

Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association

Volume 3, Number 11

Fall 1993

President's Message

Greetings from the lake!

Many of us have already put away our fishing rods, docked the boat, and pulled out the water lines. For those of us fortunate enough to live close to the lake, this is a wonderful season of fall colours, morning mists, and the sight of great flocks of Canada geese winging their way south.

There are a number of articles throughout this newsletter which are not only interesting, but important to all of us on the lake. I would particularly draw your attention to the report on phosphorous levels (see Water Quality Study), M.A.P.L.E. and Purple Loosestrife.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to attend the first fall meeting of the Bedford Lakes Committee chaired by Councillor Roxanne Darling-Greenslade. The Committee was very pleased with the positive response to its first annual meeting held in May 1993 and decided to begin plans for a second general meeting to be held this spring. This Committee not only offers a forum for individuals regarding issues related to our lakes, but also provides an opportunity to exchange information regarding activities on different lakes. As was mentioned in the spring newsletter, the intention of this committee is to attract the participation of all residents, permanent or seasonal, whether association members or not. If you have an interest or know someone on the lake who is interested in participating, please do not hesitate to contact Councillor Greenslade.

I do have very unfortunate and shocking news to report. In early September, a fire completely destroyed a cottage on Green Bay. Arson is suspected and a reward has been offered. I know that all of our members join the Board in expressing our concern and sympathy to the family. Although we can never totally guarantee the security of our premises, whether in the city or at the lake, I would encourage you to ensure, that whenever possible, you have someone making periodic checks on your property throughout the long winter months.

Since the Annual Meeting I've had the opportunity to meet and discuss issues with a number of individuals and I encourage you to contact either myself or any other Board Member if you have any comments or concerns.

Along with the Board, I'm looking forward to an exciting and challenging year and I know that all board Members join me in wishing you a wonderful winter!

.....Anna Chadwick

PAMPHLET

Those of you who had the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting are aware that the Association has published and circulated an informational pamphlet outlining the initiatives and activities which we support.

If your area of the lake did not receive any of these or if you would like a few to circulate amongst your friends and neighbours on the lake, please feel free to contact any Board Member and we'll make sure that we deliver them.

INSIDE

	Page
1994 Forest Pest Forecast	2
M.A.P.L.E.....	2
Scoop.....	2
Bedford Lakes Committee.....	3
Membership Committee.....	4
One-stop Shopping for Rural Landowners	4
Purple Loosestrife - Beautiful Killer	5
Bedford Township Recycling Program.....	5
Controlling Aquatic Plants.....	5
Bio-diversity	6
Buoys and Road Signs.....	6
Water Quality Study.....	7
How Lead is Killing the Loons.....	7
Board of Directors.....	8

1994 Forest Pest Forecast for the Bob's Lake Area

Lyn McIntyre

In the past, the two most prominent forest insect pests in the Bob's Lake area have been the forest tent caterpillar and the gypsy moth. Both prefer to feed on hardwoods, particular oak and poplar.

Field observations this summer indicate that the gypsy moth population has crashed in most of Eastern Ontario due in part to viral and fungal pathogens and a high overwintering mortality of the egg mass. Forestry Canada, Forest Insect and Disease Section Field Ranger, Ed Czerwinski feels that the crash in the gypsy moth population is short lived. In successive years, outbreak cycles will occur over a shorter time period since the insect has been well established in Ontario.

The forest tent caterpillar was not a problem in the Bob's Lake area. It was however, a serious problem in the Rideau Lakes area, as well as Christie and Silver Lakes, but only in pockets. The main body of the infestation has moved well off to the east. These pockets of infestation are expected to decline further next year.

There has been some mortality of oak, most notably on the drier sites where soils are shallow. This is a result of the combined insect infestation and drought conditions experienced in much of Ontario over the last five to seven years. In oak stands, it may take up to eight years before the cumulative effects of drought and insect stress to show up.

In general, this summer and the previous summer have been excellent growing conditions for trees, due in part to the more than adequate rainfall and warm temperature. In fact, new additional growth is appearing on many trees which will not have time to harden off before the frost arrives.

Landowners should take steps to ensure that your trees are in good health to withstand insect infestations and other stresses. Proper pruning and providing adequate water during periods of drought are simple ways of maintaining tree health.

