SDRA NEWSLETTER 2014



FEATURED ARTICLES

2013 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!page 5

See the top 3 winners of the 2013 Photo Contest out of a record 90 submissions this year! Visit Skootamatta.ca to see all submissions and send in your photos for 2014!



GETTING MARRIED AT HODGEPODGE LODGE!page 6

The idea of having a wedding on the lake is both challenging and rewarding at the same time and when nature cooperates a heavenly day unfolds. Enjoy the story of Erin and Craig as they prepared for the big day on Skoot!



DR. ELLEN BLATCHFORDpage 14

We are honoured to have had such a great woman of medicine come to our lake and many were thankful for Dr. Ellen Blatchford



SKOOTAMATTA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT!page 29

Read about Jamie-Lee Rattray's inspiring story and record setting year at Clarkson University!



COTTAGE LIFE TELEVISION AT SKOOT! ... page 26 & 32

Hear how two of the five participating Skootamatta Lake cottagers opened their homes to Cottage Life TV for a Weekend Renovation!



WINTER FUN....page 30

Our own Jennifer Robertson, SDRA Secretary shares a warming story of enjoying winter at Skootamatta! Who says all the fun happens in the summer months!



President's Message

Welcome to the 2014 SDRA Newsletter! As I write the President's message I am travelling through the snow covered fields on my GO Train commute to the city and dreaming about our warm Skootamatta summers! It has been a bitterly cold winter, no question, with extended periods of cold in the minus 20's. However, among the photographs submitted for the 2013 photo contest I noticed a depiction of winter that is quite warming. I chose the cover of the newsletter this year to celebrate the



beautiful side of winter. Listening to our Secretary share how her family celebrates the winter holidays at the lake inspired me to ask her to write about that experience and share it for some of us who are not able to be at the lake during the winter months.

Our SDRA Board of Directors has been very busy through the winter with many activities! We hope you are enjoying the newly launched web site. I am pleased to see the interaction between our Skootamatta community on the site sharing things to buy and sell and sharing stories about what they are seeing around the lake. Paul Grennell will tell you more about his plans to evolve the site even further in his article and I hope you like the changes!

Our team is also finalizing the Lake Management Plan which is a critical document to capture our current state of the lake and areas of concern to be protected. It will also be used as a key document for any future discussions about economic development that may arise. Malcolm Stewart, our lake steward, will be sharing this plan with you at the AGM and we will publish it soon on our website.

The lake festival was a great success again this year although the uncertain weather may have chased some folks away. The Lake Festival planning team has been meeting and is cooking up some great new ideas for the 2014 Lake Festival you may see a further change in format.

Jane Richmond, Director on the SDRA Board joined me at the FOCA AGM in early March. We heard quite a bit of discussion about lake levels around Ontario and it reminded us that we are pleased to have our water gauge program in place to assist us with information about our lake thanks to our friends at Quinte Conservation Authority! In his Lake Steward Report, Malcolm will share more information about this program including opportunities to add more water gauges around the lake. We continue to focus on improvements to the lake and will be meeting with Quinte Conservation to determine what opportunities we may have for grants to install boat washing stations around the lake to protect from invasive species.

We encourage you to become involved in the SDRA as either a volunteer or a board member. It is a great way to know your neighbours on the lake, learn about the history, and ensure that Skootamatta remains the wonderful place that it is. If you would like to join the board as a Director, we meet 8 times per year for a 2 hour meeting. There are sub-committees to join, where you can lead or collaborate on an initiative that you are passionate about. If the time commitment for Board meetings is difficult for you, please consider a volunteer role. We have many opportunities for people to become active with lake activities!

Jane Richmond has stepped down as Director but continues to participate in our Lake Management Plan Committee. I would like to thank Jane for all of her support on the SDRA board.

We are so thankful for all of the work that our volunteers have done in addition to the work our SDRA Board has accomplished. As we have said many times....THANK YOU!!

Enjoy the SDRA Newsletter and enjoy the summer of 2014!

2014 Annual General Meeting

We would like to invite all members to our Annual General Meeting. You can view any updates to the 2014 Agenda as well as the minutes from the 2013 AGM on www.skootamatta.ca.

Where: Pineview Free Methodist Church, Hwy 41, Cloyne

(At the corner with Skootamatta Lake Road)

When: Saturday, July 5, 2014

Start: 9:30 a.m.

Agenda: 9:30 to10:00 Meet and greet with coffee and donuts

10:00 to10:30 Formal statutory business, Treasurer's report,

Board appointments, etc.

10:30 to11:30 Question and answer period

11:30 Hot dog BBQ *

During the meeting, various information booths will be set up for you to circulate at <u>your</u> interest.

While the booth topics are still being established, some preliminary ideas are:

- FOCA Information
- SDRA membership information and membership payment
- Lake Festival information and volunteer sign up.
- Lake Stewardship Lake Management plan update
- Quinte Conservation Authority
- Cloyne Public Health Department Septic advice







NEW SUMMER HOURS

starting June 24

Monday - Saturday Sunday 7am - 9pm 7am - 7pm

Tel. (613) 336-2647

In-Store Deli and Bakery

*Special thanks to Northbrook Foodland - proud sponsor of the SDRA AGM for over 20 years!

2014-2015 BOARD SLATE

DEBBIE AWDE, PRESIDENT
PAUL LINDSAY, VICE PRESIDENT
NANCY KALLINA, TREASURER
JENNIFER ROBERTSON, SECRETARY
MALCOLM STEWART, LAKE STEWARD
PAUL GRENNELL, WEBMASTER
GORD MCCULLOCH, DIRECTOR, TOWN LIAISON

GWYNNETH MORAIS, DIRECTOR

MARILYN STEWART, DIRECTOR

JOEL ARTHURS, DIRECTOR

DAWN REISER, DIRECTOR

SANDRA CLARK, DIRECTOR

VACANT, SHELDRAKE AND PRINGLE LAKE
REP/DIRECTOR

SKOOTAMATTA 2013 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

2013 saw 90 entrants, the most photo submissions ever! – And – they were wonderful! Thank you to all who submitted. You can see all the photos in the Gallery at ww.skootamatta.ca. It was a difficult choice among such diverse images of lake experiences. However, our panel managed to reach a consensus. Thanks to our panel judges Paul Grennell, Jane Richmond, John Teager, and photographer and frequent lake visitor, Brian King.

1st Place!

'At Peace' by Greg Sladics. This nicely composed and balanced photograph reflects perfectly how many of us feel on coming to Skootamatta Lake. The fine clarity, calm colours, symmetry and simplicity all support the meditative theme – Namasté.



and Placel

'What's Up?' by Margie Clark. As the lake readies for nightfall, the loons gather – a rare photo. Scientists believe the loons are assessing potential future mates. The dimming light on the shore, the closing day activities, and the loons we can almost hear, clearly express a cherished Skootamatta experience.



3rd Placel

'The Girls have an Adventure' by Rhonda Cummings. This is a special take on the winter lake. Tightly cropped, the composition frames a Colville like scene. It nicely focuses on the colourful young girl, her shadow, and her interaction with the crisp icy snow. Skootamatta Lake holds fascination in all seasons.



A 'Hodgepodge Lodge' Wedding

A cottage wedding is a unique celebration that, with Mother Nature's blessing, can be one of the most memorable, delicious and downright fun times you'll ever have. An outdoor wedding on Skootamatta Lake is no exception! The glistening lake with its vibrant shoreline, fiery sunset, and a warm breeze off picturesque waters, will stay with your guests forever.

August 2013 brought a curious bunch of folks to Hodgepodge Lodge on the North Shore to share in a wedding celebration marked by a mouth-watering feast, delicious local deserts, dancing, singing and merriment till the wee hours of the morning. A sandy gully was transformed into a rugged "church" with cedar log benches and candle lanterns made from Crown jars. A calm breeze and bright sunshine comforted guests while the groom arrived in a canoe and the bride processed down a worn footpath used for generations. Bouquets were fashioned from dried lavender (from Prince Edward Lavender Farm) and baby's breath. Vows were sealed with kisses, cheering and Mother Nature's approval.

