



CANADA 150

2017 SDRA NEWSLETTER

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**Happy 150th Birthday
Canada!**





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2017 Annual SDRA Newsletter! This year we celebrate Canada's 150th birthday with prizes on Canada day for the best dressed boat with Canadian theme! And, for those enjoying the parade from their dock, we will have a prize for the best dressed dock with a Canada Day theme! On our events page, we have listed the Canada 150 celebrations around town. See <http://www.skootamatta.ca> for the details.

Our board has been very busy over the winter on projects such as the boat washing station and further development on the lake management plan. You will hear more about that from our Lake Steward, Joel Arthurs. You will also see that we implemented a 3 year reduction in SDRA membership fees this year and for 2018 and 2019. Nancy Kallina will outline the details of that idea in her annual report.

We are so proud to have surpassed 200 members in our association. That puts us in the top 5% of largest association size across Ontario!

We are going through a transition on our SDRA Board of Directors this year. We will be saying goodbye to our Treasurer, Nancy Kallina, who has done a phenomenal amount of work for this board not only as Treasurer, but also in organizing events such as the Lake Festival which has become an annual tradition with over 150 attendees each year! Bill Blake will be taking over as Treasurer in Nancy's place. Nancy will continue to volunteer to support our SDRA board. Paul Grennell will be leaving us this year, and we can see by the professional looking website that we have today, the immense value that Paul brought to the team. We are happy to announce that Jackie Bleecker will be taking on the Webmaster role! Jennifer Alkenbrack Robertson will be leaving us as Secretary and Christie Arthurs has taken on the Secretary role. We would like to thank Jennifer for all of her work not only as Secretary keeping our minutes and agendas organized but all of the work she does to support the annual Lake Festival and the Newsletter production! I would like to thank Nancy, Paul and Jennifer for all of their amazing work in making this SDRA board a success! Please see our full board slate for 2017-2018 on Page 5.

We are always looking for new members for the SDRA board and invite you to consider stepping up and taking an active role! There are many possible projects to work on whether it is running the annual events, helping with the newsletter, supporting the development of the lake management plan, or maybe you have a great idea for the lake and want to join the board and have an influence for the future of Skootamatta! Please reach out to me or to any of the board members to ask about a role on the SDRA board!

The top items of interest last year among our members included water levels, dam operations, and concern with beaver dams. Our partners such as the MNRF, Quinte Conservation, and FOCA have been very helpful in these areas. You will read about updates on these topics throughout the newsletter and information will also be made available at our AGM on July 8. Please come out to the AGM and hear all the news and reconnect with your neighbours on the lake! Wishing you a happy, healthy summer of 2017 and hope to see you at the Canada 150 celebrations around town!

Debbie Awde, SDRA President

2017 SDRA Newsletter

Featured Articles

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Page 16.....Baffle those Beavers!



Page 17-18.....Lake Steward News:
Water Testing, Skootamatta Dam activities,
Boat Washing & Lake Management Plan



Page 26.....2016 Lake Festival Review



2016 Skootamatta Photo Contest

Congratulations to our winners of the 2016 Skootamatta Photo Contest. We had 125 photos submitted and 50 members voted on the winning photos! We had a tie this year for 3rd place. Thank you so much to everyone who participated and don't forget to submit your photos for the 2017 Contest!



*"Oh Oh I can't swim"
By Don Bailey*



*"Mother Watch"
By Sebastian Loreti*



*"Cousins weekend on Skootamatta"
By Gayle Salowski*



*"Tranquility Base"
By Tricia Sinclair*

2017 SDRAG Annual General Meeting

Saturday, July 8, 2017, 9:30 - 1:00

Pineview Free Methodist Church - Basement

Master of Ceremonies - Paul Lindsay

Agenda:

9:30 -10:00 Meet and Greet

10:00 -11:45 Formal Meeting

11:45 -12:15 Information Booths

12:15 - 1:00 Barbecue lunch



Information Booths:

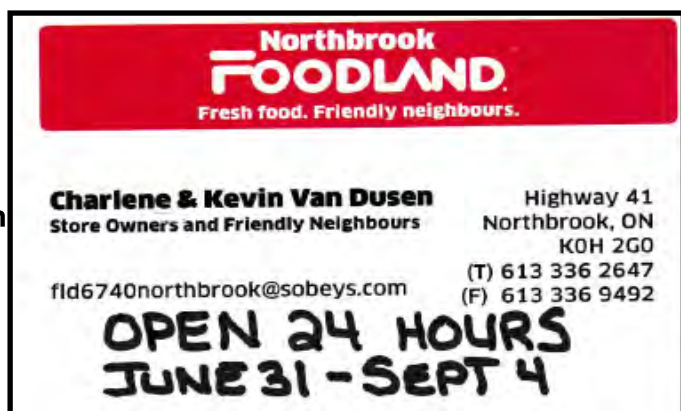
Cloyne Fire Department - Fire Fighter, Brad Robson

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc. - Matt Mertins

Land O' Lakes Garden Club -Lynn Osborne

FOCA Information table

Lake Festival Volunteer sign up and more to be announced!



Special thanks to Northbrook Foodland - proud sponsor of SDRAG AGM for over 20 years!

2017-2018 Board Slate

Our deepest thanks to our departing board members,

Nancy Kallina, Jennifer Alkenbrack Robertson and Paul Grennell

President, Debbie Awde

Vice President, Paul Lindsay

Treasurer, Bill Blake

Secretary, Christie Arthurs

Lake Steward, Joel Arthurs

Webmaster, Jackie Bleecker

Director, Ellen Copeland

Director, Tricia Sinclair

We invite all members to consider stepping forward to be a part of the SDRAG Board! Get involved with your Lake Association - it is great experience and allows you to influence the future of the lake!

