

# ◆ Shoreline News ◆

Fall / Winter 1998

◆ Tom Little

## President's Message

Did your association meet the goals it set out to accomplish in the year 1998? Well, let's see. We had the buoys on the water in early April as soon as the ice was out, so boating was safe all summer long. We sponsored the cleanup of roadside garbage in July. We held a barbeque and lots of people came for food, boat races and the chance to meet with their neighbours from around the lake. We organized our annual dinner, and most of those attending went away with some kind of draw prize. We added to our knowledge of the history of the area with the completion of the article *On the Way to Steenburg Lake*. We sent out a mailer in advance of the municipal elections, advising of the candidates running in each municipality. We kept in touch with the township councils and attended meetings related to a development proposal adjacent to Limerick Lake. We went to meetings of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations. We sponsored a rock bass derby. We published two newsletters. And we worked on the issue of cottage security, starting with a presentation at the annual meeting in August.

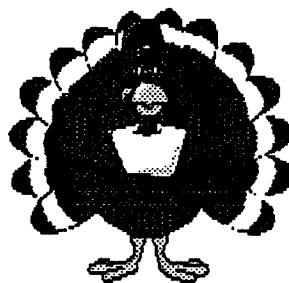
If that seems like a lot, especially for a volunteer organization - it is! So we need to say thanks to everyone who made these accomplishments possible, starting with the association

executive, and extending that sentiment to many others. That list of *others* includes all the merchants who donated prizes for the annual meeting; the ladies who did such a fine job of preparing the annual dinner; and the folks connected to Limerick Township.



### Lake Level

From time to time we are asked about the level of the water around the lake, how that level is controlled and why. I am not sure I understand all the fine points, but my understanding is as follows: Our lake flows into Limerick which flows into Beaver Creek which flows into the Crowe River and so on until the water reaches Lake Ontario. Limerick Township owns the logs which are used to control the outflow from Steenburg Lake into Steenburg Creek then on to Limerick Lake. A number of years ago it asked the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority to take responsibility for controlling water levels by putting the logs in during the spring period and taking them out in the fall. So Crowe Valley puts the logs in once the lake has lowered to roughly the height of the logs [some time between April and June], and takes them out just after



Thanksgiving. Crowe Valley believes the lake should be 12" - 18" lower in the late fall and winter than in the summer for two reasons - first, to reduce the risk of flooding during runoff in the spring, and second, to reduce the damage caused by the ice, especially during break-up. Crowe Valley does not touch the logs between spring and fall.

All of this brings me to my next point. Your association is happy with the current summer levels. Of course, some of us would like the water a little higher, others a little lower, but we think Crowe Valley does a good job of finding a middle ground. We also support Crowe Valley's desire to see the lake lower in the fall, a goal which seems more elusive and which gets us into a more contentious issue. Our lake empties into Limerick Lake through Steenburg Creek. Close to Highway 62 the creek encounters a beaver dam. Both Crowe Valley and your association believe the dam reduces water outflow, leaving the lake higher than it should be in the spring and fall and increasing the chance of flooding and ice damage. The owner of the property adjacent to the dam does not agree and does not want it removed. Hence a stalemate.

Which brings me to my final point. Some of you were canvassed in the summer about lake water levels. This survey had nothing to do with your association. Any initiative we pursue on your behalf is clearly identified as being undertaken by SLCA. If you have an opinion about the lake level, feel free to contact myself or other members of the executive.

**Cottage Security**

Fall and spring are the two major break-in periods. The first level of responsibility for prevention of theft lies with each of us as property owners. Block road access to your cottage with locked gates. Secure all exterior doors and windows. Take valuables, especially portable ones such as televisions and VCRs, with you when you go.

Your executive is anxious to take more action on your behalf regarding cottage security. We have already heard from Bancroft OPP and are endorsing their cottage watch program. Included with this newsletter is a sticker with the OPP's 800 number on it. Place this sticker near the phone and use it in case of emergency. We have also enlisted the help of Ian Fraser of cottage 16. Ian will stay in touch with Bancroft OPP and is making contact with local groups already involved in cottage security.

