisms that feed on zebra mussels may accumulate these contaminants in their own tissues which may influence their survival and/or reproduction success. Another invader, the round goby, which predominantly feeds on zebra mussels, may accumulate contaminants in their tissues and may pass those contaminants on to sport fish species which are now consuming them.

**Scientists are also finding a link with zebra mussels and the occurrence of toxic blue-green algae blooms or microcystis.** Zebra mussels will spit out microcystis into the water and at the same time eat other algae that may be competitors with or help control microcystis. The mussels also produce nutrients that further fertilize microcystis.

Botulism Type-E (*Clostridium botulinum*) has also been found in the tissue of zebra mussels when out-breaks occur. Species that feed on zebra mussels such as round gobies, freshwater drum and ducks such as scaup may be impacted by eating infected zebra mussels which could result in die-offs. The out-breaks may go further up the food chain still when ducks, loons, grebes, gulls and/or other fish eat the infected species and other animals such as racoons scavenge the contaminated victims.

Zebra mussels will cover any hard surfaces including: rock, metal, rubber, wood, boat hulls, native aquatic animals such as clams and crayfish and even aquatic plants. Some fish prefer rock, and boulder substrates to spawn, and can be deterred from spawning in the areas that are covered

in zebra mussel colonies. In some areas, populations of native clams have significantly decreased or completely disappeared as a result of infestation.

Navigational markers and fishing buoys used for directing boat traffic can accumulate large numbers of zebra mussels, causing them to sink. Commercial fishing gear such as trap nets and gill nets can also collect enough zebra mussels to render the equipment useless and difficult to retrieve. The hulls of boats and ships can become so infested that sailing efficiency can be impaired. Zebra mussels colonize industrial, boat and domestic water intake pipes, reducing flow rates, and even preventing water flow. .

People are directly affected by zebra mussels in a number of ways. Colonies of zebra mussels on the lake bottom can cut the feet of swimmers. Zebra mussels wash up on beaches creating a foul odor, and an unpleasant sight.

### **Prevention**

Presently, the best defence we have against the spread of zebra mussels is to restrict its movement between waterbodies. **Once they become established in a lake, there is no known way to eradicate them.** Please take the following precautions to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels:

**Inspect** your boat, trailer, boating equipment, fishing tackle and nets and remove any visible plants or animals before leaving any waterbody.

**Drain** water from motor, live well, bilge and transom wells while on land before leaving the waterbody.

**Empty** your bait bucket on land before leaving the waterbody. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release animals from one waterbody into another.

**Wash/Dry** your fishing tackle, nets, boat and equipment to kill harmful species that were not seen at the boat launch. Some species can survive for several days out of water, so it is important to:

- rinse your boat and equipment with hot tap water (> 40° C); or
- spray your boat and equipment with high pressure water (250 psi); or
- dry your boat and equipment for at least five days, before transporting to another waterbody.

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You may view this article in its' entirety at [www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)

## S.L.C.A. Annual Fee

It was brought to our attention at this summer's AGM that there will be many members who will qualify in the near future to be exempt from paying the annual S.L.C.A. fee (anyone with 50 years or more membership). This would mean a drastic reduction in revenue for the association.

While we are exploring other ways to raise funds (i.e. t-shirt sales) a member who would soon qualify for the exemption suggested that we waive this privilege. After a unanimous vote by all present it was decided that there would no longer be an exemption from paying the annual fee. In lieu of this it was decided that anyone with 50 years membership would be recognized with a honorary plaque.

Regards,  
S.L.C.A.