

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION

1982-2

JUNE, 1982

ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 10th

9:30 A.M.

MCMARTIN HOUSE

30 Harvey Street, Perth
(corner Gore & Harvey)

Admission Free: Bring your
neighbour (and your
opinions)

Agenda will include discussion of
current problems:

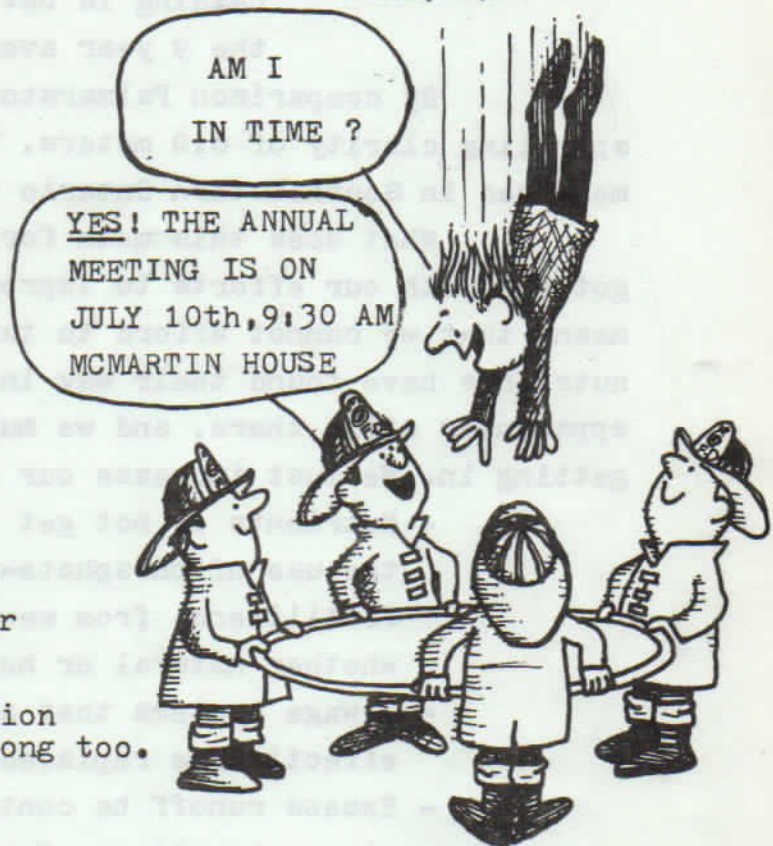
- By-law enforcement in 1982
- new ideas for cleaner water
- and election of officers

Got an idea for Recreation? Pollution
control? Good times? Bring that along too.

New executive members welcome.

WATER CLARITY SHOWS DOWNTURN

The fight to preserve and improve the quality of Otty Lake water is far from over. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment has published its annual report called "Enrichment Status of Lakes in the Southeastern Region of Ontario, 1981". The contents are not encouraging. Each week during the summer, water sampling is performed for bacteria, clarity (using the Secchi disc) and chlorophyll. The Secchi disc measure has long been considered by the ministry to be a good general indicator of the biological health of a lake. For Otty Lake in 1981, the readings reveal that we have not gained over the last 9 years. The Secchi reading: 3.9 meters - the worst since 1974, lower than the 4.5m of 1980 and lower than the 4.21 average of the past 9 years.



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Otty Lake good neighbours

Chlorophyll: 2.2 - a slight improvement over the 2.7 reading of 1980 (in this case, a low reading is better) but still worse than the 9 year average of 1.93.

By comparison Palmerston Lake, at Ompah, had a sparkling clarity of 8.0 meters. The average value in 68 lakes measured in Southeastern Ontario was 4.3 meters.

What does this mean for us? It means that we have not got far with our efforts to improve and save the lake, and it means that we cannot afford to take the matter lightly. Too many nutrients have found their way into our lake; they are apparently still there, and we must assume that they are still getting in. We must increase our efforts to ensure that:

- Nutrients do not get into the lake, whether from the use of phosphate-containing detergents, from fertilizers, from sewage systems or other sources, whether natural or human.
- Sewage systems that are inadequate or no longer effective be replaced at once.
- Excess runoff be controlled or retarded (do not clear shorelines of shrubbery; encourage plant growth; prune or thin if you must, but do not denude the shore).
- Do not pave over the ground near the shore, or remove more than a few trees.
- No new building take place near the shore. The By-laws call for 50' setback; let's make it stick.
- No fertilizer be used within 100' of shore or where it could flow in solution by rain or spring runoff.

Otty Lake belongs to all of us. We must all be involved in the improvement process.



WATER LEVELS

Remember the decision taken in 1980, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Natural Resources, to remove the dam at Jebb's Creek and allow a more natural flow? The dam was removed in the fall of that year and we waited for the results. However, the unusually high rainfall of 1981 - especially in the late summer - offset the intended effect.

This year it is beginning to be noticed, and many favourable comments have been received. At May 1st the level was about 4" above datum (July 1st normal) and on the 24th of May it had got down to datum level.

If this year goes according to plan, (and barring unusually high rainfall such as we had last year) the summer level this year should be lower than datum - lower than it has been in many years. This will give the shore a chance to be baked in the summer sun and, as the Ministry said, "to upgrade the water quality and rejuvenate the fishery in Otty Lake..."

Some time in the future, if it seems desirable, a simpler dam could be put back in the creek. In the meantime, Jebb's Creek is already cleaner and prettier. We recommend a visit, or a canoe trip to Perth in this nearby natural resource.

NUISANCE NOISE

We keep getting reports of noise (motorcycles, aircraft, radios and stereos). Your executive is consulting authorities for advice. In the meantime, let's all try to be considerate.



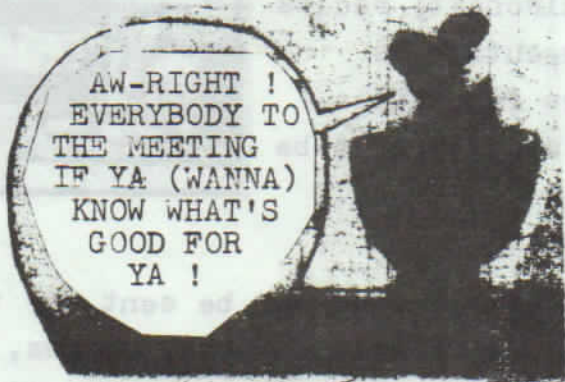
MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual membership fees can be sent any time to Treasurer Art Eastham, 265 Crestview Road, Ottawa, K1H 5G4. Or you can pay at the Annual Meeting. The bargain price of \$5.00 is still in effect.

FROG SURVIVES WINTER

We have been trying to follow up on the story of the big frog. Director of Conservation Mark Semple has not yet been able to get in contact with Earl Hammond in order to see the creature for himself. However, Earl left a note recently at the editor's door to say that he and Hilliard McNab had seen the frog again at the end of May. They had heard a very loud splash in the bay, when there was no wind. They ran down to see and as it swam past under water it showed up very clearly. It appeared to have a kind of whisker on each side of the head. Both agreed that it would be about a foot and a half long, head to tail. There has also been a report of a large frog sighted in Grant's Creek. Mark is investigating.

T-SHIRTS can be bought
at the Annual Meeting
Non-profit price: \$7.00
while present stocks last.



AW-RIGHT !
EVERYBODY TO
THE MEETING
IF YA (WANNA)
KNOW WHAT'S
GOOD FOR
YA !