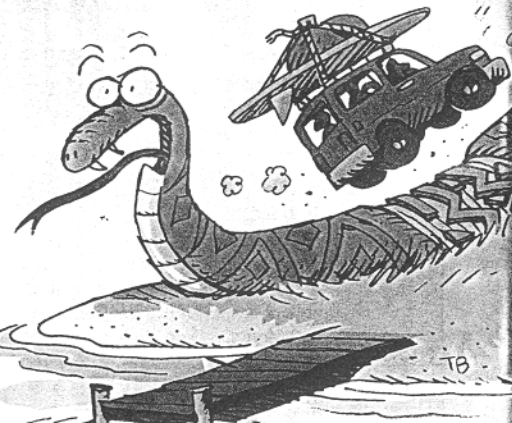


The incredible lightness of being at the cottage: Clear Lake's Almut and Michael Raine

TONY FOLHES

JUDY



TB

ropsychologist, is back home in Croatia, struggling to establish a clinic for brain-damaged victims of the war there. "I found a lightness [at the cottage]," she wrote afterwards. "It was like going back to the sources of life. Zagreb is like being on another moon."

Like chicken soup for a cold, the soothing effect of a simple cottage may prove to be better medicine than we imagined. —Charles Long

## SNAKES ALIVE!

WHY DID THE RATTLESNAKE cross the road?

Like the chicken, to get to the other side — but herpetologist and conservation bio-

spending the winter," explains Parent.

Along the way, he also hopes to find out where the snakes are crossing park roads, and then install two trial "detours" next spring — essentially the equivalent of crosswalks for snakes — to cut down on the ones that don't make it.

(Since 1992, about 15% — 20% of marked snakes in Killbear turn up as roadkill each year.) One crossing would be a culvert with a wall alongside the road to funnel the snakes in; the other would be a ditch in the roadway covered with a grate. Parent will then continue to monitor the snakes to see if the crossings are put to use.

"Through this study," he says, "I'm hoping we'll learn if, in the future, roads can be built in a way to minimize their impact on wildlife."

—With files from Catherine Rondina



logist Chris Parent is hoping to come up with a more precise answer.

This summer, he implanted radio transmitters in 16 massasauga rattlesnakes in Killbear Provincial Park, near Parry Sound. "Using the information from the transmitters, we're tracking how far and fast they're moving and where they're