

# SDRA Newsletter 2013

A vibrant scene at a lake with several people in colorful kayaks (yellow, red, blue) paddling on the water. A large group of spectators, including men, women, and children, stands on the grassy shore watching. In the background, there are trees, a sign that says "BOAT LAUNCHING ONLY", and colorful balloons. The overall atmosphere is festive and active.

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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**GEOCACHING ON SKOOT**

**NEW AMBULANCE BASE**

**REFLECTIONS OF THE HUGHES**

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**2012 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!**

**BEACH AND ROAD CLEAN UP**



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Debbie Awde

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## MEMORIES OF SKOOTAMATTA - SUMMER 2012

I hope you all enjoyed the spectacular summer at Skootamatta last year!

**New AGM format** We changed up the AGM, held July 7, and our surveys showed overwhelming positive responses to the new format. We hope you found it informative and interactive! Thank you to our members for coming out and engaging in active discussions about the lake, and thanks to all of the folks who set up booths for the AGM! We already have ideas for how to make it even more exciting this coming year by providing mini seminars for those folks that want to stay and interact with experts about lake issues.

**Paul's Pops** Our Secretary, Paul Lindsay, started up Paul's Pops to keep us up to date with lake events. Our survey showed that our members are thrilled with this connection to the lake and knowing ahead of each weekend what events are coming up and any news about fire bans, water levels and other important news on the lake.

**Canada Day Boat Parade** The boat parade had a record number of participants in 2012 and the gathering at the beach was great fun! One important note for safety this year is to ensure that the parade is done in single file to avoid swamping the neighbouring boats.

**Willy Garnish Memorial Swim** On August 11, fifteen swimmers participated in The Bill "Willy" Garnish memorial swim and over **\$1000** was raised. Thank you so much to Darien and Gord Kissman for organizing this event in memory of Bill.

**Pot Luck Supper** Also on August 11, Ron and Esther Nowell hosted yet another successful Pot Luck event! What a great time and LOTS of great dishes to enjoy. Many thanks to Ron and Esther for hosting this event each year!

**Explore the Lake event** August 18 was the final installment of a 3 year project and its intrepid, volunteer leader, John Coulter has lots of plans for the data that our avid explorers have helped to collect. We will keep you posted on progress!

**Fireworks display** What a wonderful finale to the summer with our spectacular annual Fireworks display! The full moon presented some challenges in ensuring the show was timed correctly to ensure optimal visibility. We have heard your feedback about ensuring the start time is specified so you will see that this year we have indicated an 8:30 start time and posted in this Newsletter.

And last but certainly not least the 2012 1st Annual Lake Festival which we have dedicated 3 pages to bring you images and a review of the day.

**Lake Management Plan** We have been busy putting together the Lake Management Plan and recently met with Quinte Conservation Authority to share this plan and ask for their input. We also spent time discussing the process for log removal and water levels on the lake as we know this is a key area of concern for residents. I am pleased that we are engaged in active dialogue with QCA and will now be receiving regular updates that we will pass on to you as members through Paul's Pops. We may even be able to offer an opportunity for specific members to have QCA monitor lake levels in their specific location on the lake! Come to the AGM to learn more about this great opportunity and discuss our Lake Management Plan with our Lake Steward, Malcolm Stewart!

We also attended the FOCA AGM this past March and met many people from other lake associations around Ontario. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and hear what challenges other lakes are facing and how they are coping. We also had the opportunity to see guest speakers covering topics about climate change, safety on the lake and even advice from a legal perspective for our association. It was a great opportunity to find guest speakers for our AGM as well!

I am very pleased about the work that our SDRA Board of Directors and Volunteers have put in this past year and the courage to try new things like a Lake Festival and a new format for the AGM. In the coming year we will bring even more great ideas to the lake such as Geocaching, Kayaking lessons and if we have enough members interested we will have an Art Show at the lake. And, of course I am very excited about the work we will be doing on our website but I will let Gary and Paul tell you all about that on page 16 of this newsletter. We would like to thank Gary Evans for building us such a great Skootamatta website and welcome Paul Grennell as our new Webmaster.

We will continue to work on bringing you value for your SDRA membership by testing out new ideas and events to make our lake great! But we as a board alone need the help of our members to bring these ideas to fruition.

I am thrilled that we have 190 members in our Association today and look forward to seeing you at our annual AGM in July! We are always looking for new ideas for the lake and would love to hear from you! We have room on our board for you as a Director if you would like to become a part of this team and bring forward your great ideas!

As I mentioned at our AGM last summer, I am very honoured to have been elected as President by our SDRA Members. I would like to thank the members and our SDRA Board of Directors for doing so much to make all of these Lake events a great success! What a team! What a wonderful summer it was and we look forward to the Summer of 2013!

Warm Regards, Debbie Awde, SDRA President

## SDRA EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

**Pictured Left to Right:**

**Malcolm Stewart, Lake Steward**

**Debbie Awde, President**

**Gary Evans, Webmaster**

**Lynn Garnish, Vice President**

**Nancy Kallina, Treasurer**

**Derek Mendham, Director &**

**Sheldrake Representative**

**Paul Lindsay, Secretary**

**Gwynneth Morais, Director**

**Not Pictured:**

**Sandra Clark, Director**

**Jane Richmond, Director**

**Gord McCulloch, Director**



**Welcome to our 2013 SDRA Newsletter. I have enjoyed being your Newsletter Editor for the past 3 years and it gives me great pleasure to bring you this year's issue with the images and stories of our fabulous summer of 2012 and stories from summers long ago. I would like to thank everyone who submitted content and photographs and would encourage members to send me any stories or pictures you would like to share for the issue next year. Please enjoy! Warm regards, Debbie Awde**

### **2012 ANNUAL LAKE FESTIVAL REVIEW**

On July 28 we held our first annual lake festival! This festival was designed with the objective of bringing a day of fun to the lake where friends and family of Skootamatta Lake can come together, meet old friends and make new friends. We are pleased that we achieved this objective and invested your SDRA dollars in an event that we hope will become an annual tradition.

When we first imagined this event, we did not know what to expect and hoped for attendance of about 50 people. We could not have imagined that over 200 people would come out and participate. Thankfully, due to our quick thinking, Lynn Garnish, and the wonderful generosity of the Stevens family of Country Traditions, we were able to order more food for the barbecue in time!! I also want to thank Jill Cote for personally baking and donating a variety of delicious sweet treats.



Many volunteers came forward to assist with the swim races, kayak races, kids games, ladder golf and horseshoes, and several volunteered for the entire day. We truly appreciate all of the time and effort in making this such a successful event! Thank you so much! It would have been impossible for our SDRA board to pull off this event without the help of dedicated member volunteers. We anticipate an even greater number of attendees this coming year, so please consider how you can help, if even for an hour, to spread out the work and allow all to have fun. Special thanks to those folks who helped prepare Trail's End in advance of the event – the horseshoe pits have been improved significantly!



Thank you to everyone who participated and cheered on the participants in the competitions. We have many talented swimmers and kayakers on the lake not to mention horseshoe pros!

Congratulations to all of the winners and to those who came out and competed in the events!



Last but not least, a very special thank you to Board Members Lynn Garnish and Nancy Kallina who put their heart and soul into taking this idea and making it a reality for our lake.

What a wonderful experience we had working on this together through the winter! Hard work but a lot of fun and GREAT results!



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

Please be sure to mark your 2013 calendar for **Saturday, July 27!** See the outline for the 2nd Annual Lake Festival on page 7 of this newsletter and watch for details in Paul's Pops!

See you all this year!!

**Congratulations to all of our winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lake Festival events! Since it was our first year, our processes still needed refinement and therefore we were unable to get all the full names of our winners. We will ensure that full names are captured for the events in 2013. Practice makes perfect. Hope to see you out again this year!**



Event	Category	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Swimming	6 and Under	Sam	Jordan	Stella
	7 to 10	River Saliba	Jack	Hannah
	11 to 14	Solstice Saliba	Camilla	Haley Grennell
	15 to 19	Erin Grennell	Trish	Tasha Castellano
	30 to 39	Struan Robertson	Alison	
	40 to 49	Paul Grennell	Doug Pritchard	Louise
	50 to 59	Ken	Frank Schram	
	60+	Gord Kissman	Darien Kissman	
Kayaking	12 and Under	Solstice Saliba	Barrett	Megan Grennell
	13 to 17	Greg	Raleigh	Jake
	18-49	Martin	Cindy	Jim
	50+	Kent Farrow		
Ladder Golf		Matthew Pritchard & Elise	Caleb & Josie	Elijah & his sister
Horseshoes		Glen Bible & Dave Duckworth	Taylor McDonald & Ted Price	Dorothy Knox & Doug Pritchard



# 2nd Annual Skootamatta Lake Festival!!

**We are pleased to announce the second annual Lake Festival !**

Date: **Saturday, July 27th**  
 Place: **Trails End Grounds**  
 (RAIN DATE July 28th or August 3)

## Event Schedule:

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • 10:00 am           | Set up & Race registration           |
| • 10:30 am           | Kid's registration                   |
| • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | Swim races                           |
| • 11:30 am - 2:00 pm | Kayak races                          |
| • 11:00 am - 1:30 pm | Children's event & youth ladder golf |
| • 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Barbecue lunch                       |
| • 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm  | Horseshoe registration               |
| • 2:00 pm start      | Horseshoe tournament                 |



### Swim Races: (will alternate with kayak races)

Child (age 6 and younger) 50m  
 (mandatory life jackets, participation award)  
 Child (age 7-10) 50 m  
 Youth (age 11 to 14) 100m  
 Teen (age 15 to 19) 200m  
 Adult Categories (M/F split):  
     Ages 20 to 25 300m  
     Ages 26 to 30 300m  
     Ages 31 to 40 300m  
     Ages 41 to 60 300m  
     Ages 61+ 300m

### Ladder Golf:

Fun toss game similar to horseshoes but played with different equipment. Register with a partner or come as a single and meet a new friend.

