

# GREATER BOB'S LAKE ASSOCIATION

## SPRING NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 4

May 1990

## President's Report

Susan Mactaggart

Dear Members,

As we anticipate the 1990 Summer in the Greater Bob's Lake area, I am certain all of you are either preparing or about to prepare for your return. For those of our membership who remained all winter, I hope it has been a good one and we look forward to seeing you soon. We begin this new season with renewed enthusiasm to continue the work of the Association. The Fishing, M.A.P.L.E., Water Quality and Emergency programs are continuing priorities and these reports are outlined in the Newsletter.

During the winter our Deputy Reeve, Mr. Wayne Roth, had to resign from his post. Councilman Barry Jenkins assumed this position. This left a vacancy on Council which has since been filled by Donna Brown from Crow Lake.

I am also pleased to report that subsequent to the public hearing last summer (July 13th) on the review of the Official Township Plan, an Advisory Planning Committee has been formed to assist Council with the Official Plan review. This Committee consists of 9 representatives from Council, lake Associations (Dessert, Bob's and Wolfe) and other persons qualified to help with long range Township planning. Mr. Bob Leonard sits as the representative from our Association.

Public input is essential for the success of this whole exercise. Therefore, I draw you attention to the letter from our Reeve, David Hahn and the Township questionnaire, recently sent to all ratepayers. Please answer these questions and send this material back to the Township office. This is one of the most important contributions you can make to this process.

Once again I place tremendous emphasis on our membership. Last year, thanks to the hard work of our Membership chairman, Barbara Merrill, we doubled in members. We can still do more so the membership campaign continues and I ask for your support. Would each member of our Association please recruit 2 new members and send the applications to Mrs. Joyce Barr. Forms can be found at the back of this Newsletter. This is a very tangible way you can help.

The Association has been approached by Mr. Noel of Lakeside Living with a proposal to reach an agreement concerning the development of their lands on Green Bay. Presently, everything is under review by our lawyer and planner. If a viable solution can be reached, we shall make every effort to do so. However, if not we shall continue to the O.M.B. You will be kept informed of these developments.

May I draw your attention to an article from the recent "Cottage Life" issue about development in Eastern Ontario. Bob's Lake is mentioned as one of the desirable areas. This is included in our Newsletter for two reasons. It is imperative that you are aware how important it is to participate in updating our Township Official Plan and it is important that each landowner never take present circumstances for granted.

We extend our good wishes to the new Wolfe Lake Association. Not only have they formed their new Association this year but they have already published their first Newsletter and have been successful at the O.M.B. hearing against Lakeside Living's proposed subdivision on Lee Bay of Wolfe Lake. We congratulate the Association and their President, Mr. Don Collinson on all the hard work.

Lastly, may I remind you to mark your summer calendar for the Association Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 5th at 1pm.

### Membership

Barbara Merrill

I hope everyone had a good winter and will be looking forward to summer and lake country.

I would again like to welcome our new members and hope that each one will be thinking of membership prospects. We are all aware of the benefits that our Association offers, so let's find the unenlightened.

We hope to be at Green Bay the latter part of May. I will welcome any names and suggestions. The number to call is 273-5584. Thank you.

## Road Signs and Buoys

Peter Marshall

Please advise me at R.R. #2 Godfrey, Ontario K0H 1T0 if there are any road signs missing or need replacing.

Now is the time to think about putting out the yellow buoys to mark those hidden shoals and rocks. Contact Pete Marshall if you need more buoys.

## Emergency Services

Reg Leonard

To keep the emergency services up to date, for any people who have not submitted their cottage location we require the following information on the map provided or a blow up:

- 1) Main road you enter from.
- 2) Any minor roads (draw)
- 3) If on an island, any shoals or obstacles that may a hazard at night.
- 4) Lot and concession number and lot plan number if any.
- 5) Any other information that would be of assistance.

Your name or lot number if posted will assist any emergency service in locating you.

This information is filed with the Fire, Ambulance and Police departments in your area. Phone number stickers for emergency services will be available before summer and will be distributed by the Fire department, local stores and myself.

Please remit information to myself or Joyce Barr.

## Fish Stocking and Rehab Committee

Bob Leonard

McEwen Creek rehab was finished on Nov. 27, 1989 (phase One). The creek is located near Bollingbrook - off the Crow Lake road of Fire Lane 21. This was the Association's first major rehab project which cost \$5950. Only the return of spawning fish will determine the success of this endeavour.

