

The Promise Within

I walk these halls,
But
I dream within...

The woods I walk
The scent in the wind
The fragrance of the earth
The seeds, floating softly
The wind now carries away.

The promise of life, smouldering within

The sky I see
The leaves on the earth
The fiery reds and brilliant yellows
The life, waiting serenely
The wind now carries away.

The promise come spring, ignites within

I walk these halls,
But
I dream within

Margaret E. Pitawanakwat
10/08/96





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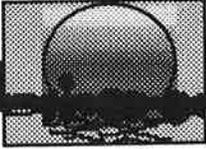
Editor's Notes

Brian McAndrews

- Desktop publishing by Kate Kittner, Jeremy Hinchey, and Ryan Kuhne (pages 1-18). Cover photo Jennifer Kirkwood and Chris Mazzeo, layout by Mitch McEvoy. A special thanks to my colleagues at Holy Cross Secondary School, Ciro Calcafuco, John Esford, Patrick Prior, and Joe Vaitekunas for their support.
- Submissions for the next newsletter, Fall/winter 97/98, should be sent to me at the above address by November 15, 1997. My e-mail address is mcandrebb@educ.queensu.ca.
- Future newsletters will be sent to current members only.
- We need volunteers to deliver flyers to all residents of the Greater Bobs Lake area during the Canada Day Weekend. If you are willing to deliver flyers to 20-30 of your neighbours, call me at (613)389-9718 (home), (613)279-3335 (cottage).

Enjoy the summer!





President's Report

Welcome back and I hope all of you have "wintered well". For those who spent the time in southern regions, we envied you as there were many cold, gray days during winter but we have survived. This summer the Association is planning several days of interest for you in addition to the Annual Meeting and we hope you will come and be part of the activities.

Brian McAndrews has a special team of volunteers who will deliver to your door detailed notices of dates and happenings that you don't find in this Newsletter. This summer anticipate

1. A membership Day - July 12
 2. Boat Safety Instruction Days
 3. The first Association Picnic - August 16
 4. The Annual Meeting - July 27
- and much, much more.

Early this summer you will see permanent Association information signs installed at various locations on the roads around Bobs/Crow Lake areas. The Association greatly appreciates the support and co-operation of the Townships and Counties involved in this project. These signs will be designed in a manner to enable us to change information and keep you current on events and dates. All this activity is happening in addition to the regular Association programs that are equally as busy this season. You will read the updates from the Committee chairmen.

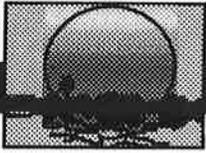
You know how important your membership is to the Association and your dues and donations are the financial means by which we can maintain and develop further programs

four lakes. On a very serious note, I wish to remind lake and area residents that your Association, just as those of other areas, IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER BEFORE IN ITS HISTORY! The Provincial Government cut backs and restructuring have seriously curtailed the involvement and guidance from the Ministries in lake affairs. Even our local government will take on a different focus as amalgamation of the four Townships (Beford, Loughborough, Portland and Storrington) becomes reality with the November 10th election. The Greater Bobs Lake Association is the one body that can have direct contact with you and your concerns and act accordingly to achieve one goal, the welfare of our Greater Bobs Lake area. How? By maintaining and continuing to improve the standards of water quality, fishing, safety and development that you have enjoyed so far. The greatest enemy we face is the apathy of those who ignore or avoid membership or just leave it to others. Every household should belong, as only through a combined voice will we ride this period of dramatic change successfully.

I have asked that extra membership forms be added to this Newsletter. Would each member undertake to obtain JUST TWO new members. You all can benefit so much. Is it too much to ask your support?

I look forward to meeting many of you this summer and with fingers crossed for good weather for all, we have an exciting and challenging season ahead.

Susan O'Brien Mactaggart



Amalgamation Update

By Donna Brown, Reeve

As everyone is probably aware by now, Bedford Township is amalgamating with the Townships of Portland, Loughborough and Storrington. The amalgamation takes effect on January 1st, 1998, and in the November elections of 1997, you will vote for the representatives for the new Council for the Township of South Frontenac. There will be two (2) councillors elected from each former Township or District and a Mayor elected "at large", making a total of eight (8) councillors and a Mayor. Bedford residents will still vote at Bedford polls as before electing your two representatives and voting on the new Mayor who will be the person receiving the most votes from all four (4) former Townships or Districts. The Township of South Frontenac will have a population of approximately 13,824 (permanent residents), 16,455 electors, an area of 97,539 hectares; and over 800 km of roads.

A Transition Board consisting of the four Reeves, and various Committees consisting of all member of Council, have been set up to establish the procedures for the new Township. It is the intention of the new Township to area rate fire protection, completion of any new buildings, assumption of existing liabilities including debts, construc-

tion of roads and any other costs which are specific in nature such as garbage collection, for up to five years. As a result the taxpayers in each former Township will be responsible for or benefit from expenditures necessary to equalize services across the new Township which will allow for a much smoother integration of the four former Townships into one.

Bedford Township employees together with all existing employees in Frontenac County, (which includes the City of Kingston), will be in one labour pool and will be entitled to apply for jobs within the new Townships and new City. All employees will remain in their current position until December 31st, 1997, unless as part of their early Retirement Package or Voluntary Exit Package, they decide to leave early. If on December 31, 1997, there are employees who have not received a job offer from one of the new entities, it may be necessary to reduce the work force through a non-voluntary process. We hope that is not the case.

