



## President's Message

There are many welcome signs of Spring at the lake; the ice breaks up and sinks, the loons come back, and new life can be seen everywhere. There is also the S.D.R.A. Spring newsletter, which many lakefront property owners see as a sure sign that summer cannot be far away.

On behalf of the S.D.R.A. team, I'd like to welcome everyone back to another season of special memories at the lake. I have the good fortune to live on Skootamatta year round and I love the peace and beauty of the winter season. However, I still clearly recall the anticipation and excitement of "opening up" the cottage in the spring. Our waterfront properties are very important to us. They allow us to escape from the demands of our busy lives, to spend quality time with our loved ones and to appreciate the beauty and tranquility of the natural world. We truly "live" at the lake.

In order to protect these special places on Sheldrake, Pringle and Skootamatta lakes, the S.D.R.A. team has been working diligently during the fall and winter on a variety of issues and initiatives. These efforts are outlined in more detail in the pages of this newsletter and they show the passion and vision of dedicated volunteers as they endeavour to preserve the quality and tranquility of our lakefront properties.

It is a privilege to work with such a capable and focused team of people, whose vision is one that we all share...a love of the lakes and a desire to protect and maintain them in a healthy state as a legacy for our children and grandchildren. With the many tasks that have been undertaken, we are always in need of help. Perhaps you might consider volunteering for a director's position on our Board at the July AGM or be willing to join a committee?

In keeping with working toward common goals, I would like to draw your attention to a very important issue, the upcoming fall municipal election in Addington Highlands. (See the Election article on page 6.) The waterfront property owners in this township represent approximately 56% of voters and shoulder a large percentage of the tax burden.

This election is an opportunity for us to elect representatives who are sympathetic to our particular concerns, approachable on issues and who are willing to partner with us as we move forward. We can make a critical difference in the outcome of the election if we take the time to become familiar with the candidates' platforms and exercise our right to vote on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We need to be proactive, to make sure that our voices are heard,

## Spring 2010

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The winning photo in the 2009 SDRA photo contest was taken by Judy Coulter



2nd place – Judy Coulter



3rd place – Louise Cole



Photo – John Trimble



Photo – Susan Willemssen



Winners of the poster contest – Jessica and Rachel

**Hope to see you at our 2010 Lake Events!**



and elect those people who will show integrity, be honest and open-minded and who will be inclusive in their approach to representing the interests of waterfront property owners in this township. In this way, we will be taken seriously and not viewed as “summer” people who are apathetic, at best, about what goes on in this township. In fact, the voter turnout for 2006 was only 32%, likely because few waterfront property owners voted.

Please take the time to become familiar with the election process this summer. Be sure that you are on the voter’s list and learn more about the candidates. Together, we can have a significant impact on decisions made at the municipal level which directly affect us.

In closing, I hope that you will find this newsletter to be interesting and informative. A great deal of time and thought has gone into the preparation of the various articles. I also urge you to read over the enclosed Constitutional Amendment suggestions and to attend the AGM on July 3rd at 10:00 a.m. the Pineview Free Methodist Church in Cloyne to vote on these amendments. I look forward to seeing many of you on the lake and at the various events over the summer.

Welcome back!

*Laury Hitchcock*

## PASSAGES

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

The Dacuk Family (Vera Pauline Dacuk)

The Meikle Family (Margaret “Miki”)

The Mahoney Family (Kay Babcock)

The Thompson Family (son-in-law Renard Campmans)

The Brundage Family (Denise's Mom Anne Benedetti)

## Editor’s Note

I want to thank everyone who contributed information, articles and photos to the Newsletter.

This year the calendar of events is part of the newsletter. You can cut it out to stick on your bulletin board or download it from the website and print your own. Look for the loon  on the calendar to identify lake events. The newsletter is also available for online viewing at [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca).

## SDRA EXECUTIVE 2009-2010

Laury Hitchcock  
*President*

Kent Farrow  
*Past President*

Hermann Balon  
*Treasurer*

Rosemary Teed  
*Director—Lake  
Steward*

Bill Garnish  
*Director—Lake  
Economic Development*

Derek Mendam  
*Director—Sheldrake  
Lake Rep*

Jane Falby  
*Director*

Karen Stacey  
*Vice-President*

TBA  
*Secretary*

Gordon McCulloch  
*Director*

Jim Osborne  
*Director—Legal  
Affairs*

Gary Evans  
*Director &  
Webmaster*

Cathy Hook  
*Director &  
Newsletter Editor*

Our thanks and best wishes to Heather Machan for her many contributions as a member of the SDRA Executive.

## FOSSP LMP COMMITTEE

Rosemary Teed  
Gord Birnie  
Gord McCulloch  
Laury Hitchcock  
Bill Garnish  
Pat Falby

Bruce Goodale  
Derek Mendham  
*Sheldrake*  
Bob Hasler, *Pringle*  
John Coulter, *Advisor*  
Henry Hogg, *Reeve*

## ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

Bill Garnish  
Derek Mendham  
John Coulter  
Larry Craggs  
Jim Osborne  
Kent Farrow

Rosemary Teed  
Laury Hitchcock  
Don Hall  
Gordon Birnie  
Pat Falby  
Hugh Rose (member  
until last spring)

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Kent Farrow  
Jim Osborne

Hermann Balon

# "What has the SDRA done in the past and what do they continue to do?"

Lynn Garnish, Kent Farrow,  
Jim Osborne

There are new residents and cottagers coming to Lake Skootamatta and the surrounding area as homes and cottages change hands with the generations. We thought it would be timely to review a few of the issues that the SDRA has championed or was instrumental in changing in the past. Additionally, we want to list a few of our ongoing jobs and some new ones we have undertaken for you, our constituents.

## Past Achievements

- Due to the significant water level changes from spring to fall and the dock displacement caused by these changes the SDRA, then known as The Greater Loon Lake Association, undertook discussions with the MNR. As a result, during the summer of 1955, a new dam was built. Interestingly, just last year, that dam was repaired due to similar due-diligence by our 'eyes-on-the-lake' team.
- Prior to the Township having an Official Plan, the SDRA assumed the role of gatekeeper to unregulated development. We prevented a project for a 20 backlot/townsite development at the Sand Beach on the north side of the Lower Lake in the late 60's and in the mid-70's lobbied against and prevented a pending sale of Crown Land on the west side of the narrows. In 1983 we were instrumental in preventing a proposed "trailer park" at the boat launch.
- Due to increasing infestations during the late 80's we arranged for spraying against the influx of the Spruce bud worm.
- We provided a great deal of the "legwork" to assist with 911 identification numbers in 1992-1993.
- We have worked with the MNR and the local COFA group relative to fish stocking and developing enhanced fish spawning sites

## Today and going Forward

- Our overriding objective, as outlined in our Constitution, is to advance the interests of property owners

and their families resident on, and adjacent to Sheldrake, Skootamatta and Pringle Lakes. In that vein we attempt to provide a forum for Lake residents to discuss issues and subsequently act as the conduit through which such issues are raised or discussed with the appropriate level of government; Township or Municipal, County and Provincial for resolution.

- We monitor Lake Water quality on a yearly basis working with our community partner the MOE Lakes Partnership Testing Program, thereby establishing a comparative water quality data base. We are assisting Sheldrake and Pringle this year, so that they too join the Partnership Program, 2010 being their base year. We have also contracted with private water testing firm, Caducean, to measure on a random basis various contaminants not measured by the MOE program.
- We are a member of WRAFT which works to promote fair taxation of area residents
- We attempt to foster good relationships with local Municipal officials and elected members of council to support and promote the prudent administration of the Township by elected officials. We hold a seat on the AH Economic Advisors for Development Committee to contribute toward and analyze Township economic development initiatives.
- The SDRA has been an active and participating voice in the recent Eco-Tourism Resort RFPs pertaining to Sheldrake Lake.
- One of our key responsibilities to our community is that of providing information. We do so by maintaining a comprehensive and currently maintained web site, and through the publication of our annual newsletter, both of which provide information on various activities in the area, historical commentary and useful information, potentially of interest to our members. In addition, we hold our AGM in early July to update folks on what's going on and what is of significant importance each year, as well as organizing informational seminars and other mailings for communicative purposes.
- We attempt to support the community by making an annual donation if our budget permits. We try to choose an organization that makes the maximum effort to reach a broad community sector.
- As most of you may know the SDRA maintains, through a joint lease agreement with the Township, the primary Skootamatta Lake boat launch, dock, parking lots and surrounding area at Trails End.

Maintenance includes the repair of the concrete boat ramp, access roads and concrete dock, grass cutting, removal of damaged or dead trees. Some of the financial support for maintenance is obtained through contributions to an on-site collection box where launchers are asked to donate a nominal fee for usage.

