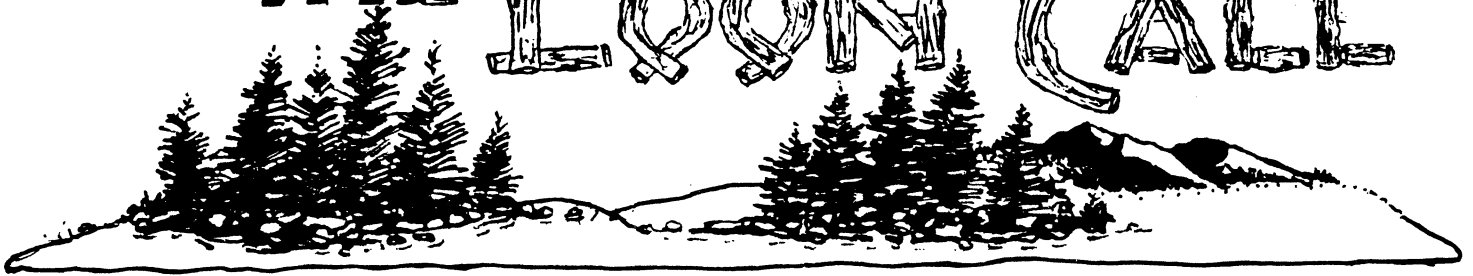


# THE LOON CALL



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

FALL-WINTER  
'82-'83

## EDITORIAL

### Roads to Nowhere

Understandably, local interests and cottager interests in many areas of the province do not always coincide. One issue, however, on which both seem to agree is the issue of stopping the unnecessary proliferation of Forestry Access roads in and around relatively unspoiled areas and lakes such as our own at Weslemkoon.

Certainly, some roads are needed. Where would we be without them? One wonders about this new breed of road however. The Forestry Access road. It conjures up a picture of busy lumbering activities, of trucks, skidders and noise. Yet the forestry industry is depressed, and the areas in which many of these new roads are being built at public expense were lumbered out years ago, and at a time when struggling lumbermen could get no assistance in building necessary roads.

One cannot help wondering why these roads are being built now and why they so frequently cut so close to unspoiled lakes. Has the MNR some secret scheme, some long range plan whose object we are being kept in the dark about?

A case in point is the Forestry Access road which has been cut from the old bush road south of Fire Tower hill to join the road into the north end of the lake near the dam. My son and I followed it on one of our geology surveys relating to acid rain a summer ago. We were amused just after being advised to use the road at our own risk to discover how good the road was compared to the one we had

just left, and amazed to discover how much cut and fill had been used in building the road. A road to where and why? It did not take long to discover. A new sign pointed the way 'to Green Lake' and sure enough, within minutes, we parked our car on the hill a mere 100 years from the west shore of the lake which already bore the marks of public intrusion, the lake which fifty years ago had been one of the premier Speckled Trout lakes in Ontario, the lake which even a year ago, a fisherman had to portage into. Now here it was, just another lake by a road. Only then did we realize that we must have already passed within a quarter mile of the end of West Bay.

Such roads not only allow easy access to hitherto unspoiled lakes like Green Lake. They allow easy access to the wildlife. As one old-timer said, 'The Ministry don't know what they're doing. They pass all sorts of regulations to protect deer from local hunters and then build roads through deer parks and allow hunters to come in and shoot them from cars. It ain't even worth keeping a dog anymore'.

Let's leave the old bush roads as they were and stop building unnecessary roads. Let's really keep Ontario beautiful.

Yours in the Outdoors,

*Rambler*

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# Foot Notes

## CONGRATULATIONS ...

From time to time, one of our members deserves special recognition. In this edition of the Loon Call, we salute Bob Gunter of the Gunter/Houtby camp on Bear Island. Bob, who is a sergeant in the Niagara Regional Police was presented with the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery on November 3rd by Lieutenant Governor John Aird for negotiating the surrender of a highly unpredictable and extremely dangerous suspect 'under fire' while ensuring the safety of residents in the area. Congratulations, Bob!

## AND THANKS ...

To Russ Massey for the advice and service he has provided for many years in rain or shine when we needed him most with company coming and the motor on the 'fritz'. Thank you, Russ!

