

The Bourne Conservation Trust

NEWSLETTER Number 7

Spring 1988

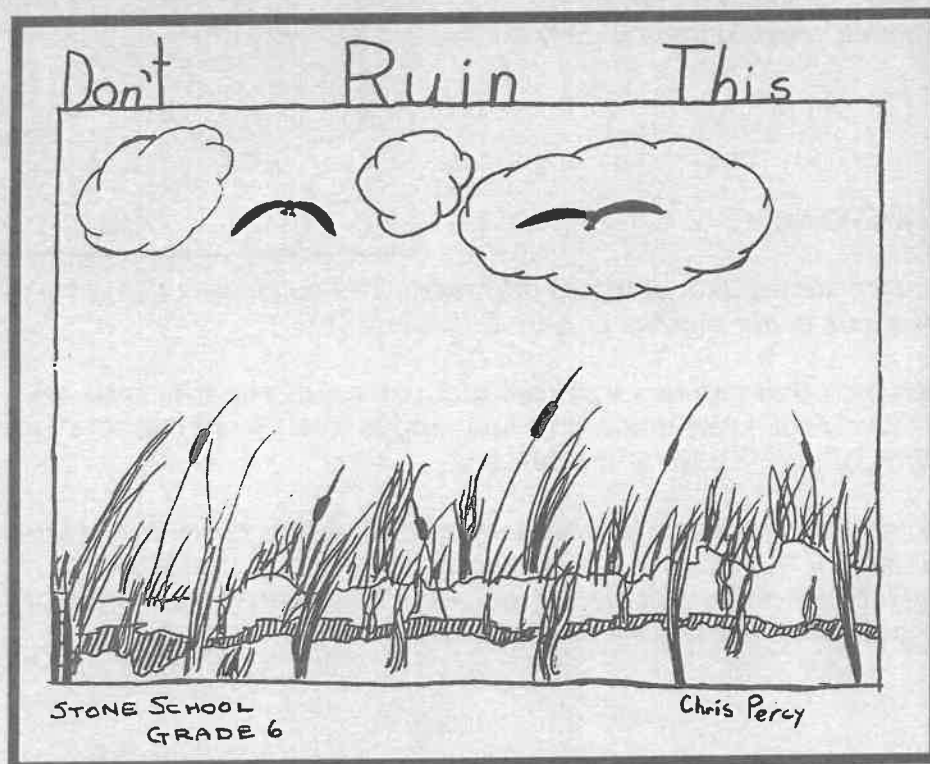
LANDMARK ACTION IN BOURNE

In the past few years, development on the Cape has been on the rise. Last year Bourne joined other Cape communities in forming an Open Space Task Force. This Committee went to work researching undeveloped land remaining in Bourne. An 8 parcel acquisition package was then formulated for the October 1, 1987 Special Town meeting.

It was an historic move on that Monday night, October 1, 1987, when Bourne voters overwhelmingly supported recommendations by the Open Space Task Force. At this meeting more than 6.3 million was appropriated through bonding to purchase the land (giving the Town the right to borrow the money). The next step in this process was for town voters to go to the polls to vote to override Proposition 2 1/2. This would give the Town permission to raise the tax base to pay for the land. The first year tax impact would be approximately \$1 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Not only did the Town's citizens say YES at the special Town Meeting but they also said YES at the polls. On November 18, 1987 the override was passed so that 230 ACRES of land will remain OPEN SPACE. In addition, the Bourne Water District has secured the 35 ACRE Tuttle property, bordering County Road, the Town Forest, and Four Ponds Conservation Area. A nice addition to the other conservation areas.

This is not the final chapter, for the Task Force is continuing to identify land for future acquisition. Many feel this process is vital to the preservation of our environment. It has been proven that taxes will increase LESS over a period of time if land remains open space, because developed land costs the Town more in services (road maintenance, police and fire protection, schools, trash removal, etc.) than it yields in revenue. Existing property values will increase if the area does not become overcrowded and polluted. And perhaps most importantly, we are leaving a precious legacy for future generations.



WHY CONSERVE ?

Fish Gotta Swim, Birds Gotta Fly . . .

The rest of the lyrics, while less relevant to our conservation efforts, still deals with what people "gotta" have: in our context, acceptable space, clean water, and a sense of order to living.