### Horseshoes:

No explanation required. Register with a partner or come as a single.

### Barbeque:

Nominal charge of \$1.00 to cover condiments and supplies. Food generously donated by Country Traditions.

### Kayak Races: (will alternate with swimming races)

Child (age 12 and younger) approx. distance 1 km  
 Youth Course (age 13 – 17) approx. distance 2 km  
 Adult Course (age 18 to 59) approx. distance 4 km  
 Senior Course (age 60 +) approx. distance 2 km



## Country Traditions

### FROZEN FOOD OUTLET

112 INDUSTRIAL BLVD. NAPANEE | 613.354.1326

[CountryTraditions.ca](http://CountryTraditions.ca)

## SKOOTAMATTA 2012 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

For the 2012 contest, **Alex Evans**, (one-time co-editor of our website, now a Vancouver resident), cast his photographer's eye over the 85 great submissions and selected this year's winners. You can see all the pictures submitted on [www.skootamatta.ca](http://www.skootamatta.ca). Thank you to everyone who submitted material. ***Every picture is special.*** They show both the natural beauty and diversity of reasons why folks treasure their time around the lakes.

### 1st Place!



**'Baby Snapper' - (Norinne Coombs)**

*"This well-framed, spontaneous shot of an excited grandchild captures everything good about a summer at Skootamatta ... new things, new generations and an appreciation of the natural environment."*

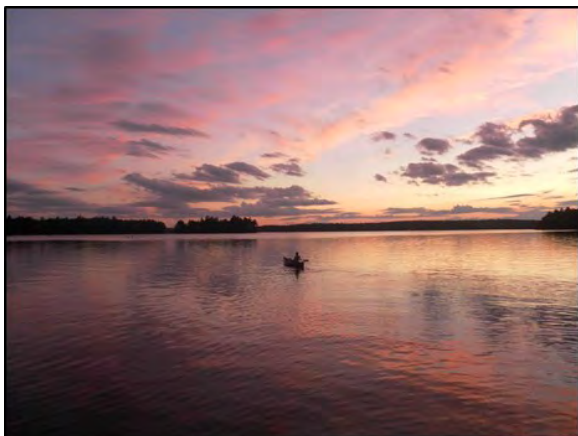
### 2nd Place!



**'Paddling in early morning mist' - (Joanne Volpe)**

*"Mystical without being menacing, this picture tells a story about the promise of a bright new day. A unique scene and creative use of sun flare."*

### 3rd Place!



**'Sunset' - (Louise Cole)**

*"There are frequent beautiful sunsets on Skootamata, but this one excels with the subtle colours of the sky reflected in the water. The lone paddler (homeward bound?) invites the viewer into an expansive wilderness and emphasizes the 'day is done' statement."*



# Skoot Kid's Corner

By Florence Awde



Hi my name is Florence Awde. I'm in grade 7 and the best part about when school is out is that I get to spend my summer weekends at my cottage at Skootamatta. Last summer, I must say it was one of my favourite summers! As most of you probably know, we had our first lake festival at Skootamatta created by the Skoot Board! From swimming races, kayak races and the activities for children it was a huge success. I personally was running the face paint and had a blast, I learned and practiced many patterns before and by the end of the day I felt like a professional! Later in the day our kayak and swimming races started off. It was a great opportunity to show off your swimming skills you had practiced in the lake. I did not participate in the swimming competition but I did compete in the children kayaking race. Kayaking wasn't something I was really good at but I really enjoy it so I thought I would give it a try! At the start I'm not going to lie, it was chaos! You had to paddle your way to try to find an open spot and if you didn't you could become a kayak sandwich! It took me about half the race to finally get my own space. I paddled so hard trying to catch up, that my arms felt like jelly. Finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> as just an amateur kayaker was a pretty good feeling. I think overall the day was an amazing success and I can't wait until the festival this summer!

Besides the lake festival there were many other highlights of my summer at Skoot! From swimming in 60 degree water in May and November, to boat rides around the lake, and even getting ice cream on hot day, my summer was a blast.

## **SEND YOUR PICTURES OF YOUR DOGS HAVING FUN AT SKOOTAMATTA!**

Checkout our facebook page for all you Skoot dog owners. "Dogs of Skootamatta" is our facebook page where we ask Skootamatta cottagers to send pictures or videos of there dogs having fun! Make sure to like our page and send us some pictures!

Thanks,

Florence Awde

-Manager of "Dogs of Skootamatta"-



# Community Donation



Each year, if feasible, the SDRA provides a financial contribution to the community on behalf of its members. Examples of past contributions include the Mazinaw Lake Swim Program and the North Addington Education Centre towards their literacy program. This year after thorough discussion, your Board decided to make a contribution to **The Cloyne and District Historical Society**. In keeping with our focus on youth and employment, we asked that the funds be designated towards the employment of a local youth to help with the Society's archiving activities. The Society has willingly agreed to this request.



## Bathing in the lake = WEEDS



### Pollution Prevention

Polluted surface runoff degrades our lakes and rivers. Nutrients such as phosphorous in fertilizers promote the growth of algae. Toxic chemicals such as oil, fuel and pesticides threaten the health of fish and other aquatic life. Bacteria and parasites from fecal waste can make water and bays unsafe for swimming, especially after rainfall.

Water quality can be protected by taking steps to keep harmful chemicals and materials out of runoff waters.

Docktalk encourages:

- Landscaping and site management to control runoff
- Use of detergents and soaps with no phosphate
- Safe handling and storage of fuels and other toxic chemicals
- Use of untreated wood for shoreline structures like docks
- Waste reduction
- Environmentally safe backyard and household wood burning

Visiting a lakeside community near you!

[www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)



# VOLUNTEERS .....

## WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU!!

It would be impossible to accomplish the many responsibilities and activities required by the Association without the help of our many volunteer members. Besides the MANY hours contributed by our dedicated Board of Directors, others volunteer their time and expertise in many ways. From road clean up, lake conservation, fire pump maintenance, social event hosting and coordination.

The success of the Association is dependent on the involvement of our great members. We would like to say THANK YOU to those that have contributed their valuable time towards these many tasks. Below is only a partial list and many help quietly and anonymously.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our lake Great!

### Lake Conservation and Upkeep

Lewis and Marilyn Barker - Water quality monitor  
 Ross Cooper - Deer Ridge Road clean up  
 John Coulter – Coordinating “Explore and Lake” and current state shoreline cataloguing.  
 Mike Crammer – Hughes Landing Road clean up  
 Mike Cummings - Labour donation  
 Mike Davis – Deer Ridge Road clean up  
 Gord Kissman – Deer Ridge Road clean up  
 Peter Parker – Hughes Landing Road clean up  
 Michael Price – Beach clean up  
 Ted Price - Beach clean up  
 David Rattray - Beach clean up  
 Jamie-Lee Rattray - Beach clean up



### Social Events

Esther Demszak - Pot Luck hosting  
 Darian Kissman – Willy Garnish memorial swim  
 Ron Nowell – Pot Luck hosting and Fireworks

### LAKE FESTIVAL

Shelley Alkenbrack  
 Florence Awde  
 Savannah Awde  
 Charlotte Awde  
 Hermann Balon  
 Victor Balon  
 Gord Bernie  
 Tasha Castellano  
 Tammy Day and her children Gryphon and Ambrosia  
 Kent Farrow  
 Cameron Garnish  
 Katherine Grennell  
 Paul Grennell  
 Erin Grennell  
 Hannah Grennell

Megan Grennell  
 Erica McBride  
 Greg New  
 Taylor MacDonald  
 Graham Morton  
 Caitlyn Price  
 Ted Price  
 Susan Pritchard  
 Cheryl Rattray  
 Jamie-Lee Rattray  
 Jennifer Robertson  
 Michael Stevens  
 Susanne Stevens  
 Daphne Williams

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2013**

We have lots to do to make our social events a success and to keep our treasured lakes and its surrounding areas healthy and clean.

**Rock Marking:** The SDRA is NOT responsible for rock marking. Out of courtesy, if you know of an unmarked rock, please take it upon yourself to mark it.

