

Shoreline News

Steenburg Lake Community Association

March 1994

Member FOCA

Notes From President Tom Quinn

As of this date I am still dealing with our Urban Planning Consultant, John McDermott with regards to what was proposed to us last summer concerning the development "Hastings Estates - 161".

Pressure for that development has apparently disappeared and the property is once again up for sale but in two separate parcels. The parcel on the lake shore including the rental house and 5.79 acres is listed for \$239,000 and the lodge and 247 acres is listed for \$149,000. A determining factor in the decision to abandon the development was from the real estate companies who advised the owners that they would never be able to market such a project, simply because there would be no buyers even if they could get it by MOE, MNR and the township.

At this point in time we are developing a 'Master Game Plan' with respect to this proposal and/or any type of land proposal in this area for the future.

For those of you that have not yet contributed the requested \$100 for the special fund to develop and execute a master plan, I urge you to send your check to Colin Gaddas. The dollars for this fund are being kept separate from our regular association account and will be used exclusively for the preservation of the lake and in turn your own investment in your cottage. Approximately \$8,600 has been received. Our goal is \$15,000 so please add your support.

Lake Height

The lake appears to be as high as it has ever been. Once the spring thaw starts coupled with normal spring rains the lake will go even higher. It would be in your best interests to check your dock, cottage and boat house in early spring. Along that same line don't go out on the ice at the waters edge this spring as it starts to thaw. If you must, be sure you have a partner with you at all times.

December Break-Ins

On December 8th Dafoe, Boswell, Zylka, R. Fitzgibbon, M. Fitzgibbon, Douglas, Sheppey and Trusott cottages were entered. On December 30th on Limerick Lake there were 5 break-ins, Wolaston Lake, 12 break-ins, Dickie Lake, 8 break-ins and also a break-in at the Lighthouse Restaurant.

It seems that the OPP have tied all of these together and two young offenders are in custody. Stolen property was found at the Coe Hill location where they were taken into custody. The OPP feel they have enough evidence for a conviction.

Cottages, especially in the winter, are at the mercy of unscrupulous people and even with the most sophisticated type of alarm system, monitored on a 24 hours basis, it would not be possible to completely protect yourself.

The OPP recommends the following:

- 1.) Make sure your cottage is difficult to enter. Make sure entry can only be gained by making a great deal of noise and taking time. Noise and time are enemies to a thief.
- 2.) In all cases, arrange to have a local year round resident check your cottage regularly. This can also be helpful in preventing the build up of snow on the roofs.
- 3.) In all cases, mark your valuables with a readily-identifiable number. The reasons for marking property are two-fold:
 - a) It discourages theft in the first place, as thieves do not want property which is easily identifiable.
 - b) It enables police to return recovered property to the rightful owners and to prosecute guilty persons.
- 4.) Do not leave anything at the cottage which does not have to be there. Take it home with you. nuisance, yes, but not to is like putting up a sign saying "Help Yourself".
- 5.) Get to know your neighbors, their vehicles and their boats. Consider setting up a "Cottage Watch" program, wherein you help one another.. Challenge strangers.

Fall FOCA Meeting Highlights

Cottage Pollution Control Program

Survey and abatement for the MOEE program has been canceled as of November 1993. FOCA will be providing input to the MOEE for the development of an improved and province wide inspection program and reference reform pertaining to sewage treatment and septic.

Commission on Plng. and Development Reform in Ont.

FOCA is very satisfied that the Commission's final report, submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs last summer reflects FOCA's input by offering improved environmental protection and improved opportunities for participation in the planning process through a **municipal registry** of those requesting notification of planning matters.

The Commission's report also makes recommendations concerning sewage systems such as the need for MOEE to educate users and establish ongoing research development programs and the need for regular inspections of septic systems every five years with the first priority being those systems installed before 1975.

Striving for a Fair & Equitable Tax System

FOCA has made submissions to the Fair Tax Commission to assist in developing a fair and equitable taxation system that reflects ability to pay with a greater reliance on user fees, as well as, the need to develop alternatives to Market Value Assessment.