The location of new Municipal Administration Offices has not been decided on to date, however, the existing Councils are looking at the central area around Sydenham in Loughborough Township. The new structure for Administration

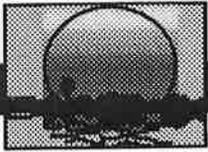
Staff and Road Department is still being worked on.

The remainder of Frontenac County has been restructured as follows: The new City of Kingston now consists of the old City, Kingston, and Pittsburgh Townships; Township of Frontenac Islands consists of Wolfe and Howe Islands; Township of Central Frontenac consists of the Townships of Hinchinbrooke, Oso, Olden and Kennebec; Township of North Frontenac consists of the Townships of Barrie, Clarendon/Miller, Palmerston/North and South Canoto.

There will no longer be a County of Frontenac as of January 1st, 1998. It will be necessary to divide the assets and liabilities of the County between all fifteen (15) of the existing Townships. However, the County Roads asset and liabilities will be divided only between the seven (7) Townships who currently are in that system, namely, Bedford, Portland, Loughborough, Storrington, Pittsburgh, Kingston and Howe Island.

BOTTOM LINE -- the taxpayers would like to know if their taxes are going to go up. We feel restructuring should allow us to reduce costs. However, until Mr. Harris (the Ontario Government) is finished with his downloading exer-

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cise and the municipalities know exactly what they will be responsible for; how the trade-off of education taxes for social services, policing, etc. etc. works out; and the

effect of the **fair market value assessment** change promised across the Province, it is impossible to determine the affect on individual taxes. However, Mr. Harris has

promised the municipalities an even trade, therefore, we will have to wait for all the cards to be on the table then we can see what we are dealing with.

AGM/96 Summary

By Charles Stewart

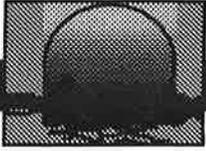
The Greater Bobs Lake Land Owners Association held its annual general membership meeting at the Sacred Heart Church community hall on Sunday, July 28. This organization represents cottagers and landowners in the greater Bobs Lake area including adjoining lakes. Almost 100 members of the association attended the meeting. Featured speakers included Frances Smith, Warden of Frontenac County, and Sue Powell, Director of Adult Services of the North Frontenac County Community Services Corporation. President McIntyre highlighted the initiatives and accomplishments of the past year. The association, through its Crow Lake representatives, has worked closely with Bedford Township councillors to resolve issues regarding a planned commercial development on that lake. In addition, it has taken action to establish communications among associations in the local area. At the meeting the association's directors presented a new mission statement for the organization and a related strategic plan. These documents

should help focus their future efforts on behalf of the members. Directors are also contacting cottagers on the lake to identify their primary concerns and are continuing to monitor the quality of the lake water. Finally, they are assisting in the implementation of the 911 emergency system in Bedford Township.

Sue Powell outlined the services offered by the North Frontenac Community Services Corporation and the impact of recent government cut-backs in funding. This non-profit organization, located in Sharbot Lake, provides a wide variety of child and adult services to County residents. She said that the organization had lost about \$200,000 in funding and thus was forced to lay off almost all the staff. Fortunately, volunteers have come forward to ensure that vital services are continued. More volunteers are needed for many essential functions. Powell also cited the need for donations of food and good clothing. She said that cottagers' donations of food at the end of the

season would be very helpful.

The members of the association elected the directors, and Lynn McIntyre introduced the officers for the coming year. He then turned the meeting over to the new president, Susan O'Brien-Mactaggart. She had served as president for several years in the early 1990s. Mactaggart described the association's goals for the coming year. She emphasized that the association will strive to represent effectively the interests of all landowners within the greater Bobs Lake area. Major effort will be placed on boating safety, rehabilitating spawning streams, cooperating with local elected officials, and monitoring lakeshore development. In addition, the association will continue its efforts to maintain the water quality, preserve the wildlife population, and increase membership. Finally, she highlighted the need for effective communication with members and coordination with other cottage associations on common concerns. Mactaggart expects a banner year for the Greater Bobs Lake Association.



Helping the Monarchs

By Brian Usher

We look for Monarch caterpillars on the milkweed plants when we go for walks in the meadows. They're hard to find when they are small and usually we see them at about an inch long or longer.

They only seem to eat milkweed leaves, so we put fresh leaves in a large glass jar with the caterpillar. After perhaps a week to ten days it has grown considerably to about two inches in length and a quarter of an inch in diameter.

At this stage we remove the perforated lid from the jar and replace it with a large milkweed leaf, and poke a thin straight twig through the leaf to the bottom of the jar. When the caterpillar feels ready, it will stop eating, climb the twig, and attach itself to the underside of the

leaf on top of the jar.

Then it forms a J shape and after a day or so it sheds its skin and turns into a pale green chrysalis with distinctive gold markings in the form of a gold necklace and gold dots.

About ten days later it slowly turns black and transparent enough to see red folded wings inside. There are signs that it is about to open but it happens quickly and you can miss it. If you're lucky you can watch as the Monarch butterfly emerges and hangs onto its chrysalis shell. For about half an hour it will hang there, drying its wings which remain closed and which shed a few drips.

It is at this stage that we carefully take the Monarch outside and place it on a flower or leaf. Its wings

open and close a few times and then its gone.

