

April 20, 1979

SPRING NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

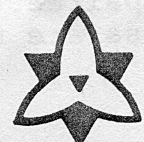
Dear Fellow Members of the Community:

- This newsletter is intended to welcome the 1979 summer season, to ask for your 1979 membership fees and to bring you up to date on activities and issues affecting not only Steenburg Lake but also some issues affecting cottagers across the Province.

My inspiration for these personal notes was a mid-March week of cross-country skiing at the lake. The solitude, the numerous animals and birds and the opportunity to travel across areas inaccessible during the summer provided immense pleasure. If you have such an opportunity next winter I know that it will add greatly to the pleasure you derive from your cottage. After all, chopping a hole in the ice for water can be fun too!

In my travels around the lake I noticed two types of damage to trees. The most obvious was destruction of many coniferous trees as a result of ice and wind storms early in the year. The old Moore's Landing road will never be travelled by a car again unless someone puts a lot of effort into clearing the trees that have fallen across the road. The second type of damage affecting both coniferous and deciduous trees has been caused by numerous porcupines. They really know how to strip bark off a tree. The only natural predator of the porcupine is the fisher, a larger member of the weasel family. I know your family pet won't be a fisher so bring a pair of pliers to the cottage this summer in anticipation of pulling a few quills out of your dog's nose.

- Our survey on garbage disposal is covered elsewhere in this newsletter. My purpose in these notes is to thank those of you who responded objectively with good suggestions, to question the thoughtlessness of other responses and to ask the balance of you whether you care at all. I hope you do because the dumps on the north and east roads will be closed in 1979. The response to the survey also brought some questions on other issues and these are being responded to by the Executive.



- On behalf of the Association I attended the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations in Nov 78. I was elected a Director of F.O.C.A. at that meeting. Since gaining an understanding of the problems they are up against, I now feel very positive about F.O.C.A.'s objectives and I am working toward improving the vitality and effectiveness of the organization.
- Did you know that Steenburg Lake is one of the headwater lakes under the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority? This agency is in part funded by taxes paid in Limerick and Tudor and Cashel Townships and it operates in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources. Under its control are seven hundred and seventy-five square miles of territory that drain to the Trent River. The Authority controls the Marmora Dam, the St. Ola dam and even the stop logs in Steenburg Lake. I invite any questions about the water level of the lake. We know some of the answers and we will be pleased to seek answers to the others.
- What do you know about acid rain? Without giving a chemistry lesson I'll try to help your understanding. The acidity or alkalinity of a liquid is measured on a pH scale of 0 to 14 with pH7 being the central number and thus an indication of a neutral condition. The lower the number the greater the acidity, the higher the more alkaline. All rain is to some degree naturally acidic due to the chemical elements in the atmosphere. A pH of 5.5 is considered normal. Acid rain has a pH value in the range of 4 to 5. Each change of 1 in this scale represents a multiplication factor of 10 and thus acid rain is generally at least ten times more acidic than normal rain.

Acid rain is caused principally by higher than normal concentrations of sulphur and nitrogen in the atmosphere. These elements combine with oxygen and water vapour in the atmosphere to produce sulphuric and nitric acid. These acids eventually fall to earth as rain or snow.

As Steenburg Lake is on the Precambrian Shield, it is very susceptible to acid rain. The provincial Ministry of Environment has been sampling the acidity of rain for several years and recent results range from pH 4.0 to 4.2 in the Haliburton area and pH 4.4 to 4.6 in the Madoc area. This rain obviously tends to make lake water more acidic.

Steenburg Lake is moderately eutrophic (nutrient-rich) and such lakes are generally slightly alkaline. The most recent statistics I have on Steenburg Lake are from a MOE report giving an average pH value of 7.3 over the summer of 1976. When the pH value of a lake falls below 6 fish reproduction starts to be impaired. Some lakes around Sudbury which are valued at pH5 or less are now essentially dead and without fish.

The problem is essentially political as the major source of acid rain affecting Ontario is industrial pollutants from the United States. Write to me if you want more information and write to your MP or MPP if you want action toward solutions to the problem.