FOCA Regional Representation

Member associations unanimously rejected the restructuring of FOCA into a regional representation organization.

Lake Stewardship Success Stories

Upper Rideau Lake Cottage Association - Partnership of Association, township, Health Unit & MOEE to complete a sewage system and shore line survey as part of a remedial action plan to improve an unhealthy lake.

Lake of the Woods & District Property Owners Association

- Planting of 150,000 seedlings
- Environmentally safe products on local store shelves
- Parameters for commercial fishing tournaments
- Implementation of an MNR planning appeals process
- Envirocheck program using 3 students, door to door.

Kushog Lake (Haliburton)

- Persuaded a developer to modify plans significantly

Recreational Boating Committee of FOCA

Pursuing the long delayed Federal Contravention Act to allow on site marine ticketing by police. Also addressing boat licensing; operator licensing and mandatory training and the need for a new law addressing the dangerous operation of a vessel and mandatory vessel insurance. Concerns over personal water craft were expressed with the explanation that the problems are with offending drivers and not the water craft itself.

These meetings are open to all and you are encouraged to attend. The next meeting is in April.

1994 Membership Canvass

Volunteers canvassers for 1994 are:

<u>Canvasser</u>	<u>Cottages covered</u>
Jane Mucklestone #190(474-2428)	190 - 192 & 1-12
Tina Lloyd #19 (474 - 2849)	13 -22 , 193-195
Judie Hughes #30 (474-5753)	23 - 30C
Martha Lee Burton#28(474-2918)	31 - 41
Fran Downing #49A(474-2827)	42 53
The McCulloughs#59 (474-2164)	54 - 66
The McCarthys#67 (474-2037)	67 - 78
Ruth Harrison#79 (474-2891)	79 - 85
Dell Watson#89 (474 - 22790)	86 - 96
Cecile Berry#105 (474-2262)	97-109 & 204
Vivian Prowse#122 (474 - 2142)	110 - 122
Sharon Cole#126	123 - 136
Cathy Vanner#141 (474-2555)	137 - 149
Ken Cox#164 (474-2746)	150 - 165
Ron Rampton#157 (474-2536)	166 - 178
Tricia Neub#177 (474-2377)	179 - 189 & 194
Eileen Walsh#194 (474-2778)	196 - 203

A thank you to all the 1993 canvassers, you did a really super job getting around the lake. I plan to have the 1994 canvasser packages to you by the end of May. I encourage you to mail your 94/95 dues in over the winter to my address: Anita Waddell, 5 Charles Tupper Dr., West Hill, Ont. M1C 2A8. Getting the dues out of the way for the canvassers makes the task easier for the canvassers in that they do not need to carry money with them. Please consider being a canvasser for 1995. I lose a few each year and they must be replaced.

Anita Waddell

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority

The Ministry of Natural Resources has opted to drastically reduce its financial commitment to the 38 conservation authorities throughout the province of Ontario.

Locally, this erosion of provincial funding will hamper the Crow Valley Conservation Authority's ability to effectively manage the water systems, flood plains and regionally significant conservation areas in our jurisdiction. Already, the authority has had to trim staff and cut non-essential programs.

Included with this newsletter is a prepared letter to the Minister in charge of MNR at Queen's Park requesting reinstatement of the land tax rebate program to support the authorities. If you agree with the letter and the need described, you are urged to sign and mail the letter.

Natural Resources & Environment
by Griff Lloyd

Water Quality

The county Health Unit monitored the public beach 14 times during last summers with an average mean for Ecoli of 10.32 compared to 11.2 for the 1992 season. The Self-Help program of the MNR indicates that out of 65 lakes in the eastern region, Steenburg is better than the average. All of this indicates that we as cottagers are striving to do the things that will improve the quality of the water in our lake.

