

Shoreline News

Steenburg Lake Community Association

Winter 1992

Member of F.O.C.A. & B.A.C. A.

Why A winter Issue?

It just seems that there is so much going on relative to the lake that to have let it all go for the spring issue would have made that issue a monster. As of January 14th, winter finally arrived in North Hastings County. The ice on the lakes has been iffy and not much snow in the bush. I have heard that some vehicles have gone through the ice but I do not know on what lakes that happened. An open winter does not bring in tourist dollars for the area so I can well believe the storm that hit on January 14th was a welcome one.

Survey Questionnaires

To date 55 questionnaires representing 48 cottages have been received and tabulated in several different reports. These reports have been distributed to the appropriate Directors for them to ponder over the winter. Hopefully this newsletter will prompt more of you to fill out a questionnaire and send it in. Any actions that are taken as a result of the information provided by the returns should reflect a majority of the association members. Generally this is what the member's viewpoints are who have returned a questionnaire:

Top Four Issues In Order of Priority

- Continued development around the lake.
- Water quality and all that affects it
- Water safety (large boats and skiers)
- Noise control

From the 55 questionnaires I was able to identify 15 categories of concerns:

Further Development	Septic Systems
Water Pollutants	Fishery
Water Quality	Environment
Waste Disposal	Recycling
Taxes	Water Safety
Boat Launch	Noise Control
Well for drinking water	Roads
Lake Level	

Response to Questions on Boat Launch, Well &, Noise:

- Boat Launch - 26 no - 21 yes
- Well - 18 no - 29yes
- Noise - 15 no - 31 yes

Annual Dinner & Meeting:

- Do not separate the dinner & the meeting
- Hold meeting late in the afternoon with dinner and social after the meeting.
- Format for the dinner should be a catered sit down meal.
- Hold meeting earlier in the season. Not on Civic week-end.
- Have a corn & weenie roast at the end of the season

EPA & SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The Environmental Protection Act of 1974 "Grandfathered" all existing septic systems and at the same time invoked new standards for any system installed from April 15th, 1974 on. Those standards were revised again in 1985 to further protect lakes by requiring a greater set-back of the tank from the waters edge. F.O.C.A. along with many of the lake associations have been requesting action by the Ministry of the Environment to re-examine the "Grandfathered" decision, to at least require an examination of any such system whenever the property is to change owners.

The townships of Limerick and Tudor/Cashel have both endorsed a resolution to this effect and forwarded that resolution to other municipalities in the province. If there is a positive reaction from other municipalities to the Ministry of the Environment, this will add weight to the pressure that has been put on the ministry to date. If any of you feel strongly enough about this issue you are urged to document your feelings to:

Hon. Ruth A. Grier
Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Ave. W., 15th Floor
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1P5

The Limerick Townships Council's resolution is as follows and was endorsed by Tudor/Cashel's council.

WHEREAS lakes and rivers are one of our most precious resources in Ontario

WHEREAS many municipalities are conerned with the high pollution levels contributed by inadequate setbacks and outdated sewage systems

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment "Grandfathered" sewage disposal systems in 1974, (17years past) to allow existing sewage systems to remain in operation without a certificate of approval,

WHEREAS this policy limits municipalities in objecting to known cases of grossly inadequate systems that are possibly polluting lakes and altering water quality,

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Limerick urges the Ministry of the Environment to amend the Environmental Protection Act, Part VII, section 67 (1) to include some measure of inspection, and correction, if necessary, of those systems that were installed before the 15th day of April 1974, AND THAT this motion be circulated to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario for their endorsement and distribution to the Ministry of the Environment and to the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario. To be distributed as soon as practical. October 18th, 1991.

Continued.....

EPA & Septic continued.....

The distribution of Limericks's resolution was undertaken by the Limerick Township. Since that time the township has received 400 responses from other communities and individuals. Hastings's County Council of Reeves also endorsed the resolution and the Ministry of the Environment has undertaken some action in the Muskoka region. We can only hope that this is a pilot effort to gain information to better upgrade the Environmental Protection Act.

Noise By-Law

The questionnaires returned to date by a large margin indicate a bothersome noise problem around the lake and a desire for some type of noise control by-law put in place by the two township councils represented on the lake. Limerick Township has put in place a noise by-law relative to barking dogs. There is an enforcement agent assigned and his name is Mike Crogan and can be reached at 337-5590. No such by-law exists for Tudor/Cashel Township.

