

Fall 1994

G R E A T E R

BOBS Lake LANDOWNER ASSOCIATION

S.O.S. — SAVE OUR SHORELINES NEW FACTSHEET AVAILABLE TO HELP

IT IS TIME TO START PRESERVING AND RESTORING our natural shorelines! And much of the work starts at home. There is a new, informative factsheet available to help landowners understand the importance of natural shorelines and how to preserve their stretch.

The new fact sheet called, "Preserving and Restoring Natural Shorelines," covers all the basics — what can be done and who can help? This is just one of the many factsheets available from the LandOwner Resource Centre.

Natural vegetation along the shoreline of lakes and rivers plays a crucial role in protecting water quality, preventing soil erosion and preserving the ecological balance of aquatic environments. A lot of

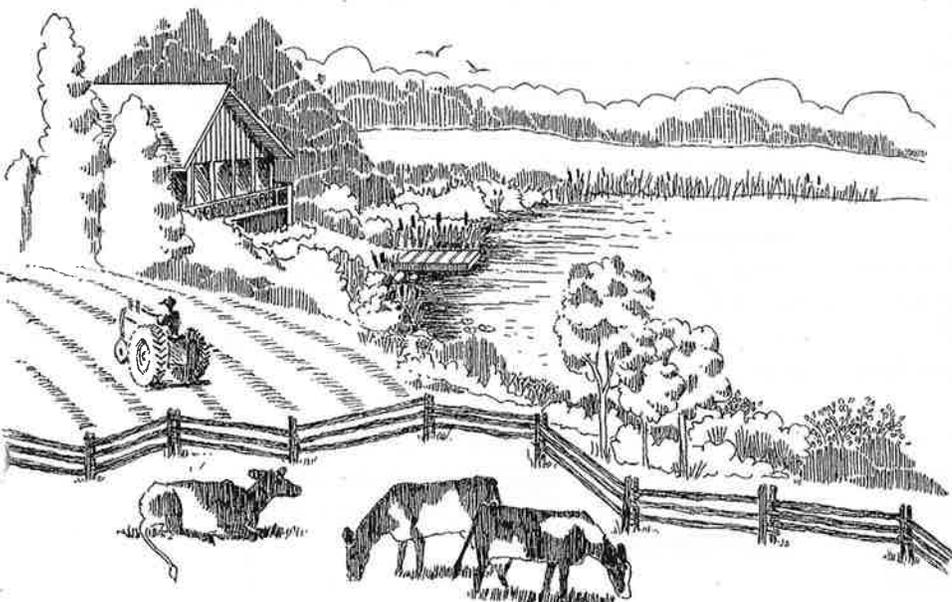
the natural plants and shrubs around Ontario lakes and rivers have been cleared or replaced with non-native species. This results in the loss of wildlife habitat and reduced water quality.

Many landowners clear their shorelines and transform them into urban landscapes. They destroy the cattails, bulrushes and other native species, and replace them with lawns and non-native species. They build retaining walls, docks and boathouses. These changes destroy the balance of the aquatic and shoreline ecosystems. They also change the wildlife habitat, natural beauty and character of our lakes and rivers.

Fortunately, the degradation of shorelines can be reversed. More landowners are learning about the value of natural shorelines. They are leaving the lawnmower at home, planting native plants and restoring shorelines.

The LandOwner Resource Centre is a one-stop information shop for landowners. It brings agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and water quality information under one roof. When you are not sure who to call, call the LandOwner Resource Centre. They will help you access the information and programs you need.

For a factsheet and advice on your property, contact the LandOwner Resource Centre at (613) 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304.



BOBS LAKE WATER QUALITY

JEAN SALTER AND BILL BRINK

Over the past 15 to 20 years, water samples have been taken from various areas of Bobs Lake. This year, these Secchi disk water samples and phosphorous levels were analyzed on a weekly basis. At the present time, the data does not indicate a serious trend of degradation, however it is important that as water usage increases, we understand the impact that we, as individuals, have on the quality of our lake water.

