

SDRA NEWSLETTER 2015



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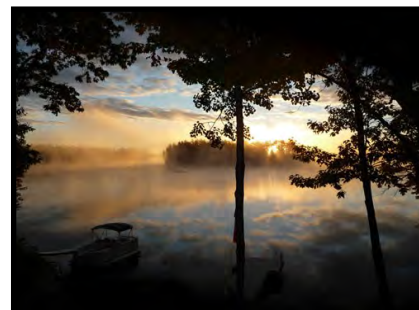
And more!

SDRA Newsletter 2015

FEATURED ARTICLES

2014 Photo Contest Winnerspage 5

See the top 3 winners of the 2014 Photo Contest as voted on by SDRA members! Visit Skootamatta.ca to see all submissions and send in your photos for 2015!



2014 Lake Festival Memories!page 7

Hope to see you at the 2015 Festival!
See page 6 for the schedule of events!



Barbara Mendham Local Artistpage 22

We are always amazed at the creativity of our member community.
Hear from one of our wonderful member artists Barbara Mendham.



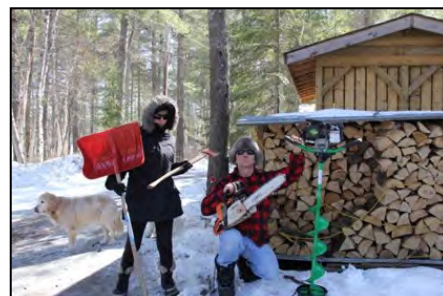
SKOOTAMATTA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT!page 23

Remember our spotlight last year on Jamie Lee Rattray?
We have an exciting update from Jamie Lee!



MOVING FULL TIME TO SKOOT! ... page 24

Meet Mike Cramer and Tricia Sinclair who have recently become full time residents of Skootamatta!



Postage for the mailing of this newsletter was purchased through the Cloyne Post office to support the retention of our local services.

President's Message

Welcome to the 2015 SDRA Newsletter! Our SDRA Board of Directors continues to stay active on a number of initiatives. If you recall that we stated that our 2013-2016 strategic plan for the SDRA was to focus on four main areas: **FUN**, **ADVOCACY**, **COMMUNICATION** and **EDUCATION** (FACE). Let's start with the best one first....



FUN

We have continued to provide fun activities and events every year including the Photo and Great Skootamatta Ice Contests to Lake Festivals, Boat Parade and Pot Luck (Thank You Ron and Esther!). We had 87 entries for the photo contest this year and 59 members participated in the on-line voting! We had 83 entries for our 2015 Great Skootamatta Ice contest! We continue to see over 100 attendees at our annual Lake Festival! Our AGM continues to provide key business updates but in a fun, informative atmosphere where cottagers and residents can re-connect after a long winter.

ADVOCACY

Our team has been an advocate for members on key topics that impact our community such as expansion of winter activities at Bon Echo Provincial Park, forestry activities with the MLFI and annual meetings with Quinte Conservation. 330 seedlings were ordered by thirteen members taking Quinte Conservation up on their annual offering! Recently two of our board members attended the meeting about the Wind Turbines planned for Denbigh. At this point there is no direct impact to the Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle lakes. We will continue to monitor these discussions and provide our members with the facts.

COMMUNICATION

Paul Grennell and Paul Lindsay continue to do a fantastic job keeping our members up to date on all the lake news through our website and Paul's Pops. Paul's Pops is a hit with our members! Our website now enables our members to communicate by posting on our Blog and now it is easy to pay for membership on-line! 65 members paid their membership dues online last year. I hope you also see the Newsletter and the annual AGM as other ways to get useful updates about the lake.

EDUCATION

In the past we have kept SDRA members posted on many activities impacting the lake. In this Newsletter you will find information on boat washing and the new invasive species act legislation as well as some great facts about the night sky. Malcolm Stewart and his team of volunteers continue to conduct water testing to monitor the lake quality and reports those findings the Lake Partners Program and our members.

I am very pleased to see that we are at 194 active members this year which is the highest level in the past 15 years!

I hope this increase in membership is an indication of members' confidence in the SDRA Board to continue to deliver on our plans to support the interests of the Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes!

We are always looking for folks that are interested in joining our team and take an active role on the SDRA board. When I first moved to the lake years ago I immediately went to the AGM and put up my hand to join in the hope of having a positive influence on the lake. I took on the role of Secretary, and then tackled the newsletter. I was honoured to be asked to take on the role of President and three years later I still enjoy the role and am still doing the newsletter! However, we need active directors to bring forward new ideas, to help execute plans and to keep us engaged with the local community. With a great team we can do some wonderful work! Please consider putting your hand up to join our team! Welcome to Summer 2015!!

2015 Annual General Meeting

We would like to invite all members to our Annual General Meeting. You can view any updates to the 2015 Agenda as well as the minutes from the 2014 AGM on www.skootamatta.ca.

Where: Pineview Free Methodist Church, Hwy 41, Cloyne
(At the corner with Skootamatta Lake Road)
When: Saturday, July 4, 2015
Start: 9:30 a.m.