As we all know, sound travels further across water than land. This fact alone makes the drafting of a noise by-law very difficult. Limerick Township council has looked at another township's Noise Control By-Law and rejected it as being too difficult to enforce. If your town has such a by-law, see if you can secure a copy of that by-law and forward it to Tom Quinn, 1248 Barnwood Sq., Pickering, Ont. L1X 1C7.

A summary of your answers to this question on the questionnaire will be presented to both councils with a request that such a by-law be considered should the trend continue as it has to date.

A Possible Source of Drinking Water

The Limerick Township has had a well drilled behind the town's building and a pump installed. The water has been tested and approved. An inquiry has been made, nothing formal, as to the possibility of the township residents drawing water as needed from that well. The township has not yet determined what the delivery rate per minute of the well is. When that is finally established, that will determine whether or not the flow is adequate to meet the building's requirements as well as a supply for town residents. Most residents have their own wells as do some of the lake residents and therefore would only look to the township well if and when their own well went dry. If wells in general were failing, probably that well would also. Most lake residents rely on lake water for all their uses except drinking, therefore, the amount of water that would be pulled by lake residents would overall be small. If this does proved to be a source of drinking water for Limerick residents, it would still leave the Tudor/Cashel lake residents without a convenient source for drinking water.

The questionnaires indicate 61% of the association members favoring the establishment of a well as a source of drinking water somewhere on the lake. If this were done it would serve all association members around the lake.

Marina

You have probably noticed that nothing more has been said about the purchase of the marina. One reason was the new information concerning the allowable number of share holders in a numbered corporation in the Province of Ontario. I believe the allowed number is 40 which would have substantially increased the cost per share. While that information was being digested, rumor was that the marina had been sold and in fact there was building activity in the form of an addition to the cottage behind the marina.

The name that was on the building permit was Kim Furandiz, daughter of Mr. & Mrs Wilson of Apsley. The marina is once again up for sale, represented by Boes & Cocks out of Bancroft. The association will contact the Wilsons to see if any arrangement can be worked out for use of the launch during 1992.

A Tragedy For The Lloyd Family

Captain Richard C. Lloyd was killed in an airplane accident during a training exercise in a Canadian forces CF-5 jet fighter at Cold Lake, Alberta on January 10, 1992. That was the same day that his parents, Griff and Tina Lloyd returned to Bancroft after spending the holidays with him. They returned immediately to Cold Lake to be with Rick's expectant wife and attend the memorial service held by his squadron on January 14th. Rick was 29 at the time of his death.

A second memorial service was conducted in the Protestant Chapel, C.F.B. Borden, Ontario, Monday January 20th. Memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Wildlife Federation and Children's Fund.

Ricks ashes will be brought to Steenburg Lake, a place he loved very much. Our deepest sympathies go out to the Lloyd family.



Captain Rick Lloyd in front of his CF-5 aircraft.

Lake Capacity Study

The final report was received by the old council and passed on for consideration to the new council. The report is now subject to review by the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources. Council is awaiting these reports before making proposed amendments to the official town plan and announcing a public meeting. Notice of the public meeting will be made known to all rate payers. This process must be complete by May when the Interim Control By-Law formally ends.

STEENBURG LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL SURVEY SUMMARY

Systems Surveyed: 148(2/92)

'Types and number in use

Septic	Privies*	Holding Tank	Chemical	Other
116	15	11	1	5

System upgrades under consideration :25

'Routing of Kitchen Waste

Septic	Dry Well	Lch Fld.	Sand Bed	Hold Tank	None	Other
100	23	4	7	7	2	4

Septic systems installed prior to EPA (1974) : 29

* Privies used on a regular basis, not as back up
148 out of 204 cottages have responded = 73% participation

Cottages not yet responding to survey
SLCA members = 26 Non members = 30

Lake Profile

Open lots = 14, Uninhabited cottages = 1, Camp = 1
Uninhabited Islands = 2, Rental cottages = 5
Permanent residents = 6, Seasonal resident cottages = 193

If you have not yet completed and mailed in a Waste Disposal Survey form, one is included with this newsletter. Please take the time to complete it and mail it to:

Anita Waddell
5 Charles Tupper Dr.
West Hill, Ont. M1C 2A8

Limerick Township Recycling

This topic was addressed at a January 17th Council meeting and it appears as if Limerick could have a program in effect by late spring. Rather than locate a row of bins for allocation of the recyclables at the dump site, the town is looking into the use of an old Coca-Cola truck. Those trucks have dividers as part of their design and those bins would be utilized for receiving the recyclables. When full, the overhead doors would be closed and the truck driven to Trenton to dispose of the load. We hope this works out.

