

# ◆ Shoreline News ◆

Spring / Summer 1998

◆ Tom Little

## President's Message

### Spring Cleanup

Here are a few notes I want to share as we prepare for another summer at Steenburg Lake:

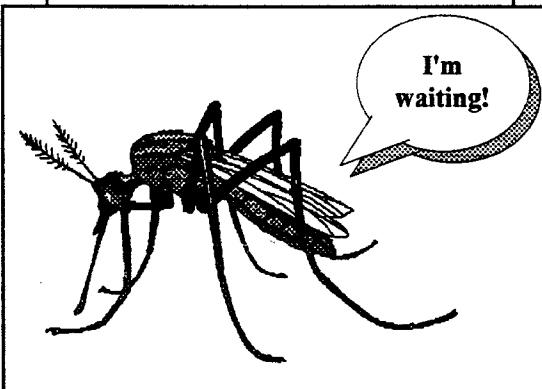
In this issue we remember three people from our association who passed away over the last year. Perhaps these events are meant to remind us of the Latin phrase *carpe diem* which my wife tells me means *seize the moment*, especially when that moment is at Steenburg Lake.

By now you will have received your latest property assessment. What you don't know is what the tax rate [no longer the mill rate] will be. So you don't yet know how much property tax you will have to pay. Much of the Conservative government's attempt to restructure has involved downloading, with the municipalities at the bottom of the ladder, having no one else to download to except us as individual taxpayers. We will watch with more than passing interest for the announcement of the tax rate for Limerick and for Tudor Cashel. Have questions? You might want to call Griff Lloyd of SLCA, who has some understanding of the process.

The water level has been extremely high throughout the spring. Hopefully this is an early

season phenomenon which will disappear by summer. Your association continues to be concerned about a beaver dam near Highway 62 which seems to be impeding water outflow and keeping the lake level higher than is desirable. To date our efforts, as well as those of Limerick Council, have not produced a satisfactory solution to the problem.

Over the past few years Limerick Lake has been involved in a development controversy similar to the one we faced earlier on Steenburg. A decision on an application to create 145 lots close to Limerick is to be made shortly by Hastings County. In fact, by the time you read this Hastings Council may have rendered its decision. In



my opinion, it is very discouraging to see serious consideration given to these kinds of proposals. They all seem to be devoid of innovative ideas and of local benefits, while embodying the potential to create major new stresses on lakes, the surrounding environment, and municipal services. Whether I am correct in this viewpoint or not, it is clear that decisions made many

miles away in Belleville can have a profound impact on us at Steenburg Lake.

In this issue we note the summer activities planned by your community association. Put them all on your calendar - the road clean up, beach barbeque, annual meeting and annual dinner. Take these opportunities to get to know your neighbours.

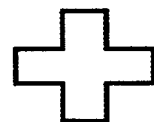


## THINK SAFETY THIS SUMMER!

### Please slow down!

High speed boating and jet skiing can disturb the lake bottom and affect fish spawning beds and other wildlife. Waves created by fast moving boats and jet skis contribute to shoreline erosion.

For your own safety and the safety of others, do not water ski or jet ski between the narrows of Mathieson's point and Walsh's Island. The water is very shallow and the lake bottom is covered with rocks. Take time to learn which areas of the lake to avoid for safety reasons.



◆ Carol Landon

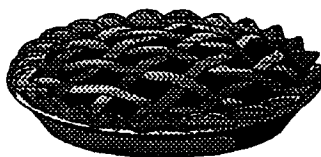
# Social Committee

## Social Activities 1998

**July 11** - Beach games and barbeque will be held this day. There will be food, canoe races, and paddle boat races for all ages. Please bring your own equipment (canoes, life jackets, paddle boats, etc.) We will be arranging some new games to include all family members. Suggestions for new games will be welcome.

**August 2** - The annual meeting and dinner at the Limerick Community Centre. Tickets will be on sale at the beach barbeque or you can contact Bill or Carol Landon at cottage #139 or call the Landon cottage at 474-5360. If you have something you would like to donate as a door prize at the annual dinner please let us know.

The bulletin board at Trudy's will be a source of information for any updates on coming events.



