

# OTTY LAKE

1977-1

## POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE

### ELECTION 1976 - CONGRATULATIONS HANS !

In September your executive formed an election committee which met representatives from Black, Pike, Big Rideau and Long Lakes to form an all-lakes election committee for North Burgess. The members from the other lakes made it plain that they would support only one or two candidates - of a possible 5 - and only persons who would speak for the legitimate interests of the permanent residents as well as the seasonal residents. This was agreed, and the all-lakes committee decided to support Hans Pokorny and Basil Hutchison, both of Otty Lake.

Misfortune struck in November when Basil suffered a heart attack that forced him to withdraw. There was no time to obtain a replacement suitable to the committee. On Saturday, November 27, sufficient cottagers and their friends made the trip to the advance poll to help elect Hans to the third of the three positions that were contested. Basil has been making a good recovery and hopes to be able to assist Hans from the sidelines.

### BY LAWS AND OFFICIAL PLANS

As reported in our newsletter 1976-4 of October, 1976, the By-Law that was considered in North Burgess Township carried provision for a set of standards governing all new development within 1500' of all lakes. It also provided for a freeze on all such lands unless the lot was already severed.

The history of this Holding By-Law goes as follows:

May-Sept. 1976	Formulation and discussion in committee and with Provincial officials
October 4th	1st and 2nd readings given in Council
November 1st	3rd reading. By-Law in force.
December 7th	In the face of angry protests from a group of persons who packed the Council chamber, the Council voted to rescind the By-Law.

This activity caused quite a stir, and has attracted considerable attention to our concerns at Otty Lake ( as well as some embarrassment for the Council ). It is plain that only certain features of the By-Law caused problems, and there seems a good chance of a new By-Law appearing before long.

At the same time as these events were taking place, the Tay Valley Area Planning Board was working its way through the 3rd and 4th drafts of the official plan, of which the 1st version had appeared in July of 1975.

Hans Pokorny has been attending all of these meetings and representing our interests whenever the Chairman or other executive member was not in attendance.

We have also expressed our views to this Board, in writing and in person. The most recent opportunity was the public hearing for the draft plan held in Perth on January 17th. A large audience was there, including a delegation from Otty Lake and others from neighbouring lakes.

The principal value of this plan is that, for the first time, there will be set out a set of principles for the type of development that will be permitted in various parts of the area, and under what conditions. The 57 pages of the plan are too long to discuss here, but let us say that they are to serve as guidelines for the municipalities and as a basis for the By-Laws that they would be urged to adopt. In fact, this draft plan has already served as the basis for several of the features in the By-Law of November, 1976 ( Burgess 76-11 ). The Official Plan and the sort of By-Laws we want are therefore closely related; and although we would prefer some improvements in the plan, even its present form will make our work easier. We have therefore advised the Board that we favour the Plan and recommend speedy adoption.

Discussions are also continuing with the new Councils in both Burgess and Elmsley, primarily through the Property Standards Committee.

A special executive meeting was held in Ottawa on January 12th,



at which were present all available members of the executive, area counsellors, and members of the advisory council. After a full discussion of these complex issues, it was decided by unanimous decision to endorse the present policy of the executive to continue by quiet diplomacy to fight for what is most important and to concede gracefully and quickly what is not.

#### SUB-DIVISION ALTERED

Even a draft plan can have some significant effect. At its November meeting, the Tay Valley Planning Board decided not to approve the Carson sub-division in North Elmsley in total. Only that part of the scheme that lay outside the 1500' zone boundary could be approved. There is, of course, no assurance that things will stay this way forever; but in the meantime the Planning Board has recognized the validity of the things we have been saying during the past year.

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The past chairman, Mr. J.K. Abbott, has written to object to the impression that may have been given in newsletter 1976-4 that he was in agreement with the election proposals. At his request, therefore, this will confirm that he had nothing whatever to do with any of the events or achievements of 1976.

#### FIPE EXTINGUISHERS

Maybe in future, when the urgency is off the pollution issue, we will obtain better fire and police protection. But what are you doing now to protect yourself? It is a good thing to have a fire extinguisher near the door - something simple to use, and one that you know you can rely on. Think about it.

Water pump - for paper and grease fires

CO2 - for grease or electrical fires

Dry chemical - for grease or electrical

#### EXECUTIVE MEMBER

We welcome to the executive its newest member, Judy George, who brings us up to full strength. Judy was formerly the Counsellor for Area 8. Frank Thompson is now the Counsellor for that

Area, with the continued assistance of Ann Parsons as alternate.

### VOLUNTEERS

Speaking of executive and other roles, why don't some of you stop being so shy? It really is not necessary to wait until you are asked. And if you are nervous about getting in for more than you can accept at the moment, just tell us what are your interests and how much time you can spare. We're approachable. Call me at 722 0339 Ottawa or contact any other person on your list. One of the needs is for water sampling. Bill Schriever would appreciate hearing from anyone who could give a couple of hours on each of several consecutive weekends.

### NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT

We know that there are still some sewage systems on our lake that do not meet current standards. The Minister of the Environment has been approached about this but has repeated an earlier statement, saying: "...the fact that systems approved in the past do not meet our current regulations is not sufficient reason for us to require alteration to meet current standards if they are not causing a problem."

Ministry officials have advised us that municipal By-Laws are the only answer.

Phosphate readings were about the same in 1976 as in 1975, that is, still hovering in the danger area. Coliform counts were very slightly higher in 1976 than in 1975 ( due, no doubt, to the higher rainfall ) but lower than those of 1974.

We know that Secchi Disc and chlorophyll readings by themselves are only a general indicator of the trophic health of a lake, and we have asked the Ministry if they can explain the increased sightings of algae and weed growth ~~may~~ of us noticed in 1976. Ministry officials are willing to take into account any evidence of this kind, so if you have any good quality pictures or other evidence, please feel free to forward it to either Bill Schriever or the Chairman.

David E. Code  
Chairman.