Cottage Directory Sign Missing

The directory sign on the South Steenburg Lake Rd. at the first fork in the road is missing. If you have any idea of its location please let one of the directors know.

Cottage Break-Ins

There appears to be a rash of cottage break and enters in the Bancroft area. Two cottages on the north shoreline were broken into, but nothing was stolen nor was there any vandalizing. It would appear that alcohol was behind the break-ins.

Canvassers Will Seek Information

The canvassers will be asking for information on 'young cottagers' who come up to the lake on a regular basis, ie. most weekend during the summer. Cottage number, name and age. This information will assist the social committee in determining the need for programs and for what age groups. It is hoped that all canvassing can be completed early in July.

Gypsy Moth Programme

The county is not underwriting the programme in our area this year. The spraying was deemed very effective last year. If you feel you would still like to have your area sprayed, an inspector will come and look, however, the cost of spraying has increased substantially. What was \$6.00 per acre last year is now \$60.00 per acre with a minimum of 10 acres to be sprayed. Contact:

Gypsy Moth Programme

County Administration Buildings

235 Pinnacle St.

Postal Bag 4400

Belleville, Ont. K8N 3A9

Attention: John H. Ansty, Co-ordinator(613-966-6718)

Steenburg Lake "T" Shirt Design

The artwork below is the leading contender for the design of the "T" shirt. If you have an inspiration, put it down on paper and mail it to:

Tom Quinn

1248 Barnwood Sq.

Pickering, Ont. L1X 1C7

Tom is working with Jerry Tessler who will produce the "T" shirts for us.



Septic system approvals

WHEN NEEDED

For any new construction that increases the amount of sewage, including grey water, produced - whether it's building a new cottage or adding an extra bedroom or bathroom; also required when replacing or upgrading an aging septic system.

The MOE lists six classes of sewage systems. Class 1, a waterless toilet - such as an outhouse or composting toilet - is the only type that doesn't require approval. However, in conjunction with a waterless toilet, you must have a Class 2 system, a leaching pit for grey water (the waste from dishwashing or bathing), which *does* require a certificate of approval. The most common system for cottage use is the Class 4, a septic tank attached to a leaching or filter bed.

Situation #1: You have an outhouse or composting toilet

You must show MOE approval for your grey-water leaching pit *before* you can obtain a building permit. If you don't have an existing certificate of approval or your approval is very old, you will likely have to have your leaching pit inspected - and may have to upgrade it before approval is granted. As individual situations vary considerably, call your local health unit or district MOE office and ask how to proceed.

Situation #2: You have a recently installed septic system large enough to handle the additional load of the new project you're planning

The MOE should have your certificate of approval and use on file. Contact the district office, detailing your plans; the MOE will review your file and may be able to give you a letter or permit of approval for the building department without actually having to do a physical inspection. Again, individual situations may vary considerably, so check with MOE officials.

Situation #3: Your septic system is older and the certificate of approval is not on file with the MOE

The MOE or local health unit will need to inspect the system before an approval can be given. Local officials can guide you through the process, which will almost certainly include getting the system uncovered so it can be inspected. If it turns out that your system is no longer functioning well, or is too small to handle the additional load, you won't be given a certificate of approval

- and thus won't be allowed to build unless you replace or upgrade it.

WHO TO CONTACT

Sewage and grey water disposal is administered at district MOE offices or by local health units. Call your local township office for a referral to the right place. Says Brian Howden, senior environmental officer at the MOE office in Gravenhurst, which oversees the districts of Muskoka and Haliburton: "People sometimes have the impression the ministry or the health unit will design a system for them." But the property owner - generally with the help of a contractor licensed by the MOE - must make a proposal which is then evaluated.

HOW TO GET THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

Step #1: Fill out the forms

Contact the district MOE office or local health unit and pick up an application. It comes with detailed information on septic system design and sizing, and an outline of the approval process. There are two parts to the application itself. One part covers the type of system you plan to build; the location of your property; the number of bedrooms, people, and flush toilets; how to get to your property; and the source of your water supply. The other asks for a lot diagram showing the location of the proposed system. Use MOE guidelines to set the required clearances from buildings, lot lines, and wells. If you can't do this yourself, ask your contractor for help or have him do it for you. (Although property owners are allowed to install systems themselves, most cottagers hire an MOE-licensed contractor.)

