

SDRA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016

2015 Lake
Festival and
Photo Contest
Winners inside!



Inside this issue:

2015 Lake Festival Memories

Skootamatta Spotlight: Christine Sinclair, Robert Blatchford

The Blake Island Story

Bear Wise Tips

Turtles at Risk

And more....

S.D.R.A. NEWSLETTER 2016

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REFLECTIONS ON A GREAT YEAR BY DEBBIE AWDE...



Welcome to the 2016 SDRS Newsletter! Surprise! We have a new format this year and we hope you like the change! Through the hard work of Jennifer Robertson and Christie Arthurs from our SDRS board and all of the contributors of content we have created this lovely

new look for our newsletter! You will notice several new advertisers this year! Thank you so much to Tricia Sinclair for taking on the advertising role and reaching out to the new businesses in town so we can include them in our newsletter.

The team has been very busy over the winter months. We have been closely tracking the situation regarding Wind Turbines and posted great news on the site and in this newsletter. We have been tracking reports on invasive species and have provided in this newsletter information on how you can get involved in helping us keep watch over our lake and report what we observe. Many folks have expressed concerns about campsites on our beaches and the resulting garbage. The MNR has been notified and will be visiting the lake to assess this situation. Please remind visitors to keep our lake and beaches clean. Our team attended the Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) Forestry tour.

We continue to keep the dialogue open with MLFI regarding local logging plans in the area. You will have the opportunity again this year to learn more about these topics at our annual AGM. I encourage you to come out to the AGM on July 2nd to see your fellow members, speak with your SDRS board of directors and discuss the key topics related to our lake community.

Our membership continues to hold at 194 members. We would like to encourage even more members to join our active association. Our Vice President, Paul Lindsay is going to be launching a membership drive over the coming year and we need your help! If you know of a new family moving on to the lake, we encourage you to contact us and we will be sure to provide you with a welcome package to hand out to potential new members!



At this time of year I always open up the board slate and discuss with each individual on the board their desire to stay on for another term. Malcolm Stewart has decided to step down after many years of being Lake Steward for our SDRA Board. I would like to thank Malcolm for his years of service to the SDRA Board. We will be looking for someone to take on the role of Lake Steward to handle water testing, invasive species monitoring, lake management plan and to provide insights on the health of our lake. I encourage you to consider joining our very active SDRA Board of Directors and contact me or anyone on the board directly if you are interested in knowing more about a role on board. We are always looking for folks that can bring a fresh perspective and talents to help with activities around the lake.



We are excited about summer 2016 and are introducing a couple of changes that we hope will interest our members. First, we will be moving the Lake Festival to a new date (Aug.6) to accommodate more members' summer schedules. And, introducing a new twist to the annual pot luck event with a Luau theme as suggested by one of our own SDRA members. Don't forget to wear your best Hawaiian shirt!

I would like to thank our very active board for all of their hard work and dedication to follow the issues impacting our members. Our board brings to members annual events such as the Canada Day Parade, Lake Festival, AGM, Pot Luck (Luau) and Fireworks, not to mention producing this annual newsletter to keep members entertained and informed. These are individuals who are volunteering their time and talents to make Skootamatta Lake a wonderful place to be and I am very grateful to be part of such a fantastic team!

Happy Summer 2016!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Aude".

PRESIDENT, SDRA



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PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!



'Setting Sun' by Adam Schiefer



'Lake Vista' by Judith Coulter

'Waving Hello' by Jason Field

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos for this years contest and congratulations to all of the prize winners listed below! There were 157 photos submitted for this years contest.

Thank you also to the 48 members who voted for this years winners. Scores were calculated based on the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place votes. 1st place votes were worth 3 points, 2nd place 2 points and 3rd place 1 point.

Winners

First prize:	\$50	'Setting Sun' by Adam Schiefer	20 points
Second prize:	\$30	'Lake Vista' by Judith Coulter	13 points
Third prize:	\$20	'Waving Hello'by Jason Field	12 points

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 2, 2016

Join us at the SDRS Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 2, 2016 at Pineview Methodist Church (Hwy. 41 & Skootamatta Lake Road). Coffee and treats will be served at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10 am sharp. Local community representatives will be present to answer all your questions. Fun door prizes and raffles too! Join us afterward for a free BBQ Hotdog Lunch. Don't miss this chance to meet your neighbours and hear all about the great work your SDRS Board is doing!

2016 SDRS Annual General Meeting

We invite all SDRS members to our Annual General Meeting. You can view updates to the agenda and the minutes from the 2015 AGM on www.skootamatta.ca.

WHERE: Pineview Free Methodist Church, Hwy 41, Cloyne (At the corner of Skootamatta Lake Road)

WHEN: Saturday, July 2, 2016

START: 9:30 am

AGENDA:

9:30 to 10:00 Meet and greet with coffee and donuts

10:00 to 11:45 Formal meeting with Q&A period

11:45 to 12:15 Visit AGM Information booths

12:15 to 1:00 Barbecue Lunch

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO NORTHBROOK FOODLAND -
proud sponsor of the SDRS AGM for over 20 years!**



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(F) 613 336 9492

fld6740northbrook@sobeys.com

**OPEN 24 HOURS
JUNE 31 - SEPT 4**

SDRS 2016 Board Slate

Debbie Awde, President

Bill Blake, Director

Paul Lindsay, Vice-President

Joel Arthurs, Director

Nancy Kallina, Treasurer

Christie Arthurs, Director

Jennifer Robertson, Secretary

Tricia Sinclair, Director

Paul Grennell, Webmaster

Vacant Position

SKOOTAMATTA SPOTLIGHT:

REMEMBERING CHRISTINE SINCLAIR

While browsing my local east Toronto newspaper in early 2015, I read an article about the opening of the Bridgepoint Healthcare Centre and the naming of the Christine Sinclair Ambulatory Care Centre. While leading a full and impressive life in Toronto, Christine relaxed and played at our glorious Skootamatta Lake. When I learned of this extraordinary dedication in honour of her life, I asked her brother Alan Smith and sister-in-law Sara Young to share a bit about this remarkable woman.

-Nancy Kallina

Christine Elaine Smith Sinclair
(1958-2009)



Cottage enthusiast, marathon runner, Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and then Ernst & Young, Christine Elaine Smith Sinclair, diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), died April 4, 2009.

Several organizations acknowledged Chris' leadership with honours. In recognition of her commitment as director and governor of Bridgepoint Health for six years, the new hospital's centre to promote independent living was designated *The Christine Sinclair Ambulatory Care Centre*. The ICAO established the *Christine E. Sinclair Leadership Award* to honour young CAs who distinguish themselves through voluntary community leadership. In 2007, members of the Queen's Commerce Class of 1981 established *The Christine Smith Award* for an upper-year student who demonstrates initiative and contributions to the Commerce program as well as academic achievement.

In 2006 *The PricewaterhouseCoopers/Christine Sinclair Scholarship* was established for a female student entering the fourth year of the Bachelor of Commerce program who

demonstrates academic excellence and leadership.

Chris thoroughly enjoyed cottage life, first at the family cottage at Balsam Lake, and ultimately at her own lovely place on Skootamatta Lake. An avid runner, Chris ran marathons including: the Cape Cod (1996), the Boston (1998), and her last, the Washington (2001) which included running past the Pentagon just after the 9/11 attack. Neighbours encouraged her as she trained, running along the dusty Hughes Landing Road. The rest of her Skoot days were filled with windsurfing, boating and maintaining her property while entertaining good friends and family.

REMEMBERING BOB BLATCHFORD

By Jim Osborne

I, and many others, have lost a good friend who died on Mar 11 in Toronto after a battle with an only recently diagnosed aggressive disease. He will be sorely missed by many whose lives he gently touched.

Carolyn McCulloch, past chair of the Cloyne and District Historical Society said: "such a gentle man. I shall really miss him and his considerate friendship. The lake will miss his wonderful knowledge of how it was back then."

Bob has made an invaluable contribution to the preservation of the history of the Cloyne area, of Skootamatta Lake and Bon Echo. His historical memory, so important to many in the community, is now gone. The Pioneer Museum became very important to him in recent years and it is amazing that our small community has this marvelous resource.

Bob cottaged on Skootamatta (or Loon Lake) since the early '30s after his parents, Douglas and Dr. Ellen Blatchford, bought the cottage on what is now Loon's Nest Rd. Bob became the unofficial lake historian with an almost photographic memory of people and their activities – going back to local pioneer land grant families. Upon his retirement from Nikon, Bob spent from May to October at the lake and focused on his historical research.

