

◆ Shoreline News ◆

Winter 1997 Steenburg Lake Community Association 39th Year
Member of Crowe Valley Presidents Association



A toast to the new Year 1997. May it be a happy & healthy year for all.

Next issue of Shoreline News will be June 1997. Deadline for input is May 1st - Mail to: Tom Hughes, 6 Highview Trail, Pittsford, NY

Association Officers & Lead Directors

Officers

President - Tom Quinn
Treasurer - Colin Geddes
Recording Secretary - Scott McGlinis
Corresponding Sec. - Tom Hughes

Lead Directors

Membership - Barb Rockwell
Social - Rick & Diane Burke
Municipal Affairs - Tom Little
Lake Stewardship - Griff Lloyd
Historians - Sandra & Bill Dufee

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WINTER UPDATE FROM TOM QUINN

Well folks, we are now well into the Winter of 1997 and as of this writing there is a ton of snow - great for the winter sports! Now, I am really looking forward to our spring and summer seasons.

The forced amalgamation of municipalities under the Harris government is now a reality and we certainly will see many changes. The proposed restructuring of municipal governments will impact on local and municipal school systems, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, and particularly the smaller municipalities that will directly concern our cottage taxes. Certainly this will be an autonomous local government system and any decisions made at this level will trickle down to you and me, the taxpayers.

It is very important that the cottage association remain strong. We will require all the support we can garner to ensure that our cottage lands and lake are protected and a fair tax structure is imposed. Certainly the one we have is not.

As a note of caution, with the recent heavy snowfalls, you should take time out to check your cottage roof, inspect for damage, check that your haven is secure and perhaps take some time to just enjoy the area's "winter wonderland".

I look forward to seeing you in the late spring and my very best regards for a safe, Healthy, Happy New Year.

Who's In

Lake Stewardship Report - Griff Lloyd
Municipal Affairs Report - Tom Little
Septic System - How it works
Jack McCoach's - Boat updates
A New Menace - The round body
Self-Help - Water Quality Readings 1994
Membership & Ownership Changes



A cottage by a
lovely lake.
That is living



Participate
It makes sense

Lake Stewardship Griff Lloyd

Water Testing/Public Beach:

Dave Montrose out of Madoc of the Health Dept. advises us that they are no longer monitoring the beaches. If a complaint is received however, they will follow-up.

Self-Help Program:

A new format was initiated this past summer. MOE now requires 6 sample be taken during the season. Griff Lloyd chose the West Bay for sampling.

The readings for 1994 for West Bay and previous years are included. See page 3.....

Purple Loosestrife:

The association is willing to respond to any new areas of loosestrife infestation. The plan is to include that effort on the same day as trash cleanup, however, you must bring to our attention the areas requiring attention early in the season so we can prepare. The following article appeared in the Toronto Star:

Help curb purple loosestrife

There is no room in Metro - or in the rest of Ontario - for purple loosestrife.

Given a chance, the unwanted European import's bright fuchsia blooms would spread across the province like wildfire, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters says.

Project Purple, launched by the federation in 1992, calls on every available hand in the province to root out the pest during the first week in August, when it is in full bloom and getting ready to set off mature seeds.

Since a single plant produces 2.7 million seeds, even a small eradication effort can yield significant results, officials say.

Fish Forms:

Thanks to those who took the time to complete these forms. Kathy Irwin, biologist at M.N.R. in Bancroft says that these forms are appreciated and provides the M.N.R. a feel as to what is going on in our lake.

Thanks to the following:

Heather & Will Mathieson (20/21)

Hughes & McVey (30) - James McVey the winner of biggest large mouth 5 lbs 20" Bait - frog

Continued on page 3.....

Municipal Affairs Tom Little

Lodge Property:

By law Z-4 - 96 rezoning the 3 parcels that were formally the one large tract into RU - h (Rural-holding) establishes minimum setback from the highwater mark for any principle structure or subsurface septic treatment and disposal system of a minimum of 1,000 feet. All other provisions of the "RU (Rural)" zone shall otherwise apply. The complete by-law is available for inspection at the town office during regular business hours. A map is included for your information on page 6.