A Small Piece of History

The story of an original log cabin on Osborne Point

All of our cottages have a great deal of personal history attached to them. We build memories, we take part in stories that become legends, and we raise our families there. Along the way, we develop a deep love and respect for the lake and the unique communities that become a part of our lives at the lake, and become a part of our story. This is a story of one such cottage.

Thirty-three years ago, the Arthurs purchased their current cottage on Osborne Point Road. and while the stories that their family have created since then are rich and numerous, the history of the cottage actually dates back much further, to almost 90 years ago.

You may have read the story about Albert Ross (Tiny) Osborne in the 2012 newsletter. That story included the details about

how Tiny purchased the land on the tip of what is now known as Osborne Point Road. In 1922, at the time of purchase, it was an island, with no connecting road. Since then, the road was built, attaching the island to the rest of the point. After purchasing the island, Tiny convinced several other people to purchase land and build on "Loon Lake", which we now know as Skootamatta Lake. The original log cabin that comprises the main structure of the Arthurs' cottage was one of these first buildings on Osborne Point.

The log cabin was built by a local man known as "Indian Joe" in 1928. It sits on the west shore of Osborne Point, with the two acre property stretching across

the peninsula to the east side. The cabin walls were built with pine logs measuring about ten inches in diameter, and the gaps are sealed with mortar.



This is the front of the original log cabin. The mounted bass above the window was caught by Frank Seddon.

Additionally, there is a beautiful stone fireplace in the cabin, that still stands today. The picture on the far left was taken from down the hill toward the lake. The original roof was supported with narrow cedar logs and planked with pine boards of varying widths. The logs and boards are still visible, adding to the authenticity.

In the early 1930s, the cabin and lot were purchased by Frank Seddon. Not a lot is known about the Seddon family or their time at Loon Lake. The cottage would have been a lot of work to maintain (as all cottages are). Daily tasks such as cutting wood, hauling water, cooking, and cleaning would have been interspersed with time spent enjoying the lake and the companionship of other early inhabitants of the Point.



Original Log Cabin

In 1949 the Moir family bought the cottage. At that time, the road only went as far as Trail's End, leaving another mile to hike to reach the cottage by foot. The road was later extended to the end of the point, and a driveway onto the property was built, making for much easier access.



Stone fireplace with surrounding original wall, that was, at one time, hidden by paneling.

Over the years, the Moirs made a variety of additions to the cottage to make it more comfortable. The original log cabin remains, and is now surrounded by the extensions that were built by Ernie Tully and his sons. In the early 1950s, a kitchen was added to the back, an enclosed porch was built on the front, and two bedrooms were added to the side. Later, in 1962, a bathroom and entryway were added to the back of the kitchen.

Also added to the property was "The Honeymoon Cabin", as it is still known today. This small structure was brought over from the Rutland Lodge property in the early 1970s. There is also a shed on site that used to be an ice house, before electricity was brought in. When it was still an ice-house, the ice was cut out of the lake, and preserved with sawdust.

After the Arthurs purchased it in 1984, the cottage remained much the same with minor updates and regular

maintenance for many years. Recently, however, it has undergone some more significant transformations.

In the summer of 2013, it was the subject of a renovation on a Cottage Life television show called "Weekend Reno." The main cabin was brought to life again, while leaving the history intact. The wall surrounding the stone fireplace had, at some point in time, been covered with paneling. This was removed, the log chinking replaced, and a slate hearth was added to the floor in front of the fireplace. A propane fireplace insert was installed shortly afterward, providing a source of heat that no longer burns your eyes and fills the cabin with

wood smoke.

Although the cottage may look a bit different now, the history remains, and is appreciated by the current generations. It no longer requires the same level of upkeep and maintenance that the Seddon and Moir families would have experienced, providing more time to fully enjoy the lake experience.

The cottage has stood the test of time, three owners, and many generations. Children have spent their summers playing, building forts, swimming, catching frogs, and running wild over the years, while parents happily watch nearby. Family and friends have come together year after year to enjoy this little slice of paradise. This, like so many others on the lake, is a cottage that has been filled with love, joy, and laughter throughout the generations, and will be for many years to come.



FIRE SAFETY AT THE COTTAGE

By Jennifer Alkenbrack Robertson

On Christmas Eve 2016, a terrible fire engulfed a cottage on Stony Lake in the Kawarthas. Geoff Taber, Jacquie Gardner, and their teenage sons Scott and Andrew Taber lived around the corner from us in Toronto. Our family had just moved into the neighbourhood last fall and our paths had crossed with the Tabers only once or twice. Although we didn't know them well, our sons played on the same school soccer team. While watching the boys play one sunny September afternoon we struck up a conversation, as parents often do. We discovered a shared love of time at the cottage and told stories of the wonderful summer we had just spent there with our families. Later this fall, we frequently passed the Taber family home while walking our dog in the neighbourhood. When tragedy struck – inexplicably - this Christmas Eve, the entire Taber family was lost, doing what they loved to do in the place they loved the most. For more information on the efforts to remember this wonderful family please visit www.taberfamilyfoundation.ca.

For so many of us, the cottage is our "happy place" and the place where we feel most relaxed. Time at the cottage provides a reprieve from the routine of life, a place where families spend time together, reconnect, and recharge. We can all use this terrible tragedy as an opportunity to make our cottages safer and minimize potential fire risk factors. This spring, when you open your cottage, take a few extra minutes to run through these cottage fire safety tips from the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety:

- Test smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage.
- Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know the telephone number for the local fire department (911) and your cottage's emergency sign number, in case of emergency.
- Clean barbecues before using them.
- Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.