He also was dedicated to the history of Flora MacDonald (1867-1921) teacher, seamstress, entrepreneur, reporter, suffragette, and the owner of Bon Echo from 1910. Her son, Merrill Denison, famous playwright and author, eventually donated the land so it could become a provincial park. As well he took a great interest in the local history of a Mohawk family, the Beys. From the time of her ownership, Flora MacDonald developed the site at Bon Echo to glorify the teachings and philosophy of the famous American poet, Walt Whitman. This included the hiring of Scottish stonemasons to carve in the massive rock, in 12ft. letters, her dedication to OLD WALT. To assist in the promotion of the poet and the site, with its hotel facility, she published pamphlets called "The Sunset of Bon Echo," six issues from 1916-1920, a fascinating view of Bon Echo times and activities. The memory of such publications passed into history and were virtually forgotten. Bob committed to finding them, and with the

assistance of Ian Brumell of the Cloyne and District Historical Society, all six 'Sunset' issues were eventually gathered, and reprinted.

Today, the Flora 'Sunset'

pamphlets continue to be in demand and sold, almost 100 years after publication.

The second example relates to the Mohawk family of John and Annie Bey (Bay), who came to the area in the late 1800s in search of free land. They didn't get any, but remained due to the beauty of the area and were allowed to live on Levere land at 'Indian Point' on Lake Mazinaw. John was skilled at hunting, fishing, trapping and building canoes, and with Annie, had 12 children. He was featured in Flora's 'Sunset' issues. Annie later died in their house fire, which resulted in the dispersal of most of the family, who left with bitter memories of their treatment. One son became a policeman in Detroit and another was a noted sniper in both World Wars - a hero. A daughter, Matilda (Tilly) stayed as she married Bill Schwager.

A great granddaughter of Bill Schwager and Tilly Bey is Laura Schwager. Bob encouraged Laura to write about her family history, which was published in the 2010 SDRA Newsletter. In 2013, Bob convinced Laura to prepare a more lengthy version, and the Cloyne Museum agreed to sponsor an evening in Barrie Hall for Laura to relate such history for the benefit of the wider community. It was attended by a 'standing room only' crowd - a fitting closure on the very unhappy experience of the Bey family in the area.

On a more personal note, my family will be forever in Bob's debt for his care of my parents (now deceased) at the lake. Since then, Bob and I have had many enjoyable dinners at my cottage - always informative with a drink and lake history discussed. It was my pleasure and I will treasure the memories of the good times.

Thanks, Bob, my good friend. We will miss you.



ADVENTURES OF THE SDRA KIOSK

By Paul Lindsay



You would think that putting up a second SDRA Kiosk would be a fairly easy thing to do. Well, it became an adventure. But a year later the kiosk was installed.

During an SDRA Board Meeting we decided that a second kiosk would be a good idea. One that would catch everyone coming to our three lakes from the north. The kiosk can be important for announcements such as fire bans or for the Lake Festival. I was given the task of finding a place for the kiosk. To me, the most obvious place for it was the southwest corner of Skootamatta Lake Road and Jacques Bay Road, facing north. My first stop was the Addington Highlands Township office. I was told that the only thing to worry about was keeping the kiosk far enough back that the snow plow would not hit it. Great!

Next, I contacted Mike Cumming to build and install the kiosk and Karen Stacey to make the sign. With the kiosk complete, Mike installed it at the corner. It looked great. So that was one job done. Or so we thought.

Within a couple of days Mike was contacted by Leo Meeks, who asked why he put the SDRA kiosk on his property. Apparently, Leo's property goes right out into Jacques Bay Rd., and he has been having an ongoing dispute with Addington Highlands over this corner. SDRA landed right in the middle of this, even though we had checked with Addington Highlands before going ahead with the project.

Leo wanted us to remove the kiosk. He certainly had every right to ask that. If we had made a mistake by putting the kiosk on his property then we would rectify it. I went to see him to explain how this had happened and that we would certainly remove it. Of course, I was

hoping he would change his mind, but there was more going on here than just the kiosk. This was a Township issue. He had no argument with SDRA.

I ended up spending an hour and a half with Leo and had the most interesting conversation. He didn't know me by my surname but when I mentioned my grandparents, the Ingrams, he recognized that right away. He began to tell stories of cutting ice out of the lake for my grandparent's ice house and about his days as a teacher. He told me that he owned 100 acres on this corner at one time. He shared many stories from two generations ago. It was fascinating, and I thoroughly enjoyed talking to him.

Now we had to find a new location for the kiosk. Areas that I thought were Township road allowances turned out to be private property, and getting permission became difficult.

Finally, with a lot of help from Mike Cumming, we located a spot on Ernie Ballard's property on Jacques Bay Road, just before Osborne Point Road. Ernie graciously allowed us to put our kiosk on his property.

The whole project from the initial idea of a second kiosk to finally installing it took about a year and a half. But we have our second kiosk. We can now catch all cottagers and visitors to our lakes, no matter which direction they come from. We can advise them of important information that they may not see on our web site or in our POPs.

Special thanks to Mike Cumming who put in extra hours removing, finding a new location, and re-installing the kiosk. And many thanks to Ernie Ballard for allowing the kiosk on his property.



5TH ANNUAL LAKE FESTIVAL

DON'T MISS THE FUN! SEE YOU SATURDAY AUG. 6/2016.

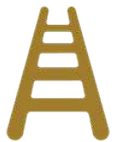
Event Schedule:

- 9:00 am – 9:30 am Set up
- 9:30 am Register for 5km run
- 9:45 am 5 KM run
- 10:00 am Registration for all events begins
- 10:30 am – 1:00 pm Children fun games
- 11:30 pm – 1:00 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 - 2:00 pm Adult Ladder Golf tournament

*Please register at least 30 minutes prior to your event start time.

NEW DATE!

ALL KINDS OF FAMILY FUN:



LADDERGOLF

Kids & Adults, grab a partner and enter this fun "tourney".



SWIMRACES

Compete in age categories of varying distances.



KAYAK RACES

Paddle your way out to the buoy and back.



"TRY" ATHLON

3 Generations compete in a short run, swim and kayak.



5KMFUNRUN

Start the day with a fun run from Trail's End out Osborne Pt. Road.

CANADA DAY PARADE – JUL 1

Wear your red and white and join us for 11am start at Jacques Bay. Ron Nowell will lead.

SDRA AGM – JUL 2

Pineview Church, Hwy. 41 and Skootamatta Lake Road. 9:30am

LAKE FESTIVAL – AUG 6

All events at Trail's End. 9:30am start.

POTLUCK LUAU – AUG 6

Join us at the home of Ron and Esther Nowell. Any time after 3pm. This year we will hold a Hawaiian Luau with a pig roast. Everyone welcome!

FIREWORKS – SEPT 3

Don't miss this annual tradition! 8:30pm at the Causeway. Donations at www.skootamatta.ca



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come join in the fun at the 5th Annual Skootamatta Lake Festival on August 6, 2016! We can't make this happen without your help. We need volunteers to help with races, children's activities, setup and cleanup, ladder golf, and every part of the day. Help out for an hour and then enjoy the fun with your family! To volunteer, contact Nancy Kallina: nancy.kallina@gmail.com.

2015 LAKE FESTIVAL MEMORIES

Consistent with the previous year, the 2015 festival had an uncertain beginning. Not only was there a high probability of rain forecasted, we also had to contend with potential thunderstorms. We persevered and were glad we did since the weather cooperated! The day began with a new event, the 5 KM Fun Run organized by Ken and Cathy Hook. The turnout was impressive with a few people joining at the last minute. The two youngest participants led the pack! The rest of the day proceeded as planned with our Kids' Games, Kayak and Swim Races and our Tri Generation TRYathlon. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped in various ways. A special thank you to the Stevens family who again contributed and prepared the BBQ, and Jill Cote who baked the many kinds of cookies and other tasty treats. All the happy participants and families who attended enjoyed the BBQ lunch and the entire day. Tell your neighbours at the lake that this is a day not to be missed! Thanks to all those members who shared their comments with us:



"It is a delight to watch the participating and spectator kids growing year after year and, more importantly, building life-lasting bonds and festival memories through their shared love for Skoot."
Nelly Loreti

"The festival is fun, especially the kayak races." Rory K.

"I like the kayak races because I won!" Adam N.

"It is the one thing we look forward to every time we come to Canada." Chloe K. and Owen D.

