

Steenburg Lake

"SHORELINE NEWS"

Spring 1990 - Tom Hughes, Editor

Steenburg Lake Community Assoc.

It's Cottage Time Again

The ice is out, the roads are dry, time to shoo out the mice and air out the cottage, summer weather is just around the corner. What has gone on around the lake since we left last Fall? Lots really.....On December 8, 1989 the Township Council of Limerick passed a resolution establishing an Interim Control Zone around the major lakes within the township. All development within the control zone is frozen for one year until a Lake Capacity Study of the lakes is completed. Information from the study will assist the Township's new lake development policy which will eventually be incorporated into the Township's official plan. The study is to start this spring and be completed by the fall of this year. The study will provide direction for controlled development and provide important information regarding the amount of development that each lake can sustain without degrading its water quality. Completion of this study within this time frame will depend largely on the township receiving adequate provincial funding for water sampling and analysis. Funding will also be required for preparation of the technical report and recommendations for inclusion in the official plan. It might well be that the lakes involved could be called upon to assist financially. We should know more soon.

Mr. Trotter submitted requests for severances on the old lodge property just after the season ended last fall. Several of those requests indicated back-lot development with access to the lake via a 50ft. strip beside the refurbished farm house. Those requests are now being held in abeyance until completion of the study and formation of the lake development policy. Included with this newsletter is the write up of his intended use of that property as requested by the town ship council.

Spring Canvass of the Lake

Just a reminder that the association dues are \$20.00 this year. Your canvasser will also provide you with a new listing of cottagers and their local phone numbers and a copy of the association by-laws as approved at last years annual meeting.

1990 Canvassers:

190-192 & 1-12	Jane Mucklestone(#190)
13-22 & 193&195	Tina Lloyd(#19)
12-30C	Judie Hughes(#30)
31-41	Steve Wood(#40)
42-53	John Savage(#24)
56	Debbie Wellman(#55)
85	Rich&Marilyn McCarthy(#83)
86-96	Pat Kasubeck(#68)
97-109&204	Marg vanDompseleler(#106)

Spring Canvass continued.....

110-122	Karen Garvin(#141)
123-136	Dennis Kitchen(#119)
137-149	Cathy Vanner(#141)
150-165	Ken Cox(#164)
166-178	Joan O'Brien(#168)
179-189	Trisha Neub(#177)
194&196-203	Dave Langman(#197)

If by chance you are missed by your canvasser please contact either Glenda Cox or Anita Waddell to complete your 1990 membership

Fishing Poachers

One of the biggest problems for continued good bass fishing on Steenburg Lake are those early fishmen who just can't seem to wait for the season to open. May/June is the time period for poachers, primarily during the week, as there are very few people around to report them to Bancroft. When queried their response is "Oh I am just fishing for perch" or "I don't keep them, it's just for the fun of catching them". Unfortunately a bass is quite easy to catch during the spawning period. He will attack anything coming near the bed he is protecting and even though released, the harm to the bed may already be done by the time he re-orientes himself and gets back to the bed. The best policy is to report anyone seen fishing prior to the opening of bass season(June 30th). There is nothing else besides bass in Steenburg Lake worth catching so they are not fooling anyone.

The Minister of Natural Resources was contacted on this problem and a copy of the response is attached to this letter.

Weller Motors sold in Rochester

Date line - Rochester, N.Y. Oct. 1989.....The Weller name is known well around Steenburg and Limerick lakes. Burton Weller and his wife Carrie left the area in the mid 20's and bought the Stutson Street property down by the Genesee River and operated an automobile repair service. Three sons, Howard, Wilfred, and Harold also worked in the business. Wilfred took on the Dodge car and truck franchise in 1926 and the Plymouth franchise in 1930. It is said that he sold the first Plymouth in Rochester. Bruce Weller (son of Wilfred) and his son Glenn were the most recent owners of the business and it was pressure from the Chrysler Corp. to buy more cars that made them decide to get out of the business.

