

OTTY LAKE

Hoffman - Budget only

Handwritten notes:
Copp
Atkinson
Abbott

Olson?

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER January 1976

Dear Member:

Your Executive for 1975-76 is:

Chairman	David E. Code	Ottawa 722 0339
Vice Chair and Director, Abatement and Conservation	Carol Liberty <i>Judge George</i>	Ottawa 824 1533 <i>236 0056</i>
Sec'y Treasurer	Anne Atkinson	Ottawa 725 1430 <i>city 267 5817</i> <i>733 0570</i> <i>236-3613</i>
Director, Water Quality	Bill Schriever	Ottawa 746 8040
Director, Legal Affairs	Chas. Robertson	Ottawa 733 3379
Director, Membership	Jane Robertson	Toronto 266 6801
Past Chairman	J. Kim Abbott	Balderson 18r2

COUNSELLORS

AREA # 1.	Mike Valiquette	Ottawa 722 0625
2.	Herb Hollingsworth	Otty Lake 267 5260
3.	Harold Hayes	Ottawa 733 7429
4.	Paul Fleming	Ottawa 224 5366
5.	Ian Millar	Stittsville 836 1426
6.	Nils Olson	Ottawa 749 7471
7.	Bud Ramsay	Sm. Falls 283 4953
8.	Jimmy Copp	
9.	<i>Alan White</i> to be announced	
10.	<i>Ann Dawson</i> Stu Hemsley	Ottawa 236 4740 (2674953)
11.	Frank Thompson	Perth 267 3234
12.	Amy Pokorny	Otty Lake 267 1626

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dr. I. Hoffman, Dr. F.G. Green, Mrs. Judy Burns,
Mr. D.A. Hill, Dr. C.B. Church, Mr. Hans Pokorny
Mr. M.J. Quinn

Highlights of the Annual Meeting - July 12, 1975

Kim Abbott reported that the 1974 coliform testing had produced inconclusive results. Because the results revealed fluctuation in the bacteria levels, it was decided by the executive to forget about litigation at that time, and all pledges and funds were therefore returned.

Other items discussed were: unsanitary landfill, water levels, the survey of the lakeshore, and future political activity. Please read below for further news on these subjects.

Water Levels

The 1975 water levels have been lower than at any time since the installation of the dam at Jebb's Creek in 1967. The principal reason was the very low amount of rainfall received this year. However, your executive recognizes differing points of view on the subject, insofar as people can hope to control water, Nature and beavers notwithstanding. Some like it high, at least in the summer; others want it low to prevent damage to docks and trees, at least in the winter and spring. Your executive has decided to maintain the normal July 1st level during July and August by use of the dam, and to lower the water as much as the dam will permit after September 1st each year. Carol Liberty has this responsibility and is the only person authorized to exercise it. We earnestly ask all other persons to leave the dam alone so that this effort to meet the wishes of the majority, while respecting the rights of the minority, can succeed. Carol is also arranging for beaver control.

Water Quality

Coliform bacteria counts this year have generally been at acceptable levels. But, before we jump for joy, let's reflect on two things:

a) a dry summer made weeping tile systems evaporate water more efficiently than usual and,

b) in spite of the warm, dry weather it was a rather quiet summer on Otty Lake, with only modest use of cottages and their sewage systems. Lew Meraw confirms this, as he found that business was light at the store.

Water clarity tests - chlorophyll, Secchi disc readings, etc., and oxygen tests give us no reason for satisfaction yet. It may be that the aging process (known as eutrophication) is a greater threat to the survival of our lake than the bacterial contamination. So, take it easy on the use of detergents, and don't let a faulty septic system (or an overloaded one) feed nutrients into Otty. Our testing during most of the 1975 season was performed by Roger Beesley, a student at Algonquin College, working in co-operation with Sue Rogers and Pat Gold on a grant provided by the Opportunities for Youth program.