On Nov. 27 we also viewed the rehab that Mr. Noel was instructed to do on his bay. In our opinion it was not restored to near its original condition. Also we were very concerned about the possibility of a potential danger from floating debris from this area to boater safety.

In a telephone conversation with Mark Ferguson (District Biologist) I told him of our concerns and he assured me he would raise the matter with Gary Himberg (Fish and Wildlife Supervisor).

Crain's Construction dug a pumping pond at Amy's Pond for our aeration system on Nov. 30, 1989. The weather was at this time extremely cold and a very poor job of compaction around the tiles at the number 3 pond could be achieved. As a result we had to hire a back-hoe for 3 hours this spring to repack them at a cost of \$100. - paid by the Association.

This year we have sent in an application for lab equipment to assist us in our new assessment program. We hope to be able to identify the age of the fish and whether they were stocked or native to the lake. This equipment will certainly take the guesswork out of our walleye culture program. A group of 8 volunteers will have to attend a one day seminar at the MNR Research Facility (Glenora) to be able to properly operate the equipment and analyze our findings.

We have also submitted our CFIP operating budget for the 4 walleye culture ponds in the amount of \$1850.

Please compare your success rate for walleye fishing over the past few years and let us know your results. Also keep any fin-clipped fish (right pectoral) for our assessment program.

If anyone is interested in helping, I will need your cottage address and phone number. Sorry for the mix-up last year.

Youth Corps Program - the Ministry is applying for funding for 2 students to finish the Bob's Lake shoreline assessment map. Our committee has also assisted Bedford Township and Wolfe Lake Associations in applying for 2 more grants so that more shoreline assessment in the Township can be completed.

Bedford Township Official Plan Update - There are 8 members of this Committee plus the Township Planner. The Committee has been meeting every three weeks since December and expect to be finished by September

1991. There will be plenty of time for everyone to have input into the plan from the questionnaire at our summer meeting.

It is very important that all Association members fill out this questionnaire as the results will help direct the Committee to the new official plan.

This year we are preparing a video and you will be able to view it at our annual meeting - 30 minutes prior to the meeting and 30 minutes after the meeting. It will feature stories on

Ice Fishing

Collecting Stickleback

Rehabilitation at McEwen Creek

Design of our 4 ponds

Collecting eggs at the river

mixing and feeding ponds for plankton

hatching of walleye eggs into fry

netting and transferring of fingerlings into our lake

Enjoy your natural resources today - because these are the good old days!

WATER QUALITY REPORT  
(Mike Green and Tim German)

We're happy to report that a new group of volunteers came forward after the annual meeting last August to help us participate in the Ministry of the Environment's volunteer water quality testing program. As a result we now have excellent coverage for most of the major bays and basins in the Bob's Lake Area.