Notice of Assessment Appeals:

Notices were sent out for assessment hearings in Bancroft on January 21st, 1997. Here is a fine example of the government scheduling hearings as to assure that the least number of people will be able to participate. On a work day, over 200 miles away from where most of the complainants live. Are we forever to be ridden roughshod over by our officials? Please complain to your MP

Up Date to 'Bass Lake - Hastings County'

Jack McGeachie

Further research has turned up more information on the Drinkwater cabin now part of the Crowe Valley's Conservation area, Lot 23, Con., II, Limerick. A suggested rewrite for this section of 'Bass Lake - Hastings County' might be as follows :

The Gilmour Lumber Company cut pine and cedar in the mid 1800's. By 1865, the date of the American trapping expedition, cutting had apparently moved on to the area around Limerick (Salmon) lake. The lumberjacks were housed in company shanties but some apparently stayed and built their own log cabins and were referred to as squatters.

The 1871 census documents a Francis Ste Marie living on lot 23 Con. II, Limerick. He was a French Catholic born in Quebec, 38 years old, a shanty cook, employee. He owned no property, no livestock, no buildings, no vehicles or crops (Sounds like a lumber camp cook).

McGeachie update continued on page 5



**Agenda Items
for the
annual meeting**

If there is an item you would like discussed please let us know early in case we need to secure a speaker.

Another Alien Fish For Concern

The round goby, an invading species of European fish and the latest threat to Great Lakes ecology, looks like what it is: a menace.

Like the Zebra mussel, the round goby, a native of the Black & Caspian Seas hitchhiked to the great lakes in the ballast of ocean going ships - brings to North America its thick lips, froglike bulging eyes, black spots, trademark single pelvic fin and a bad attitude.

They're robust, tolerant of poor water conditions, spawn frequently - as often as once every 20 days and guard their nests like prizefighters. They can feed in total darkness and eat the eggs of good fish and fingerlings.

We certainly don't want this fish, introduced into Steenburg Lake, so be sure your live well tank is empty if you have been in lake Ontario and don't bring minnows that you have purchased along Ontario's shoreline. According to the MNR about 138 exotic plant and animal species have invaded the Great Lakes, most of them since the late 1950's when the St. Lawrence Seaway opened the Great Lakes to ocean going vessels.

Lake Stewardship Continued from page 2

Dustin Hughes (62) winner of biggest small mouth mouth, 4 lbs. 20" inches, bait - crayfish
Watson (89)

A special mention - Victoria Mathieson (age 11) caught a large mouth 4 lbs. 19 1/2"

Like all good fisherpersion they refused to identify the location of their catch.

We urge the cottagers to complete these forms during the 1997 fishing season. Your canvasser will provide you with the form and they are also available from Bill Willmore (151) or Griff Lloyd (19). For those fishing for splake, the season for Steenburg is Jan. 1st to Sep. 30th. The bass' season is June 28th - Nov. 30th. Those fishing for splake, please include the fish information on your fish form as well, even though you were fishing prior to summer season.

Please advise those fishing for bass prior to opening that they are fishing illegally.

1994 Results - MNR Self-Help Program

West Bay - 1994

SAMPLE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	SECCHI DEPTH (METERS)	CHLOROPHYLL A (UG/L)
06/15/94	4.7	2.1
06/27/94	4.2	2.3
07/04/94	3.8	1.8
07/11/94	4.3	2.6
07/18/94	4.3	1.8
07/26/94	4.3	3.5
08/03/94	4.7	4.7
08/09/94	4.6	1.9
08/15/94	4.3	1.7
08/22/94	4.3	2.2
08/30/94	4.1	1.8
09/06/94	4.1	2.5
09/14/94	4.5	1.9
09/19/94	4.1	1.1
09/26/94	4.4	4.3
10/03/94	4.1	1.5
MEAN	4.3	2.4
MAX	4.7	4.7
MIN	3.8	1.1
N	16	16
SD	0.24	1.00

Historical Record - West Bay

SAMPLE DATE (YEAR)	SECCHI DEPTH (METERS)	CHLOROPHYLL A (UG/L)
1976 **	4.6	2.4
1977	4.7	3.0
1978	4.3	3.0
1979	4.5	3.2
1983	4.3	2.4
1984	3.8	3.6
1985 *	4.2	3.1
1986	3.8	3.1
1987	3.9	1.7
1988 *	4.0	0.3
1989	4.2	3.3
1990	4.2	3.2
1991	4.2	2.1
1992	4.6	3.2
1993	4.0	1.8
MEAN	4.2	2.6
MAX	4.7	3.6
MIN	3.8	0.3
N	15	15
SD	0.29	0.86

Waste disposal

A clean septic system is a good septic system

By KAROL V. MENZIE
and RANDY JOHNSON
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Sometimes we sort of slip into a story topic — as Randy did while trying to negotiate a customer's driveway recently.

