

THE LOON CALL



Official Newsletter of the Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association
 Editor: Derek McDermott, 50-6453 Colborne St., Niagara Falls, Ontario L2J 1E7

FALL/WINTER
 1983/84

ENVIRONMENT

Burned Up and Burned Out

Since OPEC, everyone has become interested in reducing the cost of home heating. Wood stoves have increasingly been seen as a viable solution particularly in a wood rich country such as Canada. The first year of operation of a wood stove can be expensive, however, according to one man's itemized list of expenditures.

Stove, pipe, maintenance, etc.	\$458.00
Chainsaw	149.95
Gas, maintenance for saw	44.60
4 wheel drive pickup, stripped	8279.00
Maintenance on pickup	433.99
Replace rear window of pickup (twice)	310.00
Fine for cutting in Provincial Park	500.00
Fifteen cases of beer	126.00
Littering fine	50.00
Tow charge from creek	50.00
Doctor's fee, removing splinter from eye	45.00
Safety glasses	29.50
Emergency room treatment (broken toes)	125.00
Safety shoes	49.50
New living room carpet	899.00
Paint walls and ceiling	110.00
Log splitting	150.00
Fifteen acre wood lot	3000.00
Taxes on wood lot	314.00
New coffee table (burned while drunk)	75.00
Divorce settlement	33678.00
Total First Year's Cost	\$48876.54
Savings in conventional fuel 1st year	172.52
Net Cost Woodstove Operations Year 1	\$48704.02

TV beams poisons into fertilizer

WASHINGTON (CP) — The same process that creates TV pictures could be used to turn acid rain-causing pollutants into farm fertilizer before they can escape and damage the environment, U.S. Energy Department officials say.

The \$6.2-million government-subsidized research project involves the use of TV-like electron beams at a coal-fired electric power plant in Indiana, department spokesman Carol Knapp-Ayers said yesterday.

Researchers will test the possibility of using a large-scale pollution cleaning process for coal-fired electrical utility plants. The facilities are considered the chief contributors to acid rain, which is killing lakes and forests in the northeastern United States and Canada.

Officials think the process is capable of removing 90 per cent of the pollutants - sulphur and nitrogen - from gas that is generated

by coal burning in electric power plant boilers, Knapp-Ayers said.

The prospect of turning the chemicals into fertilizer in the process is an added benefit that could help offset the cost of 'cleaning' the coal gas if the tests work out and the scheme is eventually adopted in the marketplace.

Norman Frank, spokesman for Ebara International Corp. of Greensburg, Penn., which came up with the process, said in an interview that companies in Canada showed interest in the project during a recent demonstration.

'This will not be the ultimate and solve every problem but we think it will be very useful,' Frank said.

He said the company estimates a power company could break even on the process if it could sell the fertilizer at \$70. a tonne.

The Toronto Star, October 15, 1983

Should clean own backyard

Canada should improve its own track record on battling acid rain before preaching to the United States about that country's lack of air emission controls, an acid rain conference was told Wednesday.

Michael Perley, of the Canadian Coalition on Acid Rain, said Canada should "set her own house in order. Canada does not have that much to go around beating her chest about."

Perley said there is a gap between what Canada says it is doing about acid rain and what is actually being done.

"In many respects we're moral saints but technical sinners," he told the opening session of the three-day conference, sponsored by the United Church of Canada and the U.S. Nation-

al Council of Churches.

He said Canadian claims that the Inco Ltd. smelter at Sudbury, Ont. - the country's largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions - has reduced emissions to 1,950 tonnes a day from 3,600 tonnes is misleading.

Perley said the 3,600 tonne figure was merely an allowable limit. "The actual Inco level was 2,500 tonnes a day, so the real percentage of reduction was a lot less than claimed."

He called on the federal government and Inco to share the cost of a \$500-million program to cut Inco emissions to 274 tonnes a day.

ST. CATHARINE'S STANDARD, Jan. 12/84



Letters to the Editor

The Editor welcomes signed letters on matters related to the lake or in response to previously published letters.

You would be interested to know Charlie Aide and several men from the Ministry spent some time Tuesday last week (September 13th) working on the dam - removed the logs and for the few minutes they were all out, it looked like the lake might empty. However, they got them all in place quickly and with some improvement. However, it will take a lot of rainfall to make much improvement on the lake level.

Yours sincerely, Jack Roblin

I am writing to ask you at this time if your organization would be interested and willing to print a small notice in your fall newsletter stating that the Township of Denbigh, Abinger and Ashby has five (5) acres of vacant shoreline property for sale by tender.

This property was seized by the Municipality for arrears of taxes and the period for redemption has expired.

