

SHORELINE NEWS

Steenburg Lake Community Association

July 1991

Limerick Township - Hastings County

S.L.C.A. Annual Dinner & Meeting

The dinner and meeting will be held at the Limerick Community Centre. Reception at 5:30, dinner served at 6:30 and the meeting at 8:00PM.

You must purchase dinner tickets in advance from either Peg Moffatt #192 or Marion Duggan #165. **Absolutely no dinner tickets sold at the door.** Adults \$8.00, children \$4.00

There are elections at the annual meeting this year. All directors and officers are up for election. It will be announced at the meeting which directors and officers are willing to stand in for reelection for another two year term. Nominations from the floor are encouraged; however the by-laws require that the nominee be contacted prior and agree to be nominated. No surprises from the floor.

1991 Calendar Of Events

July 13th - Beef dinner and horseshore tournament at the Limerick Community Centre.

July 31st - Turkey Supper, St. Andrews - Coe Hill 4:30 - 7:00PM.

August 3rd - Steenburg Lake Regatta, 2:00PM in front of Marina.

Windsurfers - 2:00

Single Sail Boats - 2:15

Sail Boats with two sails - 2:30

August 3rd & 4th - Steenburg Lake Rock Bass Derby.

Register by phone with either John Savage or Wayne Hadley by 10AM on the 3rd. Call in your tally by 4:00PM on Sunday. Honor system.

August 4th Steenburg Lake canoe races in front of Marina.

Youth class - 2:00

Adult class - 2:30

Senior Class - 3:00

All prizes awarded at the dinner Sunday evening

August 4th - Steenburg Lake Community Association annual dinner and meeting. Again no tickets sold at the door.

August 10th - The Ridge Anniversary Supper 4:30 - 7:00PM

August 23rd - Coe Hill Fair.

Cottage Life Correction

In the Spring issue it was mentioned that your canvasser might have a complimentary copy of Cottage Life Magazine to give to non-subscribers. We have since heard from them that they do not provide complimentary copies. The list of current subscribers from the association was so short they suggested that we approach all members as potential subscribers. We did receive a quantity of cover fliers promoting the magazine which your canvasser will have. The magazine is an excellent publication. Six issues a year at \$17.95 with the association earning \$2.00 per subscription if it comes through the association.

Survey Updates

Waste Disposal Survey - Responses from the spring newsletter moved our response level from 58% to 70% of the cottagers around the lake. This figure is based on 195 cottages. The 11 empty lots are not included in the total. Nine responses have been received from non-association cottagers.

When you make any change to your system please let Tom Hughes know (474-5753) so the survey can be kept current.

STeenBURG LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL SURVEY SUMMARY

Systems Surveyed: 136 (7/91)

'Types and number in use

Septic	Privies*	Holding Tank	Chemical	Other
105	12	10	1	5
System upgrades under consideration : 23				

'Routing of Kitchen Waste

Septic	Dry Well	Lch	Fld.	Sand Bed	Hold	Tank	None	Other
90	22	3	7	6	2	2	2	2
Septic systems installed prior to EPA (1974) : 28								

* Privies used on a regular basis, not as back up
70% response levels from cottagers not including lots

Boat Launch Survey - There has not been much change in the cottager response to this survey. The majority of the respondees favor a private boat launch but indicate the cost as being a very sensitive issue. Two approaches to providing this service have surfaced as potential solutions:

- Contact Mr. Wilson in Apsley and negotiate an arrangement allowing S.L.C.A. members the use of the marina to launch their boats. The association would pay him an annual fee and also take out insurance. This would be a temporary solution as the property is up for sale.

- Association purchase shoreline allowance and a right-of-way to the shoreline on the lake lot owned by the Limerick Township. If this could be done it would be a more permanent solution but more costly than the other. Cost items that would be involved are:

- Cost of purchasing the shoreline allowance and right-of-way.

- Cost of survey.

- Legal fees.

- Bulldoze road and launch plus several loads of gravel.

A rough estimate of cost would require a \$75.00 assessment per member cottage to complete the project. On going expenses would come out of due funds. This will be an agenda item at the annual meeting. Neither approach has been looked into as yet. If the members vote to look into the alternatives Valerie Peverly and Yvonne Flavelle volunteered to serve on a boat launch committee at the conclusion of last years meeting.

