

# SDRA Newsletter

Spring 2009

## President's Message

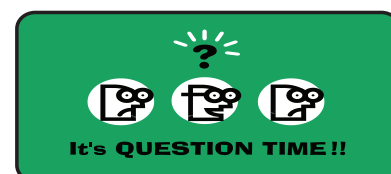
Let me begin this year's letter by extending, on behalf of your SDRA executive, a sincere welcome back to yet another season on the beautiful shores of Skootamatta Lake.

Since last fall the executive has remained very active with and connected to the issues that are presently affecting our lives on and around Skootamatta. In fact, the scope of our involvement has increased considerably to include, not only the issues around our lake, but also the many issues that exist and affect us in the much larger area of the Township of Addington Highlands. The broadening of this scope has been necessary as a result of the increasing economic, political, social and environmental pressures that are affecting life generally around Skootamatta Lake. Life in Addington Highlands is changing and the SDRA is committed to being heard and being part of this change process.

Addington Highlands continues to look for ways to increase the economic base of the township and to address this and to be better connected, the SDRA has formed an Economic Development Committee that will be investigating the current and future economic initiatives in Addington Highlands. I am pleased to let you know that the SDRA is now represented on the township's AHEAD committee by Bill Garnish, a Co-Chair of our Economic Development Committee. As a result of this, the SDRA will be more informed of the economic activities within the township. Specifically, he is keeping the SDRA informed about the proposed re-issuance of the latest Sheldrake Lake RFP and I would encourage you to read Bill's economic update found in this newsletter to familiarize yourself with the RFP's current state.

We would all agree that the quality of life on Skootamatta Lake begins and ends with the physical environment around us and in particular the quality of our water. Over the past year, the SDRA has become far more involved in the monitoring and testing of our lake water and thanks primarily to the efforts of Rosemary Teed, a Lake Director, the SDRA has taken the first steps in establishing a Lake Management Plan. A plan of this nature will go a long way in ensuring that the current level of enjoyment offered by Skootamatta Lake will remain intact for the future generations of residents, cottagers and visitors.

In closing, I want to thank those Executive members that I have had the privilege of working with during my term as SDRA President. Their collective skills have enabled our association to establish a clearer vision of what should and can lie ahead for Skootamatta Lake and the surrounding areas and I'd



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Skoot tote bags for sale  
at this year's AGM  
Find out more on page 21



Miss South (left) was crowned Miss Skootamatta. Great fun at the 2008 Pot Luck (Photo Gary Evans August 9, 2008)



(LtoR) Laury Hitchcock Vice President (SDRA) presenting a cheque for \$500.00 to Sonja Alcock, Chair of the Board and Penny Hinchey, Business Manager of Land O' Lakes Community Services (LOLCS). Read more on page 16 (Photo Gordon McCulloch March 19, 2009)



SDRA Director and Lake Steward Rosemary Teed introduces the membership to a Lake Management Plan (Photos Gary Evans July 5, 2008)



The winner of the 2008 Photo Contest was Noreen Coombs with this Skootamatta Sunset



The Skootamatta Canada Day Boat Parade (Photos Cathy Hook July 1, 2008)

**Hope to see  
you at our  
2009 SDRA  
Events!**



ask that you continue to support what I believe to be a most worthy organization. A comprehensive summary of our association's activities is available to you at [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca). Thanks, and I hope to see you on the water and at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for **Saturday, July 4, 2009 at 10:00 am** at the **Pineview Free Methodist Church, Cloyne.** ■

*Kent Farrow*—SDRA President

## PASSAGES

Our condolences to the following families who have lost a loved one.

The McKay Family (Harvey)

The Graham Family (Rolly)

The Fish Family (Jeff)

The Thompson Family (Bev Tucker). Wendy's Mom was a senior triathlete and could often be seen training in the bay east of Osborne Point.

## SDRA EXECUTIVE 2008-2009

Kent Farrow

*President*

Ron Nowell

*Past President*

Lynn Garnish

*Treasurer*

Ken Hook

*Co-director—Lake  
Stewards*

Bill Garnish

*Director—Lake  
Economic Development*

Derek Mendam

*Director—Sheldrake  
Lake Rep*

Jane Falby

*Director*

Rick Sears

*Director*

Laury Hitchcock

*Vice-President*

Heather Machan

*Acting Secretary*

Gordon McCulloch

*Director—Area Reps*

Rosemary Teed

*Co-director—Lake  
Stewards*

Jim Osborne

*Director—Legal  
Affairs*

Karen Stacey

*Director—Print  
Services*

Gary Evans


*Webmaster*

Cathy Hook

*Newsletter Editor*

## Editor's Note

I want to thank everyone who contributed information and pictures to the Newsletter.

Again this year we are including a calendar of events for you to put up on your fridge or bulletin board. Look for the loon  to locate SDRA events.

Our advertiser's support the publication of this newsletter so let's support them.

Send articles and photos for next year's newsletter to:

SDRA Newsletter

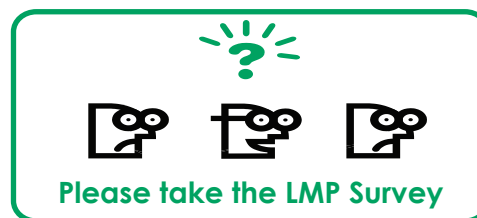
Attn: Cathy Hook

Box 172

Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

[cathyhook@gmail.com](mailto:cathyhook@gmail.com)

613-336-3211



The proposal to proceed with a Lake Management Plan for Skootamatta was overwhelmingly endorsed at last year's AGM.

We are now ready for the first step—the survey.

A survey has been sent to SDRA and SLA members in this newsletter package. Please take the time to complete the survey and return to us in the envelope provided.

The survey is being mailed to non-member residents and hand delivered to Pringle Lake residents to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the Plan.

# 2008 Treasurer's Report

Lynn Garnish

## COSTS

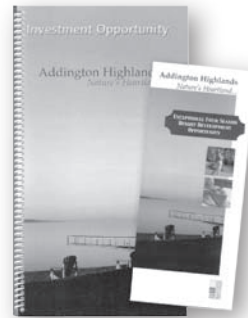
Lot Maintenance	600.00
AGM costs	234.73
SDRA BBQ Purchase	300.00
Publication costs including postage	2,348.70
Clothing sales costs	1,868.60
Decals and Banners	426.57
LOLCS	500.00
Potty Rental	175.00
Insurance Premium	972.00
Office supplies, postage	182.79
Executive Meeting Costs	205.25
Lake Management Plan	55.66
Website Costs	42.00
Contest Prizes	25.00
Legal Retainer	1,500.00
Water Testing Lab Costs	366.98
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,803.28</b>

## INCOME

Paid members 169 X 50	8,450.00
Advertising revenue	637.00
Ramp fees collected	94.50
Donations	75.00
Clothing sales: orders	493.00
Clothing cash sales	85.00
Sheldrake Lake legal fund	750.00
Interest earned	2.11
Balance carried forward	6,851.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,438.53</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>8635.25</b>

# SDRA Economic Development Committee Update

Bill Garnish



In the fall of 2007 a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a multi-million dollar eco tourism resort to be located on Sheldrake Lake was released to the public to solicit responses from prospective developers. Subsequent involvement of the SDRA in the RFP process and the spirited and lengthy discussions at the 2008 SDRA AGM resulted in a committee being formed to review the RFP and plan for a response to subsequent proposals.

The committee met last summer and put together a plan to collect as much information as possible on the existing RFP, take steps to get our lake associations involved and to insert our organizations into the communication process surrounding any future development prospects. Our goal is to develop a plan to ensure any future proposals are consistent with sustainable development standards; meet all current laws and guidelines related to planning, environmental and archaeological assessments; and are consistent with the strategic objectives for development in Addington Highlands Township.