It is sometimes difficult to accurately predict when a severe insect infestation will occur. Several concerned cottage groups have started reserve funds in the event aerial spraying is required. The larger the spray block, the better the price you can obtain from an aerial contractor. Spraying can be arranged more efficiently if there is one spokesperson representing a group of landowners.

M.A.P.L.E.

Anna Chadwick

The Mutual Association for the Preservation of the Environment

Once again the Greater Bob's Lake Association has retained a membership with M.A.P.L.E. on behalf of all our members. This ensures that we are eligible to participate in the shoreline restoration project encouraged and supported by MAPLE Inc.

MAPLE is primarily interested in assisting those landowners whose shoreline has been damaged due to excessive clearing or eroded through natural causes or boat traffic.

The results of a phosphorous study conducted over the course of this summer suggest that the levels of phosphorous in certain areas of Bob's Lake is rising, a cause for concern for all of us. Shoreline regeneration is one of the most effective ways to improve lake quality.

A three (3) metre strip of native plants along the shoreline acts as a filter and will effectively reduce the amount of runoff, from both natural and human sources. This in turn will result in a dramatic reduction of algae and weeds and a corresponding increase in water clarity and quality.

Relatively few of our members take advantage of the opportunity offered by MAPLE, which provides free plants, along with advice regarding planting and care. We encourage you to consider this cost-free program, which basically involves ordering the plants in May through the Association and then picking up and planting the seedlings in early June.

If you are at all interested, please drop us a line prior to May:

Att'n M.A.P.L.E.
Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association
R.R.#2
Godfrey, Ontario
K0H 1T0

"Scoop"

We encourage those members who have not yet a subscription to the "SCOOP", the record of Ber-
ship Council meetings, to do so. It is an excellent
formation regarding township activities through
and our subscriptions signal to councillors our
est in their activities on our behalf. You may
"SCOOP" by sending ten dollars to:

Mrs Joyce Barr
R.R.#2
Godfrey, Ontario
K0H 1T0

S
and t
woul
Board

Bedford Lakes Committee

Angus Laidlaw

As reported at the Annual Meeting, the recently-formed Bedford Lakes Committee hosted a panel discussion at the Township Hall on June 5. The panelists included representatives of the provincial ministries of Natural Resources and Environment and the three area Conservation Authorities, who answered a variety of questions related to water quality of interest to the community. The public meeting was well-attended, and the Bedford Lakes Committee is planning similar efforts for the future. What follows is a summary of the comments from some of the attendees at the meeting.

Summary of Comments from Participants: 17 responses received

1. Did you like the meeting? Yes 16 No 1
Do you want another? Yes 13

Comments:

- Meet in summer when all cottagers are here.
- Good idea - suggested topics: testing water quality, MAPLE, OP, and zoning seminar
- Too crowded, fringe topics not covered
- Stick to time limits
- Meet in April, June or September. Subjects: fishing, vegetation management, retirement services, winterizing advice
- Meeting well planned and informative
- Excellent video; two hours too long to sit
- Tedious - numb bum syndrome - how about combining with field trip, etc.
- More interaction
- Future meetings to discuss what we can accomplish (projects)

2. What can be done to maintain and/or improve our lakes' water quality?

- Implement/enforce new OP (5)
- Regular pump-outs of septics and replacement of old septics
- Education (4) and enforcement (4) - may require enabling by-laws, staff training
- 100' set-backs for buildings; restore properties to natural vegetation; no fertilizers
- New Official Plan incorporating Rideau Lakes Study recommendations plus MAPLE plus Wetland Guidelines
- Water testing (bacterial and phosphorous)
- Assessment of each property and action plans developed to correct/monitor regularly
- Greater control over shoreline development
- Host assessment program with Association and Council and Health Dept.
- Prevent shoreline erosion and run-off
- Decrease phosphorous

- Control development and educate redevelopers
- Consolidate responsibility/authority for quality - "one-stop shopping"
- Continue information and action steps with partnerships of Council Lakes Associations, Agencies, other citizens
- Learn to do more to manage ourselves rather than to try to manage the environment
- Govern sale of lakefront property
- Good topic for more discussion

