



Shoreline News

Steenburg Lake Community Association

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Spring 1993 (addendum)

Member F.O.C.A.

Weekend Toronto Star Delivery

Liane and Sean van Dompsele will again be delivering the weekend editions of the Toronto Star this summer. Deliveries will start the weekend of July 3 - 4 and continue through the weekend of Sept. 4 - 5. Please contact them at (705) 799 - 5914 (Peterborough) or cottage #106 to arrange delivery. They plan to confirm delivery service in June for last year's customers who requested continued service.

Marian Burton Passes

I received a phone call today (May 30th) that a good friend and 50 year member of the lake association passed away in Florida yesterday, May 29th. Marian (Betty to many) has had a rough couple of years. She had her hip joint replaced in the fall of 1991 and seemed to be much improved in spirit and comfort after the operation.

...t summer she experienced much discomfort with a build-up of fluid in her lungs and the doctors were quite puzzled, Judie and I stopped in to see her this past March at her home in Beverly Hills, FL.. Betty had lost alot of weight and at first we hardly recognized her. With friends around and someone to talk with and eat with she perked up and when we left she was in good spirits, but that was not to last.

We will all miss her around the lake. She had many friends and joined in the community as soon as her cottage was opened up. Bob Johncox, her brother, has the cottage next door as was with Betty when she passed away. A number of cottagers from the north shore would always get together to celebrate Marian's birthday late in August which kind of wound up the season for many, as close up started the next week.

Decks Require Regular Care

Most people these days know better than to sit outside in the broiling summer sun with no protection. And surely nobody would sit outside in the winter with absolutely nothing between the skin and the rain, sleet, snow and cold.

So why are you expecting your deck to do both of those things?

It's an investment that deserves protection. The average deck costs \$3,000 to \$8,000, says Bob Franklin, president of Deck Doctor of Reisterstown, Md., which builds and restores decks. "People think treated lumber will last for 40 years," Franklin says. The truth is, "decks don't last forever."

The chemical preservatives that are forced into the wood — that's the "treating" part of treated wood — need to be renewed periodically.

"Decks are weathered by water and UV ultraviolet sunlight," says Kip Humphrey, owner of Deckcraft Inc. of Pikesville, Md. "That gray, washboard, weathered look means the wood is drying out." Treating the wood to a new round of preservative is "kind of like sunscreen lotion for the deck," Humphrey says.

Mildew, mold and rot also take their toll on treated deck wood.

A regular maintenance program is the only way to keep a deck from damage. The process is not so complicated that a reasonably handy homeowner can't do it, though it would probably be better to hire a professional if

the deck needs treatment with a "power-washer." The power-washing device forces water under high pressure through a wand; if it's not used correctly it can blast away the softer tissues of the wood and leave the harder edges — the grain lines — sticking up. Those edges can be "as sharp as razors," Humphrey says — not at all nice to walk on.

There is some controversy over how soon to treat a new deck. Franklin says the wood has aged sufficiently at the lumber mill, and there's no reason not to treat it immediately. Humphrey says the only thing wrong with treating the deck too soon is that the treatment may not last as long as it otherwise would; it just means you'll have to schedule the next maintenance treatment sooner.

The ideal preservative product, Humphrey says, includes a UV blocker, oils to replenish the wood and a moisture sealant that works by penetrating the wood. When he builds a deck, he lets it "age" two or three weeks, then power-washes it, lets it dry out for three to four days, then applies the sealer.

If your deck has gone more than five years without being treated, it's too late to worry about UV protection or penetrating oils; the battle against aging has already been lost. At that point, only the water-repellent factor is important.

"Don't seal a dirty deck," Franklin says. Professionals clean with power washers and specially formulated deck cleaners. Do-it-yourselfers who want to avoid the power washer can use the deck cleaner and simply hose it off. Some cleaning products have a mildew killer; if you have mildew, don't apply a preservative without killing the mildew first.

Here are some deck maintenance tips from Humphrey:

Clean the deck on a regular basis — as often as four times a year, and more often if there's heavy tree-staining.

Decks can be protected with paint or stain, which will also protect the wood from weathering. Stains probably last longer than paint, but an area that isn't walked on — such as railings — will do fine with paint. Painting or staining it may be the only way to "renew" a neglected deck.