

# 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 with 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 define 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 committee 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 association does not have quantifiable data to use in its defense against continued 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 your form in the box at Trudy's by July 3rd. If you cannot make it by that date please leave it there when you can.

**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 two 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

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●Minimize the quantity of water used at the cottage avoid over loading the septic tank system. Dishwasher 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 laundomat 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 maintainand/or improve the value of our cottage property. LET'S DO IT.....

**CLASSIFIED**

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

# STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement 1987 - 88

JUNE 6, 1988

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DEBITS</u>	<u>CREDITS</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Transfer of funds from 1987		\$1181.63	
Stationary	\$448.64		
F.O.C.A. Membership 1988 (\$50 + 50 per member of Asoc.) We paid \$50.00 + \$98.00 (196 members) + \$52 to fight acid rain	\$200.00		
F.O.C.A membership for 1989 (\$55.00 + .50 per member). We paid \$55.00 + 93.50 (187 members) + \$51.50 to fight acid rain.	\$200.00		
Rental of Limerick Centre + license	\$126.00		
Fishing Derby prizes	\$40.92		
Starting Horn(sail boat races)	\$21.28		
Trophies & engraving	\$115.73		
Marker buoys and anchor line	\$142.99		
Regatta batteries	\$8.62		
Lake Marker buoys(install & remove 1988)	\$225.00		
Ron & G's attendance at F.O.C.A. meeting	\$20.00		
Photocopying	\$30.24		
Bank Service Charges	\$6.50		
Copy of Zoning By-Laws	\$7.00		
Memberships(1988)		\$1620.00	
	<u>\$1,592.92</u>	<u>\$2,801.63</u>	<u>\$1,208.71</u>

Respectfully submitted:

Colin Gaddas, Treasurer - Steenburg Lake Community Association

# Beautiful Baptiste Lake

## THE HISTORY OF BAPTISTE LAKE

Ms. H. Biersch

The only people living on the shores and islands of Baptiste Lake in the late 1800's consisted of a number of Indian families. Baptiste obtained its name from the most prominent family, that of Chief John Baptiste. The last Chief John Baptiste was born in 1842. He died in 1920 and lies buried at the Catholic cemetery in Maynooth. His descendants still live in the area.

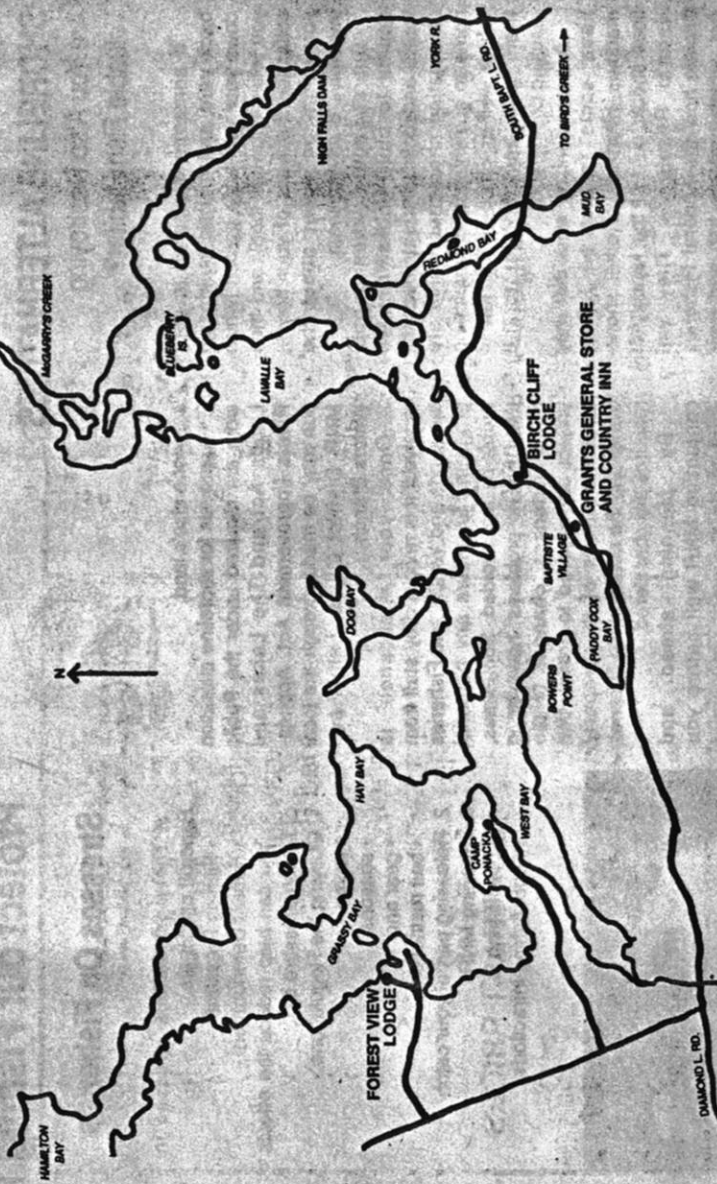
Lake Baptiste was originally called Kajiek Manitou (Good Spirit); later names were Loon Lake and Long Lake. It was a smaller lake in those days and was good for fishing. It also yielded wild rice. The Indian women would steer their birch canoes through the wild rice beds of Grassy Bay, bending the long grasses over the side of their canoes dropping the kernels on the floor.