- I attended a MOE "Self Help" water quality seminar in Kingston in March to hear the results of our water samples taken in 1978. It appears Steenburg Lake is holding steady in terms of nutrient pollution; development of algae is not accelerating. At the seminar I obtained 200 copies of a new pamphlet entitled "Keep It Natural" produced jointly by the MOE and the MNR. This pamphlet will give you a good view of current governmental attitudes on pollution. I believe the tone of the material shows cottagers in a poor light, however, decide for yourself. You will get your copy during the spring canvass.
- Do you hope to eventually retire to your cottage? Will you have to have your property reclassified from seasonal residential to permanent residential? Recent Ontario Municipal Board decisions may prevent you from making this conversion. If you hope to attempt this in the near future please contact the Association for guidance.
- I hope some of this doesn't give you a feeling of gloom about cottaging. I am sure each of you is interested in protecting your investment so once again I have given you enough to whet your appetite. Come to the Annual Meeting in July, talk or write to your Executive, become better informed through your own research and support the activities and interests of the Association and your fellow members of the community.

Most of all - have a great summer!

Richard Fitzgibbon

WHERE TO WRITE

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MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Many of you requested the results of the November 1978 elections for Limerick and Tudor and Cashel Townships. Here they are:

	<u>Limerick</u>	<u>Tudor/Cashel</u>
Reeve	Zane Plumbe	Ross Sprackett
Deputy Reeve	-	Arnold Burkett
Councillors	Ron Chapman	Glen Coonly
	Stephanie Foster	Raymond Hennley
	Don Palmateer	Goldie Phillips
	Clive Wilson	

Steenburg Lake is divided by the Limerick-Tudor townships boundary. When you desire assistance or guidance you must direct your questions or concerns to the proper municipal administration. If in doubt your tax bill will tell you for certain. When dealing through the Association on such matters please tell us what township you live in. The East Road was constructed partly in each township and the inconsistency of maintenance along its length is a result.

GARBAGE SURVEY

Out of approximately 195 survey forms mailed, we have received 35 replies and the most positive response is for a dump farther away. Incinerating and recycling was the second most popular choice, collection third and taking garbage to the city was last.

It is expected that the present sites will probably remain open for this coming summer, although a new site has been approved by the Ministry of the Environment and the property purchased.

The Association will not pursue further the question of summer garbage pick-up unless there is universal interest among the members of the community.

NOTICE OF 1979 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Association will be held Saturday, July 28 at the Limerick Centre at 7:30 p.m. The speaker this year will be Mr. Dave Collins, an active member of the Ontario Water Skier's Association. Dave will speak to us about safety in water skiing, laws pertaining to skiing etc. He will also show a short film. This should be of great interest to both skiers and boat drivers.

While risking chasing some of our members from this meeting, you are reminded that several members of your Executive have served their two year or longer term on your behalf and desire to be replaced.

Please support your Association by attending this one meeting a year. Refreshments will be served.

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

Financial Report for the Period July 22, 1978 to March 22, 1979

Balance in Bank at July 22, 1978 \$668.13

Receipts

Memberships (Including 1 for 1977)	\$141.00	
Interest on Trust Certificate (Note 1)	35.00	
Bank interest	<u>1.64</u>	
Total receipts		<u>177.64</u>
		845.77

Expenses

Buoys	125.00	
Annual meeting expenses	6.75	
Stationery and stamps	45.08	
Gift for Millar's	56.20	
F.O.C.A. meeting - registration fee	15.00	
F.O.C.A. membership (\$25 plus \$.20 for 196 cottagers)	<u>64.20</u>	
Total expenses		<u>312.23</u>

Balance in Bank at March 22, 1979 \$533.54

Note 1 - Trust Company Certificate for \$1,000 and accrued interest of \$17.50 was reinvested in certificate for \$1,017.50 at 10½% maturing Feb 15, 1980.

Pat Fraser,
Treasurer

March 27, 1979