To this end, we have taken the following actions:

1. Approached the Township council to voice our concerns over the lack of communication about the RFP; and our position was well received. They have a group known as the Addington Highlands Economic Advisors for Development (AHEAD) committee which is aware of, and involved in, most local development issues; and to improve the flow of communication they have assigned a position to the SDRA on this committee.

2. We also met with the MNR in Bancroft last fall to discuss our concerns with them and solicit their cooperation in future development activities. They are taking our concerns seriously and have been very forthcoming with information since our meeting.

3. We participated in a project conducted by Dr. Robert McLeman at the University of Ottawa with his fourth year Geography students to investigate the vi-

ability of an eco tourism development at the Sheldrake Lake site. They produced two independent and very well researched reports; and both conclude a development of the type proposed in the previous RFP would have little chance of success. The reports can be accessed through the SDRA website under the Economic Development Committee section, and we believe they are worthwhile read.

4. We are working with students and faculty at three Universities to help in preliminary environmental and archaeological assessments in anticipation of future proposals for this area.

5. The SDRA and Sheldrake Lake Associations have retained legal counsel, in the event this becomes the only practical option available to ensure a satisfactory outcome.

As of the end of March of this year, we have been advised there is a new RFP that has been prepared and is ready for release, but the release has been put on hold indefinitely due to the current economic situation.

We will continue to track the progress of the RFP and aggressively continue active involvement in the process to ensure a solution that is in the best interests of the members and our community. ■

A history of Sheldrake Lake was provided by the SLA and is available at the SDRA website. The following are excerpts.

## Sheldrake History

Sheldrake, Sheldgoose, Goosander and Shelduck are names for the Merganser ducks that must have been common on our lake years ago (and still are).

Until about 1962, when the Causeway Bridge was built, the road from Cloyne ended at the Dicks' driveway. Before that time, everyone coming to Sheldrake Lake left vehicles at Trails End Marina and came to our portage by boat.

In 1967, the original survey of the first ten lots was done by a friend of Stu Esdon, approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and sold in no particular order. A formula was established for the sale of public land, with price determined by lake frontage. Several people remember that price to be about \$2.50 per foot. The Crown owned the first 66 feet on each property as a road allowance. After the first ten lots were sold, the Department of Lands and Forests engaged Stu Esdon to survey six more lots, which were registered in 1969. Minimum lot size was established, and subdivisions were made in groups of three. Sometimes straws were drawn to determine which family would buy which lot.

Beyond the beaver pond there are ten surveyed lots, then the last three cottages, then ten more surveyed lots before coming to the hunters' trail. It is unlikely that these lots will ever be sold, however, since the human footprint on our lake is thought to have reached the limit for the environment. Thelma A Washburn, 07

## Cottage Area Reps

Upper Lake	Bill Garnish	bill.garnish@cogeco.ca
Jacques Bay	Suzanne Stevens	613-354-1326
Sheldrake	Bill Doef	doef@on.aibn.com (613-336-8414)
Causeway/Lower & East Shore	Gail Dicks	613-336-2352
Henninger	Maureen Mahoney	reenmahoney@rogers.blackberry.net
North Shore	Lynda Wheeler	613-336-1561
Wolf Creek	Rosemary Teed	teeds@hughes.net (613-336-0058)
Trail's End/Oberne Point	Bev Scott	
Narrows	Rep needed	

The main duty of the lake reps is to keep the executive, through the Area Coordinator, informed about special events (death, fires), new owners, member milestones, problems affecting the lake or residents and other relevant information. This information is needed for our annual newsletter and for your executive to react to items which may affect our lake or members. If you have new neighbours let your Area Rep know so they may be officially welcomed to our lake community and introduced to the benefits of our association.

The Coordinator of Area Reps is Gordon McCulloch reached at: cargomac@hughes.net or 613-336-6858

# Upgrades to Dam by MNR

Director Report  
Lake Steward Ken Hook

Members may recall that in 2007, the deteriorating condition of the Skootamatta Lake dam was brought to the attention of Quinte Conservation and the Ministry of Natural Resources. Spalling concrete and water leaking from cracks in the dam concerned the Board and correspondence was sent to ask that the dam be repaired before it failed and caused considerable damage. Although Quinte Conservation did not seem too concerned the MNR took action by investigating the dam.

Bob Walroth, District Manager in Bancroft advised us that the dam would be repaired in 2008 pending funding. During the late fall, just before “freeze-up” the MNR hired an Ottawa contractor, ODS Marine. The cost of the work was approximately \$100,000. New deck winches, chains, signage, concrete repairs to the piers and deck made up the bulk of the work. New floats which are very visible (bright orange with MNR logos) were supplied earlier under a different contract.

The work looks good and is now complete—no further work is required.

If you have some time this summer take a leisurely boat/canoe/kayak ride to the dam and see where the Skootamatta River flows out of Skootamatta Lake. There is also road access (bush road) which would be perfect for a weekend ATV ride. The road begins immediately west of Highway 41 across from North Frontenac Road 506.

Take a topo map and compass—there are many trails in that area with most land Crown owned. ■



Dam pier with new cement cap, January 2009  
Photos Ken Hook

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## Invading Species Monitoring

Director Ken Hook

Acting on a directive from the spring 2008 Board meeting, the SDRA undertook Invading Species monitoring on Skootamatta Lake for the first time. This is a program coordinated by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters in partnership with

the Ministry of Natural Resources and was provided at no cost to the SDRA. Since 1998, over 400 lakes in Ontario have been monitored for zebra mussels, spiny water flea and other invading species. Volunteers take samples from lakes and forward them to the OFAH for analysis using a microscope in their search for early life stages of zebra mussels (veligers), spiny water fleas and other invading species.

Monitoring is done during the summer when zebra mussels and spiny water flea are most likely to be present in the lake. Generally when veligers are first detected



it takes 2 years before adult zebra mussels are noticed by cottagers.

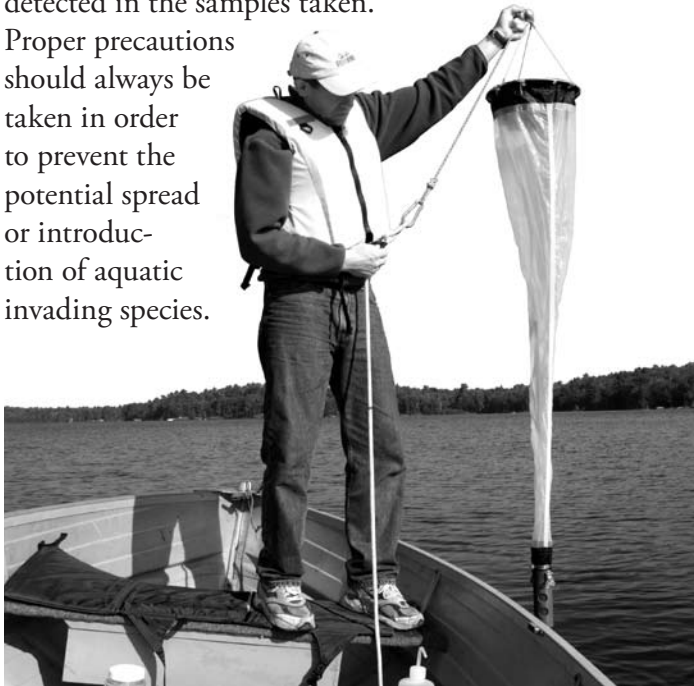
Ken and Cathy Hook received the monitoring kit on behalf of the SDRA in early July and performed the monitoring procedures. A short video was prepared of the procedure which was acquired by the OFAH to be used for training purposes for other lakes. The video can be seen online at:

[www.45degreeslatitude.com/html/Training\\_video.html](http://www.45degreeslatitude.com/html/Training_video.html)

Results of the monitoring were received via email in January 2009—they were negative for zebra mussels and spiny water flea. A full online report will be available at the invading species website in the spring.

