

# SHORELINE NEWS

## Steenburg Lake Community Association

Spring 1991

Limerick Township - Hastings County

### Spring Canvass of the Lake

Your canvasser this year will provide you with an updated listing of resident cottagers and if all goes as planned your complimentary copy of "Cottage Life". Dues for the association are \$20.00 per year.

#### 1991 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)
54 - 66	Jean Simon (#56)
67 - 85	Rich & Marilyn McCarthy (#83)
86 - 96	Gord Wright (#100)
97 - 109 & 204	Marg van Dompsele (#106)
110 - 122	Karen Garvin (#141)
123 - 136	Diane & Doug Lauder (#126)
137 - 149	Cathy Vanner (#141)
150 - 165	Ken Cox (#164)
166 - 178	Jan Ferguson (#166)
179 - 189	Trisha Neub (#177)
194 & 196 - 203	Dave Langman (#197)

If by chance you are missed by your canvasser or would prefer to handle it by mail you may mail your dues to Anita Waddell or drop them off at her cottage.

### 1991 Is An Election Year for SLCA

All director and officer positions are up for election this year at the annual meeting. Two years ago there were no floor nominations or volunteers for any officer position. A few directors were added. The indication would seem to be that not many of the cottagers view the continuation of the association as being important to the on-going well being of the lake. I would prefer not to believe that. However remember those that are now in office have been there at least four years and it would seem in the best interests of the association to elect a new slate of officers.

Today there are numerous issues that surround cottaged lakes and it is vital that there be an organization that represents the interests of that lake at the town, county, ministry, and provincial levels. Development is not going to go away and it does represent a threat, especially to Steenburg Lake which is already over developed. Limerick Township put in place an interim by-law to stop all development around its lakes until the impact of further development was known. The town is under alot of pressure to remove that by-law so development can proceed. As cottagers we want to see our lake preserved, so we are at odds with those who want to continue development. That is only one issue that must be constantly watched. It can only be done by people

Election continued....

becoming involved and devoting some of their time to the lake association. Other issues that affect the quality of life around the lake:

Water quality	Security	Taxes
Drinking water	Boat launching	Recycling
Garbage	Weeds in lake	Noise
Speed limits	Buoys	Lake level
Shore line preservation		Wet lands

----- THINK ABOUT IT -----

### Break-ins - A Constant Worry

A number of break-ins have occurred around the lake since we all departed last fall. The cottages were not vandalized, which is encouraging. In light of the high unemployment in North Hastings County the reality of this is of concern to all cottagers. The best protection of course is not to leave the types of things that are desirable to thieves ie: electronic items, guns, electric tools, cameras, small outboards engines. Such items are easily disposed of and therefore will attract thieves to your cottage. It is not coincidence that they know where to strike. Over time we tend to get careless for it is inconvenient to transport everything back and forth all summer. Much more convenient to have those items right at hand.

One good thought in this area is to make a complete list of all such items you keep at the cottage. Include the date of purchase, cost, and any identifying numbers. Send a copy of this list to your insurance company and the OPP at Bancroft. Remember the association owns an engraving pencil which can be used to further identify your items. All this is of assistance when it comes to identifying your stolen items.

Another good approach is to set up a neighborhood cottage watch program. Let your neighbors know your schedule so anything strange at the cottage will be obvious to someone. Do not become complacent, look over your situation to improve your own security.

### Toronto Star - Dock Delivery

Liane & Sean van Dompsele (#106) will be delivering the weekend issues of the Toronto Star again this summer. During June they will be contacting last years customers. New customers can make arrangements at the cottage or at their home: RR#2, Peterborough, K9J 6X3 or call 705-799-5914.

## Marina Up For Sale Again

Mr. Wilson from Apsley is making slow progress in recovering from his stroke. He did sell the Marina but the new owner had problems, so it is back on the market. The four lots behind the Marina are also for sale. Lake access for those lots can only be through the Marina.

### SURVEYS

If one or both survey forms are included with your newsletter is because we do not have it on file. If it was sent in it somehow has gone astray. Please complete the form/s and use the mailing label included to return them. Thank you very much.