When opening your cottage this year, make an emergency escape plan, and make sure everyone in the family knows it well.



If open burning is permitted, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock.

Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading.

Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or a shovel close by and do not leave the fire unsupervised.

Fire Safety Continued

- Remember to bring a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them.
- Check with your local fire department, municipality, or Ministry of Natural Resources to determine whether open air burning is permitted before having a campfire or burning brush. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- If you must smoke, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded.
- If you drink, do so responsibly. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.
- Burn candles in sturdy candle holders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!

Reprinted from:

https://www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/FireMarshal/FireSafetyandPublicEducation/PublicFireSafetyInformation/CottageFireSafety/OFM_cottage_fire_safety_tips.html

Our local fire department for Skootamatta is the Addington Highlands (Kaladar/Barrie & Denbigh) Fire Department. There are fire teams located in both Cloyne and Northbrook. Addington Highlands Fire Chief Casey Cuddy, a veteran firefighter with 26 years of service, has 35 local volunteer firefighters on his team.

In the event of a fire, call 911 immediately.

In 2016 alone, the team responded to over 170 emergency calls, with 96 of those responses taking place between May and September at the height of the summer cottage/camping season. Most calls resulted from structure, vehicle, and vegetation fires, medical emergency calls and motor vehicle accidents. The team also works hard to enforce public burning bylaws, implement fire safety bans, and provide public education on fire safety in the area. We are grateful to have this dedicated group of first responders close by in an emergency situation.

The SDRA has included an insert on Fire Safety with our newsletter this year. Please make sure to read and discuss it with your families and post it in your cottage as a reminder. Take a few minutes to create an emergency plan, ensuring that all family members (including children) know your 911 address, what to do if fire is detected, and how to quickly evacuate the cottage if necessary.

MAY
27



LAND O' LAKES GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

landolakesgardenclub.com

Barrie Community Hall in Cloyne

**SATURDAY MAY 27 AT 9 A.M. UNTIL WE ARE
SOLD OUT**

We will have local responsibly grown tomato plants + other herbs & vegetables. These plants have been grown in a special soil mix with no chemicals and the results definitely reflect that. Please reconsider buying from big box stores and buy locally from us.

We also will be selling ornamental plants that we know grow well in this area as we have all cultivated them in our own gardens.

Land O' Lakes Garden Club Lynn Osborne

Last year was an amazing and exciting year for the Land O' Lakes Garden Club (LOLGC) as our group was busy planning and developing a project for Canada's 150th Anniversary. We have joined forces with the Cloyne & District Historical Society (C&DHS) and Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) for projects and an event that we hope will excite and benefit our community.



Our project and events for Canada's 150th consist of:

- Our LOLGC flower boxes that we plant each year in the community will be filled this summer with red and white flowers representing the Canadian flag colours. We are advertising and encouraging everyone to plant in a similar theme to create a tremendous red and white impact. So, think red and white please!
- In conjunction with our project partners, many young trees will be planted, along with a white oak donated by the LOLGC, on the property between the Pioneer Museum and Barrie Hall. This area was devastated by a micro-burst in 2002 when trees that were at least 200 years old were felled. The regeneration of the area is an exciting part of the project for our Garden Club. Along with our partners, the C&DHS and MLFI Inc., we will create a legacy parkland with educational signage for all to enjoy.
- The LOLGC has commissioned Ken Chatson, a local artisan, to create a metal bench which will be placed in the above area.
- Some of you are likely familiar with the tiny island between Osborne Island and the Blatchford's. It is known locally as Mike's Island. Laura's great-grandfather, Bill Schwager, was Mike's brother, and her great-grandmother, Matilda Bay, was the daughter of Johnny Bay, who helped build many of the original cottages, including our own. We have asked Laura Schwager and her cousin to design a plaque which will honour the First Nation Community whose footprints were first upon this land.
- For me, the most exciting part of this celebration has been finding a way to represent the whole of Canada for the 150th. I was overwhelmed with the response to an idea of painting the thirteen provincial and territorial flowers on plaques of marine plywood kindly donated by Brad Douglas at Home Hardware. We started with 8 volunteers, but very quickly we had twenty names of members wanting to be involved. Some were beginner painters and others more experienced, but all were enthusiastic. Throughout last summer, we met at my cottage and I could share my love of painting through teaching these enthusiastic volunteers. Having taught for more than 30 years, I was delighted to be able to pass on skills to those who showed an interest.



This brings me to our Canada 150 culminating event; a Community Party. We would like to invite all of you to the official unveiling of the projects at the Pioneer Museum Opening Day, in Cloyne. This event is planned for the morning of Saturday June 24 at 11:00 am. There will be local dignitaries, music, food, and fun. Our entire community of full time residents and summer cottagers are invited to partake and enjoy the festivities. We have a wonderful community of clubs and volunteers, and we look forward to you joining us on such a special occasion.

CELEBRATE CANADA'S 150TH WITH US!

Saturday, June 24, 2017
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cloyne Pioneer Museum
Hwy 41, Cloyne Ontario

BBQ! Music!

Unveiling of Community Projects!



Sponsored by Land O' Lakes Garden Club, Cloyne and District Historical Society and Mazinaw- Lanark Forest Inc. with the generous support of North Frontenac Township and the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA)

Our Garden Club does a great deal in this area, and our members come from all corners of Addington Highlands and North Frontenac Townships. As a club we plant and maintain: 25 planter boxes, displayed and supported by local businesses around the community, the gardens at the Pine Meadow Senior Residence in Northbrook, and tend the local Township Hall flower beds. We also maintain the Pioneer Cemetery in Cloyne; it is worth a visit if you have some time to check it out. Every spring, we have a fantastic plant sale at the Barrie Hall in Cloyne where you can pick up your vegetable and perennial plants at a great price. This year, the sale is on Saturday May 27th at 9 a.m. Get there early as the plants go fast!