It must be remembered that Steenburg Lake is a headwater lake and does not have the advantage of a flow through to augment a flushing action which would tend to lessen the effects of pollutants. It is estimated that it takes 30 years at flood levels to complete one flushing of the lake. Once the lake level is below the creek level the lake level is lowered through evaporation which tends to concentrate the pollutants that are left behind. Included with this newsletter is a paper prepared by Jack McGeachie on lake levels and weather impact.

Fishing

A follow up letter was sent to McGill University to obtain information on the study of fish contamination that was undertaken in our area by a student for his doctoral degree. No response has been received so at this time we cannot enlighten you on the condition of our bass.

Like so many other provincial programs the MNR Splake stocking program is not being continued at this time so there will be no second stocking of Splake this spring as was scheduled. We are not even aware of how well the first stocking took. I am aware that a few of them were caught over the summer

A few (very few) of our fishing population completed and turned in their record of catches over the July/August time frame. A total of 8 forms were turned into Gene Tracy and these were forwarded to the MNR fishing section of the Bancroft office. This information will be included in their seasonal reports. We encourage those that fish to record their results and turn them in to Gene at the end of the season. The forms will be available through your canvasser.

Purple Loosestrife

This beautiful but evil plant is making an appearance around our lake. The canvassers will have a pamphlet to hand out to each cottage. The association is outlooking a "physical attack" on this plant around the Steenburg area and it is requested that you advise Griff Lloyd of areas to be attacked and your willingness to assist in that attack on a Saturday in early summer. This province wide effort is being supported by Ducks Unlimited and the Ontario Federation of Angles & Hunters. Let's pull together on this effort.

Road & Directory Signs

Those that need repair and sprucing up will be attended to over the winter. If there are needs in this area please let Griff know about it.

Water Height

Mr. Pinder of the Crowe Valley Authority phoned me advising that he has written to the land owners along Steenburg Creek advising them to remove debris that might be obstructing the flow of water.

The Authority has had to trim staff and state that they are unable to monitor lake height on a regular basis and have requested assistance from the association in recording readings on the scale at the mouth of the creek. The readings starting on March 1st and continuing until May 1st are to be done daily, then weekly through the fall. I am having trouble locating someone to handle the March/April time frame. If there is someone who could handle this please contact me at my Bancroft number (613-332-0160)


Fire Protection

At our fall Executive meeting various approaches were discussed relative to providing some type of association sponsored fire protection. This is not in any way to say that we do not rely on the Limerick Fire Dept. as our prime source of protection, but a number of lake associations are starting to consider methods that would provide more immediate protection until the arrival of the fire department. Several associations have provided a fire boat with trained crews made up of cottagers. Others have located at strategic locations around the lake, mobile pumps with hose. If you have any views on this topic please let me know.

Classified

For Sale:

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Call Ken or Anita Waddell at (416-284-8098)

Just a reminder for you to send in your annual dues and your check for \$100 to support the development of a master plan relative to the lodge property.