Guests were treated to a chicken BBQ and buffet provided on site by "Pig Out Roasters" from Belleville. It included local seasonal vegetables that had lining up seconds. Outrageous stories and well wishes tickled funny bones while guests devoured sweet treats prepared by family members and Hidden Gold Mine Bakery in Madoc. Talented neighbours created stunning flower arrangements from local gardens and wild "North of 7" spaces. Table settings and other useful party furniture were provided by Thompson's Tent & Party Rental. Ice was hoarded in a small freezer and placed in the old red canoe to cool BEvERages and superb local wine from Sandbanks Estate Winery. Our friendly barkeeper satisfied our insurance company's requirements for special event coverage. Everyone was kept safely hydrated under strings of lights and a colourful evening sky. Power sources from two adjacent family cottage properties met the electrical needs for the evening. Nature's call was answered by Mumby's in Tweed.

Sparklers greeted the bride and groom on their first spin across a handcrafted dance floor. Classics, movie favourites and rocking tunes kept everyone hot to trot. Impromptu fireworks, a roaring campfire and endless smiles and laughter made for lasting memories. Tuckered out guests were shuttled back to their cars at the parking lot by incredibly generous neighbours in a rented van. With the help and generosity of cottage neighbours, accommodations for lots of guests were provided close by. Others stayed at Marble Lake Lodge, Bishop's Lake "motel" and the Pine Grove Motor Inn. Some even camped under the stars at Bon Echo Provincial Park.

Hodgepodge Lodge is a special gathering place for the family. It is a place of peace, tranquility and summer rejuvenation. For the lucky bride and groom, it was only natural to share the best that Skootamatta Lake offers with the people closest to them. It was only possible by the sincere generosity of friends, family, amazing neighbours and of course, blessings from Mother Nature.







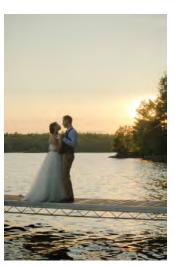


Photo Copyright, Val Mitchell Photography 2013

Written by the 'Farrow Wedding Team'. Jan & Kent - Erin Farrow & Craig Mock

3rd Annual Skootamatta Lake Festival

Date: Saturday, July 26th (Rain Date: July 27th)

Place: Trails End Grounds

Event Schedule:

10:30 am Registration*

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Children's Fun Games

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Youth Ladder Golf

• 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Swim Races

• 11:30 am - 2:00 pm Kayak Races

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Barbecue lunch

1:00 pm
 Adult Ladder Golf

*Please register at least 30 minutes before your event start time

Quinte Conservation - Fun Activities during the Festival

Participation award

7 - 8	Boys & Girls separately	
9 - 10	Boys & Girls separately	
11 - 12	Boys & Girls separately	-
13 - 14	Boys & Girls separately	-(())-
15 - 19	Boys & Girls separately	
20 - 29	Men & Women together	
30 - 39	Men & Women together	// // //

Men & Women together

Men & Women together



12 and younger
13 - 17
18 - 40
41 - 65
Men & Women separately

Ladder Golf:

Swim Races: 6 and younger

40 - 59

60+

13 - 18 Youth

19 - 59 Adult (New)

60+ Senior (New)

Due to low interest in adult horseshoes, we have replaced the event with Ladder Golf. Rules are available at www.skootamatta.ca.

New Team Event! Tri-generation TRYathlon

3 Generations compete in short run, short swim, short kayak. Cumulative age of team must be greater than 100 years!







Barbeque:

Food generously donated by Country Traditions.



112 INDUSTRIAL BLVD. NAPANEE | 613.354.1326 CountryTraditions.ca

2013 ANNUAL LAKE FESTIVAL REVIEW

On July 27 we held our second annual lake festival! Despite the questionable weather we had a great day of fun on the lake! We are pleased that this event has become an annual tradition.

Many volunteers came forward to assist with the swim races, kayak races, kids games, ladder golf and horseshoes, and several volunteered for the entire day. We truly appreciate all of the time and effort in making this such a successful event! Thank you so much! It would have been impossible for our SDRA board to pull off this event without the help of dedicated member volunteers.





The sun came out just long enough to shine for our Festival!



Thank you to Megan and Danielle from Quinte Conservation who hosted some great games for everyone to learn about conservation and animals around the lake. Watch for them again this year at the festival with new educational activities!



And they're off!! See the winners on Page 5!



Megan and Danielle from Quinte Conservation and some eager youngsters!



Kayak races are always a favourite!

Thank you also to the O.P.P. for providing the kids (and adults) with a great tour of the Police Boat! Congratulations to all of the winners and to those who came out and competed in the events!

To everyone who participated in the Lake Festival we welcome your feedback in order to improve this event so please be sure to send us your ideas! I hope you have enjoyed some of the images from our Lake Festival and please check out www.skootamatta.ca for even more pictures!

Congratulations to all of our winners of the 2nd Annual Lake Festival events!

Event	Category			
Swimming	6 and Under Participants	Megan Beyba	Stella McBride	Rory Kallina
		Aiden Robertson	Sophie Wise	
		1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
	7-8 Boys	Sam Cote	Dylan Wise	Adam New
	7-8 Girls	Denver Holland	Anna Beyba	Claire Tennant
	9-10 Boys	Christian Rasmussen		
	9-10 Girls	Sophia Ashby	Molly Robertson	Annabel Child
	11-12 Boys	River Saliba	Jack Robertson	
	11-12 Girls	Juliette Cote	Madi Lessard	Rachel Cumming
	13-14 Girls	Alexis Brodie	Solstice Saliba	Megan Grennell
	15-19 Boys	Jonathan Brodie		
	30-39 Men & Women	Struan Robertson	Heather Wise	
	40-59 Men	Paul Grennell	Sean Grace	Doug Pritchard
	40-59 Women	Katherine Grennell	Daphne Williams	Erica McBride
Kayaking	Boys 12 and un- der	Jessie Perkins	Jack Robertson	Ben Grace
	Girls 12 and un- der	Rachel Cumming	Laura Smith	Sofia Ashby
	13-16 Boys	Greg Stevens	Barrett Aass	Christian Rasmussen
	13-16 Girls	Solstice Saliba	Megan Grennell	Florence Awde
	17-40 Men	Adam Wise	Struan Robertson	
	17-40 Women	Jamie Lee Rattray	Alison Cote	
	41+ Men	Jim Cote	Gary Evans	Daniel Child
	41+ Women	Karen Dural	Janet Couch	Shelley Alkenbrack
	Honourary 70+!	Eleanor Grennell		
Ladder Golf		Nick and River Saliba	Hayley and Tory	Megan Grennell and Jack Robertson
Horseshoes		Nick Foti and Troy Dixon	Cam Garnish and Melanie Vonau	Sarah and Heather Evans

Please be sure to mark your 2014 calendar for **Saturday**, **July 26**! See the outline on page 7 and watch for details in Paul's Pops!

Skoot Kid's Corner



SKOOTAMATTA TOP 10 - Kid's and Adults!

This year we have a Kid's corner submission from the Robertson Family! Just to add some fun we have the kids and the adults versions of top 10 things to do on Skootamatta!

- 10. Blueberry pancakes for breakfast.
- 9. Kneeboarding and Tubing with my brother and sister
- 8. Working outside with Daddy
- 7. Playing Apples to Apples in the Bunkie with the cousins
- 6. Sitting in the swinging hammock chair by the dock
- 5. Playing hockey on the lake
- 4. Fishing with Grandpa at the dam
- 3. Drinking Kool-Aid Jammers on the rocks
- 2. Doing the swimming race at the Lake Festival
- 1. Playing Lego in the screened-in porch
- By Aiden Robertson, Age 7

- 10. Tubing and wakeboarding
- 9. Sleeping late
- 8. Playing Scrabble on the boat
- 7. Hanging out with family
- 6. Swimming in the lake
- 5. Playing cards with the cousins
- 4. The Lake Festival
- 3. Fireworks on Labour Day weekend
- 2. Playing hockey in winter on the lake
- 1. Fishing with Grandpa at the dam
- By Jack Robertson, age 12

- 10. Friendly neighbours, friends and family
- 9. Tubing behind the boat
- 8. Swimming races at the Lake Festival
- 7. Exploring in the woods
- 6. Swimming with our dog
- 5. Sailing around in the Hobie Cat
- 4. Skinny-dipping at sunset
- 3. Canada Day Boat Parade
- 2. Yummy campfire S'mores
- 1. Spending all summer at Skootamatta
- By Molly Robertson, age 10

And now for the top 10 for the adults!

- 10. Preparing dinner in our bathing suits.
- 9. Kids playing outside all day long, no TV or video games
- 8. Happy hour on the dock
- Quiet morning paddles in the canoe or on the paddle board
- 6. Sleeping with the windows wide open and a breeze off off the lake
- 5. Cooking bacon on the BBQ
- 4. Skootamatta sunsets
- 3. Loons calling at night
- Reading magazines on the screened in porch (followed by a nap)
- 1. Waking up with a dive off the dock (instead of an alarm clock and a shower)

WHAT'S ON YOUR TOP 10 COTTAGE LIST?