As a club, we also have some members create and deliver bouquets on important holidays to those who cannot get out and about. Finally, and, most importantly, we have an enthusiastic membership who meet monthly from April to November. We invite and host interesting speakers to talk to us about relevant environmental, ecological, and general gardening subjects. Or we may hold a "Hands On" session to create a winter bouquet or seasonal decoration from our gardens.

If you want more information on any of these activities or wish to join our club, you may contact me at 613-336-9426 or lynnoborne@gmail.com. Please check out our website at www.landolakesgardenclub.com or feel free to email the club at lolgardenclubn7@gmail.com.

The Loon Lake Fire of 1895

A legend of an historic fire at Skootamatta Lake

by Carolyn McCulloch

Legends operate within the realm of uncertainty. They are never entirely believed by the participants, but are also never absolutely doubted. That was the way it was for our family.....

In the mid nineteen seventies, our elderly neighbour, Douglas Alkenbrack, told my teenagers a horrific story. Behind our cottage, in the woods, there had been a house that burned to the ground, killing many in the young family who lived there.

You may not be familiar with the area. Sheldrake Lake meets Skootamatta Lake on what is now called Hughes Landing Road. That place that may have been called Gilmour's Landing in the nineteenth century. On the other side of Sheldrake, in a triangle with the smaller Topper Lake, we found the area where the tragedy might have occurred. Imagine our curiosity as we went to the spot and found an old stone fence covered with organic moss. Nonagenarian, Georgina Hughes, confirmed that her children used to play there, and brought home three cornered nails (the type used in rustic furniture in pioneer days). And so the search began. Who were they? How many of them were there? What were their names? Why did they live there? When did it happen?

Fast forward, through decades of unsuccessful inquiries. No one had ever heard the story.

Enter Pat Vlastic. Pat overheard my queries one day in Snider's restaurant. She thought she remembered her Grandmother telling her that her Great-grandmother, Margaret Lindsay, had survived a fire on Loon (Skootamatta) Lake.

Afterwards, Margaret was "a little bit strange." Pat contacted a distant cousin who had the answer passed down as a clipping from "The North Hastings Review" on Oct 10, 1895.

Douglas Alkenbrack was not born until 12 years after the fire. He spent his early years in Flinton, and the survivors escaped to that locale. There were many storytellers there (if you can, read "The Village on the Skoot"). He became one of them, and so we can thank him for turning a legend into an amazing report complete with the flowery and ornate language of that period.

Please note that due to the graphic nature, the entire original story has not been reprinted here, and instead can be found in The Pioneer Times at www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca.

SIX VICTIMS: AWFUL EXPERIENCE OF THE LINDSAY FAMILY

TWEED ONT. OCT 10

A fire occurred at Loon Lake, about thirty miles northeast of Tweed, on Tuesday night, Oct 9th burning the dwelling house of Mr. Thomas Lindsay. There were ten persons in the house at the time, six of whom perished in the fire, all [family] of Mr. Lindsay. The fire occurred about twelve o'clock at night and no one seemed to know how it occurred. There was besides Mr. Lindsay's family a man by the name of Peter Labarge and his son, who barely escaped by jumping from the second story window. Mr. Labarge is employed by the Gilmour Company in getting our timber and lost seventy dollars in cash and his watch and clothes. Mr. Lindsay is badly

continued on next page

burned about his face and hands. The Lindsay dwelling was situated between Loon Lake and Sheldrake Lake and the nearest neighbours are some five miles distant.

LATER

A full account of the burning of Thomas Lindsay's home at Loon Lake, near Snider's depot on Tuesday night has just reached here. This account only serves to confirm the report given last night and adds if possible to the horror of the catastrophe. The house occupied by the Lindsay family was a two storey building of the block type, the outside wall consisting of heavy squared timber. Once the fire got started the solid walls confined the flames, thus rendering the building a veritable furnace. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The first intimation to Mr. Lindsay of the impending disaster was the noise of the fire and [his family]. Lindsay jumped from a window and then went back into the fire to save his children. He was quickly overcome and fell down in the fire and was pulled out by his wife [...]. The house was in an isolated spot, being seven miles from the nearest neighbour.

If you would like a more detailed version of this story, please go to www.cloynepioneeremuseum.ca. In The Pioneer Times there is an archived edition of the Spring 2017 Newsletter where you may read the account published in the Globe and Mail of Oct 11, 1895.

Pine Meadow Annual Golf Classic

This annual charity event is now in its fifteenth year! Over the years, it has raised substantial funds that 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 24th, 2017.

If you are interested in golfing in the tournament, or would like to submit a team, please contact Eleanor at Nowell Motors (336-2547). If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Laury at 336-2394 or at:

donald.lauryhitchcock@gmail.com

THIS NEWSLETTER WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

...the Cloyne Post Office! The SDRA board uses the local post office in Cloyne to purchase the postage necessary to mail the newsletters to the homes of members.

Please consider supporting local businesses whenever possible.