The steep, bumpy driveway can be a challenge on a sunny day, but this particular evening was dark and foggy. Randy's battered old 2-wheel-drive pickup just would not make it.

Shifting into first gear gave him only enough traction to keep the truck from sliding into the woods, so he gave up — parking the truck in the grass and walking the rest of the way.

The customer had heard him thrashing around on the driveway and asked if Randy had seen the excavation.

"What excavation?"

"After 30 years, my septic field gave out and we're putting in a new one. The driveway is covered with mud."

It was too dark to see anything, so Randy hadn't had a clue. But, he thought, septic system failure — what a great topic for a story. How do septic systems work, and how can you prolong the life of your system?

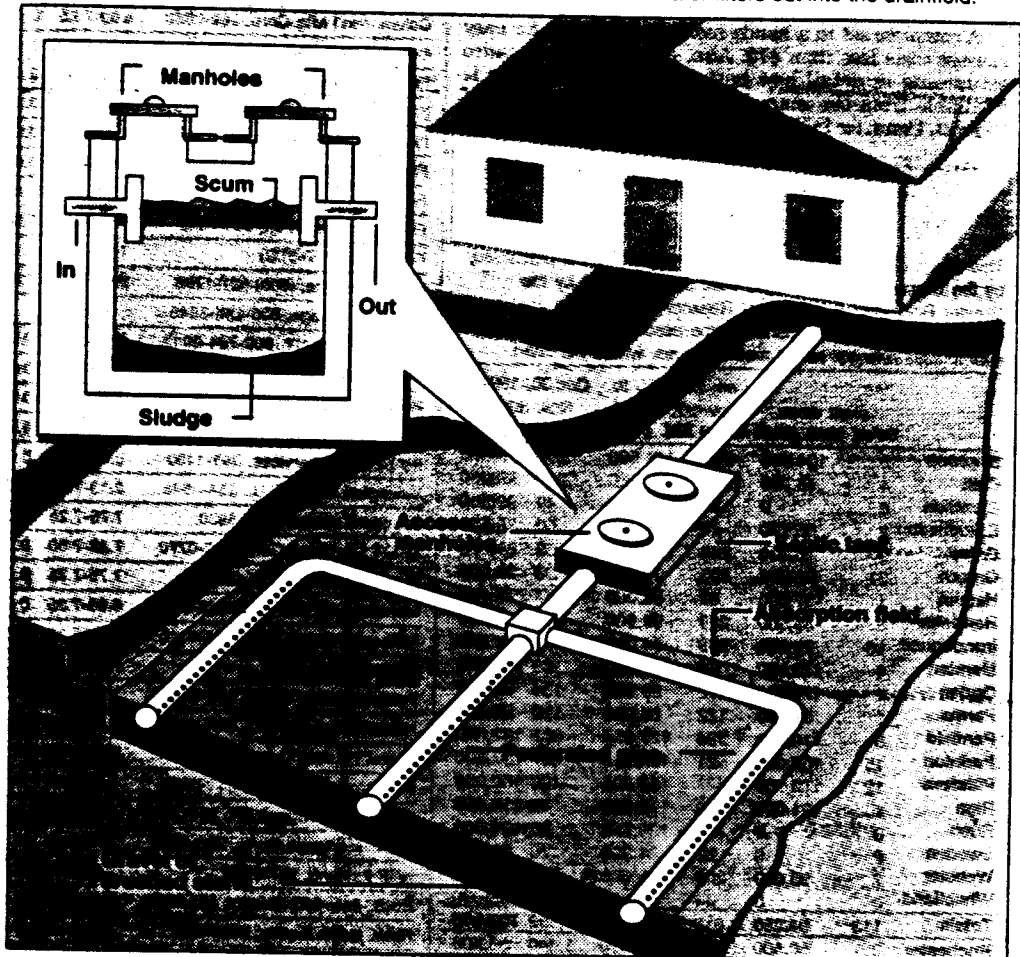
A typical home septic system consists of an underground, water-tight container (the septic tank), a soil absorption drainage field (pipes buried in the ground, surrounded by gravel) and a box in between them that distributes liquid from the tank to the field.

Waste water leaves the house through a pipe connected to the septic tank. Baffles in the tank slow incoming waste and prevent sewage from flowing directly through the tank into the drainage field.