Ian and your executive encourage you to get involved with a second level of responsibility for theft prevention. Start a watch program with your neighbours. Enlist the help of people who live on the lake all year round.

And if you are unfortunate enough to suffer a break in, please let Ian know. He will keep statistics which will help us measure the extent of the problem.



## ◆ Carol Landon

## Social Committee

Saturday, July 11 was the day of the beach barbecue. The weather was grand and about 80 people turned out for the festivities. The race results were as follows:

**Pedal Boat Race**

12 and under

1st Alyson Burke (#152) and Kelly Landon (#139)

2nd Kristen Nevins (#194) and Susanna Langman (#197.1)

13 - 20

1st Kris Landon (#139) and Tyler Burke (#152)

2nd Kristen and Jimmy Nevins (#194)

21 - over

1st Diane Burke (#97) and Joanne Burke (#152)

2nd Sue and Lynn

**Canoe Races**

12 - under

1st Susanna Langman (#197.1) and Kristen Nevins (#194)

2nd Adam Burke (#97) and Kris Landon (#139)

13 - 20

1st Joe Seeley (#173) and Andrew Gillison (#172)

2nd Amanda Burke (97) and Tyler Burke (#152)

21 - over

1st Heather Lloyd (#21.1) and Sandra Lloyd (#19)

2nd Bud Burke (#152) and Bill Landon (#139)

**Abandon Ship**

1st Carlos Repetto and Sandra Lloyd (#19)

2nd Bill Landon (#139) and Bud Burke (#152)

**Annual Dinner**

The annual dinner followed the Annual General Meeting on August 2. The "Friends of Limerick" catered a great meal to the 107 guests in attendance. The bar was hosted by Rick Burke and Bill Landon. There were 31 door prizes donated.

I would like to thank the many people who helped me, Rick and Diane Burke, Trish and Fred Neub, Tom and Judy Hughes, Allan and Judy Conquer, Aureen Landon, and a special thanks to my silent partners, Bill, Kris and Kelly Landon.

The 1999 BBQ will be held Saturday July 10 at 1 PM. the Annual meeting and dinner will be at the Limerick Centre on Sunday August 1, 1999.

## ◆ Barb Rockwell

## Membership

Well let's have a round of applause for our dedicated and diligent canvassers who, again, did a great job of canvassing the lake for membership fees. Kudos to: Lucille Luffman, Ian Fraser, Judie Hughes, Martha Lee Burton, Pat Ayers, Don Ward, Elaine and John McCarthy, Ruth Harrison, Dell Watson, Heather Lloyd, Ken Waddell, yours truly, Sharon Cole, Carol Landon, Ken Cox, Ron Rampton, Tricia Neub and Eileen Walsh. Great Job!! Happy retirement to canvassers Ken Cox and Don Ward.

REMEMBER, if you would like to meet your neighbours around the lake, please consider canvassing an

area. It's fast, fun and you are expected!! Get involved and call me today!

Also, a hardy WELCOME to the following new members around the lake:

- #16 Scott and Pamela Valentine, Ottawa and Alison Abou-Heif, Pickering
- #35.2 Lyla and Stan Darrah, Gilmour and Florida
- #90 Steven and Rita Churchill, North York
- #204 Wendy Rudd and Rob Waywell, Guelph

P.S. For those of you who missed your canvasser, please send your membership dues of \$25.00 now (you already have your reminder letter). You don't want to miss any information coming up in future newsletters. The address for dues is: c/o Barb Rockwell, Box 325, R.R.#2, Gilmour, ON, K0L 1W0.

Happy Winter Season

### LOON SURVEY

Results of water tests submitted by Ken and Anita Waddell to Bird Studies Canada as part of the Loon Survey yielded the following results for Steenburg Lake:

**Conductivity (umhos/cm) - 135**  
 Conductivity is a measure of the total dissolved minerals in the lake water. These minerals are used as nutrients by plants and animals. Conductivity contributes to understanding the level of life (ie: loons) the lake can support. Samples from other lakes in 1997 ranged from 14.1 to 520.0 umhos/cm.