Only once, when it was cold and rainy and we put a new butterfly out under a bass tree leaf, did it stay put for two and a half days until the rain stopped and the sun came out and we watched it fly away.

You can find Monarch caterpillars on the milkweeds up until early September, although you have to look carefully to find them, however its worth the effort and its fascinating to watch the cycle.

We have also photographed the complete process from caterpillar to butterfly, including as it comes out of its chrysalis.

Now all we need is the coming good summer...

By Lloyd Jones

Update on Wood Duck Nests

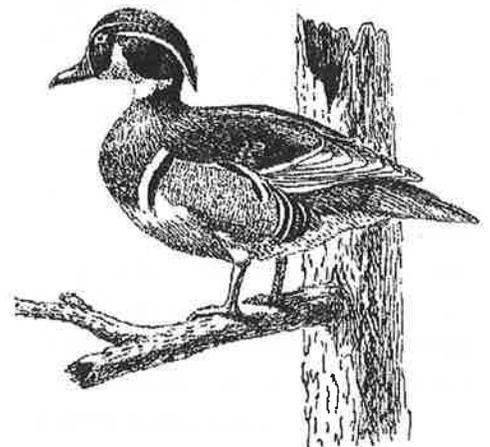
The nesting boxes erected last fall by members may not be inhabited this year because, apparently, the wood duck locates their intended nesting site for the next spring before they leave in the fall. Consequently, they may not have had enough time to spot the vacancy before they left. Please check them, however, because travelling without reservations in not un-

Wildlife

known.

Update on Fishers

Reports in newspapers of this aggressive animal, the fisher, killing pets continued over winter. A beaver house, that held about eight beaver on Mud Lake, lost all its population, so fishers or coyotes may have begun to regulate the beaver numbers. Beavers have been removing many trees around the



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lakes. A Crow Lake cottager, absent for a week last summer, returned to find a huge poplar shade tree notched by a beaver and aimed at the cottage and the electrical lines.

My Book

Most of the chapters are nearly completed for the book I am writing on the historical environment of Crow and Bobs Lake, and only a few questions remain for further

research. I am still making inquiries from readers for additional data, however, including photographs and other illustrative material. If you would like to contribute information or materials on the subjects listed below, please contact me. All sources will be acknowledged in print. The subjects listed below are brief descriptions of the chapters.

- Geography of the lakes and watershed; maps and data.
- Native people on the lakes - 11,000 years ago to the historical period; research and evidence; current views.
- European settlement in the 1800's: historical context; first surveys; origins of place names, index and descriptions of first settlers; migration and settlement patterns (note: still seeking to view genealogies of early settlers or documents).
- Timbering, logging and milling: main mill sites; mill records; practices, significant trees; financial implications for settlers, Bolingbroke.
- Flooding of the lakes, 1870: description and effects.
- Farming: practices; potash; declining numbers by 1900; Burrige.
- Township government: practices; diseases and public health.
- Geology of the lakes: minerals, fossils, mines and mining 1880 and later.
- Crow Lake community: the CPR; railroad building; effects.
- Tourism, campers and cottagers: early fishermen and campers; lake fish; cottage building in the 1920's, 30's, and 50's; fishing experienced on the lakes; Fish Creek.
- Laura Lee Davidson: her 3 books about the Bobs Lake region; her adventures; insights and views - first came about 1908.
- Social life around the lakes: schools and other institutions; recreation.
- The world wars: effects on the lake communities; change; nationalism; 1920's; the fires of 1928; 1930's.
- Nature's lake inhabitants: flowers, birds, animals and other creatures; the return of the beaver.
- Conclusions: recent changes; GBLA; the future?

The Importance of Trees.

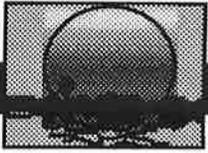
Life around the lakes would not flourish without trees to regulate water drainage, clean the air, and give shade - to mention a few benefits. Planting trees can help, but some thought should be given to how you go about it. While visiting Scotland, I was struck by how ugly and alien great patches of planted spruce appeared on the landscape. Mixing species of trees and not planting in rows can provide a more natural appearance and more diverse benefits to creatures that depend on trees.

I have written about the historical importance to the settlers of some species of trees - such as white pine, hemlock, oak and maple, but there are some other interesting trees. For instance, a rare tree is the arbour-vitae (tree of life), so named because the explorer, Jacques Cartier, while wintering in Canada, was shown by natives how to steep its leaves to prevent scurvy among his crew; it greatly resembles the white cedar - but only 20 feet high, and its leaves are tightly packed and grow in vertical layers.

The famous Macintosh apple tree was brought to the lakes and a few remain at sites of early settlers. The original tree from which all others have developed was found on a farm in Eastern Ontario. There were many native apple trees around the lakes including the crab apple. About 56 different trees can be found along our waterways and every one of them has found some special use by early people.

The publishing date has not been determined, but readers will be informed. You can contact me at the cottage, 279-3163; at home, (613) 395-2198; or e-mail: lloyd.jones@sympatico.ca





Fisheries on Bobs And Crow Lake

By Mel Fleming

Why improve the fisheries on Bobs and Crow Lakes? It's to provide more fishing pleasure and more sport for the residents and visitors of our area. Improving the fisheries on Bobs and Crow Lakes is not an easy task. Restocking programs have given us some limited success, however, this approach is expensive, provides us with improved fisheries for a limited time only, and continued restocking is often required.

