

Bogs are precious resources

Margaret Beard sat on the Gravenhurst parks committee for many years and she and husband George built their home at the corner of Austin and Lorne Street in 1955 before there was a Lorne Street.

In dealing with the water issues on their lot, and because Marg is an avid bush person, she learned the many secrets of the way water flows throughout the north end of Gravenhurst into the bog and then into Lake Muskoka.

The Hoc Roc filters from Hwy. 11 under Sand Rd. West by the Ferguson pit past the Ferguson house on Oriole Crescent, rises by the Fire College on the former Kay farm and empties into Mud Bay. The bogs start under the Sands Rd between Lorne and Fraser Street. At one time a man named Crawford tried fish farming in the area now Lorne St. He dug deep trenches and experimented using goldfish and smelts. The result was the escape through underground rivers of the goldfish and smelts into Gull Lake and into Mud Bay.

Water runs down Wagner over to Fraser and down Jackson hill.

Water also makes its way from Gull Lake under Winewood to the Bay. A stream ran through Mayor George Panter's basement at Sarah and Wagner.

There are quicksand pits where the streams meet at the edge of Segwun Drive. When Lorne Street was being built, a bulldozer fell front end first into one of the quicksand pits.

The bog acts as a filter for the water draining into the bay and should be set aside and preserved for the sake of the environment.

This declaration of parks and bogs as surplus land is another sign of the "crass business ethos" that Bracebridge's Dick Smyth expounds upon in the Toronto Star business section on Monday.

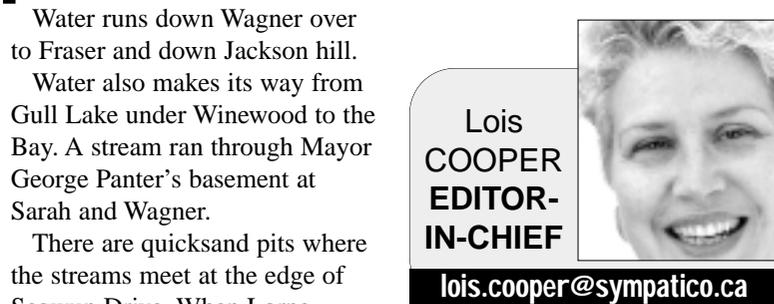
Smyth writes, "The solution is inevitable but it will be slow, difficult, stormy and disruptive."

He goes on, "...the barricades at every G8 meeting prove to be the beginning of the end for today's crass business philosophy."

So we must continue to rebel,



Marg Beard explains the under ground water routes from several directions into the bog that the Town of Gravenhurst has declared surplus.



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to demand better of our politicians and to support those brave enough to lead those protests - like the Council of Canadians and union leaders.

We must demand that our political leaders make decisions for the good of the existing community and make decisions for 50 years down the road - not decisions that will keep them in power for another term.

JFK said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

There are not many political leaders today asking themselves that question.

The world would be a better place if we lived by the 4-H pledge: I pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living,
For my club, my community
and my country.

III

Another great book - *Dear Jo* by Christina Kilbourne is the story of two young girls and the Internet chat rooms.

Sadly one girl is kidnapped by her on-line boyfriend. The story is told through dairy entries by the second girl.

A must read for every tween girl. Buy one for your daughter, your granddaughter and your friend's daughter - only \$12.

Help keep them safe.

Clear Lake Village Resort expanding

Over threshold lake gets five more cottages

New Owner Greg Knight is bringing major change to Clear Lake Resort in Torrance.

Knight has received first approval by the Muskoka Lakes Township Planning Committee for

five new three-bedroom cottages on the 84 ft. water frontage property.

This will bring the total number of cottages to twelve which will be sold fractionally.

The Web site states: "The Clear Lake Village Resort provides an excellent affordable means of cottaging on beautiful Clear Lake, in the heart of Muskoka. Enjoy the calm, clear waters, the natural settings and the many resort amenities, all without the maintenance work and expense normally associated with traditional cottage ownership. With fractional ownership opportunities starting at \$49,900, you'll see why we say that Clear Lake Village Resort truly is an innovation in the tradition of cottaging."

With four of twelve cottages already sold, this exciting opportunity won't last forever."

Clear Lake is designated by the District of Muskoka as "over-threshold" for phosphates, however a study by Michalski Neilson Associates states that the increase in the number of cottages and the increase in the



84 ft. water front shared by 12 three-bedroom cottages

number of people with ten shares for each of eleven cottages will have negligible impact on the water quality.

Neighbours have many concerns including: the development's entire on-site population will draw from the local water table; there will be no full-time on-site management; boat ownership by the purchasers of the fractional units will not be limited by the developer; this is a de facto backlot development and contradicts the spirit of the Township's Official Plan; approval is based on outmoded zoning, "grandfathered" around 1987 that applied the same zoning to all resorts in the township, regardless of size, site and location; construction was ordered stopped early in the season because the necessary approvals or permits were not in place; driveways were built without the necessary permits prior to construction; fires left unattended overnight, animals abandoned and noise issues.

The application is set to come before Muskoka Lakes Township Council for final approval on August 28.

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