



Fall/Winter/97 Newsletter

GREATER BOBS LAKE ASSOCIATION

Touch the earth,
love the earth,
honour the earth:
her plains, her valleys,
her hills, and her seas;
rest your spirit in her
solitary places.

Henry Beston



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Editor's Notes

By Brian McAndrews

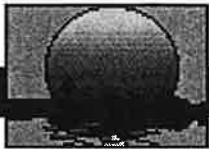
♦ Desktop publishing by Kate Kittner, Jeremy Hinchey, Ryan Kuhne, and Rick Dorey. Cover photo by Lloyd Jones. Special thanks to my colleague at Holy Cross, Patrick Prior for his expert advice.

♦ Submissions for the next newsletter, Spring/summer 98, should be sent to me at the above address or by email: mcandrebb@educ.queensu.ca by April 15, 1998.

♦ My apologies to Tony Foster, my neighbour on Crow Lake; I lost his poem about the view from his outhouse. Hopefully I can find it for our spring/summer issue. All poems and stories are most welcome.

♦ My daughter Amy has an article in this issue describing a new initiative by the Harris government called 'Land for Life'. We need to monitor this very carefully; environmentalists are very concerned with what this will mean for the 45% of the province that is public land. Anyone with more information regarding this issue should consider writing an article for the next newsletter.

♦ The cover picture and several others within this issue are from our lakes. Who can identify the area of the lakes they come from? The first person to correctly identify all of the pictures will win a prize to be awarded at our AGM/98. Lloyd Jones is not eligible to participate!



President's Report

Dear Members,

This summer season has passed far too quickly. Weather wise, we were blessed with amazing summer months, but the bonus was the warm September/October days that were absolutely outstanding. This summer has also been an extremely busy one for the Association and your Directors.

I am happy to report that the membership figures steadily increase each week, and we have now reached 267 fully paid memberships. Your support for this Association is greatly appreciated, but more importantly, it represents a support system for the community in general. Please continue to encourage your neighbours to join and share this newsletter with them.

This was a very busy summer for your Directors as we aimed at goals that taxed everyone more than usual. The results however were outstanding. Membership increased substantially thanks to special mailings and the "Hit the Docks Day". The first social gathering, the picnic, was indeed a success. The emergency/safety program in co-operation with the OPP was excellent and will be continued next year. The newsletter has a new format of which we are very proud.

I particularly wish to acknowledge the Ministry of Natural Resources, Mr. Doug Howell - Peterborough District Manager, and the Kingston area biologists who have worked so closely with the Association. The study that is now in progress for our lake is a very important one for Eastern Ontario. We appreciate our long association with the Ministry and anticipate continued co-operation in the years ahead.

To meet newsletter deadlines, I write my report on the advent of the election. Whatever the outcome, I wish the new representatives for our area every success as they assume their responsibilities in the new government forum. We hope to work closely with you for the benefit of all our residents.

I wish to thank each Director for their hard work and dedication this summer that helped to achieve our goals; from the Directors, to area representatives, to water testers, to each member who contributes to a specific project - *thank you*. Your efforts help to maintain this unique community of the Greater Bob's Lake area.

I have stated in the past and reiterate now, particularly in the light of the government changes at hand, the future success of our area depends on your involvement in the Association as we meet the issues and address your concerns.

As we approach the end of 1997, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a peaceful, safe, winter season.

Till we meet again in the Spring Newsletter.

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart



Bobs and Crow Lakes Fisheries

By: Mel Fleming

Well, here we go again, improving the fisheries in both Bobs and Crow Lakes. We've been very busy and so far very successful, and it looks like more success in the future. Let's review our current history.

First, we verified that McEwen's Creek feeding Bobs Lake was indeed re-habilitated (and it was). Then, we called for bids for the building of a bridge over Warren's Creek feeding Bobs Lake, selected a contractor, and waited for the time for construction to start. Next we had preliminary inspections of lake trout and walleye spawn-

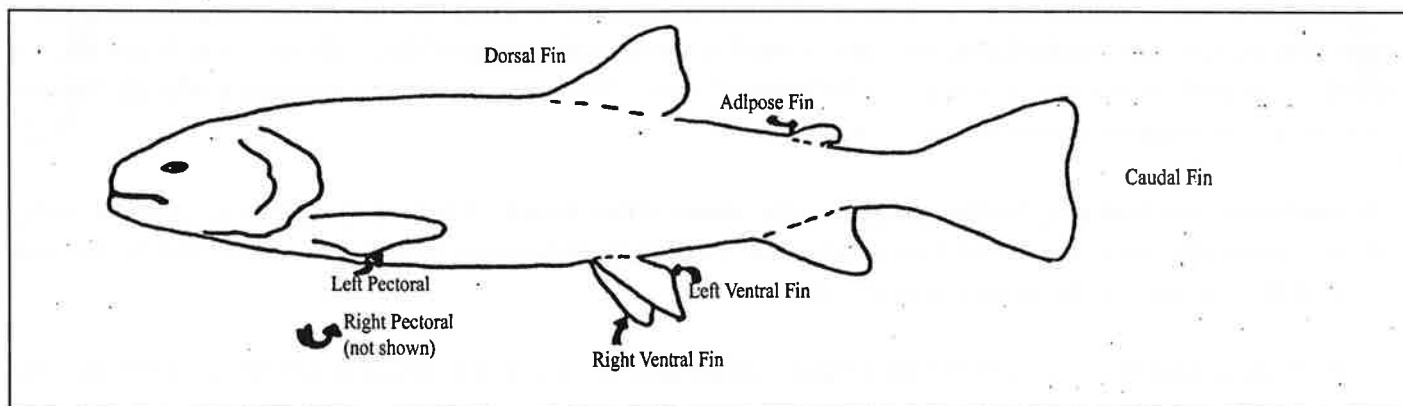
from Bobs Lake to the Creek. We are certainly looking forward to next spring when the walleye spawn there. Thanks to private individual donations, donations from the Association, and to the MNR for major funding through their Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP). Also, we thank both Mark Ferguson and Rick Topping of MNR for their assistance and advice, and also to many volunteers.

