

◆ Shoreline News ◆

Fall 1999

From The President's Deck - Tom Little

Reminders.....

New boating regulations have been announced, with some taking effect immediately. Be sure you are familiar with them. We hope to sponsor a course for boat drivers next summer. Stay tuned!

A number of cottagers are putting piles of sand at the edge of the water and letting it wash into the lake. Since I have sinned myself [years ago when my kids were small] I can't say too much. But remember that the fish habitat will be negatively affected by this practice.

***Instead of creating a beach on the water's edge, create a dry beach or sand pit back a short distance or use a floating beach - dock or platform, that will provide the same use. (From the Focus on Water Quality in the Kawartha's newsletter)*

The Association puts out markers in the early spring to remind boaters of the rocks which lie just under the surface in parts of the lake. We leave them in until Thanksgiving. Remember that you still need to exercise caution, especially as the summer progresses and the water level falls, as it did this year.

Next summer's Beach BBQ will be Saturday July

8th, and the Annual Meeting and Dinner on Sunday August 6th. The Road Cleanup will also be held July 8th.

Please let Kent Anderson know if you upgrade your septic system. We maintain a database and it is important to keep it current.

Missing in action

The south road sign announcing the BBQ, Annual Meeting and Dinner went missing the day after the dinner in August. If anyone has seen it, we would really appreciate getting it back. Otherwise it will be highlighted on Crime Stoppers some time this winter.

Special thanks to.....

Carol Landon and her social committee for organizing the Beach BBQ in July and the Annual Dinner in August

Roland Berry for donating a carved decoy given to a member attending the annual meeting

Barb Rockwell for keeping the membership numbers high, and especially for organizing the canvassers so well.

All the kids who entered the derby. Hope you get

those hooks back in the water next year.

Scott McGinnis for doing such a great job as Secretary.

Sisters Wendy Rudd and Kim Cranfield for taking over from Scott

Ken Waddell for watching over our finances

The canvassers.

Kent Anderson for the rock bass derby and for his work on other environmental issues.

Ian Fraser for volunteering to look into issues related to cottage security

Diane and Rick Burke and Gary Goodfellow for always helping out

Everyone who helped with the road cleanup

The local merchants who donated so many terrific prizes for the annual dinner. Be sure to give them your business

Tom and Judie Hughes for supplying the sound system this year.

Anyone I've forgotten who volunteered time to help the Association



We will miss.....

Ken Matthews, whose company developed the south side of the lake in the 1960's. Ken could give you a cottage of your own for about \$1,200. So you would have enough left over to buy one of those new '64 Mustangs. Now those were the days.

Bob McGeachie, who grew up on the lake and who lived in the area for many years. He was one of the original environmentalists.

Clive Wilson, who also grew up on the lake and lived in the area for many years. [See the separate article in this newsletter for more about Clive].



Clive Wilson

The first I remember of Clive Wilson was hearing that he had been willed the island property near the beach by the old fellow who had owned it. Apparently this gentleman was a bachelor with no immediate family. Clive, whose mother and father's cottage was nearby, used to help out when he could, bringing the old guy his mail and doing other

favours. I'm not sure when this was but it was probably the late 1950's.

We used to see the old guy sitting alone on his dock, looking quietly across at the south shore, which at that time didn't have any cottages to speak of. So we thought it was pretty neat that Clive was given a cottage of his own, and we were probably nice to everyone on the lake for a couple of days in the hopes that some kind soul would write us into their will in the not-too-distant future.

At the memorial service for Clive I learned more about him. He grew up in Etobicoke, not far from my family's home. He was very musical and was leader of a dance band when he was a young man. Some of the men at the service had played with him during these years, and were still friends fifty years on. His interest in music continued throughout his life, and he was instrumental in helping others pursue their own musical paths.

Clive worked in the refrigeration business in Toronto, then moved north to the cottage area with his wife Dorothy, and their daughter, Dawn Rae. He eventually decided he wanted to be a minister, and returned to university to do so. Once finished he came back to Limerick Township where he spent the rest of his life.

Clive was active in politics,

being elected reeve of the Township on a number of occasions, and always promoted the interests of Steenburg Lake.

We extend our sympathies to Dorothy and Dawn Rae.



From the New Editors -

Let us take a moment to introduce ourselves

Our parents bought Lot 107 in 1961. So Kim and I grew up on the Lake. We have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed all seasons at the cottage. One of our favourite things as children was rowing around Loon Island. Two summers ago Wendy bought Loon Island with her husband and have begun their 20 year renovation project. Kim moved her family back from the West Coast in hopes of inheriting a cottage of her own. We enjoy reliving our childhood at the lake through our own children. We hope to continue the great work of Scott McGinnis by providing an informative and entertaining newsletter. We welcome your contributions and feedback.



From Ken Waddell - The Financial Report

As of Sept. 8, 1999.