The OFAH cannot emphasize enough that a negative result is not a guarantee that invading species do not exist in Skootamatta—they simply could not be detected in the samples taken.

Proper precautions should always be taken in order to prevent the potential spread or introduction of aquatic invading species.



Ken Hook tests for invading species July 12, 2008

Photo Cathy Hook

Gord McCulloch and other members of the Board have heard authorities mention that lakes on the Canadian Shield would not likely support zebra mussels because of the low calcium content of the water (more southern lakes with limestone present have higher dissolved calcium in the water and support the shell manufacture of the mussel). The Board decided to take a calcium reading of Skootamatta and have it analyzed by Caduceon Labs in Kingston. The result (chart page 9) was 5.07 ppm (parts per million). It is assumed this level would be relatively consistent throughout the lake so one sample was submitted with a resulting lab fee of \$22.05.

Some experts suggest that lakes would need levels in excess of 20 ppm and maybe as high as 25–28 ppm to support zebra mussels and would exclude lakes on the Shield. However, the following lakes in our local area that are on the Shield have already reported the presence of zebra mussels: Shabomeka Lake (next to Mazinaw and known locally as Buck Lake), Big Clear Lake and Beaver Lake (Hwy 41 south). It is unknown if these Shield lakes will support enough zebra mussels to cause significant problems to cottagers and boaters. We need to be vigilant in our invading species prevention because spiny water flea can live in Shield lakes and has already been reported locally in Big Gull Lake and Crotch Lake.

Why should we be so concerned about invading species? Zebra mussels can destroy the recreational enjoyment of our lakes. The mussels filter out phytoplankton from the water making it very clear, allowing sunlight to penetrate deeper into our lakes. This drives fish like pickerel deeper and the extra sunlight promotes excessive weed growth. The filtering process also concentrates contaminants within the mussel so fish and birds that might eat the mussel may be subject to toxicity and die. Large populations can cause high levels of botulism Type E in the water that can paralyze fish and birds such as loons. As for humans, sharp shells can cut swimmers feet and also clog waterlines and indoor plumbing if unfiltered from inlet pipes.

Spiny water fleas are aggressive consumers of zooplankton (small animal life) that small fish species need to eat in order to grow. As the flea population grows in a lake less feed is available for native fish and fish population declines. Only fish over 10 cm. (4 inches) long can eat spiny water flea because of the fleas long tail spine which makes it difficult to swallow.

It is recommended we re-test Skootamatta in 2–3 years for invading species.

For more information on invading species go to:



[www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)

The 2001 Scientific Report *Zebra Mussel's Calcium Threshold and Implications for its Potential Distribution in North America* can be downloaded from:

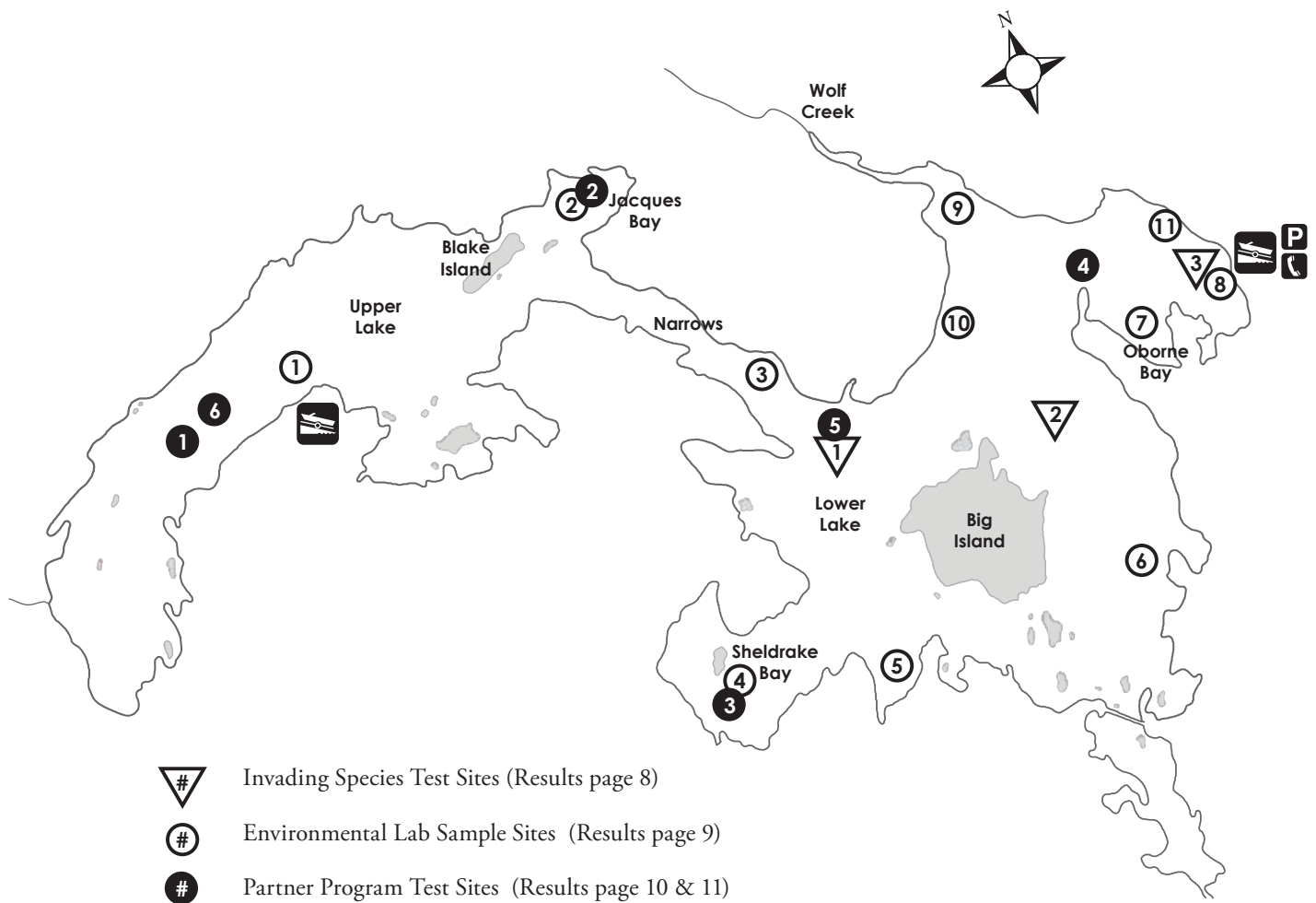
[www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=3870](http://www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=3870)

Test site locations and results for Skootamatta are on page 8. ■

Skootamatta Lake  
Invading Species Watch Program 2008

Sample #	Sample Date	GPS Coordinates (lat/long)	Description of Location	Zebra & Quagga Mussels	Spiny Waterflea
1	July 11, 2008 6:50 p.m.	44°50.378N 77°13.740W	Where the narrows empties into the lower lake	No	No
2	July 11, 2008 8:15 p.m.	44°50.448N 77°13.874W	Deepest part of the lake (lower lake)	No	No
3	July 12, 2008 8:15 a.m.	44°50.813N 77°12.814W	Out from the main boat launch (near Trail's End)	No	No

## Skootamatta Lake Water Sample Sites





# Independent Lab Water Testing

Director Ken Hook

Sampling of Skootamatta Lake was done on July 22, 2008 by Rosemary Teed, Gord McCulloch and Ken Hook. An additional sample to test for calcium was taken on August 20. The article on invading species (pages 6–7) explains why the SDRA felt it was important to sample our lake for calcium levels.