3. What testing can be done on private septic systems to be sure that there is no harm to land or water systems?

- Need information; willing to test and participate with Property Owners Assoc.
- Voluntary testing under the auspices of the Lake Associations (this is already occurring on some lakes)
- Some legal format to require people to bring their systems up to standard over a period of time.
- Funding available to help people who cannot afford expensive remedial action
- Not possible. All septic systems do harm by releasing nutrients to the soil from which they leach into the waterways. Please help people learn that best septic systems only delay the harm done, slower is better.
- You tell me! And not just who, what, when, where and how, but why? The discussion did not identify it as a great threat.
- Educate those who do not come to meetings like these. Can we use media - even paid notice?
- Shoreline testing of each lake property - sub-standard systems identified.
- 'Start by inspecting all systems that are more than ten years old; require tanks to be pumped on a regular basis.
- What about holding tanks?
- The dye test that is done now only will show grossly inadequate systems
- MOE and Health Units should come up with better testing; municipalities should be requesting this
- Via Health Unit (2) - college students.

4. What areas of concern should be addressed first to maintain our environment?

- New development must be controlled (4); identify difference between "good" and "bad" development.
- Nutrient enrichment.
- An OP based on Rideau Lakes Study and Wetlands Guidelines
- Township must also look at "old" development
- More coordination required between municipality, MNR, MOE and Authorities
- Sewage system survey and enforcement
- Water testing - to determine water quality and clarity
- Natural vegetation - buffer zones- protection of trees
- No fertilizers - no lawns

Cont'd on Page 4

Bedford Lakes Committee (Cont'd)

- Waterfront control - both existing and future development
- Encourage eco-system planning and insist that all development be sustainable
- Education and development of peer pressure (e.g. cottage owners associations) (3)
- Phosphorous build-up
- Decrease in commercial zoning of shoreline property and adjoining land
- Pass the OP we saw two years ago
- Cultural re-education to address the public's approach as well as technical education; and if it's a problem to be avoided, it's a lot cheaper than one to be corrected. Management!
- Consistent vigorous application of new OP
- Identification of major sources of pollution; work with owners to bring them into compliance with new, stricter planning and legislation
- Institution of steps towards remedial action
- 'Worm' spraying
- Planning - create legislative framework to protect environment.

5. Other subjects:

- Capital gains tax
- Impact on passing (at death) to family members - US citizens.

Membership Committee

Bob Cutter

Just as a reminder, we mention that there is in the Bob's Lake Association, a special membership available to non-landowners who care about the lake preservation, the fish re-stocking program, water quality and all the other good things associated with the G.B.L.L.A. People such as frequent guests of the landowner members, users of the lake such as those who stay at the many camps in the area, and all interested persons are encouraged to join as "Friends of the G.B.L.L.A."

This is a non-voting membership and with the \$10 annual membership fee, each member will receive all the newsletters and information concerning our beautiful lake area. Simply make out a cheque to the G.B.L.L.A. for \$10 and send it to: G.B.L.L.A., R.R. #2, Godfrey, Ontario K0H 1T0 along with your name and mailing address. Upon receipt you will be placed on our newsletter mailing list. This special membership, I remind you is available to non-landowners only.

One-stop Shopping for Rural Landowners

Lyn McIntyre

A one-stop shop for landowners is open for business in Manotick. The Landowner Resource Centre is one of three pilot projects opening throughout Ontario. It is a free service in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the balance of the Rideau Watershed. The other pilot projects will serve the counties of Oxford and Lambton and are expected to open in the fall of 1993 and 1994 respectively.

The Landowner Resource Centre will answer questions on anything from tree planting to wildlife to wetlands management. It will match private landowners' needs with the appropriate financial and technical assistance to get the job done. The storefront is stocked with information on programs and services, staffed with experienced people, and managed by the local community. Many organizations provide services to landowners. To a landowner, accessing this "tangled maze" of service delivery was confusing and complicated. The Landowner Resource Centre will eliminate the headaches. The Centre's job is to get landowners in touch, quickly and efficiently, with government or private environmental services. Using an up-to-date referral system means immediate information for inquiring landowners. Expert staff work directly with landowners to help them recognize the wide range of assistance programs available.