In the ever-changing, ever-competitive car industry, the Weller family carved it's own niche. They were the last of the old-time family car dealers. Glenn remained with the new owners as the Service Manager.

Here I Am Again...Waste Disposal Survey

The response at this point is about 38% of the cottages around the lake. For a national survey that would be a fantastic response, but for us that is still not adequate. Our target group is too small. The Limerick Township has contracted to have a lake capacity study done over the next several months and much of the data we have collected concerning water quality and waste disposal will be of use in support of that study. Again I am reprinting the survey form for your convenience and the little box will be back in the front window at Trudy's. Please get yours filled out and into the box.

Waste Disposal Survey

Name: _____

Cottage # _____
 Type of system (check all you have)

Septic tank w/leach fields _____
 Approx. installation date _____
 Privy _____ Last time moved _____ Use: Prime _____
 # of feet from the lake _____ or backup _____
 Chemical _____
 Holding Tank _____
 Other (describe) _____

Where does your kitchen waste go *? _____

* This question relates to waste water, not garbage
 Do you have any plans to up grade your present system? _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

STEENBURG LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL SURVEY SUMMARY

Systems Surveyed: 54

'Types and number in use

Septic	Privies*	Holding Tank	Chemical	Other
48	'3	'3	'0	'0

Systems upgrades under consideration '5

'Routing of Kitchen Waste

Septic	Dry Well	Leach Fld.	Sand Bed	Hold Tank
41	8	2	2	1

Septic systems installed prior to EPA (1974) : '14

* Privies used on a regular basis, not as back up

Dates to Remember:

Sat. May 19th - Victoria Day Dance - Limerick Comm. Ctr.
 Wed. June 6th St. Ola United Church Smorgasbord -
 Limerick Community Centre 5:30PM, \$6.00

Dates to Remember continued....

Sat. June 23rd - Strawberry supper & dance - Limerick
 Community Centre
 Sat. June 30th - Opening Bass fishing season
 Sat. July 21st - Annual Family Beef B.B.Q. & dance
 Limerick Community Centre
 Sat. Aug. 4th - S.L.C.A. Rock Bass Fishing Derby
 S.L.C.A. Sailboat races
 Sunday Aug. 5th - S.L.C.A. canoe races
 S.L.C.A. Annual dinner and meeting
 Limerick Community Centr

St. Ola Church

The church needs a new roof which has been quoted at \$5,000. This is a lot of money for a small congregation to come up with so they will be having some fund raising events. They are also selling note paper with a picture of the church on the front. These are at Sam's and sell for \$3.00 for a package of 10.

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the passing of Owen Tripp on March 7th at the Bellville Hospital. He will be greatly missed by all as he was always willing to lend a helping hand. There was always a neighborly wave as you passed by and his garden was something to behold. He will long be remembered. Owen was Fire Chief until he had to retire due to ill health.

Report from the Bancroft Area Conservation Alliance (BACA)

Executive members representing Paudash, Baptiste, and Diamond Lake Associations met August 16, 1989 to discuss common concerns and to consider the formation of a league of area lake associations. As a result of this discussion, a public meeting was held on August 27 in Bancroft. Sixty four people, representing seventeen areas, discussed a number of issues: water levels, water quality, environmental concerns, the threat of improper development, and many others.

A steering committee was formed to prepare a proposed constitution for the new organization. This proposal will be presented at a general meeting of all interested parties in the summer of 1990. Formal formation of the league, tentatively called "Bancroft Area Conservation Alliance", will take place during the summer of 1990, with ratification by the various lake organizations.

Editors Note... S.L.C.A. was not aware of this until after the meetings. We did receive a copy of the proposed constitution and suggestions were submitted to Mrs. Edith Blakely-Jackson in January of 1990. We stated we were interested in the organization and requested we be made aware of all future meetings well in advance.

Long Weekend Activities - August 4 - 6

Saturday:

Rock Bass Derby - Starts Sat. the 4th and goes until Sunday the 5th. Entry is by cottage and the prizes will be of a cottage type.