"My two grand daughters and my two grandsons always participate in the events. It is a highlight of their summer. I am sure that they will treasure these memories of happy times at the lake for ever." Gord Birnie



"This is the first year we have attended and our two grand daughters as well as ourselves had a wonderful time. It was very well organized and had activities for all ages. What a wonderful way to bring families together." Helen Winslow



Here's to the brave individuals who joined in the inaugural 5km Fun Run! Special mention to Laura S. for being our only female competitor - come on Ladies of the Skoot - lace up those runners!



"One of our favourite experiences is the making of new friends. Our daughter, Stella, had the good fortune of having her cousin Jet on the lake. At the first lake festival, Stella got to meet Mackenzie – who was in her age group for the swimming and kayaking races. Now, the 3 girls get to enjoy the festival together and the chance to make lifelong friends that go beyond just the summer! My husband grew up on the lake and often spoke of the regattas of his youth. It's great to be able to create some new memories with the next generation!" Erica McBride



"In 2015 we were lucky enough to gather our entire clan at the lake and attend the Festival – family joining us from Vancouver and Geelong, Australia! 3½ grandchildren and the rest of us thoroughly enjoyed all the activities of the day, (although, in fairness to other families, none of us entered any of the competitive events). The few sprinkles of light rain certainly didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm. The SDRA Festival organizers and volunteers continue to do a wonderful job with this event, which has rekindled some of the community spirit that existed many years ago when a much smaller lake association actively sponsored activities for both youth and families. A big Thank You to all those involved." Gary Evans



Ready! Set! PADDLE!



"Friends made at the Lake Festival became Beach Buddies for the rest of the summer."
Sarah Young



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you so much to our amazing volunteers:

Shelley Alkenbrack, Susan Arthurs,
Trish Barnett, Sandra Clark,
Jim & Eleanor Chinnick, Marilyn Cole,
Ellen Copeland, Jill Coté, Mike Cramer,
Esther Demczak, Gail Dobby, Haley Grennell,
Megan Grennell, Brad Heney, Joan Hudgin,
Nelli Loreti, Anne Marie McBride, Erica
McBride, Jane Falby-McBride, Ken & Cathy

Hook, Greg New, Ron Nowell, Ryan Nowell,
Dave & Melodie Rattray, Cheryl Rattray,
Molly Robertson, Struan Robertson, Lorraine
Saliba, Karen Siddiqi, Tricia Sinclair, Alan
Smith, Suzanne & Mike Stevens, Rob and
Ryan Trimble, Robert Wallace, Daphne
Williams, Sara Young & any other wonderful
volunteers we may have inadvertently
omitted from this list! Our SDRA work could
not happen without your help - thank you!



A big thank you!

Thank you to Mike and Suzanne Stevens, SDRA Members and the owners of Country Traditions in Napanee, for generously donating food for our Lake Festival BBQ each year. Your generosity is so appreciated and your cooking skills are top-notch too! We look forward to another yummy BBQ lunch with our SDRA friends and neighbours at this year's festival.



2015 Festival Winners

Congratulations to all our participants and winners in the 4th Annual Lake Festival events! This year we introduced the 5K run with enthusiastic participation and again ran the Tri-Generation TRY-athlon with a tremendous showing of 7 teams. Here are the results:



5 K Run:	1st	2nd	3rd
Boys under 16	River Saliba	Hanley Aass	
Girls under 16	Laura Smith		
Men 16+	Ken Hook Struan Robertson	Craig Mock	Paul Grennell
Women 16+			

Swimming:	1st	2nd	3rd
Girls under 7	Lilly Koehler	Lylah Cummings	Abby Koehler
Boys under 7	Luke Koehler		
7 – 8 girls	Stella McBride	Olivia Holland	Summer Burch
7 – 8 boys	Aidan Robertson		
9 – 10 girls	Anna Beyba	Mackenzie Wilson	Shanti Vaillancourt Boyns
9 – 10 boys	Thomas Birnie- Wortley	Ethan Holayan	
11 – 12 girls	Sofia Ashby	Molly Robertson	Chloe Kallina
11 - 12 boys			
13 – 14 girls	Jessica Cumming	Rachel Cumming	Laura Smith
13 – 14 boys	River Saliba	Jack Robertson	
15 – 19 girls	Haley Grennell	Megan Grennell	
20 – 29 girls			
40 – 59 women	Nancy Kallina	Daphne Williams	
40 – 59 men	Struan Robertson	Paul Grennell	Olaf Saliba

Kayaking:	1st	2nd	3rd
12 and under girls	Chloe Kallina	Stella McBride	Mackenzie Wilson
12 and under boys	Adam New	Rory Kallina	Hanely Aass
13 – 17 girls	Jessica Cummings	Rachel Cummings	Megan Grennell
13 – 17 boys	Sebastian Loreti	Jack Robertson	Barrett Aass
18 – 40 women			
41 – 64 women	Erica McBride	Jody Ashby	
41 – 64 men	Ken Hook	Martin Aass	Rob Eberhard

Laddergolf:	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	Aidan Robertson River Saliba	Laura Smith Jade ?	Jack Robertson Megan Grennell
Adult			

Tri-Generation TRY-athlon	1st	2nd	3rd
Kayak	Cathy Hook	Paul Grennell	Marty McBride
Run	Adam New	Eleanor Grennell	Stella McBride
Swim	Ken Hook	Haley Grennell	Jane Falby-McBride

SKOOTAMATTA.CA WEBSITE UPDATE

By Paul Grennell

Compared with 2014, the number of visitors to our site increased by over 30% and the percentage of visitors to the site using their phone grew by over 50%.

More of our members than ever chose to pay their annual dues online. For those who haven't done it yet, you can pay your annual dues via PayPal by visiting our membership application and renewal form at skootamatta.ca/membership.

Our 2015 Photo Contest was

part in this event. Now you don't have to wait until the fall to post your photos! As soon as the winners were announced for the 2015 contest we opened up the 2016 photo contest for submissions. This year's photo contest won't close until November, but don't wait until then. The earlier you submit the better!

Over the next few months, I will be making some improvements to the Forums section of the site. 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, sell a boat, or furniture? Just add a new Forum post.

Volunteers are always needed for the Lake Festival, Fireworks, AGM, Website, Newsletter, etc. To allow members to offer to help out, we have a Volunteers form on the website, with a link to it on the main menu. 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.

You can now add comments to each new posting that is added to the site. This feature was just



added this past fall and I am hoping that it will create dialog and make the site more interactive. I have also added a new quick links section to the home page, with links to the most commonly requested pages (e.g. Dump Hours, Waste & Recycling Info, Pay Membership Dues Online, Contact Us, 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.



Annual dues can be paid online using PayPal! Visit skootamatta.ca/membership

once again a great success. 157 photos were submitted, which was the highest number ever. 48 members voted for 3 winners, and 3 honourable mentions were awarded. Based on the continued success of our annual photo contest, we know that our members love to take

2015-16 Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Nancy Kallina

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year ending March 31

	Notes:	2016	2015
Revenue:			
Membership Revenue	1	9,700	9,700
Newsletter Advertising	2	1,770	1,640
Boat Launch Intake		445	622
Interest		173	153
Total Revenue		12,088	12,115
Expenses:			
Communication	3	2,450	2,344
Member Events	4	2,602	2,385
Stewardship	5	1,684	749
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	6	1,711	3,508
Administration	7	222	449
Insurance	8	1,903	1,880
Assets	9	1,000	126
Total Expenses		12,072	11,942
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		16	173

Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 19,587

Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 19,603

Fireworks Fund

Opening 1,005

Contributions 4,300

Event cost (4,500)

Closing Fireworks Fund 805

Closing Cash including Fireworks Fund 20,408

Notes:

- 1) 194 paid memberships received during the year, same as prior year.
- 2) Increased canvassing and improved collections from the prior year.
- 3) Website hosting cost incurred in year that is only paid every two years
- 4) Additional porta-potty for end of summer concert. Overall operation consistent with prior year.
- 5) Water testing completed during summer 2015. Performed every 2 years.
- 6) Costs include lawn maintenance and removal of two large trees.
- 7) Lower since few signs purchased compared to previous year
- 8) Slight general insurance increase.
- 9) Additional laddergolf set , anchors and buoys for festival.

THE BLAKE ISLAND STORY

A MEMORIAL IN OUR MIDST

Recently the Cloyne District Historical Society published an interesting article about F/O William Blake, the namesake of Blake Island, the island between Jacques Bay and the upper arm of the lake. With the author's permission we have reprinted it here. Special thanks to Carolyn McCulloch and Margaret Axford for helping us to share this poignant story with our members. Reprinted with permission.