- The SDRA has and will organize social events. Examples in the past have included, horse-shoe tournaments, baseball games, pot luck dinners, sailing regattas, swims and various contests. Your voluntary monetary contributions, pay for Star Fire Pyrotechnics to put on the end of summer fireworks. We organize the sale of clothing items specific to Skootamatta Lake through an advance purchase order system.
- We maintain 2 portable fire pumps on Skootamatta Lake which could be used to assist an Emergency Fire call to 911. But 911 is the first call to make!
- This year the SDRA is placing a strong focus on stimulating greater voter participation by seasonal residents. We elect the governments we deserve so please make your vote count this fall.

The BEST insurance policy you can buy, to protect your property and cottage enjoyment, is a \$50.00 membership in the SDRA

investigate the Birch tree deterioration.

- We hosted the Junior Rangers who spent a day with a group of SDRA volunteers cleaning up camp sites. We arranged with the Township to provide “free” tipping of garbage collected from the campsites

and we subsequently disposed of three truckloads of garbage. Our Thanks to Addington Highlands for their support!

- Requested and received a report from the MNR and KFL&A Health Unit regarding a complaint about an abandoned septic system and fuel storage at the former Loon Lake Lodge.

- The SDRA initiated a series of correspondence to the KFL&A Public Health and to local municipal governments and lake associations in the area bringing visibility and accountability to KFL&A Health Unit to reconsider their proposal to withdraw services for inspecting and granting permits for new septic systems. This has been successful, as the KFL&A Public Health have just announced they will retain the job.
- We have worked with local council to resolve a situation related to the clear cutting of a protected shoreline, a contravention of an existing land agreement.
- One of our SDRA executive now holds a seat on the AHEAD (Addington Highlands Economic Advisors for Development) where the attendance and participation of one of our members ensures an added voice for our constituents through active participation in the community.
- 2009 was the year we saw the finale of an RFP to build an Eco-Lodge on Sheldrake Lake as we were continuously our constituent's voice in its subsequent withdrawal.
- We all enjoy the fun when Skootamatta friends get together and 2009 was no exception, from pot-luck dinners to July 1 boat parades to the annual fireworks display.

## What did your SDRA do in 2009?

Lynn Garnish, Kent Farrow,  
Jim Osborne

- The SDRA Board meets as an executive throughout the year to discuss issues and plan events. With email and internet we are able to communicate effectively all year!
- We attended several Township Council meetings to keep abreast of Council activities and attempted to keep current by local contact with elected officials.
- We continued with the work of the LMP, endorsed by the membership in 2008. This is a long term Stewardship plan of action which attempts to include the entire community so that it will reflect and preserve the special character of the 3 lakes, Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle.
- We invited our community partners, the MNR from Bancroft, to visit us and review camp sites and

We hope you join us for another wonderful year on the lake and we look forward to meeting you again at the Annual General Meeting July 3. Your concerns and comments about any of our activities are appreciated. And, if you know someone who has moved into the area, please invite them to the AGM. We would love to meet them!

# Addington Highlands Municipal Election

Laury Hitchcock

- On Monday, **October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010**, the Township of Addington Highlands will be holding its municipal election.
- Waterfront property owners in Addington Highlands pay **60% of the total tax dollars** paid by residential property owners in this township.
- If you are a **resident** of Addington Highlands or you **own property** in the township or you are the **spouse of a property owner**, you are eligible to vote in this election.
- Ratepayers will receive enumeration forms in the mail from the Township, before the **voter's list comes out on July 31<sup>st</sup>**. These forms will need to be filled out and mailed back in order to be eligible to vote.
- If, for some reason, you do not receive enumeration forms and you believe that you should be on the voter's list, you should **contact the Addington Highlands Township** office at **613-336-2286 after August 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- Voting via the internet and telephone will most likely be available as in 2006.
- In **September**, a package will be mailed out to voters with a PIN and instructions for online or telephone voting.
- Online and telephone votes will be **remotely counted** and results will be made available within a couple of days of the election. They will be **posted in the Addington Highlands office** and on their **website** or can be obtained by calling the Township office.
- Electors in Ward 2 can vote **once for each councilor candidate** and can **vote for one candidate for the office of Reeve**.
- In the 2006 municipal election, the total number of electors for Ward 2 was **2791, of which 1224 were resident and 1567 were non-resident**.
- Only **32%** of all the electors **voted in the 2006 election**.
- Check our website at [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca) for further details about the election.

If you have any other questions or concerns about the upcoming election, you should contact Tanya Rosenblath

or Jack Pauhl at the Addington Highlands Township Office.

I would like to acknowledge Tanya and Jack for their assistance as I gathered the facts for this article.

If you have any issues, concerns or questions that you would like to see addressed by the candidates, please forward them to the [webmaster@skootamatta.ca](mailto:webmaster@skootamatta.ca) for input into our SDRA candidate questionnaire. ■

## 2009–10 Treasurer's Report

Hermann Balon

March 15, 2010

### COSTS

SDRA Economic Committee	182.06
Publication	2,883.35
Lake Management Plan	717.84
AGM Costs	417.96
Logo Items	1,015.73
Maintenance	700.00
Member Events	289.65
Contests	100.00
Administration	334.17
LCD Projector	677.99
Web Site Hosting	268.94
Insurance	972.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8559.69</b>

### INCOME

Paid members (185 x \$50 for 2009)	9,400.00
Advertising revenue	1,162.00
Ramp fees collected	88.71
Clothing cash sales	620.00
Interest earned	2.46
Sheldrake LMP	344.91
Moved to Cash Float	-3.71
<b>TOTAL (2009-10 Income)</b>	<b>11,614.37</b>
Balance carried forward	8230.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,845.12</b>
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>11,285.43</b>



# Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington Health Unit Announce they Plan to Withdraw From Section VIII Building Code Septic Inspections.

Rosemary Teed, Lake Steward

Quote. . . Copied from the KFL&A Public Health Website

Sewage Treatment System Consultation

*"KFL&A Public Health works with eight municipalities in the KFL&A area to provide permits and enforce the provisions of Division B Part 8 of the Ontario Building Code 350/06. A permit to install or construct a sewage system is required in order for municipalities to issue a building permit. An application, including the design and layout of the proposed system and components (lot lines; existing, proposed, or neighbouring wells; the building footprint; driveways; and roadways) must be submitted.*

*Public health inspectors review each application and will inspect the site to assess the soil conditions and review the requirements of the Building Code. A fee is charged for this service. Please contact the Environmental Health Program for more information."*

The Frontenac News provided the first information that the KFL&A Public Health Unit planned to withdraw their inspection services, with very little notice, from the 8 municipalities in which they conduct these assessments and issue permits. In assessing this issue, the SDRA felt that third party permitting was a critical aspect of the approval of any new system. In many parts of the province this type of inspection is not required due to community sewage systems that preclude separate septic tanks and leaching beds. In rural Ontario, septic tanks are a way of life and so is the potential of contamination to wells and the pollution of streams and waterways. Let's just face it! This is excrement and flushing a toilet in a rural area does not send that waste to a sewage treatment plant, but simply to a tank in your yard.

Where that tank and leaching bed is placed is critical to you, your neighbours and to any waterway nearby.

Is it possible the final placement of a new system could contaminate your well or someone else's? What type of percolation rate does your soil type generate? Where is bedrock, how much fill might one need to make a satisfactory leaching bed? What is the land slope? How fast is run off on gravel, sand, clay or near pre-Cambrian shield rock? Is there even sufficient depth of soil available? All these questions and many more have been assessed in past by the KFL&A Public Health Unit for the Township of Addington Highlands. A fee is charged by the Health Unit (as we have called it) to pay for their costs of inspection, approval and permitting for the Township once the location is deemed suitable. This is not an ideal situation, but it has a record of success.

The potential withdrawal of this service means that the onus falls on small Townships to hire other staff or re-allocate the job to existing staff, such as local building inspectors. Some of these inspectors have training in the field and may issue permits; some must go back to school for training. The most important fact is that our Township has had frequent changes of personnel in the Building Inspector position in the past few years and the hours presently worked, 2 days a week, seem stretched to the limit, just to meet the basic demands of the job.

The SDRA feels that third party permitting is essential for an unbiased assessment of any sight under review. We think that a qualified and impartial party must approve the septic sight and installation. This person needs to have extensive knowledge and experience in the field of waste and waste water. We do know that the Conservation Groups have waste water specialists. We support either the Health Unit continuing with their in-house personnel, who have a vested interest in Community Health issues as we can see from their mandate, or the Township contracting out the inspections to the qualified personnel of a Conservation Group.