Start Races: Start at 2:00PM in front of the marina

Sunday:

Canoe Races: Start at 2PM in front of the marina, 3 races - youth, adult, seniors

All prizes awarded at the annual dinner on Sunday.

Annual dinner and Meeting: 6:00PM - Bar at the Limerick Community Centre. Tickets must be purchased in advance from either Marion Duggan (#165) or Peg Moffatt(#192). Cost is \$8.00 (12 and under \$4.00). Association members get priority on purchase of tickets. **Remember - no ticket sales at the door**

New Amendment to the Public Lands Act

This amendment states that you need a Work Permit to conduct work on crown land and shorelands (crown or private land). You may apply for this Work Permit at your local Ministry of Natural Resources District Office in Bancroft. You may also need a permit from the Limerick Township

Toronto Star Customers - Cottage Delivery

This year the weekend Toronto Star will be delivered by Liane & Sean vanDomsler(#106). If you wish delivery please drop them a line at R.R.#2, Peterborough, Ont., K9J 6X3 or call Waddell's at 474-5486 and the message will be passed on. Thank you all for your past support.

Sandra Waddell

Steenburg Lake Water Quality

For 10 years our lake has been included in the Ministry of the Environment's "Self Help" program. We lower a Secchi disc into the water and determine the depth at which it is no longer visible and then we secure a water sample, fill out an information sheet and ship it all off to Kingston. Once a year we receive a report which documents the outcome of our efforts. During the 1989 season we gathered 18 samples between June 23rd and October 31st. The results tabulate as follow

Sample Period	Secchi Depth(meters)	Chlorophyll
10 yr. history	Mean 4.2	2.6
	Max. 4.7	3.6
	Min. 3.8	0.3
1989 West Bay	Mean 4.2	3.4
	Max. 5.2	6.0
	Min. 2.8	1.0
Beach Bay	Mean 4.2	3.3
	Max. 5.8	9.6
	Min. 2.9	0.1
Phillips Bay	Mean 4.0	3.3
	Max. 4.8	9.6
	Min. 2.9	1.1

Water clarity is measured with the Secchi Disc. The second part of the test, in the same area of the lake, is the water sample which is analyzed for algae content. We do not have an official evaluation by the ministry of this data as yet for 1989; however if we look at the mean figure for both tests it does indicate that we have lost a little in water clarity but our algae concentration is up significantly

How does this happen? Phosphorus and nitrogen, from sources such as sewage and surface run-off, stimulate the growth of rooted aquatic weeds and algae (Microscopic green plants). While a certain amount of this greenery is necessary to sustain aquatic life, an overabundance of it can limit a lake's suitability for recreational use

Rising levels of algae create a corresponding reduction in water clarity. Under extreme conditions when the nutrient enrichment of the lake is excessive, pea-soup scum called "algae blooms" may occur.

Algae blooms affect more than just the surface of the water. As the algae die, they sink and decompose, using up the limited oxygen supply on the bottom of the lake. Deep-water fish and other aquatic life that inhabit these depths are deprived of the oxygen they need in order to survive.

Is there a cause for concern?

Waterfront development is one of several factors that can have an adverse effect on the lake. Ironically, as cottagers begin to populate the shoreline, they trigger a series of changes that can alter the very features of the lake that attracted them in the first place.

One of the most telling changes is an increase in the water's supply of plant nutrients, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. Both of these substances occur in lakes quite naturally, but their levels can be increased by human activities. Seepage from improperly installed or inadequately maintained sewage disposal systems can exert a major influence on the lake's ecosystem by overloading them with nutrients.

Real estate development creates another change by disturbing natural ground cover. Shore line vegetation is replaced by waterfront cottages, fertilized lawns, rooftops, roads and parking areas.

Rainfall that used to be filtered through forested soils and undergrowth now flows directly into the lake. This run-off contains higher levels of phosphorus and nitrogen from sediment particles, fertilizer residues and animal waste. Even swimming in a lake can raise its nutrient levels by agitating the rich lake-bottom and redistributing them in the water.