By Margaret Axford
Cloyne District Historical Society

"It seems even more important for organizations such as our own to do what we can to shine a light on such courage and sacrifice and to be truly grateful."

History is most often told through the actions of many; perhaps it is most profoundly felt through the singular actions of a few. The story of Flying Officer William Blake has had a lasting effect on his nieces and nephews and their families, as well of course in a most profound way on his brother and sister-in-law,



Richard and Edna Blake.

His story was first told to the CDHS at our annual pot luck gathering in July, 2006. Joanne Volpe, a summertime neighbour of Richard Blake, told us about a pilot who had given his life in WWII to give his crew a chance to live. That man was Flying Officer William Vincent Blake, brother of Richard Blake of Guelph, now 96. The story was captivating.

In April of 1944, F/O William Blake, in his early twenties, was flying a Handley Page Halifax MkII when it was attacked by German fire over the Baltic Sea close to the coast of Sweden. The damage to the plane was significant. The mid-upper gunner had been wounded. In order to help his crew survive the attack, Blake flew the plane over southern Sweden where he ordered all of the 6 to bale

out, which they did. At that point, the aircraft became uncontrollable; Blake managed to get the plane back out over water before it crashed into the sea near Solvesborg, Sweden. In spite of the attempts of divers, his body was never found.

To Richard and Edna Blake and their children, and now grandchildren, this event in 1944 became a defining moment in their family stories. After Joanne Volpe's presentation to the CDHS, it seemed appropriate to commemorate William Blake, who was so dear to his brother Richard. And so, a plaque was created, which was installed in a small ceremony on Blake Island in Lake Skootamatta on July 1, 2007.

Part two of this story takes place in London England, where a researcher named Kate Tame came across the CDHS website and read the story of F/O William Blake, who had been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross in February of 1944. Kate Tame does work searching the stories of WWII airmen for a British website called Aircrew Remembered. She was enthralled with this story and wondered if we had photos and perhaps local information. Eventually, she posted the whole story as we both knew it on her website. Included in her report of the events of April, 1944, are biographies of 4 of the 6 crew who baled out and survived. To check out her account, go to www.aircrewremembered.com.

No one knew that there would be a Part Three of the story until this summer when we heard that a memorial to honour F/O Blake, DFC was being erected in Solvesborg Sweden. From an article in the Hamilton Spectator, October 12, 2015, it appears that a Swedish citizen living in Solvesborg came across the story on its 70th anniversary in April 2014. He was impressed enough by the heroic actions of the pilot to organize this event, which included tracking down the Blake family in Canada to invite them to the dedication of the memorial on September 19, 2015. When I talked with Richard Blake on

daughter found the Swedish people to be welcoming, friendly & helpful. The memorial is not unlike our own, a small cairn with a plaque.



Richard Blake with photo of brother

As part of the ceremony, the two Blake daughters went out in a boat and dropped a wreath on the water at approximately the spot where it is believed their uncle's plane went down.

F/O Blake has had two commendations for his wartime accomplishments, one in 1957 with the naming of a lake after him in the North West Territories and the second his Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded as a result of an amazing effort in February, 1944 when his plane was attacked eleven times by enemy aircraft before he could successfully bomb his target. His family has tried for a commendation in light of the heroic actions which led to his death a mere two months later. However, they were told that their efforts were too late; no awards have been made for WWII actions since 1950. Knowing that, it seems even more important for organizations such as our own to do what we can to shine a light on such courage and self sacrifice and to be truly grateful.

In Memory of
F/O William
Vincent
Blake, D.F.C.



the phone to ask him if he was going to attend, he replied that he was not. "My family thinks I am too old to make that journey" he said, acknowledging that it would be a tremendous effort physically. However, five of his family members did attend. Those five, two daughters of Dick and Edna, their husbands and a grand-

Photos courtesy of CDHS. Reprinted with permission. L: Richard Blake on Blake Island. R: F/O William Blake.



BEAR SAFETY AT THE COTTAGE



With an increase in bear sightings around our lakes and cottages last season, it's important that we all are reminded of a few bear safety tips.

The best way to avoid bears is to make sure there isn't anything appealing to them on your property. Bears forage for food that is easy to access, which is why you may hear of them hanging around the dump. The Ministry of Natural

Resources makes a number of suggestions for reducing bear attractants. Don't leave garbage outside where a bear can access it; if you have to, use garbage cans with tight fitting lids. Grease from barbecues should be cleaned out after each use and don't dump grease from a pan outside. Grease should be disposed of in the garbage once it cools.

Now, if you are out and about, there are a few things you can do to protect yourself. Travelling in groups may deter a bear from approaching. Make noise when you walk through areas that may have low visibility or a lot of background noise. A bear doesn't want to encounter you, so this will give it a chance to go in another direction. Do not wear headphones or listen to music, as you may not hear a bear approaching. Keep your dog leashed as it may actually lead a bear right to you. Be attentive to your surroundings and avoid sudden movements that may startle a bear.

If you encounter a bear at a distance, the main thing is to stay calm. Do not make eye contact with a bear. This can be perceived by the bear as aggression. Slowly back away from the bear, talking calmly in a low monotone voice. This will give the bear space to escape, since it wants to flee the encounter. If there is a building or car nearby, get inside; otherwise leave the area. Don't run from a bear, climb a tree, or try to swim from a bear - they can do all these things too, and probably better than you can.

If the bear that you encounter is close, yell at the bear and make yourself look bigger by waving your arms in the air. Throw objects at the bear or blow a whistle or air horn. If the bear advances towards you, be sure to stand your ground. Use bear spray if the bear is less than 7 metres away. A very last resort would be to kill the bear, however, this is strongly discouraged and must be reported to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Above all, remember, we share the area with all sorts of wildlife, including bears, and this is their home too. They want to be left alone as much as we do.

Sources:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/report-bear-problem-bear-wise>

<https://news.ontario.ca/mnr/en/2015/04/be-bear-wise-this-spring-2.html>

EMERGENCY OR NON-EMERGENCY?

There are two types of situations when encountering a bear that warrant different responses; emergency and non-emergency.

In the event that a bear tries to enter a residence, wanders into a school yard when school is in session, approaches a gathering of people, or attacks livestock/pets and lingers afterward, this would be an emergency situation and you should call 911.

If a bear is foraging through garbage, pulling down bird feeders or knocking over barbecues, is in a tree, or moving through a property (without lingering), this is considered a non-emergency and you should contact the Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327.

UPDATE: PROPOSED ADDINGTON HIGHLANDS WIND TURBINE PROJECTS

By Tricia Sinclair

In 2015, two companies proposed wind energy projects to be located in the north east corner of the Township of Addington Highlands close to Denbigh and in North Frontenac Township. One company is NEXTEra Energy which proposed the NorthPoint I and NorthPoint II wind projects and the other is Renewable Energy Systems Canada Inc. (“RES”) which proposed the “Denbigh Wind” project.* The projects have been controversial, and gave rise to the formation of a group called BEARAT (Bon Echo Area Residents Against Turbines). <http://www.bearat.org>

The projects were subject to a provincial government procurement/bid process. The Independent Electricity System Operator (“IESO”), a provincial government body, conducted the review process and, on March 10, 2016, the IESO announced which companies and projects would be awarded contracts under the 2015 process. Neither NEXTEra nor RES was successful in securing contracts for their proposed wind projects in Addington Highlands and North Frontenac.

In terms of the process, proposals are subject to the Large Renewable Procurement (“LRP”) program under the Green Energy Act. Under the Green Energy Act, councils do not have the authority to approve or prevent the building of wind turbine projects. As mentioned, this power rests with IESO. However, whether or not there is council support for a project is one of the many factors taken into account by the IESO. In the summer of 2015, Council of the Township of Addington Highlands passed resolutions supporting both projects while Frontenac Township declared itself an “unwilling host”.

Moving forward, it appears two more LRP processes are planned: one for 2016 and another for 2017. It is not known whether either company will resubmit a bid for consideration in the future by the IESO. The SDRA is keeping an eye on this issue and will update you with any information going forward.



Summary of the 2015 Projects:

NEXTEra:

Northpoint I - 35 to 50 wind turbines and related infrastructure; total generating capacity of up to 150 MW; North Frontenac.

Northpoint II - 35 to 100 turbines and related infrastructure; up to 200 MW; Addington Highlands

Renewable Energy Systems:

40 to 60 turbines and related infrastructure; up to 170 MW ; Addington Highlands.