Test sites have a gps reading associated so future tests can be done at the same sites and trends noted.

There are no areas of concern according to the Lab Manager of Caduceon (Environmental Lab in Kingston). The levels of E. coli are only a concern if someone was to drink the water untreated—ideally no E. coli

should be present in drinking water. This test does not determine the source of the E. coli—it could be from human, bird or mammal feces. According to the KFL&A Health Unit in Kingston they start to consider closing beaches when levels exceed 100cts/100mL and our highest reading was 2 cts/100mL.

Most other tests are under the MDL (minimum detection limits) which is very good. If the result is < (less than) it indicates that the test used could not detect the phosphorus, O-Phosphate, Ammonia or E. coli.

The Lab Manager suggests we continue testing every couple of years, possibly testing more sites for E. coli and comparing the results.

For a better understanding of water quality parameters visit:

 <http://bcn.boulder.co.us/basin/data/COBWQ/info/>

## Skootamatta Lake Environmental Lab Water Testing 2008

	Parameter	E coli	o-Phosphate (P)	Phosphorus Total	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	Ammonia (N) - Total	Calcium
	Units	cts/100mL	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L	mg/L
	MDL	1	0.01	0.01	0.1	0.05	0.02
Site #	GPS						
1	44°50.770N 77°17.478W			<0.01	0.3		
2	44°51.349N 77°15.807W	1		<0.01	0.3	<0.05	
3	44°50.729N 77°15.363W			0.01	0.5		
4	44°49.379N 77°15.344W	<1		<0.01	0.4		
5	44°49.500N 77°14.732W			<0.01	0.4		
6	44°49.739N 77°13.296W			<0.01	0.3		
7	44°50.717N 77°13.424W			0.01	0.4		
8	44°50.606N 77°12.736W	2		<0.01	0.4		
9	44°51.193N 77°14.015W			0.01	0.5		
10	44°51.349N 77°15.807W		<0.01				
11	44°50.989N 77°12.976W						5.07

# Ontario's Partner Program

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) monitors lakes in Ontario in partnership with cottagers and residents. The goal is to create a database to evaluate the nutrient status of Ontario's inland lakes.

As a partner in this program SDR volunteers take samples for total phosphorus (TP) analysis and measure water clarity using a secchi disc. Since we are on the Canadian Shield the MOE has determined that we only need to take phosphorus samples once a year during Spring turnover (around the 24th of May), and secchi disc readings once a month May to September.

For total phosphorus testing two filtered samples (TP1 and TP2) are taken per test site as a contingency against one sample being lost or contaminated. Filtering ensures that large zooplankton are removed. Even a single zooplankton can increase the reading by 25 µg/L.

Total phosphorus concentrations are used to interpret nutrient status since phosphorus is the element that controls algal growth. Algae are necessary in a lake but the introduction of pollutants and nutrients by our activities can result in excessive algal growth. We are fortunate in that our lake is not affected by farm runoff or town sewage discharges but there is an impact if we allow septic tank seepage, detergents or lawn fertilizers to find their way into the lake. Algal blooms can have an effect on aesthetics, cause taste and odour problems and place great stress on fish and other creatures in the lake.

Several years of data is needed to observe trends. Our overall phosphorus average over the last few years is about 10.5 µg/L. Values for 2008 were below this average.

Many limnologists place lakes into three broad categories with respect to nutrient status. Lakes with less than 10 µg/L TP are considered oligotrophic and are unproductive lakes. Lakes over 20 µg/L TP are eutrophic and may have a problem with persistent, nuisance algal blooms. Mesotrophic lakes are in the middle between 10 and 20 µg/L. Skootamatta is a mesotrophic lake.



Gord McCulloch filters a water sample for the Partner Program total phosphorus test. (Photo Ken Hook May 26, 2008)



Gord McCulloch takes a secchi depth reading for the Partner Program (Photo Ken Hook May 26, 2008)

## Lake Partner Program Skootamatta Total Phosphorus Results 2008

Site 1—Upper Basin			Site 4—Lower Basin			Site 6—Upper Lake		
Date	TP1 µg/L	TP2 µg/L	Date	TP1 µg/L	TP2 µg/L	Date	TP1 µg/L	TP2 µg/L
May 26	7.9	10.0	May 26	7.8	7.5	May 26	8.8	7.2

Secchi depth readings help identify changes in water clarity not linked to nutrient status (zebra mussels, climate change, etc).

A secchi disc is an 8 inch (20 cm) disc with alternating black and white quadrants. The disk is lowered into the water and used to visually measure water clarity,

# Lake Partner Program Skootamatta Secchi Depth Readings 2008

Site 1—Upper Basin			Site 4—Lower Basin			Site 6—Upper Lake		
Date	Time	Secchi Depth (m)	Date	Time	Secchi Depth (m)	Date	Time	Secchi Depth (m)
May 26	10:20 am	4.1	May 26	10:40 am	3.9	May 26	10:55 am	3.5
			June 21	9:00 am	4.1			
			July 22	9:30 am	4.8			
			Sept 19	9:00 am	4.0			

indicated by the midpoint between where the disc disappears on the way down and reappears on the way back up.

Past results for both total phosphorus and secchi depth readings can be found at the Partner Program website. ■



## Secchi Facts & Figures

If you could lower a Secchi disk into absolutely pure water, the theoretical maximum value would be between 70-80 meters (230-262 ft).

### Deepest Recorded Secchi Depth

80 meters on October 13, 1986 in the Weddell Sea, near Antarctica.

### Smallest Secchi Depth

1-2 cm (0.4-0.8 in) in Spirit Lake, Washington, after the eruption of Mt. St Helens

[http://dipin.kent.edu/secchi\\_records.htm](http://dipin.kent.edu/secchi_records.htm)

## Septic Report

Lake Steward Rosemary Teed

On July 26 2008 the SDRA hosted a Septic Seminar at the Barrie Town Hall in Cloyne. Despite a downpour of significant proportion, the turnout was excellent, with many members attending and participating. We had two engaging speakers from our Quinte Conservation Authority, Mark Boone, Hydro geologist, with Quinte for the last 4 years who is working on the Water Source Protection Program and development of plans to protect drinking water. Catherine Sinclair is a Regulations Officer with QCA who works daily on evaluating applications and issuing permits for various types of projects located in and around water throughout our watershed.

A pertinent slide show on ground water and septic systems was followed by an extensive question and answer period. All of us left with improved knowledge and, most important, two contacts within the QCA who are clearly concerned and invested in our area. They are reaching out to help us in our initial steps toward a Lake Management Plan and the critical aspect of educating us in all aspects of water protection. ■



Partner Program [www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake\\_partner/index.htm](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/lake_partner/index.htm)

Detailed septic system owner guidelines and regulations are outlined in the Ontario Building Code (Part 8), available through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing [www.mah.gov.on.ca](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca)

Quinte Conservation (private sewage inspection, drinking water, groundwater, shoreline naturalization advice)  
(613) 968 3434 [www.quinteconservation.ca](http://www.quinteconservation.ca)



# SDRA Events

## July

### Canada Day Boat Parade

**Wednesday July 1**

Leaves at 11:00 a.m. from Sheldrake Bay and ends at Jacques Bay

No rain date

### Annual General Meeting (AGM) and BBQ

**Saturday July 4**

Start time 10:00 a.m. at the Cloyne Free Methodist Church

Rain or shine

## August

### Pot Luck

**Saturday August 15**

4:00 p.m. at Ron Nowell's

BYOB, lawn chairs and your favourite dish

Rain or Shine

## September

### Fireworks

**Saturday September 5**

By boat or road to the causeway at dusk

Rain date Sunday September 6

### Canada Day Boat Parade

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

The annual Skootamatta Lake Canada Day boat parade was very well attended last summer, with over 25 boats participating. We were fortunate to have beautiful, sunny weather for our lake tour, which made it a much more comfortable ride than the previous 2 years. Once again, the flags, decorations and cheering from the boats and on shore made the event special.

