

Cottage Watch update: The WWCCA participates in the **Cottage Watch** program. Each Cottage Watch member plays an important role in promoting the safety and security of cottage country and the program's success is dependent on community involvement and their cooperation with the OPP. Our Cottage Watch Steward is Eric Vehkalahti (cottagewatch@wwcca.ca) who serves as a contact for our members and the OPP. Cottage Watch window decals have been distributed in the past and if you never got one or need a new one, please contact the WWCCA executive. What we can all do to participate in the program:

- contact the OPP immediately if you see suspicious persons or vehicles
- write down license plate numbers and descriptions of unfamiliar vehicles
- report all break and enters to the OPP
- let your neighbours know when you are away or if someone else is using the cottage
- affix tracking tags or use an engraving pen to mark your license plate number on possessions - particularly items that are easily portable
- make sure all your windows are securely fastened - place a sturdy object in the tracks of sliding windows and doors and invest in superior quality locks
- place the Cottage Watch decal in your window to indicate you are a member

Tire Dumping Note:

We ask all cottagers to be aware and to tell anyone who will listen that any Ontario citizen can discard up to 4 tires without charge in any registered tire disposal site. To clarify the McEvay Landfill is NOT a registered tire disposal site. This includes all municipal waste disposal sites and thousands of garages and tire shops. We are a small, struggling organization working for the benefit of all cottagers. Illegal tire dumping has huge extra costs in money and labour as well as filling our dump site prematurely. The best estimate to replace our site (several years ago) was \$60,000 plus. Thank you for any help you can give us in spreading the word.

McEvay Landfill update: Just to let you know that the surplus of tires that were deposited last year have now been removed. Of note both recycling boxes have been removed/burned and the Executive has made arrangements for new boxes to be installed. By diverting waste such as recyclables from this landfill, the lifespan of the landfill will be extended. As always, please notify WWCCA executive via email

(landfill@wwcca.ca) of any illegal dumping issues, with as much information as possible so that this can be followed-up.

In recent discussions with the MNR, it has been confirmed that clearing will be done this summer to the firebreak area (land in between the landfilling area and the forest). It has also been negotiated that the Roads Board will assist in maintaining the landfill road, with gravel placement in the potholes this summer as a start.

Please note that the Executive Committee is moving forward with the installation of a Community Notice board at the landfill. Please make sure to use it!!

Environmental and Water Quality updates:

Litter pick-up

Just a reminder to encourage those fine folks that are stopping to pick up the cups and containers and litter off the side of the Watabeag Road as we drive into our pristine wilderness. Keep up the good work...it does make a difference.

Water Sampling Program by the MOE

As mentioned in last year's newsletter, Watabeag and Wildgoose Lakes have water quality results available on the MOE website under their Lake Partner program (www.ontario.ca/lakepartner) for all to review. A sample location map can be provided to interested cottagers if they would like to volunteer for sampling in the future. Please contact the Executive (executive@wwcca.ca) to find out how to sign up for the program and so that we can keep track of who is doing what sampling.

Limiting Nutrients in our Lakes

Article source – FOCA, A Shoreowner's Guide to Healthy Waterfronts

Excessive amounts of nutrients, particularly phosphorus, are carried into a water body with runoff from fertilized lawns, golf courses, urban or agricultural areas and from poorly maintained septic systems. Water quality impacts associated with excessive nutrients in a lake include:

- Frequent blooms of undesirable algae (potentially toxic, giving water poor taste and odour)
- Excessive growth of aquatic plants leading to a loss of open water
- Decrease in water clarity

- Increased levels of coliform and E. coli bacteria present.

What we can all do to limit nutrients going into our lakes:

- **Reduce or eliminate fertilizer use**
- **Maintain your septic system** - pumping out your septic tank on a regular basis is critical to reducing nutrient flows into lakes. The frequency of your pump-outs will vary based on the size of your tank, your family size, and the number of appliances your use. As a general rule, pumping your septic tank every 2 to 3 years is a good practice.
- **Be careful with soap** - At the lake, soaps should always be phosphate-free. Soapy wastewater from dishwashing and bathing should be disposed of in soil at least 60 meters from the water's edge to prevent harming wildlife and creating nutrient-induced algae blooms.

FOCA has a ton of information on septic systems on their website, check it out at this link: <http://www.foca.on.ca/environment-resources>

Changes to Privacy Policy?

Questions have been raised on making the membership list available to the rest of the membership. This would be contrary to the recently developed privacy policy and the Executive Committee will be looking for comments on this suggestion at the annual meeting coming up in July and if the policy should be changed and membership lists issued. If you would like to comment on this and can't make the meeting, please feel free to contact the Executive at executive@wwcca.ca.

WWCCA Finances

The Executive Committee is looking for suggestions on what to fund on behalf of the membership with funds available (>\$10,000). Some ideas have included fire prevention initiatives. What you would like to see done around the area? Please make sure to attend the annual meeting in July to provide your opinions. If you would like to comment on this and can't make the meeting, please feel free to contact the Executive at executive@wwcca.ca.

Water Levels

Please note that water levels are measured periodically at the Watabeag Control Dam (manually) and if you are interested, this information would be available through the local Ministry of Natural Resources, Kirkland Lake Regional Office, John Reinhardt at (705) 568-3230.

Property Taxes

A news release from FOCA and WRAFT was issued on March 14, 2011 "The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, (FOCA) and the Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT) recently announced the merger of their efforts to fight for fair property taxation for Ontario's residential property owners. At FOCA's 47th Annual General Meeting held March 5, 2011 in Toronto, the two organizations formally announced their amalgamation, and their on-going commitment to hold the Province of Ontario accountable for the fair treatment of Ontario's homeowners." FOCA has just released an updated area of their website to focus cottagers on "Hot Topics" for the upcoming election including taxation. Check out this link: <http://www.foca.on.ca/Taxation>

Website Photos

If you have a chance, please take a look at the photo page on the WWCCA website. Several members have provided new photos that can be viewed by all. If you have any photos for the website photo gallery, make sure to send them along to Sue Rapin (website@wwcca.ca).

New Cottagers

If you are aware of any new cottagers on the lakes please make sure you point them in the direction of our website, www.wvcca.ca. The website provides all the information for membership sign up and details on the lakes and the association.

Annual Meeting

The 2011 annual meeting will be held on **SATURDAY July 16** at 10 a.m. at the Draves, Cottage #371. All association members and new cottagers to the lakes are welcome. The Draves have generously offered breakfast to all that attend.

WWCCA Executive:

A/President: Sue Rapin; Vice President: open; Treasurer: Dennis Draves; Secretary: open; Directors: Donna Poore, Henry Morris, David Misener, Michael Eveleigh, Brian Hopkins, Len Boudreau, Al McLean