Agenda: 9:30 to 10:00 Meet and greet with coffee and donuts
10:00 to 10:30 Formal statutory business, Treasurer's report,
Board appointments, etc.
10:30 to 11:30 Question and answer period
11:30 Hot dog BBQ *



During the meeting, various information booths will be set up for you to circulate at your interest. While the booth topics are still being established, some preliminary ideas are:

- Lake Festival information and volunteer sign up.
- Lake Stewardship - Lake Management plan update
- Cloyne Foodbank
- Local Artisans and Crafters
- Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc.
- Quinte Conservation Authority

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

Please be sure to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

**Northbrook
FOODLAND**

NEW SUMMER HOURS starting June 24

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

Tel. (613) 336-2647

In-Store Deli and Bakery

2015-2016 Board Slate

DEBBIE AWDE, PRESIDENT

PAUL LINDSAY, VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY KALLINA, TREASURER

JENNIFER ROBERTSON, SECRETARY

PAUL GRENNELL, WEBMASTER

MALCOLM STEWART, LAKE STEWARD

JOEL ARTHURS, DIRECTOR

We would like to express our deepest thanks to Gord McCulloch and Gwynneth Morais for their many years of support on the SDRA board. You will still see Gord and Gwynneth helping out at the AGM so be sure to express your thanks for all they have done to support our SDRA members! We also would like to thank Dawn Reiser for her support during the 2014-2015 year.

SKOOTAMATTA 2014 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

2014 saw 87 entrants! Thank you to all who submitted. You can see all the photos in the Gallery at www.skootamatta.ca. This year, we were able to do the voting a little differently! We invited SDRA members to vote and we had 58 members vote on the 87 entries. Thank you to all of our voting members!

1st Place!



"Morning Mist" by Bill Doef.

2nd Place!



"Whoops!!!" By L. Cole.

3rd Place!



"Starry Sunset" by Jason Field.

SKOOTAMATTA 2014 PHOTO CONTEST HONOURABLE MENTIONS



"Across the Narrows" John Bailey



"Dragon Fly Close-up" Anders Holder



"Spring Trillium" Linda Dzelme



"Star Trails" Tyler Dearden



"Watching the Sunset" Karen Stacey



"February Sunset" Adam Shiefer

Submissions for 2015 can be submitted on www.skootamatta.ca at any time so be sure to get your photo entries in early! The deadline is November 1, 2015.

2015 Skootamatta Lake Festival

Date: Saturday July 25th

Place: Trails End Grounds

Rain Date: July 26th or August 1st – to be confirmed in advance.

Event Schedule*:

- 9:30 am – 10:30 am Set up
- 10:30 am Registration start
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Children fun games
- 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Youth Ladder Golf tournament
- 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 tournament

* Please register at least 30 minutes prior to your event start time.
Event categories will be adjusted based on the number of participants.



Swim Races:

6 and younger	Participation ribbon
7 – 8	Girls and boys separately
9 – 10	Girls and boys separately
11 – 12	Girls and boys separately
13 – 14	Girls and boys separately
15 – 19	Girls and boys separately
20 – 29	Men and Women together
30 – 39	Men and Women together
40 – 59	Men and women separately
60 +	Men and women together

Kayak Races: (will alternate with swimming races)

12 and younger	Boys & Girls separately
13 - 17	Boys & Girls separately
18 - 40	Men & Women together
41 - 60	Men & Women separately
60+	Men & Women together

Ladder Golf:

10 - 18	Youth
19+	Adult
60+	Men & Women together

Rules are available at www.skootamatta.ca.

Tri-generation TRYathlon

3 Generations compete in a short, run, swim and kayak.
Teams must consist of a member from each age group, (15 and under, 16 to 59, 60 +) cumulative age of team must be greater than 100 years.

Barbeque:

Food generously donated by the Steven's family and their business, Country Traditions.

Country Traditions

FROZEN FOOD OUTLET

112 INDUSTRIAL BLVD. NAPANEE | 613.354.1326

CountryTraditions.ca

2014 ANNUAL LAKE FESTIVAL MEMORIES

Similar to the previous year, the Lake Festival set up crew awoke to a grey sky and high probability of rain. As the team texted and phoned each other with the question "what should we do?" we made the brave statement "Let's go for it!" The day turned out fabulous and the rain held off.

We mixed things up a bit by changing the adult horseshoe to ladder golf and we added a new event - Tri-Generation TRYathlon. This new event saw teams of three participants, each from a different generation, participate in a kayak, run and swim event. The spirit was electric. Spectators were cheering along the course. We saw participants as young as 6 and as mature as 79. At the end, children were strategizing what event they would compete in the following year.



The day was not without some drama. After all was set up and the events were about to start, a large active wasp nest was discovered by the beach. There was much discussion of whether to exterminate or wish for peace. Ultimately we decided to leave the wasps to their business and the area was sectioned off with warning signs.



It would have been impossible for our SDRA board to pull off this event without the help of dedicated member volunteers. More volunteers allowed our organizers some time to enjoy the festivities. Quinte Conservation again provided summer students to host active and educational games.

The amazing food was again supplied, cooked and served by Suzanne and Mike Stevens, SDRA members and owners of Country Traditions in Napanee.

Thank you to Jill Côté, member and our local postmaster, who generously prepared all the wonderful sweet treats devoured by hungry guests. We are privileged to have them as part of our community.

The 2015 Lake Festival will be held on July 25th. It is a wonderful venue to meet with your neighbours, have a nice lunch and be entertained.

Congratulations to all of our participants and winners at the 2014 Annual Lake Festival events! This year we ran the first Tri-Generation TRY-Athlon with a tremendous showing of 7 enthusiastic teams. Below are the results!