We look forward to another successful parade on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 and hope the weather will cooperate. This year's parade will start at 11:00 a.m. in Sheldrake Bay and follow the reverse route from last year's parade, ending in Jacques Bay. Parade participants should be aware that there will be no "rain date" for this event, if the elements do not cooperate.

Hope to see you all out there! Happy Canada Day!

### Annual Skootamatta Lake Pot Luck

Last summer's pot luck social took place on August 9 at Ron Nowell's house. We had quite a large crowd in attendance for one of the more memorable summer social events. Esther once again displayed her creative skills with the games and "special" events, which this year included the notorious "Miss Skootamatta" male beauty contest. We were treated to some really hilarious antics from our own president, Kent Farrow, the closet diva, Hugh Rose and all-around sex symbol, Mike Cumming. They competed in talent, fashion and interview events which showed their many hidden skills. The quote of the event came from the winner, Kent,

whose response to the question, "Why do you want to be Miss Skootamatta?" was "because I can't spell Kashawakamak." We think that was the turning point in the voting as Kent was declared the winner! All three contestants showed tremendous good sportsmanship and a great sense of fun. (Well...our own diva, Hugh, was a little miffed to come in second, but overcame his hurt feelings.) Well done, guys!

We certainly look forward to another enjoyable pot luck this summer on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks again to Ron and Esther for being such wonderful hosts and congratulations on your beautiful new home!

### Fabulous Fireworks at the Causeway!

What a spectacular way to officially end the summer season at Skoot...with some really wonderful fireworks at the Causeway! The night was clear and not too cool, the boats were full of many happy cottagers and the sky was alive with colour and light. We applaud Starfire Pyrotechnics for the excellent show. The audience loved it and showed their appreciation with many "OOHS" and "AHHS" and lots of clapping and cheering at its conclusion.

This year's fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at dusk, with the raindate being Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will only cancel this event if it rains both days or if there is a fire ban in place. Watch the road signs for updates.

Laury Hitchcock

# Community Events

## May

**The Cloyne and District  
Historical Society and the Land  
O'Lakes Garden Club Yard and  
Perennial Plant Sale  
Saturday May 16**

9:00 a.m. on

Barrie Township Hall

Gently used donations are gratefully  
accepted

Carolyn McCulloch

613-336-6858



## July

**Turkey Supper  
Saturday July 4**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton

Time: 4:30–7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00

Children aged 6–12 \$4.00

Children under 6 eat free

**AFAR Golf Tournament  
Saturday July 11**

Maple Estates

More information page 16

**Cloyne Studio Tour  
Saturday July 10, 11, 12**

For more information email:  
ursula@ursulaoilpaintings.com

**Roast Beef Supper  
Wednesday July 15**



Harlowe Community Centre

Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00

Children aged 12 & under \$5.00  
preschoolers free

**Land O'Lakes Garden Club  
Tour & Tea  
Saturday July 18**

Barrie Township Hall

More information on page 16

**Roast Pork Supper  
Wednesday July 22**

Harlowe Community Centre

Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00

Children aged 12 & under \$5.00  
preschoolers free

**Bon Echo 14th Annual Art  
Exhibition and Sale  
July 24, 25, 26**

Friday 11:00–5:00

Saturday 10:00–5:00

Sunday 10:00–4:00

Bon Echo Park

[www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho](http://www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho)

**Flinton Country Bluegrass  
Jamboree**

**July 31, August 1, 2**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton

See local newspapers and posters for  
details or visit the website for a list  
of performers, admission fees and  
ticket information

[www.flintonrecreationclub.ca](http://www.flintonrecreationclub.ca)

## August

**Roast Beef Supper  
Wednesday August 5**

Harlowe Community Centre

Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00

Children aged 12 & under \$5.00  
preschoolers free

**Cloyne Showcase 2009  
August 7, 8, 9**

Friday 10:00–5:00

Saturday 10:00–5:00

Sunday 10:00–4:00

Arts and Crafts Show and Sale

NAEC, Cloyne

for more information email

ursula@ursulaoilpaintings.com

**150th Anniversary of the  
naming of Cloyne  
August 8 and 9**



Saturday 10:00 a.m.–early evening

Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Fun for the Whole Family

- Exhibits
- Crafts and Games for Children
- Refreshments
- Old time Music
- Contests
- Family Reunions
- Genealogy

Museum and Barrie Township Hall  
Cloyne

## October

**Historical Society  
Thanksgiving Bake Sale  
Saturday October 10**



Barrie Hall, Cloyne

**Thanksgiving Turkey Supper  
Saturday October 10**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton

Time: 4:30–7:00 p.m.

Adults \$10.00

Children aged 6–12 \$4.00

Children under 6 eat free

## Regular Events

**Bingo**

**Every Thursday**

Northbrook Lions Hall

7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

**Every Monday**

Flinton Recreation Centre

6:30 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Must be 18 to play

**Adult Drop-in**

**Every Tuesday**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Northbrook Lions Hall

Come for lunch, exercises, games,  
crafts or for a social outing

# Bon Echo Park - Special Events

The Friends of Bon Echo are presenting the following Special Events this summer. A Daily Vehicle Permit is required for entry to Bon Echo but there are no additional charges for these events. For more information about other "Friends" activities visit [www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho](http://www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho).

## **Sciensational Sssnakes!**

**Saturday, June 27**

Times: 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Location: Campfire Clearing

Staff from Sciensational Sssnakes will give two interactive presentations on snakes and the importance of protecting them and their habitats. Ontario snakes will be featured with a hands-on session that will allow you to hold some of these fascinating reptiles.

## **Kevin Callan**

Time: Long weekend in July, specific day & time TBA

Location: Amphitheatre

Do you like to canoe and camp? If so, join the Friends for "Wilderness Pleasures", a fun filled evening program with award winning author Kevin Callan. Learn why people like to camp and ways to make your next camping trip more enjoyable. Kevin is the author of camping books and paddling guides and writes on a regular basis for On Nature, Kanawa and Canoeroots magazines. He teaches Environmental Issues and Sciences at Fleming College and is a regular guest on Canadian TV shows.

## **Terence Dickinson**

**Saturday July 18, Parks Day**

9 p.m.

Location: Amphitheatre

The International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) is a year-long celebration, taking place in 2009 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations with a telescope by Galileo Galilei.

The Friends of Bon Echo are very pleased to have Terence Dickinson, Canada's best-selling author of astronomy books for children and adults, give a talk at 9 pm with telescope viewing afterwards. Mr. Dickinson is a regular guest expert on CBC Radio and the Canadian Discovery Channel and is current editor of SkyNews, a Canadian astronomy magazine.



## **Friends of Bon Echo Art Exhibition & Sale July 24, 25, 26**

Friday 11:00–5:00

Saturday 10:00–5:00

Sunday 10:00–4:00

Location: Campfire Clearing

The Friends of Bon Echo are celebrating their annual Art Exhibition and Sale July 24, 25 and 26 with the works of 50 juried artists. This exhibition and sale has something for everyone including photography, stained glass, painting and pottery. Children will have the chance to create their own piece of art. Staff from Sciensational Sssnakes will have shows at 11 am on Saturday & Sunday. Food and refreshments will be available.

## **David Archibald**

**Tuesday August 11**

Time: 7:30–8:30

Location: Amphitheatre

Join the Friends at the amphitheatre for an interactive evening performance with David Archibald, a well know Canadian singer & songwriter. David's songs reflect natural and cultural heritage in Canada. National and provincial parks have commissioned David to write about their history and his music is regularly featured on CBC radio programs. Much of David's work has been in the field of children's music so be sure to bring young people to this performance.





