

# COUCHICHING POINT CANAL COMMITTEE

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**AGM report Sept 8, 2012**

**To: All Property Owners on North section of Couchiching Point Canal**

## Good News and Bad News for 2012

**Good News:** We did not receive any monies from the Tax Levy this year from residents. There were no extra charges on your tax bill.

**Bad News:** A very hot summer and little rain produced a bumper weed crop earlier than normal that proved a challenge to control through weed cutting alone.

The Canal Committee had a good plan for this year for the North canal. Our student employee from the past three summers had other job commitments and was unavailable this year. We planned to hire another person who would work a few hours every day in the north canal for the month of August. This person would clip the centre and do the edges house by house all month and keep things respectable during the big water drop in August. We also explored the possibility of renting a harvester from Lagoon City (which we were told was available) and do a final clean up just before Labour Day.

What actually happened?..... Hot July weather and no rain brought on the weeds early. Our employee did several days of cutting with the help of Ron Vance and they had the canal looking pretty good for July. Come August, when we really needed him, he kept insisting he would be on the job "tomorrow". Tomorrow came but unfortunately he did not. Dave Rowswell and Ron Vance put in some last minute heroics trying to save the year but with Parks Canada deciding to go to the Nov 1 rule curve water level on Sept 1 nothing could really make a dent in the disaster that was this year's weed growth. Thank you Parks Canada for ignoring our case once again. The rental of the weed harvester did not happen for reasons beyond our control.

We did an interview for Rogers Cable 10 with Bob Bowles to highlight the weed problem we face. We were hoping this would bring awareness to our problem at the height of the problem but we are told now that the show will not be seen until November so we don't expect much to come of it. On the show we tried to highlight the real way to fix the canal is to **prevent** the weeds from growing in the first place but we are not sure how much of that will survive editing. It seems silly to be cutting 4' off the top of 12' weeds and letting 8' of weed drop to the bottom. This compounds the problem of weed growth and serves to deplete oxygen and gradually fill in the canal with sediment. A perfectly good and proven safe solution exists that was used in past years with great results. We are however not allowed to use that solution by City Council.

Anyway we will persist with our plan next year, hopefully with better results.

Alex Barnett  
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