



Greetings from.....

VOLUME THIRTY TWO

AUGUST 2000

PLEA EXECUTIVE

President: Mieke Schipper
Vice President: Bev Watson
Director: Betty Evans

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson
Director: Bruce Robertson
Director: Gail Taylor
Director: Stacey Crough

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 19, 2000

7:30pm

15 Millbrook Ridge (The Glenn)

Omeme ON

705-799-5537

Speakers:

Albert Marinelli of the Kawartha Fisheries Association

Linda Trott on the effect of the rainforests on *our* environment

President's Message

by Mieke Schipper

It was a very special day, June 14 for PLEA. In Ken Reid Park, where the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority has their offices, as an organization we were presented with a statue with the loon prominently on top and our name on a plaque as the recipients of the Kawartha Conservationist Award 2000 and a cheque.

A heartfelt "Thank-You" to the KRCA, Emily Township who nominated PLEA and Mr. McGregor, council member and publisher of Country Xpress who was instrumental in the nomination.

It was a time to reminisce about the past, about the time PLEA came into existence, about the *raison d'être*: *concern about the water quality of Pigeon Lake!!* 1500 people signed petitions and came to meetings; *concern about lake capacity; concern about heavy build-up and therefore destruction of the natural habitats; concern about the loss of fish.* In all these areas, PLEA was the voice of many Pigeon Lake shore dwellers.

We also reflected on the fact that these concerns still exist, or rather have come back to the foreground as we suddenly and painfully have become aware how precious our water is and how very very important it is to believe in the right we have to clean, healthy water.

Further in the Newsletter you will find opportunities to participate in water quality monitoring.

Guelph and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (O.F.H.A.) are collaborating this summer to better understand this relationship and the result of that for home and cottage plumbing systems. The information gathered

More to water: PLEA has been invited to participate in a zebra mussel monitoring project, of which you can read more later on in the Newsletter.

It is that time of the year again that we will have our annual general meeting. You will find an invitation and an agenda and are kindly urged to come and participate. **We need you!**

A membership renewal is attached and we hope that we can beat the success rate of last years renewal. Fill it out and send it in. Your dollars go to vigilant monitoring of activities and education of best practices around the lake and lakeshore.

INVADING SPECIES PROJECT

by Mieke Schipper

PLEA has been invited to participate in a province wide zebra mussel monitoring project. This project will contribute to valuable research on the water quality requirements of zebra mussels in Ontario and may also assist to better understand which Ontario lakes are vulnerable to invasion.

Many studies have been done in the past, to determine the potential distribution of zebra mussels in relation to the calcium levels in the lakes. Studies done by the University of Guelph have shown that zebra mussels require about 10mg per litre of calcium to survive and grow and at least 20-25mg per litre of calcium to cause severe infestations. The University of from this project will be used to further assist waterfront property owners in deciding if a zebra mussel filter system is necessary to protect the water intake system.

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PLEA received three packages with all the equipment necessary to conduct the project. The equipment went into the lake in the last week of June. One is located on the west shore of the lake, one on the north east and one on the south east of the lake. By the end of August some work is to be done, with the final part of the project in mid September. A final report will be send to PLEA and rest assured we will share that information with you.

The Dock Primer

A cottager's Guide to
Waterfront-Friendly Docks
by **Max Burns**

from :
Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Cottage
Life

This booklet can be obtained from :
Cottage Life
54 St. Patrick Street, Toronto ON,
M5T 1V1,
phone 416-599-2000,
e-mail cimag@cottagelife.com

or from
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fish Habitat Management Program
Ontario Referrals Coordinator
867 Lakeshore Road, Burlington ON
L7R 4A6
905-336-4595
e-mail: referralsontario@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

The booklet offers ideas about detailed site plans taking into account your shoreline. A chapter is spent on dock shapes. What serves your needs best. Materials to be used from wood to plastic lumber and appropriate hardware.

An extensive chapter is spent on dock types with the view of the least disturbance to the fish and other aquatic habitat. And then the approval process. **DO NOT SKIP THIS PART.** We all know stories of people who just put in a dock and then had to remove it because they did not have the proper paperwork done. Further reading is recommended on the last page with some more information about organizations that could be helpful. A very worthwhile booklet.

KAWARTHA WATER WATCH

from
A Compendium of Information on Water
Quality and Related Data for 1998

by: Mark Majchrowski and John Abati

Established in the summer of 1997, the Kawartha Water Watch (KWW) water quality program was implemented to monitor and improve the health of the Kawartha Watershed. Using data collected from the program, appropriate remedial measures can be developed that can be undertaken by the public and improve the health of the eco- system.