## www.skootamatta.ca

Gary Evans  
webmaster—skootamatta.ca

Website users will have likely noticed the little green counter added to the foot of each webpage in the middle of 2008. It records each time a webpage is downloaded from the webserver to your computer, and gives a rough indication of website use. (The webserver itself is configured to collect much more detailed information that can be analyzed for specific patterns and trends).

Operating a website is a bit like operating some kind of continuously-running convention. People come in from all directions to pick up and (hopefully) share information, then head off again to other destinations. To be successful, the information presented at the convention sessions has to be accurate, relevant, up-to-date and presented in a clear and interesting manner. Anything less and attendees will find any excuse to rush away early.

Here's a bit of insight into how the skootamatta.ca *convention centre* has been operating lately.

- Our website now comprises about 50 viewable pages, not including the 180 Gallery photos
- *Monthly average* data for the last full quarter (Q4, 2008):
  - 538 visits by 302 *unique* visitors
  - 3691 pages served, (not necessarily full downloads)
- American visitors generally outnumber Canadians by a ratio of 2 or 3 to one, however at mid-March, 2009, Canada is in the lead!
- Average stay is ~ 3 minutes, visits are evenly distributed over all the days of the week
- Vast majority of visitors come through the 'front door' (skootamatta.ca home page)
- Most commonly viewed areas, (excluding the home page), are Gallery and Marketplace
- How visitors arrive:
  - 83 % come directly to the site, (browser address bar or 'bookmark', etc.)
  - 13.1 % arrive via one of the search engines, (Google, Yahoo, etc.)
  - 3.4 % are directed from links on other websites, (e.g. frontenacnews.ca)
  - 0.5 % are apparently lost in cyberspace, but stumble in somehow
- no surprise that "skootamatta" and "lake" are the most common words / phrases used in web searches that direct visitors to us
- 64% of visitors use MS Internet Explorer, 28% use the Firefox open-source browser

I hope the website is providing useful information to all SDRA members and others with an interest in the area. Don't hesitate to use the ! Submit Stuff! link to share your information, ideas, questions and comments with the SDRA membership and other website users. Comments and suggestions about the site itself are always welcome.



# In the Community

## The SDRA makes a \$500 donation to LOLCS

Gordon McCulloch

Land O'Lakes Community Services (LOLCS) provides a wide range of services to Addington Highlands and North Frontenac. Most notably it is responsible for the management of our nursing home Pine Meadow. Community Services offers Community Support Services for Seniors such as; Adult Drop-in, Diners Club, Meals On Wheels, Transportation, Caregiver Support, Social and Safety, Hospice Services. The North Rural Women's Program (Violence against Women) is a major part of LOLCS. Adult Protective Services and Adult Independent Living Services help adults with developmental difficulties. In addition to these services they assist with the local food bank as a referral source and with the Mazinaw Swim Program.

The offices of LOLCS house other agencies which service our community. Ontario Works, Pathways for Children and Youth, Rural Legal Services, Family and Children Services, L&A Addictions and L&A Mental Health are co-locators who complement our services. Photocopying, faxing and laminating are provided to co-locators and to our community.

The SDRA exists to advance the interests of property owners on the lake. The Association believes in interacting in the community to promote mutual respect and support.



[www.lolcs.com](http://www.lolcs.com)  
613-336-8934

## More about LOLCS

Land O' Lakes Community Services was formed in 1976. It is a Non-profit Corporation made up of community membership, who elects representatives to a 12 member Board each year.

They are not a government agency but are a Transfer Payment Agency funded by the government for their main programs and different grants to help run other programs.

In our area of Addington Highlands there are just over 1000 people aged 55 and older and the agency has 52% of them as clients.

North Rural Women's Program (Violence Against Woman): in 1993 assisted 54 women in need and so far this year has assisted 184.

Adult Protective Services and Adult Independent Living Services: provides supports and services to adults with developmental disabilities. In 1993 this program helped 21 clients; today they help 34.

The Community Support Program promotes a quality of life to enable seniors and people with physical disabilities to remain in their own homes for a longer period of time by providing social and/or health related services.

Meals on Wheels: in 1993 had 8 clients; 2008 records indicate 115 clients.

Diners Club/Social: in 1993 had 95 clients; today has 429 clients.

Caregiver Support: in 1993 had 48 clients and today has 158 clients

Transportation: today they assist 72 clients who require transportation to medical appointments etc.

## Mazinaw Lake Swim Program

If you have children or grandchildren at Skootamatta this summer consider enrolling them in the Mazinaw Lake Swim Program. This is a very successful volunteer run organization that started teaching children to swim in 1971 at Marble Lake. The program moved to Mazinaw Lake in 1989.

Red Cross, Bronze and Bronze Cross lessons are offered. The program runs Monday–Friday from July 6–July 31. Cost is \$65 per child which includes bus transportation to Bon Echo Park.

Children living on Skootamatta have lessons from 10:00–11:00 a.m. and are picked up by the bus at Hwy 41 and Skootamatta Lake Road North at 9:35 a.m. or at Pineview Free Methodist Church across from Skootamatta Lake Road South at 9:45 a.m.

An enrollment form can be obtained from LOLCS in Northbrook (613-336-8934) or by email from Chelsea Dacuk, program supervisor [ml\\_sp@hotmail.com](mailto:ml_sp@hotmail.com).

## AFAR radio station golf tournament

The AFAR radio station expects to be up and running by the spring of 2010. There is still a lot of leg work for the many volunteers including fundraising.

AFAR is holding a golf tournament at Maple Estate Golf and Country Club on July 11. The cost is \$55 which includes an 18 hole round of golf, steak dinner, entertainment

# In the Community

and numerous prizes plus trophies. For someone not golfing the dinner and entertainment are \$25.

Golf carts are available (these are provided at the golfer's expense) but must be booked as soon as possible.

Contacts:

Glen McFadden 613-336-2297  
mcfadden@mazinaw.on.ca

Rick Cameron 613-336-2834  
arcameron12@hotmail.com

Bob Taylor 613-336-9633  
dga3icy2k@sympatico.ca

## Land O'Lakes Garden Club Tour and Tea



### "ON THE ROCKS"

On Saturday, July 18th, 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Land O'Lakes Garden Club is holding a Tour with Tea and Scones to highlight the gardens of Little Pond Road in Cloyne.

Tour the Little Pond Road gardens, the newly renovated gardens of the Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery, one front yard garden on Highway 41 and the Pioneer Museum. Included in the ticket price of \$10 are tea and scones at the Barrie Township Hall in Cloyne.

Parking is provided at the hall for the tour. Tickets are available at the Barrie Hall on the day of the tour.

## Rogers cell tower coming to Flinton

Ken Hook

Rogers communications will be coming to Addington Highlands in 2009. A new cell tower will be erected on the Flinton road in an effort to provide continuous cell service throughout the Highway 41

corridor. Other towers are anticipated in the near future.

The investment by Rogers was a direct result of the Addington Highlands Economic Advisors for Development (AHEAD) committee which together with the Township of North Frontenac gathered 10,000 names on an expression of interest in 2005. Bell, Telus and Rogers were contacted with the opportunity in 2006 and offered \$50,000 cash incentive for servicing all of Highway 41 however no investment was made at that time. Rogers is building the new tower at no cost to the townships. News on future plans is expected soon.

## Observatory planned for Mallory Hill

Ken Hook

A new hi-tech telescope/observatory will be constructed only 25km "as the crow flies" from Skootamatta Lake. The project called "The One Metre Initiative" (named for the 1.016m aperture of the telescope) is the brainchild of Ottawa engineer Frank Roy. This will be the first new observatory built in Canada in over 30 years and it will be one of the highest technology telescopes in the world.