#### Boat Launch Survey

Tudor/Cashel has no plans to put a public boat launch on the lake, nor does Limerick Township. The beach area is it. The odds on the Marina ever being operated as a marina again are quite slim. The message back from the association members is that there is not overwhelming support for an private association boat launch. With 83 responses received to date, over half favor such a launch. However, when you get into financing, the picture gets a little fuzzy, and I am quite sure the number "in favor" would decrease once the costs of such a facility became known. A summary of responses to the survey is as follows:

Steenburg Lake Boat Launch Survey Summary 3/11/91

Cottager Responses Received To Date.....	83
Have A Boat To Launch '.....	58
Alternate Launch Location Available.....	46
Favor A Private Association Launch Site.....	49
Financing Of An Association Launch Site	
Through Increased Dues .....	12
Association Membership Assessment ...	32
Undecided .....	6
Frequency Of Launch	
0.....	10
2 .....	44
3 to 5 .....	18
5 plus .....	5

This is a topic that will be on the agenda of the annual meeting. The best we can hope for out of that is some additional ideas. There are never enough to take meaningful action, especially on this issue as it is a costly issue and therefore must have more than a consensus of members.

#### Waste Disposal Survey

Last Fall's newsletter prompted a number of cottagers to complete a survey form to the extent that 58% of the cottagers have now responded. The information does portray a lake population with concerns about water quality and should we again be required to appear before an OMB hearing we can show proof positive that the cottagers do care about their lake based on actions taken. There are still 86 cottages that have not yet responded for one reason or another. A request has been made of the Ministry of the Environment to perform a survey of the lake. That request is now in the hands of the Waste Abatement section of the MOE. An update of the numbers is listed for your information. For those of you that indicated you were considering an update to your system, please advise either Bob Boyce or Tom Hughes if you have gone ahead and completed what you had in mind. We

Waste disposal continued.....

can keep that portion of the data current with your feed back.

#### STEENBURG LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL SURVEY SUMMARY

Systems Surveyed: 118 (3/91)

'Types and number in use

Septic	Privies*	Holding Tank	Chemical	Other
97	10	11	0	4
System upgrades under consideration : 13				

'Routing of Kitchen Waste

Septic	Dry Well	Leach Fld.	Sand Bed	Hold Tank	None	Privy
80	14	3	6	5	2	1
Septic systems installed prior to EPA (1974) : 25						

\* Privies used on a regular basis, not as back up  
58% Response level from cottagers

#### Beaver Problems?

The following from Stan Ray might assist with your problem. Fill a plastic squeeze bottle (the detergent type with a single hole) with creosote and squirt the creosote starting at the bottom of the tree up to about 5 feet (remember beavers have to eat in the late winter and will climb a large snow bank to fell your trees). Use sparingly on all sizes of trees because beavers do not like the smell and the treatment will last about one year. Stan states that he has used this method for two years and has never lost another tree.

#### A Memorial George N. Fitzgibbon 4/27/06 - 12/17/90

Since 1882, records were being kept and it is noted that 1906 was the earliest date "Spring" arrived at Bass Lake. The ice had gone out and the wild geese had left Powers Island on their flight north.

George, the second son of four, was born to Ethel and Harry Fitzgibbon on a beautiful warm April day in the house now known as the "Marina" house. This small modest house was where they lived, right next door to Ethel's mother, Mary Ann Norton. The fields were already ablaze with daisies, buttercups and purple clover. The sun sparkled on the dancing water and by the back door the rain barrel gurgled that it was full.

This was where George was born on the shore of Bass Lake. His father eked out a living from the land, the lake and the woods and his mother worked along beside him. The bush supplied wood for heat and building materials, the garden supplied food and water was in abundance as were deer, partridge and fish. George and his older brother Robert made up the family although two more sons were born while they still lived in the same house. His grandmother Norton had assisted at his birth and he was named George Norton. It was a very happy humble home. The boys were told and taught the ways of the woods and water and greatly respected them.