Swimming:	1st	2nd	3rd
7 – 8 girls	Stella McBride	Mackenzie Wilson	
7 – 8 boys	Tom Birnie-Wortley	Aidan Robertson	
9 – 10 girls	Molly Robertson	Kate Livie	Denver Holland
9 – 10 boys	Sam Côté		
11 – 12 girls	Jessica Cumming	Rachel Cumming	Laura Smith
11 – 12 boys	River Saliba	Jylz McBride	Rhys Falby
13 – 14 girls	Solstice Saliba	Sirene Livie	Megan Grennell
13 – 14 boys	Barrett Aass	Jack Robertson	
15 – 19 girls	Haley Grennell	Michaela Jones	Nathalie Morais
20 – 29 girls	Melanie Vonau		
40 – 59 women	Nancy Kallina	Katherine Grennell	Daphne Williams
40 – 59 men	Struan Robertson	Ken Hook	Doug Pritchard
Kayaking:	1st	2nd	3rd
12 and under girls	Mackenzie Wilson	Stella McBride	Jet McBride
12 and under boys	Jack Robertson	Jylz McBride	Brandon Jones
13 – 17 girls	Camille Côté	Solstice Saliba	
13 – 17 boys	Greg Stevens	Jack Côté	Barrett Aass
18 – 40 women	Cindy Howard		
41 – 60 women	Alison Côté	Jennifer Robertson	
41 – 60 men	Ken Hook	Martin Aass	Marty McBride
Laddergolf:	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	Brandon Jones Corwin Burt	Jack Robertson Megan Grennell	Rachel Cummings Jessica Cummings
Adult	Martin Aass Barrett Aass	David Rattray Jamie-Lee Rattray	Don Stafford Pat Stafford
Tri-Generation TRY-athlon	1st	2nd	3rd
Kayak	Cathy Hook	Eleanor Grennell	Shelly Alkenbrack
Run	Chloe Kallina	Megan Grennell	Struan Robertson
Swim	Ken Hook	Katherine Grennell	Jack Robertson

Please be sure to mark your 2015 calendar for **Saturday, July 25!** See the outline on page 6 and watch for details in Paul's Pops!

A Heartfelt Thanks to all of our Volunteers!

The SDRA events and activities during the year could not happen without the efforts of our volunteers. There are so many folks to thank. Our apologies if we miss your name! Here are some of the water collection, pot luck, fireworks, food bank drop off, lake festival etc. volunteers that made our year a success!

Shelley Alkenbrack
Hermann and Victors Balon
Gord Bernie
Keith Burton
Jim and Eleanor Chinnick
Sandra Clark
Ellen Copeland
Jill Côté
John Coulter



Mike Cramer
Esther Demczak
Gary Evans
Jane McBride-Falby
Cameron Garnish
Katherine Grennell
Erin Grennell
Haley Grennell
Megan Grennell

Bob Hasler
Ken Hook
Erica McBride
Derek Mendham
Greg New
Ron Nowell
Ryan Nowell
Susan Pritchard
Dave, Melodie and Jamie Lee Rattray
Jane Richmond
Lorraine Salaba
Bruce Schwenger
Alan Smith
Don, Pat and Jeff Stafford
Susanne and Mike Stevens
Bernie Tennant
Daphne Williams



Skootamatta.ca Website Update

By Paul Grennell

We have seen traffic to our site grow significantly over the past 2 years. For 2014, the number of pages viewed on the site grew to a total of almost 28,000 for the year. We have also seen more people access our site using their phones and tablets. For 2014, 12% of the visits to our site were made using a smartphone, 19% using an iPad or tablet, and 69% by desktop or laptop computer.

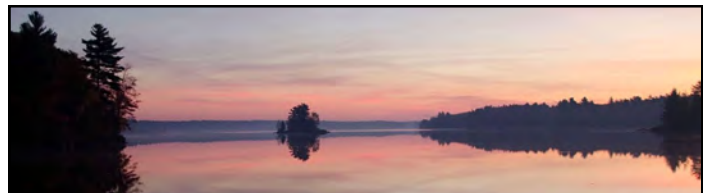
For the first time last year we offered our members the ability to pay their annual dues online. This led to about 35% of our members making their payments this way (via PayPal). You can pay your annual dues online any time at skootamatta.ca/membership.

Our 2014 Photo Contest was a great success again and for the very first time our members chose the winning photos. 87 photos were submitted and 58 members voted. First prize for the 2014 Photo Contest went to Bill Doef, second prize to L. Cole and third prize to Jason Field. This year's photo contest won't close until November, but you can submit your photos at any time throughout the year (skootamatta.ca/gallery).

Volunteers are always needed for the Lake Festival, Fireworks, AGM, Website, Newsletter, etc. To allow members to offer to help out, I added a new Volunteers form to the website, with a link to it on the main navigation bar. Use this form to let us know how you might like to help out and whether there are any specific events or activities where you may want to get involved.

In the next few months you will see some more improvements to the website. I am working on making the site more interactive, which will include making it easier to add comments to each news and blog posting and to post and respond to items in the forms section of the site. I will also be making changes to the home page to make it easier to find important areas of the site. For example, there will be a new quick links section with links to the online form for paying your annual dues, submitting photos to the gallery and photo contest, etc.

Do you have any suggestions about how we could improve the site further? We would love to hear from you! You can send us your suggestions or comments using the Contact Us form on the site (skootamatta.ca/contact-us).