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Memorandum

O F Y Survey - Gold, Rogers and Beesley

This survey was completed and the results compiled by the end of November. It is an impressive document of 156 pages, covering many aspects of Otty Lake: its soils, geological formations, flushing rates, history of development, characteristics as a natural resource, and forms of government. It makes interesting reading for many reasons.

The authors examined a number of formulas for determining the capacity of a lake to sustain cottage development and use without deterioration in the water quality. They concluded that the most important measure was the " Phosphorus Loading Concept " developed by Dr. R.A. Vollenweider and J.P. Dillon. By this formula, it appears that Otty Lake could support approximately 242 cottages. We now have almost 400.

The authors have therefore advised that the lake is over-populated and have made a number of recommendations, including the following:

- no further shoreline development
- future building, if any, to be much farther set back from shore
- no more septic tanks (use outhouse or other system)
- no building or filling in areas designated " hazard lands "
- Townships to institute zoning bylaws

They give credit to the efforts lakeshore residents have made, since 1971, to reduce or eliminate the sources of pollution, but advise that further efforts are still required. Copies of the report have been sent to the Townships of North Burgess and North Elmsley, the Tay Valley Planning Board, Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources and to other agencies. A copy has been placed, by the authors, in the Perth Public Library for all to see.

Membership

Jane Robertson reports that most members have paid their annual \$5.00 fee. If you are one of the ones she missed, and want to set things straight, you may send your \$5.00 to Jane at 6 Sonneck Square, Toronto M1E 1A9 or to Anne Atkinson at 885 Melwood Avenue, Ottawa K2A 3C4.

Finances

Some have asked: Where does the money go? The answer is that most of it goes for information materials, such as printing and mailing these newsletters, and for pollution control advice, lists of phosphate-free detergents, map of the lake, etc. A lesser amount has gone for special travel expenses for the former executive. And recently we spent sums totalling \$87.00 to help the three young people finish their survey and prepare their report after their grant money ran out.

Many other costs are borne by the members of the executive but not claimed, such as travel to out-of-town meetings, postage and long-distance telephone charges.

The present bank balance is \$1,586.70.

Executive Activities

Your executive has had a number of meetings and other contacts with:

- Lanark Land Division Committee
- Ministry of Natural Resources (Ontario)
- Ministry of the Environment (Ontario)
- Lanark-Leeds Health Unit
- Lanark Area Re-Structuring Group
- Tay Valley Planning Board
- Townships of N. Burgess and N. Elmsley

and with representatives from other lakes in the area.

Regatta

Recreation activity this year consisted of a sailing regatta held August 31st. The winner of the handicap trophy was Jack Watt in a Kestrel; and the winner of the small boat class was Merilee Green in a Sunflower.

Sewage Systems

Bill Scriver and Fred Green are compiling a list of sewage systems that we can recommend to cottagers, and that are approved by competent authorities. We hope to get this list, complete with prices, distributed in the next newsletter.

Inspection and Enforcement

The Perth Health Unit inspected several areas of the lakeshore in July of this year, and we are at present awaiting word on follow-up or corrective action to be taken.

Present law in Ontario permits installation of septic systems as close as 50' from the shore. In the Province of Quebec private systems must be at least 100' away, or farther if the soil conditions are less than perfect. We think this makes sense, and we are asking the Ontario M.O.E. to think about it.

Land Severances

Your committee has continued to oppose applications for land severance where the effect would be to increase the number of cottages on the lake while the present pollution problem is being fought. Those applications that would not increase the number of cottages on the lake are unopposed, as in the past.

Volunteers

Volunteers would be appreciated as alternate counsellors (in areas that lack them), as assistant Regatta convenors, membership representatives, and a few other occasional tasks. Most of these would take about 3-4 hours a year of your time. If you could help out, just call any one of the executive or your own area counsellor.

Political Action

The annual meeting instructed the executive to explore the possibility of action to ensure the election of councillors who would be responsive to the needs of cottagers in the 1976 elections for the Townships of North Burgess and North Elmsley. Discussions have begun with other organizations in the area, and a few names of possible candidates are already known.

David E. Code,
Chairman.