**Beach Clean Up:** Please participate during our beach and road clean-up day and by taking it upon yourself to pick up trash on an ongoing basis. Think "if I won't do it, who will?" Please see dates times and places for these events on the calendar and on page 17 in this newsletter.

**Lake Festival:** Our lake festival was a huge success but largely due to those that contributed their time during the day. However, many of our volunteers were unable to enjoy the events or to watch their own children participate in the races. We therefore need more volunteers so that we can share the workload. We will be unable to hold these events with too few volunteers. We need help with set up, clean up, kids games, swim/kayak races, horseshoe/ladder golf officials, food service, and registration. Please consider volunteering your time, even an hour of your time would be greatly appreciated!

To volunteer, please contact Nancy Kallina at: [nancy.kallina@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.kallina@gmail.com)

**Fireworks:** Two people are needed to pull the security ropes at each end of the causeway (road) in advance of the fireworks. The show is quite impressive from the road and getting a front row seat is ideal. Please contact Nancy Kallina if you are able to take on one of these two positions.

**Water Testing:** Three additional people are needed to help our Lake Steward with the water testing. Detailed instructions and guidance will be provided.  
Please contact Malcolm Stewart at: [malcolm.stewart@sympatico.ca](mailto:malcolm.stewart@sympatico.ca), if you are able to help.

**Note: If you are a student looking for volunteer hours, please check with your school office to get pre-approval for volunteer hours for any jobs/events at the lake!!**

We are now on **FACEBOOK** thanks to the efforts of volunteer Joel Arthurs

Check us out at

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



**Skootamatta Lake was patrolled by OPP vessels on 4 separate occasions.  
Only one charge was laid under the Canada Shipping Act and it was for missing life jackets.  
Several warnings issued for missing safety equipment.  
Zero charges were laid for liquor violations.  
Other than the one Life Jacket charge Skootamatta Lake did well!**



## 2012-13 Treasurer's Report      Prepared by Nancy Kallina

### Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year  
ending March 31

	Notes:	2013	2012
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Memberships	1	9,500	9,000
Newsletter Advertising	2	1,330	1,760
Boat Launch Intake		769	594
Other	3	220	724
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>11,819</b>	<b>12,078</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Communication	4	3,691	2,926
Member Events	5	2,577	943
Stewardship	6	650	495
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and launch maintenance		840	1,515
Administration	7	428	140
Insurance	8	1,993	1,820
Assets	9	1,237	0
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>11,916</b>	<b>8,339</b>
<b>Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)</b>		<b>(97)</b>	<b>3,739</b>
Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)		17,427	
<b>Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks Fund)</b>		<b>17,330</b>	
Opening Fireworks fund		370	
Change in Fireworks fund		1,025	
Closing Fireworks fund	10	1,395	
<b>Closing Cash (including Fireworks Fund)</b>		<b>18,725</b>	

#### Notes:

- 1) 190 paid memberships received during the year. 180 paid members the prior year.
- 2) Lower advertisement due to economic environment.
- 3) Discontinued merchandise sales during prior year. Sales of remaining inventory only.  
Includes accrued interest from invested cash in BMO GIC.
- 4) Higher cost due to enhanced newsletter. Costs expected to be reduced in following year.
- 5) Increase due to lake festival costs and breakfast included at AGM.
- 6) Includes new FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) membership.
- 7) Includes additional cost for conference call service and Non-Profit Network membership.
- 8) Increased due to add of regatta insurance (two years captured).
- 9) Assets purchased, fire hoses, generator, first aid kits, tents, fire ban signs, new executive t-shirts.
- 10) Firework contributions were generous and increased the reserve from \$370 to \$1,395.



## Birth Announcements



**On February 9, 2013, SDRA Board Member Lynn Garnish became a First-time Grandmother to GRANT Mason, named after the late William GRANT Garnish.**

**Don and Barb Hall of Sheldrake Bay are pleased to announce the arrival of their first great grandchild Tyler John Pritchard, born Sept. 16, 2012 in Cleveland, Ohio. Proud parents are Sarah and Kyle, and Kathy is the happy grandmother. Tyler plans to be at the Hall/Selle cottage this summer.**

## PASSAGES

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

**Barbara Elmhirst**— a regular visitor to Skootamatta passed away March 18, 2012 due to lung cancer at the age of 79. Her son, Brett Hughes, and family have a cottage on Skoot and Barb made many friends on the lake. Barb would make the trek from Burlington all the way to the cottage until it got to the point where she would stop at Brett's house and catch a ride the rest of the way. Barb did not want to miss any opportunity to spend time at the cottage.

There will be a small celebration of her life for all her friends on the lake in the near future.

**John Howard** - January 20, 1928 – March 9, 2013

The Skootamatta Lake community lost a long time cottager/resident, past SDRA executive member and local business operator, when John Howard passed away at his home in Holland Landing on March 9, 2013. John and his wife, Doreen, first purchased property on Skootamatta Lake in 1968 but had visited Doreen's parent's cottage on the lake many times beginning in the late 40's. In 1982, John retired as an elementary school principal from the North York Board of Education and soon afterwards, the couple moved to the lake to make it their year round home. John was an original member of the Skootamatta Lake Cottager's Association during the 1970's. Doreen and John developed a liking for Canadian antiques and eventually opened "Sandy Beach Antiques" at their home on North Shore Road. The antique business grew and eventually John and Doreen purchased the 'blue' church on Peterson Rd. in Northbrook where they opened the 'Treadles Tea Room', 'Sandy Beach Antiques' and 'Creative Impressions'...three businesses all under one roof. Their businesses prospered and attracted many tourists to the area until John and Doreen closed the businesses and sold the property in 1998. After having lived on Skootamatta Lake for 22 years, John and Doreen moved to Holland Landing in 2004 to be closer to family.

**Mary LeBert** passed away in the Napanee Hospital on February 28, 2013 at the age of 74 after a tragic fall and resulting infection. Mary will always be loved and missed by her husband Norman and their 6 children and many grandchildren. Mary and Norman spent almost their entire summer at the cottage on Sheldrake Lake.



## PASSAGES

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**Beatrice Wickett-Nesbitt** died in Calgary on Sept. 10, 2012 at the age of 95. The Wickett family lived in Ottawa and summered at Skootamatta from the 1950's to 1990's. Their cottage was located on the Upper Lake, just west of the big beach. 'Bea' as she was fondly known, is remembered as a trail-blazer and humanitarian who made an enormous difference in the lives of young and old throughout her remarkable career. She earned her M.A. in psychology at Brown University, completed graduate courses at McGill University and received honorary doctorates from Acadia (1980) and Carleton (1995) Universities. She began her career working with Dr. Wilder Penfield in Montreal during the war, when women were rare in the psychology profession. After several years in private practice, in the 1961 she was Executive Director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, and from 1962 to 1983 was Chief Psychologist with the Ottawa Board of Education. There she established many innovative and successful programs for special needs and disadvantaged children, some of which spread across Canada and abroad. After her retirement from the OBE in 1983 she was a leader in palliative care and was resident psychologist with the palliative care unit at the Elizabeth Bruyère Health Centre. For her outstanding work and volunteer contributions she received many honours including the Order of Canada (1986) and the Diamond Jubilee medal (2012). Bea's first husband, Dr. John (Jack) Wickett was reported deceased during WW II, but miraculously re-appeared at war's end: he had been held in a prisoner-of-war camp! He went on to become a physician and practiced in Ottawa. He was an athletic man who enjoyed socializing, swimming and SCUBA diving at the cottage. He died in 1976. The family lost their daughter, Barbara in a tragic accident in 1953. Their son John, who worked for Veteran's Affairs, died in Charlottetown, PEI in 2006 at age 57. Bea's second husband, Hugh Nesbitt, a well-known scientist at Carleton University, brought Bea four stepchildren. He died in 2002. Bea's surviving daughter, Marni Laird, lives with her family in Calgary.

**Myrta Rivera** - loving wife of David Cooke of Hughes Landing Road began a new path on September 24th 2012. Her family, (Dan and Ioanna Martin and the McCullochs) along with the many visitors who shared "the stone cottage", will miss her.

**Dorothy "Dottie" Selle**, passed away February 14, 2013 in Hamburg, NY. She has been a summer resident at the Hall Selle cottage since 1968. She was on the Executive Board of SDRA in the early 70's. She always enjoyed her time at the lake and in her last days she thought she was at Skootamatta. She is survived by her 4 children Tod, Cindy, Debbie and Dan, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She will be missed by many.

**Daniel M. Van der Zee**, 87, died peacefully April 13, 2013, at the Brampton Civic Hospital. He enjoyed outdoor activities such as gardening and camping with his family and was happiest when he had a tool belt at his waist and a project to undertake. He was always willing and able to help out others on Skootamatta Lake and will be fondly remembered by those cottagers along Deer Ridge Rd.

He is survived by his wife Nellie, daughters Sandra Clark (Mike Davis) and Ingrid Perkins (Bill Perkins) and grandchildren Jacky and Michael.