Boat Launch Survey continued.....

Steenburg Lake Boat Launch Survey Summary 6/25/91

Cottager Responses Received To Date.....	84
Have A Boat To Launch '.....	58
Alternate Launch Location Available.....	46
Favor A Private Association Launch Site.....	49
Financing Of An Association Launch Site	
Through Increased Dues	12
Association Membership Assessment ...	32
Undecided	6
Frequency Of Launch	
0.....	11
2	44
3 to 5	18
5 plus	5

1991 Is An Election Year

Not only for the officers and directors of the association but in 800 municipalities in the Province of Ontario. Electors will go to the polls to elect their new heads of council, council members, trustees of school boards and members of public utility commissions.

Municipal government is a vital part of our democratic process. This level of government determines our property taxes, collects school board requisitions and delivers federal and provincial programs to the community.

As cottagers we are members of the local community and its interests are our interests and as such we should committ ourselves to participate in the events that will contribute to a better community as well look out for our pocket books.

The fall issue of the newsletter will contain a listing of all who are running for office from both Limerick and Tudor/Cashel Townships and how you can vote by proxy if you will be unable to be present for elections.

Fish Records

Keeping fish records is easy and very helpful to the MNR. This will be our first attempt in trying to establish over time a profile of what our fishermen take out of the lake.

Just follow the instructions on the recording sheets that are attached to this newsletter. Sheets for July, August and September are included. Hold onto your records and the August newsletter will provided you with locations for turn in. A summary will be included in the spring 92 newsletter. Extra sheets may be secured from Wayne Hadley at cottage # 72.

Splake Stocking for Steenburg Lake Scheduled

In the July 1990 issue of the newsletter indicated Splake stocking would not happen for another 5 years. The Fishery section of the MNR in Bancroft was quired in mid June as to the present status of the program. Their current plan calls for stocking Steenburg Lake next May and every other year thereafter.

The program has had a varied range of success in area lakes. Some have produced up to 15lb. fish, while others have had very moderate success. Steenburg Lake has two deep holes (80 plus feet deep each) and that is where the Splake will head for. They will only be in competition with the bass for food in late fall as the lake cools and for a very short period in early spring.

Their presence in the lake will extend the fishing season to 10months of the year. January 1st - September 30th and December 1st - 31st. With only bass to fish for in the lake

Splake stocking continued.....

our season is four months of the year.

The MNR emphasized that this is their current plan, however, budget adjustment could impact that plan.

Let us keep our collective fingers crossed.

Crowe Valley President's Association

The annual meeting of this group was held on Sunday, June 2nd at the Glen Alda Community Centre. Our association was represented by Ken & Anita Waddell. Kelly Pender, General Manager of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority spoke and answered questions on lake levels.

Steenburg Lake is in the Crowe Valley drainage basin and the C.V.C.A. controls the in and out logs on its outlet that controls our lake level. Once the lake level is below the logs it continues to drop based on evaporation and cottage usage. With little rain during May and June the lake level has continued to drop. April 11 - 15 is considered to be peak flooding time and approximately October 15th is the draw down date.

Kelly advised that the province has changed funding for capital projects from 85% to 50% with the municipalities picking up the difference. This tends to make project funding more oriented to funding via user fees.

There is a possibility that water testing might be turned over to the C.V.C.A. this fall but the problem is that the authority does not have the expertise to interpret the data. Currently this is being done by the Health Unit of the MNR and only for public use areas.

Chris Brousseau, MNR Zebra Mussel Coordinator gave a slide presentation. Zebra Mussels can be carried to other lakes by ducks, beavers, turtles, airplane pontoons, fish bait, boats, etc. They even have to be careful where they obtain water for fighting major forest fires. In Lake Erie there use to be 16 species of clams and now there are only four. The Zebra Mussel has improved the clarity of the water and removed alot of algae but they do not know the effect they will have on fish eggs laid. At Point Peelee they used to get 4 - 5 blue billed ducks but because of the Zebra Mussel the ducks have actually altered their flight patterns and now number 10,000 because of the availability of the mussels.