OUR THANKS TO GREAT VOLUNTEERS!



Besides the many hours contributed by our dedicated Board of Directors, the activities and routine tasks could not be completed without the assistance of many volunteers. From road clean up, lake conservation, fire pump maintenance, social event hosting (to name a few) we have the following people to thank for their contribution during the 2013 and 2014 year.

Shelley Alkenbrack
Florence Awde
Savannah Awde
Charlotte Awde
Duncan Awde
Hermann Balon
Victor Balon
Lew Barker
Gord Bernie
Alexis Brodie

Jim and Eleanor Chinnick John Coulter Jill Cote

Esther Demszak Gary Evans Patrick Falby
Jane McBride-Falby
Kent Farrow
Erin Farrow
Cameron Garnish
Lynn Garnish
Katherine Grennell
Megan Grennell
Bob Hasler
Hein Hemmersbach

Ken Hook
Erica Howe

Claire Majid
Erica McBride
Derek Mendham
Evan Mole
Greg New
Rachel Nichols
Taylor Nichols
Ron Nowell
Peter Parker
Josh Penafiel
Caitlin Price
Ted Price

Susan Pritchard

Dave Rattray
Jamie-Lee Rattray
Melody Rattray
Lorraine Saliba
Alan Smith
Meaghan Smith
Don Stafford and Family
Susanne and Mike Stevens
Bruce Schwenger
Bernie Tennant
Rod Trimble
Ryan Trimble
Cindy Van Loan
Daphne Williams

We realize there are numerous others that contribute in anonymous ways.

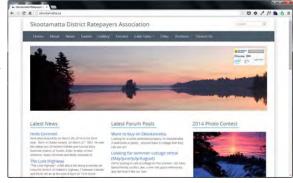
Please accept our apology for any names missing and we thank you for your continued support.

Skootamatta.ca Website Update

by Paul Grennell, webmaster@skootamatta.ca

There have been a lot of changes to the Skootamatta.ca website over the past year.

The Photo Gallery now allows members to submit their photos to the photo contest throughout the year, even though the contest doesn't end until November. Based on the success of the photo contest last year, we know that our members love to take part in this event and now you don't have to wait until the fall to post your photos!



The Forums section allows you to add postings to the site under categories such as For Sale, For Rent, Free Stuff, Wanted, Lost & Found, General Discussion, etc. Are you looking to rent your cottage, or find a cottage for rent this summer? Just add a new posting to the Forums.

A new Lake Tales section has been added to the site to include stories and information on the history of the lake. As we welcome anyone to contribute to this section we have now made it easy for you to post your stories. Just go to the Lake Tales section of the site and look for the Submit Your Tales button. You can either copy and paste your submissions, or upload a document and any photos you want to include with your story.

We are just getting ready to offer the ability for our members to pay their yearly membership fees online. Look for a link on the site that allows you to pay your fees using PayPal. This will make it much faster and easier to make your payments each year.

Do you have any suggestions regarding how we could improve the site further? We would love to hear from you! Please send us your suggestions and comments by using the Contact Us form on the site.

Thank You!



THE SDRA WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THANKS TO ROBIN DERUCHIE WOLF CREEK CARVINGS FOR THE BEAUTIFUL HAND CRAFTED BEAR BENCH SIMILAR TO THIS ONE THAT WILL BE PROUDLY DISPLAYED AT TRAILS END THIS SUMMER! CHECK OUT MORE OF ROBINS WORKS AT info@wolfcreekcarvings.com.



Community Donation



The Northbrook Food Bank

In deciding where to direct our community donation this year, the round table discussion suggested various avenues for us to consider. During this discussion, I shared a personal story with the group that assisted us in our decision to donate this year to the local food bank located in Cloyne. Here is my personal story:

Each year my husband and I host many dinner parties, but New Years Eve is one of the hi-lights of the year. We generally will have about 15 people coming and all of them want to generously contribute a dish to the meal menu. If anyone knows my husband, you know he is a wonderful cook and spends as much time planning the menus as he does executing the meal itself. He wants all of the dishes to work in concert with each other, appetizers and dessert included. Our wonderful guests plead each year with us...."is there a dish we can bring?"...."can't we please bring something to contribute?"

Three years ago we decided that "yes", there was something everyone could bring. Instead of a food contribution to the meal, we asked everyone to bring a food donation for the local food bank. It was amazing the amount of food we collected from our guests, and when we delivered the goods to the food bank, they were thrilled to receive it and wanted the details surrounding our collection effort.

The generosity of our great friends was simply channelled towards people who are less fortunate than we are......a great show of community spirit that makes us proud to be a part of such a wonderful group of people with a sense of generosity to those around us.

Submitted by Dawn Reiser

Each year, if feasible, the SDRA provides a financial contribution to the community on behalf of its members. Examples of past contributions include the North Addington Education Centre towards their literacy program and The Cloyne and District Historical Society. This year after discussion, your Board decided to make a contribution to **The Cloyne Food Bank**. In 2013, the food bank prepared 219 boxes for over 530 people. The demand has increase by 33% since 2012. Year round donations can be made at the Northbrook Community Services Building at 12497 Hwy 7. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the annual AGM on Saturday, July 5.

2013-14 Treasurer's Report Prepared by Nancy Kallina Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year

	Notes:	2014	2013
Revenue:			
Memberships	1	9,600	9,500
Newsletter Advertising	2	1,460	1,330
Boat Launch Intake	3	638	769
Other	4	149	220
Total Revenue		11,847	11,819
Expenses:			
Communication	5	1,975	3,691
Member Events	6	2,290	2,577
Stewardship	7	1,814	650
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance		800	840
Administration	8	318	428
Insurance	9	1,825	1,993
Assets	10	241	1,237
Total expenses		9,763	11,916
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		2,084	(97)
Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)		17,330	
Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)		19,413	
Opening Fireworks fund		1,395	
Contributions		4,150	
Event Cost		(4,500)	
Closing Fireworks Fund		1,045	
Closing Cash (including Fireworks Fund)		20,458	

Notes:

- 1) 192 paid memberships received during the year. 190 paid members the previous year.
- 2) Increased canvassing and improved collections from prior year.
- 3) Decreased collections from box likely due to improvements to alternative launch.
- 4) Increased revenue due to interest income. Prior year includes sales of SDRA merchandise.
- 5) Newsletter printing lower due to new supplier. Reduced number of colour pages and lighter bond to save on postage costs.
- 6) Festival costs lower since did not incur start up expenses. Generous food donation from Country Traditions.
- 7) Performed enhanced water testing. Water testing performed every other year.
- 8) Utilized less expensive conference call service for off season board meetings.
- 9) 2013 includes 2 years of regatta insurance.
- 10) 2013 included fire hoses, tents and other one time assets. 2014 purchased canopy tent.

Dr. Ellen Blatchford 1900-1990



When the car with a "D" license plate was parked under the big pine tree at Trail's End on Loon Lake (Lake Skootamatta) the cottagers and local people who lived there would give a sigh of relief. They knew that its owner, Dr. Ellen Blatchford, was vacationing and that they would have access to her skill, medical knowledge and healing words.

In 1934 when the Blatchford's bought their property on what is now Loon Nest Road, the nearest physician practiced in Tweed. There were no roads around the lake, no phones of course, and folks would travel to find her on the many pathways (now disappeared) or by rowboat.

And find her they did. Leo Meeks writes that as children, he and his siblings fished with a pole and a hook and were often caught with the hook. They would

walk on the pathways in their bare feet to find this "great lady" who would greet and make them feel so special. Then she would remove the hook and give them a special treat. When the car with the "D" license plate went back to the city in the fall it always stopped at the Meeks home where the children were lined up to say good-bye. Ellen would give Leo's mother, Martha, a special woven bag. Leo learned later in life that the bag contained medical supplies to help the family through the winter.

Ellen Comisky was born in Maple Valley, Wisconsin in 1900. Her parents returned to Canada in 1901 and she spent her early days in the mining town of Cobalt, and witnessed the accidental dynamite explosion that left the town in ruins. She remembered her Mother running with her in her arms down the railroad track to escape.

Her family later moved to Aurora and then to Richmond Hill. She was the oldest child in the family of four, and an achiever. Influenced by her family doctor, and with the encouragement of her family she entered the University of Toronto.