*For details, see
<http://www.nexteraenergy.com/index.shtml>*

*<http://www.denbighwind.com>
<http://www.energy.gov.on.ca/en/renewable-energy-development-in-ontario-a-guide-for-municipalities/large-renewable-procurement/>.*

MLFI FOREST TOUR 2015

By Nancy Kallina



For many years representatives from the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. known as the "MLFI" have attended our annual AGM to provide our members information regarding logging activities in the region. Past members of the SDRAs worked with the MLFI to ensure logging activities minimized the impact to our lake and the surrounding land while supporting the logging economy in the community. A fair and balanced plan was reached and the SDRAs continue to monitor the activity in relation to the agreement.

The MLFI is a not for profit organization funded by their shareholders/partners. Their shareholders include seven sawmills, twelve independent logging companies and one pulp mill. The shareholders are independent, local family owned businesses. The MLFI, on behalf of their shareholders, is responsible for the following activities:

- Preparing the Forest Management Plan (FMP);
- Preparing the Forest Operation Prescriptions (FOP) which describe in detail the planned activities;
- Monitoring all harvest and renewal operations to ensure compliance with the FMP and reporting their observation to the MNR;
- Preparing annual reports to the MNR to describe the progress in implementing the FMP; and,
- Training and educating forest workers.

MLFI is a self-regulating organization and claim they are obligated to report any breach of the regulations or deviations from the plan to the regulating organization.

At the 2015 AGM, Matt Mertins from MLFI offered to take our members on a forestry tour to show the different types of logging methods and the regrowth that occurred after a number of years. About eight of our members together with others from neighbouring lakes, attended the tour on August 21, 2015. The four site tour was well organized and led by specialists from the MLFI.

Site One was a "Selection Cut" that occurred in 2011 and 2012. This method partially removes about 1/3 of selected trees every 20-30 years and is appropriate for shade tolerant trees. The objective is to maintain the high level of diversity, improve the quality and allows the remaining trees room to grow. About 40% of local harvests use this method.

Site Two was a "Shelterwood Cut" that occurred in 2008 and replanted in 2012. This method, suitable for partially shade tolerant trees, is used typically for white pines. Mature stands are partially removed in 2 -3 stages over 15-40 years. It is intended to mimic low intensity natural disturbance such as a ground fire and maintains the diversity of species. About 45% of local harvests use this method.

Site Three was a "Clear Cut" that occurred in 2006. This method removes all merchantable trees at once except for those trees retained for biodiversity and wildlife. At least 25 trees per hectare are required to be spared. This method is used primarily for poplar or other species that require full access to light. About 15% of local harvests use this method.

Site Four was a bridge over a waterway/stream. The presenters discussed the setback requirements and machinery restrictions near the stream. Also discussed were the different approaches to regeneration, natural (from seeds) or artificial (from planting) including the planning required to collect local seeds to grow seedlings designated for the same site.

Overall the tour was packed with interesting information as we enjoyed beautiful scenery.

THANK YOU to the MLFI Staff for organizing this informative event for our members.

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT

By Malcolm Stewart



Independent Water Analysis

On August 5, three volunteers -- Joan Hudgin and Trish Barnett and Rob Wallace -- joined me in collecting a total of 26 water samples at ten sites on Skootamatta. We completed the job within 90 minutes, and I was able to deliver the samples to Caduceon Labs in Kingston at noon the next day! The results (shown below, along with 2013 results) were back by email by the end of the week.

2015 and 2013 Water Analysis Results										
Source: Caduceon Environmental Laboratory, Kingston ON										
Substance 2015 Reporting Limit	Ammonia .01 mg/L		Nitrogen .1 mg/L		Phosphorus .01 mg/L		Calcium .02 mg/L		E coli 1 cfu/100 mL	
Sites sampled	2015	2013 **	2015	2013 ***	2015	2013	2015	2013	2015	2013
Trails End Ldg	<. 01	.027	.5	.28	.01	.01	5.48	5.32	0	-
*North East Bay	<. 01	.019	.4	.31	.02	<.01	5.11	5.51	n/a	0
Osborne Back Bay	<. 01	.044	.4	.28	.01	.08	5.17	5.46	0	0
Wolf Creek	<. 01	.016	.7	.31	.03	<.01	5.14	5.60	n/a	-
Henninger Road	<. 01	.020	1.0	.28	.03	<.01	4.99	5.56	0	0
Narrows S. End	<. 01	n/a	.5	n/a	<.01	n/a	5.05	n/a	n/a	-
Jacques Bay	<. 01	.020	.4	.29	.02	<.01	5.08	5.36	3	0
Upper Lake Ldg	<. 01	.018	.5	.33	.01	<.01	5.10	5.32	n/a	-
Sheldrake Bay	<. 01	.047	.3	.31	.01	<.01	5.12	5.47	0	5
South Shore	<. 01	.024	.4	.32	.01	<.01	5.28	5.61	n/a	-

*Formerly Loon Lake Lodge ** 2013 Reporting limit .005 mg/L *** 2013 Reporting limit .05 mg/L

Lake Partners Program

Total Phosphorous water samples were collected at four sites -- Upper Lake Deep Spot, Jacques Bay, South end of the Narrows and Lower Lake Deep Spot -- and mailed to the Lake Partners Program for analysis on June 6. Secchi disc readings of water clarity were taken at the same four sites on May 31 and July 24. Two additional readings, usually taken in late August and in October were missed. These data were mailed to the LPP office in Dorset on posted on October 7 and will appear on the MOECC website in due course.

Continued on next page...

LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT Continued

By Malcolm Stewart

Soapy Water

In July, Paul Lindsay and I received an email from a lake resident reporting the occurrence of foam along the Heninger Road shore, and suggesting it might be caused by cottagers using phosphorous-based detergents, soaps or shampoos for washing clothes or bathing in the Lake. I contacted a local expert for an opinion, who pointed out that detergents and soaps containing phosphates have been banned in Ontario in recent years. He pointed out that many things can cause foam on fresh water lakes. Most commonly the cause is natural, organic material in the water. For example, dragonfly nymphs molt, and in sufficient quantities this organic matter can form 'surfactants' that modify surface water tension leading to foam when agitated by the wind. A scientific article from Alberta also explained the phenomenon. Generally, unless the foam is bright white, it is unlikely to be caused by soaps or detergents.

Lake Management Plan

Last June Derek Mendham and I met with Terry Murphy, Manager of the Quinte Conservation Authority who provided feedback from his staff on the first draft of the SDRA Lake Management Plan, which was approved in principle by members at the 2014 Annual Meeting. Mr. Murphy recommended a number of recently approved LMP's that might serve as models, and affirmed QCA as a partner in our quest to have our plan accepted by Addington Highlands Township as well as various government and non-government organizations. He recommended that the Plan, which reflects the wishes and values of Lake residents, be offered as a guide to future development in Skootamatta District. The Plan is being revised to incorporate this feedback.

Local Watersheds Workshop Review

On September 12, I attended a workshop on watersheds sponsored by the Friends of Salmon River. It was a great learning experience and chance to meet people from the Moira, Salmon and Napanee River watersheds as well as learn from experts from Quinte Conservation, MNR and Watersheds Canada. The workshop started with a talk by MNR scientist, Dr. Cindy Chiu. She presented an overview of rising water temperatures over several decades in river waters throughout Ontario. This warming trend has led to species moving north and competing with native species. Examples are fish – gobies and smallmouth bass, birds including cormorants, and several plant species – that compete with established species. Breakout groups discussed conditions in their watersheds and actions that could moderate their health: increasing the amount of native vegetation along the riparian buffers of streams and rivers, removing dams to restore natural water flows and drawing cooler water from below lake surfaces as examples.

A very impressive presentation on the work of the Friends of Salmon River over the past 12 years was given by Dr. Gray Merriam, a retired professor of landscape ecology who lives on the river near Arden (see his article in this issue). Dr. Merriam is a founding member of Friends, who have worked tirelessly to draw attention to and protect the Salmon River watershed. The main takeaway for me was that we should think more broadly about the health and protection of our watershed, not only our lakes, since the quality of our lake water is strongly influenced by the streams and wetlands surrounding it. And, of course, the quality of our lake water in turn affects every living thing downstream.

WATERSHED VALUES AND RIVER FUTURES

by Gray Merriam

Using watersheds as our basic geographic unit has helped conservation of rivers and their drainage basins. Assessing the potential for various human goals and the long-term regional values of different parts of watersheds will let us set priorities. Such priorities will make our watershed stewardship even more effective and responsive to people's goals. The higher priority previously given to downstream sections of watersheds by flood control programs is not aimed at improvements in water management for a watershed. Emphasis on the downstream portion of the watershed leads mainly only to engineered patching aimed at surviving or preventing flooding.