There are 21 cottage associations represented in C.V.C.A

The Intrepid Cottager

Craig Nicholson, chairman of the Crowe Valley Presidents Association prepares a column entitled "The Intrepid Cottager" which appears in the Bancroft Times from Victoria Day to Labour Day. The column takes a humourous (and sometimes serious) look at cottage life and the experiences we all share.

SHORELINE SPRUCE UP NOW NEEDS A PERMIT

By Bob Brent
TORONTO STAR

Planning on doing a little waterfront work around the cottage this weekend?

Think twice. You may need a provincial permit.

Under a law enacted two years ago that's just becoming "business as usual" now, cottagers need a permit before they can do any work that might disturb shoreline wildlife.

For the most part, it covers major projects such as building a dock, putting in a breakwall or creating a man-made sand beach.

But if cottagers so much as remove a rock or stump from the water, or clear weeds for a boat passage, they could be fined and forced to undo their work.

The good news: the process is intended to protect the environment and the permits are free.

The bad news: it can take anywhere from one to eight weeks, depending on the complexity of the project and the timing of the application.

Provincial officials concede that in peak summer months cottagers may face long delays because Queen's Park hasn't provided additional staff and resources to deal with the flood of applications.

But before you start planning to work without a permit, think about this: at one Lake Simcoe retreat, the owner was forced to pay \$10,000 to remove a concrete breakwall that had been poured without a permit.

And officials from the natural resources ministry have taken to videotaping from the sky to keep track of their shoreline "inventories." They have also found help from an unexpected source: environmentally *unfriendly* cottagers who are willing to turn in their neighbors.

Those offshore weeds are no longer just weeds — they're fish habitat.

"What (the ministry is) saying is you can no longer do what you want," says Gerry Strickland, executive director of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations. "The name of the game is keep it natural. I suppose, in the long run, it's for the best."

Before changes to the Public Lands Act took effect in 1989, cottagers were required simply to obtain a letter of permission before they carried out shoreline work.

But officials had few means to punish people who went ahead without an okay, says Al Mack, public lands administrator for the natural resources ministry.

Now cottagers can be fined up to \$5,000 under the provincial law. Ministry officials can also invoke a beefed-up federal Fisheries Act with penalties up to \$1,000,000 if fish habitat is disturbed.

Few people realize that the land under water off their cottages belongs to the crown, Mack says. Fewer still realize that the first few metres offshore are the most important part of the lake in terms of sustaining life, he said.

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

Stainless Steel Kitchen sink (25" x 2") w/Delta faucet and spray unit \$25.00. Cottage #30, Telephone 474-575

Trailer - adaptable for either a 14' boat or a single snowmobile- \$65.00. Cottage #30, Telephone 474-5753

Wood Burning Stove - Has heated four bedroom cottage. Takes 30" wood. Good condition, includes pipes. Asking \$100. Cottage #27, 474-2645

Fiberglass Boat - 14' "Flipper" brand. Approx. 5 years old and in excellent condition. With or without 9.9 Mercury outboard. No trailer. Purchaser must make own arrangements to move. Price negotiable. Contact Brian Williamson, cottage #87. Telephone 474-2541 or 613-962-5912

Wind surfer sail, mast and wishbone assy. - (no board) Sail is approximately 5.7 mistral. All in excellent condition, good for beginner or intermediate level. Asking \$150.00. Contact Brian Williamson at Cottage #87. Telephone 474-2541 or 613-962-5912

Snowmobiles (two)

71 Ski-doo 440 TNT

72 Ski-doo 292 TNT

Both used this past winter - very good condition - well maintained. Asking \$500 for each. Contact Ken Waddell at cottage #103. Telephone 474-5486 or 416-284-8098

Eugene Harrison Receives Award

Mr. Eugene Harrison (left) of Gilmour received an award on behalf of the Steenburg Lake Community Association for their participation in the Ministry of the Environment's Cottagers Self-Help Program. The award presentation was made by the Director for the Southwestern Region, Brian Ward, at the 401 Inn in Kingston on May 31, 1991.