**pH - 7.93** The acidity of water is measured on a pH scale, the lower the pH value, the more acidic the water. A pH of about 7.0 is considered neutral (neither acidic

nor alkaline). The average pH of rainfall over southern Ontario is about 4.2. In the northwest of Ontario, the average pH of rainfall is over 5.0. Acid rain does not harm loons directly, but it affects the foods loons need to sustain themselves. Impacts to aquatic wildlife begin to occur below a pH of about 6.0. The pH of water samples returned by other lakes ranged from 5.44 to 8.42.

**Alkalinity - 1157.1** Alkalinity is expressed as microequivalents of calcium carbonate per litre of water and refers to the ability of lake water to neutralize the acid falling into the lake with rain or snow. Lakes with limited ability to buffer acids are overwhelmed by this input of acid, often resulting in reduced hatching of fish and amphibian eggs. The alkalinity of lake water is determined largely by the type of rock in the lake. High alkalinity lakes tend to be those with soft rock types such as limestone. Using the categories determined by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Steenburg Lake is a Level 5 lake (> 500.0). Level 5 lakes are not sensitive to acidic disposition and are capable of withstanding moderate acid inputs during spring run off without serious biological damage.



### ◆ Griff Lloyd

## Lake Stewardship

Congratulations to the winners of the Rock Bass Derby:

- 1st - Tim Wood (cottage #81) - 60 Rock Bass
- 2nd - Danielle Carpenter (#14) - 18 Rock Bass
- 3rd - Mark Talmey (#30A) - 7 Rock Bass

Please remember to qualify for this program your age must be 14 or less and you must phone in your results by Sunday noon of the Annual General Meeting to Kent Anderson, Cottage #76, 474-2031.

Also, congratulations to the winners of the largest Largemouth and largest Smallmouth Bass caught during the summer season 1998. In this case, it was the same person for both, again repeating last year's endeavour:

- Steve Hughes Cottage #30
- Largemouth - 4lbs 12oz
- Smallmouth - 4lbs

Please remember for the summer 1999 that a properly completed fish form has to be submitted at end of Labour Day weekend to qualify for prizes. These fish forms provide valuable info to MNR which they compile annually. This is their only record of fish caught in Steenburg Lk. I would hope that you fishermen will take a moment to fill out the forms in Summer of 99 and send them to Kent Anderson, Cottage # 76, 474-2031.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to Roland Berry for contributing a beautiful hand carved loon as a prize for those at the Annual General Meeting. Eileen Walsh was the lucky individual whose name was drawn from amongst those in attendance.

Roland is graciously donating another carving for the 1999 AGM. Anyone who has seen Roland's fine work knows that the chance to win one of his carvings cannot be overlooked. If the ability to have your say in the affairs of the SLCA isn't reason enough to attend the next AGM, perhaps the chance to win one of Roland's carvings will be the incentive you need!

Thanks again Roland!

## FOR SALE

### Mistral 12 Sailboat

This boat is easily handled by a crew of two. It has a good floatation reserved insuring security. Due to its light weight, this sailboat can be topped anywhere. It is also a row boat and a 1.5 - 6 HP motor can be adapted:  
Specifications: L.O.A. - 12' 6"

Beam - 5'

Draft max - 40"

Weight - 200 lbs

Main sail - 69.5 sq ft

Jib - 24 sq ft

Asking \$ 1500.00 or Best Offer.  
Contact Tom Quinn at (905) 839-4372 (home) or (613) 474-2657 (cottage).

## COTTAGE WATCH

As Tom Little discussed earlier in the newsletter, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have started a program called Cottage Watch. This program, running in parallel with Neighbourhood Watch, is designed to reduce the numbers of break / enter and theft crime in Hastings County. Following are just some of the ways in which you can make your cottage less attractive to a would-be thief.

