

SOLUTIONS

Flow and steady

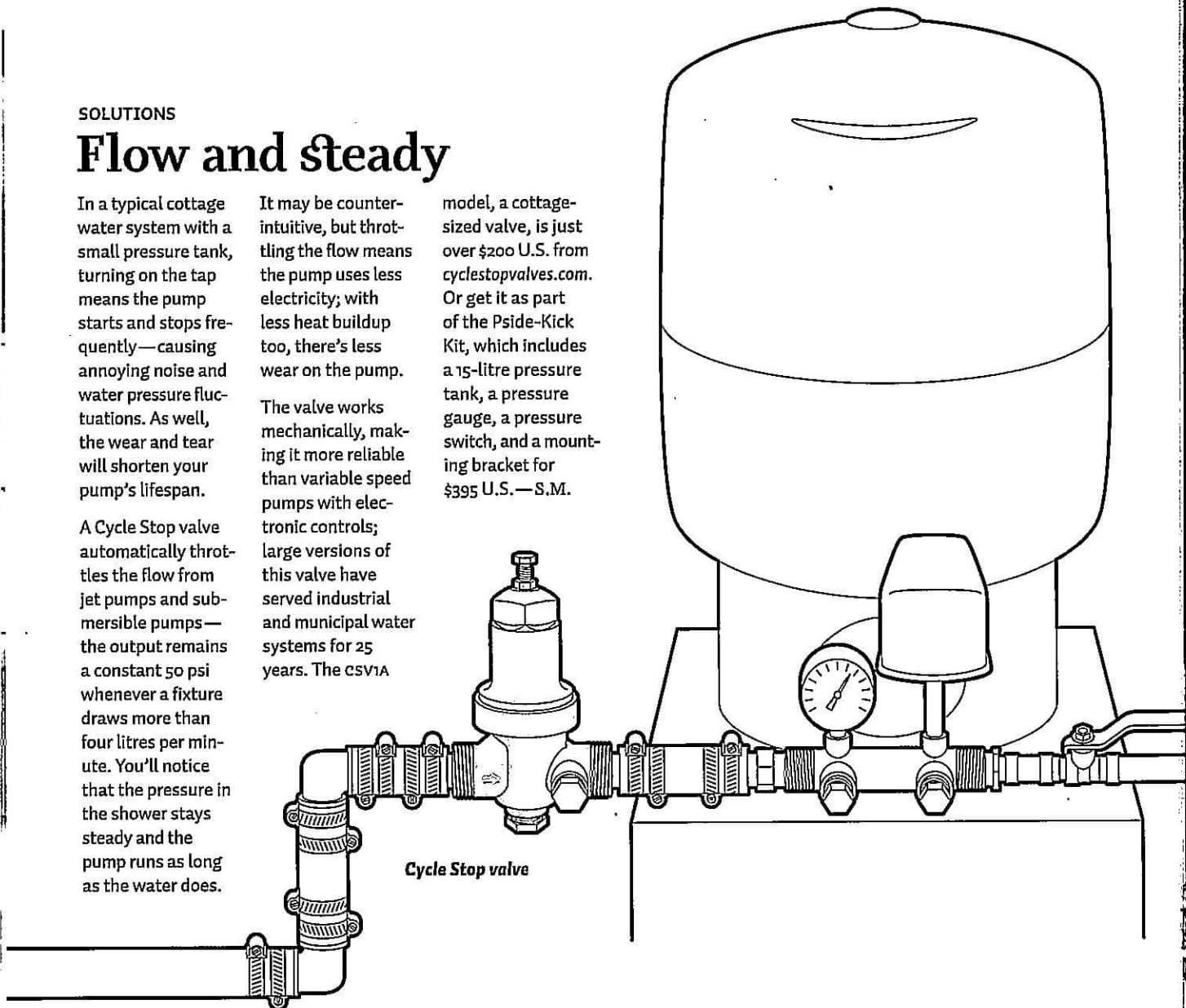
In a typical cottage water system with a small pressure tank, turning on the tap means the pump starts and stops frequently—causing annoying noise and water pressure fluctuations. As well, the wear and tear will shorten your pump's lifespan.

A Cycle Stop valve automatically throttles the flow from jet pumps and submersible pumps—the output remains a constant 50 psi whenever a fixture draws more than four litres per minute. You'll notice that the pressure in the shower stays steady and the pump runs as long as the water does.

It may be counter-intuitive, but throttling the flow means the pump uses less electricity; with less heat buildup too, there's less wear on the pump.

The valve works mechanically, making it more reliable than variable speed pumps with electronic controls; large versions of this valve have served industrial and municipal water systems for 25 years. The CSV1A

model, a cottage-sized valve, is just over \$200 U.S. from cyclestopvalves.com. Or get it as part of the Pside-Kick Kit, which includes a 15-litre pressure tank, a pressure gauge, a pressure switch, and a mounting bracket for \$395 U.S.—S.M.



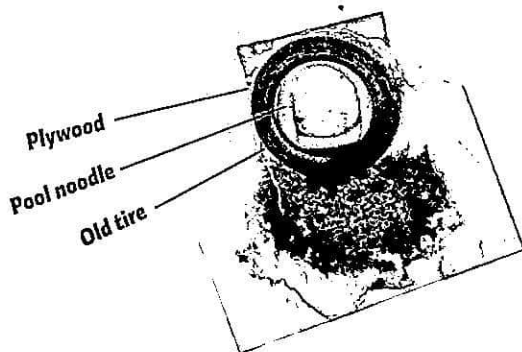
Cycle Stop valve

GREAT INVENTION

Open and shut case

Fetching water was a pain in the ice for Orville, Ont., cottager Don Corbett. He'd use an iron bar to bash a hole through the frozen surface of Sugar Lake, then pail the water to the cottage. The frigid bar "was really hard on my hands," he admits.

Now he gives his hands a break with the "Orville Ice Opener," fashioned from a 16" summer car tire, plywood, and a mountain-bike tube sliced in half to form an airtight gasket between the tire and the plywood. Corbett stuffed the car tire with pool noodles to keep it from sinking when the ice melts and then carriage-bolted the plywood to the tire. The contraption functions like a toque, retaining the relative warmth of the lake water and preventing the hole from freezing over, or at least reducing the thickness of the ice that accumulates. "At minus 35 I got a bit of ice, but only a couple of inches, so it was easy to break through," he says. "I just tie it to something, so it won't float away. When I came here this spring, it was still floating beside my dock." —Ray Ford



Blip the Orville Ice Opener to tell us about your Great Invention