Small in physical size but with an extremely wide field of view, the telescope will be used primarily for research and educational purposes. Searching for asteroids that may strike the Earth (similar to one that exploded over Siberia in 1908 devastating thousands of square kilometers) will be one of the main uses. Searching for Earth-sized

planets and supernovae will be other uses. International astronomers will book time on the telescope for various research projects. As the telescope can be controlled remotely from anywhere in the world this will be a huge benefit since astronomers would not need to travel long distances to access data gathering.

The chosen location is the crest of Mallory Hill—about halfway between Vennachar and Plevna on the Buckshot Lake Road. Remote and with no hydro, Mallory Hill has the darkest skies in southern Canada and northeastern North America. A big advantage is the accessibility of the County maintained paved Buckshot Lake Road. Electricity for the observatory will be supplied by solar and wind energy generation. Broadband access for transmitting the large electronic files will be achieved by extending the fibre optic line in Plevna to the site.

Frank Roy has started a non-profit organization to operate the observatory in hopes that once the \$2 million dollar infrastructure is completed, paid time by astronomers will sustain its operation. He hopes to commence construction in 2 years. Although the observatory may be accessible to visitors he hopes that an astrolabe visitor centre would be built by private/public investors to educate the public about astronomy and become a tourist destination. A similar provincially owned astro-park already exists in Quebec although the skies on Mallory Hill are darker.



[www.elektraobservatories.com](http://www.elektraobservatories.com)



# Doug Bible of Lake Skootamatta (1917–2008)

by Carolyn McCulloch

**D**oug Bible shared the memories of his childhood on Loon Lake (*Skootamatta*) with us shortly after his ninetieth birthday in the summer of 2007. He was feisty, sure of foot, full of fun, with an acute memory when he welcomed us to Big Island on that bright day. Sadly, he died in February of 2008. We'll miss him, and dedicate this story to the memory of one of the Lake Skootamatta's earliest pioneers.

Doug was the son of the original "Poppa Bible" who came to the Lake when Doug was seven years old. Poppa built the original cottage close to where the existing cottage is, but it was destroyed by fire before 1926 while his mother, Dorothy, was away at the store with his brother. The family stayed across the lake in an isolated cabin owned by people whose name was Dunlop. They remained there for two or three summers while the cottage was being rebuilt. *(there is a window frame that still exists from the ruins of that cabin, and remarkably, a mature maple tree now fills the space in the center of the frame. It may be seen on the property at the entrance to the narrows, now owned by Don and Hannah Bailey.)* That early cabin, was identical to the one on the opposite side of the narrows that is owned by Darrien and Gord Kissman.

Young Doug and his family eventually came back to spend his happy summers on Big Island. What summers they were. What fun they had. Can you imagine four little boys out in a boat with two sets of oars in the locks, creating so much speed that they could troll for fish? And to make it even better, one of those little fellows was Clayton Moore who in later life became the Lone Ranger. Doug remembers that Clayton also had brothers, and that with the same boat they made a sail with an old sheet, held it to the wind and sailed it across the lake.

Mrs. Wise ran a store in the village that had everything hungry little boys could ever want. They soon learned that she was a generous soul and would give them marshmallow filled chocolate covered cookies when they were damaged, as she could not sell them. While she was busy, the children would go in front of

the tray, and make sure there were some broken ones. When Doug was older he learned that Poppa Bible and Sadie Wise were a team. Poppa always settled the account for the broken cookies.

There were blueberries growing all over Big Island. Doug attributed this to the fact that blueberries require a lot of sun. He remembered that there were many tall spired trees with no limbs at the bottom, and the sun shone through to the berries. He was not sure, but wondered if these were trees that had survived the forest fire that raged on Loon (*Skootamatta*) Lake earlier in that century. Presently, there is second growth which creates shade and there are few blueberries.

Tiny Osborne organized all the activity on the lake, and there certainly was a lot of spirit. Archie Meeks, a blind man who lived on Loon (*Skootamatta*) Lake Road rented out boats to the cottagers. At that time a well known resident, Harold Ballard, owned old time racing boats. They were called Sea Fleas, and the Bible Sea Flea was called the Galloping Ghost.

The early development on the lake was at Trails End. Everyone gathered there to buy milk at Fennells store *(later owned by Harold Maybee)* and to share the news. In the beginning, most cottages had an ice house, and during the winter, villagers would come out to cut and supply ice for the cottagers. People eventually turned to propane as a source of refrigeration as the ice on the lake had become too thin to support the weight of the horses and the blocks of ice. Perhaps global warming is not as recent as we think.

There was a sawmill in the bay in front of Doreen Wood Howard's house *(this is the house where Ken and*



Sign on a tree near the main boat launch points the way to the Bible cottage. (Photo Cathy Hook)

*Cathy Hook now live*) and Doug remembered an intriguing map on the wall in 1926. It was entitled the *Plan and Field Notes of the Sub Division of Big Island in Loon Lake: 1922*.

Life moved along and Doug enlisted in the army and went overseas with the Royal Canadian Artillery in WWII. He was involved in the liberation of the area around Nijmegen in Holland. He remembered those War Years, and the part that Loon Lake (*Skootamatta*) played. There was an RCAF training base in the Upper Lake, where an airplane was forced down and the fuselage broke off. (*the large propeller was retrieved and now rests at the Dacuks property on Hughes Landing Road*).

He married, had children, and Skootamatta became the center of their family life. They even traveled there in the middle of Hurricane Hazel. The waves were so high that he had to arrive at the back of the island with his wife Bev, two children Mike and Lynn and Poppa Bible. He jokingly shared that Bev pronounced him crazy after the ride. The lake had been so churned up by the high winds that it was covered with a white froth for days after the storm.

The original Poppa Bible died, and soon with still another generation on the lake, Doug proudly became the new Poppa Bible to his grandchildren. Over the years, although the island is still officially Big Island, people referred to it as Bible Island. Because of its location and accessibility it became a refuge.

A Sheldrake Bay cottager fondly remembers Doug Bible: "I remember the first time I was ever on Lake Skootamatta—1963. I was trying to get to Sheldrake Bay with my elderly parents. We had a little boat with a small engine on it. A storm arose just as we were in front of Bible's Island, and we decided to move into the dock there for refuge. And from the age he would be today, I suspect that Poppa Bible was our major host. They took us in, fed us, served us coffee and let us get dry. We never made it to Sheldrake Bay that day, but we surely had a good introduction to Skootamatta hospitality. I am sure that there have been countless times since then when the Bibles have rescued our friends and families in distress."

It was very clear that we were talking to a man who had lived well, laughed often, loved much and gained the respect of his friends and family. He contributed much to the history on Lake Skootamatta. We'll miss him.

*(Article printed with permission of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)*

## Layzell-Tate Family of Skootamatta

by Ruth Tate

**D**id you know, the Tate residence was once a fishing lodge, built in the mid 30's on Loon Lake, now called Skootamatta Lake?

Mrs. Rutland, the owner, called it Rutland Lodge. It accommodated about 30 guests. There were 5 small cabins, 3 house keeping cabins and one "staff house".

Since there was no road, supplies were brought in by boat, from Trails End. There was no hydro, but she had a "Delco" system, which supplied minimum electricity.