**Steenburg Lake Community Association
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 1/98 - SEPTEMBER 7/99**

Balance forward		\$ 7,938.87
Income		
Memberships		\$ 3,555.00
Bank interest		337.47
AGM Bar income 1999		489.43
Annual Gen. Meeting cheque		<u>41.00</u>
		<u>4,422.90</u>
		12,361.77
Expenses		
Meetings (Executive & AGM)	168.00	
Photocopies & Postage	469.63	
Insurance July 99 - July 00		442.80
Rock Markers 1998	200.00	
Prizes & Trophies 1999	159.24	
AGM Bar Expenses 1999	500.00	
Beach BBQ 1999	182.63	
Bar expenses	159.41	
Donations	<u>50.00</u>	
		<u>2,331.71</u>
		<u>\$10,030.06</u>
Reconciliation		
Bank account balance Sept. 7/99		<u>\$10,030.06</u>

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**It Was a Nice Summer
and a Mice Summer**

The mild winter of 99 and a dry spring plus a bumper crop of beech nuts produced a huge increase in the population of mice, chipmunks, squirrels and snakes. Everyone that I talked with was fighting the battle in their cottage. I took it one step further and did battle around the exterior perimeter of the cottage, setting at least four traps a night. As of the 9th of September I had caught 74 of the little buggers with not one inside the cottage. Now I don't think our location was in any way unique so as you close up you have to wonder what am I leaving behind??????

Tom Hughes (#30)

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Ontario Lakes Loon Survey

For 12 years Anita Waddell (#103) has been collecting data for the Ontario Lakes Loon Survey. Below is some of her data.

Year	# Loons	Nested (pr.)	Chicks	# Survived Summer
1999	4	1	2	2
1998	4	0	0	0
1997	5	1	0	0
1996	5	1	1	1
1995	3	1	2	2
1994	4	1	2	1
1993	2	1	1	0
1992	3	?	?	0
1991	5	1	?	0
1990	4	1	2	1
1989	4	?	?	0
1988	4	1	?	1
1987	2	?	?	0



Did you know...

That Rock Bass were introduced into our Lake and they have upset the natural balance of the fish population? That is the reason for the Rock Bass Derby each year. By removing these fish from our Lake, we can help restore that natural balance.



If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

There is a new hunting Cabin being built on the property owned by Domtar off of the South Road. When you go for a walk there be sure to wear bright colours.

Lake Stewardship

Current Status of Steenburg Lake Water Level and Quality

The outlet for Steenburg Lake is located near the McGeachie Conservation Area. It flows in an easterly direction, eventually emptying into Limerick Lake.

Over the past several years, there has been concern and conflicting opinions on the level of the lake due to a beaver dam just west of Highway 62 and north of the North Steenburg Lake Road. The impact of this beaver dam is that it creates a back up of the water flowing from Steenburg Lake so that there effectively has been no water flowing from the lake over the summer months. While this has been good in maintaining the water level in the lake, there has not been any flow of water out of the lake. If this situation continues into the fall and up to freeze-up, this will potentially cause a major problem next spring during the spring run-off.

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority with the support of the Steenburg Lake Community Association executive has initiated legal procedures to have the situation corrected before freeze-up this fall. We are continuing to monitor this problem and will keep you posted on any developments.

Also over the summer months, water samples were taken regularly and submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. The "Lake Partner Program" focuses on two indications of water quality: - water clarity and total phosphorus (for water quality). Results of this program will be available next spring. The results to date indicate that our lake is "moderately enriched with some nutrients". While this is considered normal for a lake with the number of cottages in existence, there are a number of things that all of us can do to help maintain the water quality and strive to improve the health of our lake.

It is essential to care for and maintain your septic system in order to keep it efficient and in proper working order for many years. Your septic system should be inspected regularly and be pumped out every three to

five years. Summer and early fall are the best time to pump out your septic system.

Every year we are informed of people bathing and washing their hair in the lake. While this seems like a harmless activity, the accumulative affect is quite detrimental to the overall health of the lake. Please advise people visiting or renting your cottage to refrain from this practice. We will all benefit from everyone not using the lake as they would their bathtub.

Removing shoreline vegetation will eventually lead to a decline in fish stocks. The vegetation also acts as a filter between septic systems and the lake. This helps to ensure that excess nutrients do not enter the water.

We can all make a significant contribution in helping to maintain and improve the health of our lake. Your executive is planning on making notices which you can post in your cottage for guests or renters. These will be available to all cottagers through the member canvass next spring.

Kent Anderson, Lake Stewart

October 1999



Barb Rockwell Membership Report Fall 99

As our canvassing season draws to a close, here's a reminder to our members who have not submitted their dues. A reminder letter went out to those who missed their canvasser so please, if you have not responded, don't wait for spring, do it now!!

We have had new owners on the lake this year and the executive would like to take the opportunity to welcome them to Steenburg Lake.

A Hearty Welcome Goes Out To:

- #88 John & Catherine O'Rourke
- #96 Bill White, previously of #95
- #99 Mike & Carol Regimbald
- #104 Jerry & Susan Jarson
- #117 Ron Cleverdon & Family
- #130 John Bush
- #137 Ron & Lynn Hickling
- #150 Murray Duncan
- #167 Mark & Julia Chapelle
- #181 Norman Bain

Next summer, why not celebrate the millennium by becoming a Steenburg lake canvasser and meet your fellow cottagers. An area is approximately 10 cottages and takes but a few hours of your time. Give Barb a call at 474-2348 (any time of the year!) if you are interested.

Have a great winter, and we'll see you in the spring.