Mr. Harrison was one of the twenty-nine cottagers in Southeastern Ontario to receive an award in recognition of ten or more years contribution to the protection of the water quality of our lakes.

Since 1976 sampling has been done by David A. Langman, P.J. Marshall and others. Each person donated a half hour of the time they spend at the lake each week to carry out two simple water quality sampling and measurement tests for the Ministry.

One of the two tests involves

measuring the water clarity of the lake by lowering a Secchi disc, a circular black and white steel plate, into the water and noting the depth at which it disappears from view. The clarity of the water is an indication of the condition of the lake.

The other test involves collecting a sample of water at the same location as the water clarity measurement. The Ministry analyses the sample for its algae content.

Algae are microscopic green plants. Algae growth depends on the amounts of nutrients in the water, particularly phosphorus. Excess phosphorus can come from septic tanks and runoff from agricultural lands. When excess phosphorus is present there is an abundance of algae. While a certain amount of algae is necessary to sustain aquatic life, rising levels cause a lake to become progressively more turbid and greener. In a few cases of extreme nutrient enrichment, algal blooms may occur. Algal blooms produce pea-soup scums on the surface that render a lake unsuitable for recreational activities, particularly those that involve body contact with the water such as swimming.

The Self-Help Program enables the collection of information that is extremely important to lake water quality management. Detailed lake studies completed by the Ministry of the Environment are augmented by a record of water quality observations that extend over a number of years. This information allows for an assessment of normal variability in lakewater quality and any changes that are occurring. Combined with other sources of information it provides a basis for a

better scientific understanding of our lakes and their protection.

The Secchi disc and algae data for Steenburg Lake indicate it has good water quality suitable for a

wide variety of recreational uses.

For further information do not hesitate to contact our office at 549-4000 and ask for D.L. Galloway or Jennifer Jones.



Mr. Eugene Harrison of Gilmour, receives award from Director Brian Ward, in Kingston on May 31.



PITCH-IN & REUSE WASTE BY COMPOSTING!

1. Why Should I Compost?

You can reduce your household garbage by about one third by composting your kitchen and garden wastes. You will also be returning organic matter back to the soil when you use compost in your garden. Organic matter in the soil improves plant growth by helping to break down heavy clay soils, adding water and nutrient-holding capacity to sandy soils and adding essential nutrients to any soil.

2. What Do I Put In The Compost?

Try to combine nitrogen rich materials with carbon rich materials in your compost heap. What materials can you add?

Nitrogen Rich Materials

- fresh grass clippings
- plant trimmings
- house plants
- manure
- kitchen scraps including vegetable/fruit peelings, coffee grounds, tea bags and rinsed out egg shells

Carbon Rich Materials

- dry leaves
- straw
- dry seaweed

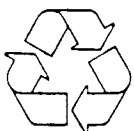
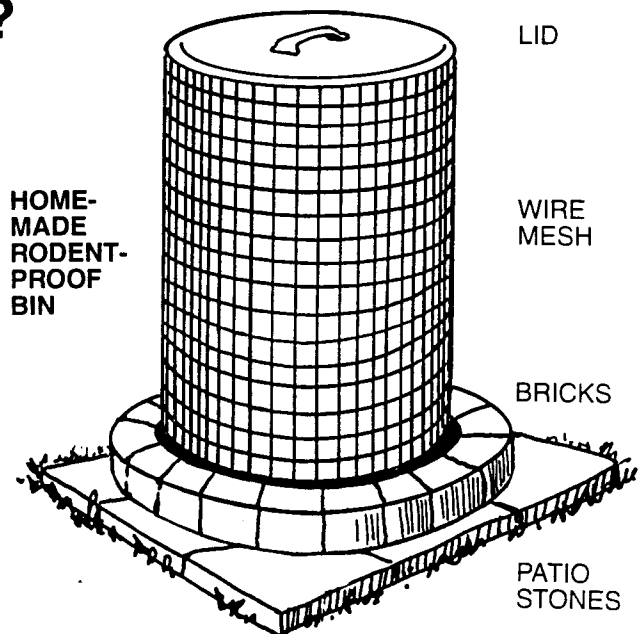
3 What Don't I Put In The Compost?