2014-15 Treasurer's Report Prepared by Nancy Kallina

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year

	Notes:	2015	2014
Revenue:			
Memberships	1	9,700	9,600
Newsletter Advertising	2	1,640	1,460
Boat Launch Intake		622	638
Other		153	149
Total Revenue		12,115	11,847
Expenses:			
Communication	3	2,344	1,975
Member Events	4	2,385	2,290
Stewardship	5	749	1,814
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	6	3,508	800
Administration	7	449	318
Insurance	8	1,880	1,825
Assets	9	126	241
Total expenses		11,942	9,763
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		173	2,084
Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)		19,413	
Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)		19,586	
Opening Fireworks fund		1,045	
Contributions		4,460	
Event Cost		(4,500)	
Closing Fireworks Fund		1,005	
Closing Cash (including Fireworks Fund)		20,591	

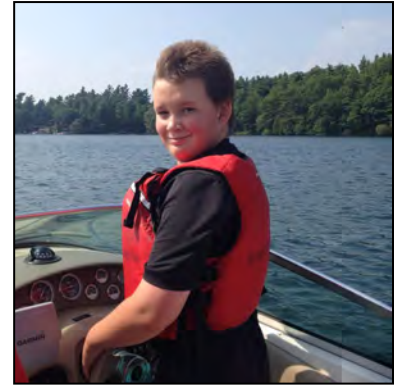
Notes:

- 1) Fiscal 2015 = 194 paid memberships, Fiscal 2014 = 192 paid memberships.
- 2) Increased advertising canvassing from the prior year.
- 3) Newsletter printing costs increased due to higher postage, more copies printed due to increased members and advertisers. Purchased updated publisher software.
- 4) Festival costs slightly higher due to larger bouncer. Overall operation consistent with prior year.
- 5) Water testing costs lower since only performed every 2 years.
- 6) Costs to improve Trails End boat launch and purchase supplies for additional kiosk.
- 7) Cost for Paypal service and additional signage.
- 8) 3% general insurance increase.
- 9) Additional ladder golf set and boat launch box lock.

Skoot Kid's Corner

Getting My Boater's Licence

By: Jack Robertson, Age 13



Getting my boater's license was very hard. I had to study a lot and half the stuff I knew. I studied and did the course online at www.boatsmartexam.com. Personally I would try to find another website that allows you to skip some material. Make sure your parents are there because there were some questions that my parents didn't even know. The quiz has some random questions, and other things that we would never need to know at the Skoot, but it prepares you to boat on any waterway. I scored 51 out of 53 on the test, which is 96%.

After I got my license, my dad and I went out on the lake and he taught me how to dock and drive "the tinny," the little fishing boat. Let me say the first time was not pretty! We went over to my grandpa's dock so I didn't smash ours. Also because it was an easier angle and less windy.

My first time out with my brother our engine conked out. My brother Aidan was 7 so I was in charge. My brother and I started waving our arms and screaming for help. We were spotted by another boat and had to be towed by the shore. Thankfully he towed us not too far before my dad came to the rescue in our bowrider. He hooked us on and towed us back to our dock and we got the motor running again.

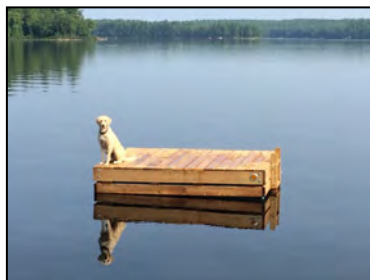
After a summer of driving the tinny, I am so experienced that all I do is rip around the lake. I think it is such a great thing to have my licence because now I can leave my parents whenever I want, and head over to my cousins!

The Cottage on the Skoot, by Molly Robertson, Age 11

The sun is rising, kissing my face with her golden rays
I wake up to the sound of birds tweeting hello, how are you
I silently put on my oldest sweatpants
And go for a walk
Leaving behind
The cottage on the Skoot

The wind is blowing in my hair
And the water is blinding, with its sun-laid crystals
I come back
To my dog, Bailey
And the cottage on the Skoot

I stand at the edge of the dock
With splinters in my feet
I don't care
All I care about is getting the perfect angle



To glide through the water
I do
I turn into a mermaid, playing
With the lakeweed and the fish
At the cottage on the Skoot

At long last
The sun is dipping below the horizon
But the colours are still there
A rainbow's worth and more
I sit in my hammock and swing
Back and forth, back and forth
And think, there is just no place
Like the cottage on the Skoot.

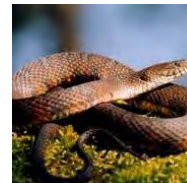


Bon Echo Provincial Park July 2015 Special Events Sponsored by the Friends of Bon Echo Park

Saturday June 27- *Sciensational Sssnakes!!*

Intrigued by snakes? Do you want to know more about the amazing reptiles we have in Bon Echo? Staff from *Sciensational Sssnakes!!* will give two interactive presentations on snakes and other reptiles to help us understand why it is so important that they and their habitats be protected.

Times: 11 am and 1 pm **Location:** Children's Program Area



Saturday July 4 - *Traditional Teachings with Members of Ardoch First Nation*

Members of Ardoch First Nation are back again this year to provide insight into their culture and history. Join elders and our First Peoples in their traditional clothing for a night of sharing.

Time: 7 pm **Location:** Children's Program Area



Monday July 13 - *Kevin Callan - Canoe Workshop*

Join Kevin Callan, "The Happy Camper", for a 1 hour canoe tripping workshop.