Pickereel (walleye), for example, are good survivors and breeders when they are propagated naturally in good clear waters. Rivers and creeks flowing into lakes will draw the most spawning walleyes.

Lake trout is an extremely fragile specie and successful fishing for it has deteriorated quickly, due in part, to high fishing pressures. They grow very slowly, reaching spawning maturity after five or more years and weighing five to seven pounds. Lake trout also spawn in areas dangerous to the successful survival of their eggs.

Both smallmouth and largemouth bass are quite capable of surviving by themselves, provided anglers avoid fishing for them during their spawning periods, usually before the last Saturday in June. Spawning bass are very

easy to locate and catch partly because they aggressively protect their nests and attack most lures coming close to their nests.

Going the natural way seems to be the best approach to improve fisheries for ourselves and our visitors. This means establishing the best methods for the natural propagation of various fish. This, in turn, means high levels of water quality, and excellent spawning grounds. To this end we have started our programs to provide the best possible spawning grounds for all of our sport fishing needs.

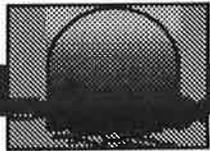
As we mentioned in our last newsletter, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) will continue stocking 25,000 lake trout fingerlings into Green Bay of Bobs Lake this spring in an attempt to re-establish lake trout in this clear bay. In addition, a preliminary inspection of Crow Lake last fall, will be followed up with a thorough inspection of lake trout spawning grounds this summer with a view to improving them.

For walleye, we have verified that McEwen's Creek feeding Bobs Lake has been re-habilitated. Again, after a preliminary inspection of Scott's Creek in Crow Lake last year, MNR will give it a thorough inspection this summer to de-

termine exactly what is required to rehabilitate it.

We have started the ball rolling to improve walleye spawning in Warren Creek which flows into Long Bay of Bobs Lake at the Lackey/Mapes properties. What is required here is a new bridge to allow access to the creek from Long Bay for walleye (and pike) to reach ideal spawning grounds. Tenders were called and Hem's Sand and Gravel of Maberly was the successful bidder. I have submitted an application through the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP), with the help of Rick Topping of MNR, for the additional MNR funding necessary to carry out this project. We are hopeful of getting approval. Many thanks to Barth Mapes and Jim Lackey without whose support, this project would not be possible.

What we need now to complete our plans are you as volunteers to carry out some of the work required to ensure our success. So, contact me, Mel Fleming, at my cottage (613) 279-2871, or at my home in Perth (613) 267-2516 or write to me at the address listed on the back page of this newsletter. We need your participation. Greater Bobs Lake Association



The Times They are a'Changin

By Charles Stewart

The March issue of Cottage Life magazine, the publication of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, contained an comprehensive article by Diane Forrest that outlined many of the provincial changes and discussed their potential impact. A few of the significant ones are highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. In the article, Forrest noted that municipalities will be expected to take on greater responsibilities for areas such as land-use planning, water and sewage treatment, and environmental monitoring. The local planning authority is going to have a tremendous amount of responsibility in the future. Formerly the provincial government had required that development 'be consistent with' provincial policies; they now only have to 'have regard for' the newly revised and broadened policies.

At the same time we are experiencing increasing pressure to develop lakefront property. In the past

the MNR reviewed environmental impact statements that accompanied planning and development applications. They will no longer be looking at development plans that might be happening around a lake. However, there is a concern that

although the province will not be paying for education (and the money will no longer come from property taxes), among the new costs for municipalities will be public transportation, roads, policing, social services, and septic-system

inspection and approval. Municipalities are going to have to raise funds and build greater reserves for these activities.

The article notes that placing the review and decision responsibility at the local level can have a very positive effect because the decision-makers are now the local people who will be affected by those actions. Along with that, cottage associations will have a much greater responsibility to be aware of the issues facing our municipality and to cooperate with elected officials to ensure all issues are objectively weighed in arriving at decisions.

Another change has been the enactment of The Municipal Elections Act that should make it easier to vote in municipal elections. In-

(Continued on next page)

Key Provincial Changes

Permits: You no longer need permits for burning piles of wood or brush less than 2m high and 2m wide or for installing a waterline, or cable.

Planning: Municipalities will create and approve their own official plans based on provincial government policy.

Shoreline road allowances: Municipalities no longer need MNR approval to sell off their shoreline road allowances.

Crown Land: Procedures have been streamlined to make it easier for the provincial government to sell Crown land.

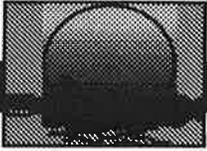
Septic System Testing: Responsibility for inspecting and approving septic systems will be turned over to the municipalities.

Lake Water Quality: MOEE has closed most water testing labs. Cottage testing programs will be significantly reduced.

Environmental Legislation: The government has implemented less formal procedures affecting land-use planning. Long, highly detailed guidelines have been replaced with by policy statements. Municipalities will only have to ensure that plans 'have regard for' provincial policies.

municipalities may either lack the expertise to adequately review those plans or, for economic reasons, in fact, may endorse development that would have an adverse impact on the environment.

Forrest further indicates that,



GREATER BOBS LAKE ASSOCIATION

stead of requiring cottagers to drive to weekday or Saturday advance polls in mid-November, municipalities now have the opportunity to adopt several new procedures, including mail-in and phone-in voting. However, they are not automatic, and scheduling an advance poll on Saturday is now among those options. Thus, it is up to us to

let our local council know we want these options and which ones we prefer.