Although these may seem logical alternatives there is more at stake. Responsibilities have been downloaded from various agencies and Ministries over the past several years, beginning in earnest during the amalgamation of Counties and Townships under the Mike Harris government. We can still debate the pros and cons of these amalgamations but, unfortunately, the end result has been small rural Townships left with significant requirements to deal with real issues and little access to the dollars to support those requirements or the skilled personnel locally to complete the work. We need to remember that Walkerton is not long in the past and that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Environ-

ment have responsibilities to the citizenry.

There is concern for the continued development of rural lands and the ongoing pressure of septic tank and leaching bed installations. When we get right down to it, there are only Section 8 building regulations and nothing that covers existing systems, some of them old, damaged, leaking, or possibly non-existent. Without a simple set of guidelines for governance by a single agency, it is wild-waste-west out here.

In my investigation of this proposed withdrawal of services, I have spoken to many environmentalists, contractors who install septic, and waste water specialists. What I've heard from all of them is that we need new septic system permits investigated thoroughly by a stable, knowledgeable agency with the authority to act if there are problems. It should be third party as Townships themselves have a vested interest in simply issuing the permit as it provides income, which is much needed in small economically challenged areas.

As Canadians we look around us at the plentitude of lakes and rivers and feel we have a right to clean water. We do. However, it will take some work by all of us to keep it that way. If we ignore lack of oversight regarding issues of waste and waste water we can look forward to polluted wells, streams and waterways for the next generation.

North Frontenac Township entered into a strictly voluntary program of existing septic system checks with the Conservation Authority in their area. The numbers show that roughly 59% of existing systems had problems, some slight and some gravely serious. What the province really needs is an agency that has teeth and oversight or we face continued contamination threats. It stands to reason, given their mandates that the fit is either with the Health or Environment Ministries. When one assesses the situation one finds that there has been so much downloading and off-loading of responsibilities that no one is responsible now. There is a word for this and it relates directly to sewage.

The SDRA sent a series of letters about the potential withdrawal of services by KFL&A which we provide for your review at our website [http://www.skootamatta.ca/archives/news/2009/2009\\_news.shtml](http://www.skootamatta.ca/archives/news/2009/2009_news.shtml). Read about the support we received from other Lake Associations who knew nothing about the proposed withdrawal until we wrote to them. Even other affected Townships were surprised by the KFL&A action. We want you to be aware of this serious issue, the potential ramifications and what we have attempted and will continue to do.

## News Flash March 29, 2010

Word has just been received by the SDRA that the KFL&A Health Unit will not withdraw services but continue new septic inspections and permitting under Section 8. Protesting arbitrary agency decisions and supporting our local Council has achieved a desired outcome. AH Township will continue contracting the Health Unit for third party Septic permitting. Now we need to turn our attention to existing septic system oversight.

## Ontario's Partner Program

Director Gord McCulloch

To obtain meaningful data on an annual basis the sites (GPS readings), and the time of year should be as consistent as possible. We are limited to 3 test kits for Phosphorus. Two readings per site are done. The differences in two readings taken at the same place and time (within 2 to 3 minutes) show a fair margin of error.

The higher Phosphorus reading in 2009 is partly explained because the samples were collected almost 3 weeks later than in 2008. Both average readings are lower than years prior to 2008 when most sampling was done later in the summer.

### Phosphorus Results 2008 and 2009

Site	2008		2009	
#1	7.9	10.0	8.3	10.2
#2	7.8	7.5	8.6	8
#3	8.8	7.2	7.9	9.5
Average	8.2		8.75	

Our water clarity averages taken over 4 months were 4.2 meters in 2008 and 4.2 meters in 2009. These depths of site are higher than previous years.

In conversation with Lake Partners supervisor our tests over time suggest our lake is stable, not a concern at present.

A test kit for both Pringle and Sheldrake has been requested to track our source lakes.



# Summer Campsite Cleanup with Partners

## SDRA & Junior Rangers

Rosemary Teed, Lake Steward

Monday, July 20, 2009 was a big day on Skootamatta Lake. The Junior Rangers from the Machesney Lake Camp arrived to partner with the SDRA in cleaning up our campsites and beaches on Crown Land. We had a big haul of garbage and many willing hands made the work fun, with everyone knowing that it was certainly a good cause. Wilderness camping is a privilege and we need to know that whatever we carry in, we must carry out, in order to leave the site clean and clear of all debris and belongings.

The Junior Ranger Team, under the supervision of Aaron Wilson, who has headed the Machesney camp for several years, embodied good spirits and high energy. These young men all worked hard and knew their stuff. All fire rings were made into the **correct horseshoe shape** with the high side towards the lake and prevailing wind to give shelter to the campfire. The horseshoe shape allows for a grill on the rocks above the coals without campers reaching over hot rocks. The ring around the fire is cleared of all dry plant material to bare earth or rock to prevent forest fire. Every site was cleaned, raked and returned to as pristine a natural setting as possible.

The Ontario Youth Employment program hires these Rangers, who are all 17 years of age. The boys were all appreciative of this work as their experience this summer opens doors for future summer employment in a number of areas.



"Everyone who enjoys this beautiful lake can see the effects of this team effort the next time they visit any one of our campsites. New signage is going up at each location asking campers to leave the site clear and clean." (Photo John Teager)

Laury Hitchcock, Kent Farrow, Bill Garnish and Rosemary & John Teed, worked alongside the Rangers by dividing the Lake into different sections and ferrying Rangers to the pre-selected sites. Everyone who enjoys this beautiful lake can see the effects of the team effort the next time they visit any one of our campsites. New signage is going up at each location asking campers to leave the site clear and clean. This signage is currently under development by the MNR. All that is required now is



The Junior Ranger Team from Machesney Lake in front of one of the three truckloads of garbage removed from campsites around the lake this past July. (Photo Laury Hitchcock)

finalization of the amount of fine for cutting trees. Once MNR has that completed we will partner with them to get these new signs posted...and hope it helps.

Three truck loads of garbage was the end result and our Township of Addington Highlands helped us in our initiative by accepting this garbage without a tipping fee. We thank them for their much appreciated cooperation in this good work. The SDRA is proud of our effort and extends their appreciation to the Junior Rangers for their tremendous help, Addington Highlands Township for their support and the MNR who have jurisdiction over the crown land and its signage.

We are asking for helpers! The Junior Rangers are scheduled to arrive again this summer. Do you want to be involved? Call the organizer of this year's clean-up: Laury Hitchcock at 336-2394 or even offer some snacks for hungry young workers.

# Friends of SSP (Skootamatta, Sheldrake, Pringle) FOSSP

Rosemary Teed, Lake Steward

*"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature.  
It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."*

-Henry David Thoreau



Working towards the development of a Lake Management Plan is not easy for any lake and our watershed of Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle is no exception. We have a great team, with ideas and a passion for the area which is a primary prerequisite. Our committee includes: Derek Mendham from Sheldrake, Bob Hasler from Pringle, and Gord Birnie, Bill Garnish, Gord McCulloch, Bruce Goodale, Laury Hitchcock and me from Skootamatta and environs.

We have learned a great deal and the big lesson this year is how much work it requires to tabulate a high volume of Survey respondents who answered 45 questions per survey and added lots of comments.

*... a Lake Plan is a watershed plan broken up into more tangible and manageable pieces and put into the hands of the community.*

FOCA Handbook

Wiser lake groups have used simpler methods of surveying but we learned the hard way. It took days of inputting preceded by hours of checking and verification, followed by a great deal of staring into computer screens and wrestling with publishing programs, to produce the final product. We are proud of your contributions. Without the tremendous response we received from you,

the responders, there would be no statistics and facts to analyze or publish. Our hats are off to all contributors. We have published all the responses to last Spring's survey in a booklet that will be mailed to you shortly. Your combined answers have been graphed and analyzed. They are your inputs and we have published the collective voice of the community so you can see just what this vicinity is saying. We want you to take time to read it to see just what it says about the neighbourhood of Sheldrake, Skootamatta and Pringle. Watch for the Survey summary coming to you by mail.

We are, as a Committee, assessing the results of this survey and in turn, developing our direction from it. Besides the Survey we have been gathering contacts and material. We have many Community partners now who know us and are supporting what we are attempting to accomplish. With their help and advice you will see some interesting things happening around here. You'll be invited to participate in many ways. Sometimes we need more help and if you have some interest in any aspect of the LMP let us know because we can use everyone's expertise. Sometimes we'll invite you to join a workshop on some lake plan related issue such as shoreline naturalization, host a member of a naturalist club overnight, take part in an interview, maybe write up a family history. There are many ways we'd like you to contribute and, don't worry, we'll be asking. (You may volunteer at our website [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca) at the FOSSP tab.)