After the Ontario Medical College for Women closed its doors, the University of Toronto was Ontario's only Medical School accepting female students. Throughout the period 1910-1940 those women attending Toronto represented the vast majority of female medical students in Canada. Whether or not the faculty wanted them is a moot point. This may have been because of the chilly climate in male dominated schools, or the societal roles that women were expected to fill in post-war Canada. Given that they could not be formally excluded, the outstanding characteristic of female medical students during the period was that there were few of them. They reached a plateau equaling about 10% of the medical class. Ellen was included in that aspiring group of women who followed their dreams. After graduating in 1923 she interned at the West Philadelphia Hospital for Women, St. John's Hospital, and Toronto General Hospital. She gained experience as an anesthetist at the Women's College Hospital which at that time was on Rusholme Road. Working hard with both the Board and Staff there, she helped raise funds for the new Women's College Hospital which opened in 1935. It was a teaching institution that would become affiliated with U of T. In 1937, she received her Certification from the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons as an Anesthetist.

During that time of great accomplishment she had also married Douglas Blatchford, a Mathematics teacher at Jarvis Collegiate, with their little children Bob and Anne they vacationed every summer in the developing Loon Lake. It took no time for the local population to realize how fortunate they were to have Dr. Ellen Blatchford on the lake.

She gradually turned her cottage living room into an area where she could treat emergencies. The room was lit with an oil lamp, and her supplies were kept in an antique chest.

They brought the young boy to her by canoe. He was a camper from Mazinaw Boys Camp who had cut his foot with an axe while tenting on the Upper Lake. Using a head mirror to illuminate the wound area, she carefully sutured his foot. He was happily released to continue his trip, but he never forgot her.

Another time, Walter Meeks was brought by a logger's boat from the Skootamatta River. Stung by a bee, he was in anaphylactic shock. Fortunately, she was able pack him in ice and administer amminophylline. His son David later wrote, "Occasionally, an individual touches us in ways that are both hard to describe and unforgettable too. Dr. Ellen Blatchford was one such individual.....Whether it was a kind word, look or gesture, or supplying emergency medical care, she endeared herself to all who came to know her."

Because there were so many injuries of embedded fish hooks, she had a custom built instrument manufactured that could cut through stainless steel. She also used it to remove porcupine quills from animals and humans alike.

The T. A. Wilson Lumber Mill, located on Loon Lake, supplied employment for many and brought with it workplace injuries. How convenient it was to have a physician so close who could treat all manner of sprains and lacerations.

Her medical supplies were limitless and varied. She used xylocaine for local freezing, horse hair sutures, quinine, bandages of all description, morphine, and tooth ache pills.

Lake Skootamatta became a vacation spot for many of her colleagues from The Women's College Hospital, including Dr. Marion Hilliard who vacationed at the cottage and fished the lake. By the 1940's the area had developed into a tourist haven for American fishermen who stayed at the many lodges. Once again, they relied on Dr. Blatchford to solve their medical emergencies.

When she retired in 1967, the staff at WCH realizing that they would miss her energy, capacity and willingness memorialized her by dedicating a room to her that still stands. Canada's "First lady of Surgery", Dr. Jessie Gray, stated that "not only is she the best anesthetist in the country, but she also has that unique ability to lean over the screen and with a simple remark or two, make you feel like the best surgeon in the county." Perhaps the greatest tribute of all came from a patient who reminisced and said "Dr. Blatchford's presence is an analgesic in itself."

In the years that followed, she lived in retirement in the community, where she enjoyed cottage life. With her willingness and availability to respond to a call for help and her capacity for friendship, she endeared herself to all who came to know her.

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Hellstedt, Leone: Women Physicians of the World

Women's College Hospital: Medical Staff Bulletin January 1967

Tips for First Aid Kits

- Clearly label the kit "First Aid".
- Show everyone where the kit is located.
- Kit container should be a bright colour and something that is water resistant.
- Organize it so it is easy to use in an emergency.
- Establish a routine for keeping it stocked. Keep a list of contents in the kit and restock it immediately after using any supplies.
- Mark EMS phone number on kit.

FIRST AID KIT CONTENTS

Dressing & Bandages

- Assorted bandage strips
- Rolls of adhesive tape, gauze pads
- Compression dressing or cloth triangular bandages
- Eye dressings, non stick dressings
- Polysporin or other first aid antibiotic cream
- Rubbing alcohol pads/disinfection solution

Equipment

- Tweezers, scissors
- Barrier devices (pocket mask for rescue breathing), non-latex gloves
- Safety pins of assorted sizes, splints and splint padding
- Instant heat and cold packs
- Waterproof waste bags
- Pencil and paper
- Thermometer
- Sterile saline solution or a bottle of water
- Other equipment (adapt the contents of the kit to suit your situation):
- Waterproof matches, pocketknife, penlight, whistle, blanket



Fire safety tips for the cottage

You may have as little as one minute to escape a burning cottage. Don't let tragedy spoil your summer fun.

Make fire and carbon monoxide safety a part of your cottage opening routine by following these 5 key steps:

- On Day One of cottage season, prepare and practice a fire escape plan ensuring, wherever possible, that you have two ways out of every room of your cottage.
- Check the age of all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Immediately replace smoke alarms over 10
 years old and CO alarms over 7 years depending on the manufacturer. This is required whether Alarms are
 plug-in, hardwired or battery powered.
- Install fresh batteries in all alarms, especially those in cottages that were closed down for the winter as cold drains battery power.
- The same Ontario law applies in cottages as in permanent homes working smoke alarms are required on every storey of your cottage and outside all sleeping areas.
- Cottages with fireplaces or fuel-burning appliances of any kind (eg. propane or gas stove, furnace, water heater etc.) should have a carbon monoxide alarm – this is law in many cottage municipalities.





Fire safety tips for the cottage...continued

Inside the cottage

- Learn how your smoke alarms work and test them at least monthly.
- Develop a fire-escape plan. Designate family members who are responsible to help guests, people who may have trouble getting out on their own, and pets.
- Keep keys and cell phones in a handy place, so they can be found during a hasty exit. Once everyone is out and accounted for at a meeting place, call 911 or your local emergency number and report the fire.
- Clean and check your chimney regularly. Maintain fuel-burning appliances.
- Properly dispose of ashes from wood-burning appliances. Put ashes in sand or mineral soil in a steel bucket (but don't leave the bucket on the deck), then when cooled, spread, bury and treat them like a campfire and put water or snow on them.
- Don't leave candles burning unattended.

Outside the cottage

- Store fuel, firewood, and other combustible materials at least 10 metres from the cottage.
- Keep roof and rain gutters free of dried leaves and pine needles. Install a screened cap on your chimney.
- Keep firefighting tools (a bucket of water or sand, shovels, and a garden hose) handy when you're having a bonfire or burning brush.
- Keep barbecues clean, and never leave a stove or barbecue unattended.
- If you allow smoking at the cottage, establish a safe smoking area with a sand or water-filled can for butt disposal. Ask visitors to use the area and stub the butts out in the can.
- Install fire extinguishers in the kitchen, garage, boat house, and boat, and learn how to use them. Ensure they are maintained and pressurized as per manufacturer's instructions. (When fighting a fire with an extinguisher, always keep an escape route behind you.)
- Ensure your address number is visible from the road. Consider ways to make your lane easier to navigate for large fire vehicles.

Skootamatta Lake Fire Pump Locations

- 1. Blake Island (West Side of Island at the base of the Boat House)
- 2. Ron Nowell's (shed on the property's point)

Please refer to the lake map included with this Newsletter.

<u>Please Note!</u> These portable Fire Pumps are heavy and require at least two people to move them. They are maintained by member volunteers and must be returned refuelled and with the hoses properly stored.

If you are keeping the Fire Pump for longer than one day please advise any of the SDRA Board members.



Birth Announcements

S) do

Helga and Adam Schiefer became proud grandparents of their first grand children. Their daughter Nikki and her husband Winston gave birth to two little boys (Ethan Alexander & Quinn Louis) on December 3rd 2013.



Susan and Harley Willemsen became proud grandparents for the fourth time! Their daughter Ashley and her husband Ian McIntyre had a boy Hayden born January 23rd 2014. Harley and Susan now have 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson! Congratulations!

Judy and John Coulter would like to announce that they have a brand new grandbaby, their first, named Jackson Lucas Fuller, the first child of their daughter Carolyn and her husband, Jay. Jack was born on December 22, 2012.



Weddings & Anniversaries

Susan and Harley Willemsen also celebrated a wedding in the family! Their daughter Kayla was married to Shawn Evans on Saturday, July 20th, 2013. Congratulations!