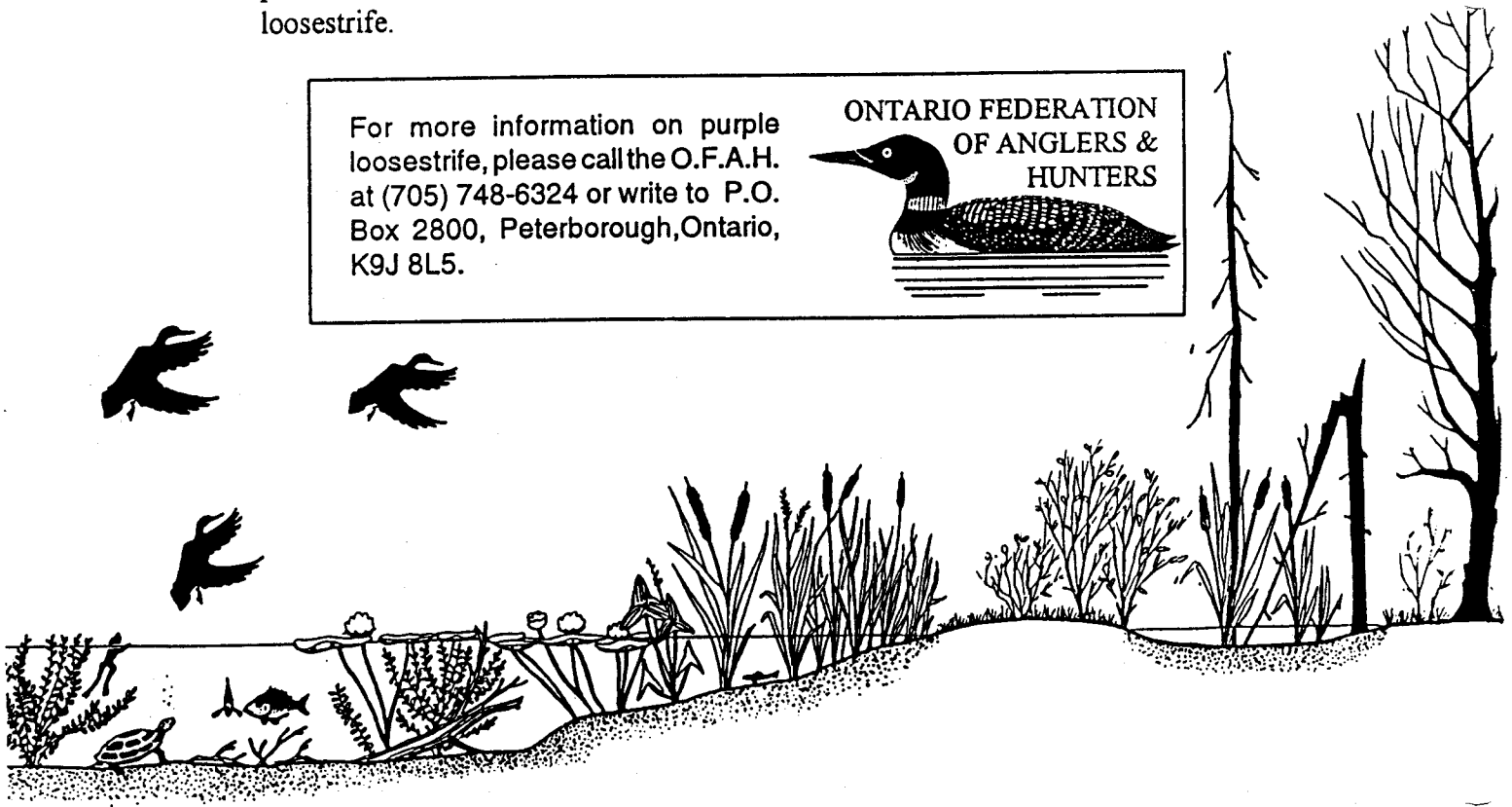


THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is available for sale. **DO NOT BUY IT!** Even “sterile” hybrids such as Morden Pink can cross-pollinate with wild purple loosestrife to produce seeds. Purple loosestrife seeds are present in some wildflower seed mixes; check the label before you buy seed packages!
- Purple loosestrife should be disposed by:
 - 1) putting all plant pieces in plastic bags (vegetation rots quickly in plastic) and take the bags to a sanitary landfill site. If the landfill site in your area requires bags to be broken open, use option 2.
 - 2) drying the plant parts in a sheltered area (a sand/gravel pit is ideal) and then burning them.
- Composting is not advised, as purple loosestrife seeds may not be destroyed and the thick woody root will take a long time to decompose.
- Be aware that your clothes and equipment may transport the small seeds to new areas. Stand in a garbage bag and brush off your clothes and equipment before leaving the site. Wash muddy equipment thoroughly in a bucket and pour out water in a gravelled area where seeds are not likely to germinate or sprout.
- Wetlands provide habitat for many native song birds, waterfowl, mammals amphibians, and fish which depend on wetland vegetation. Wetlands are also home to many rare and delicate plants. Take care not to trample or damage native vegetation when controlling purple loosestrife.

For more information on purple loosestrife, please call the O.F.A.H. at (705) 748-6324 or write to P.O. Box 2800, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 8L5.