Do not add the following materials:

- cooked kitchen scraps
- meat/bone/fish scraps
- grains
- fatty foods including cheese, salad dressing, butter and cooking oil
- dog and cat feces
- diseased or insect infested plants
- pernicious weeds (eg: morning glory, buttercup, quackgrass)

4 How Do I Make A Composter?

There are many designs of compost containers to choose from. You can build your own or buy a commercial model. **In urban areas, it is important that you choose a rodent-proof bin to ensure that public health standards are maintained.** One quarter or one half inch wire mesh of sufficient strength (19 gauge or stronger) will exclude small animals. Sides, a solid floor (eg: concrete patio stones), and a secure lid must all be included in your design.



THIS RECYCLED PAPER CONTAINS POST-CONSUMER WASTE
PITCH-IN CANADA!

5 What Is The Best Location For A Composter?

Choose a spot where there is good water drainage. If the drainage is good, a shady spot is best so that the compost pile does not dry out. If the drainage is poor, a sunny spot is best.

6 How Do I Maintain My Compost Pile?

Ideally, you should try to mix different organic materials together. Every time you add nitrogen-rich green material try to add an equal amount of carbon-rich brown material. This is, however, not always possible.

The key is to alternate layers of organic waste, keeping the compost pile moist but not dripping wet and turning it frequently. It is helpful, although not essential, to add thin layers of soil in order to add micro-organisms to the pile.

7 I Live In An Apartment – Can I Compost?

Yes. Worm composting would be most appropriate for you. Your bin could sit on the balcony in warm weather and be brought indoors in winter.

8 Can I Compost In Winter?

The compost process generates heat. Cold weather will not destroy your compost. It just slows it down. Continue to add material to your heap throughout the winter, even if it freezes. After spring thaw, the decomposition process will become active again.

9 How Do I Use My Compost?

By adding compost to your garden, you help build good soil texture and structure. These qualities enable soil to retain nutrients, moisture and air which support healthy plants.

Finished compost, when removed from the bin after three to six months, should resemble rich soil. Mix 3" of compost into the top 6" of the garden beds before planting. Compost can also be placed on top of the ground around growing plants, shrubs and trees to help retain moisture in the soil, smother weeds and prevent soil compaction. Finally, compost is an excellent soil fertilizer.

10 Troubleshooting Chart

SYMPTOMS	PROBLEM	SOLUTION
The compost has a bad odour.	Not enough air, or too wet.	Turn it.
The centre of the pile is dry.	Not enough water.	Moisten materials while turning the pile.
The compost is damp and warm in the middle but nowhere else.	Too small.	Collect more material and mix the old ingredients into a new pile.
The heap is damp and sweet-smelling but still will not heat up.	Lack of nitrogen.	Mix in a nitrogen source such as fresh grass clippings, fresh manure, bloodmeal, or a commercial fertilizer high in nitrogen.

THE END OF MONTH SUMMARY

EXAMPLE SAMPLE

MONTH _____ NAME _____ COTTAGE _____

HIGHLIGHTS

- It's very important to RECORD HOURS fished. This should be a total for ALL who fished. Example: If three people in your boat fished for 1.5 hours, you would record 4.5 hours (to the nearest half hour is sufficient).
- If you don't catch any fish, make sure you record the hours you fished. We want these statistics to accurately reflect how many fish per hour are being caught!
- Enter the month and the date because we break down our total summary by month. Please use separate pages for each month.
- You can keep notes if you want - like size of fish, weather, etc. these sheets will be given back to you for your records.
- Please fill in your own end-of-the-month summary.
- Try to enter your records on the day you fished. Sometimes as time passes we forget.

SPECIES

- WALLEYE →
- NORTHERN →
- LARGE MOUTH →
- SMALL MOUTH →
- ROCK BASS →
- SUNFISH →
- PERCH →
- HOURS →

Spec. No.		Date		Comments		Spec. No.		Date		Comments	
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Definition of fishing hours; multiply the number of people fishing by the hours you fished.