Herschel Township was surveyed and sub-divided in 1856. One of the first trails ran from Bird's Creek to Mud Creek and then on to Baptiste. The York River runs through Baptiste Lake and the wealth of timber in Herschel Township attracted settlers to the area. To facilitate logging the company of Harris and Bronson built a first wooden dam at the outlet of Lake Baptiste, thereby flooding Lavalley Bay and widening the York River joining Elephant and Baptiste Lakes in 1866. The original dam was replaced by a concrete dam in 1930; the present dam was built in 1970.

Lumber mills were located in Baptiste Lake area. One is still run by Martin Brothers Lumber Company. There have been efforts at agriculture, but these soon had to be given up. The thin soil around Baptiste Lake was not suitable for farming. There was some mining for mica and dolomite, but lumber formed the main business for the new settlers.

At the end of the century there were some ambitious plans to mine for iron and smelters were built in the Haliburton region. To ship lumber for use in the smelters, plans were made for a railroad. The first tract for this railroad, the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa Line was laid in 1878. But it was Charles Pusey who finally got the I. B. & O. on the map. By 1897 the railroad reached Baptiste Lake. It ran from Howland through Furnace Falls, Irondale, Gooderham, Tory Hill, Wilberforce, Mumford and Highland Grove to Baptiste. The link with Bancroft did not come until 1910! The iron appeared to be of poor quality and the railroad never really served the purpose it was meant for. Baptiste Station was right on the lakeshore and the railroad ran between the water and the present general store.

The I. B. & O. railroad is fondly remembered by many people who travelled on it. The original woodburning engine, "Mary Ann", carried picnickers, blueberry pickers, cottagers, wood products, supplies and mail. Near the village of Baptiste was one of the steepest grades east of the Rockies. There were double tracks on this hill, so that trains could be dragged up in sections. It happened more than once that cars broke loose on the Baptiste hill. Derailments were frequent. In the early days the rail line was the only ploughed road in winter so it doubled as a highway. It was quite a common sight to see the conductor stop the train to help a farmer remove his load



from the railroad tracks and after the train had passed to assist him again to get back on the tracks, so that both the train and the farmer could proceed on their way. The railroad made its last run on April 1st, 1960.

Gradually families from Bancroft started to buy land for recreational use. By the early twenties more and more people came to the area building cottages along the shores. Baptiste village has always been a very small community but still remains a point of departure for the cottages, boating and fishing on Baptiste Lake.