## PASSAGES

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

**Helen Stewart** passed away in Toronto on March 18, 2013 at the age of 91. She is survived by Donald, her husband for 70 years and their children Catherine, Alexandra and Malcolm; grandchildren Emily, Amy, Alexandra and Ella; and great-grandson Seth. When living in Ottawa, Helen and Donald were introduced to Skootamatta Lake through Camp Mazinaw, where Donald was the camp physician. They purchased Masson Island in 1955 and enjoyed almost fifty happy summers at the Lake. Helen earned a degree in chemistry in 1943 – rare for a woman at the time. She was a true conservationist who insisted on keeping the island as natural as possible. She made do with minimal comforts for the first several years – no electricity, no running water, no flush toilet, endless housework – without complaint; and she re-used or repaired whatever she could. She also enjoyed the fresh pickerel that Donald caught, and she caught more than a few herself! She was a loving mother and grandmother, and a great reader and conversationalist. Due to increasing frailty Helen was unable to travel to the cottage much after 2002. She spent her last years with Donald in a care home where he continues to reside at age 93.

**Debbie Murrell Tate**, died peacefully at home in Vancouver on Thursday December 20, 2012. She was the beloved daughter of Dick and Doris Murrell, sister of Bill Murrell and Susan Murrell-Pritchard. She was the wife of Steven Tate, daughter-in-law of Ruth Tate and sister-in-law of Gord, Barry, Dave and Diane Tate. She was also aunt to many nieces and nephews. Debbie was a part of the Skootamatta family all her life and had come back this past summer to spend two wonderful weeks at the cottage. She loved to soak up all of nature and the beauty and calmness of the lake. Whether she was swimming, water skiing, boating, sitting at the lake watching the sun go down or enjoying the warmth of a bon-fire, there was no place that she would rather have been than at the cottage.

**Maxine Wilma Teed** - Long-time Skootamatta resident Maxine Wilma Teed, passed away gently, in Toronto, on October 26, 2012, in her 90th year. Maxine was the beloved wife of Jim who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by her daughter, Margie and two sons, John and Murray. She is remembered fondly by their families – Dick, Eric, and Lycette; Rosemary, Blythe, Alexis and Tyler; Charlene, Theresa, Phillip, Katherine, and Matthew; Maxine leaves six great grandchildren and a lifetime of memories.

Maxine grew up in Stratford and, at different times in her life, called Quebec City, London, Toronto, and Niagara Falls home. She spent many busy summers at the family cottage on Lake Skootamatta, her first summer camping in 1958, and, in her retirement years, enjoyed wonderful winters as a snow bird in Florida. On Jim's passing she returned to Toronto and spent ten happy years with family and friends reading, walking, swimming, playing bridge, and socializing. Maxine always had a smile on her face and a cheery hello for everyone. Maxine was blessed with a full and productive life. Family and friends were always welcome in her home and she leaves happy memories that will live on in her absence. At gatherings of family and friends there will always be Maxine stories. In her final years Maxine suffered from Alzheimer's – the disease that would ultimately claim her. Maxine will be missed by all who knew her. A celebration and memorial of her life is planned at Lake Skootamatta this coming summer.



# BEACH AND ROAD CLEAN UP

**BEACH – SAT. JUNE 15TH**

**ROAD – SAT. AUG. 24TH**

## **Beach Clean Up**

Although we cannot control camping or use of these public places, by keeping them clear of debris it sends a clear message to guests of the standards they are expected to uphold. For the last several years Skootamatta Lake residents have been privileged enough to have the assistance of the Junior Rangers to help clean our beaches/campsites. Unfortunately, we were informed that the Junior Ranger program has been discontinued. However the clean-up efforts must continue. Last year the Clark, Rattray and Price clan single-handedly cleaned up the upper beach. We realize that many others have also picked up debris from the beaches throughout the summer.

Please join the beach clean-up effort on **Saturday, June 15th** and please also continue to pick up garbage and debris that washes ashore throughout the summer. We thank all volunteers that help to keep our lake beautiful.

## **Road Clean Up**

The SDRA Executive received a message from our members Peter Parker and Mike Cramer of their efforts to pick up garbage that was disposed alongside Hughes Landing Road and the ATV trail leading to the Skootamatta Dam. They picked up 6 complete garbage bags of litter, appliances, tires and car parts! Other members, namely Ross Cooper, Mike Davis and Gord Kissman, have made similar efforts on Deer Ridge Rd. And even more so have anonymously picked up and disposed of random garbage.

We therefore would like to introduce an Annual Road Clean-Up Day on **Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**. While we would encourage each property owner to take continuous responsibility for the roadway adjacent to their property, we will ask people to select a portion of the road and trail, safely collect the garbage and bring the garbage to a designated location. We will arrange for people to bring the collected garbage to the dump. No Personal Garbage Please!

We will notify members closer to the date via email, of the exact details.





## BON ECHO PARK

Hosted by Friends of Bon Echo  
Check website weekly for  
calendar of upcoming events.  
[www.BonEchoFriends.ca](http://www.BonEchoFriends.ca)

**BON ECHO PROVINCIAL PARK**  
**2013 ART EXHIBITION & SALE**  
**JULY 26, 27, 28**

**45 ARTISTS**  
**613-336-0830**  
(1011 HWY 41  
(10 km NORTH OF CLOVNE)

**ORIGINAL ART**  
**CANADIAN NATURE,**  
**WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE**

Barbecue  
Entertainment  
Sciencsational Sssnakes!!  
Sat. & Sun. 11 am  
Live music 1 pm daily  
Kids' Activities

Friday 10-4  
Saturday 10-4  
Sunday 10-4

\*Accessible with  
support person

Sponsored by the Friends of Bon Echo Park - [www.bonechofriends.ca](http://www.bonechofriends.ca)

**Tobia's Pharmacy**  
**Guardian**  
Northbrook (613) 336-8111  
Open Mon-Fri 8:30-5:30pm & Tues until 7:30pm  
Eric Tobia - Pharmacist and Owner

## Tobia's Guardian Pharmacy

Since opening it's doors in the spring of 2011, Tobia's Guardian Pharmacy has been working hard to provide health care services to residents and visitors of the Land O' Lakes region. Owned and operated by local pharmacist Eric Tobia, the renovated pharmacy is able to fill prescriptions from any physician and take care of all of your drug related needs. The pharmacy also provides a large selection of personal amenities as well as home healthcare equipment, first-aid supplies, and over-the-counter medications to help you maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**Having fun on the water, but forget your medicine at home? Tobia's Guardian Pharmacy is able to transfer your prescription to make sure you don't go a day without your medication.**

The pharmacy is conveniently located in Northbrook attached to the Lakelands Family Health Team and is open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:30pm, and on Tuesday until 7:30pm. For more information, visit their website at [www.tobiapharmacy.com](http://www.tobiapharmacy.com) or call them at (613) 336-8111.

From sunburns to bug bites, Tobia's Guardian pharmacy has all your cottage needs covered!

The Friends of Bon Echo Park provide programs and events to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Park. Events are free and guests are welcome. There is a Park vehicle entry fee so fill up your car and enjoy the many benefits this beautiful Park has to offer.

**The following special events are confirmed for the summer of 2013.**

- **Sat. Jun 29: Sciencsational Sssnakes!!** 11:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Children's program area
- **Sat. July 6: Ardoch Traditional Teachings** 7:00 pm at the Children's program area
- **Thu. July 11: David Archibald** 7:00 pm Very popular singer, entertainer for the entire family at the Amphitheatre.
- **Thu. July 18: Margaret Axford Curator of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum & Archives presents Bon Echo The Early Years** 8:00 pm at the Amphitheatre (Also on Thu. Aug. 22 at 7:00 pm)
- **Sat. July 20: Bill Bickle, named 2012 Canadian Wildlife Photographer of the year by the Canadian Museum of Nature & Canadian Geographic** 8:00 pm at the Amphitheatre to discuss how to take better nature photos.
- **July 26, 27, 28: 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bon Echo Art Exhibition and Sale.** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day in the Children's program area. Great art, live entertainment, food, children's activities and more!
- **Sat. Aug 10: Robert McLeman Climate Change** 8:00 pm in the Amphitheatre
- **Sat. Aug 17: Margaret Hall & Chris Jackson** Group of Seven stories from A.J. Casson's daughter. 7:00 pm at the Amphitheatre
- **To be confirmed: Kevin Callan, Canoeist and Outdoorsman**



# Annual General Meeting

Last year we changed the format of our AGM and the feedback was very positive. Therefore we would like to continue with the shorter business meeting followed by information booths for members to enjoy.

Where: Pineview Free Methodist Church— Hwy 41, Cloyne (at the corner with Skootamatta Lake Rd.)

When : Saturday, July 6, 2013

Start: 9:30 a.m.

Agenda: 9:30 to 9:45 Meet and greet with coffee and donuts  
 9:45 to 10:45 Formal statutory business, Treasurer's report, Board appointments, etc.  
 10:45 to 11:30 Information Booths  
 11:30 to 12:00 Workshops (to be confirmed) followed by a 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:

## FOCA Information

SDRA membership - info and member payment

Lake Festival information and volunteer sign up

Lake Stewardship - reports and water testing results

Town Council representative

Book exchange - bring some, take some - NEW!

