

OTTY LAKE ASSOCIATION

1983-1

MARCH 1983

SOILS FOR TILE BEDS

In our last issue of 1982 we mentioned that some soils are better than others in trapping phosphate nutrients -- nutrients that could otherwise filter through the soil and find their way into the lake where they will promote the growth of algae and weeds. Wherever you happen to have dug your ground to make a tile bed, you may assume that the soil has little or no value in trapping phosphates.

In 1976 the Ministry of the Environment surveyed 45 gravel pits in Eastern Ontario for their value in keeping septic system tile beds environmentally safe. The best pit in the Otty Lake area is this one:

Wilfred Hall pit at McDonald's Corners

Other nearby pits with marginally acceptable soils for the purpose (probably still better than what is on your lot) are owned by:

McMunn, W.J. Orser and W. Hall (Watson's Corners pit)

If you are putting in a tile bed this year, we recommend that you get proper soil that will do the job. If you want more detail, just call Dave Code or the Health Unit at Perth. In the meantime, remember that it is topsoil you need, not subsoil.

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SHORT SUBJECTS

- . This winter was so mild that a couple were seen out sailing in the moonlight on Otty Lake on the evening of December 29th. Advertising the all-weather capability of the Kestrel, we suppose.
- . There were no sightings reported of the giant frog.
- . Ice levels were higher than expected, and some damage has occurred to boathouses and docks as a result.

WANT TO KNOW THE LATEST DIRT?



Otty Lake good neighbours

EG Sackaley
2061 Delmar Dr.
K 14 5PB

L'AFFAIRE SAIKALEY

Once in a while, along comes a story, an issue that attracts more attention, is the subject of more phone calls, meetings and correspondence that anyone would have thought possible. This one is the one for today, and here are some facts as well as some advice concerning this unfortunate affair.

First, the FACTS. In late 1982 a cottager in Area 2 began erecting an improper structure. It was in violation of several provisions of the Zoning By-law (too close to the shore, too close to the lot line, not enough area to build at all, etc.) and on top of all that, construction was begun without having obtained a building permit as required by law (and as publicized in our newsletter of March, 1982.) Over the objections of the Building Inspector, when he learned of it, and to the dismay of neighbours, the North Burgess Council was persuaded to grant a building permit for exactly what was already being erected.

The Otty Lake Association had not been consulted on the matter. When we learned of it, the decision had been made, but we drew some facts to Council's attention and asked them to reconsider in light of those facts. Council refused to change its decision.

Your executive appealed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to order withdrawal of the improperly-issued permit (this was while the place was still under construction) and to require Council to introduce an amending, or spot zoning By-law complete with public hearing, as required by law. However, the Minister has written to say that, although he agrees that " It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that any building permits issued through the Building Code Act are in compliance with the provisions of the local Zoning By-law" nevertheless "Unfortunately, there is no legislative authority...for me as Minister...to intervene "

The Minister further advises that our only recourse is by way of the law courts, which means taking the Council (not the cottager) to court for incorrectly issuing the permit. Of course, if we sue over this matter we might well win the case but only at considerable cost to both parties in terms of money, and also in terms of community goodwill. And there would be no certainty about the corrective action that would follow, or possible further court action by others. This is our dilemma, and there is no easy or satisfying solution to it.

That is where the matter rests, at least for the moment. However, we know that some members of the former Council are embarrassed by the affair, and recognize that it was a hasty, mistaken decision. Moreover, we have met the new Council and have received an undertaking that this kind of building permit issuance will not happen again. Your executive is therefore preparing some simple recommendations to present to this Council, and to North Elmsley, at the earliest opportunity.

What You Can Do

In the meantime we want to emphasize to all residents -seasonal or permanent- the importance of knowing the building requirements and acting promptly if any irregularities are suspected.