Randy Fleming and I participated in the MNR stocking of 25,000 lake trout fingerlings into Green Bay of Bobs Lake and it was a very interesting and

ologist with MNR. This will help determine the success of the program. Call me at (613) 279-2871 (cottage) or (613) 267-2871 (home), or write to GBLA, RR # 2, Godfrey, ON K0H 1T0.

The lake trout fin clippings are as follows: Left Pectoral (LP) - stocked in 95; Right Pectoral (RP) - stocked in 96; Left Ventral (LV) - stocked in 94; Right Ventral (RV) - stocked in 97; and Adipose Fin (AD) - to be stocked in 98. Even if no fin clippings are noted, report your catches.

Our inspections of the lake trout



ing grounds in Crow Lake by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) staff.

The bridge over Warren's Creek was built. It was completed by Norm Hens, of Hens Sand and Gravel of Maberly, ahead of schedule on August 30, 1997. The walleye and pike now have a clear path to the excellent spawning beds

educational experience. Since it is now possible to catch lake trout in Green Bay, anyone catching them in Green Bay is requested to take measurements (weight, length, girth, look for and identify fin clippings) whether you keep or release the fish, and report this information to me so it can be summarized for forwarding to Mark Ferguson, bi-

spawning areas in Crow Lake showed them to be inadequate. However, our inspections of Scott's Creek showed the creek to be a goldmine for the spawning of walleye but in need of significant improvements. 1997-98 Plans We found two additional areas to establish new lake trout spawning beds in Crow Lake. So we'll be putting in



CFIP applications for additional MNR funding to establish these two new beds and to re-habilitate a third bed. In addition, we are attempting to have some lake trout stocking in Crow Lake. We'll have to wait for news from MNR on this.

The top priority for this coming year is to re-habilitate Scott's Creek, Crow Lake. We must remove the beavers and their dams, and build a new road to the creek to carry out the work. In addition, we must dump 'rip rap' (smaller rounded rocks) in the creek for walleye spawning. Scott's Creek is a goldmine for walleye, providing great possible spawning beds, great feed in great areas, and great protection for fingerlings.

We will also submit a CFIP application to supplement Association funds, to provide for walleye spawning bed enhancement and lake shore bank stabilization in Long Bay of Bobs Lake.

So we have our work cut out for us. But the efforts are to be rewarded with excellent fishing in the future. We also have plans to curb at least some of the illegal Bass fishing in both Bobs and Crow Lakes. More about this in the spring newsletter.

Those of you who will benefit from all this activity, join in and contribute to the fishery projects, either now or when you renew your memberships. How about it? Send money! The CFIP programs will not cover all of the costs involved, so private and Association donations, as well as volunteer efforts, are required to make up the difference.

Commercial outfits around our two lakes will also benefit greatly with significantly improved fishing, so please contribute to our funding of fishery projects.

Walleye Stocking vs Re-habilitating Spawning Beds. Walleye have been stocked into Bobs Lake over the years and into the early 90's. However, as we have learned more about this process, there is now significant doubt about whether or not to stock. A recent report, "Walleye Stocking as a Management Tool" (January 1996), prepared by 7 MNR biologists, with input from a large number of national and international biologists and fishery experts, casts doubt about the previously accepted stocking programs. The report cautions against stocking in some lakes, particularly those that have natural native populations.

The report recommends that we learn much more about the lakes and their walleye and other fish populations before stocking is allowed. However, MNR gave permission to have 12,000 walleye stocked into Bobs Lake this past summer. The Ministry also suggested that a study be carried out (Fall Walleye Index Netting) to determine the status of fisheries in Bobs and Crow Lakes to assist in determining whether walleye stocking should take place at all. The study got underway at the beginning of October. The fish caught in this process were examined carefully, measured and samples taken. The results of this phase of the study should

be released soon. The study continues next fall. In addition, evaluation of walleye spawning areas will be undertaken next spring.

A single mature female walleye can produce 300,000 eggs. Even if 90% don't survive the first three years, there will be 30,000 walleye left at the end of three years. Assuming a 95% death rate, there will still be 15,000 fish surviving. All this from a single female. Stocking in a lake already producing is of little benefit, especially if there are good spawning grounds available. Let's assume that 12,000 fingerlings are stocked in Bobs Lake. After three years some 2-3,000 may survive to be caught by anglers. My guess is that 12,000 fingerlings could cost approximately \$24,000 to stock (at \$.50 per inch).