Time: 10 am **Location:** Lagoon (Bon Echo Provincial Park)

Monday July 13 - *Kevin Callan - A Canoe Trip around Killarney, Family Style*

Kevin will have you laughing as he tells you about his canoeing adventures in Killarney Provincial Park with his

family. Kevin is the author of many books on canoeing and is a frequent guest on Canadian T.V. and radio. He is also a field editor for *Explore* magazine.

Time: 8 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre



Wednesday July 15— *David Archibald — Singer, Entertainer*

Dust off your singing and dancing skills and join children's entertainer David Archibald. Take part in the songs he wrote specifically about Bon Echo! David is a songwriter/composer and playwright who has worked with Avril Lavigne and performed songs on *Sesame Street* and *Mr. Dressup*. His music is regularly featured on CBC Radio. Join David for a one hour energetic and interactive show for the whole family.

Time: 7 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre

July 24, 25, 26 - *Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale*

The Friends of Bon Echo Park will showcase the work of 43 juried artists. The artwork includes paintings, stained glass, jewellery, wood carving and pottery. Children will have the chance to create their own work of art. *Sciensational Sssnakes!!* will be presenting interactive programs at 11 am Saturday and Sunday. Live music daily at 1 pm. Great food. Come and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Times: 10 am – 4 pm each day **Location:** Children's Program Area

The Friends of Bon Echo Park will cover Park entry fees for evening programs 1/2 hour before the presentation.

**Bon Echo Provincial Park
August 2015 Special Events
Sponsored by the Friends of Bon Echo Park**

Thursday August 6 - *Conservation Officer Colin Cotnam & His Dog, Tanner*

Learn about the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's canine unit.

Time: 1 pm **Location:** Boat Launch area at Bon Echo Creek

Saturday August 8 - *OFAH Travelling TackleShare Program*

Let's go fishing! Learn to fish with staff from the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters in this hands-on educational workshop. This 3 hour program includes teaching kids about fish identification, aquatic habitat, water safety, & fishing techniques. Everyone then has the opportunity to go fishing with rods & reels provided by OFAH & Ontario Power Generation.

Time: 1 - 4 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre & short walk to Bon Echo Creek

Wednesday August 12 - *Speaking of Wildlife –Live Demonstration*

Would you like to know more about birds, turtles, and other wildlife? Join staff from *Speaking of Wildlife* for a close encounter with some of the animals native to the Bon Echo area. Learn some amazing things about Ontario wildlife and increase your appreciation for the creatures living around us.

Time: 1 pm **Location:** Amphitheatre



**The Friends of Bon Echo Park will cover Park entry fees
for evening programs 1/2 hour before the presentation.**

**Join the Friends for a barbecue every Saturday and Sunday in July and
August 12—2 pm. Lagoon at Bon Echo Provincial Park**

**I' m Bored, there's nothing to do! by John Coulter
For Rainy days**

1. Paint by number sets.
2. Make popcorn on top of the stove the old fashioned way.
3. Play card games like double or even quadruple solitaire
4. Take a piece of driftwood you found, clean it with a wire brush, burn in your family name using a magnifying glass or wood burning tool and then varnish it. Topper Lake has lots of driftwood.
5. Take a piece or two of soapstone up with you and carve it into an animal or just an interesting shape, then sand and polish it. Carve your name and the date into the bottom of it.
6. Read an astronomy book or download an app to find out what is supposed to be in the sky and where to look when the weather gets better.
7. Write a column for the SDRA newsletter with a picture to go with it
8. Plan a project like building a small boat or taking a canoe voyage or going for a hike. Make a list of what you will need to carry out the project and pick up the pieces next time you are in Cloyne
9. Get a hold of the Scientific American Great International Paper Airplane Contest book and try some of the paper plane designs. The helicopter is one of the most entertaining to play with.

For good weather days when there is older help around

1. Build a small boat for little people (less than 100 pounds) - see plans on the web site
2. In the spring and early summer mornings, go bird “listening” and hear how many different birds there are and if possible identify them by eye or with binoculars. Don't expect to “see” too many birds, just listen for how many there are.
3. Go find the Andromeda galaxy, the Milky Way, the polar star, the Big Dipper and the craters of the moon using your data from #6 above and binoculars if you need them.
4. Join up with the Dark Sky's project if you are interested.
5. Go on a canoe trip down the lake. Get somebody to drop you off by motor boat near the area you want to investigate and come back for you later.
6. Investigate the old logging roads by foot. Get somebody to drop you off and pick you up so that you don't have to walk all day. Use a map and compass or GPS so you don't get lost.
7. Stroll into Topper Lake to see a relatively virgin shore line as it might have been 200 years ago. It is off Hughes Landing road about 500 meters further along than the Sheldrake Lake Road.
8. Hike into Partridge Lake (about 2 km). The trail starts across the road from 3333 Hughes Landing Road.
9. Take a canoe trip up Killer Creek. There are two portages and one beaver dam lift over in about 2 kilometers of navigable water. Go in high water. Somebody has to carry the canoe.
10. Geocaching— find the hidden caches around the lake. Find the GPS coordinates on the www.skootamatta.ca.

On Good Weather Days but nobody to play (work?) with

1. Figure out where you might build a tree fort near your cottage. Then go to Rainy Day #9 and go to your Parental units for help.
2. Count how many types of mushrooms and fungi you can find right around your cottage site and take pictures of each. Try to find the ones you saw in a mushroom book or on a mushroom identification app such as “The Mushroom Book” or “Roger’s Mushrooms”.
Do not eat. Hint – they are more prominent in warm wet stretches of weather.
3. Draw or take a picture of exactly where the sun is at 9 am or 4 pm in the early summer and repeat it once or twice toward the end of the summer and notice that the sun has moved.
4. Start a diary.
5. Learn to play an instrument when there is no one around to make you feel embarrassed.
6. Fish
7. Catch a frog, toad or salamander. Name it. (Kermit?) Treat it well, keep it damp in greens with lots of small holes in the top of the container and release where you found it in a few hours. Hint: They like crickets.

