

MEMORANDUM TO OTTY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

The pollution control programme which was outlined in our letter of January 2, 1972, has been modified. Here are the new procedures.

The 1971 survey indicated that 208 cottages have sewage disposal systems that may require modification. Ninety-six owners have been notified and last month they were invited to discuss their problems with Provincial Abatement Engineers at meetings held in Perth and Ottawa. Notifications are now being sent out to an additional 56 and, if necessary, Abatement Engineers will visit the Lake again on July 15 and 16.

This leaves a number of cottages with questionable sewage disposal systems where action has not been taken. These cases are not considered to be serious but they present an awkward problem. Most involve systems that were installed by previous owners, or are on properties that have been handed down from one generation to another. In all cases the present owners do not know exactly how their systems were constructed, and they cannot be properly examined by simple surface surveys.

The demands for pollution control in Ontario are growing at an accelerating rate, and government officials are being hard pressed to keep up with their responsibilities. To assist cottagers who have not heard from the Ministry of the Environment and who are concerned about their sewage disposal systems, the Committee has arranged a training seminar on pollution abatement for Pollution Control Counsellors. If you have questions about your sewage disposal system, or if you feel that you may be in the category referred to, get in touch with the Counsellor in your area. He may be able to help immediately. If not, he will assist you to prepare a request for a more comprehensive examination by the Abatement Engineers.

The future development of lakeshore property is a very important matter that concerns us all. If the present growth rate continues we will have a lake completely surrounded by cottages, on relatively small lots, and it may be impossible to control pollution and maintain a good environment.

The people who have examined the Lake feel that we have enough shoreline cottages and that if the number continues to increase, we may require sewers and holding tanks. The costs will be prohibitive. A holding tank costs about \$1800.00 to install, and each clean out runs in the neighbourhood of \$100.00. The costs of sewers would be astronomical.

Continued growth will also destroy wildlife. The loons and great blue herons will be a thing of the past. Now there are times when some of us would like to see the beavers go, but the beavers, muskrats, and otters are part of the Lake environment, and we have no right to destroy it for them, or for our own children.

At the moment a good deal of work is underway to determine the most favourable population levels for recreational lakes. The University of Toronto is studying population capacity based upon water volume and ecological considerations. A major American university is engaged on studies to determine the effect of motors and other non-sewage pollutants caused by excessive populations. The CORTS Committee, which examined the Rideau and Trent water systems, has even recommended a novel development scheme to push new cottages back from the lake-shores and leave corridors for lake use. These and other factors must be taken into consideration in future planning.

People concerned with tax revenues and the rising costs of local government, land developers, contractors, and service agencies, have justifiable reservations about restrictions on future growth, but if the lake is destroyed there will be nothing left for any of us.

Next Autumn the Committee will sponsor a meeting to determine future development on Otty Lake. We plan to bring together all people who are concerned with these matters to work out a practical long-range plan. The Minister of the Environment for Ontario has indicated that he will endeavour to attend, and we expect to have officials from all levels of government. If you have any suggestions, send them to us or refer them to the Pollution Control Counsellor in your area.

\* The Annual Meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 15, 1972, in the Conference Room, Second Floor, Perth Town Hall. The agenda will include, ratification of the new constitution, an oral report by the Chairman on the Committee's activities, a financial report by the Secretary-Treasurer, the election of new officers, and a discussion about future plans. Copies of the Constitution, the Financial Statement, and the Agenda will be available at the door. This will be an important meeting and members should endeavour to attend.

A number of property owners have not paid their dues for 1972. If you are in this category, please send your \$2.00 fee to the Secretary-Treasurer,

*Mrs. John Burns, 764 Lonsdale Road, Manor Park, Ottawa, Ontario. Cheques should be made out to The Otty Lake Pollution Control Committee.*

*If this letter has been sent to the wrong address, or if the property has changed hands, would you please advise the Secretary.*