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S.L.C.A. SOCIAL CALENDAR JULY 1994

Saturday, July 16 at the Public Beach
Sunday, July 17 - rain date

Canoe & Paddle Boat races, games and Barbeque
Registration - 2:30 for canoes and paddle
paddle boats.
Races begin at 3:00 . All those participating
must wear PFD's and be association members
or their guest.
Barbeque and games will start at 4:00

T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hats and Annual Dinner tickets will be on sale

Saturday, July 30, Near Picket Island
in the Beach Bay

Sailing Regatta
Register by phone 474-5753 in your class.
Starts : Windsurfers - 2:00, Single Sail
2:30, Double sail - 3:00 (Please be on
time) All participants must wear PFD's,
be association members or their guest.

Sunday, July 31, Limerick Community
Centre

Annual Association meeting 3:30 - 5:00
Social Hour 5:30 - 6:00 (All door prizes and
awards will be presented during the social
hour.
Family style dinner will be served at 6:00
Adults \$8.00 children under 11, \$4.00

No dinner tickets sold at the door
Ticket locations::
Cottages: #30, #79, & #165



The Drinkwater boathouse on the beach in front of cottage #1, Lot 23, Con. II, Limerick Twp. looking toward the culverts, early 1920's.

ARE THOSE PLANKS REALLY NECESSARY?

Let me review some of the inputs I have written for Shoreline News over the years: First Oct., 1970:

I delineated the parameters of the drainage area that funnels precipitation into the present lake. And I pointed out that Steenburg lake was a headwater lake. That is, it didn't have the benefit of upstream sources, creeks, rivers or other lakes, to provide a flow through to augment a flushing action. In comparison Limerick lake has the benefit of such action from the Dixon lakes, Mephisto and Steenburg lakes and it is still a good trout lake.

In the spring of 1988, using an approximated calculation of lake volume and cross section of the flow through the culverts and it's measured velocity a calculation indicated it would take over 30 years at flood levels to complete one flushing of the lake.

I have few records of lake levels taken on Crowe Valley's gauge at the culverts. On May 5/86 it was 0.25 meters. The rock outcrop submerged at 0.39 meters. I do not have a peak reading for the season but on Oct. 5/86 before the planks were pulled it was still up to 0.57 meters. This means that for a short while in the spring the rocks were showing 5½" above the surface and for the rest of the season they were covered with a minimum of 7" of water. Consider that in that 1920's picture those rocks must have been more than 2' above the surface.

Then there was the season a group of summer students had a ball cementing the creek bed on the lake approach to the culverts. To stop seepage? Forget it! That whole section of roadway is on the sand bar that contains the lake. One more productive section of creek bottom sterilized.

Originally there was a large shallow bay north of the present shore. It contained two large islands one of which is the site of cottage #1, the other north of this. Wave action built up the sand bar between the present culverts and cottage #1 and from there to the public beach cutting it off from the lake. The shallow backwater gradually filled with vegetation the residue of which eventually compacted enough to support the present spruce swamp. I have had to build two short causeways complete with culverts to get to the back of the lot.

The creek was not always in it's present location. There was an old bed east of the culverts where the road softened in the spring to the extent that it would not support loaded wagons. The horses had difficulty mucking through it. Bill Embury, the first road boss filled it with wagon loads of rock topped by a mattress of gravel. One day the road crew were repairing the deck of the old log bridge when Tom Goodsell approached on his way to meet the train. Not willing to wait he attempted to ford around the bridge. When the horse attempted to cross the soft spot in the lake at the site of the old creek bottom it foundered and it took the combined efforts of Goodsell and the road crew to pull it to safety.

And I outlined a brief history of the fishery from the days of the pioneers through stocking attempts and the invasion of the rock bass. And I made the mistake of downsizing Don Goodsell's rock bass from 1½ lbs. to ¾ lb.

Then in the 1988 Spring issue I mentioned that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture reported that EVAPORATION in the 4 summer months can account for a water loss as much as 36". (Strait up that is). And evaporation increases the toxicity of the stew that is left behind.