This innovative stewardship project is the result of a variety of agencies coming together to help avoid overlap and duplication. Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Conservation Authorities and the Ministries of Agriculture and Food, Environment and Energy, and Natural Resources are all supporting this one-window approach. Cottage associations, the farm community, forest industry, naturalists groups, sportsmen's groups, and property owners are involved in managing the Centre. Located in Manotick at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority offices, the LRC opened on June 7. Partnerships like the Landowner Resource Centre are becoming strong forces by working together we can better serve the public and protect the environment.

Landowners can contact the Centre by calling (613) 692-2390 or toll free at 1-800-387-5304 (within the 613 area code). The Centre's address is P.O. Box 599, Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A5.

Reminder!

For those '92/93 members who have not renewed, this is the time to do so. Enclosed with the newsletter is a Membership Application form. Thanks for your continued support.

Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association

Membership Application

Name _____

Summer Address _____

Lot and Concession No _____

Telephone _____

Winter Address _____

Telephone _____

Enclosed is \$25.00 in dues _____

Additional Donation:

Lake Preservation Fund _____

Emergency Equipment _____

General Fund _____

Fish Stocking _____

Total _____

Please remit funds to the Greater Bob's Lake Landowners Association, care of:

c/o The Burrige Store
RR #2
Godfrey, Ontario
K0H 1T0

***Committed to the preservation of the lakes, lands and wildlife of the
Greater Bob's Lake area***

Purple Loosestrife - Beautiful Killer

Anna Chadwick

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) has often been dubbed the "beautiful killer". Since the 1800's, when it was introduced to North America from Europe, it has made a slow, relentless invasion of wetlands and waterways, primarily in Eastern Canada, but also in British Columbia.

It is an attractive, vigorous, and durable plant. Once planted it seems to last forever and that's what makes it so insidious. The plant takes over ponds, beaches, marshes, stream banks, farm dugouts, irrigation and navigation canals, lakeshores and ditches.

Once a wetland is overrun with loosestrife, the natural habitat is lost and the productivity of the native plant and animal communities severely reduced. Since there is no room for displaced wildlife, fish and invertebrate populations cannot move and are lost forever.

Distinguishing Features:

Height: 3 to 6 feet (1 to 2 meters)

Stalk: square, woody, several stalks per plant

Leaves: smooth edges, opposite sides of stalk, attached directly to stalk

Flowers: long pink/purple spike, June to September

What can we do?

The challenge before us is to deal with this problem while it is still on a small scale. I'm sure that you have noticed, as I have, patches of loosestrife here and there in the bays along the lake.

According to the Canadian Wildlife Federation, eradication by pulling plants by the roots can be effective while the infestation is small. Once large scale infestations of purple loosestrife occur there is nothing, at the present time, that will stop its spread.

In localized plantings and flower gardens, we can do our part by pulling, and burning any plant, root and seed material. We can help our friends and neighbours do the same. Certainly, we should discourage any and all new purple loosestrife plantings!

For more information contact:

Canadian Wildlife Federation
2740 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K2B 1A2

Bedford Township Recycling Program

Fred Fuller

In addition to the regular hours listed, additional summer (15 April - 15 September) hours are as follows:

Green Bay Dump (1 mi. north of int. Green Bay & Burns Rd.) - SUNDAY 12:00 - 3:00 pm.

Salem Road Dump (4 1/2 mi. south on Townline Rd. from Salem) - SUNDAY 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Massassauga Road Dump (5 mi. east of Perth Road on Massassauga Rd.) - SUNDAY 4:00 - 8:00 pm.

Fish Creek Dump (1/2 mi. from Fish Creek on Buck Bay Rd.) - SUNDAY 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Bradshaw Dump (7 mi. from Hwy 38 on Bob's Lake Rd.) - SUNDAY 12:00 - 3:00 pm.

Crow Lake Dump (1/2 mi. south of Crow Lake Rd. on Badour Rd.) - SUNDAY 4:00 - 8:00 pm

Controlling Aquatic Plants

Charlie Stewart

An item of interest to many landowners in the greater Bob's Lake region is the growth of aquatic plants and the merits and available means of attempting to control them. As each season progresses, plants increasingly choke channels and bays where they interfere with boating and swimming but aquatic plants provide food and shelter for water mammals and fish. Birds, amphibians and reptiles hide in the shoreline greenery, and the plants help stabilize shorelines, control erosion and maintain water quality.