- If a legally authorized building is under construction, there will be a sign prominently displayed. Look for it. That is the permit.
- If you have a question that is not being answered to your satisfaction, call the authorities at once. The present situation got out of hand partly because Council was presented with a "fait accompli" and because it was reluctant to order demolition of the offending structure. Present and future councils may be less reluctant, but only if it comes to their attention promptly. Your concerns may be brought to the attention of any of:
 - Twp Building Inspector N.Burgess Jim Connell 267 4605
 - N.Elmsley Geo. Coutts 283 4461
 - Councillor Hans Pokorny 267 1626
 - OLA Pres. Dave Code 267 5053 or 722 0339
- If you see a lot or a building for sale near you, ask about it, and what conditions go with the lot. You have a right to know, and most people are happy to tell you.

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MEMBERSHIP FEES

...are still a bargain at only \$5. per year. If you have not yet paid your 1982 fees or if you want to pay now for 1983 before the price goes up, why not act right away?

To: Mr. Art Eastham, Treasurer, Otty Lake Association
265 Crestview Road, Ottawa, K1H 5G4

NAME \$ for 19
ADDRESS

please mail receipt.....OR I'll pick it up at the annual meeting...

SOMEBODY'S NOTICING DEPT



On October 15, 1982 the Ontario Ministry of the Environment presented plaques to three lake Associations of Eastern Ontario. The citation for the OTTY LAKE Association commended our cooperation with the Ministry in conducting regular, extensive water quality sampling for more than ten years. President Code accepted the award on behalf of the Association. Water sampling for the past year has been the responsibility of John Bisson, who is upholding the best traditions of a line of good citizens.

The plaque is on display in the North Elmsley Township Hall, but will be at the Annual Meeting in July.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

If you were rooting for our Hans at the election in North Burgess last November, you got your wish. With a little help from his friends Hans Pokorny regained his seat on Council. Actually, he found supporters in more than one place. The cottager turnout was not unusually heavy, but good local support from permanent residents was an important factor.

The 1983-85 Council is:

Norman Ferrier	Reeve	(acclamation)
John P. McParland	Dep. Reeve	(re-elected)
Charles Kerr		(newly elected)
Hans Pokorny		(newly elected)
Gerry Greenslade		(newly elected)

Former councillors Allan and Bell were defeated, and Dyke did not contest a seat.

FURTHER SHORT SUBJECTS

- . If you had to call the Fire Department, would you have the information handy? We suggest you make a card, containing the name of your Township, Lot number and road.
- . There have been reports of contamination in Area 1 (oil?) Fred Green and Dick Atkinson are investigating.

ON THE LEVEL.