Lake protection becomes a priority

Protection requires proper land-use, planning and environmental controls for such things as septic fields, road construction and pesticide application. The protection of aquatic life depends on taking action to reduce erosion and to keep nutrients and bacteria from sewage systems, fertilizer and manure out of the lake. The Lake Shore Capacity study that the Township of Limerick is undertaking this year is a positive step in establishing a policy that will assist in the protection of the town's greatest asset, its lakes.

Township Notes: Griff Lloyd was appointed to the Limerick Township council to fill a spot vacated by a resignation. Congratulations Griff.

Thanks to the township office for providing to the Association officers copies of the minutes of the monthly council meetings. They greatly assist in keeping us informed of actions that could affect the lake.

Information from the Ministry of Natural Resources

Water Levels: Water levels throughout the District appear to be in conjunction with approved operating plans for most lakes. The small accumulation of snow would lead one to believe that a moderate freshet could be expected this spring, however, warm temperatures and heavy rainfall can change the spring freshet flows significantly and unexpectedly.

Access Points: Vandalism continues to be the major problem the Ministry of Natural Resources faces when operating public swimming, picnicing and boat launch areas in this District. Cottagers Associations can assist this office by reporting all occurrences taking place on these public sites to the Bancroft office. Another problem involves conflicts with swimmers and boaters. Numerous incidents have been reported to the Bancroft office and the O.P.P. concerning large power boats cruising close to and parking on the dry beach at public swimming areas. It is requested that the Cottagers Associations discuss the problem at their meetings and make their members aware of the dangers. The O.P.P. should be contacted whenever incidents occur. Our O.P.P. office is Bancroft.

Forest Tent Caterpillar: The forest tent caterpillar situation is forecasted as light for the Bancroft district. A parasite that will contribute to the collapse of the forest tent caterpillar is the naturally reproducing "Flesh Fly" or "Friendly Fly". The cycle of this fly is one year behind the forest tent caterpillar. This will mean the flesh fly may be present in significant numbers for this year. No action is planned by the Ministry for control of the forest tent caterpillar.

Gypsy Moth: For most areas within the Bancroft District, the gypsy moth populations may increase slightly. However, factors such as the severe cold weather we experienced in December, 1989, in conjunction with the light snow accumulations could prove detrimental to this year's hatch. The gypsy moth spray program is co-ordinated by the counties. Applications for this program were distributed last year by the association. Further information can be obtained by contacting:

Mr. John Anstey
Gypsy Moth Co-ordinator
P.O. Bag 4400
Belleville, Ontario
K8N 3A9 Telephone: 613-966-6712

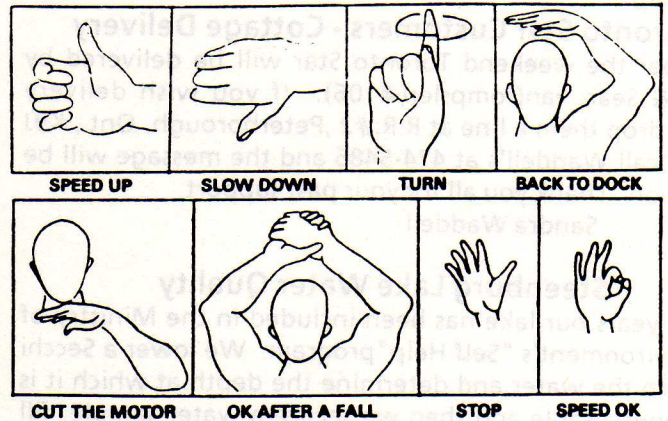
Summer Birds of the Bancroft District: The areas's mixed forests, marshes, swamps, bogs and lakes provide diverse habitats for a great variety of wildlife. Recent surveys by naturalists revealed that as many as 169 species of birds may nest in this area.

Birds continued...