For more ideas, see www.skootamatta.ca

Mazinaw Lake Swim Program, by Mary Kelly MLSP Committee



The Mazinaw Lake Swim Program (MLSP) is not just open to local children – it is open to all and summer cottagers are very welcome!

The program started over 40 years ago when two children from the same family drowned in our area. The mothers of the community got together and ran bake sales or anything else they could think of to fund the program so this tragedy would never happen again and their children would learn how to swim. This has evolved into the MLSP and working in conjunction with Ontario Parks to allow us to use their facilities at Bon Echo Provincial Park. Many local teenagers and young adults who are qualified to give swim lessons are employed by the MLSP. The program costs far outweigh the price to run this program but with the help of very generous local businesses, the proceeds from the cafeteria & BBQ at Cloyne Showcase and enrolment in the program they are able to keep this going and hope to be able to continue to do for many more years to come.

2015 Program Details:

- The program starts this year on June 29th and ends on July 24th.
- The fee per child is \$100 which includes transportation from several pick up points to the park & swim lessons.
- If there are children who are not in our area for the full month, we can also accommodate them with reduced fees for the amount of time they choose.
- Registration forms will be available through the Land O'Lakes Community Services office in town or e-mail Mary Kelly at yram@golden.net and Mary will arrange to have a form sent.
- MLSP are a charitable organization so tax receipts will be issued.

Community Donation



The Northbrook Food Bank



Each year if feasible, the SDRA provides a financial contribution to the local community on behalf of its members. Last year we made a donation to the local food bank since we felt this would help support the entire community. We enhanced this contribution by asking members to make a food donation at the AGM and festival. As well, we provided bins for members to deposit items at the end of the season. The response from our members was impressive! As the number of families that depend on the food bank continues to grow, we decided to again make a donation to **The Cloyne Food Bank**. We will again be accepting food items at the AGM and festival, and contributions can be made all year at the Home Hardware and Health Unit in Cloyne, and the Community Services in Northbrook. Please bring a non-perishable food item to the annual AGM on Saturday, July 4 and be sure to meet the new Manager of the Food Bank Mary Kelly at the AGM.

Proposed Ontario Law Targets Invasive Species

The Ontario Legislature is currently debating Bill 37, the *Invasive Species Act*. If passed, this law will make it illegal to transport, sell, or introduce an invasive species into any part of Ontario. The Act defines an invasive species as a plant or animal that is not native to any part of Ontario and is harming or could potentially harm the environment. This would likely include such foreign aquatic animals as zebra mussels, spiny water fleas, and live bait not native to a lake, such as rainbow smelt (a particular problem in Skootamatta), as well as several aquatic plants. As presently written, the Act provides **finest of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to one year, or both** for violations. Bill 37 has passed First Reading and is now in Second Debate. The Bill will need to pass Second and Third Readings before receiving Royal Assent. If passed, The Bill will come into effect one year after Royal Assent.

If passed, the *Invasive Species Act* will strengthen SDRA's efforts, laid out in Section 3.4 - FISH AND WILDLIFE HEALTH AND HABITATS, of the Draft Lake Management Plan. This Section addresses the need to preserve and protect the health of our lakes to enable fish and wildlife species to thrive without external threats. Thoroughly washing boats and trailers when they are moved from one water body to another can help reduce the risk of transferring invasives. The SDRA Board has been exploring boat washing options for our lakes since the 2014 Annual Meeting.

In anticipation of the new law, the SDRA Board encourages members and other lake users to get in the habit of thoroughly washing your boats and trailers after visiting another body of water, or before re-launching them in Skootamatta, Sheldrake or Pringle lakes. Get to know the invasive species and where they are in Ontario. If you don't know if something is an invasive, practice "Better Safe Than Sorry": remove any trace of non-native aquatic plants or animals from your boats and bilges, and DO NOT use live bait that is not native to our lakes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PLEASE NOTE: As Announcements are now covered in our Paul Pop's and on www.skootamatta.ca we have discontinued the printing of our births, deaths and anniversary announcements. We invite all members to contact us at info.skootamatta.ca if you would like the SDRA to publish a story or an announcement.

We appreciate your understanding as we continue to work on reducing our newsletter costs.

Lake Steward's Report by Malcolm Stewart

Lake water levels in Skootamatta District were "high-normal" during summer 2014, after a spring runoff that resulted in unusually high levels and flooding in several communities downstream. This summer the water was low in the spring due to a moderate winter snowfall, but should stabilize at near-normal levels by July, provided there is sufficient rain in May and June. SDRA will continue to communicate with Quinte Conservation Authority staff as they adjust levels at the dam during the season.

During summer, 2014 water samples from two locations as well as the results of monthly water clarity readings at four locations on Skootamatta were sent to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change's Lake Partners Program for total phosphorus analysis. Results, which were normal, may be found at the Ministry's Lake Partners website, <https://www.ontario.ca/data/ontario-lake-partner>.