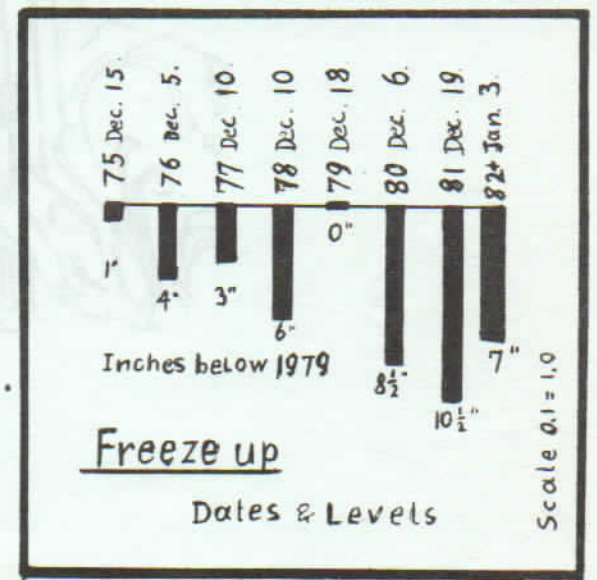
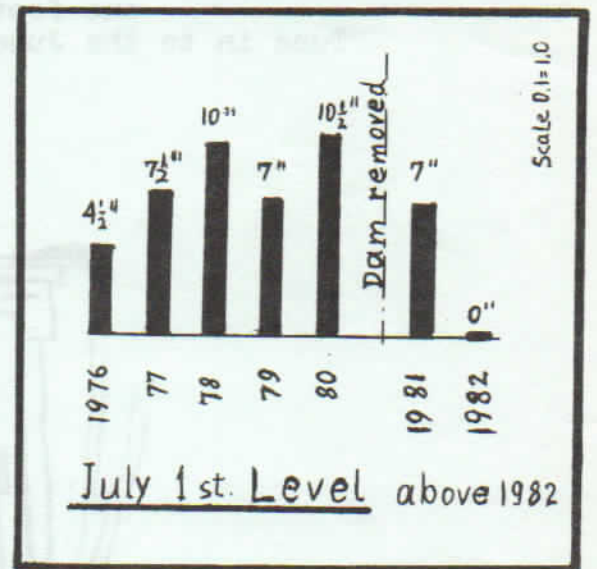
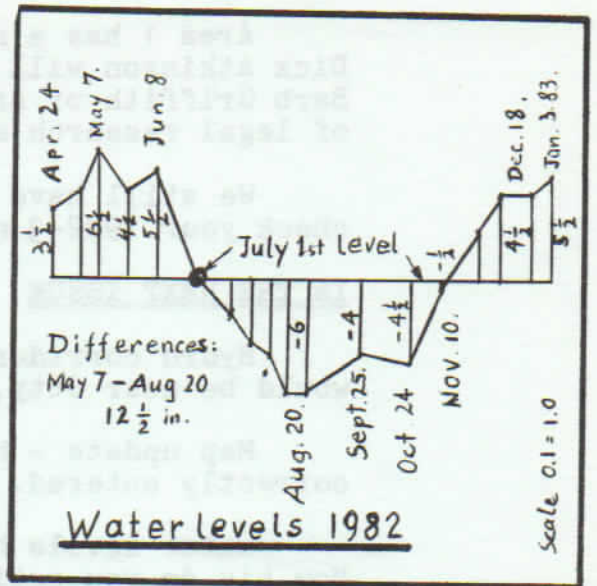
"Jack likes it high, Jill likes it low, and the twain shall never meet". In the Perth Courier of Jan.12.83, Perth Wildlife reported further clearing of Jebb's Creek during 1982 as the reason for the lower levels of Otty Lake.

Analyzing the statistics, one is not convinced that the dam removal and clearing of the outflow alone governs the lake level. Otty is a reservoir for a large catchment area for precipitation. Sunshine and wind evaporation affects lake levels more than outflow. As Otty is also a spring fed lake, the height and pressure of the natural water table has its effect.

Looking at the bar diagrams to the right, the base lines refer to levels on July 1. 1982. In that year we have had the lowest levels since many a year, similar to what we remember from the fifties. The largest difference in the water level within one season was recorded in 1980, 21 inches, whereas in 1976 it was 5½ in. and in the past year 1982 it was 12½ in.

Within living memory the lake did not totally freeze up as late as three days after New Year, four weeks later than in 76 and 80. On December 13. the lake was almost 75% covered with ice. A few days later with strong and warm SW winds it broke up and disappeared.

How did it look in previous years ? The diagram shows for comparison a base line of the highest level observed in 1979. This New Year's annual ski trip across the lake had to be done by boat. Only today, January 19 th., the first snowmobile of the season crossed the ice without breaking through. Dogs from the other side paid us visits again.



NEW NAMES

Area 1 has a new Counsellor; actually Rhoda and Dick Atkinson will be doing the job together. Barb Griffith of Area 6 has agreed to take the post of legal research assistant.

We still have room for other willing members; check your 1982-3 newsletter and give us a call.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE

Hydro corridor - one of the possible routes would be near Otty, Black and Pike lakes.

Map update - how to make sure your name is correctly entered.

Water levels between Otty lake and Jebb's Creek - How big do you estimate the drop?
one foot? two feet? five feet? nine feet?
Tune in to the June newsletter and find out.