Jan and Kent Farrow's daughter Erin Farrow was married to Craig Mock on August, 24, 2013 at Skootamatta Lake! Read the story of this special day on Page 6.



Dick and Edna Blake celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on November 27, 2013. The couple first visited Skootamatta in the early sixties and immediately fell in love with the lake and, in particular, an island of Crown land at the head of Jacques Bay. Although it was a slow process, they managed to secure ownership of the property on what would eventually be named Blake Island. They built a small cookhouse in the early seventies. This humble structure would eventually become the kitchen of a cottage that grew room by room over the years. As their four children married and had their own families the island welcomed new generations. It has been the gathering

place for many significant family celebrations.

Dick and Edna continue to enjoy an active life in Guelph and to visit the island each summer. They are looking forward to returning in summer 2014.

Kay and Don Brundage from North Shore Road, will be celebrating their 65th anniversary on July 23rd. They have no advice as to how to accomplish this, except that they have wonderful children and grandchildren! Congratulations!

Congratulations to Debbie and Duncan Awde celebrating their 20th anniversary on June 11, 2014!

In Memoriam

Ross Oborne, son of Alfred Ross Oborne, the founder of the Loon Lake Colony in 1922, was 7 years old for his first visit to what became Skootamatta Lake. He and his family celebrated his July 1st birthday, continuously to 2012, except for the WWII war years and this July 1st. A seasonal resident for 90 years, he knew and worked with many of the local families, some of which helped his father build many of the first 25 cottages on the Lake: Mike Schwager, the Bey brothers, many of the Andrew Meeks family and helpers and friends Merrill Dennison and Ted Snider; as well as many lifelong friends on the Lake whose families are still occupying their original cottages. Ross was the last of the initial Loon Lake Colonists from the '20s.

A successful businessman in Toronto and then Montreal, he spent his holidays continuing to improve the functioning and appearance of the original family cottage on Oborne Island for most of his working career. This effort has resulted in 3 cottages occupied by his 3 children on the original 5 acre property. He became very active in the community upon retirement in 1975, with he and his wife Bette spending the May to October period at the Lake. He was President of the Lake Association for many years in the '50s to the '70s, a supporter of the Friends of Bon Echo, the local Museum and occasionally gave lectures at the High School in Cloyne, usually in full regalia as a Colonel in the 78th Fraser Highlanders historic regiment. He will be missed by his children-Jim (Winnipeg), David (Toronto) and Lynn (St Lazare, QC), his 10 grand children and 21 great grandchildren who, hopefully, will continue to come to the Lake that he loved so much for generations to come.

Marlene Kojro was a Skootamatta cottager on the North Shore since 1982. She is survived by her husband George Kojro, and her three children Antony (Ellen), Julie (Derrick) and Paula (Dominic). Marlene had a very long fight with Alzheimer's Disease. She was loved by all who knew her and will be remembered fondly.

Bill Griffith passed away on Thursday December 5 2013 in Kingston General Hospital, after a short illness. Bill lived on Hughes Landing Road. He built his cottage on Crown Land on at the far end of Sheldrake Bay in 1967. When he retired, he made the wise move to Skootamatta Lake and lived happily for sixteen years here. Bill leaves son Bill Jr.(Melissa Evans) of Northbrook, daughter Margaret Ann (Bill Holden) of Toronto, Daniel and Katelyn Holden, and son David (Debora Allison) of Belleville, and Trevor and Kayla Griffith.

Annie Mary (Nan) Alkenbrack (July 4, 1919 - December 20, 2013)

In her 95th year, Nan Alkenbrack died - as she lived - surrounded by her loving family. A passionate educator, Nan enjoyed an illustrious thirty-five year career teaching in several local Lennox and Addington elementary schools and inspired thousands of young people to reach their potential. At a dance pavilion in Deseronto, Nan met her husband-to-be Douglas Alkenbrack. For 59 years, Nan and Doug were great partners who proudly served their community, with Nan as an integral supporter of Doug's lengthy career as a Member of Parliament in Ottawa. Nan was extremely devoted to her children Eleanor Grennell (Herb), Doug Alkenbrack (Shelley), and also to her grandchildren Paul (Daphne), Katherine (Bernie), Jennifer (Struan), Sarah (Kevin), and Andrew. Nan spent wonderful weekends at the family cottage on Skootamatta Lake, where she often slept out in the tent with all the kids or held a grammar lesson on the deck overlooking the bay. A keen observer of the wonders of nature, Nan taught her grandchildren to listen to the soughing of the wind in the trees and to gaze in awe at the beauty of Queen Anne's Lace. Later in her life, she continued to teach these important lessons to her nine great grandchildren. Nan was an elegant yet authentic person. She will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved her.

In Memoriam

Herbert Joseph Grennell - Herb died peacefully on March 29, 2014 in his 83rd year. Born in Dublin Ireland, on March 27, 1931, Herb was the eldest son of Herbert William and Cecilia Mary Grennell (Hatch) of Dublin; Elder brother of Ann Johnston, Aiden Grennell and Betty Grennell (deceased). The loving husband of Eleanor Grennell (Alkenbrack) and devoted father to Paul (Daphne) and Katherine (Bernie) and grandfather to Erin, Haley, Megan, and Claire. Herbert enjoyed a distinguished career in medicine and in anesthesia. He graduated from the National University of Ireland in 1954 and was named a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1963. He served as an Anesthetist at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston in the 1960's and at Kingston General Hospital from 1970 to 1996. He was Associate Professor of Medicine with Queen's University Medical School.

Herb loved to golf with friends and family. He also loved being on the water, boating on Lake Ontario and at his cottage on Skootamatta Lake and in the winter snowmobiling there. He was an avid car enthusiast and owned many favourite cars throughout his life. Although he didn't grow up in the high tech era, he always lived on the cutting edge of new inventions, particularly home computers, cameras, and surround sound systems. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, collecting stamps and old coins, and model railroad building. Herb loved to travel. He loved to tell stories about his interesting background and, at any dinner party or social event he attended, he held everyone's attention. After years of taking care of others, Herb spent the last year and a half being taken care of by the wonderful staff on Montreal 4 at Providence Manor in Kingston.

Joan MINES, 'Ma Mines', died at the age of 88 on Oct 23, 2013 in Lakefield, Ontario.

Joan was the mother of Lynn Garnish and during the early years of Lynn's service to the SDRA as the Newsletter editor, Joan was her envelope stuffer and stamp licker (no self sticking in those days). During the last years of Joan's life from 2003 to 2010 she lived with Lynn and Bill and spent her summers at Skoot, a place she loved. After going into long term care she often talked about going back to Skoot. She will this summer.

The SDRA offers sincere condolences to family and friends who have lost someone close to their hearts.

Lake Tales Project Update by Joel Arthurs

Over the past few years we have been collecting history stories from families on Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle. As of April 22, 2014 we have 38 submissions to this project. Hopefully, we will be able to post these submissions on the website in the coming months as we transcribe the forms.

If you would like to include your family's history in this project, be sure to check out the stories already on the site and send us your family's history on the lake. Here are a few pointers to get you started.

Which family member was the first to visit the lake and when?

When did you purchase the cottage/land, were you the first owners?

If not the first owners, what is the cottage's history?

What kind of changes have you seen over the years on the lake?

What major events/fondest memories have taken place in the cottage?

How many generations have been at the cottage?

Lake Steward's Report by Malcolm Stewart

Water Quality

I am happy to report that Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes continue to enjoy some of the healthiest water in Southern Ontario's cottage country. Caduceon Environmental Laboratories, our independent water testing service in Kingston, has reassured us that key indicators of lake health - Total Phosphorus, Total Keljdahl Nitrogen, Ammonia, Calcium and E coli - are all well within acceptable levels, as shown in Table 1 below.