This parcel is composed of part of lots 17, 18, Con. 4 Twp. of Ashby and is located on Cotter Lake.

The Township has not set an exact date for tenders, however they will be dealt with no later than the spring of 1984. Further information may be obtained by contacting me.

Yours Truly, Jack Pahl, Clerk Tr.
Denbigh, K0H 1L0
(613) 333-2736

Last summer, I agreed to look into the possibility of using photovoltaics to replace the existing propane lamp used in the Lake Weslemkoon lighthouse. I apologize for the delay in getting this information to you and hope it isn't too late to enable you to consider it as an alternative.

I have been talking with Lenbrook Industries of Scarborough who are the local distributors of Solarex PV panels and products. They sell a flashing hazard light (a brief description of which is enclosed) which retails for approximately \$295. A low voltage flashing lamp, with automatic startup is highly desirable in this case due to the high cost of the PV panels and batteries which would otherwise be required to provide a continuous light source.

I am not yet entirely satisfied that this device will provide all-night service if several days of cloudy weather occur. I anticipate that in order to get an answer to this question, and several others that I have, I will have to phone Solarex in the States.

If the Directors are still interested in this option, I will be happy to pursue it further upon hearing from you.

Yours Truly, David Burd

Sad news about Harry. We can just be thankful he and Claire had a full summer at the lake. Lots of flowers were sent from the Association.

I didn't get to the funeral as I spent that week at the lake. When we came out on Sunday, we hit ice between your place and Jack Nicol's. Got steadily worse as we progressed and by the time we got to the Camp Grounds, it was 2 inches. I heard at the north end, it started at Allen Baylay's. Sounds good for an early winter. There was a big storm on Tuesday (November 13) with a foot of snow at Bancroft Hydro lines and telephones out for days.

I expect Reg Smith won't stay in much longer and wonder if he got caught in the snow storm. He and Paul were still trapping beaver as well as deer hunting. Paul and Mary were going to start on their trail behind the house out to the road once hunting was over.

Carl was hunting (not on the lake) and he and party shot 2 deer. Austins left the lake at Thanksgiving. Carruthers (now retired) stayed a little longer.

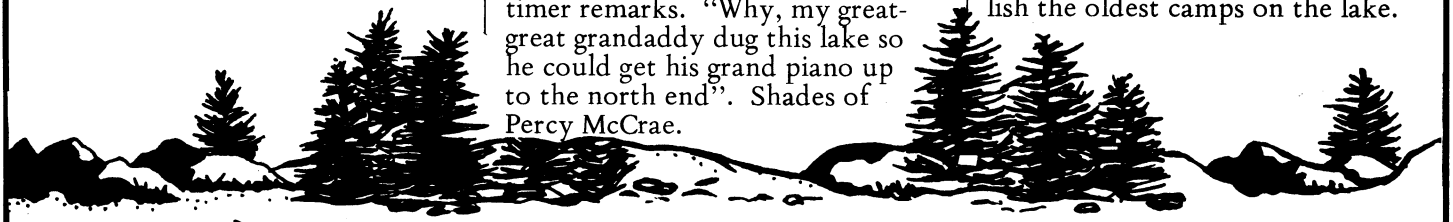
Adios, Diane (Blair)

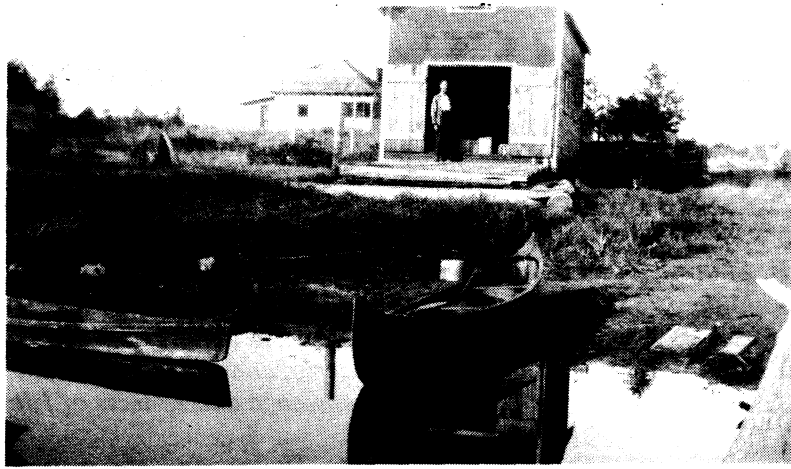
Backgrounds

From time to time at summer socials at the lake, conversation turns to cottages (camps as they used to be called) and their comparative ages. Depending on the time of evening, the company, the weather and the elixir being imbibed at the particular moment, dates shift and blur like the bats flitting through the soft reflections of window light or camp fire in the evening gloom. On such evenings, one is tempted to believe that the cottages have been there as long as the lake - even longer one old-timer remarks. "Why, my great-granddaddy dug this lake so he could get his grand piano up to the north end". Shades of Percy McCrae.