◆ Barb Rockwell

# Membership

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** If you'd like to meet your neighbours around the lake, volunteer to be a canvasser. Your territory would include approximately 10 cottages and all of our members are expecting you, so it's EASY. So don't be bashful, call or drop a line to Barb today!!.... (613) 474-2348

What a winter at the lake. Mild temps and the big snow didn't arrive until March!! Time to get ready for the summer and REMEMBER your Steenburg Lake Membership dues. The dues are still \$25.00 per year and your friendly canvasser will be dropping by, in July, to collect. Right away, you'll receive an updated phone listing, lake map, fishing catch form and membership card. You'll be able to pass along any ideas or concerns to your canvasser, as the Association needs to know, AND you'll have fun at the recreational and social events as outlined, on the calendar, in this issue. The newsletter is one of our many projects and you can read, herein, about the ongoing efforts that your \$25.00 supports.

If you tend to miss your canvasser, call them when they leave the handy "Sorry I Missed You Card" or mail in your dues, to me, TODAY. Have a safe and happy summer '98.

SEND TO: Barb Rockwell, Box 325, R.R. #2, Gilmour, Ontario, K0L 1W0.

**Did you know** that one drop of oil can make up to 25 litres of water unfit for drinking? Not only do oil and gas render water undrinkable, once they enter the lake they have serious short and long term impacts on the aquatic environment.

Gasoline has an immediate toxic effect on the microbiota, and oil impacts phyto and zooplankton reproduction affecting the entire food web of the lake.

Remember:

- Don't top off your gas tank when refuelling because doing so often results in small toxic spills.
- Fill a portable tank away from the water.
- Never fill your tank to the top since fuel expands as it warms up.
- Use the correct oil and gas mixture.
- An untuned engine wastes fuel and money.
- If waiting at a dock, turn your engine off.

\* taken from the Waterside Guide produced by the Kawartha Water Quality Partnership



## Ant Problem?

Locate the place where the ants are entering your cottage (easier said than done), squeeze a lemon at the entry, and leave the lemon peel. Ants will also avoid areas of chili powder, talcum powder, charcoal dust, and cayenne pepper (yeow!)



## ◆ Griff Lloyd

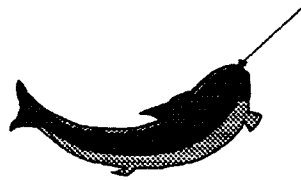
## Lake Stewardship

**Market Value Assessment (now called Property Assessment):** Most of you will have become familiar with market value assessment from last year. If you didn't become familiar last year with this procedure you sure will this year now that all of Ontario is being assessed based on current values as of June 30, 1996. Properties in Hastings County (cottages in Tudor and Limerick) generally should have their values lowered from last year's assessment notice, however, there are some exceptions.

The interim tax bills recently received show values based on last year's tax bill. The municipalities to date cannot establish a tax rate (mill rate) until they have received the necessary information from the Province of Ontario as to their various costs, roads, social programs, etc., and subsidies if any. It will be June before they have the necessary information to establish a tax rate for 1998 and then give you the actual tax you must pay for 1998. Don't panic, you will not be forgotten.

The years 1996 and 1997 had their assessed values based on values for 1992. Values for 1998 will be based on June 30, 1996 values.

The government will be frequently updating these assessed values for upcoming years. Any questions can be answered by the Regional Assessment Office, 80 Division Street, Trenton, ON, K8V 5R7, 1-800-262-0538 (fax: 613-392-1937) or Bancroft (613) 332-1440.



I would ask that the fisher-people please complete the fish forms that will be handed out by the membership visitors. These forms contain valuable information for MNR Bancroft and also give you an opportunity to qualify for trophies for the biggest Largemouth and Smallmouth Black Bass caught in summer months (including Labour Day weekend) of 1998 - Good Luck. Additional forms can be obtained from Griff Lloyd (cottage 19).

Please watch the calendar of events for our annual clean up along the cottage roads the morning of the Beach BBQ.

The Lake Steward position on the Executive becomes available this summer. Anyone interested please contact Griff @ Cottage 19.

### WANTED / FOR SALE

Have you found an item laying around your cottage you no longer need but think someone else will? If you are a member of the Steenburg Lake Community Association, why not advertise it for sale in the next issue of the Shoreline News? And if there is some particular item that you want to have laying around your cottage, why not say so in the newsletter?

