



THE WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

General Delivery  
White Lake, Ontario KOA 3L0

## *Newsletter — 1986*

### **CHAIRMAN'S NOTES — VIN WICKHAM**

We drifted into 1986 with a healthy committee albeit with a few changes. Walter Taylor has moved house to Brockville and found that communication with other members of the Executive rather troublesome. Walter remains on the committee as treasurer, and we must thank him for the conscientious work he did as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Don Garrett has kindly agreed to take Walter's place. Mr. C. R. Levelton joins us as representative for Areas 6 and 7.

Gordon Asher joins the committee as representative for Area 12 and replaces Bob Crook whose past service has been greatly appreciated. Gordon brings his expertise as a chemist. In this regard, we have on the committee a number of professionals in diverse disciplines.

Norman Moore continues his water sampling program without which we would not be able to get routine water analysis or assess the annual quality of water.

Appended to this newsletter is an excellent contribution by Norman Moore. Thanks for everything Norman.

We have received a questionnaire from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Incorporated. Unfortunately, opinion has been expressed to the effect that we should confine ourselves exclusively to water quality matters. If and when a property owners' association is formed on White Lake, its existence can then be registered.

I believe that your committee should consider making a donation to Pollution Probe's "Campaign for Safe Drinking Water for Canadians". However, we must maintain an acceptable operating budget. Many cottagers have never made a contribution and a few have contributed every year. This newsletter has hopefully reached every cottage on the lake and commercial operators. The latter should have more than average interest in maintaining the lake in a recreational condition.

The Committee has discussed ice fishing huts and has received reports that not only have huts been abandoned on the ice but drums of human waste left within. Obviously, when the ice melts, the whole hut sinks into the lake causing pollution. We feel that every hut should bear the owner's name. By means of a copy of this report, we will alert the Department of the Environment.

Contacts with the appropriate ministries are being made with regard to acid rain, dioxins and various sprays being used to combat tent caterpillars and the gypsy moth.

Please see your representative for problems which arise and we would greatly appreciate receiving any contributions for the Newsletter.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT — WALTER TAYLOR**

Because of a number of generous contributions during 1985, we ended up the season with a total balance of \$766.00, including donations of \$160.00. Thanks to all who donated to our cause.

All our members, of course, do their "bit" without remuneration, including "Norm" Moore who probably does more "leg work" (by boat!) than any of us.

### **NOTES FROM OUR WATER SAMPLER — NORMAN MOORE**

In 1971, the Ministry of the Environment (Ontario) launched the Cottagers' Self Help program. The White Lake Water Quality Committee has taken an active part in this program since its inception.

During the past year (1985), the White Lake Water Quality Committee submitted 48 lake samples to the Ministry of the Environment. The samples are tested for clarity and phytoplankton (microscopic algae) only. The samples are not tested for other pollutants such as faecal or total coliforms; the concentration of these pollutants can vary dramatically from one area to another depending upon local conditions. Clarity and phytoplankton are more general in nature.

To ensure the safety of lake water for drinking, samples should be taken to the Public Health Laboratory at 346 Moodie Drive, Nepean.

In general terms, White Lake is considered to be in fairly good condition for recreational purposes.

The clarity and phytoplankton of a lake are affected greatly by nutrients, especially phosphorous and nitrogen. Nutrients increase algae and cause water to become progressively turbid. Weed beds grow and interfere with aquatic activities such as swimming and boating. Much of the nutrient input to the lake is supplied by cottagers — so be vigilant — it's your lake.

#### Some Suggestions

1. New cottage and septic systems should be sited as far as possible from the lake and conform with Ministry of Health and Township regulations — no "dry wells" for "grey water".
2. Near shore areas which are devoid of growth should be landscaped with trees, shrubs, grass, etc., to prevent runoff and erosion.
3. Septic systems must be continually monitored. Seepage of leachate from improperly located or malfunctioning systems contribute significantly to phosphorous input. Protect tile beds with compaction by traffic including snowmobiles and pedestrians.
4. Minimize the quantity of water used for domestic purposes. Detergents contain large amounts of phosphorous — do laundry in the city.
5. Don't shampoo or bathe in the lake — soap contains nutrients.
6. Don't use fertilizers for lawns, gardens, etc.
7. The shallow near shore zone supports most of the plant and animal life of the lake. Before undertaking shoreline activities such as dredging or filling, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources (Carleton Place) for advice.

The health of the lake, to a very large degree, is in your (the cottager's) hands — be vigilant — protect your lake.

#### AREA 2 NOTES RE DISTRIBUTION OF 1985 NEWSLETTER — DON GARRETT

During distribution of the 1985 Newsletter, much time was spent chatting with the cottage owners. Most inquired about the general quality of the water itself and many gave their observations on the condition of the water as they saw it. Generally, the observations were quite favourable.

The resident fisherman of the area were pleased to see the results of the Ministry's netting survey published and would like to see it included annually in the Newsletter.

There were some new owners, who through the 1985 Newsletter, got their first exposure to the White Lake Water Quality Committee. They were pleased to see the attention that is given to the water quality and that a formal committee actually exists for the purpose of monitoring the lake's water condition.

A bonus during the distribution was in finally making contact with the resident of a cottage known as "Snora". The resident, Allan Ring, has been coming to White Lake since before much of the lake was developed. Talking to Allan was like listening to someone reading a history book on White Lake. One such item mentioned was the log cabin that used to exist on the north shore across from Hardwood Island. It was built in 1913 by Allen's relatives as a hunt camp. It remained on that site until about 1980 when it was torn down. It, like many such structures, fell victim to the fact that the land was not owned but "squatted on".

I always enjoy talking to long-term residents around the lake as their knowledge adds that little bit of continuity with the lake's past that is often lost or taken for granted.

## WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE 1986

### EXECUTIVE

Chairman	V. A. (Vin) Wickham	office 232-1781	828-9549
Vice Chairman	A. E. (Archie) Graham		733-1628
Secretary	Donald (Don) Garrett	623-6397	838-3853
Treasurer	W. H. (Walter) Taylor	623-3590	345-3426
Water Sampler	Norman (Norm) Moore		623-5283

### COMMITTEE & AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area 1	Robert (Bob) Jackson	623-6355	828-2562
Area 2	Don Garrett	623-6397	838-3853
Area 3	Jack McFadyen		623-3247
Area 4	H. A. (Harry) Cinkant		623-3786
Area 5	Wm. (Bill) Sample	623-6670	526-2114
Areas 6 & 7	C. R. (Cliff) Levelton	623-5224	731-5915
Area 8	A. E. Archie Graham		733-1628
Area 9	W. H. Taylor	623-3590	345-3426
Area 10	Armer Warwick, Windy Point, White Lake		
Area 11	Roy Brule		623-3403
Area 12	Gordon Asher		733-9957
Area 13	V. A. (Vin) Wickham	office 232-1781	828-9549
Area 14	Brian Leafloor		(son) 829-0595

(Second telephone number indicates summer residence)

White Lake Area Chart on adjacent map.

## WHITE LAKE, ONTARIO

Parts of the lake are within the boundaries of Darling, Bagot, McNab and Pakenham townships as well as being shared between Lanark and Renfrew counties.

Latitude 45° 18'  
Longitude 75° 31'  
Height above sea level 530 feet  
Maximum depth 30 feet  
Mean depth 10 feet  
Surface area 5,823 acres  
Volume 59,435 acre/feet  
Perimeter 60.8 miles