**FRIENDS of
BON ECHO PARK**

**Bon Echo
Provincial Park**
Just 10 km north of Cloyne on Hwy. 41
BEACHES HIKING CANOEING

- Art Exhibition and Sale – July 28, 29, 30, 2017
- Interpretive guided boat tours of Mazinaw Lake & Mazinaw Rock – Information **613-336-9863**
- Ferry service to the Cliff Top Trail
- Greystones Store & Colin Edwards Art Gallery
- Lagoon BBQ: Sat/Sun in July/Aug; Sat in Sept
- Amphitheatre presentations: schedule on website
<http://BonEchoFriends.ca> **613-336-0830**

Website Report



Our website, www.skootamatta.ca continues to be a great hub for all information related to the SDRA and Skootamatta Lake! Check it regularly for new updates, event information,

postings to our forums, and more.

Several years ago, we introduced online payments through PayPal, and this continues to be a popular option for paying dues. Last year, approximately 43% of our memberships were paid online. If you haven't tried it yet, you can do so by visiting <http://skootamatta.ca/membership/>.

We had an absolutely phenomenal photo contest in 2016, with a whopping 125 pictures submitted! 53 people voted in the contest, choosing our top three winners and three Honourable Mentions. The top twelve photos made it into our 2017 SDRA Calendar. The pictures can still be found on the website, under "Gallery." We look forward to seeing what the 2017 photo contest brings, and we'll be opening the site for submissions soon!

Speaking of the calendar, we also have an online store through Zazzle. This is where you can buy the annual SDRA calendars. We design the items, then Zazzle creates and sells them. If you'd like to see some of the SDRA merchandise, you can visit the store at <https://www.zazzle.ca/skootamatta/products>.

The 2017 calendar is still available, and we'll make the 2018 calendar shortly after our photo contest concludes in late fall.

Have you seen our forums on the website yet? This is where you can post items for sale, for rent, for free, wanted, lost & found, and a general discussion area. These forum posts automatically end up on the front page of the website, so it's a great way to get the word out.

We are also quite active on Facebook! You can find our page at

<http://www.facebook.com/skootamatta>. This is another great way to connect with the SDRA board, ask and answer questions, and stay connected with what's happening around the lake.

The engagement on the Facebook page has been steadily rising, bringing in 52 new people over 2016, for a total of 180 people liking our Facebook page. We get quite a number of questions and comments, and we are regularly posting new information to the page!



Finally, in recognition of Canada's 150th birthday, we're collecting fun facts and stories about Skootamatta and area. You can submit your own story online at <http://skootamatta.ca/blog/150-fun-facts/>.

Stay in touch with us, get up-to-date news, events, and info at our website: www.skootamatta.ca

Baffled by Beavers? Try a Beaver Baffler



running a pipe through will not solve the problem because the beaver will just dam the end. A metal cage built around the pipe and past the opening will allow the water to seep through. The beaver may continue to try to dam around the end of the cage, but will be unsuccessful to plug the pipe. The solution requires materials and labour but will last many years. You can see here a picture of Trustham's beaver baffler and others found online.

Last summer, we heard concerns from members about beaver dams that were causing damaging situations. Two obvious solutions often get discussed: remove the dam, or kill the beaver. These solutions are only temporary since the beaver will only rebuild the dam, or another beaver will move into the region once the territory is vacant.

We contacted Quinte Conservation and spoke with

their head ecologist, Tim Trustham, to determine if a humane solution existed. Trustham recommended a "beaver baffler" which he has used successfully on his property for the last ten years with very little maintenance.

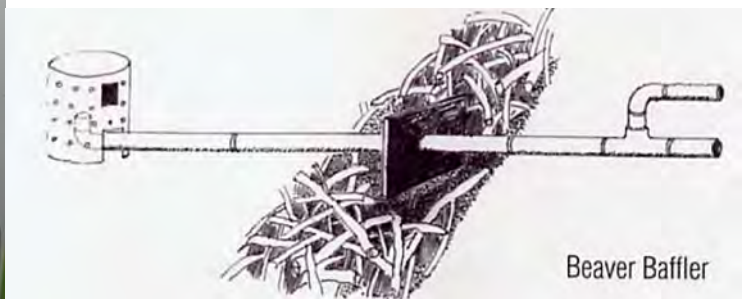
Beavers are instinctively compelled to dam water when they hear a flow. A beaver baffler is a pipe that runs through the dam to allow the water to move. However, just

Additional sources of designs and images can be found at the following sites.

<http://unexpectedwildliferefuge.org>

www.beaversww.org

www.ofah.org



The Lake Management Plan An update

During the 2016 AGM, the Board introduced the committee that was tasked with updating our Lake Management Plan (LMP). The LMP Committee continues to work on the document, focusing on restructuring the format of the LMP, adding new content that has become available since the last major update, and ensuring consistency with other similar documents.

Invasive species, water levels, and a variety of human impacts are some of the topics that have been gaining prevalence in the past couple of years. We want to ensure that we are giving these issues, among others, full consideration in the LMP as we plan for the future health of our lake. As the SDRAs lakes and surrounding environment changes, the LMP needs to stay current and focused on the most pressing issues.

The Lake Management Plan is designed to be a living document, updated as the needs and health of our lakes change.

In particular, we will be expanding the bi-annual water testing. This year, we will be testing ten sites for ten different parameters, including E. Coli, calcium, phosphorous, and several others. These tests will closely mirror the tests that were completed in 1974 by the Ministry of the Environment. This data will provide the committee the opportunity to see how the lake health has changed over the last forty years. Stay tuned for the results and analysis!

As a living document, the LMP is meant to be updated regularly and to stay current with the issues that are facing our lake. This will only be the first of many changes. If you are interested in becoming a part of the LMP Committee, please get in touch with our Lake Steward, Joel Arthurs.

Dam Operations and Water Levels

In 2016, water levels were a big concern for many cottagers. The previous winter had a lower than average snowfall, and additionally did not have much ice accumulation on the lake. Although the logs were placed according to schedule, the unexpected early ice-out meant that the water levels were lower than usual at the same time of year.