By the time George had reached the age of seven, the one room school house had been built at Thane (Murphy's Corner) and he attended there along with Fitzgibbon and Weller cousins and the Murphy children.

Memorial continued....

His great delight was when Mrs. Murphy arrived with her basket of treats and they had a spelling bee.

By 1917 the farming land was worn out and his father was offered work at the munition plant in Trenton as stationary engineer. This he accepted and the family moved to Trenton where George attended public school. Things were going well until the munitions factory blew up and his mother, not wanting her husband in such a hazardous situation, decided to leave Trenton. They moved to Cobourg in August of 1918, purchasing the Lakeview Garage on Division Street.

In September George went to Cobourg Collegiate. When out of school and on holidays he helped his father in the garage and ended up doing all the taxi driving known then as "livery". Collegiate was a joy to George and he participated in all activities. Education was his real quest but he always longed for the lake and returned whenever it was possible, if even for a few hours. His ambition was university and he was given every encouragement by his mother and long-time friend the late Frank M. Field K.C.

In 1925 he was ready to apply and together with our respective fathers drove to Toronto. The registrar at that time was Dr. James Brebner and when he studeid George's credits he advised him against engineering and suggested he should take a "Business Administration" course at an American university. George applied and was accepted at Syracuse Univeristy. We all drove down when he left and his mother gave him \$300 to get started.

George lost no time looking for work and before the third day ended, was driving for a doctor, later worked for a carpet cleaning company and then was taken on full time by the Railway Express Company. This last work continued until graduation. Holidays were few but he managed time for three honor fraternities and in 1927 joined the Masonic Lodge.

He made so many friends at Syracuse University, many life-long.

Graduation was a great day! Not only because he graduated in Business Administration, Summa Cum Lauda, and earned the gold medal in accounting (later used in my shoes when we were married). With the exception of the \$300 (later paid back) he had earned all his own way by his own efforts.

George graduated on June 17, 1929 and applied and was accepted at Bell Canada on September 22nd of that year. For the next 40 years he was with Bell advancing to several levels with many friends and was greatly respected.

After the retirement parties and good wishes were all over, we entered a new stage of our lives. We now had time to go and do things as we wished. George's interests were many and his reading unlimited. We belonged to a bridge club of forty couples for over fifty years. We enjoyed dinner and bridge with those friends in April of 1990. From early spring each year we were at the lake with the black flies and celebrated George's birhtday there on at least five occasions. He was devoted to his chirdren and grandchildren and they to him. I can't say what was the highlight of his life - there were so many. In retirement years, possibly our anniversary cruise on the Queen

Memorial continued.....

Elizabeth 2nd with dinner at the captain's table; possibly going by donkey to the depths of the Grand Canyon; possibly watching his seedlings burst into bloom, or maybe it was at the cottage snoozing in gentle breeze off the lake.

We were enjoying the two July holidays at the cottage when he had a stroke. From Bancroft hospital he was transfered to Scarborough General, improving enough in August to enjoy two happy weeks at home. Returning to the hospital for further treatment, he developed pneumonia and died on December 17, 1990.

We were married at the Presbyterian Church in "Cobourg, January 16, 1932. This was my familys home. In September of 1938 Suzanne was born and in July of 1939 we rented "that house on the point" and rowed down with the baby, my mother and nephew, food and supplies and a large black cat. Many refer to the cottage as "Sunset Point"

Marjorie W. Fitzgibbon

### MOE "Self Help" Programme

This is the 13th year that Steenburg Lake has participated in the program. Gene Harrison and his wife attended a dinner on May 31st in Kingston given by the MOE to receive an award for our participation. We send water sample to Kingston from 3 locations around the lake and it is evaluated for clarity and chlorophyll. The numbers for 89 and 90 are listed as is a ten year historical record for comparison.