What do these changes mean for our Association and members? It is essential to be aware of the issues and to participate in their analysis. Similarly, it is important to provide the greatest opportunity for members to vote in municipal elections. We must build a positive relation-

ship with our councillors and augment their efforts with our resources. The bottom line: If we want to have an impact on the issues that affect our area, we're going to have to take a far more active role in our cottage community. We will have to get involved in the process--and not just during the summer but year around.

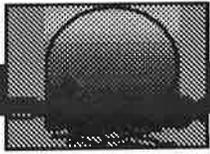
Landfill Site Summer Hours From May 5th, 1997 to October 13th, 1997

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Fish Creek Dump (Mini Recycle) | - Sunday | - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. |
| | - Thursday | - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| Bradshaw Dump (Full Recycle) | - Saturday | - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| | - Sunday | - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. |
| | - Holiday Mondays | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | - Wednesday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Crow Lake Dump (Household only) | - Sunday | - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. |
| | - Tuesday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | - Thursday | - 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Massassauga Dump (Household only) | - Sunday | - 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. |
| | - Wednesday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Salem Dump (Full Recycle) | - Saturday | - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. |
| | - Monday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | - Holiday Mondays | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | - Thursday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Greenbay (Mini Recycle) | - Sunday | - 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. |
| | - Tuesday | - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | - Friday | - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. |

More Important Dates

- i) Bedford Social, Sacred Heart Church, Fogarty Hall, July 5 from 5 - 8 p.m.
- ii) Boat Safety Days, Dates, Locations, Times - TBA
- iii) Annual General Meeting, Sacred Heart Church, Fogarty Hall, July 27 at 1 p.m.
- iv) First Association Picnic, Bedford Municipal Offices, August 16
- v) Membership Blitz Day, July 12





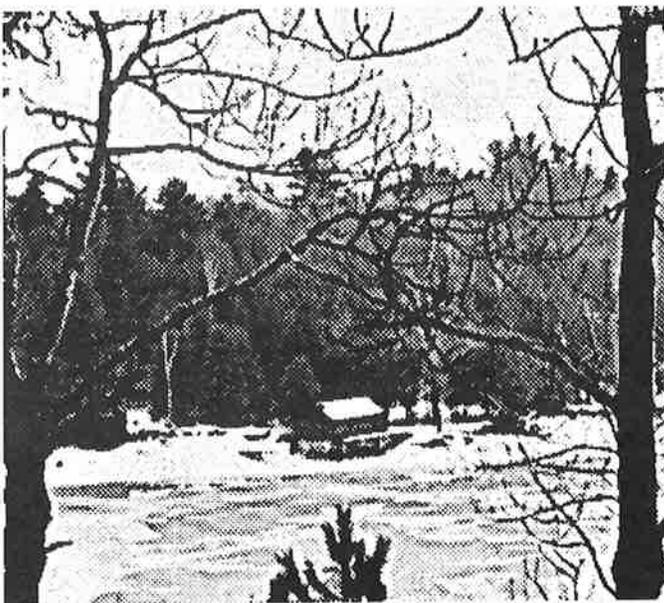
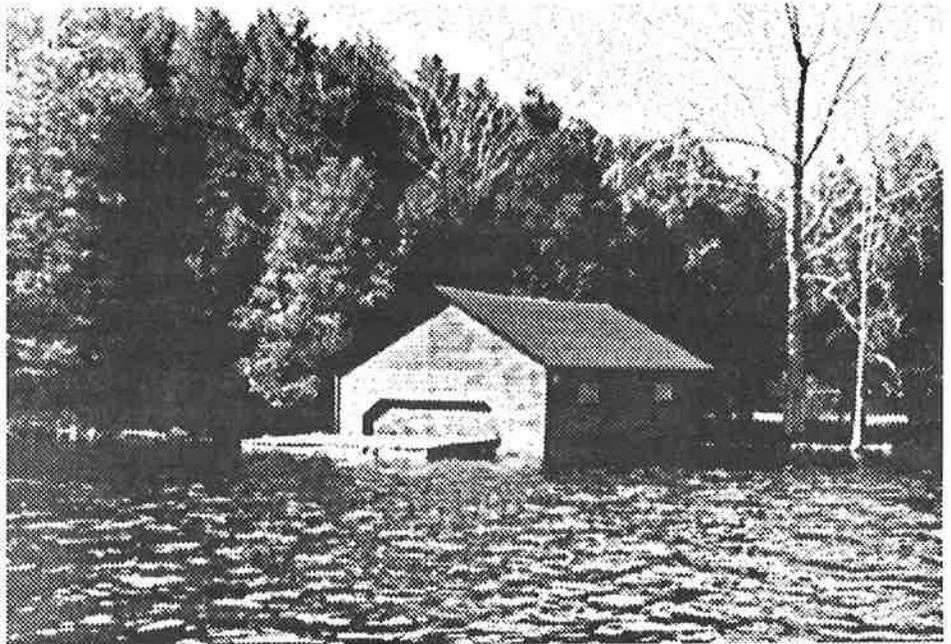
Water Levels - 40 Years Ago!

By Susan O'Brien Mactaggart

For those who are concerned with the change in water levels, it may be hard to believe but it used to be even more dramatic than we experience now.