With daylight and some semblance of sobriety, however, reality intrudes and curiosity. When was the lighthouse built, what is the story behind the old fireplace on the island, just exactly when did granddaddy come in to the lake, how did he find it and what was it like?

Prompted by such questions this summer, I spent some time trying to sort through those records that still exist passed on by word of mouth largely and surviving in a few individual memories to establish the oldest camps on the lake.





THE JOHN NICOL CAMP c. 1925

My search was aided by, among others, Jack Nicol, Ross Sprckett, Charlie Aide and his wife Ethel, Harry Thompson, Nancy Dickinson, Margaret Andrews, John Hickey, Roy Whitmore, Ann Duval and most particularly by Vearl Gunter who gave up a lovely summer morning to talk to me and almost boiled her carrots dry. No doubt what follows will fuel argument on future summer evenings and may even deepen the mythology of the lake but I welcome correction of fact and oversight and certainly more precision in dates from surviving relatives. In this regard, it is curious to note that the building of some camps seems to have preceded the granting of clear title so that title dates may not coincide with cottage dates.

I have used 1923 as a benchmark because that was the year our family purchased land from Jack Nicol on Nicol Island. This is a convenient benchmark in another way because the charter of the Order of the Cockeyed Loons was drawn up and signed the following year.

By 1923 then, according to my research, the following camps working from south to north up the lake had already been established:

The Sprckett Camp (541)

The John Nicol Camp (1923) (427) now called Tamarind and presently owned by Dalton Cross, a grand-nephew.

The Professor Lyman Camp (420) renamed Idiot's Delight later by the Gerrard family.

The Rev. Hugh Cameron Camp at the lighthouse (1913) (565) called Craigmere. Mr. Hartwick, an engineer at Ford Motor Company owned this camp in the 30's and built the lighthouse in 1936 to generate electricity by wind. Dr. Inglis still has the electrical equipment. Legend has it that Edison visited the cottage on fishing trips.

The Rev. Duncan Cameron Camp situated on the little island to the east of the lighthouse. Only the fireplace remains. The camp was abandoned when improved dams raised the water level on the lake. The Cameron brothers came from Detroit.

The Stull Camp (575)

Professor Stull was Barb Dempsey's father and kept an extensive library in a small cabin near the main camp.

The Clark Camp on the west end of Jenkins Island. Only the fireplace remains, now converted to a barbeque for the present cottage.

The C.M. Reid Camp (1920) (350) on Ketcheson Island, now Mrs. Heath's.

The Ketcheson Hunting Camp (c. 1918) later purchased by the Howlett's (in-laws of the Camerons from Columbus, Ohio, and later replaced (1955) by a new cottage called Duck on the Rock (360) now owned by Margaret Andrew.

The Ezra Smith Camp (315) on Bald Island. Ezra and his brother, Frank came from Madoc.

The L.W. Marsh Camp (1913) (613) on Illahee Island, the largest of the Five Islands now owned by the Hickey's.

The J. Marsh Camp (1922) on Round Island, burned down in 1955 in connection with a fatal boating accident.

The Frank Smith Camp on Honeymoon Island, the most northerly of the Five Islands was sold to Mr. Barth, Ann Duval's father, and replaced later by two log cabins moved over the ice from mainland by Ted Carr. The larger of the two (the most westerly) was the first settler's home in Mayo Township, and the smaller was the old Aide home at the north end of the lake where Charlie was born.

The Senator Griffiths Camp (590) at the end of the Green Shore, this camp sometimes distinguished from the other Griffiths' camp in the old days by being called 'Stonewall Griffiths'. Sen. Griffiths was from N.Y. state.

The Bob Weddell Camp at the back or west, of Weddell Island.

The Scott Camp (1922) built by the Sleeper Brothers from McCrae. Carl and Jean Austin made their first visits to the lake at this camp.

The J. Shortt Camp on the north shore of West Bay better known in the old days simply as the 'Belleville Camp'.

The Cliff Walker Camp, burned down. The Davidsons purchased the property and built Elmardon near the site later.

The Sears Camp with its brown shingles not much changed from the days that Mrs. Sears and her two daughters Ruby and Isobel from Cincinatti entertained so hospitably there.

The Bevis Camp (220) on Bevis Island. Dr. Bevis was President of Ohio State University.

The Jim Anderson Camp known as Sunset Trail below Pike's Peak which Jim built in the 30's.

