

# Newsletter

Autumn, 2003

## President's report

by Doug Shaw

**W**ell, another season is behind us and 2003 has been a challenging year. It seemed as though it rained almost every Saturday in July and August, but it was beautiful weather for the drive north on Friday and south on Sunday. Such is life.

Your executive and board of directors were busy marking channels, performing water quality tests, balancing the books, writing newsletters and organizing fun events. Their hard work is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. If you are considering volunteering, please let us know and we will do our best to make sure that you are involved in one of the activities that interest you.

We are continuing with our Canning Lake and Drag River history research project and we would like to receive more pictures and stories to go along with last year's report.

Please contact us if you have an important issue that affects your fellow waterfront property owners and we will address the situation.

All the best to you and your families.



*Minden Hills reeve and Canning Lake resident Ross Rigney (left) updated cottagers on county issues at the Canning Lake annual general meeting on July 6, 2003.*

## Cast your ballot

**A**s a Minden Hills property owner, you are eligible to vote by mail in the upcoming municipal election. When you receive your ballot, please fill it in and return it immediately, especially if you're heading south.

An all-candidates meeting will be held on Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Minden. Take Main Street over the bridge, then McKay Street, then Donald Street.

Here is the slate of candidates:

### **Reeve (elect one):**

- Brendan Berube
- Ross Rigney\*

### **Deputy reeve:**

- Jim McMahon\* acclaimed

### **Councillors:**

- **Ward 1—Anson, Hinden, Minden (elect two)**
  - Clayton Cameron
  - Bill Obee\*
  - Peter Oyler\*
- **Ward 2—Lutterworth (elect one)**
  - Pam Sayne
  - Ingram Wessell\*
- **Ward 3—Snowdon**
  - Ron Buchanan\* acclaimed
- **Councillor at large—Minden Hills (elect one)**
  - Cheryl Murdoch
  - Ron Nesbitt
  - Darrell Selsky

\* Incumbent

# Take advantage of shoreline visits

by Gus Janca

**G**ot a shoreline problem? Erosion? Problem wildlife? Excessive weeds? Or maybe you just want advice on how to be a more environmentally friendly cottager. This summer, four Canning Lake cottage owners took advantage of the Water Protectors Program, run by the non-profit organization, Peterborough Green-Up. At their request, a trained ecological adviser visited their waterfront properties to assist them in “greening” their cottages. According to the Water Protectors, “Urban lifestyles and landscaping at the water’s edge can overload our waterways with nutrients, increase erosion and destroy habitat.” The Water Protectors Program is dedicated to helping waterfront owners preserve and enhance shoreline environments. Healthy shores mean healthy lakes.

The naturalization of shorelines can generate benefits, including:

- Reducing shoreline erosion
- Reducing excessive weeds
- Improving water quality through nutrient uptake
- Providing valuable wildlife habitat while discouraging nuisance wildlife
- Reducing water level fluctuations
- Protecting against ice damage.

In addition to the hour-long visit, each of this summer’s participants received an information-

packed thank-you bag, a rain gauge and a coupon for a free native shrub from Ecology Park in Peterborough. If you would like to find out more about this program, or if you want a shoreline visit, call Peterborough Green-Up at (705) 745-3238, e-mail [greenspace@greenup.on.ca](mailto:greenspace@greenup.on.ca), or check out their web site at [www.greenup.on.ca](http://www.greenup.on.ca). There will be a small fee for a shoreline visit to cover travelling costs for the ecological adviser.

## *Lake history progressing*

by Jim Mitchell

**L**ast year, our association started a “History of Canning Lake” project through U-Links, an organization that partners with Trent University students to do community-based research. Nick Assad, a fourth-year student, began the project in January and produced a preliminary report for us in May. He also created a survey document that some of you picked up at the annual general meeting.

We are pleased that another fourth-year student, Andrea Carter, has chosen our project as a full-year course this year. Andrea will probably get in touch with many Canning Lake cottagers in the coming months. If you receive a call from her, please give her a warm Canning Lake welcome and provide her with as much assistance as you can. Together we can produce an interesting and informative history of our wonderful lake.

### *Send us your pictures*

If you have interesting historical photographs of Canning Lake, we’d

like to publish them in the newsletter. We will scan and return the pictures to you, or if you want to scan them yourself, they should be in JPEG format at a resolution of 300 dpi. Kindly also provide a caption to go under each picture. Please note that we publish the newsletter only three times a year and we can accommodate only one or two photos in each edition. We will keep the scans for possible future use in a history of the lake.

## 911 update

by Lois Rigney

**T**he new 911 numbers are being posted on our properties around the lake. Some roads have their new road signs posted as well. If you are now living on a road with a name you did not choose and do not like, please accept it. Chances are that you didn’t choose the name of the street where your permanent residence is. These new names and numbers will not go into effect until July of 2004.

## Newsletter deadlines

**S**ubmit photographs or articles to Patricia Collins. Phone is (416) 469-5455; e-mail is [patricia.collins@sympatico.ca](mailto:patricia.collins@sympatico.ca); fax is (416) 469-5467.

Here are our deadlines:

- January 16, 2004
- April 23, 2004

# Excessively noisy boats ruin other people's enjoyment of our lake

All summer, three or four extremely noisy boats zoomed around Canning Lake. They sounded as though they didn't have a muffler on their engines. One long weekend, someone also had a watercraft that sounded like a motorcycle without a muffler being revved over and over again—for hours at a time.