2013 Skootamatta Lake Water Testing Results
Source: Caduceon Environmental Laboratories, Kingston, Ontario

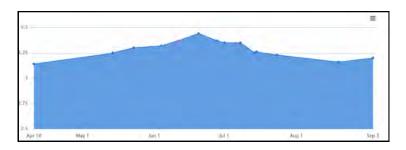
	-					
		Total	Total			
	Parameter	Phosphorus	K. Nitrogen	Ammonia	Calcium	E coli
Sampling Locations	Units MDL*	J	mg/L 0.05	mg/L 0.005	mg/L 0.02	cfu/100mL 1
1. Upper Lake Ldg		< 0.01	0.33	0.018	5.32	
2. Jacques Bay		< 0.01	0.29	0.020	5.36	0
3. Sheldrake Bay		< 0.01	0.31	0.047	5.47	5
4. South Shore		< 0.01	0.32	0.024	5.61	
5. Southast Shore		< 0.01	0.3	0.028	5.45	
6. Oborne Back Bay	/	0.08	0.28	0.044	5.46	0
7. Northeast Bay		< 0.01	0.31	0.019	5.51	0
8. Wolf Creek		< 0.01	0.31	0.016	5.60	
9. Henniger Road		< 0.01	0.28	0.020	5.56	0
10. Trails End Ldg		0.01	0.28	0.027	5.53	

Lake Steward Report continued on next page......

Water Levels

Following one of the coldest, snowiest winters in recent memory, Quinte Region experienced unusual weather conditions this spring. As of April 15 the ice had not yet gone out in Skootamatta Lake, indicating the possibility of a late start to cottage season. Water levels south of our lakes have been exceptionally high leading to flooding in the communities of Belleville, Foxborough and Tweed. Water levels on our lakes were lower than expected in 2012, while they were normal, if not slightly higher, in 2013. It is hard to predict what might happen in 2014. Throughout the 2013 cottage season, with the help of staff from Quinte Conservation Authority we reported water level measurements at the Skootamatta dam on the SDRA website (see graph below), and will continue to do so this season. We also plan to continue tracking water levels on the lakes at several cottage docks with gauges provided by QCA.

Skootamatta Lake Water Level (meters)



Climate Change

Last fall I attended a workshop on hydrodynamic change across North America sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (FOCA). The internationally traveled speaker, Bob Stanford from Calgary, described the impact of climate change on lakes and watersheds across North America and worldwide. He painted an alarming scenario involving rising seas, contamination of inland lakes, extreme weather, wildfires and massive flooding. The recently released reports by the International Commission on Climate Change have underscored these warnings.

Hydrodynamic change has to do with the ways that melting Arctic ice and rising temperatures alter the chemistry of fresh water lakes (e.g. Bras d'Or, NS and Lake Winnipeg, MB) and lead to flooding (e.g. Southern Manitoba, Calgary, Toronto, Kawartha Lakes), wildfires (British Columbia, Northern Quebec) and species displacement. Stanford pointed out that as hydrological disasters continue to occur, local authorities with inadequate preparation and infrastructure will be less able to cope and many will ultimately become uninsurable. He suggested that this is the time to press all levels of government to shore up local preparedness and infrastructure to manage the impact of climate change.

Lake Management Plan

Over the winter months, a group of volunteers from Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes has been preparing a Lake Management Plan to address challenges to our lakes such as climate change, invasive species, over-development and human practices that can damage our life-supporting shorelines and wetlands. The draft Plan should be available to SDRA members, government and non-government bodies in May, 2014. We hope everyone will consider its goals, objectives and action plans carefully and commit to helping preserve our lakes for future generations.



Canada Day Boat Paradel

JOIN IN THE FUN ON CANADA DAY AT THE SKOOTAMATTA LAKE BOAT PARADE!

WHEN: TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014

WHERE: ASSEMBLE AT JACQUES BAY, PARADE LEAVES AT 11:00 A.M.

DAVID, MELODIE AND JAMIE-LEE RATTRAY WILL LEAD THE PARADE THIS YEAR!



Peace, Love and Potluck

Come one come all to our annual pot luck event generously held at Ron and Esther's home!

When: August 9, 2014

Where: 1191 Hughes Landing Rd. (Nowell's residence)
Starting time: 3 - 4:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. sharp.
Show off your favourite dish to share with friends!

This event is open to all lake residents and we encourage everyone (including children) to come!

After the feast, Ron will light the torch to start the bonfire!



The SDRA would like to formally thank Ron and Esther for opening their property to lake residents each year. Their kindness is greatly appreciated.

FIREWORKS!!



Come and Enjoy our Annual Tradition!

SATURDAY AUGUST 30, 2014

By boat or road at the causeway at dusk.

Fireworks to start at 8:30 p.m.

Rain date Sunday, August 31, 2014

Note: Last year's event was larger than usual and was a wonderful spectacle. If contributions continue at the same level as last year, we will again be able to hold a larger than normal show.

We encourage our members and neighbours to continue to donate if they are viewing the show.

Importance of a Well Maintained Septic System

Lakes associations, including the SDRA, speak about the importance of well-maintained septic systems and how to inform and plead if necessary with property owners to ensure systems are operating properly such that contaminants do not infect the surrounding bodies of water. We might be inadvertently polluting the lake so we ask our members to please add a septic tank inspection to your cottage to do list.

Below are some frequently asked questions about septic systems.

Do septic tanks last forever? No. Private septic systems are temporary systems; they will not last forever and do require maintenance. The lifespan of a septic system depends on the quality of the installation, regular maintenance, usage, and the type of soil and drainage. Pumping a septic tank is one of the best and least expensive means by which to maintain a septic system.

What should and should not go into a septic tank? The best situation would be that only human wastewater enters the tank. This includes bathroom sink waste and proper toilet tissue. In moderation, a properly working septic tank can handle some biodegradable detergents, laundry soaps, kitchen wastes, and biodegradable household chemicals.

The following substances are some items that should not be put in the septic system:

- Cigarette butts, disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, plastics
- Cooking grease, oils, or fats; and,
- Pesticides, paints and paint thinners, solvents, other household chemicals.

Cooking grease, oils or fats should be placed in a container and put in household garbage. Pesticides, paints, paint thinners, solvents, disinfectants and other household chemicals are toxic substances that threaten ground water quality. They may also kill the microorganisms that help purify the sewage.

How to tell if my septic tank is not working properly? Two very obvious signs that a septic system is not functioning properly are strange odours and standing waste water in the yard where the leach field should be. However, not all malfunctioning septic systems show these clear signs. To find out if your septic system is functioning properly, inspected it every 1-3 years.

How to Know If a System Is Failing:

- Sewage backup in the drains or toilets. This is often a black liquid with a disagreeable odour.
- Slow flushing of the toilets. Many of the drains in the house will drain much slower than usual, despite the use of plungers or drain cleaning products.
- Surface flow of wastewater. One will notice liquid seeping along the surface of the ground near the septic system. It may or may not have much of an odour associated with it.
- Lush green grass over the absorption field, even during dry weather. Often, this indicates that an
 excessive amount of liquid from the system is moving up through the soil, instead of downward, as it
 should. While some upward movement of liquid from the absorption field is good, too much could
 indicate major problems.
- The presence of nitrates or bacteria in your drinking water well. This indicates that liquid from the system may be flowing into the well through the ground or over the surface. Water tests available from your local health department will indicate if you have this problem.
- Build-up of aquatic weeds or algae in lakes or ponds adjacent to the house. This may indicate that nutrient, rich septic system waste is leaching into the surface water.
- Often, improperly vented or failing systems cause a build-up of disagreeable odours around the house.

Can a septic system be repaired? Yes. Depending upon the problem, many times a repair is possible. Some examples of a repair would be: to fix a crushed or collapsed pipe, to replace a broken baffle that has allowed solids into the leach field, or to replace a cracked or collapsed septic tank lid.

Can my septic system contaminate my well?

If septic tank effluent flows into an area with a shallow water table, it might not be adequately purified before entering ground water. A similar problem can happen where the soil is too thin over rock to treat the septic tank effluent well. If inadequately treated septic tank effluent enters groundwater, your well water supply and that of others nearby can be contaminated. In this case, one might unintentionally "recycle" this poorly treated septic tank effluent into the home with the drinking water supply

If you are unclear whether your septic system is operating properly, call Matthew Doyle from the Cloyne Public Health unit (613) 336-8989. If necessary, he will do an on-site visit.

For more information on how septic tanks operate and other more specific questions, please see our SDRA website and/or come to the SDRA AGM on Saturday, July 5.



Geocaching on Skoot!



What is Geocaching? Geocaching is an outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location.

The SDRA placed four "caches" around the lake, registered the caches on www.geocaching.com, and notified our members through Paul's Pop when the caches had been placed. Three of the four caches were found by numerous people and comments were posted on the geocaching website. The caches will remain during fiscal 2014 and the one cache not found will be moved to a land access site.

Please check out www.skootamatta.ca for the coordinates.

It is a fun activity for people of all ages and we encourage our members to try it this summer. Wear good shoes and bug repellent!