This is a very expensive short term solution. Compare the numbers; 15,000 walleye from a single female vs 3,000 from stocking at a significantly higher cost. Our experience for re-habilitating spawning beds is a cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000 each. Even with the much larger walleye numbers stocked in the past, what has happened to our walleye fishery? - It has continued its downward trend. It is not too good now.

What we need is a long-term solution. A solution that will result in the significant natural propagation of walleye. What we need are good spawning beds, that allow the most walleye to produce the most walleye, naturally, year after year. This is a strong walleye management strategy.



Around Bobs Lake

By Frank P. DeWitt

I'm sure all of us, when we think of Bobs Lake and the adjoining waters, think not only of its beauty but also of the lake levels. Some of us have been here when the water was so high you were unable to get your boat through the boathouse door - and then in the Fall there wasn't enough water to wet the bottom of the boathouse. In more recent years Parks Canada have managed the water for the Rideau Canal, and have heeded our cry to save the drowned lands and aquatic life, so we are now enjoying more moderate lake levels.

You may be surprised to know that there have been a number of different ways to get across the stream at the outlet of Bobs Lake. Originally there were several fords from one bank to the other, and I presume the first major dam was built before 1828 at the site of the two old mills that operated in the outlet for many years. These were located on the stream below Frank Dowdell's farm (now Badour's) but ceased to operate long before 1925 when I first saw them. The next dam was built up stream between 1828 and 1832 to retain more water and control the flow into the Tay River and the new Rideau Canal. This dam raised the level by 18 feet (5.5 metres). Now that we have better water management the "high and low" are much closer together, but we still have more than a four foot variation - though Bobs Lake

is supposedly 532 feet (162.3 metres) above sea level.

The major bodies of water controlled by the Bobs Lake Dam are: Bobs Lake - Green Bay - Buck Bay - Crow Lake - Crow Bay - Mud Bay - Long Bay - Mud Lake (Mill Bay). None of these bodies has a major stream into it, but with runoff water from the many miles of shore line and many springs we can normally have a reasonably good flow of water during the year. The lake level is controlled by "logs" at the dam. These rectangular timbers are 12" to 15" high and are raised and removed individually by a windlass to release more water down stream. The "logs" are replaced in the winter to catch the spring runoff and refill the lakes. Maintaining a more stable water level helps preserve spawning beds and keeps "drowned land" wet to support the fish and other aquatic life that may be landlocked if the lake level gets too low.

For the last ten years or so I have found large logs floating in the lake, and what a hazard they are to boating. Even in June of this year I pulled up my ramp a large diameter hewn log that had drifted onto the shoreline. This is only one of several I have removed from the water. We should all be careful not to let such things float away from construction or renovation sites. I remember my father and mother returning from fishing up the lake about dusk, hitting a log at about 15 mph, and barely

making shore before their boat sank!

After the War of 1812 both Canada (we won) and its neighbour the USA built canals to avoid the danger of the narrow area in the St. Lawrence where cities and ships from either side were easy targets, and to move produce and other items safely up to the Great Lakes and back to the Atlantic Ocean. The Rideau Canal was built in the late 1820's and finished in the early 30's. The canal is 124 miles (198 km) long, has 49 locks and raises 439 feet (134 metres). In those days it was quite an undertaking to move large boulders and enormous quantities of rocks and earth without the mammoth equipment we have today. In the US, the Erie Canal, also known as Clinton's Ditch, was designed by Dewitt Clinton. This was finished in 1825 and connects the east end of Lake Erie to the Hudson River at Albany, N.Y. In those days it was only 4 feet deep and 40 feet wide, and because of great changes in the land, there had to be 83 locks and 18 aqueducts, all required to lift the barges 568 feet over 363 miles of New York State.

As most of us know, the Rideau Canal is now only used for pleasure craft. It is nice to know that since the railroad, trucks and air planes have taken the freight loads away from the water, many people can now enjoy these waterways. If you haven't been on the Rideau Canal, take your trailer and boat to Westport and try this treat!



No Need To Fear The O.P.P.

By: Sharon Tomeo

One beautiful Sunday last August at John German's dock, people were gathering to await the arrival of the O.P.P. It was Boat Safety Day sponsored by the GBLA of which I was a participant. I was nervous about my role in this event since Police always make me nervous and I was supposed to escort them around the Lake to conduct boat safety checks. This part of Bobs Lake I do not know at all! Some escort I would be!

As interested boaters gathered at the dock for the question and answer part of the event, Officer Bonnie Barlow and her student Walter Trulsen, arrived. During this part of the program, I met my crew and realized how personable and knowledgeable they are.

