

JUNE 1989

## SHORELINE PLANTING

Planting day was June 10th. It was a damp day for the volunteer planters, but a good day for plants. Fifteen properties received these plants: four varieties of low shrubs and creepers designed to bind the soil together and make the shore look natural and easy to maintain. In all, 2,500 valuable plants were put on these properties - and all free of charge to the owners! More details available at the Annual Meeting.

And by the way, if you happen to be one of those who is not yet completely sold on the idea of shoreline planting, we suggest you have a look at the excellent article written by Pat McManus and reprinted here.



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**coming to the  
annual meeting**

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN  
FOR CAPS AND T-SHIRTS  
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 8, 1989

in the Perth Library

9:30

9:30

!

**Otty Lake good neighbours**

## ENJOY YOUR COTTAGE

by Pat McManus

Congratulations! You've just bought a lot on the shore of one of Ontario's beautiful lakes...God's country. Now you've got to get to work on that lot. A cottage, sure, and a septic tank well back from the lake with a good covering of high-porosity soil or maybe a filter-media bed. But what about that land in front of the cottage and those trees and shrubs that interfere with the view? You've seen so many cottages with lawns sloping down to the lake, well-manicured, weedless and green as grass; just like that lawn back in the city.

But hold on a minute. This isn't the city; it's that lake that you love so much and which is the reason you bought here and built here. What will your **city** lawn do to, or for the lake? And those shrubs along the shoreline? They're ragged and broken and not at all like the ones in the nursery or in the border at home. Think a little. Those shrubs were put there by nature and for a purpose. Nature does everything for a purpose, if we are only clever enough to figure what she is attempting to do and why. The shrubs bear the brunt of wave action and slow the water so that it does not strike along the shore with such force that it breaks away the soil and carries it off to be spread over the bed of the bay or the lake.

Perhaps a nice retaining wall would keep that lawn you're thinking about in place? It would look so much tidier, and so many of the neighbours have one. Maybe it's time to think again. If you remove those trees the sun can more easily get at the soil to bake it to a much higher temperature. And if the shrubs go too, the rocks along the shoreline will be heated by that same hot sun. Adding a retaining wall of any kind is just creating a massive heat collector. Trees are there partly to break the fall of rain so that it drops gently onto the earth and is absorbed into the leaf mould that nature put there to hold moisture.

And that beautiful lawn. If it goes in many of the trees will have to go. Some of the soil brought in to make that lawn will certainly be washed into the water to add a little deeper layer of silt. And a lawn is no good unless it is kept mown, which lets the sun through and at the soil to bake it good and hard, so that any but the very lightest rain will mostly run off into the water. You're distressed about the growth of algae in your bay. Of course you are. It is unsightly and sometimes it smells. Its ability to use up the dissolved oxygen in the water is of much more significance as this condition limits what plants and animal life can live there; and the lake takes another wallop which further damages its health and beauty. And of course that lawn must be fertilized, and kept weed free like the neighbours'. And watered.

### JEBB'S CREEK

This year, as we have been doing for the past several years, your executive will be organizing clean-up parties to go to Jebb's Creek. A clean lake requires a clean outlet and, besides, the creek itself is a lovely place to explore. The bird life and plant life make an outing there an experience to remember. Your editor's favourite time is now, in June, when the birds are still singing their lungs out. Of course, the best way to hear them is to go by canoe.

For those who want to help with one of the clean-up days, a call to Glenn Girdwood will do the trick. Glenn's number is 267-6548.

For those who go down the creek on their own, please do not disturb the dam at the Conservation Authority refuge for wildlife. The Curator, Carson Thompson, has it there from time to time for a reason. And it does no harm to the levels in Otty Lake. Most of the beaver dams that need removing are above the bridge.

Speaking of the Creek, what about the water levels? At this time every year someone always asks whether the level isn't higher (lower?) than usual.  
ANSWER: At June 10 it was  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches above the Datum (average July 1st level) - which was the very same as last year at this time.

### GYPSY MOTH SPRAY

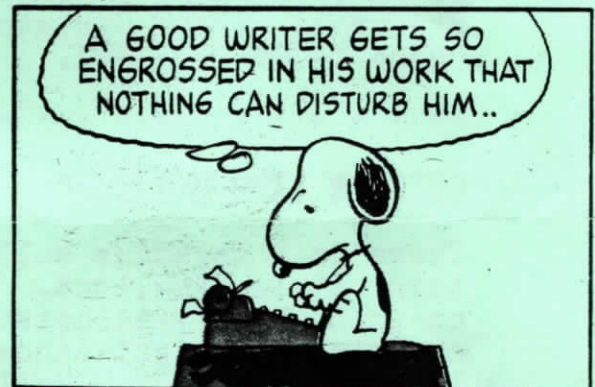
We were sprayed in early June.  
More details at Annual Meeting.

1988 WATER TEST ANALYSIS is late arriving. We'll try to have it for July 8.

SAILING ANYONE? Every Sunday afternoon the sailors meet in mid-lake about 2;00 p.m.  
Join them.

MARKETPLACE ? We haven't had any requests lately; but if you want to advertize a boat, a cottage or anything else of interest to lake people, tell a member of the exec. and we'll try to run it in a later issue.

REMEMBER: The Annual Meeting starts at 9:30 sharp.  
You can attend and still get to the PDCI reunion functions you had in mind.



So now the mix along that once-clear shoreline is a potent one, able to prevent the lower forms of aquatic life from growing there and, at the same time, providing a hospitable environment for the growth of algae.

Maybe you should build that cottage and put in a septic system, maybe even a well. And just sit down and enjoy your little piece of nature. That's really what you came here for, isn't it? And when you hear your neighbour start his lawn mower you can just smile a little smugly and go fishing or swimming.

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Pat McManus is former Chairman of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

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BUILDING ??

Are you thinking of a new building?  
An addition to your present one?

We remind you that both Townships - North Burgess and North Elmsley - have rules that govern the construction of buildings. While you are still at the planning stage: now is the time to consult your Township building inspector. The rules are quite reasonable and a building permit, if you need one, is not expensive. But you DO NEED to get permission.

As for structures that intrude into the lake below the high water mark, you'll also want to check on the restrictions that govern these. To find out what is permitted and what is environmentally acceptable call the Ministry of Natural Resources at the Carleton Place District Office phone 1-800-267-7901.

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COTTAGE LIFE MAGAZINE

There is a magazine called "Cottage Life" and your executive think it is excellent. A recent issue, for instance, contains nicely-illustrated stories on cottage water pumps, choosing the right canoe, and other stories that interest lake rats like us. We'll have a copy on display at the Annual Meeting