

OTTY LAKE association

1979-1

April 1979

1978 WATER TEST RESULTS

The 1978 results have now been tabulated and analysed by Ned Goodhue, with assistance from Bill Schriever and others. The Secchi Disc measurement for water clarity was very similar to that of 1977, averaging fractionally over 4 metres.

The bacterial (coliform) counts were also very similar to those of 1977. The overall result cannot be said to be either very good nor very bad; it could be better if it were not for a few "hot spots", all of which appear to be readily attributable to their sources. These sources are known and they have been reported to the Health Unit and other authorities for corrective action.

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ELECTION TO OFFICE IN THE ASSOCIATION

There will be elections for several positions this summer. No one on the executive has any desire to monopolize these jobs - we are perfectly happy to share the tasks with others. If you would like to help but are unsure what is needed or what you might contribute, call one of us and tell us what your interests are. We will be glad to tell you what we need most, and how much time would be involved.

Call Dave Code 722-0339 or Marg Bishop 733-0570.

Otty Lake good neighbours

THE LIGHTFORD SUB DIVISION

Everyone probably knows by now that Dr. Grover Lightford is planning a subdivision of more than 80 homes, on the northwest corner of Otty Lake, with shoreline on the north side of Little Otty and east as far as Whiskey Island. The developer is taking some trouble to make this an acceptable project. Even so, there have been aspects that this Association and individual members have questioned and criticized. A public hearing on March 10 in Perth was well attended by lake residents.

The Tay Valley Planning Board, on March 19, gave approval in principle to the project. It now goes to the Township Council (Burgess) and then to the various Ministries of the Ontario government for their comments. This Association will be presenting specific recommendations during April to the Township Council. Other discussions are continuing with Dr. Lightford, the Planning Board and the Council.

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GRILL FRILL

A story appearing in the "Ontario Cottager" contains a useful warning to cottagers and campers:

"Do not use the shelves of old refrigerators as cooking grills. Those shelves may be cadmium plated; cadmium when heated produces a noxious compound. You will not really enjoy your grilled steaks, because you will not live long enough."

DAM PATROL

Water levels this spring seem to be a little less harmful than in some recent years (at the time we went to press), perhaps due in part to the efforts of some of our Dam Patrollers during the winter months.



A small group of Otty Lakers has been taking turns, mostly during the early weeks of summer, to keep the beaver dams open and let the water find the levels we have agreed to maintain. This complements the co-operation of Mr. Thompson of Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, who is keeping the lower end of the creek open in the same way.

We can always use more patrollers - in that way no one finds it a burden. Anyone who would like to make his contribution to Otty Lake in this way is welcome. For information call the President at 722-0339 or your Area Counsellor.

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WASHING SODA TO THE RESCUE

Pollution Probe has in the past expressed its annoyance at regulations under the Canada Water Act which, although restricting phosphates in most detergents to 5% or less, continue to permit dishwasher detergents to be sold with up to 45% phosphates. Now, we do not expect many Otty Lakers will bring a city convenience of that kind when they come to the lake to "rough it" for the weekend. But in case anyone might have done this, PROBE has a suggestion:

"Arm and Hammer washing soda, when used with soap provides an alternative to using laundry detergents that contain the phosphates so harmful to our waterways."

SEWAGE DISPOSAL ENFORCEMENT

During the winter, discussions have been conducted with the Ministry of the Environment and other officials in connection with enforcement of sewage disposal law, local and provincial. Most people have been conscientious about the basic requirements, such as:

- 50' setback from the shore for sewage systems (minimum. All systems should meet this)
- 100' setback or more for all new systems since 1976
- 3' above the water table or spring high water mark
- septic tank and tile bed of proper size

but a few still seem to need reminding. July 1st is when the municipal Property Standards By-laws will begin to pinch those who still do not meet these very reasonable standards.

If you know of a problem area, be sure your area counsellor is aware of it. We mean to KEEP IT CLEAN at Otty Lake.