To obtain a bird list contact the Bancroft office and ask for the Resources Report "A List of the Summer Birds of the Bancroft District". The District is concentrating it's efforts at this time on an inventory of the hawks which live in mature and over-mature forests. They need to know where these birds are nesting so that timber managers can ensure that suitable habitat is maintained for the endangered species ie: Cooper's Hawk, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Bald Eagle, Caspian Tern, Eastern Bluebird, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Warbler, and Least Bittern. For additional information, contact Howard Mulholland, Wildlife Management officer, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 500, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0 (332-3940)

TOWBOAT DRIVING

Communications: Since verbal communication between the Water skier and the boat's occupants is difficult if not impossible, it is essential that a group of universally accepted hand signals be used. Utilizing the required observer as an intermediate link to the towboat driver, the skier is able to communicate his wishes to the driver by way of the following gestures.



To Start Skiing - A very important verbal command, "HIT IT", also universally accepted as the signal to advise the driver to accelerate the engine.

Stocking of Splake in Steenburg Lake

The township has been advised by the Bancroft Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources that Steenburg will be stocked with either splake or rainbow trout to create a new put-grow-take fishery. The notice did not specify that the stocking would take place in 1990. This was also reported in the Bancroft Times.

Classified

Wanted: Have you outgrown your wading pool and/or retired from sand castle construction? We are an expanding family requiring a wading pool and sand box with accessories if available for a good price. Contact Colin Gaddas at 416-728-3357.

For Sale: Canoe motor mount and electric trolling motor both for \$120.00. Cottage #30 - 474-5753

November 8, 1989

Limerick Township Municipal Office

Dear Sirs:

RE: Trotter-Henry Severance Application
Part Lots 28, 29, 30, Conc. 2, Limerick

We are writing to explain our intentions for the subject property in conjunction with our recent severance application.

By way of background, we purchased the property in April of 1989 which consists of two parts. The first part is approximately 245 acres and is zoned rural. It has over 3,000 feet of frontage on Steenberg Lake North Road. This is the particular piece put forth for severance. The second part is 5.8 acres on Steenberg Lake and the property is zoned commercial. (Formerly known as Bass Lake Lodge.)

Up until our purchase, the property has sat dormant for many years. On it stood two old homes. Completely abandoned and in disrepair, the property was an eyesore to the cottagers on the lake and a dangerous invitation to the youth in the area. In addition, the grounds were as unkept as the homes.

We have completely renovated one of the homes both inside and out. As well, we have manicured the grounds to the point where the property is no longer a detriment to the Lake, but rather a visual focal point. The feedback from our neighbours is very positive. We plan to continue the clean up and renovate the second home next year.

Our future intentions are simply this. We do not plan to build a resort, trailer park, or camp ground even though the current zoning would allow this. We simply wish to obtain some severances for residential use on the large property which will comply with the existing by-law. Ultimately, in addition to the three severances requested, we may apply for several more at the other end of the property.

On the lakefront property, we will likely apply for five severances and a downgrading in zoning from commercial to residential.

Our initial conversations with members of the cottage association indicates their full support for our plans; mainly because these severances and down zoning will put an end, once and for all, to the ever present risk of overdevelopment and overcrowding on the lake. Once this large tract of land is broken up and commercial zoning removed, the uncertainty is gone. We have already turned down several offers to sell the property as a trailer camp.

Our discussions with the Assistant Planner Paul Walsh (Hastings County) indicates that the maximum number of severances per application is currently set at two. However, given the large tract of land, we don't feel our request of three is unreasonable. If, however, we are initially restricted to two severances we would still seek your support in principle for future severance of the retainer piece. This, according to Paul Walsh, is quite feasible providing the first two pieces have been developed.

In summary then, the benefits and rationalization for our plans are as follows:

- i) Facilitates a continued clean-up of an otherwise "black-mark" on the lake.
- ii) Increases property value in the area for our neighbours.
- iii) Gives the Township a larger tax base for additional revenue.
- iv) Removes the risk of unwanted extensive commercial development.
- v) Will comply with all by-laws.
- vi) Neighbours and cottage association supports our plan.

We hope to have your continued support for our plans.

