

# Steenburg Lake

## "SHORELINE NEWS"

June 1989 - Editor: Tom Hughes

Steenburg Lake Community Assoc.

### Coming Events:

Strawberry Supper - St. Ola Church 101st Anniversary supper. June 24, Limerick Ctr. 5:00 PM tickets at the door.

Limerick Centre Beef Barbeque, July 22nd, 5:00 PM tickets at the door.

United Church Anniversary Supper, July 8th at the Limerick Centre 5:00Pm tickets at the door.

### New Neighbors Around the Lake:

#26 - Tom & Charlene Quinn from Pickering

30.1- Jim & Vicky Hartog from Whitby

#156 - RG & Joan Wallace from Toronto

Please update your lake listing withg these changes.

### A Request from your Association

As an association your officers and directors are endeavouring to interface with local councils, various Ministries and County boards to defned and secure direction on a multitude of issues that affect the quality of life around the lake. Your talents and assistance are needed in these efforts and a list of willing hands that your officers and directors could call upon when issues or events are scheduled. Please examine the list below and check those areas that match your interests and/or talents. Cut out along dotted lines and drop it in the box at Trudys by July 3rd.

#### Talent Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage # \_\_\_\_\_

Water Sampling \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Meeting/Dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Canvasser \_\_\_\_\_

Water Event coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Attend Meetings & take notes \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter for Shoreline News \_\_\_\_\_

Make, put up & take down signs \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone contactor \_\_\_\_\_

### Trotter Severence Request

Mr. Trotter from Apsley has purchased both the old lodge and the Double Dee Marina. He requested a severence against the acreage that went with the Marina. Thirteen of the cottagers attended the meeting and a spokes-person presented arguments against the severence to the committee. He was granted a severence for 3 permanent homes on the south side of the Steenburg Lake Road. The rationale used by the committe to approve this was that it was the cottagers fault if the lake water quality had deteriorated and they had not done anything significant

to improve the situation. The spokes-person was not armed with data to respond to that charge. In light that Mr. Trotter had not contributed to this deterioration they felt they could not deny him the severence. The local council in their minutes did not approve of the application.

### Waste Disposal Survey

The Environmental Protection Act of 1974 "Grandfathered" existing disposal systems. A lake survey of disposal systems taken in 1970 indicated 14% of the in-place systems at that time were contributing directly to lake pollution. The specifications for installing systems have been changed drastically since 1974 and many of those systems that were adequate in 1970 would be considered polluters today. Many new systems have been installed around the lake but the assocaition does not have quantifiable data to use in its defense against continuted development around the lake. The lake is over developed at this point, that we know.

The officers of the Association felt a survey was in order to see if we could get a better handle on what has gone on so we would have better data for future meetings. You do not need to identify yourself on the form, that is optional but we do urge you to respond and place you form in the box at Trudy's by July3rd. If you cannot make it by that date please leave it there when you can.

#### Waste Disposal Survey

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage # \_\_\_\_\_

Type of system(check all you have)

Septic tank w/leach fields \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. installation date \_\_\_\_\_

Privy \_\_\_\_\_ Last time moved \_\_\_\_\_

# of feet from the lake \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical \_\_\_\_\_

Holding Tank \_\_\_\_\_

Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Where does your kichen waste go? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any plans to up grade your present system? \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COPERATION

## An Editorial:

### You and Your Lake

Have you been reading the paper lately about the increased value of your lake-front cottage over the last 10 years. Double and triple what you paid for it and people waiting in line for such property to go on the market. As you gaze out your cottage window at that lovely lake and realize what you have in terms of market value, think of what could happen to that investment if that lake were no longer suitable for household use or worse yet so badly polluted you wouldn't want your children or grandchildren to swim in it. Not so far from reality as you might think.

A study your association commissioned Bird & Hale Ltd. of Toronto to do in 1974 stated that at that time the lake was developed 2.7 times beyond its safe level of 74 cottages. The Ministry of the Environment stated that no further development should occur unless total containment of phosphorous were insured. We are not keeping phosphorous from the lake and more cottages continue to be built. There is more nuisance aquatic vegetation and algae present, and in the photosynthesis process consumes the oxygen in the lake. The coliform and faecal counts taken last year during the height of the summer season were alarming (as high as 84/24-unfit for drinking) and the water clarity testing over a nine year period indicates a drop of 2.3 feet in the use of the secchi disc (you lose sight of the disc sooner meaning the water has lost some clarity).

What does all this say and point toward? Too many people on a small lake can cause that lake to no longer be a desirable lake...and that can have a negative impact on your property value.

So what do we do? Well there are a number of things we can do if we have the resolution:

- Let your local council members (both townships) know of your concern over the impact of further development.
- Septic system upgraded to meet current standards per Environmental Protection Act of 1974. The tank set backs have the additional advantage of protecting the natural scenic beauty of the shoreline.
- Any further development of your property carried out in a manner which will minimize disruption to the soil and vegetation. Where disruption of the soil has occurred, replant it as soon as possible.
- Be sure your septic tank tile field system is in good condition. Have your tank pumped periodically. Keep the area over the tile bed covered by grass and left open to the sunlight and wind to encourage evapotranspiration. Check the system every year for damp spots or ponding.

Do not bathe or shampoo in the lake

- Minimize the quantity of water used at the cottage to avoid over loading the septic tank system. Dishwashers and automatic washing machines use large volumes of water and require the use of high phosphate detergents, which should not be used at the cottage. Return to the city with your laundry or utilize a laundromat off the lake.

- If you must have a lawn do not fertilize it. Drain off encourages unwanted nuisance aquatic weed growth.

- Do not disturb the shallows near shore or "Littoral" zone of the lake. Disruption of this life support ecosystem threatens the entire cycle of life in the lake.

- Preserve the natural shoreline of the lake. Retain a protective buffer of trees, shrubs and other natural ground cover between your cottage and the lake. Vegetation slows storm and melt water run off and filters contaminants (phosphorous & nitrogen).

- Where natural ground cover along the shore has been lost, reintroduce vegetation native to the lake environment. MAPLE (Mutual Associations for the Protection of the Lake Environment) has been formed to continue the initiative begun by the Ministry Of Natural Resources. The program involves the active participation of cottage associations in returning shorelines to their natural state. Plants are provided free of charge from a nursery established at Christie Lake specifically for this purpose. The main species are sweet gale, meadow sweet, willow, red asier, dogwood and Virginia creeper. For more information about this program contact:

J. Patrick Ferris Managing Director  
MAPLE Inc.  
152 McLeod St.  
Ottawa, K2P 0Z7  
Telephone 613-230-4548 (Home)  
613-238-8865 (business)

- Support your cottagers association by active participation. Show up at the annual meeting to voice your concerns. The officers and directors must have your assistance.

- The association will continue to monitor the water at 10 locations around the lake (see attached map) for both bacteria (Health Bureau) and clarity (Ministry of Environment-Cottagers Self Help Program). Results will be published in the Shoreline News.

If as families and individuals we sincerely work on the above items we will impact the quality of our lake water and in turn maintain and/or improve the value of our cottage property. LET'S DO IT.....

### CLASSIFIED

Nothing to list. Call Tom Hughes if you wish to enter any items to sell or buy or trade.