In contrast, watershed stewardship programs aim for remediation and protection of the natural processes of the entire watershed that prevent or tame such floods. Watershed stewardship is most effective if applied close to where the rain hits the ground, before it becomes a downstream flood crest. The upstream portion is the most valuable portion in terms of watershed stewardship and conservation.

The Skootamatta adds high quality water to the Moira system and the Skootamatta watershed adds high quality landscapes and irreplaceable natural riches that enhance the value of all of eastern Ontario.

How can a group of volunteers begin to assess the values that most need care in such a valuable watershed? The first need is for an inventory of ecological features of the watershed. With an inventory of features, it is possible to mark those areas that support the important natural processes that keep the river and its watershed functioning ecologically. The most basic of those processes is the capture of solar energy by green plants who feed that energy into all the rest of the ecosystems. All the other organisms and processes in an ecosystem depend entirely on energy fed onto the system by green plants.

Not only do the green plants provide all the energy but they also contribute to soil formation and to keeping that soil in place – especially on the bedrock of the Canadian Shield. Beyond all

that, the plants are the main providers of habitat for many of the animals.

So step one might be to learn the spatial distribution of types of vegetation across the watershed. This is much easier now by using maps of remotely sensed images. For example, it is easy to find areas along the river where there is too little vegetation stabilizing the shores and controlling the inflow of nutrients. Targeting your efforts to such areas that need care is critical for small volunteer groups to be effective and survive. Reports such as *"How much Habitat is enough"* from Environment Canada give some guidelines for how much of the watershed should remain forested.

Because this part of Ontario is a land of lakes, river watersheds can be helped by lake associations. They focus primarily on their own lake but they will realize that their lake is part of and depends on a bigger watershed. These groups can get water quality samples analyzed by the Lake Partners Program of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Water quality data for the lakes can be combined with samples from the river to give watershed-scale information. Areas with water quality concerns on Shield rivers are unlikely to be related to industrial sources and most likely to relate to human activities. River watershed groups can help negotiate solutions to such issues.

The Skootamatta watershed is distant from the bases of Quinte Conservation, MOE and MNRF. Consequently, the Friends of the Skootamatta can assist those agencies by their presence in the watershed where they can cooperate in programs and can gather information that the agencies should have. Activity by the Friends will bring more attention by the distant agencies.

Perhaps most important of all, a Friends group can display and explain the features and the natural processes of the watershed, to all users of the watershed. Increasing the value that those folks place on the natural riches of the watershed is the best possible stewardship tool – one that can be passed to the next generation. The Skootamatta should be forever, our youngsters need the attitude to see to it.

INVASIVE SPECIES

The Invasive Species Act was passed and received Royal Assent on November 3, 2015. This Act lays out rules and regulations about how the Province will manage invasive species within Ontario. As with many pieces of legislation, the Act will come into force one year after Royal Assent, on November 3, 2016.

It is expected that over the next several months, the Province will provide details on which species will be classified as invasive. Once this is done, there will be specific rules that will apply depending if it is a prohibited species or restricted species. These rules will apply regardless of whether the species is alive or dead. See the sidebar for an overview of how the new Act views prohibited and restricted species.

The Act also details enforcement, inspections and penalties. For example, if a person is found guilty of a first offence, the fine is up to \$250,000. A second offence is up to \$500,000. Corporations can be fined \$1,000,000 for a first offence and \$2,000,000 for a second offence.

Some prohibited and/or restricted species may include those that are currently being used for local activities, such as fishing within SDRA lakes. Additionally, species transport could inadvertently occur by moving a boat, ATV, or trailer from one environment to another without properly cleaning the vehicle. While no species have yet been designated, the SDRA will endeavour to keep members informed of any changes.

Prohibited Species

The species is not allowed to be brought into the Province of Ontario.

The species may not be deposited or released in Ontario.

A person may not transport the species.

A person may not propagate the species.

A person may not sell the species.

Restricted Species

The species is not allowed to be brought into a provincial park or conservation area.

The species may not be deposited or released in Ontario.

Must comply with any prescribed regulations that relates to the transport, propagation, or sale of the species.

BOAT WASHING STATION: UPDATE

The past year has been busy with regards to the boat washing station. We have visited a couple of potential sites, spoken with various levels of government, and researched various types of boat washing technologies. Here is a quick synopsis of what we've learned and where we are going.

We had some great discussions and heard numerous ideas at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. Following one member's suggestion about planned road work, we contacted the Township to see if the road junction at Sheldrake Lake Road and Skootamatta Lake Road would make a viable boat washing location. Although this would have been a great spot, the planned work to modify the roads is no longer happening, eliminating this location for a potential boat washing site.

We then contacted the Ontario Ministry of Transportation about a couple of potential locations. One spot is at the transportation yard just north of Cloyne on Highway 41. The other is at Bon Echo Park. Neither of these locations will work for various reasons. We are currently discussing options with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry about using some private land with consent from the owner.

In addition to all of this, we have been in contact with the Mazinaw Property Owners Association (MPOA), and they have opened discussions with the Township about using some public lands for the station. We will continue our discussions in the hopes of finding a location that will serve as many boats as possible. There has been considerable interest from the Province and the MPOA and we are excited to see where this leads.

Important Phone Numbers:

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency Police	1-888-310-1122
Poison Control	1-800-268-9017
Fire Conditions	613-336-1851
Hydro One	1-800-434-1235
Lakelands Family Health Team	613-336-8888
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

SDRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!

SDRA is reaching out to all seasonal and permanent residents on Pringle, Sheldrake and Skootamatta Lakes and we need your assistance to help us attract new members.

We want to ensure that everyone is aware of the Association and the many things we do. We are a stronger Association when we have significant membership involvement. To reach our non-members, we are giving this Newsletter to them to explain the benefits of being a member. We would like the newsletter to be hand-delivered and need your help. Do you know of any neighbours who are not members? Are you able to approach them to ask if they have considered membership? If so, please let us know and we will provide you with newsletters to distribute.

The advantages of being a member of SDRA are absolutely staggering! There are social events like the Lake Festival, the Nowell's Pot Luck & the Fireworks. There are Lake Health initiatives like water testing, continuous development of the Lake Management Plan and coordinating with MNR and Quinte Conservation. There are Contests like the Great Canadian Skootamatta Ice Contest, the Photo Contest and of course Swimming, Kayak and Try-Athlon races at the Lake Festival. We provide up to date communication through the SDRA Web Site, SDRA POPs and the SDRA Facebook Page as well as fire bans and event notifications on our Kiosks. And we are ever watchful for current issues.

When SDRA goes to Addington Highlands Township to influence issues impacting the lakes, they ask us what percentage of the cottagers we represent. If we say 50%, we are speaking with strength. If we say 75%, we have an even stronger voice. We have been able to negotiate with Addington Highlands Township, Mazinaw-Lanark Forestry Inc. and others and our point of view is heard. We are one of the most active Associations in Ontario according to FOCA. Your membership gives us the strength to influence.

Your Board is eager to be active but we cannot do it alone. We are always looking for new Board members and welcome new ideas and new points of view. Get involved. You will walk away knowing that you have accomplished something worthwhile giving back to our Lake community.

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- Greystones Gift & Book Shop Art Gallery
- Lagoon BBQ: Sat/Sun in Jul/Aug; Sat in Sept
- Amphitheatre presentations: schedule on website
<http://BonEchoFriends.ca> 613-336-0830

Summer Job 2016 at SKOOT

Great job for students!
General labor, yard clean-up, brush removal etc.
Must have own transportation (car or boat).
Weekend hours available the month of June (or whenever school ends).
Full time hours the month of July and August
Minimum 30 hours a week Monday - Friday
paying \$10.00 an hour.
Call Lynn 705-772-5926

COMMUNITY DONATION

As in the previous two years, we directed our community donation to the **Land O' Lakes Community Foodbank**. This organization supports those local residents of all ages who are in need. The number of residents that depend on the food bank has increased each year and their need for support is great.

We again ask that members bring a non-perishable food item to our AGM. A representative from the foodbank will be at the AGM to answer questions and accept both food and monetary donations. Thank you to those members that made a personal donation last year.