With the arrival of the railroad to Baptiste, one of the first merchants in this area, Bill Muleahey, started a small store next to the railroad station. Later he built a combination store and rooming house, which eventually was sold to Hiram Grant of Montegale. His descendants continued to run it until the death of Mabel Grant in 1983. By that time only a skeleton of the busy store was left. The building was bought in 1984 by Roberta and Bruce Montgomery. It was completely restored and a new enterprise was started under the old and well known name of Grant's General Store and Country Inn.

Baptiste still draws many visitors. The South Baptiste Road is open all year round and there are excellent recreational facilities for both summer and winter fun.

Summer '89

# Bancroft and District Calendar of Events

June 10 & 11: **Baptiste to Bancroft Marathon Canoe Races.** Marathoners and amateurs. Contact: John Pavey [613] 334-2027 or Joan Barrett [613] 332-4456.

June 11: **Rocky Hills Horse Club Show,** Paudash. Contact: Evelyn Harris [613] 339-2939.

June 24 & 25: **Horse Manoeuvres,** Gooderham. Contact: Clive Taylor [705] 447-2507.

July 1: **Strawberry Supper/Dance,** Wilberforce. Contact Township of Monmouth [705] 448-2981.

July 1, 2, 3: **Canada Day Celebrations,** Downtown Bancroft. Events all week-end.

July 2: **Rock Bass Derby,** Baptiste L. All ages. Contact Wayne Jackson [613] 332-1586.

July 2: **Homecoming Sunday,** St. John's Anglican Church, Flint St. Bancroft. Congregational lun-

ch. Contact: St. John's Centennial Committee [613] 332-2622.

July 16: **Rocky Hills Horse Club Show,** Paudash. Contact Evelyn Harris [613] 339-2939.

July 21, 22, 23: **Country Good Times,** Wilberforce. Contact Sharon Stoughton [705] 448-2981.

July 27-30: **Bancroft Rockhound Gemboree,** Bancroft. Contact: Chamber of Commerce [613] 332-1513.

July 29: **Summer Crafts Fair,** Bancroft. Contact: Lyla Welsh [613] 338-2030.

Aug. 4, 5: **Monmouth Agricultural Fair,** Wilberforce. Contact Marg Harrison [705] 448-2368.

Aug. 4, 5, 6: **Horseshoe Days,** Gooderham. Contact: Doug Andrews [705] 447-2092.

Aug. 5 & 6: **Annual Bathtub Races**

Combermere. Contact: Sandra Phandenhour [613] 756-2878.

Aug. 6: **Baptiste Lake Regatta and Bancroft & District Wooden Boat Show,** Camp Ponacka, Baptiste Lake. Regatta: Contact Carol Coulter [416] 889-2265 or [613] 332-4247. Boat Show: Contact: Joan Barrett [613] 332-4456.

Aug. 11 & 12: **Monmouth Agricultural Fair,** Wilberforce. Contact: Marg Harrison [705] 448-2368.

Aug. 20: **Rocky Hills Horse Club Show,** Paudash. Contact: Evelyn Harris [613] 339-2939.

Aug. 25, 26: **Coe Hill Agricultural Fair,** Coe Hill. Contact: Albert Vader [613] 337-5504.

Sept. 16: **Harvest Festival, Fall Fair,** Gooderham. Contact: Doug Andrews [705] 447-2092.

## FISHING FOR LIVE RELEASE

The angler who is concerned about overfishing in his favourite lake or isn't interested in eating his catch, should learn and practice proper techniques for live release. Some pointers:

- Land fish as quickly as possible, don't play them out.
- Wear wet cotton gloves while handling fish and release as soon as possible.
- If practical, don't remove fish from water.
- Don't let it thrash around in the boat.
- Don't touch the insides of its gills or hold it by the eye sockets.
- Use needlenose pliers for efficient hook removal
- If fish is deeply hooked, cut the line and leave the hook in; it will eventually dissolve.