In the meantime we've asked the MNR for some fund-

ing under their CFWIP program and have also applied to the Earth Day Canada Community Environmental Fund to see if we can obtain some helpful dollars. Our plan, for that money is to develop our benchmark "State of Lake" report, along with some draft recommenda-

*"One of your most powerful tools is to write a report on your own lake and area. After all, who knows your lake and area better than you?"*

*... J Strickland*

engaged. They have opened the door to some interesting projects and possibly hands on help. We are working with the Quinte Conservation who is immensely helpful in all aspects of our initiative. Our AGM this July will highlight a speaker, Terry Sprague, who is sponsored by Quinte. He is a naturalist and outdoor events coordinator with a great website [www.naturestuff.net](http://www.naturestuff.net) and will speak to us about *The Ribbon of Life*, our shorelines. In October of last year our Friends of Sheldrake, Skootamatta and Pringle committee attended a Council meeting and presented our Lake Management plan project. Council passed a motion of support and Henry Hogg, our Reeve, volunteered to be our contact. We appreciate the Township support and the possibility that Addington Highlands Township may fund us with \$500. By the time this Newsletter goes to print we will know what funding if any we have for this season. Lack of funding will temper our plan to some degree. However, ***if we do not win this round of grant applications we will try again.***

Right now we are planning some local communication events with groups who have a vested interest in the lakes and watershed such as COFA, and local business to obtain their input on the importance of the waterways to them. We need to remember that everyone in the community is an owner of the lake plan. While our association may facilitate the process or be the "keeper" of the plan, the lake plan can only work if there is buy-in from the majority of the community. As such it belongs to everyone within the community. We want everyone involved and we want everyone to have a say! Let's hear from you on any lake issue you feel is important...go to our website and send us a message at [FOSSP@skootamatta.ca](mailto:FOSSP@skootamatta.ca). Our commitment to you is to keep you informed about what we are doing and make certain you know about events we plan.

tions, to benefit our watershed. Lennox & Addington Stewardship Council are new community partners and ones we are very pleased to have

Watch the website!

Watch for our Survey Summary Booklet coming to you soon and also posted on our website:

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

### FOSSP Lakeside Activity for Sheldrake, Pringle and Skootamatta



#### Explore the Lake and Celebrate

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Date:** August 14

A day on the Lake . . . investigating. Bring your camera, sunscreen, kids, boat for transportation and your curiosity



Watch for Information!

On [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca)

Call 613-336-0058 or email

[FOSSP@skootamatta.ca](mailto:FOSSP@skootamatta.ca) for more information

### Friends of Skootamatta Sheldrake Pringle FOSSP Lake Management Plan

Please visit the [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca) website and click FOSSP on the right hand side. This tab takes you to our Volunteer Sign Up page. We need your help! Please give us a hand! The key to success is community involvement. The more people involved in this project the better off our lake communities.

What's your interest?



Geology? Fishing?  
Mapping? History?  
Recreation? Boating  
Safety? Computer  
publishing skills? Boat  
loan? Photography?  
Native Plants? Belong  
to a Naturalist's Club?

Know someone who does? Any job? Like turtles? Wildlife? There is a fit for you in this project. You choose what time you provide. We are welcoming all helpers with open arms!

Check the website if you can or Call 613-336-0058 or email [FOSSP@skootamatta.ca](mailto:FOSSP@skootamatta.ca)



# In the Community

## Relay for Life coming to Flinton June 11/12

The Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. Teams of people camp out at local high schools, parks, or fairgrounds and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relays are overnight events.

This year the Flinton Rec Club will be hosting this 12 hour overnight event at the Flinton Recreation Centre.

For more information contact:  
Carolyn Hasler  
[bhasler@explornet.com](mailto:bhasler@explornet.com)  
613-336-8659

To register, join or sponsor a local team go to [www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca) and find Flinton in the Relay section.

## Land O Lakes Garden Club

The Land O Lakes Garden Club, which is a member of the Ontario Horticultural Association is based in the Northbrook and Cloyne area. Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month from September to June at 1:00 p.m. at the Pine View Free Methodist Church in Cloyne. Yearly membership is \$10.00.

The Club has interesting guest speakers on a wide variety of topics such as, shade loving perennials,

rock garden plants, flower arranging and organic gardening. The April meeting featured Rosemary Teed speaking on shoreline planting. May is a speaker from Lee Valley Tools.

The Club is involved in several local garden projects – Pine Meadow Nursing Home, Barrie Township Hall, the planter box program, and their special project the Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery on Little Pond Road in Cloyne. In July 2009 the Club hosted a Garden Tour and Tea “On the Rocks” which will be repeated in 2011. There will be a Plant Sale on Saturday May 29, 2010 in Cloyne.

Within the Gardening Club there is also a Book Club, Wine Tasting and Walking Club. If you would like to join contact Lynn at 613-336-0771 or just show up at a meeting.

## Stormy Weather!

On Boxing Day this past Christmas, the Skootamatta area was hit with a major snowstorm that knocked out power for the better part of four days. Even after power was restored there were episodes of brown-outs and outages.

If you haven't been to your cottage over the winter you should be prepared for some clean-up, especially if you have any large white pines in your yard.

## A day in the Museum Cloyne & District Historical Society (CDHS)

Sometimes rainy days in a small cottage can be trying for families with children looking for something to do. If that is the case, the Cloyne

Pioneer Museum is the place for you and yours.

You will be able to see what learning was like in an actual restored school, how pioneers cooked, sewed, designed and made their own implements. Browse through books and old atlases. Learn about the fascinating history of our area. There are always new acquisitions and the exhibits change continually, so even if you have visited before, be sure to return.

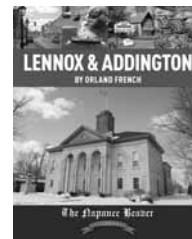
The Cloyne Pioneer Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day of the week from mid June to September. It is located at the north end of Cloyne, on the east side of Highway 41, and admission is free. Best of all, you can come even if it is not raining.

## New book for sale at Pioneer Museum

In February the CDHS launched a new book *Lennox & Addington* by Orland French.

This is a full colour, hardcover book that looks at our county under the following headings

- History
- Mines
- Forestry
- Farms
- Geology
- Glaciers
- Churches
- Genealogy
- Government



Mr. French writes in his book that from the air Skootamatta resembles a lobster – what do you see?



# Community Events

## May

### **The Cloyne and District Historical Society Yard Sale Saturday May 22**

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
Barrie Township Hall  
Gently used donations are  
gratefully accepted  
Carolyn McCulloch 613-336-6858

### **Land O'Lakes Garden Club Plant Sale**

**Saturday May 29**  
Barrie Township Hall



## June

### **Relay for Life June 11/12**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton  
Opening ceremonies 7:00 p.m.  
Closing ceremonies 7:00 a.m.  
Lighting of candles in memory of  
or in honour of victims of cancer  
10:00 p.m.

## July

### **Mazinaw Lake Swim Program July 5–30**

Lessons for Skootamatta are  
10:00–11:00 a.m. Cost is \$65  
Contact Community Services at  
613-336-8934 or program  
supervisor Michelle Cuddy at  
613-336-2201 or by email at  
[shiva@hotmail.com](mailto:shiva@hotmail.com)

### **Turkey Supper Saturday July 3**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton  
Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
Adults \$12.00  
Children aged 6–12 \$6.00  
Children under 6 eat free

### **Roast Beef Supper Wednesday July 21**

Harlowe Community Centre  
Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
Adults \$12.00  
Children aged 12 & under \$6.00  
preschoolers free

### **Roast Pork Supper Wednesday July 28**

Harlowe Community Centre  
Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
Adults \$12.00  
Children aged 12 & under \$6.00  
preschoolers free

### **Bon Echo 14th Annual Art Exhibition and Sale July 23, 24, 25**

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 30, 31, August 1**

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 4**

Harlowe Community Centre  
Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
Adults \$12.00  
Children aged 12 &  
under \$6.00  
preschoolers free



### **Cloyne Showcase 2010 August 6,7,8**

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 phone  
613-336-0063

### **October Historical Society Thanksgiving Bake Sale**



**Saturday October 9**  
9:00 a.m. until sold out  
Barrie Hall, Cloyne

### **Thanksgiving Turkey Supper Saturday October 9**

Township Recreation Centre  
Flinton  
Time: 4:00–7:00 p.m.  
Adults \$12.00  
Children aged 6–12 \$6.00  
Children under 6 eat free

## Regular Events

### **Recent Release Movies**

### **Last Friday of every month**

Cloyne United Church  
Doors open at 6:45 p.m. for a 7:00  
p.m. start.  
Admission is free.  
Look for our movie titles on posters  
around the community.