While no one expects complete peace and quiet on a large lake during summer weekends, the sound of these vessels was so annoying that some cottagers were forced indoors on rare beautiful days just to escape the din.

## *Quieter boating is the law*

New laws introduced last spring prohibit this kind of noise creation. According to the web page of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), it's now law to muffle all exhaust, either by a muffler or by dispersing the exhaust under water.

The Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC) is an advisory board of stakeholders sponsored by the Canadian Coast Guard to assist in identifying problems related to marine activities. Through the coast guard and the CMAC, the federal government has replaced 1999 regulations with new rules under the *Canadian Shipping Act*. These are cloned from the *Highway Traffic Act*, which is familiar to police, and are more enforceable than the regulations they replace.

According to FOCA, the new law is this:

- No one may operate a pleasure boat unless it has a muffler in

good working order and is in operation at all times to prevent excessive noise, or unless the exhaust gases are directed underwater through the propeller hub or below the cavitation plate.

- If the boat is equipped with a muffler bypass, it must be disengaged in such a manner that it cannot be engaged accidentally.
- This does not apply to older boats built prior to 1960 (for example, wooden inboard boats or race boats in a sanctioned competition).
- This does not apply if the boat is operated more than five miles from shore (for example, in Lake Simcoe or the Great Lakes).

A muffler means: an expansion chamber within the exhaust pipe from the engine specifically designed to reduce engine exhaust noise. It does not include a muffler cut-out system, straight-out exhaust pipes, or a fibreglass-packed muffler or bypass.

## *What to do about boats that make too much noise*

In most of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are responsible for enforcing the regulations.

If you are bothered by a noisy boat, contact your local OPP office at (705) 286-1431, and an officer will investigate the complaint. To assist the OPP, ensure that you have recorded the following information:

- The date and time of the event
- Where it took place, including distance from shore, estimated speed and direction
- A description of the boat, including the registration number
- A description of the operator and the operator's name, if known
- The cottage or home of the operator, if known
- The names and phone numbers of additional witnesses
- A photograph or video, if possible.

## *Help us keep marker buoys properly placed*

Bill Lithgow appreciates the help of fellow cottagers who reported moved or missing marker buoys this year. If you notice that any buoys have shifted or disappeared, kindly call Bill at (905) 737-3214 (home) or (705) 286-1639 (cottage) or e-mail him at [b\\_lithgow@hotmail.com](mailto:b_lithgow@hotmail.com).

Please do not move any buoys without contacting Bill first—their locations were selected by the Canadian Coast Guard, not the Canning Lake Property Owners' Association.

# Septic systems need care

by Gus Janca

**M**ore and more cottagers are becoming aware that living at the water's edge makes a significant impact on the environment. Of all our activities, our septic systems have the biggest potential for a negative effect. That's why we need to be careful with what goes into the septic tank and what eventually comes out of the system via the weeping bed. This was the message guest speaker Rob Davis delivered to Canning Lake's annual general meeting this July. Rob's Sunderland-based company, Owl Innovations, offers environmentally smart solutions to septic system problems.

Everyone has heard of "environmentally friendly" soaps and "biodegradable" products. But these terms don't always mean what we think they mean. They are actually quite vague and can be misleading. According to Rob, the only way to be sure that a product is good for the environment is to look for Environment Canada's EcoLogo. The EcoLogo, which is made up of three doves entwined to form a maple leaf, can be displayed only if

that product has been approved by the government's Environmental Choice program. If a label does not have the EcoLogo, you have no reason to trust claims the manufacturer is making. For more information on EcoLogo products, check out [www.environmentalchoice.com](http://www.environmentalchoice.com).

A septic system that no longer works is a likely source of pollution. Rob cited several factors that can lead to disaster:

- **Improper size.** There are too many users for the size of the septic system.
- **Hydraulic overload.** Too much water is going into the septic tank.
- **Solid buildup in the tank.** Normally, solids are broken down in the tank by beneficial bacteria. But strong chemicals can kill off the bacteria. So it is not a good idea to use antibacterial soaps or chlorine products at the cottage. Eventually, a buildup of solids will travel down the system, clogging up the weeping tiles and leaching disease-causing bacteria as well as unwanted nutrients.

A failed septic system is costly to replace and is a likely source of pollution. Making the right consumer choices and changing your habits are the best ways to protect your investment and prevent the premature failure of your system.

So, what can you do if you suspect your neighbour's system? Your first step should be to approach the person with your concern. If that doesn't work, you may have to take the problem to the Public Health Department or the Ministry of the Environment.



## Summer events

### Fun Day

by Lois Rigney

Due to poor weather, the attendance was lower than usual, but those who came had a great time, despite the rain. We decided to go ahead on Saturday because the rain didn't start until 2:55 p.m., we were already set up, and the weather forecast was for thunder showers on Sunday. My apologies to those who came out on Sunday, the rain date. I would still appreciate it if someone would volunteer to help run the games next year. I will assist you.

### Fred Jones bass award

by Ross Rigney

Again, there were few fish brought in to be weighed. The winner was Ed Brown with a little 2½-pound bass. We know there are bigger ones out there, so go get them next summer and bring them in to Rigney's beach to be weighed. The prize is \$25, and the contest runs until Labour Day.

## Fall events

### All-candidates meeting

Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, Minden.

### Hike Haliburton

The Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network (TNT) is sponsoring a hiking festival on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18. Contact Lindsay Elder at (705) 489-4049 or [lindsaye@trailsandtours.on.ca](mailto:lindsaye@trailsandtours.on.ca).