Step #2: Get ready for an inspection

Submit the forms and application fee to your local MOE office or health unit. Then call to arrange an inspection, giving a couple of days' notice. Before your site is inspected, clearly stake out nearby lot lines and dig a test hole (about 1.5 metres deep) so soil depth and type can be assessed. The inspector may suggest modifications and specify the amount and type of fill that must be added (fill is almost always necessary). If your site is found unsuitable, the inspector may suggest alternatives.

Step #3: Begin construction

After the inspection is done, a certificate of approval is issued, and construction can begin. A second inspection is carried out once the installation is in place, but before it is covered up. When it has passed inspection, the site can be covered. And finally, usually within several days, a use permit is issued and, hurrah, you may flush.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Depending on the locality, fees run anywhere from \$36.05 (the minimum) to \$100 or more. (The ministry allows local health units to set fees high enough to cover their costs.) In Muskoka, where the MOE handles the process, the fee is \$36.05. Some health units, like Peterborough County's, which covers most of the Kawarthas, charge the same. The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit charges \$100.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

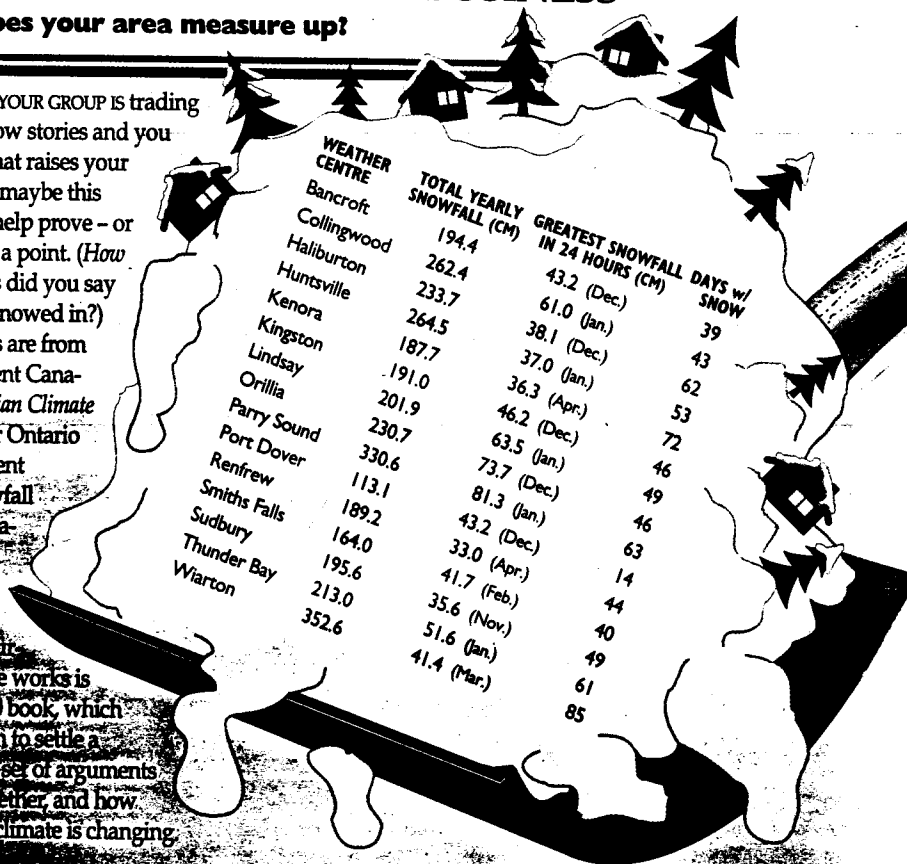
Says the MOE's Howden: "We like to move approvals through within a couple of weeks. When the final inspection is called for, we try to do it as quickly as possible because the contractor may have equipment on site." Septic installations are done during certain times of the year only: no work can be done once there's frost in the ground (after late November in most central Ontario cottaging areas), in winter, or during the wet, muddy weeks of early spring. As a consequence, summer is the busiest time.

NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS

How does your area measure up?