- Exterior doors should have a solid core
- Install a strong, one inch dead bolt lock on all exterior doors. Standard Key type locks can easily be jimmied open.
- Deadbolt locks with double cylinders ie: a key is required to turn them from both the inside and outside provide additional security. In this way, if a burglar breaks a panel of glass in the door, there is no thumbturn within reach.
- A piece of wood cut to length to fit between the inside edge of a sliding glass door and the window jam reinforces the sliding door lock.
- Keep an inventory of the items in your cottage. If possible, inscribing your licence plate (do not use your Social Insurance Number (SIN)) into the item will assist in identification if the item is later found by the police.
- During extended absences, do not leave expensive items, especially electronics, in plain view.
- Do not leave alcohol in plain view.
- Have a neighbour routinely check on your cottage.

While the above suggestions provided by the OPP may not necessarily prevent your cottage from being broken into, they will make you less vulnerable. Finally, report any and all thefts to the police- it is their only way of establishing the extent of crime in the area.

## A Little History...

It is believed that settlement around Bass Lake (Steenburg Lake) may date back to the mid 1800's or possibly even earlier. Because some of the early residents were squatters who did not register their property until much later, it is difficult to know exactly when the land was first settled. However, early campers, as the first summer cottagers were known, began to arrive on Steenburg Lake around the turn of the century. Many rented their cabins or cottages from the local landowners before purchasing their own pieces of property. They arrived by train to St. Ola and were usually transported by horse and wagon to, or in some cases, as close as passable trails allowed, to their respective destinations at the lake. In the early years, the trip from home to the cottage might take as long as two days for those travelling from Toronto. With the increased availability of the motor vehicle, cottagers travelled by the Old Hastings Road, now the rebuilt and rerouted Highway 62, to get to their properties. The motor trip was usually long and arduous with flat tires and breakdowns a common occurrence. The road, not marked and having numerous side roads frequently confused the traveller making it necessary to stop and ask directions from the local residents.

Although the trip to the cottage today poses less of a challenge than in the early days, the enthusiasm to experience the joys of cottage life and the natural beauty of Ontario are still the reason so many of us return each time to Steenburg Lake.

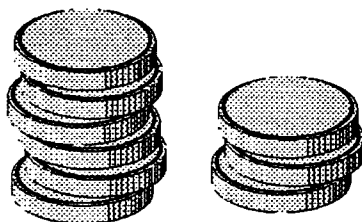
\* taken from **ON THE WAY TO STEENBURG LAKE**, written and compiled by Bill Dafoe and Sandra Dafoe.

◆ Ken Waddell

# Treasurer's Report

July 17, 1997 - August 31, 1998

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <u>BALANCE FORWARD:</u>              | ---->\$3815.54     |
| <br><u>INCOME:</u>                   |                    |
| Memberships (230)                    | \$ 5750.00         |
| Sale of T-shirts                     | \$ 94.50           |
| 1997 Annual Dinner Bar sales         | \$ .95             |
| Interest                             | \$ 118.05          |
| 1998 Bar Sales                       | <u>\$ 483.00</u>   |
| TOTAL                                | ----> \$10262.04   |
| <br><u>EXPENSES:</u>                 |                    |
| Meetings                             | \$ 22.45           |
| Photocopies & Postage                | \$ 362.91          |
| Insurance Aug 97 - July 98           | \$ 432.00          |
| Insurance Aug 98 - July 99           | \$ 442.00          |
| 97/98 Fishing/Regatta Prizes         | \$ 103.11          |
| Rock Marker install/remove           | \$ 200.00          |
| BBQ expenses (97/98)                 | \$ 159.90          |
| Donations                            | \$ 100.00          |
| 1998 Bar Expenses                    | <u>\$ 500.00</u>   |
| TOTAL                                | ----> \$ 2323.17   |
|                                      | BALANCE \$ 7938.87 |
| <br><u>RECONCILIATION:</u>           |                    |
| Bank Account Balance August 31, 1998 | \$ 3914.75         |
| Bank GIC                             | <u>\$ 4024.12</u>  |
|                                      | \$ 7938.87         |



◆ Scott McGinnis

# Editorial



And so another summer at the lake passes leaving only thoughts of fun, family, and friends. El Nino was certainly kind in bringing us lots of sun and enough rain to keep gardens healthy. They, who ever they are, say that El Nino's sister, El Nina, is coming our way with a very cold and snowy winter. While this forecast may make some of us yearn for the summer, for others who also come up to the lake in the winter to enjoy the colder activities, this may be welcome news.