COMMENTS
578
17
2 Big Sunfish

Unruly People On The Lake

On the nights of August 25th and 26th a number of people were disturbed by two young men who were staying on Big Bob Island. They were very loud and apparently had too much to drink, thus their inconsiderate actions. A member of residents called some of the officers of the Association and complained and asked what could be done. At an Executive meeting of the Association it was discussed and the consensus of the group was that the Association should not act as a disciplinarian on such occasions. The proper action is to call the OPP immediately. In this instance liquor and operation of a boat would have been involved and that is a serious offense. If you call the OPP they will respond so don't be timid about such things. Remember the new OPP telephone number for dispatching is 1-800-267-7444.

Hybrid Citrosa Plant Drives Insects Buggy

A mosquito-repelling plant called citrosa has been selling by the thousands in northern Ontario and is now available in some southern Ontario stores.

Citrosa is a genetically engineered cross between the geranium and a plant called "The Grass of China" which contains the oil of citronella providing the repellent qualities.

The geranium genes give it the gumption to spread and its smell within a radius of two to three meters. One plant in a room is enough to keep mosquitos and blackflies away and outside they'll keep bugs away in area of 10feet.

The plant can grow up to 1 1/2 meters tall, looks a bit like parsley, and releases a strong lemony smell from every pore. It thrives outdoors in the summer but, like a geranium must be brought inside for the winter.

The plants are being sold in nurseries, super markets and K Mart has put them in some of their stores. The plant is priced between \$14.95 and \$18.95. You might want to look around next Spring, sounds too good to be true.

How Can You Help?

If you own a piece of the shore, the following is a list of things you can do to minimize negative impacts on fish habitat, **NOTE: A work permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources is required for any water, shoreline related work.**

- Avoid disturbing rooted aquatic plants.
 - Don't remove rubble or boulders from the shallows.
 - Avoid dredging and filling.
 - Build a floating dock or pipe dock if possible.
 - Bring in rock for cribbing. Don't take it from the shoreline or shallows.
 - If metal drums are used for flotation ensure that no residues of the former contents are left.
 - Preserve the natural setting of the shoreline-observe setbacks and minimize shoreline clearing. Trim branches not trees.
 - Stabilize eroding banks by planting vegetation.
 - Avoid fertilizing your lawn.
 - Maintain your septic systems to modern standards.
- Helping the fish habitat also helps water quality. They go hand in hand.

The following article appeared in the Madoc Review. The testing referred to in this article applies only to public swimming areas.

Moira Lake water quality remains healthy throughout summer months

by Janice Pinke

Last Thursday morning the Madoc Review caught up with this area's Public Health Inspector from the Health Unit down at Moira Lake's Kiwanis Beach off of Highway 62.

Debbie Johnston says that samples are taken from Moira Lake every two weeks from the beginning of June until the end of August and that every sample she has taken has come back "extremely good" this year.

What Debbie and the Health Unit are looking for are high bacteria counts which could force the closure of the Highway 62 beach. This hasn't happened this year here in the North.

In the South, however, beaches such as the Sandbanks Provincial Park and the North

Beach have had to be closed due to high bacteria counts. Contributing factors which cause high bacteria counts, according to Debbie, include batter density, rainfall and wind direction.

Debbie says that the more people that use a particular beach, the higher the risk is for inspectors to find higher bacteria counts because bathers wash and follow themselves in the water.

Debbie also does water quality testing on the Crowe River, Greenburg Lake, Wallaston Lake beach, Stooz Lake and Limerick Lake. All testing done on these areas this summer have come back "good".

Debbie takes five water bottle samples every time she visits one of these water holes.

Crowe Valley Presidents Association Discuss County Restructuring Study

At the annual meeting of The Crowe Valley Presidents' Association (CVPA) last weekend, the 20 lake association presidents, whose memberships are the majority of ratepayers in each of their municipalities, discussed the study currently underway and came to the following conclusions:

1. Many situations currently exist whereby lake residents are in the jurisdiction of one municipality, but due to road access and proximity do their shopping, business and recreation in another. Municipal, and if possible, county boundaries should be altered to reflect current commuting patterns and area commercial centres such that regional government offices and services are easily accessible to lake residents and not arbitrarily separated by geographic factors or lack of direct road access.
2. Municipal, and if possible, county boundaries should be altered such that cottage lakes are not subject to a multitude of jurisdictions. Dealing with only one municipal government would greatly facilitate the practical resolution of ongoing conservation, planning and development issues, would foster the growth of community, and would facilitate servicing the lake residents.