The septic tank is where the real work goes on in getting household wastes ready for distribution into

How a septic tank system works

A septic tank is made of fiberglass or concrete and can hold one day's flow of home waste water. Solids settle to the bottom, light materials float on the surface and waste water filters out into the drainfield.



Knight-Ridder Tribune

the drainage field. The tank has three levels: A bottom layer of sludge, which consists of heavy solids; a middle liquid layer, which consists of dissolved materials such as detergents and small amounts of suspended solids, and an upper layer of scum made up of solids that float, such as grease.

Solids and scum in the tank are digested by anaerobic bacteria (bacteria that live in the absence of oxygen). These little fellows liquify up to 50 percent of

the solids and scum. The liquid is carried out to the absorption field and the undigested materials remain in the tank as sludge.

Every time raw sewage enters the tank, an equal amount of fluid is forced out. The fluid that leaves the tank still may contain small amounts of suspended and dissolved matter, including organisms that can cause disease. These liquids leach out through holes in the drainage field pipes, and bacteria in the ground continue the breakdown

process.

Septic systems usually fail in one of two ways, according to Matt Watkins, sanitarian with Maryland's Harford County Health Department. One is when the drainage field becomes saturated from overuse or surface water, and the other when the tank contains too much solid material, which can get into the pipes and clog them.

"As far as good septic mainte-

Continued on bottom of page 5.....

McGeachie Update from page 2.....

The 1881 census documents the Conley family on their Crown Grant between Bass Lake and St. Ola. Included in the family were the sons Lawrence, aged 20 and David, aged 16. (So Lawrence and David were brothers not father and son). While David bought Lot 24 in 1890, Lawrence had preceded him to buy Lot 23 some time between 1881 and 1890. In 1905 Lawrence sold Lot 23 to Drinkwater who in turn sold Grandfather Brett in 1917.

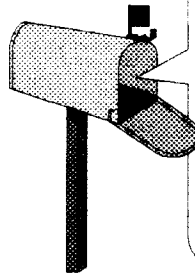
Those who purchased copies of 'Bass Lake - Hastings County' may wish to make note of these corrections and additions for their copies



New Owners & Members

- Patrica Newton (32) - Gormley, Ont.
- Diane & Jerry Hensen (39) - Grimsby, Ont.
- Robert & Pat Reid (148) - Oshawa
- Harold George (182) - Fairhope, Alabama
- Bruce George (182) - Edgewater, Maryland

Association Dues For 1997



Mail to:

**Barbara Rockwell
RR#2
P.O. Box 325
Gilmour, Ont.
KOL TWO**

(THANK YOU)

You will still get a canvasser call even though you mail in your dues over the winter. Expenses are on-going, so cash flow becomes a problem when the association's income all comes during July/August. It would be a big help to receive some of that due money in a more regulated flow. If you do it right after you read this newsletter you will have done a good deed for 1997. If you wait, you will forget until that canvasser comes a knocking at your door.

END OF STORY

New Members

Carol Fleming (43) - Rochester, NY

New Owners - Not Memebers

Wayne & Marilyn Pickard (49.2) - Courtice, Ont.

A gem of a lake



Keep it clean

Septic
Continued from
page 4



nance goes," Watkins said, "the most important thing is to pump the tank on a regular basis".

Beyond that, there are plenty of things the homeowner can do to make things easy for a septic system

- Don't overload the system. Don't run the dishwasher or washing machine in water-usage prime time, such as when toilets and bathtubs and showers are in demand.
- Don't use a garbage disposal and don't dump coffee grounds in the sink. Increased solids in the tank mean it must be pumped out more often.
- Fats and oils will clog the system; never pour them down the drain.
- Put paper towels, facial tissues, cigarette butts, disposable diapers and feminine hygiene products in the trash.
- Natural bacteria work fine in breaking down sewage. Additives such as "starter enzymes" or yeast can disrupt the system by breaking up the sludge and scum layers too thoroughly and causing solids to flush out into the drainage field.
- Don't use more than the recommended amount of detergent.
- Plants with shallow roots or dense ground covers are best plants to put over the absorption field. Tree roots can clog or break pipes.
- Don't allow the soil over the septic field to become compacted by driving or parking on it. Don't locate outbuildings such as garages or sheds over the field.
- The tank should be pumped and cleaned regularly by a licensed professional. Make sure the baffles are inspected and the tank is checked for leaks. A 1000 gallon tank serving a three-bedroom house with 4 residents should be pumped every one to three years

Make sure you know where your system is located. If you recently purchased the property ask the former owner exactly where the tank and drainage field are located.