Ministry of Natural Resources

**Northbrook**  
**FOODLAND**

NEW SUMMER HOURS    starting June 24

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

Tel. (613) 336-2647

*In-Store Deli and Bakery*

\* Special thanks to Northbrook Foodland – proud sponsor of the SDRA AGM for over 19 years !

## 2013-2014 Board Slate

***We invite all Members to consider stepping forward to be part of our busy and fun SDRA Board! What is there to do? LOTS!***

***DEBBIE AWDE, PRESIDENT***

***VACANT, VICE PRESIDENT***

***NANCY KALLINA, TREASURER***

***SANDRA CLARK, SECRETARY***

***MALCOLM STEWART, LAKE STEWARD***

***GORD MCCULLOCH, DIRECTOR, TOWN LIAISON***

***GWYNNETH MORAIS, DIRECTOR***

***JANE RICHMOND, DIRECTOR***

***PAUL LINDSAY, DIRECTOR***

***VACANT, SHELDRAKE AND PRINGLE LAKE REP/DIRECTOR***

WHY JOIN THE SDRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

As I wrote in my opening message to this newsletter, we have accomplished so much in the past year with the new AGM format, new communication vehicles, the Lake Festival and soon the Lake Management Plan will be ready for members to review! The history project submissions have all been saved in to a database and we want to expand the history project to include not only stories from the past but some current stories as well which will build our time capsule of stories and pictures from the lake!

Thanks again to our 2012-2013 board and all of our volunteers!

We are saying goodbye to a few of our board members. After many very active years on the board, Lynn Garnish will be stepping out of the Vice President role but still providing much valued support and consultation to the team. I would like to personally thank Lynn on behalf of the SDRA board and members for being such a driving force behind all of the wonderful changes that we have implemented over the past year.

My deepest thanks on behalf of the SDRA board and members to Gary Evans for the many years of work on our website and we want to continue to build on Gary’s great work and continue to have frequent visitors to the website. Gary continues to provide valuable consultation to our new Webmaster Paul Grennell as we work through the changes to our site. Thank you so much Gary and Paul as you work on the future plans.

Derek Mendham is also leaving us this year after many years of being our Sheldrake Lake representative on the board. Derek was very active in many key initiatives over the years past such as the eco lodge and the logging plans around Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle lakes. Thank you so much Derek and we hope you will continue to keep in touch with news from Sheldrake!

Our team is full of great ideas that you will see coming soon as we build on our website, facebook page and introduce exciting new activities to the lake such as Kayaking lessons, Geocaching and even an Art Show!

So if you would like to be a part of our exciting team and implement some great ideas for Skoot please come forward at our AGM or contact me or any of our current board members to discuss this great opportunity!

Debbie Awde, President SDRA [debbie.awde@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.awde@gmail.com)

Calling All Artists ....

SDRA is considering facilitating an Art Show and StudioTour on July 13 at 10:00 a.m. We need to assess interest and the number of participating artists before finalizing the event details. All SDRA member Artists are welcome to come and display. Would you like to display your art and make sales to the SDRA Members and visitors? Artists can set up their own Studio or join one of the other displayers at their site. There will be no charge to participate in this event other than a current membership payment.

If you are interested please contact Gwynneth Morais at: [gwynnethmorais@gmail.com](mailto:gwynnethmorais@gmail.com) or to SDRA, Box 146, Cloyne ON, KOH 1KO.

We need to know:

YOUR NAME.....

YOUR MEDIUM.....

YOUR PRICE RANGE.....





## **S.D.R.A. Website**

***www.skootamatta.ca***

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

The SDRA website, has been serving members and the larger community for over five years now – a very long time in cyberspace! With over 80% of our members having internet access, the website has unquestionably achieved its mandate – to keep members informed about important events around the district and the activities of the Association in particular. We've provided information about municipal elections, proposed developments, logging, water quality, lake management planning, and the many events sponsored by the SDRA each year. Thanks to all those who continue to contribute ideas and material to keep the website interesting and relevant. The website is, and has to be, a group effort.

As the internet matures, with new applications and ways for individuals and groups to communicate, the Association will continue to adapt, too. Paul's (direct email) Pop's are already a great hit. Social media apps can also now provide forums for special interest Skoot groups. All good – all continuously evolving.

It has been a wonderful experience developing and maintaining the website, but it's time to move over and make way for some new ideas. The SDRA is extremely lucky to have new volunteer webmaster, **Paul Grennell**, already taking on the challenge. *Skootamatta.ca* is in good hands.

*Gary Evans*

Over the past 7 years, Gary has done a great job in developing and maintaining the site. As is usually the case, getting started is the hardest part and when Gary initially volunteered to develop the site, he was truly starting from scratch, as there was no website at the time. This meant that on top of developing and designing the site he had to work closely with the association and it's members in pulling together all of the content. As a great example of the depth of content that Gary has assembled on the site, take a look at the Archives section with News, Events and Newsletters dating back to 1955!

My job will be comparatively much easier, as I am simply going to continue building on what Gary has already done. There have been some preliminary discussions regarding potential changes and additions to the site, but in general the same goal applies - to keep members informed about important events around the district and the activities of the Association in particular.

If anyone has any suggestions regarding the website, or has information they would like to include on the site, please don't hesitate to email me at [webmaster@skootamatta.ca](mailto:webmaster@skootamatta.ca).

**Paul Grennell.**



## **ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM: CURRENT STATUS**

### **Please be advised that Skootamatta Lake does NOT fall within the boundaries of this land claim**

Algonquin communities are located in the general vicinity of: Ardoch, Bancroft, Golden Lake, Mattawa, North Bay, Ottawa, Sharbot Lake and Whitney. The Algonquin land claim covers a significant area of 36,000 square kilometres or 8.9 million acres within the Ottawa and Mattawa River watersheds. Approximately 59 per cent of the claim area is privately held patented land, 21 per cent is within Algonquin Park, 16 per cent is provincial Crown lands, and four per cent is federal Crown land. More than a million people reside and work within the claim territory.

The settlement under negotiation may ultimately lead to new economic or land development initiatives, revised approaches to fishing and hunting, and other matters impacting waterfront property owners and adjacent lands.

### **Some background facts on the Algonquin land claim negotiations**

The negotiators are currently drafting a proposed Agreement-in-Principle to set out the main elements of a potential settlement.

The draft Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) will be subject to a vote by the membership of the Algonquins of Ontario. The Governments of Ontario and Canada will also have to approve the draft AIP before the next phase of negotiations toward a Final Agreement can begin.

The final settlement of this land claim is still a number of years away. It will be several years before any land is transferred to the Algonquins.

The final settlement is expected to include a financial component, the transfer of some Crown lands to Algonquin ownership, and agreement regarding the nature of Algonquin harvesting rights (hunting and fishing).

### **Private property will not be expropriated to settle this land claim**

No new First Nation reserves will be created. The lands transferred to the Algonquins will become private land and will be subject to laws of general application. The Algonquin-owned lands will fall within existing municipal jurisdiction.

Algonquin Park will remain a park for the appropriate use and enjoyment of all peoples. This has been an agreement of all three negotiating parties since 1994.

All three negotiating parties are looking for workable solutions that respect the interests of all society, provide continued public access to Crown lands and natural resources, and protect biodiversity, resource sustainability and conservation.

Consultations with stakeholder groups are becoming more detailed as the negotiations mature. This includes meetings with FOCA, which has been a member of Ontario's Committee of External Advisors since 1996.

Meetings will continue with stakeholders and municipal governments both before and after the completion of a draft AIP.

Ontario government negotiators are making significant efforts to minimize the impacts of land selections on other users of Crown land.

Any legal interest holders who may be directly affected by proposed Algonquin land selections will be notified and offered an opportunity to meet with representatives of the Ontario land selection team.

Owners of private property who are adjacent to or abutting land that is being identified for potential transfer to Algonquin ownership will also be notified and provided with information.

## **ONTARIO NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATIONS ACT (ONCA)**

This new Act (ONCA) is scheduled to be proclaimed January 1, 2014 at which date all not-for-profit Ontario corporations will become subject to the provisions of the Act. Existing Ontario not-for-profit corporations will have three years from the proclamation date to make any necessary updates to letters patent, corporate objects and bylaws, in order to conform to the new Act.

Will my Association be affected by this change?

Yes - The SDRA is Incorporated in the Province of Ontario and is therefore affected.

Why the change?

The Act updates legislation that has been in place since 1953. The changes are proposed to bring the sector more in line with the provisions of the (for-profit) Ontario Business Corporations Act.

What is changing?

ONCA will include new rules related to:

- a corporation's powers and capacity;
- the number and term of directors;
- directors' appointment and removal;
- directors' duties;
- director's due diligence defence;
- members' rights (for example, voting rights, rights to submit proposals, etc.)