3. Lake residents as taxpayers under-utilize government services for which they pay due to reasons of location, need, frequency of property use and availability of, and access to, those services. We support any re-allocation of services which would eliminate boundary "grey areas", which would offer more services to lake residents, or which would increase the efficiency, effectiveness and accessibility with which services are available.

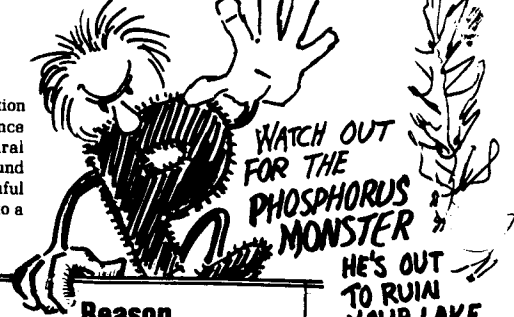
Lake residents are no longer

merely "cottagers". We are a concerned, active, organized body of taxpaying citizens who wish to participate positively and progressively in the life of our chosen communities to the mutual benefit of all residents. As issues become more complex and important, we are particularly concerned about the future of our lakes and urge your committee to take this unique opportunity to make it easier for all citizens and their elected representatives to work together under the auspices of one local jurisdiction to conserve and to develop this invaluable resource.

For Your Lake's Sake...

What can be done? Everyone can contribute by following the suggestions listed below. The goal is to preserve or mimic as many natural processes in the watershed as possible; let nature do the purification which it does so well. For example, leave buffer strips along the edges of lakes, tributary streams, and

seasonal, intermittent streams or plant vegetation which will slow surface runoff; minimize disturbance of natural soil; direct surface runoff into natural depressions where the water can seep into the ground slowly, and keep use of chemicals and other harmful substances which cannot be removed by nature to a minimum.



Land Use/Land Area

DO'S AND DON'TS

Reason

1. Site Disturbance, Yardwork, Clearing, Landscaping.



DO keep site disturbance to a minimum, especially removal of natural vegetation and exposure of bare soil.

Site disturbance dramatically increases surface runoff and erosion which contributes phosphorus to lakes.

DO seed and mulch bare soil within two weeks of clearing and install hay bales downslope of cleared areas.

Hay bales trap sediments and the phosphorus they carry.

DO leave naturally vegetated areas (buffer strips) along lake shores, streambeds, road ditches, intermittent streams. Leave at least 25 feet of undisturbed buffer, with more on poor soils or steep slopes.

Buffer strips intercept runoff and filter sediment and phosphorus from water before it reaches the lake or stream.

DO plant deep-rooted, woody vegetation along lake shores, streambeds, road ditches.

Plant roots stabilize shoreline, prevent erosion, and take up nutrients carried by water before they reach the lake.

DO preserve natural topography and natural drainage systems.

Natural drainage systems evolve over years and effectively control sediment and phosphorus.

DO use fertilizer sparingly and in multiple applications. Hay mulch is preferable.

Solid, inorganic fertilizers are readily dissolved by water and transported in runoff.

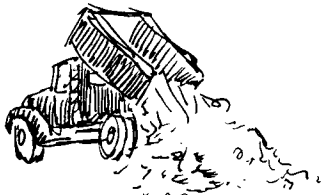
DON'T use herbicides and pesticides in excess on your garden and lawn. Avoid their use if possible.

Many of these products are toxic and can get into the water.

DON'T put leaves, branches or any kind of organic matter into the lake.

Plant debris adds phosphorus and other nutrients directly to the lake.

2. Shore frontage



DO leave existing rocks in place along shore. Add rip rap if erosion control is necessary (DEP permit required).

Large rocks are the most effective buffer against erosion because they diffuse wave action.

DO minimize shoreline alteration, such as removal of vegetation, construction of piers, breakwaters, etc. (Shoreline alteration on Great Ponds requires a DEP permit).