NEXT TIME YOUR GROUP IS trading cottage snow stories and you hear one that raises your eyebrows, maybe this chart will help prove - or disprove - a point. (How many days did you say you were snowed in?) The figures are from Environment Canada's *Canadian Climate Normals for Ontario* and represent mean snowfall records measured over a 30-year period, 1951-80. Cur-

rently in the works is the 1981-90 book, which might mean to settle a whole new set of arguments - about whether, and how much, our climate is changing.



THE NEW SPEED ZONE

10 km/h near shore is now the law of the lakes

A NEW LAW QUIETLY ENTERED THE books in August - one that holds out some hope to cottagers tormented by boats speeding past their shoreline.

An amendment to the Boating Restriction Regulations under the *Canada Shipping Act* has now made it illegal to travel at a speed greater than 10 kilometres per hour within 30 metres of any shoreline. The law applies on *all* lakes and rivers wider than 100 m in Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan. (Waterways with a speed limit already in effect continue to be governed by the pre-existing speed limit.)

This doesn't mean, however, that water-skiing off the cottage dock has been outlawed. Towing a person on skis or other water toys is permitted within the 30-m buffer zone as long as "the vessel follows a trajectory that is perpendicular to the shore".

The new law provides another tool for police to control irresponsible boaters - but one wonders what good it will do if there aren't police on the water to enforce it. "This was one of the objections from some of the provinces that haven't yet come on board," says Coast Guard Captain Wylie Stewart, who processes Boating Restriction Regulations. "They said they didn't have the resources for extra policing. We argue that if the law is in place, since the majority of people are law-abiding, they will abide by it."

Let's hope so - because OPP provincial marine coordinator

Larry Smith tells us there are no plans in Ontario to increase the OPP presence on the water as a result of the new law.

What does he suggest? "Keep calling the local detachment. Let us know you have a problem. We'll give it our darndest - but we can't be everywhere at the same time." - Ann Vanderhoof

SHORELINES

"ANSWERS IN THE MUDDLE"

Both our Federal and Provincial governments have recognized our Fisheries Resources as a Natural Resource of significant value. Both levels of government have as a cornerstone concept the idea that there shall be NO NET LOSS of our fish populations and/or their habitats. This thinking motivated Section 35 of the Fisheries Act of Canada which in essence states there shall be no harmful alteration, disruption and/or destruction of fish habitat(s).

We have to begin to comprehend that the sunlit shallows of our water bodies are critical for the survival of our fish populations. Most species of fish utilize this area at some stage in their life cycle, (spawning, nursery, rearing, feeding, etc.). The plant and animal organisms of this area play an integral part in the general water quality required for all water contact recreation.

Generally ownership of this area is vested with the Crown (O.M.N.R. Lands and Waters Division). When we embark upon works on our shorelines and/or shorelands, we must seek out the permission of the aforementioned "owner". We must remember that we are embarking upon works that are "off our properties". We must respect the guidelines that are given regarding the nature and extent of works that are facilitated by Ontario. Three basic guidelines are evolving:

1. The amount of frontage we disturb must be kept to a functional minimum.
2. The surface area of the structures that we place upon the bottom must be kept to a minimum.
3. We should consider building as much as possible above the high water mark, on our own property, (with regard for municipal by-laws).

DOCKS

Solid docks; concrete, log crib, sheet steel, are now in disfavour. We must now consider free floating or floating docks attached to the shoreline. Another construction alternative is docks built upon legs or stilts. The latter can include pipes, angle iron, steel I-beams and/or concrete columns. Cantilevered docks facilitate docks "over" the water with heavy construction above the high water mark.

BOATHOUSES

Our historic style of construction was to place "a garage in the water", albeit we positioned the garage on a log crib. These structures took a large surface area of our sunlit shallows out of production. They were also easy targets for the destructive forces of nature: waves, ice crush. We now favour:

- Cantilevered Boathouses
- Floating Boathouses
- Boathouses on legs or stilts.

When considering the design of your boathouse or dock you should be striving towards a structure that is "over" the water with minimum surface area impinging on the bottom.

SHORELINE WALLS

The refracted wave energy in front of solid steel, concrete and/or stone walls produces serious problems for fisheries managers. The refracted energy scours the nearshore bottom making it unfit for all living creatures. To the cottager this means turbid waters containing fractured vegetation; an unpleasant environment for any form of water contact recreation.

Wall construction to increase the surface area of your private property and/or "square off" your property will rarely be permitted.

