

Otty Lake Newsletter

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October 1991

The View from the Bay

On September 30th, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the frozen puddles at the back door of the cottage demonstrated proof positive that the Summer of '91 was over. And, in between the turkey and the pumpkin pie, the clan counted 15 loons gathering in the centre of Otty Lake for an organizational meeting before heading south for the winter.

It is fall: that all too short an interval where we sigh over the hot, lazy days behind us and settle down for the long, cold nights ahead. Read on to see how your Association has changed with the seasons.

Jebb's Creek Dredging by Dave Code

Members learned earlier this year of the disturbance at Jebb's Creek. The subdivision agreement (not to mention a by-law and the N. Elmsley Official Plan), had made clear that there was to be no disturbance of the wetland on the shore of the Wiseman subdivision. However, in December 1990, some 500 feet of this sensitive shoreline was dredged. After much correspondence and discussion involving N. Elmsley Council, MNR, RVCA and this Association, some action has been taken. During the summer, the developer, on MNR's advice, placed straw bales and began planting willows and other shoreline shrubs to stabilize the soil on the newly created banks.

In July, the RVCA notified Council, the developer and this Association that, although no legal action would be taken in respect of this violation, Council is requested to issue no building permits or site

development approvals for the lots in question without the express permission of RVCA. This would appear to close this matter for now.

1991 Municipal Elections

November 12th is Election Day for Ontario Municipalities. We encourage you to find out where the Candidates in your township stand on the issues that are important to you and VOTE. For those who won't be around on the 12th, the Advance Poll is Saturday, November 2nd. If you cannot make it at all, assign your proxy to a neighbour. Forms are available at the township offices. In N. Burgess, the polling stations for both days are the Township Hall near Stanleyville; in N. Elmsley, the Advance Poll is at the Township Hall in Port Elmsley and on Election Day, polls 1-4 are at the Township Hall and polls 5-6 are at Bethel United Church Hall on the Rideau Ferry Road.

N. Burgess:

Reeve	- John P. McParland*
D.Reeve	- Chas. Kerr
	Gerry Greenslade*
Council	- Jim Bell
	Tony Inderwick*+
	Larry Waldeck+
	Joseph Weber

N. Elmsley

Reeve	- Laurie Duncan*
D.Reeve	- Kenneth Coutts*
Council	- Donald Balfour*
	Aubrey Churchill*
	Russell Foster
	Wm. MacPherson*

*Incumbent

+Lake Resident

Membership Report

by Judy Burns, Membership Secretary

The membership drive this year has been most successful due to the conscientious efforts of our 20 counsellors. To date, we have 312 members which constitutes 80% of lake residents.

The membership fees are our only source of revenue to cover the expenses of the newsletters and mailings, the biennial printing of our map, the water testing and control of Jebbs Creek. We are also now looking at the expense of putting into effect the new fire routes. We demand a lot from our fees.

If you have not been contacted by your area counsellor, and wish to pay your fees for 1991, please fill out the form attached and mail it directly to the Otty Lake Assoc., R.R. #3, Perth, K7H 3C5.

As your fees for next year, 1992, will be due January 1st, 1992, you might wish to save time and remit them at the same time. They remain at the same low price of \$10.

Matters Financial

by John Burns, Treasurer

Those who attended our Annual Meeting in July received a financial statement covering the period July 1/90 to December 31/90. This was due to our fiscal year being changed to coincide with the calendar year. At that time, the Association had liquid assets of \$5,134 composed of cash (\$1,134) and C/D (\$4,000) deposited at the CIBC, Perth. This was an increase of approximately \$157 over 1989.

From January 1/91 to date, we have approximately \$1,260, cash, and a C/D for \$5,000 (\$6,260 total) with

accounts payable of approximately \$360, which includes the cost of this newsletter.

We are in good shape financially to absorb the costs of any new postage increases, the GST, new fire routes and our new expenses for Jebbs Creek surveillance.

Zebra Mussels

by Wm Schriever

By now, most of us have heard of the zebra mussel and its amazingly fast spread throughout the Great Lakes. It has only been five years since they were first discovered in Lake St. Clair, probably as a result of ballast water being discharged by a transatlantic ship.

One of the fascinating traits of the zebra mussel is its tremendous reproductive capacity: each female mussel produces more than 30,000 eggs per season. Within days, the eggs develop into tiny, free-swimming larvae, invisible to the naked eye, which remain suspended in the water for 3-4 weeks, drifting with the currents. Those larvae that happen to touch any hard, firm surface - rock, metal, wood, fibreglass - attach themselves by thin threads. They grow into mature mussels within a year.

All shores of L. Erie, most of the shores of L. Ontario, the St. Lawrence and many parts of other Great Lakes have already been infested.

A 1991 publication of the Ohio Sea Grant states that, "... boat bottoms and engine outdrives were rapidly colonized during 1991. There have been numerous reports of boat engines overheating due to cooling water inlets being clogged by colonies of zebra mussels." The same thing would happen to water

inlets for cottages. What a prospect!