At the end of summer 2015, we also placed donation bins at the Skootamatta Lake Road, and the food donations dropped off by our members were impressive! We will attempt to do the same at the end of cottage season 2016. Contributions can be dropped off all year at Community Services in Northbrook.

Pine Meadow Annual Golf Classic

This annual charity event is now in its fourteenth year, and has raised substantial funds which have been used for special needs at the nursing home that are not covered by the Pine Meadow budget.

This year's Golf Classic will be held again at Hunter's Creek on Saturday, June 25th, 2016.

If you are interested in golfing in the tournament or would like to submit a team, please contact Eleanor at Nowell Motors (336-2547).



Mazinaw Lake Swim Program

The Mazinaw Lake Swim Program is hiring instructors and lifeguards for 2016.

Lessons run from July 4 to July 29. Interested applicants can send their resume, cover letter, and copies of current certifications to Beth at haslere@limestone.on.ca



LANDO'LAKES COMMUNITYFOODBANK

DONATIONS CAN BE SENT TO:
14209B HIGHWAY 41, P.O. BOX 67
CLOYNE, ON, K0H 1K0

SKOOTAMATTA STORE ON ZAZZLE

If you're looking for some Skootamatta Lake merchandise or clothing, we have an online store! Zazzle provides the merchandise and puts our name and logo on it.

Visit Zazzle.ca/skootamatta and click on the products tab to see all of the items currently available. Want something you don't see? Let us know and we'll see if Zazzle can make it.

RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Most of us spend many hours in the summer travelling around and exploring the many interesting features of our beloved lakes - Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle.

Whether exploring by kayak or fishing boat or any other means, we enjoy the beauty of the land and water all around us including the abundance of Crown land that we are fortunate enough to be able to easily access. (Crown land is shown in dark green in the map below.)

Recently, concerns have been raised about vandalism: the cutting down of saplings, litter, and so called “improvements” left behind by short term users.

Some of the popular spots are particularly vulnerable to abuse, such as the beach at the north end of Bible Island, and some of the small

islands near the Causeway on Hughes Landing Road.

If cottagers and other users of the lakes witness suspected violations by day users or campers, you can report these to the Ministry of Natural Resource’s TIPS line, 1.877.847.7667.

While responsible visitors to these sites are permitted (and welcome) to enjoy all the area has to offer, vandalism and abusive behaviour should be discouraged for the benefit of everyone.

Enjoy the natural environment around you and please help protect it.

* NOTE: The map is used for illustrative purposes only. It does not depict legal property boundaries and there may be errors in the data used to generate it.



"TAKE ONLY MEMORIES,
LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS." CHIEF SEATTLE



TURTLES AT RISK

HOW ONE ORGANIZATION IS HELPING ONTARIO'S TURTLE SPECIES



By Jennifer Robertson

Last summer, on a trip to town seeking ice cream, we spontaneously ventured over to “the Park” (Bon Echo) to see what was happening. Lucky for us, a volunteer from the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre (KTTC) was giving a talk in the amphitheatre about Ontario’s 8 species of turtles and the work that the KTTC does to ensure that they will be around for generations to enjoy. She even had live samples of local turtles for us to identify and observe. The kids were hooked from the minute she opened her mouth! We visited the KTTC in Peterborough this winter to find out more.

Turtle trauma? What’s this all about, you ask? Well, the people at KTTC have made it their mission to protect and conserve Ontario’s Native turtles and the habitat in which they live. A non-profit organization funded entirely by donations, KTTC is a hospital that “treats, rehabilitates, and releases injured turtles, conducts extensive research in the field to further conservation initiatives, and runs a comprehensive education and outreach program.” The organization was started by KIDS who were concerned about turtles and TOOK ACTION – read all about it here: www.kawarthaturtle.org

Seven of Ontario’s eight species of turtles are classified as “at-risk” and car traffic represents one of the leading causes of turtle demise. Our relaxing drive to the cottage can spell disaster for turtles as they come on land and cross roads frequently to lay their eggs. Every day, adult turtles are injured, run over, or killed on the road. The death of even one adult female turtle can have a devastating effect on the entire turtle population in an area. Only about 1% of turtle hatchlings become adults, and only about half of these are females. In their natural habitat, turtles can live for many years and once they

have reached full maturity (8-20 years old) they are capable of laying many eggs throughout their lifetime. When one adult turtle is killed on the road, this prevents thousands of eggs being laid.

KTTC’s expert network of veterinarians, technicians and volunteers save the lives of literally hundreds of injured turtles each year. In fact, according to the KTTC website, over 2/3 of the turtles treated survive and are released back into the wild. Vets perform surgeries and provide time for the turtles to recuperate in the hospital until they are strong enough to be re-released. It is important that the turtle is placed back in the same area where it was found in order to have the best chance of survival. That’s where volunteers come in. KTTC volunteers drive literally hundreds of kilometers to pick up and drop off turtles. Turtles who survive but whose injuries are too great to allow them to be re-released are kept at the centre and used for education and outreach programs. So what do you do if you accidentally hit a turtle, or see an injured turtle on the side of the road? You can call the volunteers at Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre and they will give you advice and instructions. You can find out how to drop off the turtle at the KTTC or search for a local vet who is involved in turtle conservation, or even arrange for the turtle to be picked up and transported to the centre in Peterborough for treatment.

Do you care about turtles and want to know more? The KTTC website contains all kinds of interesting information about our native species of turtles and how you can help preserve them for future generations. There is a great section for kids to learn all about Ontario turtles and how they can help ensure their survival. You can also find information on how to support this worthy organization.

Source: www.kawarthaturtle.org

7 OF ONTARIO'S
8 TURTLE
SPECIES ARE AT
RISK

Donations of money and materials are always needed and can be easily submitted on-line through the KTTC website: www.kawarthaturtle.org.

ONTARIO TURTLES



Photos from www.skootamatta.ca



Blanding's Turtle

Look for a bright yellow chin and throat

If you see a turtle eating on land it might be this guy – as most aquatic turtles eat in the water

Blanding's turtles are travellers – in fact they make the longest overland journey from summer nesting spots to their winter habitats of any Ontario turtle

They can live to be 75 years old!

Eastern Musk Turtle

Upper shell is brown with black flecks

Lower shell is yellowish

Light stripes above and below the eye

Mainly nocturnal creatures who rarely swim

Gets its name from the odor it emits when threatened – also called "Stinkpot!"

Midland Painted Turtle & Western Painted Turtle

Black shells with dark red or orange markings

They are travellers who move over large areas of land

These are the only non-threatened species of turtle in Ontario

They can survive at temperatures as low as -9C due to a natural antifreeze in their bodies

Spiny Softshell Turtle

Soft leathery shell

Long snout

Can stay underwater for up to about 5 hours

Northern Map Turtle

Their top shell looks like a topographical map with lines on it

They have a yellow spot behind their eyes

Can be confused with snapping turtles but snapping turtles are much larger and don't have the same shell markings

Snapping Turtle

Has triangular spikes along its tail make it look prehistoric

Reach a size of up to 47cm long

Not really strong swimmers, they often walk on the bottom of ponds and rivers or crossing roads

Can lay up to 50 eggs

Spotted Turtle

Orange yellow markings on its body and yellow spots on its shell

Males have dark eyes and dark chins; females have orange eyes and yellow chins

Wood Turtle

Neck, chin and legs are a bright orange-yellow colour

Found in woodlands or floodplains in the summer months

Considered extremely intelligent
(for a turtle)



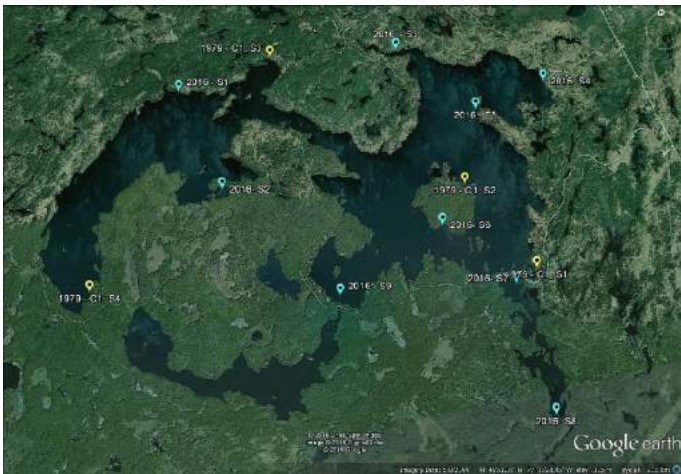
Source:

<http://cottagelife.com/environment/how-to-identify-ontarios-8-species-of-turtles>

FISHES STUDY COMMENCES ON SKOOT!

by Anders Holder

Over the past decade, there has been a growing concern that Skootamatta Lake has been changing. These concerns include fish population changes, water quality degradation and climate change effects. While there have been studies conducted in the past, it is difficult to identify a trend in the data. There is consistent mention of the abundance of introduced Rainbow Smelt and the potential effects it has on the local Walleye, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish and Cisco populations. Effects on other game fishes and smaller fishes are also unknown. To obtain a better understanding of what is happening in Skootamatta, 13 sites around the shoreline of have been selected to be sampled (Printed maps will be provided at the AGM on July 2, 2016).