For a more complete list of events  
and activities in our area go to:

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

Follow on Facebook and Twitter

[www.facebook.com/DiscoverLOL](http://www.facebook.com/DiscoverLOL)

<http://twitter.com/DiscoverLOL>

# Lake Events

## July

### Canada Day Boat Parade

Thursday 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 3

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

## August

### Pot Luck

Saturday August 14

4:00 p.m. at Ron Nowell's  
BYOB, lawn chairs and your favourite dish  
Rain or Shine

## September

### Fireworks

Saturday September 4

By boat or road to the causeway at dusk  
Rain date Sunday September 5

## SDRA Annual General Meeting & BBQ Saturday July 3, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Cloyne Free Methodist Church

2010 Agenda items include:

- Elections
- Constitution
- Lake Management Plan Update
- Water Testing
- Guest Speaker – Marcie Martin, OPP Marine officer out of Kaladar: Topic: *Boating Safety and Regulations*
- Terry Sprague, Naturalist from Quinte Conservation: Topic: *Natural Shorelines and the Ribbon of Life*

Please note that 2009 AGM minutes are available on the website [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca).

If you are paying your dues or picking up clothing orders at the AGM, please arrive between 9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. to manage these tasks. We want to begin the meeting promptly at 10:00 a.m. in order to accommodate our 2 guest speakers and to have sufficient time for our other agenda items. You can also take care of dues and clothing pick up after the meeting, if you wish.

Thanks Northbrook **FOODLAND**  
Proud sponsor of the SDRA AGM for over 16 years!

## A Little News from around the Lake

Linda Wheeler reports from North Shore Road (NSR) that she has a brand new granddaughter, Vivien Emily Wheeler. Vivien's Mom and Dad, Lisa and Scott live in Petawawa where Scott is an officer with the RCR and heading to Afghanistan in April for 6–8 months. Linda said it best – “may our thoughts and prayers be with all our servicemen and women.”




Anne Kinch of NSR is on the mend after a fall on

the ice while at the cottage in February. Anne broke the bone in her right arm below the shoulder and required surgery.

Jim Osborne wanted to report news of the passing of childhood lake pal Bob Stevens, son of Ron and Willi Stevens, brother of Joan (Stevens) Jones and uncle of Kim and Doug Jones. Jim lost touch with Bob around 1958–60 when he moved to Vancouver.



# SDRA July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Photo Susan Willemssen	for lake and association information visit <a href="http://www.skootamatta.ca">www.skootamatta.ca</a> for Township information visit <a href="http://www.addingtonhighlands.ca">www.addingtonhighlands.ca</a>			1 Canada Day  Boat Parade leaving from Sheldrake Bay at 11:00 a.m.	2	3 SDRAGM 10:00 a.m.  Free Methodist Church - Cloyne Turkey Supper, Flinton 4:00-7:00 p.m. Ontario Family Fishing Week starts
4 Ontario Family Fishing Week info <a href="http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca">www.mnr.gov.on.ca</a>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Ontario Family Fishing Week ends	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Roast Beef Supper Community Hall Harlowe 4:00-7:00 p.m. 613-336-9302 (Hall)	22	23 Bon Echo Art Show 11:00-5:00	24 Bon Echo Art Show 10:00-5:00 <a href="http://www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho">www.mazinaw.on.ca/fobecho</a>
25 Bon Echo Art Show 10:00-4:00	26	27	28 Roast Pork Supper Community Hall Harlowe 4:00-7:00 p.m. 613-336-9302 (Hall)	29	30 Country Bluegrass Jamboree Township Recreation Centre, Flinton	31 Country Bluegrass Jamboree Township Recreation Centre, Flinton <a href="http://www.flintonrecreationclub.ca">www.flintonrecreationclub.ca</a>

## Cottage Safety Numbers

Emergency Police, Fire and Ambulance 911

Civic (911) Address \_\_\_\_\_

in the Township of Addington Highlands

Non-Emergency Police 1-888-310-1122

(Theft, Vandalism, Break/Enter, Fender Bender)

Kingston General Hospital 613-548-3232

L&A County Hospital, Napanee 613-354-3301

Telehealth 1-866-797-0000

Poison Control 1-800-268-9017





Fire Conditions (local) 613-336-1851

Hydro One 1-800-434-1235

Bear Help Line 1-866- 514-2327

Emergency Veterinarian Napanee 613-354-2330

# SDRA August 2010

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday							Wednesday							Thursday							Friday							Saturday						
1 Country Bluegrass Jamboree Township Recreation Centre, Flinton <a href="http://www.flintonrecreationclub.ca">www.flintonrecreationclub.ca</a>							2							3							4 Roast Beef Supper Community Hall Harlowe 4:00-7:00 p.m. 613-336-9302 (Hall)							5							6 Cloyne Showcase NAEC, Cloyne 10:00-5:00							7 Cloyne Showcase NAEC, Cloyne 10:00-5:00 For information call 613-336-0063						
8 Cloyne Showcase NAEC, Cloyne 10:00-4:00							9							10							11							12							13							14 FOSSP Event  Explore the Lake and Celebrate 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  Pot Luck  Ron Nowell's 4:00 p.m.						
15							16							17							18							19							20							21						
22							23							24							25							26							27							28						
29							30							31														<div>Saturday September 4 Fireworks (Rain date Sunday) Come to the Causeway at Dusk</div> 																				

## Township Information

Township Office Phone 613-336-2286  
 Fax 613-336-2847  
 Jack Pahl, Clerk email [jpahl@mazinaw.on.ca](mailto:jpahl@mazinaw.on.ca)  
 Building Inspector 613-336-2286

## Kaladar Dump Hours (Summer/Winter)

Monday 8-12  
 Tuesday 12-5  
 Wednesday 12-5  
 Thursday 8-12  
 Friday 8-12  
 Saturday 8-5  
 Sunday 8-5  
 If Monday is a holiday the Kaladar Dump is closed but re-opens the next regularly scheduled day.

## Cloyne Dump Hours (Summer May 15 - Oct. 14)

Sunday 10-6  
 Monday 10-5  
 Tuesday 9-1  
 Wednesday 9-1  
 Thursday 9-1  
 Friday 9-1  
 Saturday 12-5  
 If Monday is a holiday the dump is closed Sunday & open Monday from 10-6. Check the website for winter hours.



Our website continues to grow – in both size and importance – as the online source of information for members and anyone else interested in what’s happening around the lakes. We’re hoping it will also be an effective tool to motivate more seasonal residents, (than in past years), to vote in the 2010 municipal election this fall. (see earlier President’s Message ... we only get this chance every four years!)

The website exists primarily for the benefit of SDR members. Many of you have contributed material that is now posted for the enjoyment of all, (the 35 entries to the 2009 Photo Contest were superb). Let’s keep this momentum going. We’re constantly on the lookout for ANY information that might be interesting to members and other area property owners. It’s easy to ! Submit Stuff ! directly on the website, or you can contact any of the Directors if you come across pictures or other documents that we can digitize and preserve.

A major enhancement, added earlier this year, is the ability to quickly find information stored anywhere on



**SEARCH  
SKOOT**

the website without navigating through menus. Just type the word(s) you’re looking for into the Search Skoot box, (in the upper right pane of most pages), hit <Enter>, or the little binocular icon, and off you go. It’s not Google™,

but it will sniff out most anything you think might be on [skootamatta.ca](http://skootamatta.ca)

Search Skoot displays results found within the text of any document on the site. You can refine your search, or search again for something completely different after an initial search.

[NOTE: The detailed display of individual search results may vary somewhat depending on the internet browser you use, (e.g. Internet Explorer or Firefox, etc.), and you must have the free Adobe Reader®, (Rev.7 or later), installed on your pc, (available at <http://www.adobe.com/reader/>), to display results from ‘pdf’ files.] Search Skoot will also return results from text found on Gallery webpages, however a more comprehensive tool – specifically for searching images

– is available on the Gallery pullout menu itself. The internal Gallery search tool uses (hidden) keywords associated with each picture in addition to picture titles, (captions).

Why do we need Search tools? Material is constantly being added to the website – both ‘current’ news, and historical treasures in the ARCHIVES section. (The website currently has about 350 searchable documents and many of these are multi-page). The process of digitizing the paper records of the SDR, (e.g. old newsletters, AGM minutes, etc.), continues. It is a slow process that involves considerable manual editing. The objective is to preserve the document content, complete with the original ‘look & feel’, while minimizing size, as much as possible, for ‘acceptable’ download speeds. The website is now the ‘public archive’ of the S.D.R.A. and it is essential to be able to search all this information quickly and efficiently, (as opposed to poking around manually).

There is growing interest, (again), in the history of the lakes and the people that have lived and vacationed here since the loggers departed back in the late 1800’s. Why not make it a family project to locate and preserve pictures and documents about YOUR family history ‘at the lake’. If enough material can be collected, consideration is being given to publishing “The Book of Skootamatta”. Similar projects on other lakes have produced some wonderful little local books filled with interesting information that might have otherwise been lost forever.

