



Greetings from.....

VOLUME TWENTY EIGHT

NOVEMBER 1999

PLEA EXECUTIVE

President: Mieke Schipper

Vice President: Bev Watson

Director: Betty Evans

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson

Director: Bruce Robertson

Director: Gail Taylor

President's Message

by Mieke Schipper

It is on a cold fall day that I am preparing the November PLEA Newsletter, but you have warmed your executive with your incredible response to the call for membership renewal.

The task of vigilance concerning our lake seems at times daunting and overwhelming but your support energized us beyond belief. Thank you so very much. Together we will carry on.

On September 15 the Annual General Meeting was held at the Robertson's. We welcomed the Fedyk family who recently moved to a lakefront property. They brought their three youngsters. Can never start too early educating kids about sustainable lakeshore living.

Eileen Longueville of EILEEN LONGUEVILLE TRAINING & FACILITATION was our guest speaker. She outlined the process necessary for successful marketing of our activities. She and husband Ed will assist us with promoting the Kawartha Lakes Environment Day. This fall and winter we will visit the councils of the five municipalities along the shores of Pigeon Lake and give a presentation about lakeshore naturalization and rehabilitation. The specific dates will be announced in the next Newsletters.

In this Newsletter you will find the promised articles about live releases, land trusts and water. Bev Watson, our resident researcher spent much of her summer reading up on these topics. We hope you'll enjoy them.

Library

PLEA has books, video's and audio tapes about many issues concerning living near the lake.

Call Bev Watson at 657-1911

April 29, 2000
Buckhorn Community Centre

Kawartha Lakes Environment Day

Handle with care

by Bev Watson

During our long and cold winters our shorelines go dormant and hidden by drifts of snow. In summer the situation changes completely and that special living edge, where land and water meet becomes the focal point of so much activity. In the warm shallow water of the shore, life begins for many of nature's creatures and there are many ways in which we can protect and support this special area.

In the Spring-Summer issue of the Kawartha Fisheries Association's News, available wherever newspapers are sold, there is an article by Ian Attridge, a Peterborough lawyer who works for the Ontario Nature Trust Alliance, called "Protecting your Shoreline" which talks about the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy. See the article in this Newsletter about "Sustaining our Community's Heritage" by Ian Attridge in which he explains possible tax benefits. It is well worth reading.

In the same edition of KFA's News there is an excellent article on the improvement of the walleye spawning grounds, two of which were done in Pigeon Lake during the winter of '99. This coming winter will see the completion of seven more spawning beds, some of which will be in Pigeon Lake.

And last but not least, our passion for neat and tidy places may cause a great deal

The formation of a Kawartha Land Trust is now being discussed by a variety of people from around our region. We are your neighbours who believe that there are positive and creative ways to help land

of harm to our shorelines. The most important areas for fish in any lake are its shorelines. When we remove rocks, logs, weeds, plants and debris we are really destroying and upsetting the fish's habitat. If we want to have fish, we must make it possible for them to live here. Our task is to reconcile our needs and integrate them with those of the existing habitat.

Sustaining our community's heritage through a Kawartha Land Trust.

by Ian Attridge

As you enjoy your waterfront property, farm the land, manage a woodlot or appreciate them from a distance, do you wonder what will happen to the lands in the Kawartha's in the future? How might our region change? Are there ways to conserve and manage the land that benefits you, your children and your community?

Fortunately, there is a growing number of ways to conserve the land you love. There are even income tax and property tax incentives to help in some situations. A Kawartha Land Trust could help landowners plan for the future of their lands and develop their own mix of conservation and financial benefits. It would allow individuals and families to take a direct role in protecting land and would work with willing donors and sellers. Like any other non-profit organization, the land trust would have no regulatory powers.

Landowners protect the natural and cultural heritage that is dear to all of us. We plan to form a volunteer Board of Directors that represents a cross section of our community. Already, biologists, farmers,

teachers, cottage owners, lawyers, insurance and real estate agents are getting involved. Others are most welcome., Drawing from diverse expertise on our Board, we can provide interested landowners and their advisors with specialized information on conservation-minded and creative real estate and tax arrangements. This will help landowners to integrate and maximize their conservation, financial and other plans.

Tentatively called the "Kawartha Heritage Conservancy", the land trust is based here in the Kawartha region - essentially in the Peterborough and Victoria Counties. It will receive donation of lands and conservation agreements and will also raise funds to buy and manage important properties. It will use our community's knowledge, our own research and existing information to identify the best areas to focus on. These might be important forests, highly productive agricultural lands, historic sites and buildings, scenic views or perhaps local trails. Donations will be eligible for tax receipts.

Over the next few months, our "ad hoc feasibility committee" will be exploring further how the land trust would operate and complement existing community groups. We will need to further refine our focus, incorporate as a non-profit charity, reach out to a wider circle of people and raise some initial funds to really get going. Besides acquisition expenses, it will cost about \$3000.00 per year to run the land trust properly and this will be raised through donations, memberships and grants. However, this is a small expense compared with the benefits of helping landowners and conserving some of the most important natural and cultural assets here in the Kawartha's.

If you are interested in the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy, we welcome your involvement, ideas and comments. Please contact: Mieke Schipper 799-6734.

Together we can help sustain our region's heritage long into the future.