Then it was time to board the O.P.P. boat. As I entered the boat, I prayed that the O.P.P. would not need nautical directions from me on this part of the lake; all I know is Green Bay! The boat took off and within minutes we were stopping our first boater for a safety equipment check. I was impressed with the demeanor and concern of the O.P.P. They were not out to ticket boaters; their purpose was to educate people about boat safety. After Officer Barlow and Walter did

their thing, my role was to give the boaters pamphlets on boat safety regulations and a plastic container with a floating keychain, discount coupons for lifejackets, and other safe boating info compliments of the GBLA. As we traveled around the Lake, I knew my prayers were answered! Constable Barlow knows Bobs Lake like the back of her hand. As we traveled about, she conducted equipment safety checks on rowboats, sailboats, party barges, seadoos, and runaboats. By and large, most boaters had the essential safety equipment. One of the most overlooked safety device was a sounding device that is not dependent on a battery for proper operation. A simple whistle fills the bill!

During our sojourn, the wind picked up dramatically (the beautiful calm sunny day turned overcast with gale force winds!). We noticed a boater on a catamaran apparently struggling with the wind to stay afloat. We approached the vessel and discovered it had no safety equipment; no life jacket or boat cushion. As a result, we escorted the catamaran home to ensure his safe return. Once safely docked, the O.P.P. discussed the importance of having the required

safety equipment on board a boat, especially when the weather is inclement.

It became obvious to me that the intent of the O.P.P. was not to harass boaters nor to give citations. They have a true concern for our safety. Only when a boater put himself in danger without having on board the essential safety equipment like life jackets were tickets issued. I was surprised to learn the possible penalties for boating infractions; a DWI conviction for boating can cost you \$140.00 and/or your automobile driver's licence! A fine of \$240.00 may be imposed for failure to have a life jacket or other life saving device on board!

As the afternoon came to an end, the O.P.P. dropped me off at my camp. As we exchanged thank yous and farewells, Walter pointed to my son's docked boat and stated that it lacked registration numbers! So, as I packed up all the boat safety pamphlets, I made a mental note to myself to get registration numbers put on the boat, A.S.A.P. ! To say the least, the day was a great learning experience for me as well as for the numerous people whose boats were checked. The O.P.P.'s presence on the Lake is truly important in promoting safe boating.



Wild Life

By Lloyd Jones

Report on Loons.

From the various sections of the lakes, comes the word that each pair of adult loons raised at least one juvenile. In late August on north Crow Lake, 12 loons flocked each day for several days; six appeared to be juveniles. The five islands of the lake are used for nesting and there appeared to be three pair this year.

More about local trees.

The White Ash has been an important tree for settlers on the lakes. The wood is hard and straight-grained making it a preferred wood for tool handles, particularly axe handles, furniture and wood for heating. Of late, White Ash is receiving more consideration as a shade tree. It has a slender stock, a graceful profile and it is a tough native tree. The White Ash outlives the planter and then some. In autumn, its leaves turn various shades of purple then yellow. A good reference for local trees is: Trees of Canada, Queen's Printer.

Lake Wildflowers

The Closed Gentian grows around the shores of our lakes. Each plant has one or more branches which produce a cluster of five navy blue blossoms in late August. The petals are closed upwards to form an oval flower more than an inch long. This year I discovered a threat to its reproduction - a larva developing in the seed case. By squeezing the base of the blossom, the larva can be killed. Next year I will save some larvae to see what develops.

Ants around the lakes.

The most numerous wildlife around the lakes are 4 species of ants: Black Carpenter, Allegheny Mound, Red and Little Black Ants. If you see the large Black Carpenter Ant lounging about on your outside cottage wall, you may have a problem with your building. They can digest wet rotting wood and will hollow out rotten areas and build a nest. Sometimes you can hear them eating. Removing the rotten wood will usually eliminate them. They are often a better messenger than a serious pest. Sometimes they set up a nest in a shel-

tered place on a cottage and get their food else where. Ant powder is the best treatment.

The Red and Allegheny Mound ants like sandy places where they can excavate a nest. They are not as aggressive as the Little Black Ant, which will bite when disturbed. Sometimes the Little Black will sense sugar products in a building, invade through any small opening and set up a line of carriers, or simply move in. The most effective control of the last three is feeding them with the liquid ant poison "Bug-B-Gon" which can eliminate the colony by killing the queen. Put a drop in front of a travelling ant to get attention, then supply larger drops nearby in a sealer top. The liquid lasts a day or two and may need renewal - and should be removed if there are small children around.

The plastic dome feeders do not work - the ants do not seem to know that they are supposed to go inside. There are no termites around the lakes, but they have been imported to Toronto and can adapt to our climate.

Preparing for Cottage Guests

By Lloyd Jones

Recently I read the observations of a woman on visiting a cottage for the weekend, in the approximate words:

"I used to think that visiting a cottage meant bringing a bottle of wine and relaxing for the weekend. Then I bought a cottage and now I hate people

who bring a bottle of wine and relax for the weekend"

Anticipating the interests of expected cottage guests and making preparations can lead to a lot of unnecessary work. The secret is to classify visitors in advance based on where they like to spend their time - from cues they give or ex-

perience - and plan from there. Invariably, they fall into one of the following groups: lake people, beach people, patio people, cottage people, hill people or town people. The last group may have only come for a place to sleep, and patio people need only beer. Unfortunately, rain can upset your plans.