Don’t forget to check all the EVENTS categories, too. There are lots of ideas for activities – from SDR-sponsored events right here on the lakes, to local happenings and even interesting day trips. If we’ve missed something you think would be interesting to others, just let us know.

As always, we’d like to thank all the local businesses that support the SDR. You can see them all in the little rolling marquee on the website. Click to get more details about any of them as they roll by.

Comments and suggestions about anything on the website are always welcome.

Gary Evans  [webmaster@skootamatta.ca](mailto:webmaster@skootamatta.ca)



*I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody.*

– Lily Tomlin

## Lynn Garnish—Long time volunteer of SDRA Steps Back after a record 17 years as a Board member and Officer

Rosemary Teed

In speaking with Lynn the other day about her years with the SDRA she related one story that made me laugh. It epitomizes the devotion and care that Lynn gave freely to the organization for over 17 years! She said “Mom used to stuff the small envelopes I used for less cost and cheaper postage with the annual Newsletter which was getting a bit bigger and more voluminous each new spring season and finally one year she said, Lynn, Can we not get bigger envelopes?”

Lynn began her volunteer work with the organization back in 1993 when she became a Director and then took over from Wendy Thompson in 1994 as Secretary Treasurer. At that point she became the keeper of the shoebox, which held the slips of paper with member's names and addresses, as this was well before mechanization or computerization of the member lists.

There was little or no money and the production and set up costs of the Annual Newsletter that is so looked forward to by members today, was fronted by the Garnishes, and then reimbursed once member fees came in the early spring and summer. There were printers wearing out and running 24 hours a day to get the ever growing Newsletter printed and then manually collated. Flooded with photocopies to keep printing costs down, but with a priority to get the news out, the entire Garnish family headed by Lynn orchestrated the annual delivery. As the membership grew so did mailing and postage costs and Lynn says she fears she has earned a reputation for being a bull dog about dues. (We would say more like a beagle...sniffing out potential new members). During her time with the Board there was a concentrated effort to increase membership, which rose by 50%. Lynn says “It was hard at times wearing all the hats I did and trying to be proficient in each but we all muddled through and our membership happily grew as

did our pride in the organization. We were small but we were mighty”.

Lynn also told me that there were cottage to cottage boat runs with kid drivers visiting cottagers to make certain folks knew about the SDRA and what it was about. Family Days, Beach Clean-ups are not new... they began years ago and have morphed into different events but still hold the same objective. Get communities involved together and we become a stronger unit. The days of the Sailing Regatta were fun times according to Lynn. “One year the Regatta T-shirts were delayed due to floods in Manitoba where we had ordered them, so I arranged for a friend to bring them when they were traveling to Ontario”. Who knew that a Manitoban helped out to make the Regatta a success? Well we know now, and a big thank you to Lynn for all these years of innovation, hard work and effort is due.

Asked what she feels is her most significant contribution and Lynn responded, “The membership increase and the Boat Launch repairs. That was a multi-year project and we all worked hard to obtain government funds to fix it. From mixing concrete to developing computerized membership lists...who could ask for a better variety of jobs than that?”

This year Lynn threw her hat into the ring to run for local Council here in Addington Highlands. Due to some recent health issues Lynn has decided to withdraw and concentrate on getting well. We agree! We need this woman in top notch form to keep her passion for the lake and its environs foremost. From the sidelines remember that there is only a step between the audience and the playing-field. After a good rest Lynn, you may want to make a come-back!

In summary we have been more than pretty darn lucky to have such a devoted Board member as Lynn Garnish and it brings to mind a Maori proverb heard one time in New Zealand.

**With my resources  
and your resources  
everyone will benefit**

From Lynn's point of view she said: “I am sad to say goodbye to this organization as it has been a very large part of who I am for the past 17 years and it's like saying goodbye to a family member”. We say, Lynn your service is inspiring and so much so that we hope others will read this story of your role in the SDRA organization and volunteer too.

Thank you from the SDRA and everyone resident on Lake Skootamatta.

# Pringle Lake Reflections

Pringle Lake LMP Representative  
Bob Hasler

Those of us fortunate enough to have properties on Pringle Lake know that we have a special place, a quiet, unspoiled, scenic gem with a natural treed shoreline which is largely uninterrupted by development of any kind. Being small, only a mile and a half from tip to tip, it is dwarfed on the map by its closest neighbours, Skootamatta and Mazinaw. Because of the lake's relatively diminutive size, it is rare to come across anyone outside the immediate area who has even heard of it and that, from my point of view, is not necessarily a bad thing.

For many years, Pringle was known as "Duck Lake". It has been several decades now since a number of lakes in the area were renamed. Some were given names taken from the Algonquin language. For example, Loon Lake became "Skootamatta" and Buck Lake became "Shabomeka", but Duck Lake was assigned the name, "Pringle". To date, I have been unable to find any historical reference related to the naming of the Lake. While the Pringle in question, for whom the lake was named, was no doubt a worthy individual, some of us are a bit envious of the neighbouring Aboriginal names, which seem to speak more colourfully of the heritage of centuries past. Ah well, a rose by any other name...

## A Bit of History

Like other lakes in the area, Pringle clearly reflects the history of the last 180 years. The massive logging operations in the mid and late 1800's removed most of the 400 year old pine forest. The extensive logging left a landscape covered with dried brush and slash, much of which was consumed by the fires which raged through the area in the early 1900's, reportedly burning the soil down to the rock in many cases. In 1974, when my wife, Gail, and I purchased our cottage, I was struck at the time by the fact that there were so few trees of any size around the lake. It was easy, though, to spot the charred remains of large stumps, reminders of the enormous trees which had once covered the area. Many of those old stumps can still be seen today, although nature has largely reclaimed the land and, happily, produced a new crop of sizeable trees.

Another enduring vestige of the logging operations of the 1800's is the stone base of the tramway which ran



between Mazinaw Lake and Pringle. The rails are gone but the raised six-foot base is still clearly visible. According to John Campbell's excellent book, *The Mazinaw Experience*, the tram line was constructed prior to 1862. Logs which had made their way to Mazinaw were "squared up" on the shore there and then winched up the hill by a chain elevator. They were next placed on the tram which was drawn by horses to Pringle Lake. From there the logs were moved to Skootamatta Lake and thence down the Skootamatta/Moira waterway to Lake Ontario.

## The Pringle Lake Mystery

Of course, our lake has its own lore. My favourite story is one related to us by the late Ken Young, a former OPP officer. We have always referred to it as "The Pringle Lake Mystery".

It seems that a fisherman, making his way around the lake one day, some 40 or more years ago, was shocked to discover what looked to be a human leg in the water. In fact, it was a human leg, but a prosthetic one. The natural conclusion was that the person to whom the leg belonged was very likely also somewhere in the lake. The find was reported to the Police but the extensive search which ensued failed to locate a body. Curiously, no-one with an artificial limb had been reported missing in the area. The mystery continued: whose leg was it and was foul play involved?

The key to solving the mystery turned out to be the prosthesis itself. Apparently it is a standard practice for a device of this type to be assigned a Serial Number and this one did, in fact, have such a number. The problem was that no record of the number could be found, that is, until someone cleverly decided to pursue the matter internationally through Interpol. In this way, the leg

was eventually traced to a former Israeli army officer who had lost his limb in one of the Middle East conflicts a few years earlier. Perhaps surprisingly, the investigators were able to make contact with the individual himself.

Apparently, the man had come to Canada at some point and had been on staff for a time at Camp Geshar on Pringle Lake. It seems he had always found the artificial leg uncomfortable and, one day, out of frustration, had simply heaved the thing into the lake, never imagining the chain of events which he had set in motion. Thus, "The Pringle Lake Mystery" had an unexpectedly happy ending.

### My Connection to the Area

My own ties to the area go back well beyond the 36 years we have been on Pringle Lake. My father, Tom Hasler, grew up in Flinton, where I still have many relatives. As a youngster, the highlight of several of my summers was the time I spent at the Flinton farm of my uncle and aunt, Howard and Maud Hasler, and their five sons. For a town kid from southern Ontario, life on the farm and fishing in the Skootamatta River and nearby lakes was a wonderful treat.

Uncle Howard was a full-time farmer but, for many years, he also held the job of Township Clerk for Kalar, Anglesea and Effingham. When he died in 1969, he was succeeded as Township Clerk by his son, my cousin, Carl Hasler.

### How We Chose Pringle

When Gail and I married in 1972, one of our early priorities was to find a cottage property somewhere in the area where I had spent so many happy times growing up. Gail, too, had links to the Ottawa Valley, her father having come from Killaloe. Our search for a cottage took us to several lakes and numerous properties and we were becoming a bit discouraged when, in the middle of winter, I spotted a private ad in the Globe and Mail for a cottage on Pringle Lake. Since Pringle was one of the lakes we had seen and liked, I immediately arranged with the owners, Elburn and Maxine Meeks, to see the cottage.