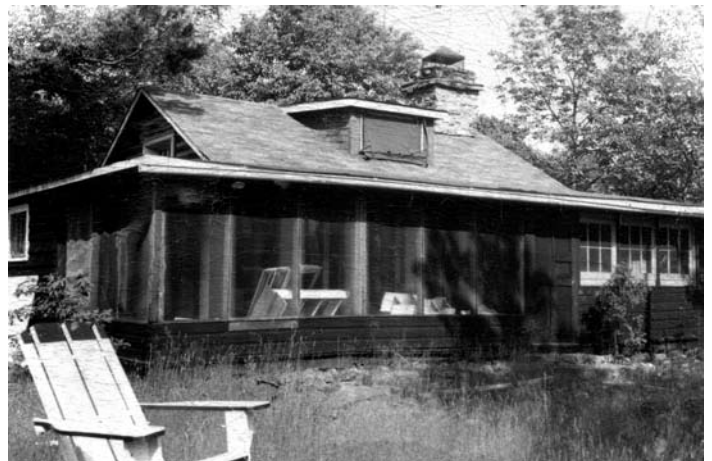
Guests were picked up at Trails End by boat. The cabins had "ice boxes" cooled by hunks of ice. Ernie Tully cut the ice blocks in the winter and they were stored in the ice house, covered with sawdust.

In 1946 my dad and mom, Edith and Bill Layzell bought this lodge. Dad kept it running for one summer only, as he was "Manager Director" of the Addressograph-Multigraph Company in Toronto. Dad had renovations done by Ernie Tully and later by Dr. Art Scott.

Edith and Bill kept it as a summer residence, enjoying it with their family and friends. Dad and Mom retired there in 1965 until dad died in 1971. In 1976, Jack and I, moved here permanently with 3 of our 5 children.

I have many fond memories of my wonderful years spent on beautiful Skootamatta Lake.

*(The Tate residence is located on Osborne Point Road and enjoys a view of the lower lake, Big Island and the narrows beyond).*



Picture circa 1946 after Ruth Tate's mom and dad, Edith and Bill Layzell, purchased Rutland Lodge.

# Mining in Ontario: Know your land

Lynn Garnish



**F**rontenac County in Southeastern Ontario is a rocky and rough terrain an hour's drive away from Kingston and Ottawa, yet wild and undisturbed.

The beauty of the land is what brought Frank and Gloria Morrison to this area. They thought they had found a little piece of paradise where they could retire. But two years ago, their dreams suddenly appeared in peril. Working in the woods, Frank noticed a small silver tag on one of his trees. He quickly realized the tag belonged to a prospector. Unannounced and uninvited, a prospector had staked a mining claim to the Morrisons' property. From that moment the prospector could show up anytime he pleased and have full access to the land he had staked.

"It shocked me," Frank Morrison told W-FIVE. "But once you go into the background of mining, staking and prospecting, you quickly realize it's their right by

law to be able to do that." While the Morrisons had invested their life savings to save the environmentally-sensitive land, all the prospector had paid was \$25 for a permit that could potentially destroy it.

The Morrisons' story is not unique, with approximately two per cent of the property owners in Southeastern Ontario in the same position. A small percentage, but still thousands of people, who own the surface rights to the land but don't own what's below the surface: the minerals.

"In order for them to drill they will remove the topsoil until it's absolutely bare rock for the drill to get into the rock and drill down," said Frank Morrison. In most cases they won't find anything, because according to the Ministry's own statistics, only one in 10,000 exploration projects actually becomes a mine.

Ontario covers more than one million square kilometres. Sixty per cent of the bedrock is Precambrian Shield found in Northern Ontario. This area is the source of most of Ontario's minerals and metals as well as some industrial minerals and building stone. Younger sedimentary rocks, which underlie the rest of the province, also host industrial minerals and building stone. The vast majority of exploration and mining activity takes place in the North. In 2006 for example, 66,926 new claim units were recorded for all of Ontario. Only 494 of them were located in southern Ontario.

## How to get more information

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines provides a wide range of information resources on mining and mineral exploration in Ontario.

- The CLAIMaps website [www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/claimap3/default\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/claimap3/default_e.asp) provides information and the location of approximately 228,894 active mining claim units throughout Ontario. Information is updated every day. The ministry also provides detailed geological maps of Ontario indicating areas where the greatest mineral potential exists. The public is also encouraged to contact the Provincial Mining Recorder's Office [www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/pro/contact\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mines/lands/pro/contact_e.asp).

Additional information is also accessible at the following web sites:

- The ERMES Web site at [www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/ermes/default\\_e.asp](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/mndm/mines/ermes/default_e.asp)
- The Mining Gateway – ServiceOntario [www.serviceontario.ca/mining/english/default.htm](http://www.serviceontario.ca/mining/english/default.htm)
- Cottage Life—Mining rights links [www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci\\_id/16778/la\\_id/1.htm](http://www.cottagelife.com/index.cfm/ci_id/16778/la_id/1.htm) ■



## Try this Winning Recipe!

Marty McBride had the winning recipe in the contest sponsored by the SDRA and Cloyne Village Foods. Marty receives a SDRA sweatshirt, complimentary meat order, and BBQ Tool Set.

### ***BIG ISLAND BURGER***

1 lb MEDIUM ground beef  
2 tbsp MONTREAL STEAK SPICE  
1 tsp minced garlic  
1 egg  
breadcrumbs  
(makes 3, 1/3 lb patties)



# Annual General Meeting & BBQ

## Saturday July 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

**The meeting will be held at the Cloyne Free Methodist Church**

Last year we saw a change in venue for the AGM from the horseshoe pit near Trail's End to the basement of the Free Methodist Church in Cloyne. It is a perfect spot for our presenters, comfortable for our members and no rain date is needed.

2009 Agenda items include:

- RFP Update
- Lake Management Plan Survey results
- Water Quality

Reeve Henry Hogg and Deputy Reeve Helen Yanch have been invited

This year we are taking a break from clothing sales but have an exciting new product which will be available at the AGM—SDRA “green” tote bags.

Please note that 2008 AGM minutes are available on the website [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca).



## SDRA Tote Bags for sale at AGM

- Made of polypropylene containing 40% recycled content
- 24” wrap-around carry handles with bound seams for added strength
- Deep 8” gusset makes it an ideal grocery shopping tote
- Bottom insert for stability
- Green with the SDRA logo
- available only at the AGM
- \$5.00



The SDRA purchased new signs and banners in 2008. Northbrook Outfitters Contracting donated the labour and materials to build two new sign structures—one at the boat launch (above) and one at the Hughes Landing Road turn. Mulch was donated by Snider Sand and Gravel. The SDRA was asked to post winter parking signs requesting vehicles be moved after a snow storm to allow plowing by the Township. The winter parking signs were donated by Stacey's Custom Graphics.

**Fishing Season  
Opening Dates (Zone 18)**

**Large & Smallmouth Bass**

Opens the fourth Saturday in June and closes Nov 30

**Walleye**

January 1 – March 1

2nd Saturday in May – Dec. 31

**Family Fishing  
Weekend**

Ontario Family Fishing Weekend

Friday July 10 – Sunday July 12

[www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca)



**The Township of Addington Highlands  
And  
The Township of North Frontenac**

**Notice of Change in the  
Cloyne Transfer Station Open Hours**

Effective May 15, 2009  
the Cloyne Transfer Station Summer Sunday  
Open Hours will be changed  
from 9 am – 1 pm to 10 am – 6 pm

**Reminder  
As of September 15, 2009**

Any person operating a powered recreational vessel must have proof of competency on board at all times.

All persons who rent and operate any powered recreational vessel will be required to complete a Rental Boat Safety Checklist unless they have proof of competency.

For more information on boating safety, call this toll-free number: 1-800-267-6687 [www.boatingsafety.gc.ca](http://www.boatingsafety.gc.ca)

Study online at [www.freecourse.ca](http://www.freecourse.ca) and write the exam by mail, email or at a testing centre (locally Smart's Marina is a testing centre. Call 613-336-2222 to make an appointment to write the exam). The cost to write a freecourse exam is \$25.00.

Operating a power driven pleasure craft without the required proof of competency carries a \$250 fine. An insufficient number of approved appropriately sized flotation devices carries a \$200 fine (for each absent device).

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