G.B.L.A.'s A.G.M. / 97

By: Charlie Stewart

President Susan O'Brien Mactaggart reported on a banner year for the Greater Bobs Lake Association at its annual meeting held on July 27th. Mactaggart summarized the recent accomplishments and future challenges to a standing-room only audience of more than 100 people at the Sacred Heart Church's Fogarty Hall. She highlighted the results of the recent membership drive that boosted the association's roles to more than 250 members. In addition, new road signs have been installed to announce association events. Mel Fleming, fisheries manager for the association has continued to spearhead the initiative to rehabilitate bass and walleye spawning areas around the lake. The association recently received a grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources to make improvements on Thompson's Creek, a key walleye spawning stream on Long Bay. New markers have been placed on water hazards in both lakes and a boating safety orientation day has been arranged for August 10 in cooperation with the Sharbot Lake detachment of the OPP (see article in this issue). The final event of the summer will be an association picnic on August 16 at the Bedford Township Hall.

Mactaggart also noted the challenges facing the association's members as the local townships amalgamate, a new system of tax assessments is in-

stalled and services are shifted from provincial to municipal levels. Concurrently there will be continuing pressure to develop lakefront property as the urban areas grow and their residents seek recreational opportunities.

Donna Brown, Reeve of Bedford Township, was the keynote speaker at the meeting. She updated attendees on the status of the township amalgamation and the changes in property assessments and taxation. Brown noted that guidance from Toronto regarding the functions to be transferred was still lacking. She also said that there will likely be a significant increase in real estate taxes, but the specific impact is not yet known. She urged members to write to their MPPs and express their concern about the delay in timely guidance from the provincial government. Brown also emphasized that it will be essential for all eligible voters to cast their ballot in the fall elections. Bedford Township has a very high percentage of eligible voters who are seasonal residents. Although, absentee ballots may be arranged in the future, the existing system of proxy voting will be used for those

who cannot vote in person during this year's election.

OPP officers Ken Blackburn and George Hiles outlined the proposed changes in boating regulations. Key among those will be the requirement to have life vests of the appropriate size for all passengers. Boat cushions will no longer be considered acceptable as emergency flotation devices. They also answered concerns regarding speeding and safe boating practices, especially in narrow passes and close to docks. The association recognized outgoing directors and elected its board for the coming year. President Mactaggart concluded the meeting by emphasizing that today the association is stronger than ever. It will continue to work closely with local municipalities to represent effectively all residents of the Bobs Lake and Crow Lake areas as they meet the future challenges.





Water Quality

By: Irene Phillips

The 1995/96 survey of Bobs Lake residents indicates that water quality is the most important issue for the majority of us. It was ranked higher than any other lake concern. It is the major contributor to our enjoyment of the lake, and we are solely responsible for its maintenance, so thank you to all who completed the questionnaire and sent it in; we know where your hearts are.

Water quality is of course dependent on how we maintain our shorelines and septic systems. The Ministry of Natural Resources strongly recommends that we pump out our septic systems every 3 to 4 years, and that we use low or no phosphate products, particularly in dishwashers.

Natural, native species vegetation along our shorelines and waterfront help contribute to healthy water quality. If we are using nutrients (ie. fertilizers) to feed lawns and gardens then we are adding to the harmful nutrient growth in the lake. What an excellent excuse to let that lawn revert to its natural state and retire the lawn mower!

Once again we want to cheer on our Secchi Disk volunteers in the Lake Partner Program. Your weekly endeavors peering into the depths of Crow and Bobs Lakes have obviously raised our environmental awareness. Without these crucial readings sent to the MOEE we would not be able to determine the condition of Bobs and

Crow Lakes. It is easy to be complacent when we do not know or understand the statistics. With that in mind, we will publish the Secchi Disk data in our spring newsletter, as well as information on THE GREAT ONTARIO DIP-IN. This event records the Secchi depth in over 200 lakes in Ontario, including Bobs Lake. With permission from the MNR/MOEE we may be able to print these results as well.

Present Secchi readings from the 1996 Dip-In seem to indicate that on average our lake is mesotrophic, or that it is moderately enriched with nutrients. The next stage is eutrophic (too many nutrients), which would greatly reduce our enjoyment of Bobs Lake. We need to be vigilant.

Election '97 Results

Bathurst, Burgess, Sherbrooke:

Reeve: Judy Brown

Sherbrooke Councillors: Mark Burnham
Shirley Deacon
(ex-Reeve of South Sherbrooke)

South Frontenac Township:

Mayor: Phil Leonard

Councillors: Donna Brown and Joyce Barr (Bedford)
Donald Smith and Larry Redden (Portland)
Vic Pobran and Michelle Foxton (Loughborough)
Bill Lake and Jack Barr (Storrington)

Central Frontenac Township:

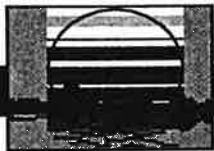
Mayor: Bill MacDonald

Councillors: Jack Nicolson and Richard Harwood (Kennebec)
Faye Putnam and Elva Price (Olden)
Robert Harvey and Mike Beattie (Oso)
Lloyd Lee and Doug Bearance (Hinchinbrooke)

A THANK YOU FROM JOYCE BARR

A little note to extend a large and sincere THANK YOU for your continued support for me as Councillor, District #1, South Frontenac Township.