Yours truly,

Rick Henry
Robert Trotter

/lch



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Minister

Ministère des
Richesses
naturelles

Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3
416 / 965-1301

APR 10 1990

90-00695-MIN

Mr. Thomas O. Hughes
Secretary
Steenburg Lake Community Association
6 Highview Trail
Pittsford, New York 14534
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Thank you for your letter of February 17, 1990, and the enclosed article regarding New York State's Turn in Poachers and Polluters (TIPP) program.

Similar programs do exist in some parts of Ontario, such as Report a Poacher (RAP) and Crimestoppers. Local law enforcement agencies support these nongovernmental organizations.

A portion of the money generated through the sale of fishing licences is already being used to assist in enforcement efforts. However, in the case of pre-season bass fishing, more work needs to be done in educating the public about the negative effects on the fishery. Many anglers believe that they are doing no harm if the bass they have taken are released.

I am advised that a Bancroft Conservation Officer, Mr. Gord Holmes, visited Steenburg Lake and other lakes in the area last spring but encountered no infractions. I would encourage you and the members of your Association to contact the Bancroft office or the OPP at the time that the offences are occurring to aid in the enforcement effort.



If you would like to receive more information about fisheries management and enforcement efforts on Steenburg Lake, please contact Mrs. Adair Ireland-Smith, District Manager, Box 500, Bancroft, Ontario, K0L 1C0, telephone number (613) 332-3940.

Again thank you for sharing your views with me.

Yours truly,

Lyn McLeod
Minister

Mr. Thomas O. Hughes
Secretary
Steenburg Lake Community Association
6 Highview Trail
Pittsford, New York 14534
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Thank you for your letter of February 17, 1990, and the enclosed article regarding New York State's Turn in Poachers and Politicians (TIP) program.

Similar programs do exist in some parts of Ontario, such as Report a Poacher (RAP) and Crimestoppers; local law enforcement agencies support these nongovernmental organizations.

A portion of the money generated through the sale of fishing licences is already being used to assist in enforcement efforts. However, in the case of pre-season pass fishing, more work needs to be done in educating the public about the negative effects on the fishery. Many anglers believe that they are doing no harm if the pass they have taken are released.

I am advised that a Bancroft Conservation Officer, Mr. Gord Holmes, visited Steenburg Lake and other lakes in the area last spring but encountered no infractions. I would encourage you and the members of your Association to contact the Bancroft office or the OPP at the time that the offences are occurring to aid in the enforcement effort.



F.O.C.A.

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ontario



H. E. L. P.

HELP END LAKE POLLUTION

DO NOT USE SOAP IN THIS LAKE.

DO NOT USE SHAMPOO IN THIS LAKE.

DO NOT USE FERTILIZER NEAR THIS LAKE.

*ALL OF THE ABOVE ADD NUTRIENTS TO THE WATER
WHICH ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF ALGAE WHICH
DESTROYS THE LAKE ENVIRONMENT.*

REWARD

Our reward will be the opportunity to continue using and enjoying this beautiful lake.

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Incorporated
215 Morrish Rd., Ste. 105, Scarborough, Ontario M1C 1E9
Telephone: (416) 284-2305



Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources
Ministère des Richesses naturelles



*For
Township
NEWCASTLE*

Box 500
Bancroft, Ontario
KOL 1C0

(613) 332-3940

February 12, 1990

Mrs. Jane E. Sopha
Clerk-Treasurer
The Corporation of the Township of Limerick
R. R. #2
Gilmour, Ontario
KOL 1W0

Dear Mrs. Sopha:

SUBJECT: Proposal to Stock Splake/Rainbow Trout in
Eleven Problematic Lakes, and to Enhance
Spawning Areas on Three Lakes in the
Bancroft District

The attached notices regarding the above is for your
information and action.

Yours truly,

A. Ireland-Smith

Adair Ireland-Smith
District Manager
Bancroft District

BA/vf

Attachment

*Our reward will be the opportunity to continue using and en-
joying this beautiful lake.*
The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Incorporated
275 Marsh Rd. Ste. 102, Bancroft, Ontario M1C 1E7
Telephone: (416) 334-2308