In the past both chemical and physical means have been used to control the growth of aquatic plants where they interfere with people's activities. However, their removal can have adverse effects on the environment. As a result, before plants are removed from Ontario lakes and rivers, a permit is required. To obtain a permit to remove plants in the Rideau Canal system, contact the Canadian Parks Service. Permits for any other Ontario lake or river system are available through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

An article in the North Frontenac News on September 14, 1993 discussed the requirements and merits of various methods of controlling aquatic plants. It recommended hand pulling as the best course. That may not be practical for large areas. You can also use a hand-operated cutter bar

Cont'd on Page 6

Controlling Aquatic Plants (Cont'd)

mounted on a boat. Whatever method is used to control aquatic plants, it's important to remove them from the water. Otherwise they'll likely take root elsewhere and spread.

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Bulletin 107, entitled Aquatic Plant Management and Control, presents another alternative. That's to remove the light by either floating black plastic in a wooden frame on the surface during the spring growing period or lining the bottom with plastic weighted with rocks or sand. This may be useful for very limited areas.

Chemical treatment is another option; however, it too is temporary. If you're considering the use of chemicals, contact the Ministry of Environment and Energy for permits to buy and use chemicals.

Bio-diversity

Alfred Pick

We heard a lot about the diversity of life during the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In particular, we were reminded again about the infinite variety of species of plants in the tropical rain forest, especially about the potential pharmaceutical treasures to be found in the plant life of the Amazon jungle. We may have an example nearer home.

Taxol

There is an experimental drug, thought to be effective in the treatment of breast cancer, being derived from the bark of the Western Yew or Pacific Yew (*Taxus brevifolia*) of the British Columbia and Oregon coast. There is a companion eastern species, the Canada Yew (*Taxus canadensis*) or Ground Hemlock, a shrub that grows in colonies on the forest floor. It has similar properties and a Quebec enterprise is seeking support for research on it for the same special drug. There is a patch of the Canada Yew (also called the American Yew) near the boat launch at the southern end of Green Bay, near the causeway. The yew has a characteristic seed or fruit in an orange-red cup, that readily distinguishes it from the Dwarf Juniper or Eastern Hemlock..

(A digression: The European species of yew was used to make bows, such as the long-bows of the Welsh archers at the Battle of Agincourt that brought a famous victory to Henry V and more recently to Lawrence Olivier and Kenneth Branagh.)

The Wood Lily

One of our strikingly beautiful wild flowers is the Wood Lily to be found late in June on the edge of forests. It has a single upward-facing orange-scarlet bloom. It is perhaps best seen on the south-facing shoulder of the so-called New Road

running from Green Bay to the Godfrey-Westport paved road. It can also be found elsewhere on roadsides or wood openings-not in deep woods. For example, on the shore side by the swamp of the road leading to Green Bay from the south. Please do not pick.

The Pine Warbler

The wood warblers, in their variety and elusiveness, present a continuing fascination and the endless problem of identification. The pine warbler, for once accurately named, is to be found where there is a group of mature pine trees. He has a bright yellow breast, dimly streaked, clear white wing bars and just a hint of eye-ring. I have the opportunity from my cottage deck to observe the pine warbler in a group of older white pines, I am not sure whether he actually nests in my trees or is just a regular forager. He works his way along the lateral branches and into the tufts of needles, at the middle storey or higher.

He is first detected by his song which is a trill similar to that of the more common Shipping Sparrow, who usually lives at a lower level or on the ground. Peterson says that the song is like that of the Chipping but "looser, more musical, slower". That's about it, though it takes the untrained ear much persistence and patience.

The Pine Warbler breeds in the beautiful woods of old pines, both white and red, of the Desert Lake Cemetery.

The Night Raider

The stories of the resourcefulness and dexterity of the raccoon seem endless. People are even driven to write verses about it such as:

The well-fed raccoon,
By the light of the moon,
Distributes the waste
That is not to its taste.