Your letters of support, calls of encouragement, along with the many expressions of congratulations, again confirm that I have lived my life with treasured friends, in the beauty of God's Country.



Bernie Gelineau's Reports

Water Craft Safety

The summer of 97 was an active one for your lake association with regard to water craft safety. Two main activities were initiated to make boating on Bobs and Crow lake safer.

1) Water barrel Program- This summer approx. 25 twenty six litre yellow barrels were placed on Bobs and Crow Lakes to act as navigational aids. Volunteers on the lake help maintain the barrels. Many thanks go out to the following: Bill Brink, Fred Fuller, Kay

Cottage Security

Your association's board of director's discussed and agreed we would provide members the name of local individuals who are interested in providing a Cottage Security Check program for the winter months. Cottagers would individually or in a group contact the Cottage Check provider regarding the terms and fees. A cost of \$40 to \$60 a

Maynard, the Smith Cottage, Long Bay camp, King's Camp (Crow lake), Gary Hockley, the Sweet's cottage, Doug Slack, Bob Cutter, Bob Johnston, Bob McKean, Gerd Abel and any others of whom I don't have a record. Your participation in this program may have prevented a boating accident. There are still barrels available for the 98 boating season. My name can be found in the directory located in the newsletter.

2) A second initiative was to work closely with the OPP police boat officers. Many lake residences reported an increase in police presence on the

month has been quoted as an estimated cost. The list of names with the area they are able to service will be provided in the spring newsletter. Others interested in providing the service should contact me. Other issues of concern were the consequences of new municipal restructuring and provincial downloading of emergency services such as fire and

lakes this summer. Also a boat safety day in conjunction with the OPP was held this summer. This event was reported in the Whig, the Mirror and the North Frontenac News. (see related article in this issue) Some uncertainty about policing on the lakes should be noted. Starting in 98 policing will be the responsibility of the new municipalities. Under whose jurisdiction the lakes fall is not known at the moment. A letter to the Solicitor General, Robert Runciman, Queen's Park, Toronto might insure the presence of a police boat next summer.

ambulance. Ambulance service will now be a local responsibility and since the Greater Bobs Lake region will be serviced by three much larger municipalities - South Frontenac, Central Frontenac and Bathurst, Burgess, Sherbrooke township - how will ambulance and fire service work? Hopefully this can be clarified before we arrive at the lake next summer.

FOCA Meeting/Fall 97

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers, of which your organization is an associate member, held its annual meeting on Nov. 15. These are some of the highlights:-FOCA:

1)-has eliminated its debt by following a business plan and limiting its activities.

2)-raised its membership fees - individual from \$27 to \$30 and association from \$65 to \$70. A motion to raise the per capita fee from \$1.25 to \$2.00 will be decided at the next AGM (Associations pay a flat rate plus a per capita).

3)-plans to use the increase in funding to be more proactive in protecting the interest of cottagers. (ie. hiring a lobbyist to promote FOCA's views)

4)-will provide a water quality program for its members. Presently OMEE will only do one sampling a year.

5)-will setup a web site and provide email contact so cottagers can have access to information more readily.

Of interest to GBLA was a presentation on how restructuring and downloading might affect cottagers. These are some of ways we might be

affected:

1) municipalities to take over responsibilities of social housing

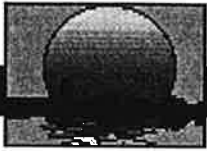
2) farms and managed forest lands to be taxed at only 25% of residential. The balance to be made up on other property owners.

3) local responsibility for provincial roads in a municipality's area

4) local responsibility of policing and ambulance service

5) cost of septic tank inspection a local responsibility

6) AVA (actual value tax assessment) to come into affect



Tax Repeal Process

By Charlie Stewart

The provincial government is implementing actual value assessment on all Ontario properties in 1998. Tax assessors visited every property this year to review the construction and physical characteristics and thereby determine its current assessed valuation. This will form the basis for your taxes next year. Properties in many municipalities were reassessed in the last few years, but those in our area had not been reviewed for many years.

Local officials have projected that, with property reassessments coupled with the many changes in government services and municipal responsibilities, the assessment (and taxes) on waterfront property will increase significantly. Donna Brown, Reeve of Bedford Township, in speaking to the Wolfe Lake Cottage Association, predicted taxes on lakefront cottages could increase 40%, and the increase on vacant waterfront land could be significantly larger. This increase is planned to be phased in over several years.

You should receive your assessment notice and new tax bill in mid winter. An often asked question is how I would appeal if I believe the assessment is incorrect. In the past the process has been fairly straight forward. There are instructions for initiating an appeal provided with the Notice of Property Assessment. The following are guidelines for the overall process based on infor-

mation provided by the Assessment Review Board and personal experience.

The first step is to file a notice of appeal with the Assessment Review Board within the required time limit. Include the required fee, \$20 in the past. Before filing it may be helpful to contact the Regional Assessment Office in Kingston and obtain any guidance they have. They also will discuss the basis for your assessment and may be able to provide a satisfactory explanation. The number for the Regional Assessment Office is 613-545-4475 or 1-800-465-2096. You may call collect if you are located outside the toll free calling area. The office is located at 201-1055 Princess St., Kingston, ON K7L 5T3. It is situated across from the Kingston Shopping Centre where the Sears store is located.