The SLCA executive continues to plan for next year and we hope to hold a photo contest. Full details of this contest will appear in the Spring/Summer 1999 newsletter. Thought is also being given to an essay contest for children on the subject of life at the lake. If you have any ideas for other events, please contact one of the Directors.

You will have noticed earlier in the newsletter that I did not win the contest for largest Smallmouth Bass. Regretfully, I misread the contest rules and thought the prize was for the smallest Largemouth Bass. Too bad, I was a shoe in!

Submissions for the Spring/Summer 1999 newsletter are due by March 31, 1999. Mail to S. McGinnis, 40 Lowder Place, Whitby, ON, L1N 8B7.

**STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR  
1998/99  
OFFICERS**

**President**

**Tom Little (15)**  
97 Sherwood Ave.  
Oshawa, L1G 3L7  
905-576-5220  
613-474-5653

**Past-President**

**Tom Quinn (26)**  
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905-839-4372  
613-474-2657

**Treasurer**

**Ken Waddell (103)**  
5 Charles Tupper Dr.  
West Hill, M1C 2A8  
416-284-8098  
613-474-5486

**Record/Correspond Secretary**

**Scott McGinnis (21.1)**  
40 Lowder Place  
Whitby, L1N 8B7  
905-728-0109  
613-474-2849

**DIRECTORS**

\* = Lead Director

Elected by the membership for a three year term.

If you would care to assist in one of the following areas, please call the Lead Director of the committee.

**Membership**

**Barb Rockwell (30.2)\***  
RR #2 P.O. Box 325  
Lane  
P.O. Box 1687  
Gilmour, K0L 1W0  
613-474-2348

**Social**

**Carol Landon (139)\***  
12 Patriot Ct.  
  
Markham, L3P 6B3  
905-472-5346  
613-474-5360

**Municipal Affairs**

**Gary Goodfellow (175)\***  
23 Joyce Cres.  
  
Belleville, K8N 1Y6  
613-967-0873  
613-474-2341

**Lake Stewardship**

**Kent Anderson (76)\***  
165 Maple Landing  
  
RR #2  
Gilmour, K0L 1W0  
613-474-2031

**Tricia Neub (177)**  
92 Waverly Road  
Toronto, M4L 3T1  
416-698-3544  
613-474-2377

**Ian Fraser (16)**  
95 Glenview Ave.  
Toronto, M4R 1P9  
416-481-4192  
613-474-2777

**Natural Resources**

**Rick Burke (97)**  
666 Sultana Sq.  
Pickering, L1V 3Y3  
905-831-2908  
613-474-2254

**Diane Burke (97)**  
666 Sultana Sq.  
Pickering, L1V 3Y3  
905-831-2908  
613-474-2254

**Environment**

**Fred Neub (177)**  
92 Waverly Road  
Toronto, M4L 3T1  
416-698-3544  
613-474-2377

**AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

Organize annual canvass  
Prepare canvasser folders  
Enlist canvassers as needed  
Member info to Secy.  
Member dues to Treasurer

Annual dinner arrangements  
Secure door prizes  
Youth activities  
Regettas  
Canoe races

Interface w/local councils  
Attend OMB hearings  
Review official town plan  
Get-out-the-vote  
By-law requests

Water quality monitoring  
The lake fishery  
Shoreline preservation  
Rock & shoal markers  
Lake Stewardship Program  
Loosestrife control  
Water Level of lake  
Spraying programs  
Lake Directory signs

**Lake Historian**

**Bill Langman**  
48 Garnoch Ave  
Toronto, M4K 1M4  
416-461-3558  
613-474-5435