

May 15, 1980

SPRING NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Dear Fellow Members of the Community.

This newsletter is intended to welcome the 1980 season, to ask for your 1980 membership fees and to bring you up-to-date on activities and issues affecting not only Steenburg Lake but also some of the issues affecting cottagers across the Province.

The newsletter is coming out about one month later than intended by the executive. I will accept personal responsibility for that but I will also give you some fresh news that was not available in April. First, the black flies have arrived. The early melt and warm weather have played a dirty trick on all of us who normally enjoy a bug free Victoria Holiday weekend. One of the joys of cottaging! Secondly, although water levels are high in the early season please be cautioned that the marker buoys will not be out by May 17th. Bruce Fitzgibbon is back in hospital and alternate plans have yet to be completed. Please use common sense.

Several points were raised at the 1979 Annual Meeting that should be of interest to you all.

AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

Concern was expressed about the growth of extensive patches of weeds in specific areas of the lake where weed growth had not been experienced in the past. Questions were asked about control mechanisms and the executive was asked to find the results of weed harvesting experiments as chemical means were considered undesirable. The basic answer is that any method used so far gives at best temporary results. Mechanical harvesting is expensive. In my opinion, weed growth on the lake has not reached proportions where the Association should champion an expensive campaign to clear the lake. Fishing activities on the lake require weed growth for there success. A balance has to be achieved. May I suggest each of you read Chapter 2, Control of Aquatic Plants and Algae, in the booklet Cottage Country which will be distributed during the Spring canvass to each cottage. This booklet is provided by the Ministry of Environment (Ontario) in cooperation with FOCA. The whole book is worthy of your time.

A Member of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Incorporated.



POWER BOAT COURTESY

Usually it takes a well publicized serious accident to get the message across but fortunately we have had very few of those. However, we hear of lots of near misses involving power and non-power water craft. Remember that formal Canadian seamanship rules require "in general, power driven vessels must keep out of the way of sail boats, row-boats and canoes...." The Criminal Code of Canada puts teeth to these rules of the water road and charges can be laid against a careless operator by making a sworn statement. You don't have to be caught in the act by the Ontario Provincial Police. The executive will be asking the O.P.P. to make more regular visits to the lake. If you are part of the problem please do something about it.

THOUGHTLESS USE OF RIFLES AND HAND GUNS

The members of the executive are well aware that marker buoys are being shot at, we are well aware that guns are being fired after dark and we are well aware that with the number of people using their cottage for recreational purposes throughout the year that the use of firearms at all in the area is becoming (or has already become) unacceptable to the majority. If your neighbour is discharging a gun under circumstances that you feel are dangerous please do not hesitate to contact the O.P.P. in Bancroft or Madoc. Don't pursue the problem yourself as alcohol may be a contributing factor.

SPRING CANVASS

Just a reminder that a member of the Association will visit your cottage prior to the Annual Meeting. Please welcome him/her and offer any comments that will help us to help you.

THE COTTAGER MAGAZINE

FOCA in cooperation with a publisher is producing this magazine as a vehicle for communicating with cottagers across the Province. Our membership list was provided to FOCA for the single purpose of distributing the magazine. All Canadian residents should now have received two copies. The subscription price is inexpensive and I recommend that you subscribe, especially if you are interested in staying on top of issues affecting you and your cottage.

MUNICIPAL NOTES

Congratulations to Clive Wilson, a long time member of the Association, on becoming Reeve of Limerick Township. Clive is very much aware of the needs and pressures of the community and the township and I personally wish him well in balancing those needs to the benefit of all Limerick ratepayers.



Zane Plumbe, the former Reeve of Limerick, is now the Road Foreman replacing Curtis Fitzgibbon who retired.

Nov 10, 1980 is the date of Municipal elections in Limerick and Tudor/Cashel Townships. If you have an inclination to run or wish the association to ask some pointed questions for our collective benefit, please contact the executive.

SELF HELP PROGRAM RESULTS

Again in 1979, water samples were taken and sent to Kingston for analysis of algae growth in Steenburg Lake. We are basically still holding steady in terms of nutrient pollution; although development of algae was marginally greater in 1979 than in any previous year since 1976. Perhaps someone living in or near Kingston is interested in doing this simple test on a regular basis throughout the summer. If so, contact me at the cottage.

FOCA NOTES

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations has been very active during the past year and space here does not permit full coverage of any of the issues. However, I do want to remind you of some them:

1) Acidic Precipitation.