As far as we know, no zebra mussels have arrived at Otty Lake, as of yet. But, touch wood! We are at the mercy of uncaring or ignorant boaters bringing their uninspected boats, or even just a pail of bait, from the Great Lakes into our lake. And one the zebra mussels are here, there is nothing we can do about them. There is a species of diving ducks which feed on the zebra mussels and have been very effective in central Europe, where the mussel has been present for more than 200 years. However, our winters are probably too cold for them.

So, our best solution is precaution. Please insist that visiting friends clean their boats before launching and don't bring bait from contaminated waters.

Joining Forces with Smokey the Bear by Amy Pokorny

Next spring, with a lot of co-operation from lakeshore residents, we will establish a fire-route posting system to permit instant identification by the Bathurst, Burgess, Drummond & Elmsley Fire Dept of the exact location of a fire alarm. The Association has agreed to pay half the costs of the posts and the two townships will pay the other half (est. \$3,000). The fire dept will contribute labour on scheduled weekends to help us install the posts. However, we'll need resident volunteers in April and early May to work with the firemen. Please let us know by March if you are willing and for when. Call Amy Pokorney (267-1626) or Nancy Kenyon (235-4286 in Ottawa).

The BBD&E needs both town and cottage telephone numbers. You can

forward them on the attached 1992 membership form with your fees.

We also ask that you check the width of your lane and access road. The BBD&E can insist on 10 feet on either side of the centre "line" to ensure safe passage of their equipment. Ontario Hydro (267-3380) can provide you with names of employees who take spare time brushing jobs.

When in place next summer, the system will work as follows: the owner or neighbour alerts the Fire Station (267-2030) and gives them the fire route number. Someone meets the truck at the fire route sign on the main road to guide them in.

Water Testing by John Hay

Between June 18th and September 3rd, 1991, 96 water samples were taken by Dawson Girdwood at the usual 32 test sites. Of these samples, the faecal coliform count in 74 was reported as less than 10 organisms per 100ml. Sixteen samples were reported at 10 organisms per 100ml, four at 20, one at 30 and one at 40 organisms per 100ml. The latter two counts were recorded on September 3rd and were the first readings at these sites of over 10 organisms per 100ml. All readings will, of course, be repeated next year.

Of the 22 counts of 10 or more organisms, five were obtained in June, five in July, nine in August and three on the one testing date in September.

By comparison, the same number of water samples taken in 1990 included 19 containing 10 or more faecal coliforms per 100ml. Of these, 13 samples had 10 per 100ml, one had

15, four had 20 and one had 50 organisms per 100ml.

Of these 19 samples, 11 were collected in June, six in July, one in August and one in September.

At time of printing, insufficient analysis had been done to compare the 1991 water testing results with those of previous years.

The Science Committee will draft a report, complete with practical suggestions we all can adopt to keep our lake safe and beautiful, in time for the next newsletter.

Comings & Goings

At the Annual Meeting we bade a fond but reluctant farewell to Ruth Helmsley, who retired as Director-at-Large; Joyce and Bruce McAusland, who retired as secretary and co-chairman respectively; and Judy Burns, who retired as co-chairman. They have all worked hard on our behalf and we know that they will be missed.

Joining the executive are Lorne Gold as our new chairman; Eddie Edmundson as vice-chairman; Rhoda Atkinson, secretary; and Walter Robbins, John Oatway, Larry Waldeck and Bob Waldeck as Directors-at-Large. We welcome these enthusiastic, knowledgeable and caring people to the Association.

Annual Meeting - July 13th, 1991

The Annual Meeting of the Otty Lake Association was held at the Perth Public Library. More than 100 cottagers were there to receive reports from the Executive and welcome special guests Reeve McParland and councillors from N.

Burgess, Councillor Ken Coutts from N. Elmsley and Don McIvor from the RVCA.

Mr. Lindsay Penney, of MNR in Brockville, gave an extremely informative presentation on the do's and don'ts of shoreline development.

Members of the executive had been busy over the past year and the following are some accomplishments of note:

- . Chris Thompson reported that 300 shrubs from MAPLE were delivered and planted to 7 cottagers on planting day in June. These plants are made available free of charge to those who wish to restore their shorelines
- . Norm Hull reported that he had marked all of the major shoals on the lake. These markers were made from used propane tanks.
- . A new map of the lake was prepared through the efforts of Rex Boyd. Each cottager is to receive a map upon payment of dues.
- . Art Eastham is undertaking a loon count and welcomes calls from those who have seen loons, especially babies.
- . Dawson Girdwood reported that he had started work clearing beaver dams in November and on June 26th. He is also doing water testing for the Association.
- . There was much discussion over Jebbs Creek, water levels, unrestricted access to public launches and over-use of septic tanks.

Congratulations to Bev & Dale Friesen who demonstrated patience and skill when they won Otty Lake Handicap Sailing Trophy, for the second year running, on what had to be the calmest Labour Day Sunday in years. The crowd found more excitement in the croquet tournament.