For now, the SDRA needs to consider the following, in advance;

Organize copies of letters patent, by-laws, and our minute book

Review our organization's objects of incorporation, to see if they are accurate and still relevant

Think about how we want our Board to operate in future: Is it a "working board", "policy board", "fundraising board", etc.?

Review our existing member categories, and understand who currently votes.

While we believe that professional legal advice may not be required we may benefit from the advice of a legal professional with experience in the non-profit field. Currently we plan to purchase a "legal tool-kit" being prepared by FOCA to help guide us through this purpose.

**This is a large initiative to be undertaken and we ask if any member is able to help volunteer some time to assist with this project, please contact  
Lynn Garnish (lynngarnish@gmail.com).**





During the year, the SDRA renewed its lapsed membership with FOCA. There are a number of benefits of being part of this large Lake Association collective, many are discussed below. Most notably for our Association was to be advised of and able to participate in the information session and progress with the Algonquin land claim negotiations (although our lake is outside the boundaries of the claim).

#### **FOCA Benefits** – see [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

By supporting FOCA, you are part of a group of people who are:

- engaging in maintaining and improving waterfront living
- making a positive impact in waterfront communities across Ontario
- supporting FOCA's freshwater advocacy

#### **FOCA sits at the table where individuals cannot.**

Over the past year, your support has made it possible for FOCA to:

- Reduce distribution rate charges for seasonal customers' electricity rates by \$2-million, through our discussions with the Ontario Energy Board
- Bring MPAC's Chief Assessor to the FOCA Fall Meeting to answer members' questions about new property tax assessment notices
- Secure Mining Act changes that enhance rural property owners' land rights re: exploration
- Lobby for clearer recognition of the significance of waterfront lands, through our participation in the Provincial Policy Statement review
- Speak out about the closure of the Experimental Lakes Area, changes to the Fisheries Act and the environmental impact of federal and provincial omnibus bills
- Re-confirm the Lake Partner Program agreement between FOCA and the Ministry of the Environment

#### **Insurance Quotes**

Apply for cottage, boat, road or directors' liability insurance through the FOCA Insurance Program and get a FOCA discount! Get a quote today; you could save. Call Bob Maynard or Darlene Cade at Cade Associates Insurance Brokers (416-234-9980), and remember to identify yourself as a FOCA supporter.

#### **Special Pricing & Discount Product Offers**

- **CAA Membership** - receive discounts on all levels of CAA membership, when you join at FOCA Group Rates.
- **Canadian Power & Sail Squadrons** - offers FOCA supporters \$10 off boating courses with CPS.
- **Canadian Canoe Museum** - All FOCA supporters can now redeem a free 1-year Individual Membership to the Canoe Museum.
- **Cottage Life Magazine** - \$5.75 discounts for one year subscription plus 2 free issues. Use discount code **FOCA12**. Plus, FOCA provides links to discounts for entry to the Cottage Life Spring and Fall shows.
- **Boats & Places Magazine** - free issues for 2012 if you contact the FOCA office and mention this offer; plus online discounts on subscriptions or DVD purchases when you use your code: **FOCA**.



## History of the Stewart Cottage

by Malcolm Stewart

The Stewart cottage is situated on 2-acre Masson Island named after the original owners, Thomas M. and May C. Masson, who owned it from 1926 to 1956. The island lies about 50 metres west of the peninsula at the northeast corner of Bible Island. The closest neighbours are the Segers, whose cottage (formerly owned by the Wiley's until 1996) is on the aforementioned peninsula. The extended Bible family, whose cottages are at the northwest corner of Bible Island, are the next closest. We can see the Kissman cottage at the bottom of the narrows and a dozen or more on the Henniger Road to the north.

In the 1950's my Dad, Donald Stewart, was practicing pediatrics in Ottawa, and in the summer of 1955 he was the doctor-in-residence at Camp Mazinaw, a boys camp on the lake by the same name. I was a ten-year-old camper there at the time and had travelled on Skootamatta (then Loon) Lake by canoe on the way to Topper, Sheldrake and Partridge Lakes. I remember camping under the stars on the North Shore before there were any cottages. "Stevie" Stevenson, (Darien Kissman's father and a good friend of my parents from Ottawa), told them that an island on Loon Lake was for sale. They went to look at the property but were not initially interested. However that fall the seller, Tom Masson (who was the manager of Aikenhead's Hardware in Toronto) wrote to them, offering to lower the asking price, and they decided to buy it. Thenceforth as my sisters and I grew from school children to teenagers with summer jobs to young adults with careers and families of our own, and our parents gradually changed from hard-working adults to active retirees to elder advisors, our family enjoyed weekends and vacations at the cottage every summer.

The original cottage is situated on the north side of the island. It is a poplar post and shiplap structure featuring a large stone fireplace, built by the Masson family in the mid-1920's using local materials. For many years Dad and I did our best to maintain it, patching the roof every summer and finishing the interior. Then, in July of 1969 -- as the US was landing on the moon -- some friends and I rebuilt the bedroom wing in preparation for my forthcoming honeymoon with Marilyn that August. In 1978 my parents hired Ray Wills, a skilled builder originally from St. Catherine's who had retired to Northbrook, to build a cinder-block boathouse topped by a one-room cabin on the east shore; and in the 1980's they hired Brian Boys, who ran a business at Trails End Landing for several years, to add a veranda and kitchen/ dining area to the main cottage.

As a boy I reveled in the ubiquitous sounds of nature on and around the island: 'loony tunes' in the evening and whip-poor-will wake-up calls in the morning; woodpecker percussion and birdcalls everywhere; cricket-cicada sopranos during the afternoon and bass-tenor-alto frog choruses in the evening. Startling beaver tail-whacks. Wolf howls. I still do!



Pictured on the left Harry Hull one of the Owners & Operators of Camp Mazinaw with Alexandra Stewart age 2 and the man on the right is unidentified— tell us if you know who he is!!

Our first boat (essential for any water access cottage) was a heavy lifeboat (one of many used on the lake at that time) that needed to be caulked in the spring. It was a temperamental, air-cooled outboard motor without much power. I suppose it was better than rowing, although we sometimes had to revert to that. In 1957 our parents had a blue plywood runabout built in Arnprior by the Ayling and Ramage Company. We dubbed her the "Queen Mary". She had a Mercury we could water-ski behind. A few years later we had the bottom clad in fiberglass, a new material in recreational boating, and she lasted several more years.

In those days there were lots of pickerel to catch. We ate our meals by the dim light of Aladdin and Coleman lamps and drew water in buckets from the lake. Later we pumped it by hand. We cooked on our old Finley woodstove and a two-burner Coleman camp stove. For excitement my sisters and I chased bats around the cottage with brooms, fended off plywood-eating porcupines and captured huge bullfrogs in the marsh at the back of the island. We enjoyed swimming, canoeing, sailing, tetherball water skiing and visiting friends. Of course, there were lots of black flies and mosquitoes... some things never change!

My sisters Catherine and Alexandra spent many summers on the Lake as teenagers, and later with their own families. Now they have their own cottages on other lakes, but we all enjoy occasional family reunions at 'Skoot'.

Major changes on the Lake during the past fifty-odd years included the development of the North Shore, Narrows, Hughes Landing Road and Sheldrake Bay. Ironically, the attendant population increase did not prevent the closure of one business after another: Harold Maybee's store; the Hughes Landing store & marina; the Bombardier sailboat business; the Country Roads restaurant, store & gas at Trails End; and most recently, Loon Lake Lodge. Other changes we've noticed are fewer porcupines (good); the disappearance of whip-poor-wills (bad); high-speed mobile and Internet service since 2011 (good) and a seriously reduced pickerel catch (bad).

Several memories come to mind from cottage days past. For example, as a busy physician, Dad enjoyed the solitude of island life and relished the fact that we had no telephone. However as one of the few doctors on the lake he was frequently called upon to treat minor infections and injuries, many involving jack knives and fish hooks. Some of his patients know who you are!

Dad had always been an avid fisherman, but was not at first an accomplished boater. On many occasions as we approached the island, often in windy conditions, he became adept at finding each hidden rock and shearing pin after pin. Finally he bought a whole boxful.

One morning he and I got hopelessly lost in the fog somewhere between the island and Trails End Landing. It seemed like hours before the fog lifted and we found ourselves 'way off course – an unnerving experience!

We engaged in an ongoing struggle with various destructive pests. One night I woke in the dark to hear Dad urging Mom to "Shine the light over there... no, over THERE!". There was a bang and a scuffling sound, then "#@%!! I missed!". The porcupine had escaped to live another day!

One day Marilyn and I succeeded in trapping a small porcupine under a washtub. After sliding a sheet of plywood underneath, we managed to flip the whole thing over and put a rock on top. We debated what to do next and finally decided to take the little guy across the lake and let him go where there were no cottages.

On another occasion our Mom, Helen refused to allow MNR to spray our island to control a gypsy moth infestation on the Lake. Instead, she enlisted the whole family to help her remove by hand, the cocoons that had appeared all over the island on tree trunks and buildings. There must have been thousands of them. What a job!