BEDFORD LAKES COMMITTEE

Councillor Roxanne Darling-Greenslade chairs the Bedford Lakes Committee. This committee coordinates activities and handles issues affecting all the lakes in Bedford township. More members are required and anyone interested is asked to contact Councillor Greenslade through Bedford Township Hall at 374-2066.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Two special guest speakers visited our Annual General Meeting. Cliff Craig, Assistant General Manager, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Wendy Stewart, Vice-President of the Rideau Lakes Association talked to us about water quality.

Cliff expressed his support for the proposed Bobs Lake water usage and shoreline survey. This survey would include suggestions and actions that individual landowners could perform to reduce phosphorous levels.

The Conservation Authority has been involved in several water quality studies over the past few years.

Findings suggest that nutrient levels, due to phosphorous overloading, are probably the main problem in water degradation.

President's Message
Fall '94

Greetings from Bobs Lake!
We've had a beautiful Indian summer. The lake is quiet—perfect for canoeing and watching geese and ducks heading south.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual General Meeting, a great deal of this newsletter summarizes the key issues that were discussed.

Have a great fall! Watch for our Spring Newsletter and remember, everyone is welcome to contribute!

Anna Chadwick

Cliff emphasized the important relationship between the area within 10-30 metres (30-100 feet) of the shoreline and nutrient levels. The factors affecting this area include development of the shoreline (building too close), removing vegetation, inadequate septic systems, fertilizing lawns, dredging and filling, and using dishwashers and laundry equipment. According to Cliff, if we practice good stewardship we can reduce the nutrients by a factor of six.

Wendy Stewart highlighted the results of the water quality survey of the Upper Rideau Lake, which has about 40 km of shoreline and 300 cottages and commercial establishments.



According to Wendy, in the late 80's the residents on Upper Rideau Lakes noted a significant degradation of water quality on their lake. Evidence included the appearance of many dead snails, rotting algae, and the disappearance of walleye. The lake association decided to conduct a survey of water usage with the anticipation that informed owners would act responsibly to correct problems.

With support from various government agencies, including the North Crosby Township, the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Lanark County Health Unit, in conjunction with a grant from the Shell Environmental Fund, the Association conducted the review and received almost universal cooperation and support from landowners owners.

The results of the survey indicated that 40 per cent of the septic systems were not functioning properly

and could have been contributing to problems in water quality. Of 423 sites surveyed, seven were direct polluters and were reported to the Ministry of Health. In addition, about 30 per cent of the shoreline had been altered and 50 per cent had less than 10 metres of natural vegetation on it. At the conclusion of the project, each cottage received an individual, confidential assessment.

The key emphasis during the year following the study was improving the shoreline and in that year over 8,000 shrubs were planted. Along with other remedial action, including increased setbacks, water quality is slowly beginning to improve although not still at an acceptable level. Most importantly there is a new attitude evolving that everyone is responsible for water quality.

**please refer to postscript.*

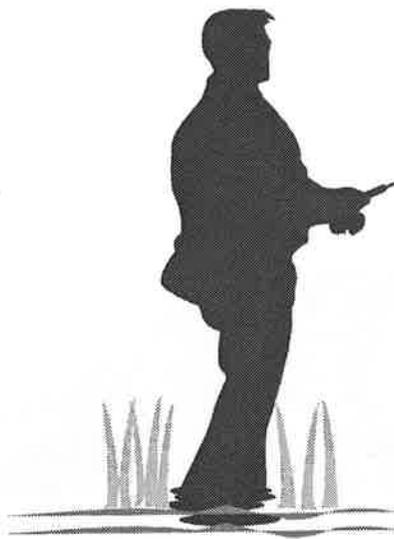
FISHING

Angus Laidlaw, Chairman of the Fishing Committee, reported on the fishing status. He called on Bob Greenslade to report on this year's results. This is the seventh year that the Association has managed the fish restocking program in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources. It has been jointly funded in the past and there were two projects funded during 1994. They were raising fingerlings in Amy Pond and the rehabilitating McEwen's Creek. Bob summarized the exacting process involved to successfully raise fingerlings.

In July, 32,000 fingerlings were released in Bobs Lake. The cost to raise these was \$2,700 plus over 500 volunteer hours. In addition, \$2,000 was allocated for the creek upgrade.

