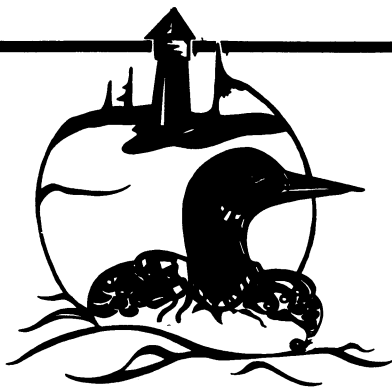


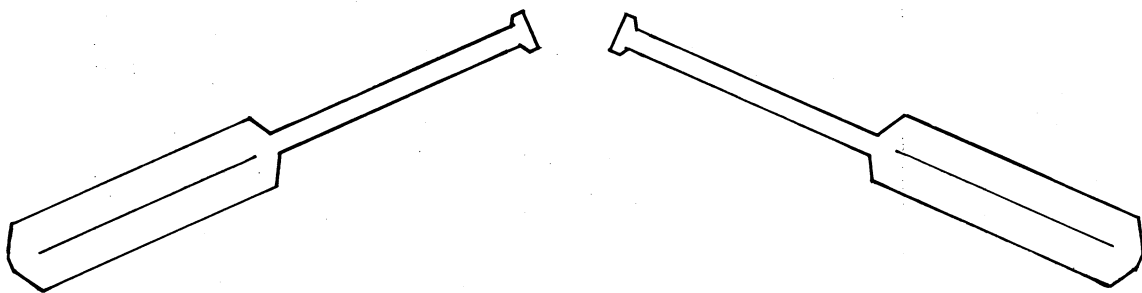
Spring '86



THE LOON CALL

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

JUNIOR LOONS REPORT



1985 was a busy year for Junior Loons with three official meetings and a number of informal ones. The highlight was the 'Great Canoe Race' run on a triangular course in two-man canoes off the Battlegrounds. The points were marked by canoes with safety staff aboard and powerboats were on hand if needed. A junior and senior course were raced and the paddling was spirited if somewhat unorthodox at times, especially at the starting line where the trick was to break out of the pack still afloat. The winners in the junior division were: 1st Doug Forbes and Jason Steele, 2nd Mitch Cawker and Terry Howarth, and 3rd Tammy Hoag and Chris Hoag. The winners in the senior division were: 1st Scott Erickson and Jeff Flannigan, 2nd Jesse Brown and Elijah Brown, and tied for 3rd in a scramble at the finish line Dave Bales and Doug Gaddy, and Matt Morris and Chris McDermott. A special thanks to parents and friends who turned out to help and cheer.



A repeat is planned for '86 in August so keep your paddles oiled and your eyes peeled for notices at the marinas.

Cathy Rathbun-Keeble



ENVIRONMENT

Two issues in particular preoccupy the president and directors as this edition of The Loon Call goes to press.

Fire Protection

The first is the pressing need for a replacement fire pump at Tanglewood Marina. The Wajax portable pump which had been stationed there burned out fighting a cottage fire in the fall of last year with the result that Stu Forbes was left with inadequate equipment to fight a cottage fire on his own property at Christmas. The president is currently negotiating with the Township of Denbigh and the Fire Operations Manager, Tweed for funding to purchase a replacement. The Township has been reluctant so far. A Fire Prevention Officer has been invited to address the members at the Annual Meeting on August 2nd at Tanglewood.

The Gypsy Moth

The second issue is much more complex and involves the spreading infestation of the Gypsy Moth. As you know by now from the materials received from the County of Lennox and Addington, a joint spraying program is planned for 1986 though it is not likely to be carried out on Weslemkoon this year as the northern boundary of the current area of infestation is just south and east of our lake. The directors would like to develop a common policy for the lake and will be discussing the issue during the summer, and undoubtedly it will be on the agenda at the Annual Meeting. The articles which follow have been culled at random from the Tweed News where heated opinions on both sides of the spraying issue have often found their way into the editorial pages over the last year since Tweed is already within the area of infestation. Needless to say none of the ideas or suggestions in the articles are those of the editor.

War on Gypsy Moth heats up

The war on Gypsy Moths is heating up. A news release dated February 11, 1986 stated that The Ministry of Natural Resources is prepared to support an amendment to the Municipal Act which would allow nine eastern Ontario counties to plan and undertake aerial spraying of private land against forest-damaging gypsy moths, where requested by the landowner.

Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio told the legislature that aerial spraying, the only practical way to combat the gypsy moth, is best designed and implemented at the local level.

The ministry held five open houses in eastern Ontario in January to outline the province's proposal for dealing with the problem on Crown Land. Mr. Kerrio also met with local officials who asked for assistance in dealing with the gypsy moth on private land.

The Minister told the legislature that "I will be seeking authority to provide both financial and technical support for county spraying programs. This support will be formalized through an agreement between the province and individual counties."



On February 13th, the Minister announced that it had become obvious in the Legislature that the government would not get the support of the House for a program that included chemical insecticides. That, he said, was the reason it was decided to use only a biological insecticide in the 1986 spraying program to right the budworm and the Gypsy Moth.

"I will be recommending that under the provincial Forestry Act, funding be made available in 1986 to enable the nine eastern Ontario counties to reimburse private landowners who participate in an aerial spray program," Mr. Kerrio said.

He added that, to ensure all party support, the assistance will be provided only in cases where *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a bacteriological insecticide, is used.

The infestation of gypsy moths in the nine counties has multiplied 246 times in the past four years. By the end of 1986, the Ministry of Natural Resources expects that 750,000 hectares will be under attack in eastern Ontario.

Gypsy moths are more than just a nuisance. In the larvae stage, these insects can defoliate, weaken and eventually kill entire forests. They also have the potential to damage or destroy wildlife habitat, timber and recreational property.

Mr. Kerrio said that "there is no doubt that if the infestations are left unchecked, the areas affected will suffer a loss of jobs in the forest, tourism and recreation industries.

The Minister went on to say that the biological insecticide is effective. It works. We should also remember that it will be used in an aerial spray program three times larger than any previous program, including that implemented by the previous government last year.

Bill 107 has been introduced in the Legislative Assembly concerning agreements that may be entered into by the Council of a County and the Minister of Natural Resources regarding spraying programs, including aerial spraying on private lands. This act comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.

Information concerning the spraying program may be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources.



Dear Sir:

Referring to a letter which I read recently in one of our local newspapers in regards to the spraying of chemicals to get ahead of the gypsy moth.

Three years ago the Ministry of Natural Resources asked the Ontario Hydro not to spray along their right-of-ways due to the pollution of the local water areas. Now they are proposing to do the very same with little care about the water pollution or anything else that might be in their way. I would like to know how they plan on protecting our water sources from the spraying. In 1982, they sprayed an area with Sevin, which killed a lot of our smaller animals, birds and bees, but did very little to help combat the problem of the gypsy moth.

I would like to propose a far simpler, safer and surer way of destroying these menaces.

I have been fire warden for twenty-two years and have seen a lot in our forest land, and I know from past experience that fire can be controlled to benefit nature.

The benefits of fire control burning are as follows: (A) You can reach the gypsy moth at the most early stage, also kill the germs of rabies on the ground which is spreading fast in our area. (B) It would make better pasture for our deer and better blueberry plants for our citizens. (C) It would clean up the undergrowth in many of our forests. (D) It would be far cheaper than by spraying.

The residents of Ontario will be spending millions of dollars on spraying of our forest, while control burning would be the cost of warden's wages only.

I propose that the men on unemployment and welfare, be asked to help the five wardens in their municipality to combat the problem. These men are already being paid by the government, so let them earn some of their wages.

Controlled burning at the right time in the spring will give the animals, birds, bees and even humans a better chance of surviving, than by deadly spraying with chemicals.

This is our forest and our lives we are talking about. Let's join hands and fight for a safer way of life.

Mr. Donald Freeburn,
Flinton, Ontario.

The Gypsy Moth is here

By Oscar Lemke

If you doubt that the Gypsy Moth will invade your premises, you had better think again, because it has. Every vehicle that has passed through an infested area has carried with it to your place the dreaded pest, the caterpillar. Tourist areas are particularly vulnerable. Also private cottage areas, camp grounds and parking lots at boat launches. Late fall of 1984 we discovered hundreds of them in the area where we park our vehicles. They were under tarps, on the trees, under the loose bark, under boards, also in decayed knot holes. Not only the caterpillar, we found moths and egg clusters by the dozens. The egg cluster is in a mass form covered with a buff coloured velvety substance. The eggs are very tiny and so hard that much pressure must be used to crush them. The only cure is to burn them with a torch. (Use caution, torches can set fires). They will snap and crackle and must be stirred with a stick to get them all.

We live on Hwy. 506 five miles west of Fernleigh and they are here. That tells me that they are at your place also in Ardoch, Plevna, Ompah, Cloyne, Denbigh and anywhere vehicles go. I appeal to you to make a thorough search around your premises. Not just a casual glance because chances are you will not see them. A thorough search is necessary. If you do this you will be doing your share in helping to delay the inevitable infestation by this dreadful enemy. Hatching will begin as soon as the weather warms up. The caterpillar looks like a tent caterpillar except it has five double rows of black dots and six rows (double) of red dots. Our councils are concerned and are doing their part. It is up to us to protect our own property. We can do it. Don't keep putting it off. Go out now and have a real good look. Once the eggs hatch it's too late. Just remember what happened in our neighbouring townships to the south of us.

Lake Water Levels

The ice left the lake on April 11, 1986 and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Tweed reports that spring run-off is well advanced and has progressed without problems. Logs are now being added to the dam to bring the lake to the summer operating level of 317.95 m above sea level +/- 15 cm. Some remedial concrete work on the dam is planned for this summer.

Noted with sadness, the passing of Mr. J.D. O'Flynn of Belleville, father of Carol Inglis (565)

errata: The title of the children's book by Robert McClosky mentioned in Joe Seibert's article on the history of the lake is Blueberries for Sal.



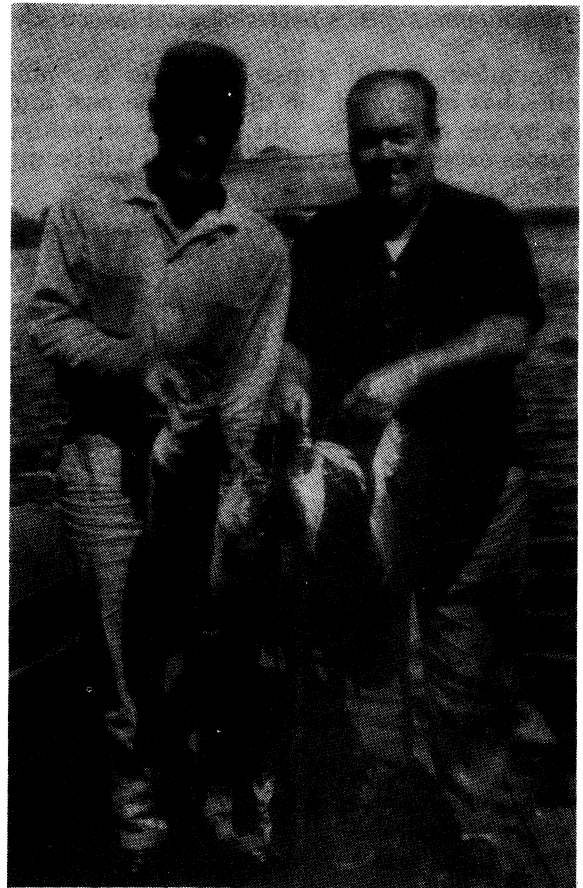
Lake Weslemkoon
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING

10:45 a.m.
Saturday August 2, 1986

TANGLEWOOD MARINA

Boat Pools and Folding Chairs

Compliments of
Bud Welser



*Picture of Dave Jarret and Jack Nicol taken from
a 1951 brochure, advertising McCrae's Point.*

*Here's the comment that accompanied the picture
...looks like a few things have changed.*