Our latest rural experience, shared with some neighbours, is the nightly attack on the hummingbird feeder by a particular mature raccoon. It has become addicted to the nectar we put out for the hummers. It seems almost impossible to place the feeder where the raccoon cannot somehow contrive to reach it and spill it, or even destroy it; we now bring it in every night.

Buoys & Road Signs

Pete Marshall

All shoal markers should be removed by now. Please be sure and replace them after Victoria Day next year.

Please advise Pete Marshall if any of our road signs are damaged or missing. Have a good winter!

Water Quality Study

Jean Salter

This past summer, your lake association, in conjunction with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, studied the level of phosphorous in the Rideau Lakes Watershed. This study included Bob's Lake and is important because it gives us some idea of how human habitation has been adversely affecting our water quality. Elevated phosphorous levels can lead to eutrophication, the suffocation of lakes by alga and weeds. The Ministry of the Environment and Energy has set a safety guideline of 0.02 mg/L of phosphorous for lakes and in, every instance the samples taken from Bob's Lake exceed this standard.

Total Phosphorous Levels for Tested Areas on Bob's Lake as of August 27th:

Long Bay	.0523
Bob's-Buck Bay	.051
Bob's-Green Bay	.0585
Bob's-Main	.0473

If, as is the case for Bob's Lake, the levels of phosphorous exiting the lake are higher than the levels entering, it indicates that phosphorous is being introduced into the lake, either by biological or human means. Given the number of cottages on our lake, cottagers are the most likely cause of the elevated phosphorous levels. Inputs from "grey water" containing soaps and detergents, leaking septic systems and agricultural runoff all contribute to the problem.

Total Phosphorous Levels for Lakes Draining into Bob's Lake as of August 27th:

Long Lake	.0591
Elbow Lake	.034
Leggat Lake	.0867
Eagle Lake	.06
Crow Lake	.055

Total Phosphorous Levels as of August 27th:

Avg. Value for Bob's Lake Outflow at Tay River
.0818

Avg. Value for Lakes Draining into Bob's Lake
.0589

Each of us can and must insure that the situation doesn't deteriorate further by using "phosphate free" detergents, preventing runoff from agricultural manure and lawn care products and ensuring that septic systems meet government safety standards and are positioned the mandatory distance from the lake. While there is currently no known way to reduce phosphorous in our lakes, we should make it our job to see that the current levels don't get worse. The Conservation Authority hopes to continue this study in an attempt to keep residents informed of the progress being made.

How Lead is Killing the Loons

Laurie Bildfell (Condensed and reprinted from the Globe & Mail)

A loon gliding on still waters is such a quintessential Canadian image that it graces our \$1 coin. And yet life for North America's 500,000 common loons is anything but tranquil. Recent research suggests many of them are facing painful, yet avoidable, deaths. The problem is lead.

Chronic lead poisoning has been well documented as a killer of other waterfowl. Ducks and geese, for instance, unwittingly pick up gunshot with the pebbles they swallow to grind food. Unlike herbivorous ducks and geese, loons are fish-eating diving birds whose solid bones allow them to chase prey to depths of 60 metres. Thus, they are far more likely to pick up the large lead fishing sinkers used by anglers to weigh down lures.

A study into deaths in the loon population done four years ago at Tufts University in Massachusetts revealed that the most common cause of death (about 20 per cent of the total) was "miscellaneous trauma" caused by humans -- being hit by boats of gunshot, getting tangled in nonbiodegradable fishing line. Among adult loons, the next biggest cause of death -- and a totally unexpected one -- was lead poisoning from swallowing just a single lead fishing sinker. In about a quarter of these deaths, the sinkers were still attached to fishing line, indicating they were swallowed along with bait fish.

Jack Barr, a biologist based in Guelph, Ont., who is a pioneer in research on loons and environmental contaminants, says he has seen only a couple of dozen lead sinkers in the more than 500 loons he has examined since the mid-sixties, but considers lead poisoning a pressing problem. "Many metals tend to attack the central nervous system, [but] lead affects the neuro-muscular capabilities, and often affects vision as well," he says. "When a bird like a loon -- which is a hunter -- becomes disoriented, it doesn't take very much to reduce its ability to capture fish."