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources



# Good Fishing - and Good Fishing Habits

## Protect our Fishing Resources for the Future

### SHORELINE ALTERNATIVES

#### Are You Also Destroying Valuable Fish Habitat?

If someone appeared in your back yard and started bulldozing down your vegetable garden [which you relied upon for food], and then you collapsed the walls of your house, you might be upset about the invasion - to say the least.

But strangely, when people decide to build docks, remove weeds and rocks, or create beaches on existing shorelines which are home to spawning and developing fish as well as other wildlife, few of them give any thought to the resulting destruction.

Anyone planning work that may have some impact on lakes, marshes, riverbeds or other shorelines should contact the Ministry of Natural Resources. They will explain how the Federal Fisheries Act, which protects fish and their habitat, might affect your plans.

In addition to harming important fisheries habitat, improperly-planned shoreline alterations can cause other problems. For instance, dredging or putting fill in the water may effect water levels [flooding] and the direction of water flow. In addition, the beds of most of our waterways are Crown or public land. This means you may be working on



someone else's land.

Approvals for shoreline alteration work are required under the Public Lands Act and The Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act. Application may be made through the local MNR District Office, Lands and Waters Branch.

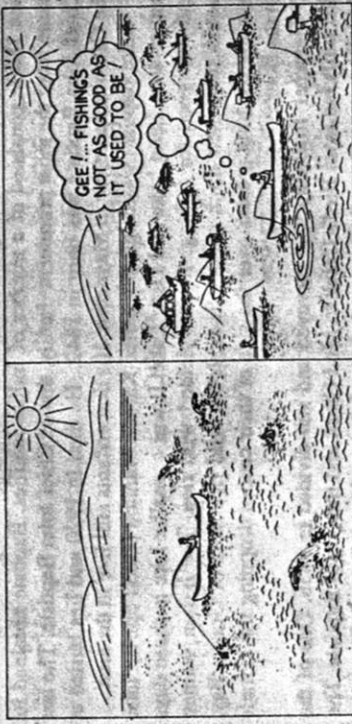
Once your application is received, it is reviewed by staff from the Lands and Waters and Fisheries programs to ensure any potential problems are avoided. Sometimes, there are no problems; however, in many instances, changes to the project are required to ensure that both the needs of the property owner and the needs of the fisheries resource are considered.

By planning ahead and contacting MNR well before you want to do the work, you avoid costly delays during the construction phase and help ensure that critical fish habitat is protected.

For further information, please contact: Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 500, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0. [613] 332-3940.

PRE 1950'S

1980'S



### Stresses On Fisheries

The most serious stresses in Bancroft district are:

- Fishing Pressure
- Habitat Deterioration

You can help reduce the effects of fishing pressure by...

1. Obeying the Regulations
  - limits
  - seasons
  - gear and
  - bait restrictions
2. Releasing part of your catch
3. Informing MNR
  - how fishing is
  - about fishing infractions

## Preparing Your Catch!

### CLEANING

To get the most in food value and eating pleasure out of your catch, it is essential to clean it promptly and thoroughly. Here's how to do it for smaller fish:

1. Kill the fish by hitting it on the head.
2. Scrape off scales, towards head.
3. Insert knife point in anal vent and slit belly to head. Remove entrails, open and clean backbone blood trail.
4. Cut off fins, wash cavity.



A LEISURELY FISHING TRIP can be one of the most enjoyable experiences a parent and child share. Teaching children appreciation for the outdoors is a gift that will remain with them a lifetime.

### FILLETING

Larger fish can be cut into two boneless filets:

1. Cut along fish's back to behind dorsal fin, then clear through body to tail.
2. Cut down side just behind gills from back cut to belly.
3. Holding fish by tail, slice down side of backbone to remove fillet from ribcage.
4. Separate skin from meat by working knife between them.
5. Repeat process for other side.



Ministry of Natural Resources