The program is designed to provide information on the water quality status of our aquatic resources. Accomplished through the combination of information from our own sampling efforts and from provincial agencies, KWW allows for the identification of good, satisfactory and poor water quality. Water quality, for the purpose of the KWW, applies mainly to phosphate concentration, coliform presence, pH, alkalinity, water clarity and turbidity, as sampled by volunteers of the program.

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Identifying problem areas in our lakes and rivers enables these sites to be recognized encourages the public to become involved in protecting water quality in the Kawartha's Although the field test kits used in the KWW program are not calibrated to industry standards, they do allow for the identification of trends in water quality and identification of problem areas that can then be investigated further.

Kawartha Water Watch is a program that relies almost entirely on the watershed community to monitor the water quality of our lakes and rivers. Volunteers sample water from their respective water bodies on a monthly basis, sending the results to Kawartha Conservation where they are organized, analyzed and reported on. A total of 36 stations were sampled in 1997, comprised of 19 river stations and 17 lake stations. In 1998, 20 stream stations and 38 lake stations were sampled, for a total of 58 sites.

The results from 1999 are just now be reported on.

PIGEON LAKE

The north end of Pigeon Lake has been sampled since 1997; monitoring at the south end was started in 1998. Volunteers sampled a total of 7 different stations throughout the year in the northern portion of the lake and 3 different stations in the southern end.

The water quality results for Pigeon Lake indicate relatively good water quality. Coliform presence was detected sporadically during the months of June and July only.

Turbidity (a measure of the quantity of suspended particles in the water, such as silt, clay, organic matter, plankton or microscopic organisms) readings were very low and

and through awareness and education,

alkalinity and pH were, on average within normal parameters.

An interesting occurrence between late July and August caused the alkalinity reserves to decrease in the northern part of the lake.

This reaction caused the pH to decrease to a value of 6.5 at several sites. Although still within normal pH parameters, the reaction caused the alkalinity to decrease by more than 25% at two sampling stations, which can be cause for concern. Sites at the south end of the lake appeared to be unaffected by this event.

The following sampling period displayed more typical observations..

This was an isolated incident and is no cause for alarm. This event however, demonstrates how the waterbody was able to compensate for the increased amount of acid for a short duration.

Although we are uncertain what the cause for this influx of acid was, several possibilities include: heavy rainstorms in the northern portion of the watershed draining into Pigeon Lake, goose faeces and urban activities.

A number of stations detected phosphate readings during the months of June, July and August. This can be attributed to malfunctioning septic systems or animal wastes in the water. This is also the time when many people come to this area which may play a role in the phosphate levels detected. Observations made at the sampling sites in late August and September did not detect any phosphorus levels. High levels of phosphate during the summer months can lead to algae blooms which are harmful and can be an extreme nuisance.

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Secchi disc (this is a disc that indicates water clarity) readings suggest Pigeon lake to be a eutrophic lake, meaning it is enriched with nutrients.

Membership

Membership for 2000/2001 is due in the month of September. Renewal forms are attached to this Newsletter.

What do you get for your membership dues, you may ask. Your executive works diligently on the following:

Newsletters: 6 per year, with educational articles related to living near the lake.

Library: books, video and audio tapes, and magazines, all related to lakeshore dwelling.

Environment Day: an opportunity for the family to come and browse and learn about various aspects of living near the lake.

Action: vigilance in terms of shoreline development and/or any other actions that may harm the lake and shoreline habitat.

Presentations: township council meetings, cottage and rate payers association meetings, schools and service clubs.

Sometimes we get invited and sometimes we invite ourselves to talk about the importance of the quality of life on the lake.

As you can see from the financial statement, membership dues are a very important part of our income. We urge you not to forget to mail it in. Our membership is computerized and we just began to use an accounting package for our financial recordings. Step by step these processes are getting automated and we hope that this will mean we can serve you better.

Nominations for the Board Executive:

President: Mieke Schipper
Vice President Bev Watson

KWW participates in the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network with two stations in Pigeon Lake, one at the mouth of the river in Bobcaygeon and one at Fee's Landing.

Secretary: Sylvia Robertson
Treasurer: Bruce Robertson
Directors: Stacey Crough
Betty Evans

Pigeon Lake Environmental Association Inc.

Annual Meeting

September 19, 2000

Agenda:

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Minutes from the AGM August 22, '98
3. Reports:
 - Environment Day Report
 - Education Report
 - Shoreline Development Report
 - Finance Report
 - Membership Report
4. Elections
5. Guest Speaker:
 - Linda Trott on the effect of the rainforests on us
6. Guest Speaker
 - Albert Marinelli on the Kawartha Fisheries Association
7. Adjournment
8. Refreshments

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