Conservation and Tax Redution

Find a mix that works for you

There are various Land Conservation Options. Ian Attridge has written a number of pamphlets on these topics, which you can obtain by calling Ian at 876-7576.

Some of the possibilities:

CREATIVE CONSERVATION TO SUIT

- Get a tax receipt through a discount land sale
- Find a buyer who will be a good steward
- Get a grant to help you manage your land
- Keep and use your land but have a conservation group protect it forever.

The following are some immediate benefits.

SAVE ON INCOME TAX

- benefits of ecological, cultural and stock gifts
- choose a lower tax value for gifts of land
- other tax planning for landowners

LOWER PROPERTY TAXES 75 - 100%

- managed forest tax incentive program
- conservation land tax incentive program

- voluntary conservation agreements

Drop after drop

by Bev Watson

Well, I am going to talk about water - again. Over the summer, there have been little messages here and there, a major article in the Toronto Star, Maud Barlow of the Council of Canadians is talking up a storm. All about water.

We learned that our country has more fresh water than any other country in the world. We also learned that other countries, less fortunate than ours might want our water, indeed might need it for their very survival. We also learned that our own supply is not as great as it once was thought. And this summer in some lakes the docks were sitting high and dry and many farmer's ponds have simply disappeared.

What shall we do about this? How can we replenish our supply? Let's keep these questions in mind when we water our lawns, wash our cars and clothes and take endless showers. It amazes me to realize that in the past eight months, two books have been written about- yes you guessed it - water. How could there be so much to be said about water?

Here are the titles, they are worth a read:

1. Fresh water by E.C.Pielow
2. Water By Marc de Villiers.

I suspect we are being warned gently to realize that our water supply is not endless and bearing this in mind we need to guard and treasure this life giving resource.

PLEA has a free lead (sinkers and jigs) exchange. Call Elaine Petreman at 292-8590.

Preserving water quality

produced by the Landowner Resource Centre

We call it "Earth" but three quarters of our planet is actually covered in water. Of the amount, 97% is salt water in oceans and seas. The remaining 3% is fresh water, but nearly all of it is rapped in glaciers and polar ice. In reality, only a fraction of the world's water can sustain creatures like us. Which is why preserving water quality, for drinking as well as habitat is so crucial.

The Water Cycle

Water is in constant motion, travelling around the planet as it changes from solid to liquid to vapour. It begins with precipitation, such as rain and snow, that falls from the atmosphere and replenishes lakes and streams, as well as groundwater below the Earth's surface. Some surface water flows eventually into the ocean. Water returns to the atmosphere when it evaporates and forms clouds.

Maintaining quality and quantity of water

Little changes can make a big difference when it comes to improving water quality, but education is the key. The more we know about water quality the more we can modify our lifestyle and make positive changes.

Bev indicated some of the obvious one's in her article "Drop after drop". In the next Newsletter we will follow up with less

Lead Exchange

obvious things we can do around the house and further afar.

"Till taught by pain

What about these live release tournaments?

by Bev Watson

A member of PLEA sent us an article taken from "Animal Times" magazine, which is produced by PETA, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals. She hoped we could use it for our Newsletter.

In my own very limited fishing experience what I remember the most is the torn mouth of the fish after the hook was removed.

The following is a direct steal and I hope PETA will forgive me but there wasn't time to seek them out concerning copyright. So here it is.....

This is what the anglers are saying:

1. Catch and release fishing isn't nearly as cruel as hunting.

Answer: Actually fishing may be worse. In catch and release fishing the same fish can be hooked again and again, causing much injury and pain.

2. If fish were hurt when they are hooked, why do they keep biting?

Answer: Anglers go to great length to hide their hooks with bait and lures and even the most injured animal will; continue to seek out food and fight to stay alive.

3. At least the fish don't die.

Answer: anglers who play fish to the brink of exhaustion are wishful thinkers if they believe their prey will swim away unharmed. Prolonged exertion causes lactic acid to build up in the fishes' body, which causes

*Men really know not
what good water's worth"*

Lord Byron

the muscle cells to start decomposing from lack of oxygen, and greatly decreases their chances of survival.

4. If catch-and-release fishing is so bad, it wouldn't be practised at tournaments.

Answer: Anglers may not realize the extent of the problem. Participants and contest organizers would have seldom seen dead fish to give them any indication that tournament related mortality was occurring. Weakened fish are eaten by turtles and other predators or they die of the injuries several days after the anglers have gone home.

Well, that is food for thought, isn't it?

PLEA's Website

by Mieke Schipper`

We are in the process of completing our very own website. Links will be created to Victoria and Peterborough County, the Kawartha's and various organizations we work with such as the Kawartha Fisheries Association.

Other links to interesting sites will be created. For those who are computer and internet savvy (otherwise pass it on to the grandchildren.....) here is a taste of great exploring, starting with the Green Lane, Environment Canada's national web site.

Canadian Wildlife Service - Ontario Region
<http://www.cciw.ca/green-lane/wildlife/intro.html>

The National Green Lane
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/>

Ontario's Region Green Lane
<http://www.cciw.ca/green-lane/or-home.html>

Great Lakes Information Management Resource

<http://www.cciw.ca/glimr/intro.html>

Wildlife Watchers

<http://glimr.cciw.ca/tmpl/glimr/>

Great Lakes Wetlands Conservation Action Plan

<http://www.cciw.ca/green-lane/wildlife/glwcap/intro.html>