Shorelines should be stabilized to prevent erosion using heavy rock rubble (shot rock, armour stone) from an approved quarry. These walls should be backed by geotextile filter cloth and fibrous woody plant roots. Wave energy can diffuse through these walls; ice energy can shuffle these walls but basically they resettle in position. These walls can conform to the natural contour of your shoreline.

SHORELAND VEGETATION

Our shoreland landscaping ethic basically comes from the pre-1900 flower gardens of Queen Victoria. Most of what we do on the "land" facilitates a large scale nutrient drift into our lakes and rivers. Scientists call this "cultural eutrophication". At the core of the problem is our tendency to remove 30 to 50 foot high trees and replace them with 3" high grass. Shoreline plant nutrient uptake is virtually eliminated. The problem is exacerbated by non native decorative plants that must be "helped" with fertilizers and artificial watering. All surplus rainwaters; roofs, laneways, etc. are channelled and spilled "into the lake".

We must learn to respect and maintain our natural shoreline vegetation patterns. Crown tree cover should be left in place; tree trunks should be trimmed to facilitate a view. Our shores should become rimmed with woody shrubs with fibrous roots.

Nutrient migration into our water bodies causes a bloom of growth in the lower levels of the animal food chain. The upper levels of the food chain, the bass, the pike, the trouts, experience reduced living space. These species fade from our lakes.

AQUATIC PLANTS ("WEEDS")

Nature disapproves of the inrush of nutrients we are encouraging into our water bodies. She does not like extra nutrients sloshing around in her waters. To alleviate the situation she enhances plant growth rates. Her intent is to lock up the nutrients in plant tissue.

When MAN enters the scene our instinct is to "remove the weeds". We are now fighting nature, a dangerous avocation. Surficial temporary relief will be gained by large scale weed removals. However during the apparent period of relief nutrient inflow continues and the plants will return with greater intensity and over a larger area.

Chemical aquatic plant control is under permit from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants is under permit from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Both agencies are interested in facilitating only functionally sized aquatic plant removal projects. O.M.O.E. must think about nutrient concentration levels in the surface waters of Ontario. O.M.N.R. must consider the role that aquatic plants play as fish habitats.

As shoreline property owners we must begin to realize that the value of our shoreline property is inexorably linked to the water quality of our water body. The latter is directly dependant upon OUR behaviour in our shorelines and on our shorelands.

LINDSAY PENNEY
FISHERIES PROJECT BIOLOGIST
EASTERN REGION
OMNR BROCKVILLE
613-342-8524

Author's Note: This is a resume of a presentation made at the Fall F.O.C.A. Seminar, Toronto, 1991. This is not a complete statement of OMNR shore development policies. This is not a legal document. If you are considering a shore development project please consult your local OMNR staff for site specific details and guidance.

The following information is the hours of operation for the "Township of Limerick", disposal hours at the dump and also phone numbers for Reeve and Members of Council.

Office Hours 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Monday to Friday
Tel: (613) 474-2863 Fax: same

Clerk - Jane Sopha (613) 474-2763

Roads Superintendent - Murray Mountney (613) 337-5538

Building Inspector - Mike Crogan - (613) 337-5590
(answering machine) 337-5244

* Reeve - Wes Moffat - (613) 474-2763

Members of Council

Pat Doyle - (613) 474-2338

Reta Evans - (613) 337-5530

Trudy Heersink - (613) 474-2069

Alan Hill - (416) 868-2773 (work)
- (416) 284-0728 (home)

DISPOSAL HOURS

Spring/Summer - May - August

1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Holiday Mondays

Fall - September - October

1:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Holiday Mondays

Winter - November - April

11:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday

The Following information is for the "Township of Tudor/Casheil".

Office Hours:

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
Tel: (613) 474-2583

Building Inspector - Andrew McMurray (613) 474-2583
Roads Superintendent - Boyd Walker (613) 474-2583

* Reeve - Arnold Burkitt (613) 474-2583

Deputy Reeve - Glenn Cunney (613) 474-5495

Members of Council:

Wanda Donaldson - (613) 473-4806
Ray Hennley - (613) 473-4028
Stead Covert - (613) 474-2845

DISPOSAL HOURS

Victoria Day through Thanksgiving

Saturday - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sunday - 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Statutory Holidays - 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Wednesday - 1:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Thanksgiving Day through Victoria Day

Saturday - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Sunday - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Statutory Holidays - 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday - 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.