We have a large family collection of photographic memories of cottage life as well as several 8 mm color movies shot at the cottage by Dad. Much of the film was transferred to DVD and print photos scanned by Catherine and Alexandra.

With the arrival of our parents' first great-grandchild we are now entering the fourth generation of Stewart cottagers on the island. What a privilege it is to spend our summers on one of the most beautiful lakes in Canada!

## SKOOTAMATTA HISTORY PROJECT—TALES OF SKOOTAMATTA

In 2010-12 about 60 History Project forms were distributed in paper format and the form was made available by email and on the SDRA website. As of April 2013 we have received and transcribed 34 contributions, less than ten per cent of the potential. The distribution of responses around the lakes are Hughes Landing Road(12); Osborne Point Road (6); North Shore Road (5); Bible, Masson and Blake Islands (3) Jacques Bay Road (2) Sheldrake Bay Road (2); Henniger Road (2); The Narrows (1). So far there are none from the Upper Lake, Sheldrake Lake and Pringle Lake.

When we have received at least 50 stories of the cottage histories and / or family experiences on the Skootamatta District lakes, our goal is to prepare and post them on the SDRA website as a living record that can be added to as more contributions are received and modified as changes occur.

In 2012-13 three family histories were included in Paul's Pops to stimulate more participation, and we are including another for you to enjoy in this year's Newsletter.

So, sharpen your pencils or tap your keyboards and write an account of YOUR cottage and YOUR family's early and/ or recent experiences, preferably with a few photos, and help SDRA make a lasting record for future generations!

Malcolm Stewart (pictured in 1957 on Skoot!)



### Update on the work on the Forest Access Road

**By Gord McCulloch**

An extension of Hughes Landing Road work began this winter to make improvements to the Forest Access Road from Hughes Landing Road over to roads with access to Highway 62. An estimated 300 loads of gravel or more were hauled in for use in the installation of new culverts and road improvement. MNR issued the tender. Work is to begin early so that it can be completed before the turtles begin to lay eggs. In the winter while gravel was being transported, I drove several kilometers past the Upper Lake Boat Launch. the winter road was fairly good. I did not get to the stockpiled gravel, but a grader was working the winter road as part of the contract.



## In the community...

### New Ambulance Base in Northbrook

As you are driving north out of Northbrook you will notice a new building on the west side of Hwy 41 across from the Career Centre. This will be a new Ambulance Base for our area. It is a brand new facility that will be owned by Lennox and Addington. They will no longer use rented facilities which have caused them to move locations a few times. The new facility has two bays that will hold two Ambulances. One Ambulance will be actively staffed 24/7. The other Ambulance is a spare which will cover mechanical repairs and maintenance to the active Ambulances in Northbrook and Denbigh. The Northbrook Base remains a 24/7 Base. Staffs are on 12 hour shifts from 7 am – 7 pm and from 7 pm – 7 am. The expected completion of the Base is the end of June.

A few years ago funding for Ambulance Services was downloaded onto the “Upper Municipalities”. In our case this means the County of Lennox and Addington. Lennox and Addington is responsible for 5 Ambulances working from 4 Bases. Those Bases are in Napanee, Northbrook, Denbigh and Loyalist. The Napanee Base has one 24/7 Ambulance and one 12/7 Ambulance (staffed from 8 am – 8 pm, seven days a week). Northbrook has a 24/7 Ambulance. Denbigh has a 12/7 Ambulance and Loyalist has a 12/7 Ambulance.

A few years ago my grandson had a diabetic seizure. I needed to use the Ambulance Service. I rushed to the Pantry for the “Emergency Honey” that always sits in a specific spot on the shelf, to get his sugar levels up. I remember looking directly at the honey but not being able to find it likely due to our panicked state. We called 911. I told the dispatcher the situation and his first comment was, “I am dispatching an Ambulance right now.” That comment eased the situation and then we went about doing what he told us to do until the Ambulance arrived. It arrived in good time and they took him off to Napanee. Half way to Napanee he popped out of the seizure and said, “Hey, what’s up?” Stupid kid!

I remember years ago when I was a child that my father had to drive Mr. Gibson from Watson’s Store (Now Grand’s) to Napanee in the back of his station wagon when a gas pump was pulled over on top of him. Or racing across the lake to see Dr. Blatchford for some emergency. My how things have changed.

It is easy to take these services for granted when it seem like they have always been there. But we are fortunate to have them and I certainly appreciate them!

**PAUL LINDSAY**



# Kayak Course on Skootamatta!!

**SATURDAY JULY 13, 2013**

Have you wanted to learn how to kayak, or improve your strokes? The professionals from 1000 Island Kayaking are willing to come to the lake to do a full day course. The course includes all the necessary equipment, certified instructors and a full day (9am to 4pm) of on-water coaching.

Price: Adult - \$150 (\$35 less with appropriate equipment).  
Children/youth - \$120 for children/youth.  
(\$35 less with appropriate equipment).

Appropriate equipment is deemed to be a kayak with a minimum of 1 sealed bulkhead.

## Course Overview:

- Review of the coast guard regulations and industry standards for safety equipment;
- On the water - cover all the essential strokes and focus on paddling efficiency to avoid injuries and maximize your strength from core muscles. This greatly helps with your kayak manoeuvres power, endurance and confidence;
- Theory session on paddling in winds and waves and how the stroke techniques learned in the morning can be applied to challenging weather conditions;
- Participants get wet to practice rescues in a controlled environment and walk through multiple type of self-rescues and assisted re-entries;
- Also review how to blend edge control and braces into your paddling strokes to get more performance; and
- Learn about the equipment available and kayak designs to help with future purchasing decisions.

If you are interested, please contact our Treasurer, Nancy Kallina by **June 5, 2013** if possible at [nancy.kallina@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.kallina@gmail.com) or 416-461-6940 or 613-336-9929.



## Ontario Fishing Regulations

Ontario's fishing regulations help to ensure that our world class fisheries remain healthy. New regulations included in the 2013 Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary were developed to:

- provide additional angling opportunities where they are sustainable,
- protect the sustainability of populations by limiting the number or size of fish that can be harvested, or by reducing the number of days during the year they can be targeted, and
- protect the quality of valuable fisheries by regulating the size of fish that can be harvested

Highlights of the changes that will affect Skootamatta Lake (Zone 18) are:

A longer Bass Season. Starting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June to December 15  
A new Walleye/Pickrel size-based regulation

We encourage all anglers to familiarise themselves with these changes which are available at authorized licence issuers, ServiceOntario locations and at the Ministry of Natural Resources' website at [ontario.ca/fishing](http://ontario.ca/fishing).

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## Geocaching on Skoot!



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

There are millions of “caches” hidden all over the world. There is at least one cache already hidden at the Skoot. The only necessities to play are a GPS device or a GPS-enabled mobile phone so that you can navigate to the cache. If you are using your mobile phone, download the geocaching app first.

Once the cache has been found, sign the log book, take a trinket (optional), and return the container to its original location for the next person to find.

The SDRA will be placing fun and historic “caches” around the lake, registering the caches on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), and notifying our members when the caches have been placed. If you are new to geocaching, find out more on [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and sign up for a user account.

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



## Peace, Love and Potluck

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

When: August 10, 2013

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

Starting time: 4:00 p.m.

Show off your favourite dish to share with friends!

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

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

Please bring your own chair and come to share some great times with friends from the lake!



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

# FIREWORKS!!



## Come and Enjoy our Annual Tradition!

**SATURDAY AUGUST 31,**

**By boat or road at the causeway at dusk.**

**Fireworks to start at 8:30 p.m.**

**Rain date Sunday, September 1.**

**Note:** The 2012 contributions were generous and sufficient to cover the costs of the event for the year! We have been able to maintain our reserve and if similar donations are received as last year we will be able to use a large portion of our reserve to purchase a bigger show. We encourage our members and neighbours to continue to donate if they are viewing the show. For those who contributed, our sincere thanks for helping to continue this end of summer highlight at the Lake!

### Skootamatta Lake Fire Pump Locations

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

Please refer to the lake map included with this Newsletter.

A fire pump demo will be held during the Pot Luck on August 11.

**Please Note!** These portable Fire Pumps are heavy and require at least two people to move them. They are maintained by member volunteers and must be returned refuelled and with the hoses properly stored. New hoses have been purchased for the pumps!

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





## Lake Steward's Report – 2012/2013

### by Malcolm Stewart, Lake Steward

#### Water quality

Skootamatta is one of over 600 Ontario lakes participating in the Ministry of Environment's Lake Partners Program. Monthly from May through October 2012, SDRA volunteers sampled the lake for total phosphorus (TP) and took water clarity (Secchi disc) readings. At higher levels, TP can indicate excessive algae, which causes reduced oxygen supply and poor conditions for aquatic life. Water clarity outside the normal range can also indicate an excess or deficiency of algae, or the presence of some invasive species.