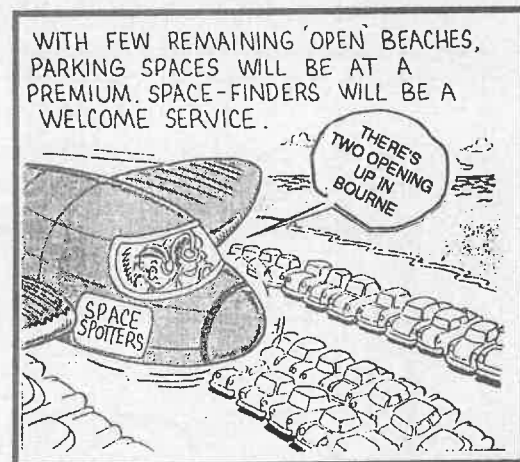
In Bourne, as well as the rest of the Cape, these needs (space-order-water) all flow from open land and it is that finite resource that the Bourne Conservation Trust is dedicated to protect. Like the mythological Greek god, Antaeus, we receive our strength from the earth (avoiding, it is hoped, some of his less desirable traits).

Give me Room, lotsa Room, with the Sunny Skies Above . . .

"Don't fence me in" is an unspoken wish of many, not only in the physical but in the mental sense. Steward Udall, in his Quiet Crisis, touched on this when he noted that "money spent on a properly planned environment is an investment not only in future taxability, but in the physical and mental health of the residents - their efficiency, their general well-being, and their enjoyment of life."

The impact of the crowding of the Cape is noted by more than local residents. We speak of our fears of becoming "another Long Island," and meanwhile, visitors from Prince Edward Island (home of Anne of Green Gables) expressed the fervent desire that they "didn't want their land to end up like Cape Cod."

The Cape Cod Times, with tongue well in cheek, suggested an affirmative side to our problem in that those problems will bring many new employment opportunities: . . . →



Water . . . Cool, Clear, Water . . .

Conservation may be considered as a spiritual arithmetic that calculates the costs of change. These costs, in terms of our water supply, can be considerable.

Ben Franklin once observed that one never misses the water until the well runs dry. We all know now about the Cape's source of water and how fragile it is. What might be less understood is the contribution of open space to that source.

A study by the Falmouth Conservation Commission concluded that every acre of land, on the average, recharges about 1100 gallons to the groundwater per day. The purity of recharge in undeveloped areas offsets the impurities that accompany the recharge in more developed areas, thus maintaining the over all quality of the groundwater.

High density housing discharging excessive wastewater into the ground, can raise the watertable, "mounding" to a point where septic systems become flooded. The resulting threat to both water quality and public health would require the construction of costly sewer collection and treatment systems.

But again, perhaps we should look on the bright side and consider this growing market . . .



After You've Gone, You'll Miss Me, Honey

So sang Judy Garland. What will be gone, and missed, is the Bourne we have known. It is, of course, a matter of controlling growth, of softening the impact, not of trying to reverse history. Bourne is not Brigadoon. It will not reappear out of the mist, unchanged, after 200 years, but neither does it have to lose its essential aura.

With the opening of Route 25, the Boston Globe reported that this event, "could be the the final catalyst in transforming this scenic seven-village town . . . into a suburb of Providence, New Bedford and Boston."

While some of the reasons for preserving open space may be considered "soft", (the "save the birds and bunnies approach"), the costs of losing that space can be expressed in hard, quantifiable terms. As background to Bourne's plan to purchase open space, a study dissiminated by the selectmen pointed out the following:

- private development costs the town and taxpayers. There is a shortfall of tax revenues as compared to the municipal costs for new houses built.
- costs in services for the town exceed tax revenues from new house construction.
- less land available on the open market enhances the value of properties held by current owners.
- it is the open spaces that makes the Cape a mecca for vacationers. People are willing to pay to enjoy the natural beauty, to swim and to fish.

In the last consideration, it is quite possible that vacationers might not be willing to pay for the hi-tech approach to recreation . . . →

Along with the threat to the open waters, many Bourne ponds are experiencing heavy algae growth; a condition that can only worsen with additional nearby housing. Former Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas suggested that "an unmolested pond may be worth more to the high school class in biology than any number of textbooks . . . natural areas are useful adjunctions to the local educational systems."

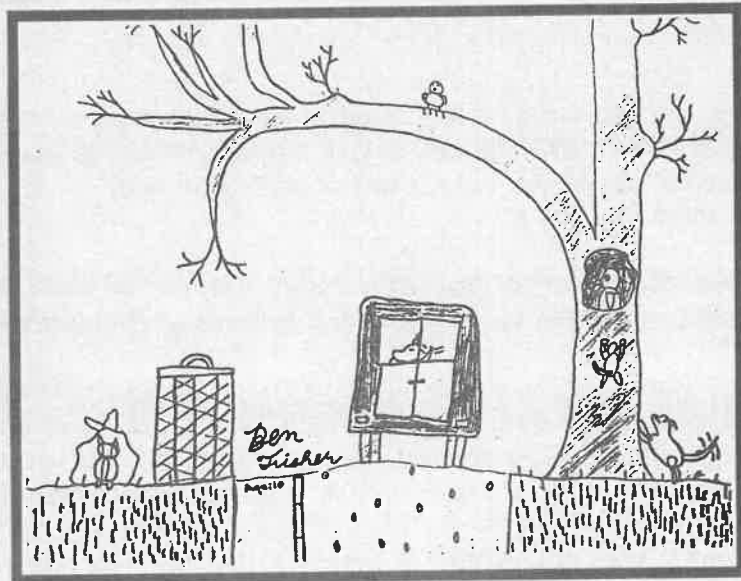
Perhaps our school curricula should be expanded to include the four R's: Reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic, and Resources and of those four, without resources, the remainder loses much relevance.