## WE ARE SORRY ...

to hear from Nancy Dickinson that Hillman had a bad fall in Mexico City and injured his back. At this time, he is back in Washington and has had a serious operation. We wish him a speedy recovery!

## Backgrounds

If you have old photos or other items of historical interest on the lake and would like to share them with our readers, forward them to the editor for inclusion in this section from time to time.

## Backgrounds QUIZ

Where is Camp Ananias, who built it, and when? (Question provided by Jack Nicol.) Forward your answer to the editor for the next edition. If you have a quiz item, forward it to the editor in time for the next edition.●

# Association Business

At the Director's Meeting at the camp of Pual Lee on Sunday, August 1st, 1982, the following items of business were discussed:

1. New Directors. It was decided to present the names at the next annual meeting.
2. Annual Meeting 1983. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Tanglewood Marina if permission was obtained. Details will follow in the Spring/Summer Loon Call.
3. CB Radios. After some discussion, it was decided not to publish a list of owners on the lake.
4. Doctors. A strong vote of thanks was proposed to all vacationing doctors on the lake who so kindly give advice and service in summer crises.
5. Junior Loons. Efforts will again be made in 1983 to reactivate this program.
6. Garbage disposal. Concern was again expressed about the often abusive use of the garbage cribs at the three marinas, and the serious problems caused for Roy and Ralph by heavy objects being left there, and by broken plastic bags, cardboard boxes and fish entrails. Discussion of this item was at times heated. The difficulty was in knowing who the offending parties were since garbage comes to the cribs from many sources. It was decided to attempt to broaden awareness of the problem in a positive way and, as a result, it was resolved:
  - a) to issue a welcome letter to all visitors registering at the marinas and to touch on the matter in the letter;
  - b) to attempt to get mailing addresses for all cottagers on the lake and to send a Loon Call to everyone.

7. Property Damage. Clarification of the Association policy with regard to damage to summer property was asked for. The policy is that minor damage up to \$50. will be given emergency attention and the bill for this will serve as notification. More serious damage will be reported immediately upon discovery by the custodians.

8. Mr. Derek McDermott, Past President of the Association, agreed to take the job of Loon Call editor. A motion of thanks was proposed to Bram Reed for his services in that capacity.

9. Newsletter Advertising. The possibility of soliciting one line ads from area businesses for a small fee was discussed as a way of increasing revenue and several Directors agreed to pursue this.

10. Annual Meeting Minutes. These will be enclosed with the Spring/Summer Loon Call for adoption by the membership at the next Annual Meeting. A special thanks to Beryl Armstrong for recording the Minutes for the secretary Evelyn Clark who was at a funeral in Toronto.

11. Loon Call Production. Glenn McConkey of Market High Co. Ltd. in Trenton, our association member who produces the Loon Call free for us on his 'word processor' again attended the meeting and gave helpful suggestions for keeping the Association in touch. The Directors expressed their thanks for his services.

12. Don Mackenzie, chief cartographer for the LWCA, gathered update material on new owners for his projected new edition of the lake map and hoped members would keep treasurer Harry Thompson informed of changes so that he could incorporate them on the new map list.●



# • ENVIRONMENT •

A \$150 grant has been received from the Township of Denbigh to aid the Association's garbage disposal service.

Mr. Carl Hasler, tax collector for the Townships of Kaladar, Anglesea and Effingham, reports that that Township has at the moment no plans to sell frontages like those proposed by the Township of Denbigh at last year's annual meeting.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has approached the council for the Townships of Denbigh, Anglesea and Effingham re: providing road access to Effingham Lake (Little Wes) for the benefit of cottagers and the council has indicated that it has no objection.

The Tweed News reports that at the September meeting of the council for the above Townships it was moved 'that Lake Weslemkoon Cottage Association be contacted and that council will appoint a fire warden for their area'.

A recent article in The Tweed News reports that Mr. Wim Vonk who has been District Manager of MNR's Tweed operation has accepted a new posting in Toronto. Mr. Vonk's background was in forestry. His successor as of January, 1983 will be Ronald N. Kervin, a minerals specialist. We await with interest the implications of this change for Weslemkoon which of course is now in the Tweed District.

The Tweed MNR office and officials of the Canadian Services Forestry are hoping by late fall to have assessed the damage created by a serious infestation of Gypsy Moths in our area. The moths which destroy trees by causing severe defoliation have been spotted at Madoc, Peterborough, Ivanhoe, Queensborough, Stirling, Thomasburg and Kingston. Efforts to halt the spread of the moths which has been reported to have reached Bon Echo Park south west of Weslemkoon have been slowed by a controversy over the spray Sevin. Privately owned land left unsprayed is heavily defoliated. The MNR is hoping that the cold winters of eastern Ontario may help check egg hatchings but this will not be known until mid-May.●

## Does your cottage have a smoke detector?

They save lives and as the Ontario Ministry of Consumer Affairs points out are much more efficient than heat detectors because the latter take much longer to activate and by that time a family could be dead from smoke inhalation. There are two common types of smoke detectors on the market: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization detectors are triggered by products of combustion gases, whereas photoelectric detectors set off an alarm when smoke interferes with the flow of light into the unit.●

The following is excerpted from **Subbottom Profiling of Canadian Shield Lakes - Implications for Interpreting Effects of Acid Rain** by W.W. Shilts and L.E. Farrell. This is the report which I summarized briefly at the 1982 Annual Meeting with permission of Bill Shilts. He has not yet completed the core sampling phase of his study to confirm his theories. When he does I will keep you updated. Where carbonates or  $\text{CaCO}_3$  are mentioned, he is referring to agents which buffer acid rain. pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution. A reading of 7 indicates a balanced solution. Each number above that means the solution is 10 times less acid, while each number below means ten times more acid. The readings in Weslemkoon are anomalous or unexpected it would seem because of what the glaciers brought to the lake. Thank God for ice!●

## Weslemkoon Lake

### Geology

Weslemkoon Lake has numerous inlet streams, and its outlet stream is Little Mississippi River which flows north-westward from the north end of the lake. The lake lies completely within the outcrop area of a granitic batholith, and a significant part of the shoreline

consists of glacially smoothed granite with little or no boulder or drift cover. Generally, drift is thin on the forested slopes surrounding the lake. Thick, ice-contact gravel and sand are exposed in pits at the south end of the lake, and many of the islands in its southernmost bay consist of gravel and sand, probably originating as outwash, lying on bedrock. The carbonate content of the less than 64µm fraction of till and gravel collected at several places around the lake ranges from 0.7 to 4.5%  $\text{CaCO}_3$  equivalent. Most of the carbonate is probably derived from marble and associated calcareous metasediments that encircle the batholith and outcrop within 8 to 10 km northeast of the north end of the lake.

The regional direction of glacial flow was approximately south-westward, and the marble erratics and accompanying fine grained calcareous debris were undoubtedly transported into the basin by glacial processes. Several pieces of Paleozoic limestone were also found in outwash gravels that form part of the northern shore of the lake. The nearest known source for these erratics lies more than 80 km northeast of the lake, but they may have been derived from closer, presently unmapped outliers of Paleozoic rock, similar to those that occur north of Madoc, 40 to 50 km south of Weslemkoon Lake. The common occurrence of calcareous erratics and calcareous glacial sediments along the shores of Weslemkoon Lake partially explains its anomalously high pH, which, according to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, averages 7.0.

The trace element concentrations of glacial sediments surrounding Weslemkoon Lake are not unusual, copper and zinc being slightly higher than the regional background and arsenic being several times its regional background of about 1 ppm. Uranium, probably derived from pegmatitic phases in the granite, reaches 10 ppm, a fairly high concentration in relation to the local background of less than 1 ppm.●

# Patience Pays Off In Area Land Claim

The Trentonian - Tuesday, January 4, 1983

Government requirements for proof to a land claim led Bob Palmer, of Trenton, on a goose chase for evidence that was almost impossible to find. But perseverance paid off, with the help of a little luck, and Canada's oldest living white man - 115 year old David Trumble.

Mr. Palmer's grandfather, known as the Wizard of Weslemkoon, was born Peter Fraser, and his family immigrated to Canada from Scotland, between about 1850/60, when Fraser was about six.

Peter left the family homestead in Rimouski, Quebec, having served as page boy to Sir John A. MacDonal, to search for work. He ended up working for the Gilmour Lumber Company in Trenton, and following the company to the lumber town of Gilmour. He is credited with helping build the first wooden sidewalk in Trenton, and was well-known for his fairness, and ability to break up fights, grandson Bob Palmer relates.

Peter began searching for a homestead, and found it some 72 miles north of Trenton, in an unsettled area know as West Effingham, which borders on the south portion of Weslemkoon Lake. He built himself a home, and became known as a hermit, since he chose to live alone, until he married at the age of 60.

## WIZARD OF WESLEMKOON

Peter lived to fish and hunt the woods of the north, and became known as one of the most famous guides in the area, working for such wealthy families as the Timothy Eaton's and Henry (nicknamed Harry) Corby, the billionaire owner of Corby's Distilleries, both of which owned hunting camps on Weslemkoon Lake. Peter became

known as the 'Wizard of Weslemkoon', since he is said to have had the uncanny ability to guess people's weight accurately.

The 'Wizard' was illiterate, however, and although a legend in his own time, he died in 1940 at the age of about 85 (it is thought that he could be much older), without claiming the land he had lived on for over 60 years.

When Bob Fraser's father quit paying the taxes on the land in 1960, it reverted to Crown property. Bob Fraser decided five years ago to try and reclaim his family's heritage but the Ministry of Natural Resources, which manages the land, requested a QUIT claim, which requires proof that relatives used the land for at least 60 years, up to the present. If Bob Fraser could prove that, the land would be his, free of charge.

## SEARCH BEGINS

Bob Palmer could not prove that his family or relatives had lived on the land for the past consecutive 60 years, but the Ministry of Natural Resources under MNR Minister Allan Pope, agreed to give him land access rights, and the option to purchase about two of the more than 200 acres that belonged to Peter Fraser. The hitch was to prove that his grandfather lived on the land, so he began his search through history.

The search meant finding proof, and there is no better proof than government documents, but Peter Fraser hadn't registered his claim. Perhaps the next step would be to find people who knew his grandfather, and who lived from the time Peter Fraser had first occupied the land, to prove that he had been on it for more than 60 years. But how many people are there who are over 100 years old. Bob Palmer's hopes were getting dimmer all the time.

## CANADA'S OLDEST WHITE MAN

But David Trumble, Canada's oldest man, at 115 years of age, on Dec. 15, lived in the area of Weslemkoon Lake, logging, prospecting, trapping and fishing and Bob Palmer thought he might get some help from this direction.

'He said go after your grandfather's land. It's worth more than gold (which was rumoured to be in the

area of the homestead),' Bob Palmer related.

David Trumble recalls vividly working with Peter Fraser at Gilmour's Lumber Company for some 30 years, and he also worked about 20 years at the Long Lake Mine. David Trumble was able to make a declaration stating that Peter Fraser lived on the land for more than 60 years, starting sometime in the 1870's. Gordon Mainprize, of Wooler, and Jim Sprackett, of Gilmour, were also able to help with Bob Palmer's land claim declarations, since they both knew of, and worked with the Weslemkoon Wizard at the Gilmour logging town. But David Trumble had the evidence needed for the declaration.

'He was very familiar with where my grandfather lived back north. David Trumble was instrumental in backing up every declaration,' Bob Palmer said.

David Trumble said Peter Fraser was about 13 years older than himself, which would have made him about 128 years of age, if he were alive today. MNR Minister Allan Pope has officially named the creek running through the property, Fraser Creek, and its entry into Weslemkoon Lake: Fraser Falls, Bob Palmer said. He said the creek and the falls have always had that name, since his grandfather was the first white man to live on the lands of the Massassauga Indians, but the name had never been made official.

Bob Palmer has since traced his family history back to royalty, through the famous World War II Commando, Lord Lovat. But more importantly, MNR Minister Allan Pope has given Bob Palmer a land access permit to use the garden and recreation area of the property with the option to buy, he said. Land Access Permits have not been granted for this reason since 1960, he added.

And so a wish to have some family land returned, perhaps to retire on, definitely for recreational purposes, resulted in discovering a rich family history, for Bob Palmer. ●