If you are not satisfied with the explanation of the Regional Assessment Office, the next step is to prepare your case for the appeal. To do this it will be necessary to compare your property and its assessment with several other properties in the area. Request the Regional Assessment Office to provide a description of the specific factors upon which assessments are determined and the factors that formed the basis for your individual property. Concurrently review the assessment rolls at the Township Office to determine the assessed valuation for about four comparable prop-

erties in the area. They do not have to be exactly comparable or in the immediate vicinity, but it will be necessary to describe the differences from your property that could affect the assessed valuation. For example, you may have 100 feet of lake frontage and the other property may have 200 feet. Similarly, you may have 1200 square feet in your buildings while the other property might have 1600 square feet. I recommend you select properties with which you are familiar and that, in your opinion, would best support your case. If possible, obtain photographs of those properties. The Regional Assessment Office may provide specific property descriptions that influenced the assessment for the properties you selected. Prepare this information in a simple format that contrasts the properties. Computer programs that construct graphs and spread sheets are extremely helpful in this effort.

With this information in hand, contact the Regional Assessment Office and request an appointment to discuss your appeal with a member of the staff. They will consider your information and may propose an adjustment after their review. You may either accept their offer or advise them that you still want to make a presentation to the Assessment Review Board. The Board schedules hearings in the local area and either you or your representative may



make a presentation. Based on your original formal appeal, you will receive a notice of hearing indicating the location, date and time for the hearing. The Board consists of a hearing officer and a recorder. The assessor from the Regional Assessment Office and you will each be requested to present your case for a decision. The assessor will likely

be the same individual with whom you earlier discussed your appeal. The hearing officer has the authority to make a decision on the spot on the basis of the information presented.

If you are not satisfied with the decision of the Assessment Review Board, you may still appeal its decision to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Additional information may be ob-

tained from the Assessment Review Board located at 121 Bloor Street East, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON M4M 3M5. Their phone numbers are 416-314-6900 or 1-800-263-3237. Their fax number is 416-314-6906. They have a two-page guide entitled, *Appealing Your Residential Property Assessment*. Copies of this should also be available from the Regional Assessment Office.

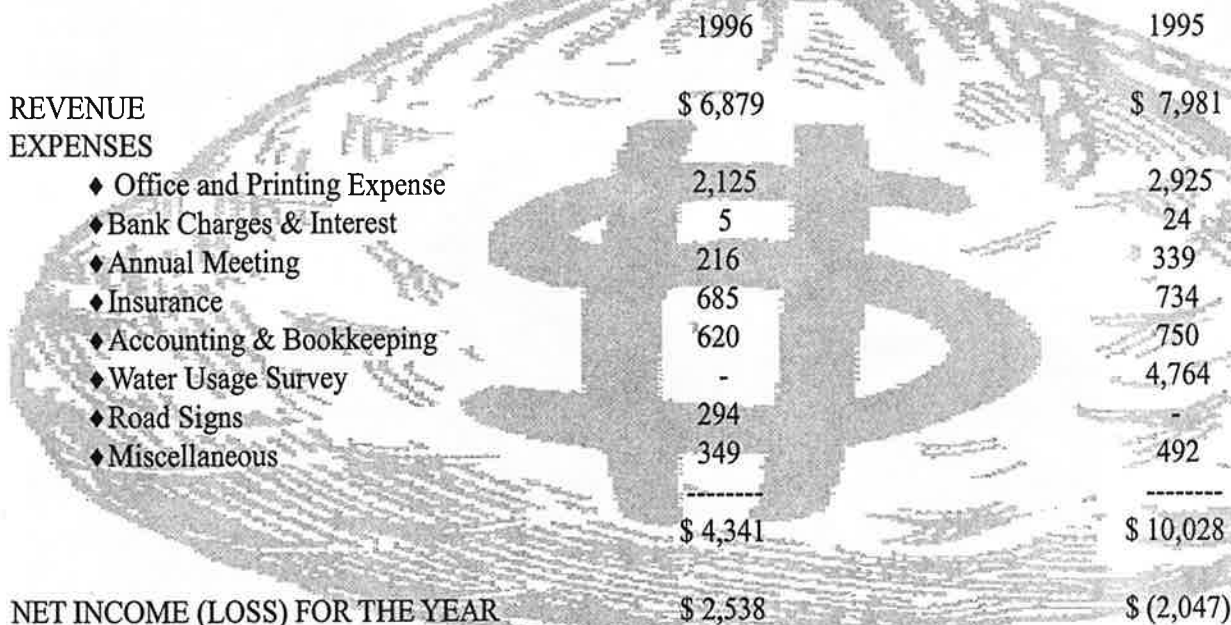
Treasurer's Report

By Diane Stevens

We are sad to say that Keith Ellison, who has served as Treasurer for the past few years, resigned from the Board due to other commitments. As an interim measure,

I will be filling in as Treasurer. At the present time our accounting year is on a calendar year basis; however in 1998, we are going to change to a June 30 year end to match our membership year. This will mean that the statements pre-

pared for the Annual Meeting will be more current. Meantime for those of you who weren't able to come to this year's meeting, here is a copy of the Income Statement for the year ended December 31 1996:



	1996	1995
REVENUE	\$ 6,879	\$ 7,981
EXPENSES		
♦ Office and Printing Expense	2,125	2,925
♦ Bank Charges & Interest	5	24
♦ Annual Meeting	216	339
♦ Insurance	685	734
♦ Accounting & Bookkeeping	620	750
♦ Water Usage Survey	-	4,764
♦ Road Signs	294	-
♦ Miscellaneous	349	492
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	\$ 4,341	\$ 10,028
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	\$ 2,538	\$ (2,047)



Water Levels

By Mel Fleming

I have just undertaken responsibility for monitoring water levels in Bobs and Crow Lakes and dealing with Parks Canada when any problems arise. Bobs and Crow Lakes are looked upon as reservoirs to maintain water levels for adequate navigation on the Rideau River and the Rideau Canal from Kingston to Ottawa.

The lakes drain via a dam located at the northern most end of Bobs Lake at Bolingbroke. Thus begins the Tay River which then flows through Christie Lake, continues on as the Tay River, then through Perth, and eventually to the Rideau systems.

Bobs and Crow Lakes water levels

are lowered significantly over the summer months. Spring levels are maintained at 'maximum' levels from May 15 to July 1 with only a 6 cm drop during that time. However, the overall planned drop in levels for the season is 1 metre 32 centimetres overall (approximately 4 feet, 4 inches) and this, officials of Parks Canada insist, is absolutely necessary to ensure safe navigation in the Rideau.

Recently, consideration for fisheries was included in their planning. Parks Canada now maintain the water levels from October 15 through May 15 for this purpose. This allows for walleye to spawn under better conditions. How-

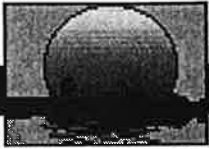
ever, this may not be good for lake trout spawning in Crow Lake since some spawning beds are then out of the water and others are in the freeze zone. These problems can be overcome by our plans for lake trout spawning beds as described in our fisheries article.

In any case, if we find any valid reasons for reducing the drop in level, we can discuss these with the Parks Canada officials. What about the impact upon the residents? Well, since weather is really the controlling factor, it is difficult to control the high spring levels. So I hope you have all removed to higher grounds your docks, your boats, logs, and any thing else that floats. Good luck!

Raffle

Win a \$21,000 boat, motor & trailer and support Holy Cross Secondary School in the purchase of their first rowing shell, *Kristen's Torch*. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00 - 4,000 tickets have been printed. The draw will take place on May 19, 1998. For further information contact Brian McAndrews (613) 389-9718





Land And Life

By: AmyMcAndrews

Lands for Life is an Ontario government initiative to create land-use plans in preparation for the transfer of much of our public lands (crown land to long-term management (as much as 60 years) by the forestry industry. This land, totalling 46 million hectares or 45% of the province, includes all public land north of Orillia except the James Bay lowlands, from Ottawa to the Manitoba border, an area almost twice the size of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick combined.

Three regional round tables have been established with representatives of various interests. Each table is preparing Regional Land Use Strategies for land and resource use for 3 ecologically based regions of Ontario: Great Lakes-St. Lawrence(Us!), Boreal East and Boreal West. The recommended Land Use Strategies are to be submitted to the Minister of

Natural Resources (John Snobelen) by April 1998.

Presently only 6% of the Lands for Life area is protected in a way that meets the standards of the World Wildlife Federation's Endangered Spaces program. That means that 94% of the Lands for Life area habitat can be destroyed by clearcuts, cut up by roads or "developed" out of existence.

Lands for Life is probably the last chance to complete the park system in Ontario, protect old growth forests, and set aside remote roadless areas. Premier Harris has promised to complete the protected area system, but we must remind planners and the round table members.

For information on the location of public open houses and round table meetings on Lands for Life refer to internet site <http://www.mnr.gov.ca> or call 1-800-667-1940.

To contact members of Great Lakes-

St. Lawrence Round Table:
mailing address:

Bob Gray, Chair
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
Round Table
c/o Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water St, 4th Floor
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 3C7

voice mail: (705) 755-3240

fax: (705) 755-3292

e-mail: glrt@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca

To contact members of Boreal East
Round Table:

mailing address:

Bettanne Thib-Jelly, Chair
Boreal East Round Table
P.O. Bag 3020, Hwy 101 East
South Porcupine, Ontario
P0N 1H0

Voice mail: (705) 235-1254

Fax: (705) 235-1246

e-mail: bert@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca

Advertise In The Newsletter

Members - if you want to buy or sell an item, why not send us an ad to put in the Spring Newsletter? Want to start a group to swap plants, study wildlife, or whatever, advertise. Want to let us know about births, deaths, new neighbours, goings on in area associations, send us a notice.

Ads should be no more than 20 words (may be subject to editing due to space requirements) and if buying or selling should include your phone number so that responses can be made directly to you. If you have something that you wish to insert, fill in the following form:

Member name: Phone No.....

Advertisement/Notice:

.....

Send to: Greater Bobs Lake Association, c/o Diane Stevens
R.R. #2, Godfrey, Ontario K0H 1T0