Fortunately, at 7.53 µg/L the average total phosphorus levels in Skootamatta continue to be well below the threshold for concern (20 µg/L), and the clarity of our water in the Upper Lake (4.6m) and Lower Basin (4.9m) are normal.

The 2012 and historical results can be found at:

[http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake\\_partner\\_program](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/local/lake_partner_program)

My thanks to Marilyn and Lew Barker for their help with these tasks, which involved finding the sampling and Secchi reading GPS locations, keeping the boat steady against wind and current, peering into the depths, recording results and keeping a good sense of humour through it all!

In 2013 we will be continuing the Lake Partners testing, but will add our biennial sampling for other substances such as nitrates and E-coli as well as phosphorus. We hope to include Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes. These additional samples will be analyzed by Caduceon Environmental Laboratories in Kingston to provide a more comprehensive view of the health of our lakes.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this important work, please contact me:

[malcolm.stewart@sympatico.ca](mailto:malcolm.stewart@sympatico.ca)

#### Water levels

In 2012 we experienced noticeably lower than average water levels on Skootamatta, which caused some problems with navigation, docking and launching/hauling out boats. This is related to changing climatic conditions experienced throughout Eastern Ontario: less snowfall, less ice cover, earlier spring melting and runoff, and less rainfall in summer months. This summer we will be working closely with the Quinte Conservation Authority to monitor the flow of water out of the lake and keep members informed of any emerging problems before they become critical.





## Skootamatta Dam: the Details

Quinte Conservation Authority's Bryon Keene, Water Resources Manager, and David Smallwood, Field Operations Manager, recently explained the year-round procedures for managing Skootamatta's water levels to SDRA President Debbie Awde and Lake Steward, Malcolm Stewart.

The dam at Skootamatta Lake is owned by the Ministry of Natural Resources and operated by Quinte Conservation. Its primary purpose is for recreation, fish and wild- life. Its secondary purpose is to augment low flow in the Skootamatta River. Without the dam, the Lake would likely flood in the spring.

QCA Field Operations personnel visit the dam frequently in the spring to maintain water levels from spring runoff and precipitation at about 3.6 metres on the gauge. They continue to visit once every three week on average during the summer months to maintain water levels between 3.4 and 3.1 metres on the gauge if possible. Visits are more frequent in the fall to achieve the winter setting (approximately 2.76 metres on the gauge), reached during the month of October. With all eleven logs in place at the beginning of summer, about 0.14 metres depth of water spills over the right embankment spillway. Logs are systematically removed throughout the summer to maintain a low flow in the Skootamatta River, which augments the ground water that supplies the wells of downstream residents.

SDRA will be working closely with QCA to keep members informed of water depth readings and forewarn of any emerging low water conditions throughout the spring, summer and fall through 'Paul's Pops' emails and the SDRA website. We also encourage members to visit [quinteconservation.ca](http://quinteconservation.ca) frequently to keep informed of water conditions in Quinte Region.



## Lake Management Plan

A new SDRA Committee began work last September to write a Lake Management Plan for Skootamatta District, which includes Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes. The Plan will reflect many of the issues, values and recommended actions identified in the 2009 survey of lake residents. It will contain information about the present state of the lakes as well as goals, objectives and action plans aimed at maintaining high water quality and relatively stable water levels; restoring and maintaining a buffer of local, native plants along the shorelines; ensuring that residential and commercial development as well as industrial activities do not harm our lakes or their watershed; and protecting the health and habitats of native fish, wildlife and vegetation in and surrounding the lakes. It will also address the implications of climate change for the lakes, and ways we might lessen its impact.

With the help of the Addington Highlands Township Council and other government and non-government partner organizations, and the continuing support of the lake community, the Plan should become a guide for preserving the health and beauty of our lakes for future generations.

A draft of the Plan will be distributed at SDRA's 2013 Annual Meeting, and feedback from all residents, cottagers and friends of Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes will be welcome.

### Reflections of the Hughes history - Nancy Kallina

The Hughes General Store was the setting for many memories that were formed on the lake. And always central to those memories was Georgina and Stan Hughes. "The store" was there for emergency needs or as the natural destination for lazy walks and boat rides – often for no other purpose than to fill a small paper bag with delicious treats picked out of the glass jars, browsing the comic trade box (buy for 10 cents and trade back for 5 cents), or selecting refreshing ice cream from the freezer. That little store had everything one needed, no matter how obscure. Household staples, hardware, boating supplies, the Hughes stocked it all. In those days credit was given by signing "the book" that customers settled at the end of each week. The Hughes were always willing to help their neighbour's in need. I recall them taking myself and my sister into their home one winter evening as my parents attempted to get across the lake with their supplies during a winter storm. Stan helped my parents get across while Georgina warmed us children by the fire with hot chocolate. It seemed fitting that this year we pay honour to Georgina and her family. We thank Carolyn McCulloch for summarizing some of Hughes' history for those of us who remember those days and for those who are newer to the lake and may not know their rich contribution.



Stan Hughes approximately 1980



Store dock during 1974

Don't forget to submit your stories and/or pictures about your experiences at Skootamatta and preserve these as part of a great history of the lake!

Send them to [info@skootamatta.ca](mailto:info@skootamatta.ca)



**BRING YOUR GUESS FOR WHERE THIS IS ON THE LAKE TO THE AGM AND WIN A PRIZE!!  
HINT: THE YEAR WAS 1974!!**



### The Hughes of Hughes Landing Road

Sheldrake Bay, on the southwest end of Skootamatta Lake was developed by cottagers in the 1960's. However, for over a decade before this, a little white cottage stood alone in what was at that time, primeval forest.

Stan Hughes, a descendant of one of the founding families in Kaladar, had long wanted to have a cottage in the area. With his wife Georgina, he purchased 210 feet of shoreline at \$1.00 per foot on what was then called Loon Lake. Because there was no road, they brought all of the building supplies in on a couple of cedar strip boats owned by Archie Meeks. There was no hydro, so they used coal oil lamps for lighting, and blocks of ice from Harold Maybee's store for refrigeration. Many families of those here now, can trace their cottage roots back to being a guest of the fun-loving Hughes family in the little white cottage.

In 1960, they built a larger place on the property and started to sell a few groceries. But the real fun started in the 70's when Georgina retired from her Oshawa job. In an addition built by son-in-law Larry Craggs, they started a General Store. Life became so much easier for cottagers. First there were the antique gas pumps, where folks came from all over the lake to fuel their boats. They sold worms for fishing, ice for camping, and of course groceries to the many who were now firmly established in the bay and elsewhere on the lake. They shared their property with folks from the city who came with trailers and tents to enjoy their little part of Eden. They procured the first telephone in the area, and travelled all over the lake to pass along emergency messages.

Since all the action was at Hughes Store, everyone gathered there. Georgina and Stan shared their knowledge of the area and connected newcomers with contractors and service providers. Teenagers were offered, and eagerly went off to their first job. Georgina was a natural supervisor who ran a tight ship. She taught them how to stock shelves, clean outhouses, pump gas, and package worms.

A community had been established, and with it came the need for recreational events. Again, the Hughes stepped up to the plate and organized horseshoe tournaments, canoe races, with trophies and prizes for the children's games.

Next door neighbour and organizer David Cooke collaborated with them and the Lake Swim was born. In appropriate age groups, contestants swam from the store to Trail's End and sometimes back. Younger children swam out and around the island in the Bay followed by flotillas of proud parents.

Stan and Georgina had become year round residents at the Lake. Stan served on Council for four years, and after he died in 1988 the road was renamed Hughes Landing Road in his honour.



Georgina has always lived a life of exemplary service to her Community. Her pies were legendary, and usually were sold before she could get them out the door. She has tended the gardens at the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives, has been made a honorary life member of both the Land O' Lakes Garden Club and the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association, participated in many quilting groups, worked as a volunteer in the gift shop at Bon Echo Park, and has been a loyal member of her Church. At 88 years of age, with a wealth of memories of her life on Skootamatta, she still welcomes her many guests with her engaging smile and vibrant invitation to "stay a while for a little visit."

Norma Cragg (daughter) and Georgina

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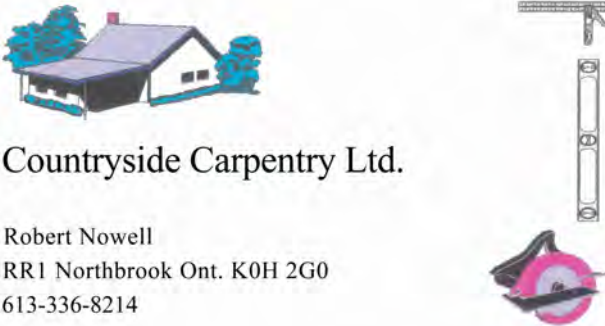
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I sincerely hope you have enjoyed the 2013 edition of our SDRA Newsletter! Please note that we have taken in to account our members' suggestion to reduce the glossy pages and as a result you will see most of our newsletter is printed in black and white.

As always, we appreciate your continued membership in the SDRA and will consider all suggestions brought forward!

My very best regards,

**Debbie Awde, SDRA President & Newsletter Editor**

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