Secchi Disc (in meters) (Measure of water clarity)			
Year	West Bay	Beach Bay	Phillips Bay
10 yr.*	4.2	4.2	4.2
1989	4.2	4.2	4.0
1990	4.1	4.1	4.2
Chlorophyll			
10yr.*	2.6	2.6	2.6
1989	3.4	3.3	3.3
1990	2.9	3.4	2.9

\* For the lake as a whole

Note: Chlorophyll readings tend to peak during late July and August but clarity of water improves during the same period. Historical records show a continuing increase of chlorophyll in the water which indicates an increase in weed growth and a decrease of oxygen in the water.

### Steenburg Lake Statistics

Watershed area	21.5 sq. miles
Surface area	277.0 ha.
Max Depth	20.1 meters
Shoreline	13.7 Km.
Cottages	203

## Reminders from MNR - Bancroft

**Work permit is required for work on Crown Land.** The lake shore is considered Crown Land as is the land under the lake. The approval cycle takes about 6 weeks from submitting the application. For information contact Lands Staff, Bancroft District Office, P.O. Box 500, Bancroft K0L1C0, telephone 613-332-3940.

**Pre-Season Angling for Bass** - Cottagers are reminder that the Bass season does not open until June 29th, 1991. It is illegal to fish bass "for fun" and this practice can cause mortality not only to the adult bass, which are guarding their nests, but to the bass eggs and emerging bass fry which are preyed on by other fish.

**Nuisance Beavers** - The industrious beaver continue to cause considerable concern among cottagers and with the Ministry by cutting trees along shorelines and damming streams. We receive many calls during spring and early summer months from cottagers who are concerned with the amount of damage done to cottage properties by beaver. The most often asked question is, "What can we do about the beaver?" The answer to this question is, "remove the offending beaver by the most efficient means possible." Use of poison is illegal but use of a shot gun is acceptable. Early morning or twilight are the best times to see the beaver.

**Fire Management** - Burning of brush between April 1st and October 31st requires a "Fire Permit". There is not cost for this permit and Wes Moffatt can issue them.

### **Tudor/Cashel Receives Grant**

A \$5,500 community planning grant will be received from the province for use by the township to help in the preparation a zoning by-law. Community planning grants are designed to encourage municipalities to study land use planning issues of significance to the local community.

### **Zebra Mussels In Steenburg Lake?**

A good question, most likely not yet, but a great potential exists. Many inland lakes are infested and it is very possible for boats used on Lake Ontario or other infested bodies of water and moved to Steenburg Lake to bring the Zebra mussel with it. Individually they are very small and could go undetected clinging to the bottom of the boat or in the bait well. If your boat is used in infested waters, check the hull and rinse it off with a hard stream of water from a hose and rinse your bait well out with a mixture of Clorox. Those two actions should take care of any potential problem

## Classified:

### FOR SALE

**Stainless Steel Kitchen sink (25" x 2") w/Delta faucet and spray unit \$25.00.** Cottage #30, Telephone 474-5753

**Overhead Ceiling Fan - 2 speeds, like new \$25.00.** Cottage #30, Telephone 474-5753.

**Trailer - adaptable for either a 14' boat or a single snowmobile- \$65.00.** Cottage #30, Telephone 474-5753

**Fiberglass Boat - 14' "Flipper" brand.** Approx. 5 years old and in excellent condition. With or without 9.9 Mercury outboard. No trailer. Purchaser must make own arrangements to move. Price negotiable. Contact Brian Williamson, cottage #87. Telephone 474-2541 or 613-962-5912

**Wind surfer sail, mast and wishbone assy. - (no board)** Sail is approximately 5.7 mistral. All in excellent condition, good for beginner or intermediate level. Asking \$150.00. Contact Brian Williamson at Cottage #87. Telephone 474-2541 or 613-962-5912

### **Snowmobiles (two)**

71 Ski-doo 440 TNT

72 Ski-doo 292 TNT

Both used this past winter - very good condition - well maintained. Asking \$500 for each. Contact Ken Waddell at cottage #103. Telephone 474-5486 or 416-284-8098.

### FOUND

A 16' red fiber glass canoe w/2 paddles. See Wes Moffatt