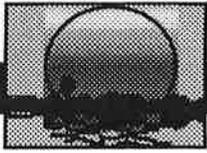
These two photographs are of O'Brien's boat house at the south end of Green Bay.

The first is in the Spring, (May) 1960. The boat house was surrounded by water, even over the flat of the grass at the rear of the building. Our dock has just



been anchored to the front, waiting for the water to drop before it can be put in place. It would be mid to late June before you could lower the boats inside.

The second photograph was in early winter of 1960/61. Note the cribs of the boat house are completely exposed as the water level would have only come to the bottom of the cribs. You could not have floated boats into the slip.



Tornado

By Peter Thorp-Levitt

I read with interest Jean Grant's article in the Fall/Winter Newsletter concerning some of her happier experiences at the lake. Our family has Round Island, located just off Jean's starboard bow and has had many experiences we too fondly reflect upon. However, there is one which we deeply regret - the tornado of July 1985!

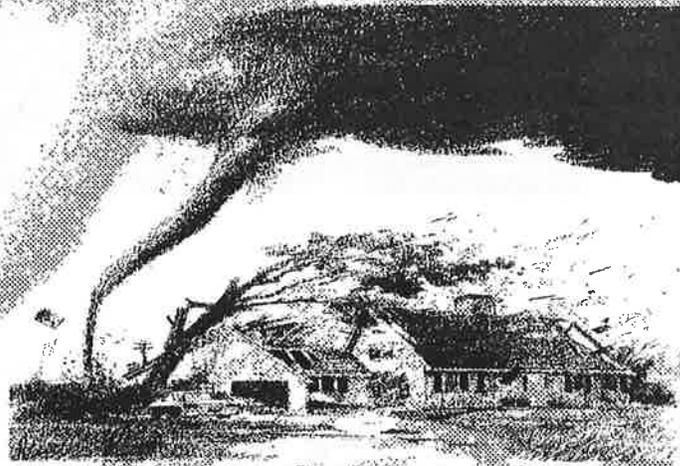
That fateful summer afternoon I sat comfortably propped against the back of our plush old sofa, safely tucked away in shared seventh floor Ottawa accommodations. It was a Monday as I recall; the weather had been overcast and hot and I was busily researching a subject, long forgotten, for a university assignment. Suddenly I noticed a distinct change in the weather beyond our unprotected balcony.

The rain, which had begun earlier, commenced to move in a vertical direction, sweeping past the balcony in steady gusts reminiscent of Florida cyclones. I thought the disturbance to be a local one and blissfully returned to my studies, unaware of the violence unfolding a mere two hour drive away at our cottage.

Later that evening I witnessed the destruction wrought by several local twisters on the television that had touched down in the Ottawa area. I was still unconcerned about the cottage as the weather there is often quite different from that of our more easterly capital city. However, a phone call from Tom Hale, Jean's next door neighbour, wakened me

viously been a tornado, a fact later substantiated by several present at the time. Hesitantly, Tom relayed the havoc wreaked upon our little blue-roofed A-frame cottage, now blown from its block supports and relocated six feet distant.

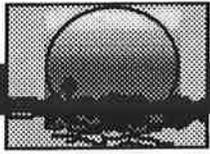
Due to the geography and isolation of the island it was determined that demolition and reconstruction were the only viable solutions. Demolition occurred over a two week period that autumn and the debris still occupies much needed space in three separate ugly piles. The following year I spent the entire Labour Day weekend carting all the new building materials to the island on a barge, a feat which required three separate trips



to the destructive capability of Mother Nature.

Tom indicated that upon returning from the grocery store on Green Bay one evening several days after the storm, he and his wife Eugenia had noticed something askew on our island. As they approached from the north they could not believe their eyes, for two giant white pines had been uprooted and another was snapped off three feet above ground in what had ob-

from the Sunset County Marina loading point. By early November a newer, bigger building had risen from the devastation. But only for fate we were not present during this, our worst Bobs Lake experience. Astonishingly, all visits are somehow more pleasurable in the knowledge that we weren't hurt and ironically, as island cottagers, are even more susceptible to the whims of Mother Nature than our mainland neighbours.



Cottage Country

By Jean Grant

Cottage Country. According to my American friends this is a uniquely Canadian expression. In Eastern Ontario it has entered the Canadian lexicon and is now locally identified in the summer weather forecasts. The abundance of lakes and forests in the Canadian Shield which make up a large part of Ontario account for this good fortune, there are over 250,000 lakes in the Province. One of these lakes is named after my father---way up in the northwest area so famous for a millennium's worth of black flies. He was the chief engineer in charge of construction (Moncton to Winnipeg) of what is now the Canadian National Railway. Many imported Chinese labourers were employed in railway construction, among them a survey party cook who painfully observed to him; "Canada has got two seasons - snow fly and blackfly.

There is a Chinese-Canadian restaurant in almost every small town across Ontario established there by these same labourers at the end of the railway era, discharged where'ere they were. Good plain food and often the only available "eaterie" venue for the expanding cadre of travelling salesmen, was readily accessible on the main street.

Cottage country is defined by

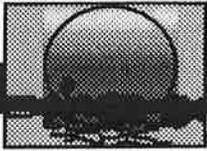
certain groups of lakes most of which lie north of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario - Muskoka, Haliburton, the Kawarthas, the Rideau Waterway and the Trent systems. The accessibility of these fresh water havens to the larger Provincial cities and the American border accounts for their recreation popularity. This kind of real estate, 'they don't make any more'. Land designed as crown land loses much of its appeal as it becomes more remote. Accessible property is no longer a bargain. Our next concern will be how much stress our recreation lakes can sustain as increasingly owners winterize their cottages and occupy them year round.