Shorelines are generally stable due to years of wind, wave, and ice action. Alteration of the natural shoreline de-stabilizes the shoreline, increases erosion and impairs fish and wildlife habitat.

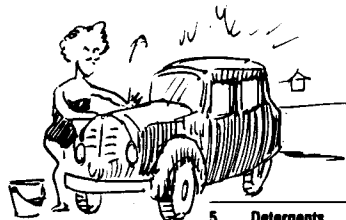
3. Tree cutting, Forestry



DO leave trees along the shoreline or streamfront. Consult with Shoreland Zoning laws before cutting -harvesting limitations may apply.

Trees and natural cover best protect against shoreline erosion and sedimentation of lakes. Trees take years to grow and only minutes to cut down.

4. Septic systems



DO check sludge level in septic tank every year. Pump when sludge fills half of the tank (average is every 2-3 years for year-round residents, 5-6 years for seasonal residents).

Septic systems must be maintained if they are to function properly. If settled solids are not removed from the tank, they will wash into and clog the leachfield.

DO organize neighborhood septic tank pumping.

Pumpers usually reduce the price for large volume jobs.

DO conserve water, and give the septic system time to 'rest' after heavy use.

The less water you use, the better your septic system will work.

DON'T flush strong cleaning agents (drain cleaner, bleach) into your septic system.

Septic tanks are living systems. Strong cleaners kill the microorganisms that break down the waste.

DON'T flush cigarette butts, paper towels, etc. down the toilet.

These items fill up the septic tank quickly and cannot be broken down by microorganisms.

DON'T install or use an in-sink garbage disposal.

Ground up garbage overburdens your septic tank and slows its functions.

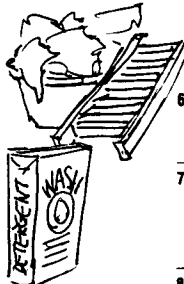
DON'T use commercial products that claim to clean your septic tank without pumping.

These products can cause clogging of your leachfield, and many contain chemicals which can contaminate groundwater.

DON'T put paint or chemicals into the septic system.

These hazardous products kill microorganisms in the septic tank, and contaminate drinking and lakewater.

5. Detergents



DO use non-phosphate detergents. (Lists of products to use are available from Lake Associations and DEP.)

Phosphate detergents add more phosphorus to the lake, and thus contribute to algal growth.

DON'T wash cars near lakes, streams, or drainage ditches.

Runoff containing phosphorus will put phosphorus directly into the water. Runoff should be diverted to vegetated surfaces and allowed to seep into the ground where phosphorus can be removed.

6. Surface runoff from developed areas (driveways, roofs, lawns)

DO prevent water from running directly into lakes and streams. Detain in depressions or divert flow to flat, wooded areas.

Flowing water carries sediment and phosphorus. Detaining or dispersing water allows it to filter into the soil where sediment and phosphorus are filtered out.

7. Roads

DO plant vegetative buffer strips along roads and stabilize road ditches by seeding or riprapping.

Plants slow runoff from roads and help to remove sediment and phosphorus before they reach lakes or streams.

DON'T allow water to run directly off roads into lakes or streams.

Water running off roads contains sediment, phosphorus, and pollutants from cars.

8. Structures (houses, decks, sheds)

DON'T belong close to the water. All structures must meet the required setback from the water.

State Shoreland Zoning Statute requires setback from shore because shoreline disturbance dramatically increases sedimentation of the lake.

9. Sand beaches

DON'T build new beaches (new beaches require a DEP permit). Use temporary docks as an alternative.

Sand contains phosphorus. Sand which is not stabilized by vegetation washes into the lake, where it accelerates filling of the lake and provides poor bottom habitat for fish and wildlife.

10. Fill/dredge

DON'T fill or dredge unless necessary. Both activities require a permit from DEP.

Fill and dredge stir up sediment and impair natural habitat.

11. Storage of hazardous materials

DO store hazardous materials in a contained area.

Containment prevents contamination of water supplies and lake waters by undetected leaks.

DON'T dispose of paint thinners or chemical products on the ground.

These products cannot be removed by soil and can contaminate groundwater and lake water.

HE'S OUT TO RUIN YOUR LAKE