Research by a U of T professor reported in the Financial Post, May 29/71: "Outboard motors are extremely inefficient and pollute by discharging Hydrocarbons and Phenolic constituents and are a significant threat to waterways". Several of these components are considered to be carcinogenic and are not normally tested for in water sampling.

A friend who had a cottage in the Laurentians tells of pristine water fit to drink and speckled trout for the catching. The secret - no motors.

And I mentioned some of the hazards of the boondocks: Beaver fever that has always been with us, and coon rabies that is now expected in our area in 1994. 1993 saw the first death from the epidemic, a young girl, in New York state. And I noticed this article in the Star, probably written by some member of the Humane Society, "Loss of habitat driving coons into the cities." Humbug! Coons prefer metropolitan areas and expand with urban population. They are relatively scarce in wilderness areas where natural enemies keep them in check. The density in the suburbs of Metro T.O. is estimated at 85 per square kilometer.

And I noticed this 'darb' of urban advice: To apply creosote to the trunks of trees to deter beaver. It is a very toxic substance and one retaining wall in our subdivision built up with creosoted R.R. ties had to be dismantled when the creosote had leached out and killed several valuable ornamental trees. Better play it safe and wrap with chain link fencing as recommended in a previous issue. No deciduous trees are safe. They take poplar, ash, black cherry, birch or maple in that order. (Spring 1989 issue: A 15 month study of a single pair of Algonquin Park beaver documented they felled 266 trees).

The Ministry of Natural Resources collect a licence fee to trap beaver and a royalty on every pelt harvested. But they are quick to advise that landowners who have streams on their property are responsible for any beaver damage incurred because of them. This is only a restatement of the ancient convention referred to as Riparian Rights wherein landowners cannot take measures interfering with stream flow that either flood their upstream neighbours or deny water rights to those downstream. But the Ministry refuse to act on their own advice where obstructions are on their own land. They own the most critical section of Bass creek east of Hwy.#62 including or close to the section referred to locally as Barrager's rapids where most of the fall between Steenburg and Limerick lakes occurs.

Now to review a few factors that affect our weather and it's forecasting and ultimately the level of our lakes:

First: The Jet Stream, a high speed current of air in the upper atmosphere which snakes around the northern hemisphere from west to east with our weather following below. So depending on whether it reaches this area from Alaska or the Gulf of Mexico determines whether we are below or above normal in moisture and/or temperature. So far it hasn't been too predictable. One noticeable result is the contrast in our daily weather, east vs west. Usually when one is wet the other is dry. And in a notation from my diary; "Oct.,9/86 - Jet stream finally moved from it's Texas - Ont. axis of the last 2 months". We had the wettest summer in 143 years.

Second: Sunspots. They vary in intensity and numbers. Maximum numbers occur at approximately 11 year intervals but maximum intensities don't necessarily correspond with maximum numbers. They probably have a bigger effect on evaporation than rainfall although it too must be affected. Years of maximum numbers are as follows: 1905, '16, '26, '37, '46, '57, '68, '81, and '91, 1980 was a year of greatest intensity.

Third: Ocean Currents. El Nino a warm northern flowing current along the west shore of South America affects our weather on the west coast and sometimes our's here depending on the set of the jet stream. A more recently studied phenomina it occurred in our winters of 1976-77 (cold), 1982-83 (mild) and 1991-92.

Fourth and most serious: Volcanic Eruptions. There are some 550 known active volcanoes, a dozen or two are erupting at any moment. About 100 need intensive monitoring. The most cataclysmic in modern recorded history were:

Vesuvius, Italy	79	- 16,000 fatalities.
Tambora, Indonesia	1815	- 12,000 killed, 80,000 starve.
Krakatau, Java-Sumatra	1883	- 36,000 "
Pelee, Martinique	1902	- 30,000 "
Mt.St.Helen's, Washington	1980	- 60 "
Nevado del Ruiz, Colombia	1985	- 23,000 "
Mt.Pinatubo, Philippines	1991	- 900 in spite of plenty of

warning.