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**UNRESTRICTED GIFTS IN MEMORY
SEPTEMBER, 1987 - MARCH 1988**

Mr. & Mrs. John Bourne in Memory of Mr. Joseph McAnulty
Dr. & Mrs. Clement Darling in Memory of Carmelita Cherry
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Jason in Memory of Frederick Greene
Ms. Vera Marold in Memory of Madge van Tassell Marold
Mrs. Justine McLouglin in Memory of Scudder Griffing
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Montuori in Memory of Mrs. Madelina Montuori
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pearce in Memory of Arthur & Anna Walden
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Roberts in Memory of Mrs. Anne Concannon
Mr. Norman Seaver in Memory of Edith Seaver
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Teplow in Memory of Ted Lewitt



*Ben Fisher
Age 10*

*Amie Bagdonas &
Melanie Benson
Grade 6 - Stone School*



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Chuck Mehmel, Grace Rowe, Linda Dadak, Steve & Sally Ballentine, Stack Publications, Mr. Carson and his 6th grade art class, Ben Fisher and the The Cape Cod Times for their contributions to this newsletter.

In Memory of James DeNormandie - The James DeNormandie Fund

It is perhaps this fund that best tells us about Jim DeNormandie. Jim's life and work centered around his belief in the conservation and preservation of open space. Through his efforts as a State Senator he helped to preserve Walden Pond, the Minuteman National Park in Concord, the Cape Cod National Seashore and now, Bourne. Sharing his beliefs, his wife Martha and three children Alice, Robert and Philip contribute greatly to this community. It was Philip who established The Bourne Conservation Trust.

The James DeNormandie Fund will provide the Bourne Conservation Trust with "emergency" reserve money for land acquisition, allowing the Trust to act quickly on land purchases before the money can be raised. Once the money is raised, the fund will be replenished and ready to be used again when needed.

We should consider ourselves very fortunate to have this fund. The DeNormandie family has given us a gift that shows great foresight and is a fitting memory of the man himself.

Donors to the JAMES DeNORMANDIE FUND In His Memory

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September, 1987 - March, 1988

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Bourne is rich in natural resources, and has retained many of the special features of a rural character heritage. We and our children can still link with a living Nature. The Trust is committed to securing that link by perserving and maintaining undeveloped land for the benefit of all citizens.

We invite you to help this effort by becoming a member of the Bourne Conservation Trust. Dues and donations are used for maintaining our holdings in accordance with sound land management and conservation practices, for the acquisition of new properties, and for administrative expenses.

NAME: _____

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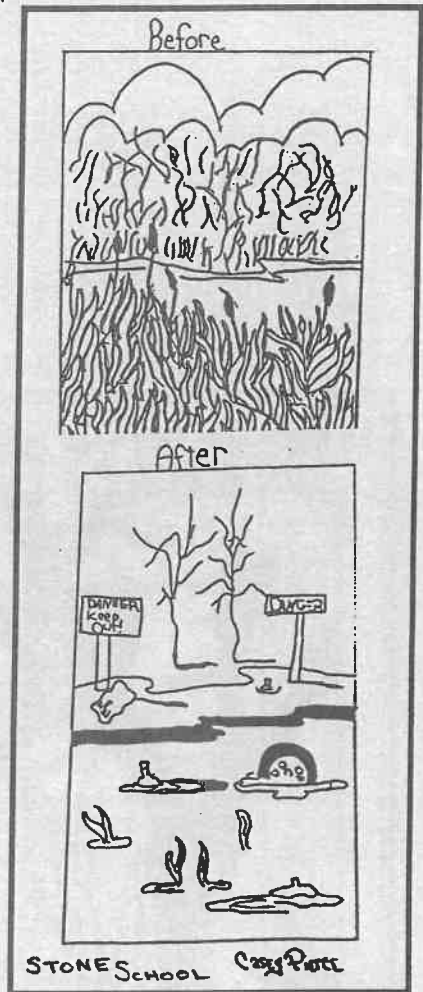
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- \$100 Supporting Membership
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