Kayaking Course Update

Over the past few years there has been an upsurge of interest in kayaking. The Board decided to solicit interest from the membership for attending a skills course offered at the lake. There were a number of people that responded indicating their interest but not enough to run such a course. The Board is always seeking new ideas based on member's interest. While this particular program did not work out, we encourage people to bring forth new ideas.





Lights! Camera! Action! By Erica McBride

When we saw the SDRA posting that Weekend Reno was coming to Skoot, we were a bit skeptical. "Really? Our little lake?" – but it was true! The new show was looking for real people with real cottages who needed some real renos!

The application process was simple enough. We had to write a story about why you should be chosen and include a picture of the family. Well, I definitely had to take the opportunity to give my husband a break! Marty grew up on Skoot so our daughter is the 5th generation on the lake. When we went to look at buying our own cottage, it wasn't a case of 'where' – it had to be Skoot, near all our friends and Marty's family cottage. About 4 years ago, a cottage went up for sale on Pearson Pond. Marty drove up for the day, declared it had "potential" and within a month, we had bought our cottage. Then the work began!

Marty spent the better part of 2 years renovating every weekend – he spent his 40th birthday laying flooring. Every weekend had him gutting, building and trying to squeeze in some family time – and that's what I told Weekend Reno. A few months went by before we got the news: we were picked! For those who wonder, we had no say on the rooms picked, colour scheme or design choices - just budget approval! The expertise and labour are all covered by the show but all the cost of materials (with some great designer discounts and negotiating) was covered by us. We handed over our money and our cottage – and put our trust in Michelle, Anthony and Merrill!

On day 1, we met the designer Michelle Mawby and her team. It's amazing how many people are involved in the show – lighting, sound, catering – all in all, the crew was about 15 people. The crew set up with microphones and then we were ready for filming. Trying not to pay attention to the cameras, lights and crew can be a challenge – we had to "act natural" as the filming happened!

After Day 1's filming, we were sent away with strict instructions not to spy! Stella and I spent the time staying at a friend's cottage and Marty driving back and forth to the city. On Day 3, we got the phone call to return to the cottage and see the reveal. Once again, we were "mic'd up" and led into the cottage-backing in so our initial impressions could be caught on camera.

WOW! Simply put, the transformation is incredible! A transformation beyond anything that we could have envisioned was unveiled for us – and it was so much to take in! We wanted to run from item to item and touch it all! It's shocking what can be done with 3 days and a crew to make it happen!

Would we do it again? In a heartbeat! Now that the bedrooms are done, we've got a sudden urge to update the bathroom, finish the sunroom...in fact, we're wondering if "Decks, Docks and Gazebos" want to visit Skoot too?



Many thanks to all of the folks at Mountain Road Productions and Cottage Life TV for bringing such an exciting series to Skootamatta Lake!

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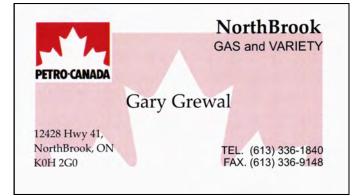
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Enjoy Summer 2014 at Skootamatta!

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- Amphitheatre presentations: schedule on website http://BonEchoFriends.ca 613-336-0830



Photo Courtesy of David & Melodie Rattray

SKOOTAMATTA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT! JAMIE-LEE RATTRAY

Article from Women's Hockey Life, Author Mark Staffier

We were so excited to read about Jamie-Lee's accomplishments in Women's Hockey Life! We would like to share the article with you in case you missed it! We are certainly proud to have such a wonderful hockey talent in our midst at Skootamatta Lake!

Watch for Jamie-Lee and her parents David and Melodie who will lead our Canada Day Boat Parade on Tuesday, July 1st! Congratulations Jamie-Lee!

Women's Hockey Life, Mark Staffier, NCAA Div 1: Clarkson University, Memorable Month of March for Remarkable Jamie-Lee

As March 2014 has resulted in a memorable and historic month for NCAA women's hockey, it has the influence of Jamie Lee Rattray all over it. It was only fitting that it would turn out that way because her influence throughout the 2013-14 campaign contributed to the greatest season in Clarkson history.

Numerous milestones in program history were reached for the first-time ever. Not only did Rattray capture her first NCAA scoring title with 66 points (29 goals, 37 assists), but she would help the Golden Knights to their first-ever 30 win season, completed by its first ECAC Hockey regular season championship.

The momentum would carry on into the postseason as the program not only qualified for its first-ever Frozen Four, it would upset the top-ranked Minnesota Golden Gophers to become the first non-WCHA team to win a national title.

Becoming the first Canadian since Vicki Bendus four years ago to grab the prestigious Patty Kazmaier Memorial Award, she was also Clarkson's first-ever recipient of the award. This was complemented by earning the ECAC Player of the Year Award and the USCHO.com Player of the Year Award, respectively.

Of note, winning the Kazmaier would help Rattray provide a unique chapter to Canadian female sporting history. As the first Canadian of Aboriginal heritage to have the honour of the Kazmaier bestowed upon her, she is following in the proud legacy of other Aboriginal female hockey players such as Leah Sulyma and Megan Big Snake.

It was testament to her abilities as a game changer and positive influence in shaping Clarkson's culture into one of winning. Since arriving at Clarkson in 2010, she would emerge as the greatest player to have donned the green and gold jersey.

Heading into her senior season, she started on a great note with a three point output on September 28 against the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers. Of note, RIT would have another impact during her memorable senior season. On December 14, the green and gold participated in an outdoor game vs. RIT, with Rattray logging a goal.

Statistically, her only hat trick came on January 24, 2014 against Colgate, while she managed to post five-point performances in a game on two separate occasions. A November 22 contest against Princeton resulted in a five-point night on the strength of 1 assist with one goal. She would duplicate the same offensive output on January 31 in a road win at Union.

Recognized as the Most Valuable Player of the NCAA Frozen Four, Rattray was a key contributor during the NCAA tournament. She logged seven points during said tournament, including three assists in a 3-1 quarterfinal win against the Boston College Eagles. Of note, it was the first NCAA Tournament victory for the Golden Knights.

Although nine different Clarkson players registered at least one point in the 5-4 victory against Minnesota in the NCAA Frozen Four, Rattray contributed at key times in the contest. A power play tally in the second stanza provided Clarkson with a 3-1 advantage. Assisting on Vanessa Plante's goal in the third period helped to break a 3-3 tie. While Shannon MacAulay logged the game winning tally, Rattray's recognition as Tournament MVP was a fitting finish to a storied career with Clarkson.

The historic Frozen Four triumph did provide a unique bit of irony for Rattray. One of her teammates on the green and gold was Erin Ambrose, the co-winner of the 2014 ECAC Defensive Player of the Year Award. Of note, the two suited up for Canada in a gold medal effort at the 2010 IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championships. The two would even be featured on trading cards issued by Upper Deck in their 2011 World of Sport card set. Based on their sterling NCAA careers, it would come as no surprise if they were part of the Canadian contingent at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Employing a team-first approach, complemented by a strong respect for the game, the culmination of four fantastic years at Clarkson speaks for itself. Graduating as the program's all-time leading scorer with 181 points (77 goals, 104 assists), her hockey legacy in the hearts and minds of Clarkson fans is secure.

Helping to provide inspiration as an empowering role model for young female players, Rattray is among a rare group of elites that has established herself as a hockey hero on both sides of the Canadian and American border. While she would certainly be a solid first-round favourite for the 2014 CWHL Draft, should she choose to declare eligibility, the future of women's hockey would benefit greatly from her presence.

Winter Fun. New Years at Skoot!

By Jennifer Alkenbrack Robertson

In our 45 years of cottaging on Skootamatta, I would guess that our family – grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, cousins, siblings, and our children – has celebrated at least 20 New Year's Eves at the cottage. I can't think of a better place to start a new year than in the solitude of the Skoot. As a young child, I remember arriving at the cottage to a giant rink already shoveled and a roaring fire in the woodstove, my grandfather greeting us with a twinkle in his eye. I remember sitting on the back of an old blue iron sled,



securely attached to my uncle's snowmobile, singing songs with my cousins as we sailed across the frozen lake. I remember brilliant sunny days spent skating till our toes were numb, building snow forts, and eating Grandma's snow taffy and hot chocolate. I remember the same eight track cassette tape playing "Bar – bar - bara Ann..." and "Wooly Bully" on New Year's Eve, as we kids danced around the cottage wearing tissue paper crowns from Christmas crackers. This year, I couldn't wait to get up to the lake after the Christmas craziness to just stop, to reflect, to decompress and to ring in 2014 surrounded by family.