Because the road was not open, we went in by snowmobile. Although the lake was frozen and there was a foot or more of snow on the ground, making it almost impossible to see where the shore ended and the lake be-

gan, we loved both the cottage and its setting. We knew we had found what we were looking for and bought it almost on the spot.

### Thirty-six Years and Counting

Thirty-six years later, we have never had a moment's regret about locating at Pringle. In that time, we have witnessed a generational change among the people on the lake and the kids we watched grow up there now come back with their own families. Much of what attracted us to the lake in the first place, however, remains unchanged. We love the rugged Canadian Shield terrain with its rolling landscape, rock outcroppings and unpolluted water. Having spent most of our lives in cities, the presence of wildlife and the feeling of being close to nature has always been important to us.

A favourite memory from the lake occurred one spring day a few years ago as the ice was beginning to go out. There was still a sizeable area of ice in front of our cottage and we watched at length as two young otters put on a show for us. They would climb out of a hole in the ice and scamper 40 or 50 feet away. Then, they would turn around and, one after the other, run at their full speed back towards the hole, sliding on their stomachs the last 20 feet or so before dropping into the water, whereupon, they immediately climbed back on the ice and repeated the whole process many times over. We knew they were having a lot of fun and, vicariously, so were we.

Although a "quiet" lake was not among our criteria when we were searching for a cottage, it is an aspect which we rapidly came to appreciate. There are only about 35 private cottages or homes on the lake and a number of these are seldom in use. Most of the time, when we see a boat on the lake, we will recognize it as being Wally or Wayne or Harvey or one of the other regulars, people we think of as old friends.

The small community feeling we have enjoyed so much at the lake is extended to the surrounding area, friends on other lakes or nearby towns, local business people, fellow golfers, etc. For the past 36 years, this community has been the constant in our lives. We have changed houses, jobs

and even cities but, without fail, we have continued to come with regularity to the cottage, where we feel more at home than anywhere else.

*...we loved both the  
cottage and its setting.  
We knew we  
had found what we  
were looking for...*



## The Need For Preservation

As much as we love the lake as it is, we know that we cannot take the things we enjoy there for granted. Too many lakes have fallen victim to unsustainable development, water pollution, loss of fish, wildlife, plant species, etc. We have been fortunate at Pringle to escape most of these problems so far, except, alas, in the case of the fishing. When we first came to the lake, I could expect to catch something whenever I went fishing, even if it was just casting off my dock. Now, in spite of better equipment, tackle and lake knowledge, catches are sparse, at best. Our daughter and other children used to be able to sit on the dock any day and, in no time, using barbless hooks, delightfully catch and release a number of rock bass. Today, you could fish from the dock for hours without a single strike. I can't help wondering if a restocking program, something which, to my knowledge has not happened for many years, would not do much to revive the quality of fishing on the lake.

One thing that has become clear to me is that, if we want to prevent the kinds of deterioration that have occurred in many other lakes, we must become proactive. We must ensure that the characteristics and values which we treasure are communicated to and understood by the relevant authorities at all levels. For example, it is absolutely essential that the Official Plan of the Township of Addington Highlands and the Zoning By-Laws, which give it force, embrace and support our values.

Since Pringle is a small lake, with few taxpaying owners, it is obvious that the amount of influence we can exert on our own is very limited. Our best chance of achieving our goals clearly lies in aligning ourselves and working collectively with others on neighbouring lakes who share our values. In my opinion, we on Pringle have much to gain and nothing to lose by joining and working with the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association (SDRA). A few months ago, I was asked and agreed to participate in a group to be called the Friends of Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle (FOSSP), whose purpose was to develop a "Lake Management Plan", a long term plan of action, embracing the views of the entire community on the three lakes, to reflect and preserve the special character of the lakes.

While the Lake Management Plan is a major undertaking, which will require much communication with property owners on all three lakes, as well as with the larger community in the area and with civic authorities, I have no doubt that it can and will do much to ensure that our lakes are preserved for both current and future generations.

## RFP Update

Bill Garnish

The subject of the RFP on Sheldrake Lake has been an issue for a few years now, and this report is an update since last year so we are not repeating previous updates. For further information on the background, see the SDRA website and previous newsletters.

Since last year we continued to work with the partners in an attempt to understand the viability and benefit of the proposed resort. We have continued to provide input and discuss the RFP with the partners and look for some areas where more sustainable economic development could benefit the Township. In our discussions we have attempted to make it clear we are not anti-development, just looking for responsible sustainable development that will benefit everyone.

For a variety of reasons, including the recent recession, the Township has decided at its November 16, 2009 meeting to withdraw the RFP for the Sheldrake Lake site. This does not mean future waterfront development will not be pursued, only that this site is off the table.

Through our representation on the Addington Highlands AHEAD Committee we have been promoting investigation of development opportunities beyond the tourism sector, and most recently there was a proposal put forth, and agreed by Council, to set up a committee of Council to investigate a variety of alternative energy opportunities.

One of the benefits of the RFP has been the increased co-operation of the SDRA and the Sheldrake Lake Association and increased interest in the SDRA from the Pringle Lake residents, and the establishment of a more proactive SDRA that is focused and responding more quickly to many common environmental and development issues, including the development of a Lake Management Plan, the Loon Lake Lodge abandonment, the Wolf Creek clear cutting, the Official Plan review, etc. There are further reports on these issues in this newsletter and on the SDRA website.

# The Bay (Bey) Family of Mazinaw Lake

By Laura Schwager

There is something about the Bay family; something legendary, memorable for many, mysterious for others. The stories I have heard paint a picture of a seemingly simpler time. A time of moccasins, snowshoes, birch bark canoes, and medicines made from bear fat or picked from plants. The Bays were different from the rest and especially now, in our present time, regarded with wonderment and respect.



Johnny Bay, in his birch bark canoe, graced the cover of the 1906 Bon Echo Inn brochure. (Photo courtesy of Bon Echo Provincial Park)

I am the great-great granddaughter of the 'legendary Johnny Bay (Bey)'<sup>1</sup>. I have travelled quite a distance to know this man and his family and the history they carry. I am fortunate that such an interest was, is taken, in the Bay family, as I have been provided with copious amounts of information and stories documented by local historians about them. Many of you reading this will know the Bay family in a different way than I do. Perhaps there are some of you around who know someone who once sat with Johnny Bay and discussed the weather over a cup of water and ginger as I hear he liked to have. Or maybe you have a pair of moccasins or leather mittens made by his wife

Anne or by one of his daughters. Maybe you know of someone who has paddled in his canoe, or perhaps you are the proud occupant of a cottage on the Skootamatta, made by the hardworking hands of Johnny Bay's sons along with Bill and Mike Schwager. In any case, I am here to offer you part of their story that might not be known, nor is or perhaps ever was as well understood.

This story begins before all of our time. It begins with the Mohawk creation story. This is the Bay family's first place of being.

---

<sup>1</sup> The spelling of Bay is sometimes written as 'Bey and Baye'. I will consistently use the spelling Bay as that is how John Bay II told it to the Oxen and the Axe, First Edition.

There was a world before this one; a beautiful world. A woman was with child and she fell through a dark hole. She fell for a very long time. She fell through darkness until a flock of geese saw her falling and flew up beneath her. They carried her on their backs, gently towards a world of water. They placed her on the back of a giant turtle's shell. All of the animals came to the surface of the water to welcome her. One at a time they swam to the bottom of the deep dark waters to find for her the soil that would help her grow her plants. Finally the muskrat, as small as he is, successfully rose to the surface with the soil in his closed paw. Skywoman, as the Mohawk people call her, placed the soil beneath her feet on the turtle's back. She danced and sang and the seeds she had brought with her fell to the ground and the plants began to grow and the earth became what it is today.

Looking back today, there are many things that occurred which brought the Bay family to those of you who remember them so fondly and/or are intrigued with their ways of being. Before calling the Mazinaw home, the Bay family's community would have been the Hotinnonshon:ni (Haudenosaunee), the Mohawk word for People of the Longhouse, or Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy, which consisted of the Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga and Tuscarora. The Hotinnonshon:ni travelled and lived off the land of Upper New York State and southern Ontario. Mohawk life was abundant in community, peace, food from the earth, government and spirituality. They lived in communal longhouses. Each longhouse consisted of large related family groups or clans. Each clan was related to a central woman, called a clan mother. Women owned everything in the clan. Clan mothers would decide on a chief and the chief would carry out decisions made by the community.