Wanted / For Sale requests must be received by the editor no later than September 30, 1998 in order to be printed in the Fall / Winter newsletter. Send to: S. McGinnis, 40 Lower Place, Whitby, Ontario, L1N 8B7.

## ◆ In Memoriam

**Edgar Bateman**  
1904-1997

With the passing September 14, of my father, Edgar Bateman in his 94th year, Steenburg Lake lost its original pioneer cottager. A conversation between his father, Robert, proprietor of Belleville's Crystal Hotel, and a traveller, Bruce Powers from Trenton, about mutual love of hunting and fishing led north to Steenburg Lake, owned by his father, whose log cabin was behind the lodge. The island deed of 1910 which resulted cost 15 dollars per acre (at 25 acres the government estimate was 10 acres too high!). Mainland property was only 10 dollars per acre.

Although Robert drove the first car to Bancroft from Belleville (1912) with the Huppemobile dealer looking to expand there, the trip was usually by train to St. Ola, being met by Joe Steenburg and his wagon, to help with the summer supplies, including fine hotel china for afternoon tea! In the spring the hotel caretaker would swim a horse, plow a garden yielding 12 bags of potatoes, and generally clear a road and set up a gentleman's estate, cut short by Robert's early death in 1917 (see c 1916 photo last years news). The pile of rocks at the public beach marks the pier for the large Powers-Bateman motorboat.

Diet was fish (night lines, and weed beds cleared by raking in north cove for mudcats and eels) local butchering and produce and evidence of a special imported Scottish product. I still set night lines from the island to the south shore in the 1940's. Of course, Edgar's 7h.p. Martin was the largest motor on the lake in 1947. Children had chores including rowing fathers for hours trolling for trout, or towing the

laundry on a rope to rinse it, both out of fashion (did the rope chaffe the ankles?) Picnics at Jelleys rapids on Beaver Creek, north of 62, and at its gorge are shown in old albums. Hydro to the island in 1953 closed the ice house (15 dollars to fill by Harry Fitzgibbon - or was it 25?), much to the regret of the muskrats.

A trip to the lodge for ice in the 40's meant decisions as to the larger half of a block for 25 cents, washed in the lake and lifted to a fridge. No need for Trudy's ice cubes! - although Mawson hand pumps for gas had to be levelled by the kids.

My impression as I watch the yearly lowering of the walls of Bateman's log cabin and stable on the island-remote by 500 yards from a comfortable sealed cottage- is that the reasons we are here remain unchanged from our ancestors as evidenced by the current emphasis on nature, our relation to it, and the results of its disruption.

*Dr. Charlie Bateman  
Crystal Island*

### ◆ In Memoriam

#### **Bob Watson**

It was a forgiving winter for weather but an unforgiving one for a friend of Steenburg Lake. In January we lost Bob Watson, owner of Trudy's store, to a heart attack at age 50.

Bob Watson. How else could you describe him but as a great person, the ideal owner for our general store?

He was always gracious, taking time to talk in spite of all the demands on his time, the demands of running a family enterprise, seven days a week all summer, with a little bit of respite come fall. And was there anything you couldn't find at Trudy's, if you looked long enough?

Bob came with his family- wife Marg, children Mark, Matt, Dawn and Laura

from St. Catharines. The move was St. Catharines' loss, and our gain. He carried on the tradition that Trudy had started - good selection, good service. And he made it better.

Fifty is too young by far for a person like Bob Watson. He should have had the chance to enjoy the benefits of all those hours he put in. Perhaps our remembering him will go part way towards making sense of something that otherwise seems to have none.

*Submitted by Tom Little*

### ◆ In Memoriam

#### **Russ Prowse A Lion of a Man**

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

Well, once I saw him fly.

Which was a considerable feat on Russ's part since at that time he was a very big guy. Two thirty I'm guessing. Maybe two forty. Size that comes with lots of cokes and unfiltered cigarettes, and way too much office work.

Russ was helping my dad build a dock. Not a nineties dock, all aluminum and styrofoam. A fifties dock, with cedar logs and oil drums. We had just bought the cottage for \$1700 and it needed a dock. It also needed other things like a sink, a pump, a toilet, and windows that opened, but because of the kids, a dock was first priority.

The two of them had constructed a long cedar log frame, had secured one end to the old cribbing that sat tilted and partly submerged next to the shore, and had run the other out into the water. But the frame needed something to keep it from sinking, and now came the time to put the barrels underneath.