Volunteers of all ages (and particularly those with access to a fishing boat) are needed to help with this work. If you would like to help out, and learn about the health of our lakes in the process, please contact me at info@skootamatta.ca

This summer as we have since 2008, in addition to participating in the Lake Partners Program we will be collecting and sending samples from at a number of locations in mid-July, to be tested for a range of substances by Caduceon Environmental Labs, an independent testing centre in Kingston. A full report on results should appear in the 2016 Newsletter.

Last summer the LMP was approved in principle by SDRA members at the 2014 Annual General meeting. This summer, the Lake Management Planning Committee will present our draft LMP to Addington Highlands Township and Lennox Addington County Councils asking for their written feedback. The committee will also reach out to local businesses, service clubs and non-government organizations to seek their support, beginning with the Quinte Conservation Authority and local offices of the Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment and Climate Change. You may read the draft Plan at www.skootamatta.ca.

Boat Washing Station Project Update by Joel Arthurs

At the 2014 Annual General Meeting, SDRA members voted to direct the board to further investigate the possibility of building a boat wash station to help facilitate a proactive approach to invasive species management. Through the past several months, board members have researched the various types of boat wash station (permanent, semi-permanent, mobile). The board will continue to review these options through discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Quinte Conservation. A permanent boat wash station would be the first in Ontario and would serve as a model for other areas looking at similar options. It may also improve the opportunities to attract funding. Several locations have been considered in order to have the greatest impact and generate the most use of the wash station. Informational signage will be strategically placed to educate boaters on the importance of washing their boats and associated laws.

Understanding that this is a large and potentially costly project, the board has agreed that SDRA capital funding will not exceed \$5000 to build the wash station. Other funding is being researched in the form of grants and donations. Some of the manual work may be completed through volunteers.

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Emergency Veterinarian Napanee	613-354-2330
Bear help line	1-866-514-2327

Important Notes:

Drive boat responsibly
Turn off lights when not in use
Nothing down the toilet except toilet paper
Don't bathe in the lake
Use boat spotter if swimming out from the shore

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Canada Day Boat Parade!



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

WHEN: Wednesday, JULY 1, 2015

WHERE: ASSEMBLE AT MOUTH OF SHELDRAKE BAY, PARADE LEAVES AT 11:00 A.M.

Thanks to Ron Nowell for taking the lead at our parade for 2015!!



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

When: Saturday, August 15, 2015

Where: 1191 Hughes Landing Rd. (Nowell's residence)

Starting time: 3 - 4:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m. sharp.

Bring 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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

By boat or road at the causeway at dusk.

Fireworks to start at 8:30 p.m.

Rain date Sunday, September 6, 2015

Note: For the past two years we have enjoyed a larger fireworks show. This is possible again this year if those who view the show continue to make contributions. Thank you to all who have contributed in past years to helping continue this great annual tradition.

Light Pollution, by Nancy Kallina

Many of us understand the effects of water or air pollution but few understand the significance of *Light Pollution*. Light pollution is excessive and inappropriate artificial light. Many of us city dwelling folks can easily appreciate the awe-inspiring expanse of the Milky Way when at the lake. But Skootamatta Lake is not a black sky designated area due to the amount of light emitted from artificial light sources.



For most of Earth's history, our spectacular universe has been visible in the night's sky. But today, with the increasing number of people living on earth there has been a corresponding increase in unnecessary and unshielded outdoor lighting, resulting in light pollution. While there are four classifications of light pollution, "light trespass" refers to light falling where it is not intended, wanted or needed.

The brightening of the night sky is linked to negative impacts on human health (weakened vision, headaches, hypertension and immune dysfunction) as well as adverse behavioral changes in insect and animal populations. From newly hatched turtles to migrating birds, fish, frogs salamanders and lightning bugs, artificial night lighting disrupts the cycle of nocturnal creatures. Both bright days and dark nights are necessary to maintain healthy hormone production, cell function, and brain activity. As well normal feeding, mating and migratory behaviour is dependent on the normal night/day cycle.

In contrast to some of today's more complex environmental problems, the solutions to light pollution are simple, cost-effective and instantaneous. They are as simple as recognizing when outdoor lighting no longer serves its purpose and becomes a pollutant.

We can help reduce light pollution at Skootamatta Lake by:

- Putting exterior lights on motion detectors so light is only on when necessary;
- Directing light illumination towards the ground not upwards;
- Turn down indoor lights. Put as many lights as possible on dimmer switches to save energy when a full light power is not required;
- Installing systems that can be turned off when not needed for such purposes as pathway illumination.

Lennox and Addington - Dark Sky Viewing Area

Located just off the west side of highway 41, approximately 20 km south of Kaladar and a few kilometres north of Erinsville, near the Sheffield Conservation Area is the Lennox and Addington County Dark Sky Viewing Area. The area offers a night sky experience very similar to what was available more than 100 years ago.

The site includes a large concrete pad for camera or telescope setup, or placement of lawn chairs for general stargazing. While the viewing area is ideal for amateur astronomers and astro-photographers, it is intended for anyone wishing to observe and enjoy the natural wonder of the stars.



Artist Bio - Barbara Mendham

My name is Barbara Mendham and I was born in Alliston, north of Toronto. I married my husband Derek 47 years ago and we have lived and worked in many locations in Ontario and Quebec. We settled in Ottawa and bought our cottage on Sheldrake Lake in 1989. Since our retirement ten years ago, we have lived on the lake for six months and at our home in Fort Myers, Florida for six months each year. Our two children, their spouses and four grandchildren (with another one on the way), enjoy our summers at the cottage, and winter trips to visit us in Florida.