Everyone in the Hotinnonshon:ni community had an important role and they worked together. Men would clear the fields for crops and women would plant the seeds; men and women shared the building of the longhouse; women and girls made white and black ash baskets, clothing and mittens from deer hide; men made tools and sometimes would travel a long time to hunt and trap to feed their village.

The community's respect for the earth was tremendous. They lived each day following the Great Law of Peace (represented by the Great White Pine Tree) and the Ohen:ton Karihwatehkwen "words before all else" (Opening Address/Thanksgiving), which comes from

their creation story. All life comes from the turtle's back (the earth) and women who are the caretakers. All things in creation were acknowledged with respect.

Akwasasne Mohawk Reserve (sometimes referred to as St. Regis) is the first modern day place I have been able to locate the Bays. A reserve is neither a Mohawk nor an 'Indian' creation. The Bay family along with those of their nation would have lived off the land throughout the area that would become Akwesasne, but by the time this place would become a reserve, the land and livelihood as the Mohawks knew it would never be the same. Akwasasne would in time consist of primarily Mohawk people wary of warfare between the French and the English, the British and the Americans, and Canada and the United States. The reserve was a result of warfare and colonization. It covers both U.S. and Canadian ground. It is within both Quebec and Ontario borders, where English and French first and last names were given to organize and change the face of a world of people.

The last individuals of my line of the Bay family that lived out their days at Akwasasne are Peter Bay (d. 1891) and Mary Cook (b. 1819), who perhaps are more appropriately known as, Sawennowane (sa wen non wa ne: 'notedly his voice is loud'), and Teiotote (dey o do dey: 'she is quiet'). In 1874, the Indian Act passed, which determined who an Indian was, where they could live and how they must be buried among a wide range of other things. Around 1876, the Canadian government promised members of Akwesasne a large area of land around Effingham and Weslemkoon Lakes if twenty-four families would agree to settle there (The Oxen and The Axe). The project was dropped because only a few families agreed to go. One of those interested families was Peter and Mary's son, John and his wife Anne, as well as most likely John's brother Joe (Tahararens) Bay (b.1856, d. 1928), whose life is well documented at the museum in Middleville, Lanark County. There is nothing concretely documented on why John and Anne decided to move their family from Akwesasne many miles to the Mazinaw. Their leaving resulted in them losing their government Indian status, as well as leaving behind a community and culture. But there is something about this part of the story; every time I get to this point, I am certain Johnny Bay answers my questions somehow, with the simple talk about the beauty of the Bon Echo area, the rich history and spirituality it

*I'd like to think that they came to the Mazinaw following a path that was inherently a part of them.*

offers to many. Part of the fascination with this family in the Mazinaw and Skootamatta area is that they come from a certain freedom of knowing and travelling the land. I think that the Bay's wanted to continue their

livelihood in that manner and did not want to be restricted to the confines of the reserve, which was changing and limiting Native Peoples at a rapid pace. I'd like to think that they came to the Mazinaw following a path that was inherently a part of them.

My great-great grandfather, Akwennarikhon (a de wen na rik hon: 'he has adjoined his words') or as he is more commonly known, Johnny Bay or Sawatis (Mohawk word for John), was born in 1850, at Akwesasne. He married Anne Tekakwen (dey ga gwen: 'to take up, or lift') LaForce who may have been Onondoga. Together with the first of their children (they would eventually have 12), they travelled the chain of lakes and rivers to the Mazinaw Lake. They would make a home on what many would have known as 'Indian Point' which is now Levere Road. They would camp also on Osborne Pt. during the summers to fish, and later build many cottages in the area, including that of the Pearsons, the Obornes and the Blatchfords.



Sitting Anne Bay, standing left to right Johnny Bay Sr., Bill Schwager, Wilfred Bay, unknown, Charlie Bay (?). The Bays crafted canoes, ash baskets and snowshoes. Photo taken prior to 1925. (Photo courtesy of Bob Blatchford)

A great deal is known and remembered about Johnny Bay, from his canoe building, his scouting, mining (The Ore Chimney Mine), and the fiddle playing. I only know two things about his wife: she spoke only Mohawk and she died in their house fire in 1924. Her granddaughter, Mary Schwager, only four years old, was in the house with her; however was the only one to escape as Anne was in a wheelchair. It is a tragedy



that Mary would carry with her throughout her days. Their 12 children were Peter, Louise, Mary, Theresa, Elizabeth, John, Lottie, Charlie, Kate, Anna, Matilda (Tilly) and Wilfred. I know a little of only a few of the children; four of which I will I share with you. The rest I continue to search for.



Detroit policeman Peter Bay. (Photo courtesy of CDHS John Schwager collection)

Peter Bay, who was the oldest, may have been written about by Flora MacDonald in *The Sunset of Bon Echo*, April-May 1916 edition. Flora refers to a character called 'Pateeka' in *Pateeka, A Romance of the Northland*, who is romantically described as not only being a skilled guide for a wealthy family, but '[knowing] the language of the squirrel, the chipmunk, the porcupine...' (MacDonald, 1916). Flora's story talks of Sawatis the Indian

guide, who could unmistakably be Johnny Bay Sr. and Pateeka, who refers to Sawatis as his father (p.26) is the younger more agile Indian man who would take over as guide for a young lady visiting the 'rough country' (MacDonald, 1916). Peter would be best known for later moving to Detroit to join the police force.

Mary Bay may also be described in Flora MacDonald's *The Sunset of Bon Echo*, No. 5, as 'Mary the Indian' (p10). She is romantically described as original, delightful, and superstitious. She too was as skilled in the 'rough country' as her father and brothers and entertained anyone looking for a little more out of mundane life, with song and dancing. Anyone enthralled with the poetry of Walt Whitman during this time period may have also been in awe by the ways of Mary.

John Bay Jr. told a little of the family story in *The Oxen and the Axe*. He followed the footsteps of his father to know the layout of the land. He too was a guide, a builder, and a veteran of both World Wars. He is remembered as a highly skilled sniper. John Jr. would be the first and only Bay child to regain his government Indian status. He moved to Smith Falls where his children reside today. He and his sister Matilda are remembered for their music played out by their fiddles and their spirits.

My great grandmother, Matilda (b. 1874, d. 1977)



Matilda Schwager wearing a deer skin dress she made and paddling a canoe crafted by the Bay family. (Photo courtesy of CDHS John Schwager collection)

was the Bay who would stay at the Mazinaw the longest of the Bay children, who hated to see their land lost to them. Her life would play out like skywoman's fall. She married Bill Schwager and raised six children on 'Indian Point' near her family's home. She knew the land, the medicines in the plants, she tanned deer hide and made clothing and baskets. She knew the beauty and she knew the hardships. She later moved with her two youngest children to Belleville, where a hint of her 'indianness' could be found in the aroma of sweetgrass burn-

ing in her home. She would not be heard speaking her Mohawk language, but everyone that knew her, knew how proud she was of her culture.

Both John and Anne, John Jr., Matilda, and Matilda's son Bill are buried in Finton at the Catholic Church cemetery. This was originally the site of a Mohawk burial ground long ago when Mohawk people travelled the Skootamatta River, in that ancient way that they knew the land.

There are many stories told about the Bay family. They themselves were story tellers. I think that the great white pines on the shore of 'Indian Point' could tell a few. I have heard that the sound of their fiddle playing can still be heard on the breeze.



Mike Schwager lower left, Peter Bay standing middle, Bill Schwager standing right. The Bays and Schwagers were involved in the building of many of the original cottages on Skootamatta Lake. date approximately 1925. (Photo courtesy of CDHS, John Schwager collection)

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PEARSONS 1925 Aug.

"perhaps you are the proud occupant of a cottage on the Skootamatta, made by the hardworking hands of Johnny Bay's sons along with Bill and Mike Schwager." (Photo courtesy of CDHS, Osborne collection)

"Two pickerel swam under the Skootamatta Lake causeway and into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, **"Dam!"**

"Last fall two Skootamatta cottagers were sitting in their kayak.....it was chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too!"



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Photo Louise Cole

## Thank you Addington Highlands!

At the March 29 Township Council Meeting held in Flinton, Addington Highlands Council approved the sum of \$500 for the Friends of Shel-drake, Skootamatta and Pringle.

FOSSP is the subcommittee of the SDRA established to develop a Stewardship Plan for the area. In October the FOSSP team attended Council presented their plan for Lake Management and requested AH support as well as funding of \$500. We are grateful that Council has provided us with this amount and FOSSP plan to use it towards the cost of publishing our 2009 Survey to residents of the 3 lakes and adjacent area.

## Reminder

**As of September 15, 2009**

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

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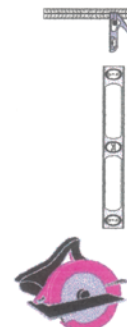


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