The sampling will be conducted in the water, but access to shorelines will be needed. If you have a property within an area set for sampling and would either a) like to learn or watch; or b) would prefer us to respect your privacy; please contact us or let us know when we arrive and we will happily accommodate you. It is

expected that each site will take 2-3 hours depending on terrain and accessibility to the site. The sampling will consist of two phases to understand the changes in fish communities based on the seasons. Phase 1 will begin on July 7, 2016 and end approximately on July 13, 2016 (weather permitting). Phase 2 will begin in late September / Early October depending on length of summer weather. The results will allow us to conduct a comparative analysis with past data, understand the changes in seasonality, and to develop a baseline of new sampling sites for future sampling. These results will all combine to aid in a better understanding of the health of the fishes of Skootamatta. We are looking forward to an exciting summer on Skootamatta. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the research, or simply have questions or inquiries, please join our Facebook group: "SkootamattaScience".

Anders has grown up being at the cottage on Skootamatta every summer. His great uncle Jeff Fish built the cottage in the 1950s, where his mother spent every summer. Anders and his wife Robin are carrying on the cottage tradition and exposing their daughter Riya to the beauty that is Skootamatta. Anders has been working with Environment and Climate Change Canada for 8 years as a Great Lakes Program Officer in Toronto. He is currently working towards completing his Master's in Environmental Science at the University of Toronto. As a major focus of his degree, he is looking at the current status and potential changes in fish assemblages in Skootamatta. Anders can be reached at skootamattascience@gmail.com or facebook.com/skootamattascience/

**For more information about this study, visit
facebook.com/skootamattascience**

SKOOT KIDS' CORNER



Instagram

#SKOOTSUMMER2016

#SKOOTKIDZ

Calling all Skootamatta Kids! Summer is coming quickly and we want to see all the fun things you do at our awesome lake with your family, your friends, and your pets. Post your favourite photo(s) depicting your best moment(s) of summer with the hashtag #skootsummer2016 to your Instagram feed and share with your friends on Skoot. Follow us on Instagram at SkootKidz.

SKOOTAMATTA SEARCH

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TOP 5 RAINY DAY IDEAS

When rain interferes with your plans, for the day, try these fun activities:

1. Download the free BEARWISE activity book and learn about our furry neighbours:
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/bear-wise-activity-book>
2. Cook up some yummy treats - Cottage Chocolate Chip Cookies anyone?
3. Check out "10 Weird Facts About Marshmallows" at CottageLife.com.
4. Do a jigsaw puzzle. Once you finish, use ModPodgeGlue to make it a permanent art piece to hang in your cottage.
5. Learn to knit/crochet/needlepoint. Round knitting looms are easy for making hats and scarves. How-tos online.



CRAFTY COTTAGERS

Jessie, Laura and Rachel spent many days this summer "crafting" at the cottage. These ladies are not only card sharks and capable boaters, they are pretty creative too! Thanks to Laura's mom Sarah for submitting this pic.

More great ideas for fun paper crafts can be found here:

<http://www.parents.com/fun/arts-crafts/kid/easy-paper-crafts-for-your-kids/#page=1>

BON ECHO PROVINCIAL PARK

SPECIAL EVENTS 2016

Saturday July 2 - Sciensational Sssnakes! 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 and help us understand why it is so important to protect them and their habitats. Ontario snakes will be featured with a hands-on session so you can hold some of these fascinating reptiles. Bring your camera! Times: 11 am and 1 pm Location: Children's Program Area



Wednesday July 13- David Archibald Dust off your singing & dancing skills and join songwriter & children's entertainer David Archibald. Hear the 2 songs he wrote about Bon Echo. David is a songwriter/composer & playwright who has worked with Avril Lavigne and performed songs on Sesame Street. His music is regularly featured on CBC Radio. Join David and park staff for a one hour energetic & interactive show for the whole family. Time: 7 pm Location: Amphitheatre

Friday July 15- Healthy Parks Healthy People Day Ontario's provincial parks play a vital role in the protection of our natural environment, but did you know spending time in nature is good for your health too? It actually helps us live happier and healthier, lives. Exposure to natural environments such as parks enhances our ability to cope with, and recover, from stress, injury or illness. Start your day with some yoga to get your body moving. Time: 9:30 am Location: Pumphouse Beach



Saturday July 16- Traditional Teachings with Ardoch First Nation Members of Ardoch First Nation are back this year to provide insight into their culture and history. Join staff, elders, and traditional people for an hour of sharing. Dogs are not permitted at this event. Time: 10 am Location: Children's Program Area

July 22-24: Friends of Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale The Friends of Bon Echo Park host the annual Art Exhibition and Sale including photography, stained glass, paintings, and pottery. Lennox and Addington County Library Staff will be providing children's crafts, songs, stories and games from 1 to 2:30 pm on Friday. Staff from Sciensational Sssnakes will be presenting fun and interactive programs about reptiles at 11 am on Saturday and Sunday. Each afternoon, local musicians share their talents. Food and refreshments available. Times: 10-4 pm each day Location: Children's Program Area



Wednesday August 10- Speaking of Wildlife Do you like birds, turtles, and other wildlife? If you do, join staff from Speaking of Wildlife for a close encounter with some animals native to the Bon Echo area. Bring your family and friends to this one hour presentation to learn some amazing things about Ontario wildlife and increase your appreciation for the wildlife around you. Time: 1 pm Location: Amphitheatre



Saturday August 13- Phil the Forecaster Phil Chadwick is a painter, avid environmentalist, and worked as a meteorologist with Environment Canada for a number of years specializing in severe weather. He will combine this knowledge & examine how weather was depicted in some Canadian paintings, including those of the Group of Seven. Join Phil as we explore art in a new way. Time: 7 pm Location: Amphitheatre

Please contact the park office (613) 336-2228 for more events & updates.

Looking for new “Friends” and opportunities?



Come volunteer for an hour, a day or a season!

Whatever time you have or skills you bring, the Friends of Bon Echo Park has a role for you! Whether at the Visitor Centre, Greystones Gift and Book Shop, the Art Exhibition and Sale, the weekly Barbecues, on the Wanderer or Mugwump, or serving on the Board or its' Committees, your time would be valued by us. For more information, contact us at 613 336-0830 or

ARE YOU READY TO LUAU?

Ron Nowell and Esther Demszak have graciously hosted the SDRA Potluck for many years. This is always a fun event taking place at their lovely home by the lake. It is a great chance to meet new friends and catch up with the old ones too! This year, in addition to a new date (August 6 - take note!), we will also add a pigroast to the event! Bring your potluck dish to share, a cooler with your favourite beverage and enjoy a delicious roast pork BBQ courtesy of the SDRA. Wear your Hawaiian shirts if you have them. All are welcome. Bring along any of your neighbours to show them some of the many benefits of becoming an SDRA member.

When? Saturday August 6, 2016. Arrive any time after 3 pm and stay into the evening, when Ron will light the bonfire and get the party started!

Where? 1191 Hughes Landing Road

Watch for further details and reminders on this fun event on our website!



Saturday Aug. 6

See you there!



CANADA DAY BOAT PARADE JULY 1, 2016

This year Canada Day falls on a Friday! As if we needed an excuse for a long weekend, this event marks the official kick-off to summer at Skootamatta. The parade will be led by Ron Nowell and will depart from Jacques Bay promptly at 11 am. Break out the red and white and decorate your boat to show your Canadian spirit. Or take your morning coffee down to your dock and wave to the boats as they pass. Whatever your choice, be sure to join your fellow cottagers at Skoot to celebrate Canada's 149th birthday on July 1!

CELEBRATE THE END OF SUMMER! SEPT. 3

Our annual SDRA
Fireworks show
begins at 8:30 pm

SHARP on
Saturday, Sept. 3.

Don't miss this fun
night of fireworks.

Donations needed
and welcomed on
our website:

skootamatta.ca



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