Bobs Lake is a latecomer, fortunately, into "Cottage development", after Muskoka, Haliburton, and the Kawarthas. The purchase of large tracts of land by developers and subdivided into building lots seems to have come suddenly in the nineteen-fifties. Thanks to the foresight of people like Murray Maynard on whose Timmermans Island property the first meetings of the Bobs Lake Association were held, longstanding land owners were alerted to the threat of exploitation by overbuilding on sensitive waterways, like the Rideau lakes.

It took longer to involve local

residents and marina operators in recognition of what was about to happen. They had a natural desire to benefit from what appeared to be an economically positive future on land which had little to recommend it for agriculture, lots of rocks and thin soil cover - not your rich black earth! Local government also perceived potential new tax revenues and population growth. Regional Ontario interest added its concern about damage already advanced on water quality. More recently serious studies have been undertaken on water quality and shoreline erosion and protection. It can be assumed that very few citizens today are unaware of our need to protect a **NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE**. Remember 'they aren't making it any more!'

Susan Mactaggart, has taken on the responsibility of president again and she deserves our support for her resolution to double our membership in the current year. I urge each of you for the sake of protecting this wonderful recreational resource as well as your own investment to make a commitment to secure two new members for the Association. Bring someone to the AGM on **SUNDAY JULY 27, AT 1:00 PM. THE MEETING WILL BE AT FOGARTY HALL, at SACRED HEART CHURCH, BEDFORD.**



Looking Back

By Frank Dewitt

Early in the summer of 1925 the Family camped in tents with the Corbin family of Scranton, Pa., we were from Auburn, N.Y. The outlet of Bobs Lake was nearby, since we tented on Pine Point, owned by Frank and Mable Dowdell, just great people. The outlet was a great place to fish for walleyes (pickerel) and I must admit to trying to snag suckers from the shallow waters not only below the old lake dam but also the dam at the old mills. The mills were operated by over-shoot water wheels.

I remember our return of 1927 fishing in the outlet, hooked onto a good fighter and dragged it out of the water onto the bank; it was too heavy for me to lift with the rod. When I walked up to the barnyard and on to the road to the camp site the fish got heavier and heavier. My mother helped me weigh it, it weighed just over six pounds. Before Dad got a picture of it my younger brother, whose turn it was, cleaned the fish.

There were no cottages in those days in Long Bay but Waldron's now known as Nordlaw was the nearest, of course we knew Irwin Lewis' brother Hewey and Joe Green as great guides. The Lewis brothers lived on separate farms, Joe on an island close to what was

known as Bill Reynold's Camp. Across from Nordlaw there was and still is a fishing club near Irwin's farm. While he was out fishing a number of the chores were done by his good wife Gracie.

Across the lake from Reynolds and a bit North we had friends, the Maynards, further north the German's cottage situated at what is known as the Elbow. We didn't go any further up the lake because unless we were in the St. Lawrence skiff with a Palmer motor we didn't get far rowing! Since there were six children plus a number of grown-ups the Princess Mary had to tow the row boats to go fishing or visiting. When we were to fish, the row boats were dropped off at various favourite spots and picked up on the return to the tents. If we were lucky to have Irwin Lewis with us we most likely would have a shore dinner ---- a great experience.

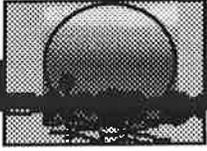
Going up the lake past the Elbow one would soon see the entrance to Green Bay. Around to the left was a favourite cottage; our father would stop at the dock and check with the Ganey family, and bat the breeze, get the latest on where big the fish were biting, some times t'was a 'FISH STORY'! Their cottage right at the lake had a very interesting front

porch, I believe it had a large Birch tree growing up through the porch floor up the wall through the roof with its arms praising to God. I miss this lovely old tree like an old basswood outside our cottage bent over when young but grew to be enormous size and fun to climb and support a wonderful rope swing.

During our stay at Pine Point, two weeks or less, our friends the Germans and Maynards families were invited as well as their guests to a bonfire of large driftwood logs and stumps with the parents in fold up chairs, the younger set on the ground reaching into the fire with long sticks to toast marshmallows. The fire on this cleared land except for the large Pine on northern side was an ideal spot for the fire and the gathering of friends.

Since this point was not available the parents went looking, one spot stood out in their minds the point at the entrance to Pattersons Bay. The move in 1927 made it possible to build a six bedroom cottage enabling the family to spend long weekends. Most of the area had been logged off prior to 1927 and was still being worked by the Pattersons. This mill was located at the base of the bay, where the first Brink's cottage is situated.

Like most lakes in the area,
(Continued on next page)



GREATER BOBS LAKE ASSOCIATION

Bobs Lake was great fishing with walleyes (pickerel), Northern pike, both large and small mouth bass, ling, carp, pan fish, and don't forget the bullhead; down-east they are known as horn pout. Lake trout were only caught in Green Bay and Crow Lake due to the deeper water.

There were plenty of birds not only on the water, in the woods and to top it off we had bald eagles. Needless to say we are glad to see in the last year or so they are with us again!