A poisoned loon may still be plump and glossy, but is weak, disoriented and slow. As its muscles become paralyzed, the neck may exhibit several unnatural-looking kinks. Before it dies, the loon will typically gasp and retch violently.

Cont'd on Page 8

How Lead is Killing the Loons (Cont'd)

Many countries have enacted legislation in response to the unnecessary deaths of wildlife from lead. In England, lead sinkers were banned in 1987 after being linked to the deaths of thousands of swans. Holland prohibits lead shot totally and many other countries are moving in the same direction. In the United States, since 1991, only steel shot has been permitted for waterfowl hunting and lead sinkers are banned in some areas.

In Canada, there is no legislation regarding sinkers. Lead shot is prohibited in areas where lead levels are excessive, such as the St. Clair marshes in Southern Ontario, where hunting and the underlying geology have combined to create excessive lead levels. In B.C., a number of organizations have called for a complete ban of lead shot. To create "non-toxic shot zones" would require an amendment of the Migratory Birds Convention established by Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in 1916.

"Individuals don't have to wait for government legislation," says Dr. Pokras, an assistant professor of wildlife medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts. In the U.S., non-toxic alternatives to lead are only marginally more expensive.

In Canada, replacements for lead shot are not readily available. Steel shot is considered a good substitute but is hard to find. The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters may soon market a reusable, split sinker made of tin and zinc sinkers can be purchased by mail order from the U.S. However, questions remain about the toxicity of both metals.

Bi Logic Tackle Company of Thessalon, Ont., manufactures sinkers made of bismuth, a non-toxic metal that has a weight similar to that of lead and is only slightly more expensive. Co-owner Larry Kissau, who also guides and owns a resort, believes few people realize they are contributing to the deaths of loons when they cut a snagged line. "I've put a lot of lead into our lakes myself over the years."

Dr. Pokras views the poisoning of loons as tragic, but there is cause for optimism. Unlike other environmental problems, there is a solution: "The nice thing, if there is one, about this whole lead-sinker issue is that it has a clear solution." "It's not like acid rain or global warming. It's very straightforward. This sinker killed this bird. If you change your sinkers, the loon won't die."

Board of Directors

Anna Chadwick
President
1185 Bentley Terrace
Kingston, Ontario
K7P 2M1
(613) 634-0384

Robert Cutter
Vice-President
3915 India Cove
Gulf Breeze, FL
USA 32561
273-3729 (Summer)

Bill St. Arnaud
Newsletter
36 Bower St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 0K3
(613) 238-8912

Susan M. Mactaggart
Development Committee
8 Kingsway Cres.
Toronto, Ontario
M8X 2R1
(416) 233-7370
273-5236 (Summer)

John German
Water Level
#906, 62 Wellesley St. W.
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 2X3
(416) 960-0881
273-5616 (Summer)

Jackie Green
Secretary
354 Inglewood Dr.
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1J6
(416) 489-5987
273-5466 (Summer)

Jean Salter
Water Quality
2652 Edgewater Dr.
Niceville, FL
USA 32578
(904) 729-1466
273-5580 (Summer)

Keith Ellison
74 Amelia St.
Toronto, Ontario
M4X 1E
(416) 926-9718

Bill Brink
1687 Wareglan Dr
West Chester, PA
USA 19382

A.G. (Peter) Marshal
Road Signs/Buoys
RR#2
Godfrey, Ontario
K0H 1T0
273-6434

Angus Laidlaw
Bedford Lakes Comm.
.505-1401 Prince of Wales
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 3J8
(613) 225-0409

Jack Barr
RR#1
Glenburnie, Ontario
K0H 1T0
(613) 353-2228

Robert Sanderson
Wildlife Preservation
50 Skinner Rd.
Oneida, New York
USA 133421
(315) 363-4112
273-5561 (Summer)

Lyn McIntyre
Treasurer
Box 417
RR#1
Chelsea, Quebec
(819) 827-4486

Fred Fuller
RR#2
Godfrey, Ontario
K0H 1T0
(613) 273-5358

Frank DeWitt
23343 Blue Water Circle
Boca Raton, FL
USA 33433
(407) 392-7545
273-5659 (Summer)

Charlie Stewart
10085 Marshall Pond Rd
Burke Virginia
USA 22015
(703) 250-1902