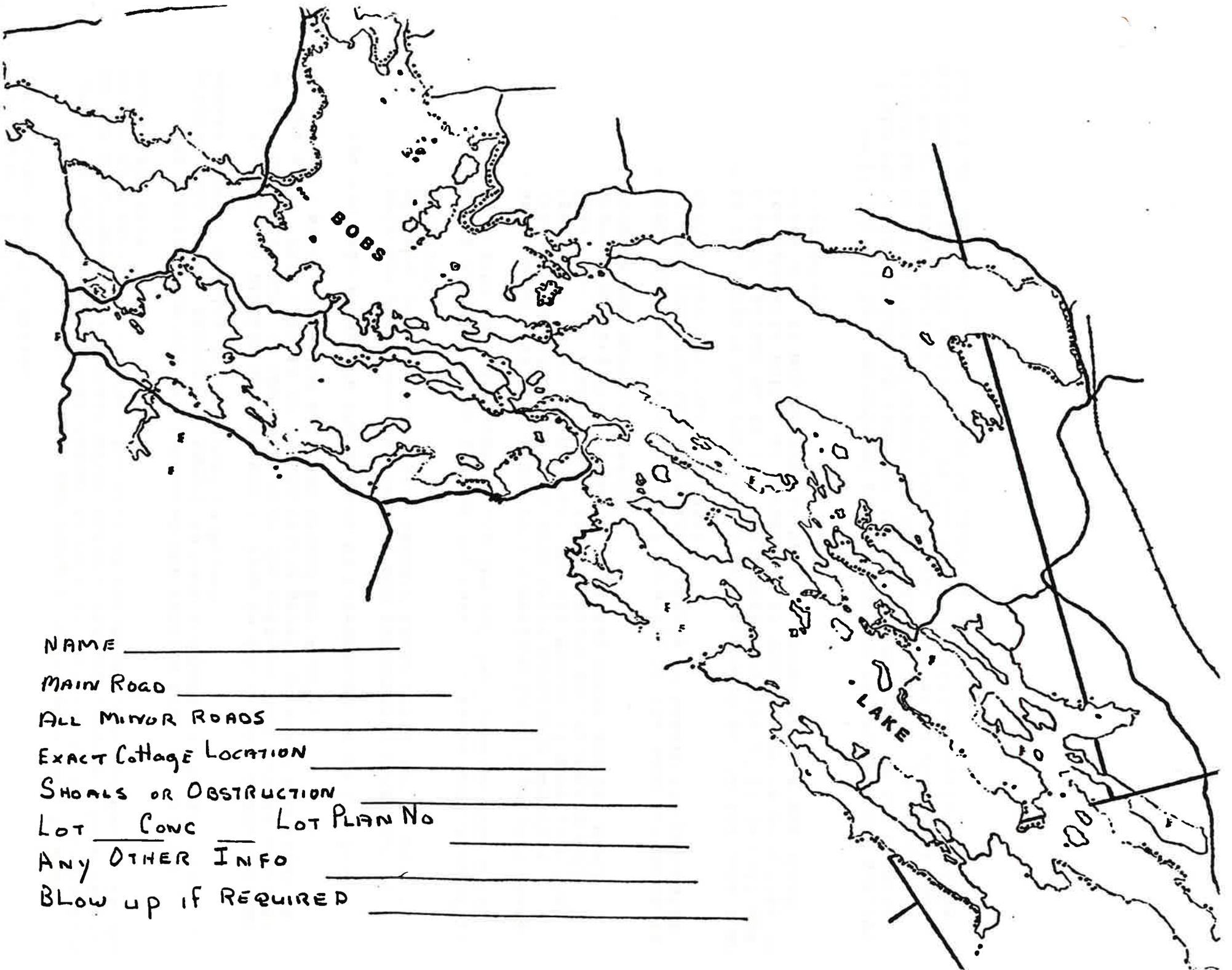
The Ministry has not yet tabulated the results from our testing program last year. However we expect to have a report by the time our annual general meeting rolls around in August.

The biggest problem we continue to face in Bob's Lake is the buildup of too many nutrients in the water from the cottager and farming activity in the area. This results in the excessive growth of weeds and algae in the water...something we've all seen around Bob's lake.

You can help alleviate the problem by remembering to do the following:

- only use phosphate-free laundry and dishwashing detergents (and whenever possible save your laundry loads until you're back in the city)
- DON'T fertilize your lawn at the lake (the rains wash much of it back into the lake aggravating the nutrient problem even more)
- as much as possible, leave your shoreline in it's natural state (the plants and bushes that grow there naturally absorb a tremendous amount of nutrient run-off BEFORE it goes into the lake; you can even RESTORE the shoreline by replanting with dogwood or Virginia creeper - see Betty Nyman and her MAPLE program for more information)
- NEVER shampoo or wash yourself directly in the lake (by doing it on land you give the shoreline a chance to absorb the phosphates before they get into the lake)
- if you haven't had your septic system pumped out in the last 2 or 3 years, please do so ( it won't work properly if it is full and the lake will suffer as a result); if your system is more than 15 years old, it may be time to have it inspected by a qualified contractor

We'll try and have an updated report from the ministry on the quality of the water in our lake in time for the annual meeting.. In the meantime, thanks again to all the volunteers on the lake who are now participating in the water testing program. Water samples can start to be collected anytime now and sent into the ministry. If you need new testing supplies, please contact Mr. Don Galloway at (613) 549-4000 in Kingston.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIN ROAD \_\_\_\_\_

ALL MINOR ROADS \_\_\_\_\_

EXACT Cottage LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

SHOALS OR OBSTRUCTION \_\_\_\_\_

LOT \_\_\_\_\_ CONC \_\_\_\_\_ LOT PLAN No \_\_\_\_\_

ANY OTHER INFO \_\_\_\_\_

BLOW UP IF REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_

March 1990

## ZEBRA MUSSELS AND RECREATIONAL BOATERS AND ANGLERS

The zebra mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) is a mollusc with a striped shell that grows to about four centimetres and may live up to five years.

A native species of Europe, zebra mussels were discovered in North America in Lake St. Clair in June 1988. They were most likely introduced by a ship discharging ballast water picked up in a European port.