It is the latter that most concerns us. On June 15, 1991 sulphur dioxide was blasted 25 miles into the stratosphere where it combined with water vapour creating a thin aerosol cloud that girdled the globe in 21 days. This deflected 2% of the incoming sunlight and is expected to circle the earth for 5 years. 2 cubic miles of magma was pulverized to a fine ash and hurled skyward. On the plus side this contains the major elements for plant growth, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulphur and the fertilizing process can occur from fallout within weeks. But the cloud that produced the year of the wet in 1992 and the year of the cloud in 1993 (less evaporation) is predicted to be with us for another two years.

(Yellowstone basin periodically has served up eruptions, the last 600,000 years ago. These dropped ash as far away as the Mississippi. If clouds from Tambora caused 1816 to be the year with no summer what would another Yellowstone, ten times larger, do to food production? It erupts every 600,000 years or so. Time wise we are about due although there are no current signs).

The planks were pulled this year on Sep., 30th, at my request, with permission of the Reeve. While the lake level went down slightly it went up again very quickly and my last level reading I forwarded to Crowe Valley Oct. 23rd was 0.43 meters on their gauge.

(The lake was highest the spring of 1981 before Crowe Valley took over the planks and they had been left in all winter. The road flooded east of the culverts and at Fitzgibbon's and everyone between was marooned for 3 days).

Environmentalists fight dams in any part of the world - except those installed in their own back yard for their pleasure. The Bass creek planks were installed at the insistence of the Association (By the Township without a permit) and Kelly tells me if the lake level goes up or down a few inches his phone starts ringing off the hook. This winter may be the payoff.

While permanent removal of the planks would not permit a return to the 1920 levels due to the higher culverts shore improvement would be immediate and dramatic. Small marshes that have been flooded out would rejuvenate with increased light penetration. And if some of the old reefs were again exposed the lake might not be quite so attractive to high speed day boaters. This might also decrease the hazard of a zebra mussel invasion as I question whether any of them wash down their boat's hulls when they flit from one launch site to another.

Dec. 6/93: Brother Bob reports the lake higher than ever, no current at the culverts or Hwy. #62, our lawn flooded, the swamps knee deep.

*Steenburg
Lake
Community
Association*



*Gilmour, Ontario
K0L 1W0*

Ontario Provincial Police
c/o Staff Sgt. Kerry Phillips
P.O. Box 490
Madoc, Ontario
Canada, K0K 2K0

19 January 1994
6 Highview Trail
Pittsford, NY 14534-3412

Dear Sgt. Phillips :

By way of introduction I am the Corresponding Secretary of the Steenburg Lake Community Association and publish our newsletter the "'Shoreline" News. I am currently putting information together for an early March mailing.

I am aware that there were something in excess of 15 break-ins on the Steenburg Lake South Road during the second week of December. Can you provide me with information relative to those break-ins ? I have been advised that two youthful offenders were involved and that they are local individuals.

I would like to say as much about the incident as is appropriate to say: for instance was there any vandalism, what was stolen, how did they gain entrance, were they seen by anyone, is an arrest going to happen?

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly,

Thomas O. Hughes, Corresponding Secretary, S.L.C.A.

The Honourable Howard Hampton
Minister of Natural Resources
99 Wellesley St. West
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Dear Sir:

As a citizen of Ontario, I am very concerned about your lack of support for natural areas protection in this Province. In addition, I am concerned with what seems to be your Ministry's attempts to destroy the grass roots conservation of our natural resources as capably delivered for almost 50 years, by local watershed residents through their Conservation Authorities.

I am urging your government to recognize the value of Conservation Authorities and to do everything possible to assist them in continuing to protect Ontario's irreplaceable natural landscapes.

Please fully reinstate the conservation land tax rebate program for Conservation Authorities' lands, and enhance their conservation delivery capabilities through full support for their programs and services.

Yours Sincerely,

NAME:

ADDRESS: