



THE WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
General Delivery

White Lake, Ontario KOA 3LO

July 1, 1981

I recently read an article about the serious deterioration of many water bodies and water supplies in Canada (Maclean's, June 22, 1981).

Most of the problems would appear to stem from complacency. It is just human nature to take things for granted until the time comes when problems arise. Unfortunately it is often too late to correct an irreversible trend.

Here at White Lake we are fairly fortunate so far, our water is still in relatively fair condition. We have little or no complaints about coliform. Acid rain is not a problem because of the lake's very high buffering action. This sounds pretty good but let us not just sit back and wait for something to happen--let us keep the lake in its present condition.

The main threat at this point in time is weed growth, due to high nutrition in the lake.

Nutrients are present in the lake naturally; they reach the lake directly by precipitation on the lake, by surface water runoff from surrounding land and by exchange from lake bottom sediments. Nutrients also reach the lake as a result of human activities, sewage discharges, septic tank-tile field leachate, drainage from agricultural and forestry operations and increased concentrations in runoff water as a result of construction and recreational activities associated with shoreline development in the watershed.

Most of us are guilty, from time to time, of small "indiscretions" regarding nutrient addition to the lake. Individually these actions don't mean much but collectively they add up to potentially serious problems. **BE VIGILANT;** its your water too.

Make sure septic systems are in good shape, don't use fertilizer, don't wash in the lake, don't dump anything into the lake, use only limited amount of biodegradable soaps and detergents -- **think!**

You will recall that a questionnaire regarding the future of the W.L.W.Q.C. was distributed last year. Of the more than 450 copies made available only 88 were answered and returned. At the well advertised public meeting last June, only 32 people turned out. **How is that for complacency!**

The questionnaire asked whether or not the W.L.W.Q.C. should expand its sphere of concern. From the answers and lack of answers it is obvious that it should not, therefore only the water quality monitoring program will continue, at least for the time being. It should be noted however that the Committee will continue to exercise

interest and vigilance in matters concerning the lake environment and will be prepared to take immediate action should circumstances so dictate. Last year 20 weekly samples were sent to the Ministry of the Environment from two parts of the lake. The results show that the lake is in the lower part of the scale (poor) with regard to water clarity.

The average for 66 Ontario lakes tested regularly in 1980 was 4.05 for SD (clarity) and 3.83 CHL (algae), our lake was 2.7 and 5.3 respectively. This means that the SD (secchi disc) could be seen 2.7 metres down in the water. The 5.3 CHL represents the amount of algae in a given amount of water, the higher the count the more turbid the water.

The following are the average readings for our lake⁽¹⁾ over the past nine years, compared to the overall average of the 66 lakes⁽²⁾ tested.

	<u>1980</u>		<u>1979</u>		<u>1978</u>		<u>1977</u>		<u>1976</u>		<u>1975</u>		<u>1974</u>		<u>1973</u>		<u>1972</u>	
	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL	SD	CHL
(1)	2.7	5.3	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.7	2.8	3.6	2.3	6.4	3.1	3.5	3.0	2.2	2.6	4.2	1.8	4.8
(2)	4.05	3.83	4.01	3.24	4.20	2.92	4.05	2.97	4.15	2.65	3.76	2.91	3.68	2.83	3.63	4.27	3.08	7.20

(1) White Lake

(2) Overall Average (66 lakes)

Information concerning testing, lake nutrition and other interesting data is available from the Ministry of the Environment (Ontario) in a booklet entitled "Cottager's Self Help Program -- Enrichment Status of Lakes in the Southeastern Region of Ontario -- 1980."

The Ministry of Natural Resources expects to continue its water level management program for an indefinite period -- probably at least another seven to ten years. The low water mark of 3.5 (at the dam) is targeted for the last two weeks of July.

The committee wishes to use this newsletter to publicly thank John Hawksbridge and Alf Wilson for their many years of dedicated service to the lake community as area representatives of the W.L.W.Q.C. Their contribution to our community will be remembered with thanks. Bill Sample will take over from John and Armer Warwick will take over for Alf.

The financial needs of the committee are relatively modest however your support will be much appreciated and will enable your committee to continue its efforts on your behalf.

Under the heading of "Have you heard . . ." The Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has advised the Darling Township Council that following low frequency testing for rock fracture in October 1981, it (A.E.C.L.) will terminate all activities at the White Lake site.

Your area representative or chairman (see attached list) would be pleased to hear from you.

Norman Moore
Chairman

WHITE LAKE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

- 1981 -

EXECUTIVE

Chairman	Norman Moore R.R. 2, White Lake, Ontario K0A 3L0	623-5283
Vice-Chairman	"Vacant"	
Secretary	H.L. (Hugh) Hampel R.R. 2, White Lake, Ontario	623-3655
Treasurer	V. A. (Vin) Wickham 919 Connaught Avenue Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 5M7	828-9549
Area Representative Co-ordinator	A. E. (Archie) Graham 782 Chapman St. Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 1T9	733-1628

Area Representatives

Area #1	C. G. (Claude) Dixon	829-5162
Area #2	G. C. (Jack) Garrett	731-4271
Area #3	Jack McFadyen	623-3247
Area #4	H. A. (Harry) Cinkant	741-0777
Area #5	Bill Sample	
Area #6 & 7	J. S. (Jack) Reid	722-7591
Area #8	W. G. (Bill) Baker	828-1271
Area #9	W. H. (Walter) Taylor	225-3120
Area #10	Armer Warwick	
Area #11	H. (Hans) Winter	729-0060
Area #12	R. (Bob) Crook	829-2550
Area #13	W. H. (Vin) Wickham	828-9549
Area #14	A. E. Baker	722-3251

AREA REPRESENTATIVES' DISTRICTS
1981

Area #1	Claude Dixon	829-5162
Area #2	Jack Garrett	731-4271
Area #3	Jack MacFadyen	623-3247
Area #4	Harry Cinkant	741-0777
Area #5	Bill Sample	
Area #6		
and #7	Jack Reid	722-7591
Area #8	Bill Baker	828-1271
Area #9	Walter Taylor	225-3120
Area #10	Armer Warwick	
Area #11	Hans Winter	729-0060
Area #12	Bob Crook	829-2550
Area #13	Vin Wickham	828-9549
Area #14	Albert Baker	722-3251