The members expressed their great appreciation to Bob and the other volunteers for their timeless efforts to make this program such a success.

Angus commented on the present situation. Amy Pond requires scraping to remove the nutrient-rich sediment. This would cost about \$3,000. In addition, the MNR has indicated that funds will likely not be available. The ministry has also expressed the view that restocking is only a temporary measure and that resources should be devoted to maintaining the fish population once a self-sustaining number is established. Unfortunately, there is inadequate information on the long range impact of the past restocking programs and alternative actions that should be undertaken. Data that should be determined include the amount of fish removed, the availability of spawning areas and water quality. Angus said that a subcommittee has been established to investigate the future of the fish maintenance program and to make recommendations to the Board.



M.A.P.L.E.

This spring, 1000 plants have been provided to Bobs Lake Landowners by the Mutual Association for the Protection of Lake Environments in Ontario. This excellent program provides cuttings which enable landowners to improve the quality of their shoreline and prevent erosion, thereby improving water quality. The group which meets on the first Tuesday of each month in Carleton Place, continues to require both membership and assistance. Please contact Anna Chadwick if you are interested in becoming involved.

MEMBERSHIP

As of July 30, 1994, the Association had 300 paid members. Since there are approximately 1,200 cottages and landowners on Bobs Lake, over the next three summers there will be a concerted effort to contact landowners in under represented areas to provide information about the Association and its initiatives.

WILDLIFE

Bob reported that their appear to be an adequate number of adult loons on the lake, however there was some concern that there appeared to be very few young. The high water levels and the winds during June could have been factors affecting nesting and leading to fewer chicks surviving. A copy of a "Loon Alert" information sign, informing people about the sensitivity of loons to disturbance, to be displayed in stores, camps, and other prominent locations was displayed. We would like to thank Dr. and Mrs. Hanselman for their donation of these signs.

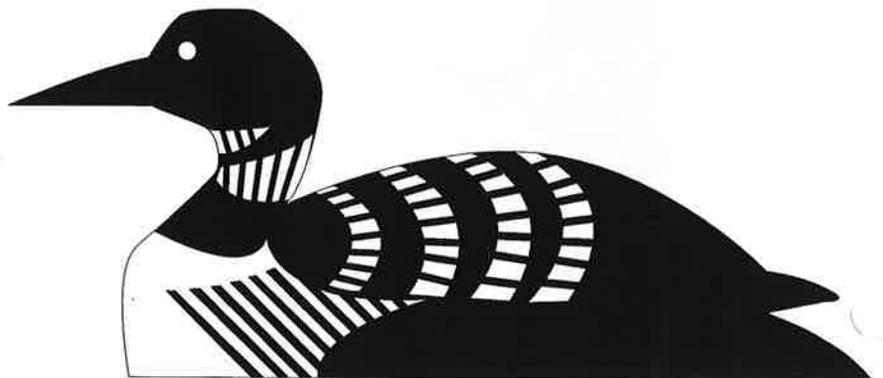
BOARD CHANGES

It was with a great deal of regret that the Board accepted the resignation of Peter Marshall from the Board of Directors. Peter has served on the Board in numerous positions, including Vice-President and Treasurer, since its inception. His commitment, energy, and sound judgement will be missed, but Peter assures us that he will continue to be active in the Association.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome two new Board members. Elizabeth Fox and Tom Williams, both from Kingston, Ontario who have joined the group. We look forward to their input and participation.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

All Board and Association Members would like to express a sincere "thank you" to Joyce Barr, a former Board member, who volunteered to prepare 'letters of opinion' regarding property value. Joyce asked that those individuals who received this service make a donation to the Association in lieu of her regular fee.



COMMUNITY WILDLIFE INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

LYNN MCINTYRE

The Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP) is a provincially funded program through the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. This program encourages the public to actively undertake hands on wildlife management projects that will directly benefit the natural resource. CWIP projects must meet one or more of the following objectives:

1. Increasing the variety, abundance and distribution of wildlife and wildlife habitat leading to a long-term increase in outdoor education.
2. Increasing knowledge about the wildlife resource.
3. Strengthening the relations between landowners, outdoor recreationists and interest groups.