We are still learning about this subject and the media are giving the topic a lot of coverage. Although Inco is under some further pressures there are as yet no new solutions.

2) Proposed Provincial Planning Act.

Although much of the Act is unchanged, there is a basic thrust to assign much more responsibility to the locally elected representatives - in our case the Municipal Councils. This is a major step in the right direction.

Under the new Act, Council must process applications for changes with expediency. However there is no requirement made of Council to publicize its agenda for meetings; furthermore, if Council reaches a decision there is no right of appeal for an individual (or group) who was not present. This means that individual rate-payers and organized associations such as ours will have to accept greater responsibility for keeping apprised of all issues. Thus our Association will be encouraging the Limerick and Tudor/Cashel Councils to establish a formal information system to ensure our attendance when appropriate. The new Act is not yet law but I expect that it will be in the near future.

3) Equalized Assessment and New Equalization Factors.

Fair market value for taxation purposes has not gone away even though the Blair Commission Report has been set aside for now. There are ways municipalities can apply some of the concepts to achieve more equitable distribution of tax assessment. Your executive will keep you posted on Council's plans.

If you have concerns or questions please don't hesitate to write or call.

Have a happy, healthy and safe summer!

Richard Fitzgibbon

WHERE TO WRITE

Secretary: Doug Little
182½ Lisgar St.
TORONTO, Ontario
M6J 3G3

R E M E M B E R !

Bass season doesn't
open until June 28th

President: Richard Fitzgibbon
8 Carondale Cres.
SCARBOROUGH, Ontario
M1W 2B1

(416) 497-4411 Home
(613) 474-5758 Cottage

CURRENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE

- Dr. Charles Bateman, Past President
- Richard Fitzgibbon, President *
- Doug Little, Secretary
- Dorothy Cooper, Treasurer
- Anne Mudge, Membership *
- Kent Anderson, Director
- Wes Moffatt, Director
- Bruce Ratcliffe, Director
- John Savage, Director
- Rev. Wayne Soble, Director

The terms of election for both President and Membership expire as of the 1980 Annual Meeting. Both Richard and Anne have already extended their original commitment to the Executive and wish to retire. The nominating committee will recommend names for both these positions, however some new blood and enthusiasm would be appreciated. Although there are no serious challenges for the community at the moment, we need fresh skills to monitor the gradual changes which cannot be avoided. Please think this over and be prepared to participate at the Annual Meeting.

"WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THE GARBAGE?"

Well, DON'T take it to either of the old dumps adjacent to Steenburg Lake unless it is to look at the recently posted map, showing the new dump location. To ensure that dumping will not continue at the old sites, Limerick Council has passed a by-law which states:

- (1) That persons using the dump must not throw garbage from vehicles, but must place garbage within bulldozed area, designated as Dumping Area.
- (2) The dumping of brush, limbs, or other tree prunings, unwanted furniture, or anything that may be burned on own property by obtaining a permit from The Ministry of Natural Resources, is strictly prohibited.
- (3) Persons using dumps and not adhering to these regulations will be fined an amount not less than \$1000.00 for the first offense.

Council has indicated that it intends to police the sites to enforce this by-law. You may want to read #3 again!

An examination of other solutions and their greater costs has led the Association Executive to decide against alternative action at this time. So -- you may want to start a list entitled "New Things to try this Summer" and include the following:

- recycling
- composting
- incinerating
- exploring (finding the new dump!)

MARINA CLOSING

Although not absolutely confirmed it appears that the marina has been sold again, this time to be used as a cottage only. If this is confirmed, many of us will have to find an alternate boat launch ramp. As you are aware, the sand beach area is now reserved for swimming only. Any ideas?

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Association will be held Civic Holiday weekend on Saturday, August 2, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. in the Limerick Community Centre.

This year the business portion of the meeting will be short (no guest speakers) and it will be followed by a wine and cheese social. Please plan now to attend and meet some of the people you have been waving at for the last 20 years. If you are concerned about leaving your weekend guests at the cottage - bring them along.

The Limerick Community Centre is on Highway 620, just West of Highway 62.

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please find enclosed my cheque for Five Dollars (\$5.00) covering my 1980 Membership.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please make cheque payable to:

"Steenburg Lake Community Association"

and forward by June 15, 1980 to:

Mrs. Anne Mudge
Steenburg Lake Community Association
c/o 341 St. Lawrence Street
WHITBY, Ontario
L1N 1H2

Receipt on request.

Thank you.

COMMENTS:

Please notify the Association of any change or correction to your permanent address or change in ownership.