Russ was pushing the first barrel,

trying to get it under the water so it would support the frame, but it refused to go. So he got on top of it, sitting rodeo style, and both he and my dad pressed down. Finally it seemed to succumb, and disappeared under the water. But that barrel didn't want to stay down. From the depths, back up it shot, with Russ still on top, rising higher, higher, then arcing out over the water. Sometime during this flight Russ and the barrel parted company, and he landed many feet away from where he had started, with the kind of splash only a big guy could make.

We just stood there with our mouths open, kids watching their dads. Right afterwards the two of them changed their minds about the dock with the barrels on the end. Fixing up that old cribbing began to make a lot more sense.

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

He was a Canadian success story. A guy who built the branch plant of a U.S. company, Garland Commercial Ranges, into a thriving business. A guy who eventually was asked to take over the U.S. parent because he thought he could run the company better. And he could. And he did. Go into McDonald's. Go into Tim Horton's. Look at the nameplate on the ovens. Garland.

Why was Russ a good president? Maybe because he would start his day at 6 in the morning, drinking coffee at a greasy spoon near work - not alone, not with the other Garland executives, but with all the guys who worked on the plant floor. The guys who knew what was going on, the guys he relied on to build a quality product.

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

He was the only person outside of family my dad would let visit when my dad's life was about to end. When cancer made him less than he had been, less than he wanted to be, less

than he wanted to be remembered as being. But it was ok for Russ to come by, and yes, in true Russ fashion, he would always find something that needed fixing while he was there.

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

His wife, Vivian. His kids, Rusty [now also called Russ, except by people like me who don't adapt well to change] and Cathy [now called Addie, except by people like me..but I've explained that flaw already]. How they came to our cottage in 1955, the year we bought it. They were going to stay the weekend, but it was a blazing hot summer and a weekend became a week and a week became two weeks and people who hardly knew each other became friends, good friends. There were to be more summers before the Prowses bought their own place when the south side of Steenburg opened up.

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

His continuing and total refusal to succumb. He could have given up years before. He certainly had enough illnesses and ailments. But he was simply too stubborn. Meet him at Trudy's, and he'd be on the steps, going up or going down. One step at a time, then a rest, huffing, puffing, cursing under his breath when he thought no one was around. But no apologies for being so slow, and no, he didn't need any help. At his funeral, the minister described him as *a lion of a man*, and to know Russ was to know that this was exactly right. *A lion of a man*. A lion for his strength. A lion for his courage.

What do I remember about Russ Prowse?

I remember after the funeral, sitting in the house that the Prowse's had lived in all the years I had known them, just a few doors away from the church, and realizing that even

though I didn't see them often enough any more, the Prowses were much more than friends, that they were really family to me, to my brother Doug who was there with me, and to the rest of the Littles. And it came to me later that they were family because of a cottage on a lake, because of a dock, because of a man who could fly, because of his wife and kids, because of a hot summer, because....

This is what I remember about Russ Prowse.

*Submitted by Tom Little*



## DANGER!

Before lighting any fire out of doors this summer, check with the Township office see what the Fire Hazard rating is. Many times in past years, campfires have been set without the cottagers even being aware that the hazard rating was so high that fires were prohibited.

You do not want to be responsible for burning down the forest and other cottages. So this year, take an extra minute to check and see if it is alright to light a fire.



## ◆ Scott McGinnis

# Editorial



Oops! I goofed! Wouldn't you know it, my very first newsletter and I err in the telephone numbers for some of the Directors of the association. Hopefully, the copy I have attached to this newsletter is correct, if not, put it down to my inexperience. In case you were wondering, the last newsletter was late in getting out as I was waiting for the election results.

As in previous years, the last page has the calendar of events planned for the lake. Simply detach it from the newsletter and tape it to a cupboard or fridge door, and you will have a handy reference for the dates of the festivities.

I have big plans for this summer, the main one being the advancement of my fishing skills. To allow me to gain confidence in this new hobby, I would request that anyone catching a bass over five pounds to throw it back and call me as soon as possible and describe in exact detail the location and the bait you used. Marking the area with a flashy coloured bouy would also help me out, but is not necessary. Seriously, summer marks the time for relaxation, fun and sport at the lake and I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience.