Did you know?

- Loons fish by sight only, so they do not feed at night.
- Chicks beg for food by pecking at the base of a parent's bill.
- Chicks grow their flight feathers at 11 weeks of age.



Albert Cain and Lynn McIntyre hang a new nesting box for wood ducks.

In 1993-94 the Greater Bobs Lake Landowner Association applied for a grant through CWIP to increase the abundance of waterfowl by creating suitable nesting opportunities for loons by building nesting platforms and wood ducks via nesting boxes. A grant of \$584 was approved by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to build three nesting platforms and twenty nesting boxes.

WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX PROJECT

One of our province's most beautiful waterfowl species is the wood duck. Few birds have such beautiful form or exquisite colour as the wood duck drake. At the turn of the century, wood duck numbers were so depleted that some people believed the species were nearing extinction. The wood duck is a tree cavity dweller. As such, they require a mature to old growth forest type to produce the necessary tree cavities. The age of the forest around Bobs Lake ranges in age from juvenile to some isolated areas of old growth white pine, however the bulk of the forest is less than 80 years old, the habitat is less than ideal for wood ducks. The erection of wood duck boxes is one small way to enhance their habitat. Twenty nesting boxes were constructed by Pete Marshall and Lynn McIntyre and erected in suitable areas around the lake.

LOON PLATFORM PROJECT

Bobs Lake with its many bays and inlets provides sheltered locations suitable for natural nests, however the steep shoreline and fluctuating water level does not provide the necessary emergent vegetation to support very many natural nesting sites. A sharp draw down in the lake level can sometimes leave loon nests on higher ground and prone to predation by raccoons. Floating platforms can offer alternate sites for nesting loons. Three nesting platforms were constructed by Pete Marshall and Bob Sanderson and placed in sheltered locations around the lake.

Boaters are asked to stay back from these platforms during the nesting season to avoid wake damage to the nest.

BOBS LAKE POSTER

A decorative poster, depicting an accurate map of Bobs Lake, is on sale at various stores and camps in the area. Thank you to all the store and camp

owners who have undertaken to carry this map in their inventory.

WALKABOUT AND OUTSPAN

ALFRED PICK

In Australia when the aborigine is restless he goes walkabout. H.M. the Queen also has a form of walkabout. In South Africa the tired traveller relaxes by outspanning. This was literally unyoking the span of oxen in the old days. (Recently we again have South African fruit in the supermarkets labeled "Outspan".)

Cottagers often go walking to exercise themselves or their dogs and to enjoy nature. This can mean using a dusty hot road or trespassing on private land. However, there are public places available in the immediate area of Bobs Lake. One can wander on Crown land if one knows where it is. Here are a few tips so you can enjoy a walkabout.

Clockwise, starting at the north, there is Foley Mountain Conservation Area. Above Westport, run by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the area has a number of trails, such as the short Beaver Pond Trail, which has a brief descriptive leaflet.

The Rideau Trail, which extends from Kingston to Ottawa, has a detailed Guidebook (Third Edition 1993) with accurate maps; it runs through the Foley Mountain reserve. One can even pick up a short run of one kilometre from the Maberly Road, by climbing a stile (recently rebuilt) and walking the ridge, where it emerges at the Perth Road exactly opposite the entrance to the Foley Mountain area. Rideau Trail runs along the escarpment to Spy Rock, on down to the Interpretive Centre and beyond the parking lot, to the swimming beach of Little Bay. It then continues along the north side of Upper Rideau Lake to the Narrows and Murphy's Point Provincial Park.

A novel variant is to go on the nature tour of the property of Art Briggs-Jude, called Bluebird Acres, on the Westport-Maberly road near the turnoff of the road to Burridge. This is a guided visit by appointment.

Further south there are the several resources of Frontenac Provincial Park. From the Trail Centre there is a short interesting walk in the Arab Lake Gorge (1.5 km) with an annotated nature Guide; about half of this is a boardwalk. There is also the longer Doe Lake Circuit (about 3 km), and other extensive walks. There is a section of the Rideau Trail in Frontenac Park.