I have been painting for about twenty years and find it relaxing and rewarding. I paint in acrylics and my paintings depict the natural beauty of the area we live in. It is not hard to find incredible subject matter at every turn – so much to paint, but so little time to capture the exquisite landscape. Each summer I participate in the Cloyne Studio Tour, the Bon Echo Art Show and the Cloyne Showcase. I am also on the Board of the Cloyne Showcase as their secretary. During the winter I paint, act in Community Theatre, and participate in Art Shows in the Fort Myers area.

I look forward to summers on the lake, painting and visiting our friends in the area.

A NOTE TO OUR ARTISTS by Gwynneth Morais

To all the artists in our membership the art world is an ever expanding group of people with amazing talent. Last years' mini art show only scratched the surface of the painting talent among us yet to be discovered. As a fellow artist who revels in the wonderful scenery we have here at Skootamatta, it was a bonus to have other members appreciate our interpretations. Our sketch books are our ever handy companion to record what we see and to transpose onto our canvases what inspires us.

It has been a hobby of mine for 60 years now or more. The woods are a real sanctuary for me. As I retire in to them to do more paintings, I hope that the artists yet to be discovered emerge for the membership to see and appreciate.



Calling All Artists and Crafters

Many members have impressive artist talents. Are you one of them? This is an opportunity to take your crafts off your shelves and display them to fellow SDRA members.

We have allocated space at our AGM display tables for Members only. This is not an art sale event but an opportunity to share and talk about your skill. If you are interested in displaying your work, please contact Gwynneth Morais (gwynnethmorais@gmail.com) or Nancy Kallina (nancy.kallina@gmail.com) by June 13th, 2015 to reserve space.

SKOOTAMATTA ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT, Jamie Lee Rattray

Hey Skootamatta!

Hope you all enjoyed your winter season, and are ready to get back to the summer Skoot activities. I know I am looking forward to being out on the boat, lounging in the sun and having those night time bonfires that we all enjoy! I don't know about all of you but I am ready for some Skoot relaxing because of how crazy winter can be, this past winter I spent most of my days in a hockey rink or a gym. I was lucky enough to represent my country twice this past season, including attending my first IIHF Women's World Ice Hockey Championships in Malmo, Sweden. Having graduated from Clarkson University last year it was time for a different chapter, and beginning the road to being a full-time athlete. After graduating from university the best place to play for female hockey players is in the Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL). The CWHL has teams based out of Toronto, Brampton, Calgary, Montreal and Boston. So my first move was to move to Toronto in order to play with the Brampton Thunder. It wasn't an easy road to get there but come on with me and I will show you what a full season of a female professional athlete looks like:

- I moved to Toronto and continue training, for hockey Canada and join the Brampton Thunder.
- I attended September Fall Festival, which is a 40 player camp for the National Women's team to evaluate the players prior to the beginning of the season.
- Was able to represent my country at the Four Nations Cup in Kamloops, BC where we won gold.



- Continued my season with Brampton, and for the first time ever the CWHL held an All-Star game at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.
- Attended the National Women's Team January camp in Montreal, QC, which is held for players who are not attending school.
- Attended the IIHF Women's Ice Hockey Championship in Malmo, Sweden.

Needless to say I am looking forward to a great summer up at the lake! If you see someone stickhandling or playing hockey off their dock that is usually me! Cheers everyone have a great summer!

MOVING TO SKOOTAMATTA, by Mike Cramer and Tricia Sinclair

Mike Cramer and Tricia Sinclair bought their cottage on Skootamatta in 2010. It didn't take them long to fall in love with the Skoot. Even though they were living and working in Hamilton, Ontario - a four hour drive in the best of weather -- they drove up to the cottage nearly every weekend all year round. Fast forward to 2015, when both Mike and Tricia have retired and made Skootamatta their full time home. They couldn't be happier to have made the transition, and their dogs Atticus and Scout love it too! We asked them about their transition to full time life at the lake and this dynamic duo came up with a very creative reflection on their transition:



Here Today, Here Tomorrow

Reflections on moving to the lake....

We're moving to "Skoot"
 To live out our days
 "Be wary of winter"
 Our city friends say.
 It's cold and there's snow
 And it's calm as a mouse,
 "Can you handle the stillness?
 Can you handle your spouse?"
 We lined up some people
 To plough and to fix,
 To build and to chop
 And to teach us new tricks.
 "Get a sump for the basement"
 They said, "and you should,
 Get a new generator
 And a shed for the wood."
 "Your line should be heated"
 (Don't get the wrong thoughts,)
 "When snow's on the roof,
 Then your hearth should stay hot."
 Get wine for the evening
 And beer for the days,
 But don't drink and drive
 On the roads or the lake!

Stock up on your movies
 Your board games and books,
 Rods, reels and snowshoes
 And skis and good boots.
 A Cloyne dinner jacket
 (My plaid checkered shirt)
 Binoculars also
 For watching the birds.
 The point to my poem
 Is to speak but the truth,
 It's a wonderful life
 But make sure it's for you.
 The people are friendly
 There're no traffic jams,
 No malls, no pollution
 But please understand...
 This change for the better
 Is not without flack,
 The fish still need cleaning
 The wood must be stacked.
 The secret? Keep busy
 But that's nothing new,
 The loons they are calling
 "To thine own self be true."

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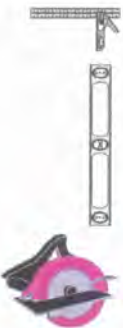
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