Low rainfall in the spring and several dry spells also resulted in low water levels for communities that rely on Skootamatta River for water. In order to maintain access to water for these communities, logs from the Skootamatta Lake dam were pulled throughout the summer.

The SDRAs board was in regular contact with the Quinte Conservation Authority (QCA) in order to provide details to the membership on any changes to the conditions. We were able to confirm the date of the draw down for late-fall and warned members to pull their boats before this date.

In addition, QCA reported that the logs were due for replacement last year. Through various contacts within QCA and MNRF, we learned that the replacement of the logs had been scheduled and completed late last year. Water control measures were implemented to allow for easier replacement of the logs and to ensure that water levels were minimally impacted. This spring, the dam site will be cleaned up and the logs will be jacked and sealed as part of log replacement operations.

The board will continue to maintain discussions with QCA to ensure logs are placed early enough this year, and we will provide updates as they come available.

Invasive Species Act

Following the enactment of the Invasive Species Act in 2015, it came into force on November 3, 2016. Recently, the Province released a regulation under the act that details which species are either prohibited or restricted.

Prohibited Species are not allowed to be brought into, released, or deposited in Ontario. A person may not transport, propagate, or sell the species. Restricted Species are not allowed to be brought into a provincial park or conservation area. It cannot be deposited or released in Ontario. All restricted species must comply with any prescribed regulations that relate to the transport, propagation, or sale of the species.

The regulation (O.Reg 354/16) also lays out what should be done if someone comes into contact with an invasive species. In short, every effort must be made to destroy the invasive species identified in the regulation. The Act 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.

Means of species transport could include moving a boat, ATV, or trailer from one environment to another without properly cleaning the vehicle. The regulation also details that invasive species must be removed from a boat prior to the boat being moved over land.

As a cottager, if you use your boat on more than one lake, it is your responsibility to ensure that your boat is washed prior to transport. Although we have not yet been successful in establishing a boat washing station, this is something that the SDRA board is continuing to pursue. In the meantime, you can effectively clean your boat by washing the boat and trailer with hot water; a power washer works best. Chemicals and soaps are not necessary.

Fishes in Skootamatta By Anders Holder

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who helped me with various aspects of the project. From borrowing a boat, to docking access, and the comments, suggestions and encouragement from everyone I meet, it is great to see so many cottagers wanting to help understand and protect the lake.

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 its effects on Walleye, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish and Cisco populations. Beyond game fishes, I am interested in the possible changes in the smaller fish communities.

Last year saw a decline in water levels, low precipitation, and high temperatures. All of these factors will be considered when analyzing the sampling data. To add to the data from 2016, I will be back out this summer to conduct another round of sampling. I encourage all who are interested in what I am researching to reach out via email or go to my Facebook group: "Skootamatta Science".

skootamattascience@gmail.com

Happy 50th Anniversary...

.... to the last group of properties sold by the crown in 1967, also known as the properties from 1689 to 1793 Hughes Landing Road. A group of twenty lots, more or less an acre in size, were made available for purchase in July of that year. The demand was great and the day the lots went up for sale, the first person in line waited since 10 p.m. the night before. By 6 a.m. there were five anxious people waiting to purchase their dream lot. All but one property was sold by September of that year, at a price of roughly \$3 per waterfront footage, which seems like a deal, but minimum wage at the time was roughly \$1.00 per hour.

The owners were required to erect a livable structure within the first two years. The land was raw and the ground was rocky, requiring many truckloads of fill, priced at \$10 per truckload, to be hauled in. The road was not built, nor was electricity available in the early days. The owners either carried in their equipment or barged it over by water. A barge was available for \$10 per day.

Most of the families were young with small children. Families assisted each other in building their cottages within the stipulated time to create a supportive community. Today only five of the original twenty families still own their property: Kallina, Houston, Castellano, Pauzer, and Murrell, and they speak of those early years like they were yesterday.

Membership Fee Update

Canopy tents, festival games, storage sheds, signs, kiosks and water hoses have all been purchased over last few years. Our cash reserve is at a comfortable level of approximately \$20,000 and we have a good understanding of our annual operating costs. Our membership has also reached the desired 200 member mark!

After careful analysis and consideration, the SDRA board is pleased to announce that we have decided to implement a fee decrease of \$10. This decrease will apply to 2017, 2018, and 2019. Fees for 2017 will therefore be \$40. With normal cost increases, we expect to be able to maintain our costs relatively balanced over the next three years with only small potential dips into our healthy reserve.

In an ideal situation, this decreased fee may attract more members to help cover our overall costs and possibly allow us to extend the fee decrease for additional years. But this remains to be seen, and we will reassess in 2019.

We have also adjusted our membership form to allow members the opportunity to make a direct contribution to the Food Bank. For those that contribute, their donations, including their names and email addresses, will be sent to the Food Bank administration, who will issue tax receipts for contributions greater than \$10.