Less well known is the "backdoor" entrance to the Park at the top of the Park where a stream, with a dam, leaves Kingsford Lake. This is not easy to find and there is limited parking on the edge of the Park. This simple, but attractive walk is really a canoe portage trail (750 m) along the stream to the swampy beginning of Devil Lake. There are other longer trails for hiking campers — permits are required for the inland camping sites.

West of Highway 38 there is Camden Lake, a shallow body of water administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources primarily for duck-hunting. It may be reached through Bellrock and Moscow. There is an observation platform and two short trails, one entirely on a wetland and having several boardwalks.

Further north there is a chain of Depot Lakes on the Napanee River system. At the Second Depot Lakes there is a public campground run by the Napanee Valley Conservation Authority. Between the camping area and the high dam on the Third Depot Lake there are hiking trails for which there is a simple map. Some of the trails are rather new and not well groomed or marked.

In the Sharbot Lake Provincial Park on Highway 7 there is a pleasant walk, the Discovery Trail, one kilometre, between Black Lake and the north shore of Sharbot Lake. There is a brief guide, with marked posts.

This summarizes the principal walks in our immediate zone within, say, an hour's drive. There are more in a surrounding outer region. These include Murphy's Point Provincial Park on the north side of Big Rideau Lake, with some impressive old growth trees; the Perth Wildlife Reserve on the Tay Marsh; and Gould Lake Conservation Area north of Sydenham, which is also covered by the Rideau Trail, including some side loops. Further a field, Charleston Provincial Park, down near Landsdowne, has a circuit or loop with interesting geology and some rock shelters.

Bon Echo Park is further to the west, north of Kaladar, with several trails out from the campgrounds. The main attractions are the Indian pictographs on the bold cliffs of the upper part of Mazinaw Lake.

Perhaps the most unusual outing is the K & P Trail, which begins just north of the community of Snow Road, north of Sharbot Lake, and goes for some 35 km to Calabogie. This is a narrow rough roadway, being the right-of-way of the long-abandoned Kingston-Pembroke Railway; the curves and grades are therefore gentle. It is best enjoyed by a very slow drive, with many stops through rather lonely and even mysterious country. (Take plenty of gas, and food and drink).

This piece should be reasonably accurate, though there are bound to be some omissions. It should be sufficient to meet the urge to walkabout and outspan.

BOATERS QUIZ

"Stop Washing Away Shoreline Habitat," Friends of the Rideau

1. How far should you be away from the shoreline while operating a motorized boat?
 - a) 15 metres
 - b) 20 metres
 - c) 30 metres
 - d) 40 metres

2. If you are practising good shoreline "softening" techniques, you would:
 - a) pull all the weeds out of the water.
 - b) pull out the wild plants, including dandelions, from the shoreline.
 - c) get involved in planting several shrubs along the shoreline.
 - d) destroy the buffer zone that is near the shoreline.

3. Which of the following animals could be in danger if you produce too large a wash with your Jet Ski?
 - a) a baby loon
 - b) a deer
 - c) a fox
 - d) some fish eggs
 - e) both a and d
 - f) none of the above

Answers: 1. c) 2. c) 3. e)

**POSTSCRIPT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The petition circulated at the AGM in support of a proposed water usage survey to be conducted on Bobs Lake, along with a proposal, was presented to council in September. Some members of Council continued to express reservations as to the need and the legal ramifications of such a survey and we will be meeting to present Council with further information, once again in November. As you are aware, Council endorsement is only the first step of this process, as we must then apply for funding to the Environmental Youth Corps and receive the cooperation of the Ministry of Environment and Energy.*

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Total - 18
✓ SINCE 1990 - 7
• USA - 6

☞ Committed to the preservation of the lakes, lands and wildlife of the Greater Bobs Lake area. ☞

GREATER BOBS LAKE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:
Summer Address:
Lot and Concession No.:
Telephone:
Winter Address:
Telephone:
Fish Stocking:
General Fund:
Emergency Equipment:
Lake Preservation Fund:
Additional Donation(s):
Enclosed is \$25.00 in Dues
Total:
Please remit funds to the Greater Bobs Lake Landowners Association:
c/o The Burrige Store
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