Winter at the cottage is like no other season. It is so quiet – the drone of boats on the lake and the lights shining across the water are strangely absent. Gone are the chipmunks scurrying across the deck, the late night visits from raccoons, the lonely loon calls at night and the Great Blue Heron that soars past our dock. Instead, the only sounds are the wind whistling through the trees, the snow hitting the window, and the popping of the ice; the only visitors a few red cardinals at the bird feeder; the only lights a distant glow from our neighbour's house – undetectable in summer -- through the bare trees.

Shoveling our way into our cottage on December 27, we were grateful for the little-used furnace that the previous owners had installed. It roared to life with the flick of a switch, giving just enough heat to make the cold floors bearable. I thought back to that humid August morning, when we had stacked two cords of wood against the garage in preparation for winter visits. Was that really only four months ago? The car was loaded to the brim with kids, dog, skates, hockey sticks, snowshoes, skis and Christmas presents. The kitchen erupted as we carried in more and more from the car.

Once the woodstove was fired up, we set about putting away the food. The screened in porch, where we spend so many summer evenings playing cards and board games, became a giant refrigerator piled high with all the food and drink we'd need for the week. We easily had enough to last a month if we got snowed in! Despite the thermometer reaching well below zero, the kids were keen to get shoveling a rink, so we all trooped down to the lake. After about 45 minutes of shoveling, we had a square big enough that the kids



could lace up their skates. Down came the road hockey net from the garage – a favorite summer pastime when the kids have had enough sun – and we had ourselves a proper rink. My husband and I kept shoveling while two "Team Canada hopefuls" took turns scoring on each other. My husband raised an eyebrow every time we heard the "pop, pop, pop" of the ice – I reassured him that we had at least a foot. His family cottage in the Thousand Islands was never open in winter, so I am the expert it seems.

Winter Fun continued on the next page......

The next week was spent snowshoeing over to Mom and Dad's cottage across the lake with the kids. Our Labradoodle lead the way, followed by me, with the kids in our tracks. It was a brilliantly bright but cold day. My husband spent most of his time cross country skiing around the lake, training for the insane Quebec ski

marathon he had signed up for in February. He would do a quick lap, whip in to the cottage to check the score on the World Junior Championship Hockey tourney then head out for another round of Sheldrake Bay. This is the same place where he spends countless hours tubing the kids behind the boat every day in the summer or out on his standup paddleboard most mornings. My sister and brother-in-law arrived soon afterward, with my two little nieces in tow. The girls live in Washington, D.C., where 1 cm of snow constitutes a "snow day," so they had a blast tobogganing down the hill, making snow angels and trying out skates for the first time.

This year's New Year's Eve party included family and neighbours from the lake – long-time friends we grew up with and their children. I loved watching the next generation of kids interacting! The music had changed (no Wooly Bully these days), some of the special people are no longer with us, but the feeling is still the same: family, friends, food, and fun times in our cozy cottage on the Skoot. We are looking forward to a few more winter weekends before the long, lazy days of summer.



Activities around Skootamatta

Oooooommmm......

Lion, camel. tiger. cobra, cat, dog, mountain, tree, bridge- these are all to be found on the shores of Skootamatta.







Pictures of our yoga weekend run by our yoga instructor Christina Kerekes.

An excellent workout weekend enjoyed by all. John Innes

Weekend Reno - "The Big Reveal" By Wayne Arthurs

Family, friends and neighbours, gathered mid-week to support or console, (depending upon our reaction), all curious to see what the past 3 days would deliver. So there we are perched on the hill in front of our cottage, getting last minute instructions from Tim, on the "Reveal". Tim is from Mountain Road Productions, the inspiration for Cottage Life Television's new series, "Weekend Reno". Tim's instructions, "Remember TV is two dimensional, so don't be afraid to be animated; if you like what you see, let the camera know. So, are you READY?"

We are ushered in, supporting cast on hold, to lights, cameras and our reno'd 1920's log cabin. Maybe I am a little ahead of how all of this started. Our son, Joel, emailed us at our winter (snowbird) retreat about this new Cottage Life TV show. As keen collectors of the magazine, bookshelf piled high of "could do projects", we took the bait. A kitchen reno has been under discussion/negotiations for the 30 years that we have been the cottage owners. Joel still contends the cottage was HIS first birthday present.

In our absence, (sun and fun) prevailing, we told him to go for it. I figured, (and correctly so), that the kitchen wasn't on, from the beginning. Everyone who has ever seen our place understands. A flurry of emails, a few pictures of the exterior and then silence. We had arrived back, opened for the season, and were just settling in for the summer; then came the call and more emails. We were seriously in the running. Can we send room measurements, what would your priorities be, can you tell us a little more about your 30 years at the cottage, any interesting anecdotes????

Finally the interview, with Tim and Sonya, including the walkabout; cottage, lakefront, sleeping cabin. Face to face – unspoken – were we camera friendly?? Shortly thereafter the confirmation, we were getting the Weekend Reno!

Truck access; sleeping for 12-14 (a few with their own tents), kitchen and barbeque (they bring their own cook), power for TV cameras, lights and power tools (extra fuses on hand). Check, check and a cautionary check. Most importantly, understanding neighbours, as this will be three long days of activity. Fingers crossed and check!

The assigned day arrivals started about 9am with trucks, cameras, lights, tables, tools, tents, building materials, food and beverages. The primary cast, Michelle the designer, Tony the carpenter, their backups, camera crew, lighting crew, director, producer and the cook.

OH, I thought, our poor neighbours, as we were shooed off the property, not to return until the appointed time two and a half days later.

So, here we are, back to the Big Reveal, poised and animated, avoiding the "O..M..G" phrase at all costs. Michelle ushers us in and we are delightfully surprised with our renewed, refreshed, bright and beautiful, 1920's log cabin.

Truly now our summer retirement home!







2014 ACTIVITIES AT BON ECHO PARK



BON ECHO PARK

Hosted by Friends of Bon Echo Check website weekly for calendar of upcoming events. www.BonEchoFriends.ca The Friends of Bon Echo Park provide programs and events to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Park. Events are free and guests are welcome. There is a Park vehicle entry fee so fill up your car and enjoy the many benefits this beautiful Park has to offer.

The following special events are confirmed for the summer of 2014.

- Sat. Jun 28: Sciensational Sssnakes!! 11:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Children's program area
- Sat. July 5: Ardoch Traditional Teachings 7:00 pm at the Children's program area
- Fri. July 18: Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre 1:00 pm Curious about Turtles? Staff from the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre will tell us all about Ontario's native turtles at the Amphitheatre.
- July 25, 26, 27: Annual Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day in the Children's program area. Great art, live entertainment, food, children's activities and more!

• Thurs. July 31: Speaking of Wildlife—Live Demonstration

1:00 pm in the Amphitheatre.

- Wed. Aug 13: David Archibald—Singer, Entertainer Join David for a one hour energetic show! 7:00 pm at the Amphitheatre.
- Thurs. Aug 21: Bill White & White Pine— Featuring guitars, mandolin and the fiddle. 4:30 7:00 pm at the Amphitheatre.
- **TBA: Michael Runtz -** Why is a Beaver a Wolf's best friend? TBA at the Amphitheatre.
- **TBA: Dr. David Pearson -** Bon Echo Rocks TBA at the Amphitheatre.



GWYNNETH MORAIS, LOCAL SKOOTAMATTA LAKE ARTIST

In the last 55 years I've had time to discover and enjoy interpreting Ontario's landscapes on canvas. The texture that I can achieve with palette knives in oils, for me, depicts the wonderful scenery that now surrounds me. Born a Torontonian and as a self-taught artist, I have exhibited and sold my works in Ottawa, Windsor, Merrickville, Minden, Peterborough, Bellville, Toronto, Bancroft and Cloyne. Some of my paintings have even won awards. I treasure the moments my paintings give to me because, like my three children and their families, they are my life. To have others appreciate my interpretations is a bonus.

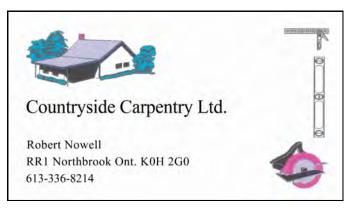
Gwynneth Morais is organizing an Art Display for the AGM. Are you an Artist and member of SDRA who would like to show off your work? Gwynneth wants to set up a table or two with one piece of art per Artist along with your business card and map to your studio. What a great way to show off your talents to fellow members. Please contact Gwynneth directly at gwynnethmorais@gmail.com.

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