2016-17 Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Nancy Kallina

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year ending March 31

	Notes:	2017	2016
Revenue:			
Membership Revenue	1	10,150	9,700
Newsletter Advertising	2	1,940	1,770
Boat Launch Intake		691	445
Interest		161	173
Total Revenue		12,942	12,088
Expenses:			
Communication	3	3,045	2,450
Member Events	4	3,360	2,602
Stewardship	5	906	1,684
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	6	800	1,711
Administration	7	300	222
Insurance	8	1,903	1,903
Assets	9	2,091	1,000
Total Expenses		12,905	12,072
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		37	16

Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 19,602

Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 19,639

Fireworks Fund

Opening 805

Contributions 4,629

Event cost (4,500)

Closing Fireworks Fund 934

Closing Cash including Fireworks Fund **20,573**

Notes:

- 1) 203 paid memberships received during the year. 194 paid memberships the prior year.
- 2) Increased canvassing, new advertisers and improved collections from the prior year.
- 3) Newsletter printing costs increased due to larger volume ordered for the membership drive. Additional charge for on-line publishing software.
- 4) Introduction of Luau at Pot Luck, festival costs slightly higher due increased cost for award medals due to exchange rate. Overall operation consistent with prior year.
- 5) Water testing costs lower since only performed every 2 years. Remaining costs for FOCA membership and attendance at FOCA seminars.
- 6) Costs include grounds maintenance only. No other improvements completed during the year.
- 7) Higher cost for paypal service.
- 8) No insurance cost increase.
- 9) Purchased lifesaving buoys, storage shed and new board t-shirts.

Community Donation

THE LAND O' LAKES FOOD BANK

Consistent with the past three years, we directed our community donation to the Land O' Lakes Food Bank, since this organization supports those of all ages in need in the community. The number of residents that depend on the food bank has increased each year, and the need is great.

While the SDRA contributed a monetary donation to the food bank, many members have personally made separate contributions of cash or food, either at our AGM or to the food bins at the end of the road at the close of each summer. It seems that through our donation campaign, more seasonal property owners are feeling a connection to the full-time community.

We will continue the campaign in 2017, and ask that members who attend the AGM bring a non-perishable food item. Once again, we will also place bins at the corner at the end of the summer season. Contributions can also be made throughout the year at the Community Services building in Northbrook.



Finally, we have modified our membership form so that members who would like to make an additional donation can add an amount to their membership fee to be designated for the food bank. We will forward the combined donation to the food bank administration. Individuals who make a donation of \$10 or greater will receive a tax receipts directly from the food bank.

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Festival Winners

Congratulations to all our participants and winners of the 5th Annual Lake Festival events! Below are the event results.

5 K Run:	1st	2nd	3rd
Boys under 16	River Saliba	Barrett Aass	
Girls under 16	Solstice Saliba	Florence Awde	Emily Shields
Men 16+	Ken Hook	Adrien Brossier	Struan Robertson
Women 16+	Debbie Kallina	Tara Jay Knibbe	<u>Tara Brossier</u>

Swimming:	1st	2nd	3rd
Children under 7	Kaycea Winslow	Leah Machan	Aurelie Brossier
7 – 8 girls	Lulah Cummings	Sydney Winslow	Lilly Koehler
7 – 8 boys	Rory Kallina		
9 – 10 girls	Jordan Sladics	Sarah Milani	Stella McBride
9 – 10 boys	Tom Birnie-Wortley	Adam New	Jaxon Koehler
11 – 12 girls	Molly Robertson	Chloe Kallina	Emily Shields
11 - 12 boys	Hanley Aass		
13 – 14 girls	Jessica Cumming	Rachel Cumming	Laura Smith
13 – 14 boys	River Saliba	Jack Robertson	
15 – 19 girls	Haley Grennell	Solstice Saliba	Megan Grennell
20 – 29 men and women	Bryanna Elliott	Tara Jay Knibbe	Laura Ubbens
30 - 39 men and women	Adrien Brossier	Lea Komaromi	
40 – 59 women	Daphne Williams	Debbie Kallina	Barb Ubbens
40 – 59 men	Paul Grennell	Struan Robertson	Olof Saliba
60 + men and women	Ken Hook	Darien Kissman	

Kayaking:	1st	2nd	3rd
12 and under girls	Chloe Kallina	Jet McBride	Stella McBride
12 and under boys	Adam New	Aidan Robertson	Hanley Aass
13 – 17 girls	Florence Awde	Solstice Saliba	Laura Smith
13 – 17 boys	Sebastian Loreti	Jylz McBride	Jack Robertson
18 – 40 women	Lea Komaromi	Laura Ubbens	
18 – 40 men	Brent Knibbe		
41 – 64 women	Barb Ubbens	Debbie Kallina	Erica McBride
41 – 64 men	Ken Hook	Martin Aass	Duncan Awde
65 + men and women	Rob D'Hondt		

Laddergolf:	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	Jake Angers Hanley Aass	Solstice Saliba Molly Robertson	Jet McBride Mackenzie Wilson
Adult	Jeff Stafford Elijah Stafford	Alan Smith Sara Young	Don Stafford Pat Stafford

Tri-Generation TRY-athlon	1st	2nd	3rd
Kayak	Martin Aass	Nancy Kallina	Irmgard Kallina
Run	Barrett Aass	Emily Shields	Chloe Kallina
Swim	Darien Kissman	Ken Hook	David Warren



2016 LAKE FESTIVAL MEMORIES

It is hard to believe, but our 2016 festival was our fifth year since we rekindled the event. Children of the past, who have fond memories of the regattas of their day, now bring their children and even grandchildren. What started as a chat on a dock has become a wonderful annual tradition. It is heartwarming to see the same children appear each year and many with relatives and new friends in tow. What is even lovelier is seeing children who participated in the first festival, now volunteering as young adults, bringing joy to younger kids. In 2016, we changed the date to the weekend after the August long weekend, and WOW did attendance increase!! New people came out in droves and thankfully the regulars were also able to attend.

2016 highlights included:

- The day started with the 5KM run organized by Ken Hook with volunteers attending water stations along the route. The competition was challenging but supportive.
- The children's event organized by Jennifer Robertson featured a bouncer ideal for both young and older children. We had a creative tie-dye t-shirt station and the favourite watermelon eating contest. Plus many other active games for all ages!
- Quinte Conservation again sent their summer student with an interesting bug booth, a favourite for many children.

