

# OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION

1981 - 2

JUNE, 1981

## annual meeting

SATURDAY JULY 11, 1981

9:30 a.m.

PERTH TOWN HALL

In accordance with the constitution, the annual general meeting will take place in the Perth Town Hall on Saturday July 11th. The AGENDA will include:

- Executive reports
- Status report on dam and water regime
- Water quality reports
- Public Information program
- Recreation proposals
- Subdivisions and Zoning By-laws
- Health Inspections and Enforcement
- Political situation in Townships
- Elections to the Executive

There will be several positions open on the executive this year, as well as other posts. Those who are willing to offer to serve, in whatever capacity, are invited to call Dave Code at 267-5053 weekends, or 722-0339; Judith George (c/o Goodhue) at 267-3231 weekends, or 236-0058.



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## Otty Lake good neighbours

## WATER LEVELS

The water regime is working as planned. We reported in the October 1980 newsletter that the advice received from the Ministry of Natural Resources was being followed and that, in accordance with the decision taken at last years annual meeting, the dam has been opened. The water is now free to pass into Jebb's Creek in whatever way nature dictates.

Speaking of Nature, the old lady seems to have a sense of humour, to judge by the unusual spring we have recently experienced. There was a heavy runoff in late February, then practically none at all in April, so it is not easy to draw meaningful comparisons with conditions that existed in those years when the dam was a factor. We will just have to wait a bit longer to analyse the differences.

The ice went out this year on April 2nd, almost 3 weeks earlier than usual. By the first of May, the water level was down to about the level we have called the Datum, i.e. the average July 1st level of the early '70s. But then the rains of late May raised it back  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches higher.

In case we reach the usual summer levels before July 1st we must bear in mind that the advice from the Ministry was to allow the level to get down lower than usual during the summer months, for one or two years, in order to "upgrade the water quality and rejuvenate the fishery in Otty Lake and to create some self-cleaning conditions", permitting the shores an opportunity to be scoured and baked in the summer sun and thus get rid of some of the excess plant growth. The intent is to give the lake a chance to recover.

We must therefore not be alarmed when water levels go down in August to the levels of 1965 or lower. Some shoals that have been lurking just beneath the surface in recent years will now emerge where they can be seen. Deeper ones will now be nearer the surface and will need to be avoided by boaters. The old Otty

Lake hands may remember all these shoals and how to avoid them. However, for those with poor memories or more recent experience, your Association has something to ease the situation. With a little help from his friends Hans Pokorny is preparing a special shoal map. We hope to have it ready, at a modest price, in time for the Annual Meeting on July 11th.

#### POLLUTION EDUCATION

Judith George is organizing the annual education program, to be brought to you by your area counsellors with up-to-date information on what we can all do to reduce pollution in our lake. In the meantime, the standard advice holds good:

- Avoid making unnecessary waste water
- Avoid detergents that contain phosphates (and that still includes all dishwasher detergents)
- Leave the shoreline as undisturbed as possible
- Keep fertilizers well away from the shore
- Get your sewage disposal systems 100' or more back from shore, if you can; new ones at least that.

#### THE COTTAGER MAGAZINE

Have you seen the COTTAGER magazine? It is published six times per year, and contains articles on boating, care of cottage properties, pollution control, rural tax assessments, how to choose canoes and sailboats, and many other topics of interest to those who like to live beside lakes and rivers. We recommend it to you, and will have a copy on display at the annual meeting. The annual subscription is \$6.00 and can be had by writing, The Cottager, 309 Cooper St., Suite 201, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0G5 Ph. 235-7156.

An interesting article "Lakeshore Capacity Study" taken from the COTTAGER Spring '81 issue is located further on in this newsletter.

#### MEMBERSHIPS

Many of us like to pay our annual dues at the Annual Meeting; but you can't do it unless you remember to bring your \$5.00 with you.

NEW SAILING SCHEDULE

In response to suggestions from interested sailors and would-be sailors, there will be a few adjustments to this year's arrangements. Weekly races, which are very casual activities, will now start at noon Sundays and finish by about 2:00p.m. We will also try having the start and finish of these outings at different parts of the lake, to give the smaller boats a better chance to participate.

START: 12 noon Sundays, from June 21st

June 21	- Code's Cove	-	course to be chosen
28	- " "	-	" " " "
July 5	- off Mile Point	-	" " " "
12	- off Three Sisters Island	-	" " " "
19	- " " " "	-	" " " "

The second half of the season will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Remember, these "races" are very informal and all types of boats and boaters are welcome, including beginners. It's a good way to learn how to get better performance out of your boat. Tentative date for the annual Regatta: AUGUST 30.

LAKESHORE CAPACITY STUDY

**Lakeshore Capacity Study**

by Martin H. Sinclair

The Ministry of Housing is conducting the Lakeshore Capacity Study in response to a need to anticipate environmental changes resulting from cottage development. It is hoped to determine the degree to which selected environmental features are altered through the construction and use of cottages. As the Ministry responsible for planning under The Planning Act, Housing has taken the lead in this research in co-operation with the ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The study is divided into six major areas of specialized research. The land use component examines the source of impact on the natural environment, looking at development in quantitative terms by measuring the number and age of cottages, spatial distribution and density of development, and the number of people using cottages.

Four other parts of the study deal with measuring environmental impact. The trophic status component investigates the relationship of development to nutrients in lake water. The microbiology component examines selected pathogens (harmful bacteria) which could be a health risk in the water. The wildlife and wildlife habitat component examines the effects of development on flora and fauna, and the fisheries component investigates the impact of cot-

tages on fishing and on fish production. The effects of development on where the fish live, feed and spawn are also being studied.

Finally, the results of the research are being integrated to develop a method for predicting in a comprehensive manner the effect of cottage development on the natural environment.

The pilot area for the study is the Muskoka-Haliburton area. Upon successful completion of the research for this area, it is expected that the methodology will be adapted to other parts of the province.

Upon completion of the study in the next 12 months, the results will provide planners and elected officials with better information on which to base their development plans and decisions.

NEW MAP OF OTTY LAKE

Did someone say maps? It is now three years since we produced our last map, and some of the names have changed. Art Eastham is preparing this one, and it will be ready by July. As always, it is free to members, but five dollars for non-members.

SEPTIC TANK PUMPING

The Health Unit advises that you should normally expect to pump out your septic tank every three years; normal cottage use will create a build-up of sludge in that time which, if not removed, will impair the effectiveness of the system. How about yours? Is this the year for you? Local tradesmen who do septic tank pumping are listed in the Perth Courier.

NATURE TOURS

If you would be interested in a short nature tour around a portion of the lake, give a call to Amy Pokorny at 267-1626 or Alex Campbell at 267-5976 for further information. We will discuss it at greater length at the Annual General Meeting.

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Submitted without comment by a friend in North Burgess.