Several factors have allowed the zebra mussel to spread quickly and prolifically. These include its fertility (one mussel can produce 30,000 eggs annually), its free-floating larval stage, its ability to travel attached to boat hulls and the ease with which it can adapt to its new habitat in the Great Lakes. Populations of the mollusc have been found in Lake St. Clair, Lake Erie, at the mouth of the Welland River at Lake Ontario and near Cornwall in the St. Lawrence River.

Scientists predict the zebra mussel will eventually spread to all of the Great Lakes with varying impact, depending on water temperature and calcium content. In addition, there are concerns that they will appear in inland lakes and rivers, because they attach themselves to boats moving between different waters.

### WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE ARE THEY CAUSING?

Zebra mussels attach themselves to solid surfaces, in many cases building up colonies several layers thick. Reefs, boats, piers, breakwalls, water intake pipes, rocks, aquatic plants and even other animals such as clams and crayfish have been covered by the molluscs. Reports on reefs near Pelee Island have shown counts as high as 30,000 mussels per square metre.

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Large concentrations of zebra mussels have been found attached to municipal, power plant and industrial water intake pipes in both Ontario and the United States. As a result, water flow is significantly reduced, in some cases by more than 50 per cent. Removing the mussels and preventing further buildup is difficult and expensive. It is estimated that the costs will run into hundreds of millions of dollars around Lake Erie alone.

Little is known about the damage zebra mussels can cause to fisheries. However, the potential for harm is great. They consume plankton, possibly reducing the amount of food available for the young of some fish species. They colonize spawning shoals, potentially decreasing the survival rate of fish eggs.

The zebra mussel is probably responsible for improving water clarity in western Lake Erie, but this condition may drive the light-sensitive walleye to deeper waters, away from traditional feeding areas, with a resultant loss in inshore fishing. There are also dangers that zebra mussels could transfer parasites and diseases to native fish.

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Zebra mussels are here to stay. Ongoing studies are aimed at better understanding their biology and discovering effective control methods. While zebra mussels have a few natural predators such as fish (sturgeon, freshwater drum, carp) and waterfowl, particularly diving ducks, none of these species is present in sufficient numbers to keep the populations of zebra mussels under control.

Boaters and anglers must take extreme caution with growths on the hulls of their boats. Not only do zebra mussel growths spread the molluscs into other waters, they also cause drag, increasing fuel consumption. Always take your boat out of the water and inspect it before entering inland waterways from the Great Lakes.

Here are some suggestions:

- If they're large enough, zebra mussels can be easily spotted. They do cling stubbornly to surfaces and it will probably take some effort to knock them loose. Be careful, the shells can be very sharp and you could cut yourself.
- In their earlier stages, the mussels may not be as noticeable. Pass your hand over the bottom of the boat. If it feels grainy, you may have zebra mussels. Do not take a chance, clean them off.

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- To clean off your boat hull, the best tool is a paint scraper or blasting with water pressure of at least 250 pounds per square inch. There are no chemicals that will dissolve them.
- If it is hot and dry, leave your boat out of the water for two or three days, and the mussels will die and drop off.
- On wood, aluminum or steel boats, zebra mussels effectively remove the first layer of paint when they attach. Scrape down to the bare wood or metal and repaint. With fiberglass boats be extra careful not to break the gelcoat or glass.
- Dispose of the zebra mussels in garbage dumps. Do not leave scrapings on shorelines because wave action may return the mussels to the lake.
- Certain polymer waxes on the market appear to discourage zebra mussel attachment. However, you still must check your hull because they attach themselves to places such as drain holes and speedometer brackets. Anti-fouling paints are not a method of zebra mussel control.
- Zebra mussels can also get into intake pipes and clog the cooling systems of powerboats. The only solution, in this case, is to replace the pipes, since the mussels are almost impossible to remove once they get in. Also, it is recommended that you keep an eye on the temperature gauge if you spend long periods in infested lakes such as Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and parts of Lake Ontario.
- Take extra caution when transporting baitfish from one lake to another. Zebra mussel larvae could be present in water where bait is transported. If that water is then transferred to another lake, the mussels could become established. To be safe, do not take water from one lake and put it into another.

If you follow these suggestions and check your boat carefully, you could help valuable fish habitat and save millions of dollars in repair work.

- Various markets, both domestic and export, have indicated concern over the water used to transport live fish. If zebra mussel larvae are present in the water, it could cause an outbreak of the mollusc in previously uninfested waters.
- To prevent the introduction of zebra mussels elsewhere, transport live fish in non-lake water such as well water or municipal water, after chlorine has dissipated. Do not move water from one lake to another, even in small amounts.