- The water races were run by our exuberant Daphne Williams, supported by the incredibly organized Lorraine Saliba. With humorous mishaps and children determined to do their best, the races are an entertaining spectator sport.
- The grand-finale is the Tri-Generational TRYathlon with a leg of kayaking, running and swimming. Teams were made during the day, and it was certainly competitive.
- A big shout-out to Ron D'hondt who tipped in his kayak and suffered our first festival injury requiring first aid. He got back in to his kayak and finished the race and then also participated in the try-athlon. Impressive in itself, but he also just finished a round of chemotherapy treatment.
- And the day would not be complete without the delicious barbeque, hosted and prepared by Suzanne and Mike Stevens of Country Traditions in Napanee. A big shout out to Jill Cote, who once again baked up delectable homemade desserts. What a combination!

Thank you to our volunteers, many who help us year after year. Without your support, the festival would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you all on August 12, 2017 at our 6th Annual Skootamatta Lake Festival!



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OUR VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS

Thank you so much to our amazing volunteers who help us out with all of our events:

Gord Adams, Shelley Alkenbrack, Susan Arthurs, Trish Barnett, Sandra Clark, Jill Cote, Mike Cramer, Jessica and Rachel Cummings, Esther Demczak, Gail Dobby, Haley Grennell, Megan Grennell, Hein Hemmersbach, Jan Longo, Nelli Loreti, Sebastian Loreti, Ken and Cathy Hook, Katherine Grennell, Anne Marie McBride, Erica McBride, Jane Falby McBride, Jylz McBride, Gwynneth Morais, Greg New, Ron Nowell, Ryan Nowell, Dave & Melodie Rattray, Cheryl Rattray, Molly Robertson, Struan Robertson, Lorraine Saliba, Alan Smith, Suzanne & Mike Stevens, Bernie Tennant, Rob Trimble, Roseanne Vukobrat, 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 !

We are in need of festival volunteers to help with the children's games, and the boat spotter for the water races. Even if you can

**THANK YOU TO
ALL OUR
VOLUNTEERS!**

help for one hour, please contact Nancy Kallina at nancy.kallina@gmail.com. We will be happy to sign high school volunteer forms for those that contribute time.



Lake Festival Fun



6th Annual Lake Festival New Date!

Saturday August 12, 2017 at Trail's End Grounds

9:00 am – 9:30 am Set up	11:30 pm – 1:00 pm Youth Ladder Golf tournament
9:30 am 5 KM registration only	
9:45 am 5 KM run	11:00 am – 1:00 pm Swim races
10:00 am Event registration	11:30 am – 2:00 pm Kayak races
10:30 am – 1:00 pm Children's fun games	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Barbecue lunch

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

The anticipated event categories are as follows. They will be adjusted based on the number of participants.

Kayak Races:

- 12 and younger Girls and boys separately
- 13 – 17 Girls and boys separately
- 18 – 40 Women and men together
- 41 – 60 Women and men separately
- 60 + Women and men together

Laddergolf:

- 10 – 18 Youth
- Adult laddergolf tournament will be held at Ron and Esther's pot luck on August 12th

Tri-Generation TRYathlon

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

Swim Races:

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

Barbeque:

Food generously provided by the Stevens family and their business, Country Traditions.





Skoot Kids Fun Page

Instagram: #skootkidz

Have you seen this reptile?



Q: What amphibian is dark blue or black with blue polka dots and lives in wet areas around Skootamatta Lake?

A: The Blue Spotted Salamander! (aka *Ambystoma laterale*) which can grow up to 16 cm in length.

Just for Laughs!

Q: What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A: A gummy bear.

Q: What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

A: Nacho cheese!

8 Raccoon Facts

1 Raccoons have been around for 40,000 years.

2. Raccoons migrated north by adapting to new environments, and can now be found as far north as Alaska!

3. Raccoons are small, have sensitive hands, and can eat just about anything, making them ideal for urban life!

4. Raccoons love life in the big city! Today there are 20 times more raccoons in the city than there were 70 years ago.

5. Toronto is the raccoon capital of the world. Fifty times more raccoons live there than in the surrounding countryside.

6. Raccoons' hands have a bunch of

nerves that are like taste buds, sending information to the brain.

7. Raccoons live in a den. They use up to 20 den sites at a time, from sheds to sewers.

8. In the city, raccoon territories average around 3 blocks. They prefer backyards to parks.

Reprinted from: <http://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/8-facts-about-raccoons>

The Scat you see!

You probably know many of the animals that live close to Skootamatta by sight. But sometimes we don't always see them in person. Since many animals are scared of humans, sometimes all we see of these animals is "the evidence" left behind....their poop Take the "Cottage Life Quiz: Can you identify the animal by its scat?" at: <http://cottagelife.com/environment/quiz-who-pooped>



SKOOTAMATTA & AREA 2017 EVENTS

Mazinaw Lake Swim Program hiring Instructors and Lifeguards

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

Lessons run from July 3 to July 28.

Interested applicants can send their resume, cover letter, and copies of current certifications to Beth at haslere@limestone.on.ca



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SATURDAY, JULY 8 SDRA AGM

STARTING AT 9:30 - 12:30 AT PINEVIEW METHODIST CHURCH AT HWY #41 AND SKOOTAMATTA LAKE ROAD



SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 - 6TH ANNUAL LAKE FESTIVAL

STARTING AT 9:30 AT TRAILS END

SEE PAGE 28 FOR MORE DETAILS



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