P.S. If you have an article that you have written and would like to submit for publication in Shoreline News, please send a hardcopy of it to me no later than September 30, 1998 in order to be printed in the Fall / Winter newsletter. Send to: S. McGinnis, 40 Lowder Place, Whitby, Ontario, L1N 8B7.

# STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 1997/98

## OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	<u>Past-President</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Record/Correspond Secretary</u>
<b>Tom Little (15)</b> 97 Sherwood Ave. Oshawa, L1G 3L7 905-576-5220 613-474-5653	<b>Tom Quinn (26)</b> 1248 Barnwood Sq. Pickering, L1X 1C7 905-839-4372 613-474-2657	<b>Ken Waddell (103)</b> 5 Charles Tupper Dr. West Hill, M1C 2A8 416-284-8098 613-474-5486	<b>Scott McGinnis (21.1)</b> 40 Lowder Place Whitby, L1N 8B7 905-728-0109 613-474-2849

## DIRECTORS

\* = Lead Director

Elected by the membership for a three year term.

If you would care to assist in one of the following areas, please call the Lead Director of the committee.

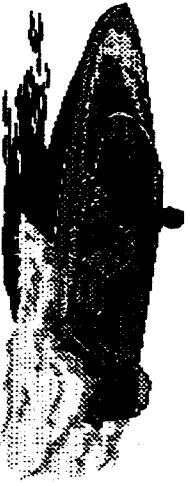
<u>Membership</u> <b>Barb Rockwell (30.2)*</b> RR #2 P.O. Box 325 P.O. Box 1687 Gilmour, K0L 1W0 613-474-2348	<u>Social</u> <b>Carol Landon (139)*</b> 12 Patriot Ct. Markham, L3P 6B3 905-472-5346 613-474-5360	<u>Municipal Affairs</u> <b>Gary Goodfellow (175)*</b> 23 Joyce Cres. Belleville, K8N 1Y6 613-967-0873 613-474-2341	<u>Lake Stewardship</u> <b>Griff Lloyd (19)*</b> 81 Bridge St. Bancroft, K0L 1C0 613-332-0160 613-474-2849
<u>Lake Historians (129)</u> Sandra & Bill Dafoe 1366 Colonial Rd. Belleville, K8R 1B8 613-962-9896 613-474-2815	Tricia Neub (177) 92 Waverly Road Toronto, M4L 3T1 416-698-3544 613-474-2377  Diane Burke (97) 666 Sultana Sq. Pickering, L1V 3Y3 905-831-2908 613-474-2254	Ian Fraser (16) 95 Glenview Ave. Toronto, M4R 1P9 416-481-4192 613-474-2777	<u>Natural Resources</u> Rick Burke (97) 666 Sultana Sq. Pickering, L1V 3Y3 905-831-2908 613-474-2254  Bill Willmore (151) 488 Annapolis Avenue Oshawa, L1J 2Y7 905-728-8127 613-474-2703
			<u>Environment</u> Fred Neub (177) 92 Waverly Road Toronto, M4L 3T1 416-698-3544 613-474-2377

## AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Organize annual canvass	Annual dinner arrangements	Interface w/local councils	Water quality monitoring
Prepare canvasser s folders	Secure door prizes for dinner	Attend OMB hearings	The lake fishery
Enlist canvassers as needed	Youth activities	Review official town plan	Shoreline preservation
Member info to Secy.	Regettas	Get-out-the-vote	Rock & shoal markers
Member dues to Tresaure	Cance races	By-law requests	Lake Stewardship Progam
			Loosestrife control
			Water Level of lake
			Spraying programs
			Lake Directory signs

Steenburg  
Lake

Community  
Association





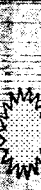
# July 1998

July 1 - Canada Day

July 4 - Independence Day

July 11 - 9 am: Annual Road Clean Up

11 am: Canoe and Paddle Boat Races at the public beach (bring your own canoe or paddle boat, and life jacket);  
12 pm: Beach BBQ (hotdogs and pop)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Steenburg  
Lake

Community  
Association

# August 1998



Aug 1 - 3 : Rockhound Jamboree - Bancroft

Aug 2: SLCA Annual General Meeting & Dinner

Aug 3: Civic Holiday

Aug 28 & 29: Coe Hill Fair

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					