In the late twenties we got our milk from the farmers Wm. Patterson, Billy Bedour, Jim Thompson or at the store at Reynolds, if someone was old enough we would drive to Burrige. Today farmers are not permitted to sell their fresh milk however the legislation may change thus permitting our neighbours to sell the milk.

I recall the old two lane roads that would wind and twist across

N.Y., wait for the ferry to get across the St. Lawrence. Gas was as low as seven gallons for the U.S. dollar. Once across we would see black top on some stretches then newly graded, some with a thick course gravel. You had to mind the ruts or be in trouble! I suppose if we could average 20 to 30 miles per hour t'was good. The 1000 Island bridge was built in 1938, that made it a lot easier! Someone asked "how old are you?", my reply has been on occasion, "my youngest brother can't remember when he didn't go to Bobs Lake!"

I think of my family and friends often and the remarks above remind me of the youngest of my family who had just been cleaned up and dressed for an occasion, wandered off to the lake, promptly slipped on a rock getting soaked - back to mother at the tent where he got cleaned up again, after a scolding. Then the lure of the lake brought him back, one of the men gave him another coin and when mother heard about the coins she was fit to be tied, and angry as a wet hen!

Some families on the lake can recall as many as three, four or even five generations

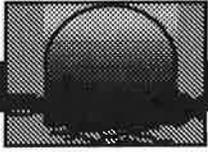


on the lake. There is a magnet - something in our minds that keeps us returning to a lovely Lake with fond memories, too many to mention here.

Our beautiful area so nice to go to, most of us remember a few years ago nothing much was being done to preserve what we had, let alone pitching in and preventing damaging things to go on. In the last twenty years or so The Greater Bobs Lake Association has accomplished much. To name a few: improving shore lines, improving water quality, stocking fish, cataloguing every cottage, listing each for 911, road signs, marker buoys for shoals, improving wildlife habitat, working with the various legislative bodies and monitoring lake levels to name a few projects. In our Bobs Lake and adjoining lakes it is estimated now that there are more than 1000 cottages. With this number of cottages we should have plenty of support to keep what we have, improve our environment, and above all enjoy the area and our neighbours.

For 1997 make an effort to adopt a lake, shore line, inlet, outlet, bay or point.





Membership Blitz

By Irene Phillips

Well, it looks like summer will be here after all. Hopefully the beavers and porcupines have left your cottage intact. Thank you all for becoming Greater Bobs Lake Association members. Your dues help fulfil the mission statement. Our intent this year is to enlarge our membership. There are approximately 1200 cottages on the two lakes. Our goal is 100% membership. To this end we are planning some exciting events for the summer of '97. So have your calendar handy and mark in these dates please!

Our first event is a membership Blitz Day on July 12. Some of your neighbours have volunteered to deliver Bobs Lake Association

pamphlets and information about the Association. Please join our FLOATING FLOTILLA when you see us, we would love to talk to you.

Next comes our Annual meeting on July 27. It is at Fogarty Hall, Sacred Heart Church at 1 p.m. This is a good time to air your views and learn about the state of your lake. We would also like you to bring some treasured cottage recipes you don't mind sharing. We would like to compile a Greater Bobs Lake Cookbook. So hunt up something yummy and bring it to the meeting or send it in. We hope to have it ready by summer '98.

Lastly we are planning an August family PICNIC. This will be a gor-

geous sunny day of course with great food and activities for you and your family. Mark in August 16, the Township Offices for this fun day. Bring your neighbours, we'd like them to join too.

Because of government cutbacks the stewardship of our beautiful lakes is largely up to us, the residents of Bobs Lake and Crow Lake. Maintain your membership and encourage others to join too. Membership fees are \$30.00 per year and extend from July 1 to June 30 the following year. Please note that your membership expiry date is on your mailing label. Your fees ensure the continuing maintenance of healthy, vibrant lakes.

4-6
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Dawn Chorus

By Amy McAndrews

Many of you probably know that migrant bird species are now returning to the our area from their tropical wintering grounds. What you might not know is that now is the best time to view these and resident bird species. With most male songbirds displaying colourful breeding plumage, and being very vocal, spotting songbirds is fairly easy. In the spring,

the best time of day to bird watch is during what is known as "dawn chorus". Around sunrise, males will attempt to attract mates by singing repeatedly, usually at the tops of trees and bushes. After about 11 am males will stop singing and start feeding as the warm of the day awakens insects, including blackflies and mosquitoes!

Familiarity with individual

bird songs is an excellent way to find elusive and/or rarer species, such as the endangered Cerullan warbler, which inhabits the upper regions of old forest canopies.

Well over 100 species of birds have been observed around Crow Lake by myself and my family, a feat easily achieved if you know how and where to look for birds.

Happy Birding!!

Membership Application

Name:
Date:
Summer Address:
.....
Telephone:
Winter Address:
.....
Telephone:

Cottage Location
 Big Bob Bobs Lake Buck Bay
 Central Narrows Crow Bay Crow Lake
 Green Bay Long Bay Mill Bay
 Mud Bay Norris Bay

Enclosed is \$30.00 in Dues:
Additional Donation:
Lake Preservation Fund:
Emergency Equipment:
General Fund:
Fish Stocking:

Total:

Please remit funds to the Greater Bobs Lake
Landsowners Association:

c/o Diane Stevens
R.R.#2
Godfrey, ON
K0H 1T0

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