

# OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION

1982-1

MARCH, 1982

## WATER SAFETY

We all know that when we are out on the water in our boats we are required by law to have a life jacket or cushion for each person. According to Constable Barry Boyce, our resident OPP officer, we are liable to fines of \$28.00 for non-compliance, plus \$10.00 for each additional person not equipped with a life jacket or cushion.

Power boaters are also reminded of the following:

- observe age limits for operating power boats
- keep well out from shore when driving fast
- go slow in channels and near non-powered craft or swimmers
- learn and observe the rules of the road
- do not take unnecessary chances
- avoid unnecessary noise.

## SEPTIC TANK OPERATION

Many questions have been asked about the operation of septic tank systems, such as: HOW OFTEN DO I NEED TO PUMP IT OUT ? and WHAT ABOUT PRODUCTS THAT ADVERTISE: "YOU NEED NEVER PUMP AGAIN"?

The following suggestions are based on recommendations of the Ministry of the Environment. They may be helpful.

1. A septic tank system will accept all normal household waste water - from the bath, kitchen, washing machine and toilet. Its operation depends on the activity of the bacteria it contains.
2. There are sufficient bacteria in the sewage entering the system under normal conditions to keep it operating satisfactorily.

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# Otty Lake good neighbours

3. There are various preparations on the market which are said to start, accelerate or improve action in the septic tank. These are unnecessary and some treatments may be harmful.
4. Inspect the tank yearly, particularly if there are trees nearby. Tree roots in the tank or weepers may be a problem.
5. Clean out the tank when scum and sludge accumulation become excessive. This may be needed every 3 or 4 years of normal operation. Seasonal use should require less frequent cleaning.

For further information refer to the publication "Cottage Country" prepared by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.



### TAY VALLEY PLAN

The Tay Valley Planning Board staged a public meeting in Perth on February 20th, to discuss the proposed changes to the Official Plan. Your executive made representations, along with participants from other lakes in the area.

The Otty Lake Secondary Plan remains unchanged, and one of the intentions of the new changes was to bring all other lakes under the same standards we have had since October, 1979. However, a few changes do affect us, for example the number of severances allowed per property, will now be 5. We will report further in the next newsletter and at the 1982 Annual Meeting.

### WHERE DID MY \$5.00 GO ?

Otty Lake Association membership fees have remained at the bargain price of \$5.00 since 1974, as your executive

strives to keep the costs as low as possible. (It is not uncommon for other lakes to charge \$25.00 or more, to support recreation, legal and representational expenses.)

In 1980-81 the expenses were for these purposes:

		<u>% of Total</u>
Printing and mailing Newsletter	\$ 438.46	27.8
Removal of dam	551.16	35
Operating expenses	347.27	22.2
FOCA fees	127.00	8
Water testing	63.15	4
Legal (OMB)	50.00	3
	<u>1,577.04</u>	<u>100</u>

Further details are available every year at the Annual Meeting.

BUILDING PERMITS



Members are reminded that several By-laws in both Townships contain provisions governing the erection or extension of buildings and other structures. These are good By-laws; your executive assisted the Townships in preparing them, and we hope that all residents of Otty Lake will agree that it is in everybody's interest to abide by them. The laws in question are the Building By-law, the Zoning By-law and the Property Standards By-law.

To construct any building, dock, shed, deck, sleeping cabin, or other structure, you should notify the building inspector in order to ensure that what you have in mind is legally acceptable. The inspector will be glad to advise you of your rights and needs. If the value (not the cost) of the structure is expected to be more than \$2500.00 a permit will be required. This can be obtained for a modest fee. Permission is required, regardless of value.

In North Burgess, the Building Inspector and By-law enforcement Officer is Jim Connell of R.R.#3 Perth.

In North Elmsley, the Building Inspector and By-law enforcement Officer is Geo. Coutts, Box 1132, Smiths Falls, Phone 283-4461.

If you are building a dock, boathouse, break-water, etc., into the lake, the Ministry of Natural Resources would also like to be notified. You may reach them at 10 Findlay Avenue, Carleton Place, Ontario, K7C 3Z6 Phone 836-1237, (Land Section).

MORE ABOUT THE BIG FROG

Lake resident Earl Hammond has checked in a further report about the giant frog. For those who missed the earlier story, Earl first noticed the curious creature when it was in the tadpole stage, it having come to his attention because of its size. It was about the length of a young perch, about 6 or 7". Later in the summer he saw it again, in the bay where it had developed into a frog and by then was about 8" in length. He has kept watching it when the weather is clear enough and says that when he last saw it in October, before freeze-up, it seemed to have grown some more and was now about 12" long. Jim Girdwood has been on the lake all his life and has never seen anything like it. He said that it was probably just a ling, and the large appearance might be only due to refraction in the water.

Earl Hammond does not think it can be dismissed that easily. He made several tries to have the creature identified by Ministry of Natural Resources staff, but, between keeping an eye on the duck hunters and arranging the MNR move to Carleton Place, Conservation Officer Wayne van Dinkum was unable to get there until after the lake had frozen over. By then the frog (if that is what it is) was down in the mud. Earl said he saw bubbles from the spot where he last saw it, under the ice. If the Association organizes any nature tours in 1982, this one will likely be a big feature on the list.