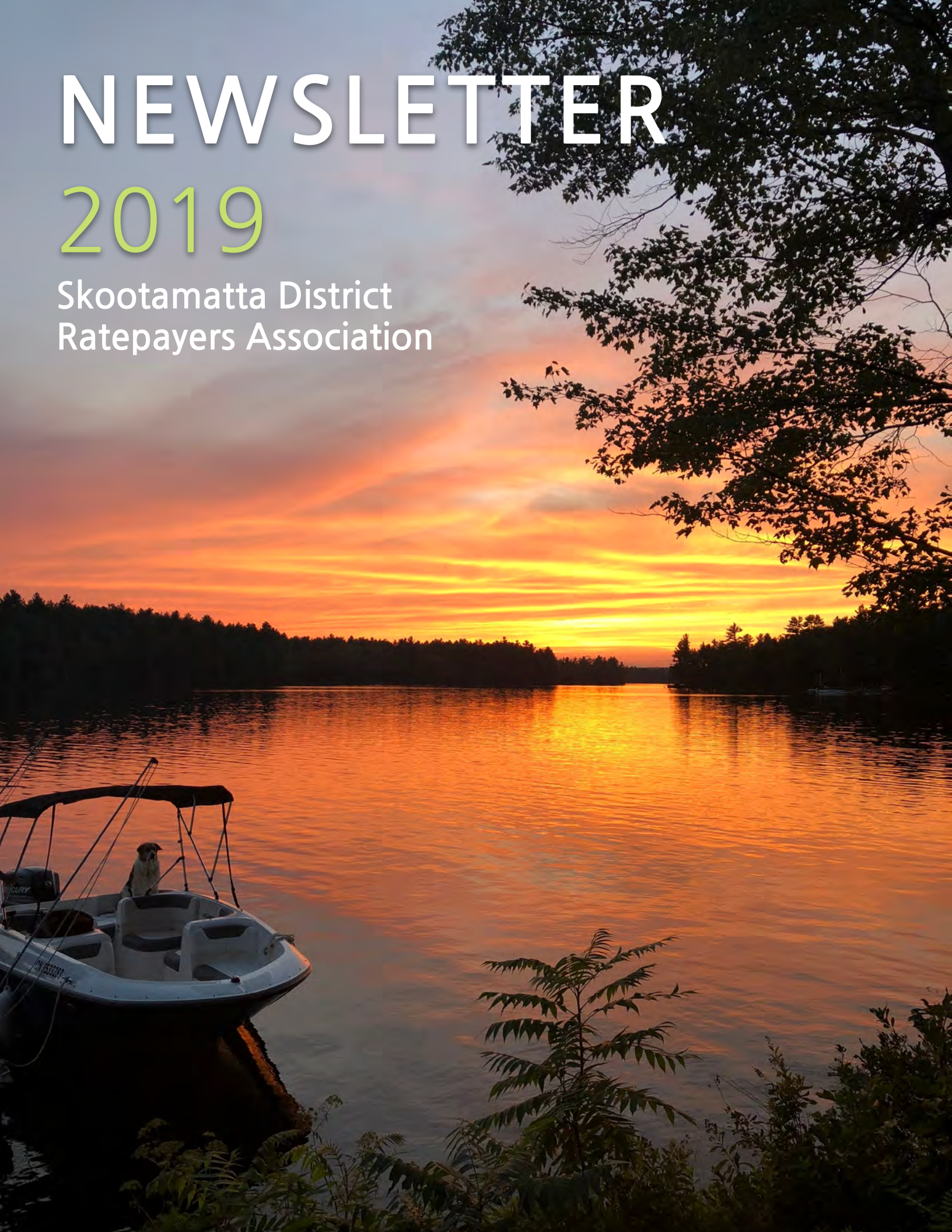


NEWSLETTER

2019

Skootamatta District
Ratepayers Association



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2019 SDRA Newsletter! Our cover this year captures one of the many spectacular sunsets we enjoyed in 2018 and includes a passenger named Sidney waiting patiently for one of many sunset cruises.

In this issue, you will read about some great history on the lake, Skootamatta Science and Lake Stewardship, the origin of the name Skootamatta Lake and much more!

The board has been very busy over the winter months reporting on our annual photo contest winners and our logo contest winner! We are looking at migrating our website to a new platform this year. We will keep you posted on when this change will be happening. We finished and published the Lake Management Plan! We know the lake is always changing so this document will be reviewed and updated in future years. It is a great accomplishment for Joel Arthurs and the team of people who worked on this document!

We welcomed Marianne Plumb to our active board this year. You will see Marianne's work in this issue of the newsletter as she created a map of the lake with common reference points in response to a member request at the AGM last year.

Since our last newsletter, the SDRA in partnership with the Township was able to repair the boards at the Trails End dock. This was a long standing request from many of our members. It was so great to see this work complete in 2018! Further improvements for Trails End are under discussion and you will hear more about those ideas at the AGM on July 6th. Hope to see you there!

Please enjoy reading all about Skootamatta Lake through the stories our team has gathered and written. It takes quite a team to put this publication together! A special thanks to Nancy Kallina for helping our Board with printing and sending the newsletter out to you before the May long weekend!

Looking forward to the summer of 2019 and those sunset cruises!



DEBBIE AWDE
PRESIDENT, SDRA

FEATURED ARTICLES

Photo Contest
Lake Festival
Blake Island
July 1st History
Curling on Skoot
Lake Steward
Skoot Science
Trails End News



SDRA Annual General Meeting: July 6, 2019

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

WHEN: Saturday, July 6, 2019

START: 9:30 a.m.

9:30-10:00 Meet and Greet (Coffee and Donuts)

10-11:45 Formal Meeting

11:45 - 12:15 Visit AGM Booths

12:15 - 1:00 Barbecue Lunch



AGM BOOTHS

- ▶ The Cloyne Pioneer Museum & Archive
- ▶ Friends of Bon Echo
- ▶ Mazinaw Lanark Forestry Inc.
- ▶ Land 'O Lakes Quilters And More!

We invite all SDRA members to our Annual General Meeting.

Please join us at the annual SDRA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 6, 2019 at Pineview Free Methodist Church (Hwy. 41 and Skootamatta Lake Road).

Catch up with your friends and neighbours from the lake over coffee and donuts from 9:30-10:00, and then take a seat to discuss key items of interest to our members.

Representatives from around the community will be present to answer your questions and share information.

Sign up to volunteer for events such as the Lake Festival and enjoy us after the meeting for a BBQ hot dog lunch, courtesy of Northbrook Foodland.

SDRA BOARD SLATE

Debbie Awde, PRESIDENT

Paul Lindsay, VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Blake, TREASURER

Christie Arthurs, SECRETARY


Joel Arthurs, LAKE STEWARD

Jackie Bleecker, WEB MASTER

Ellen Copeland, DIRECTOR

Marianne Plumb, DIRECTOR

You can view updates to the agenda and also read the minutes from the 2018 AGM on: www.skootamatta.ca.



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(F) 613 336 9492

fld6740northbrook@sobeys.com

OPEN 24 HOURS JULY-SEPT 1

BASEBALL ANYONE?

The Cloyne Senior's CO-ED Softball Team wants YOU!! We play pick-up ball at the Cloyne ball diamond (off Hwy. 41 behind the tennis courts). Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

We are mostly 50+ years old, but this is flexible.

Come out and have some fun! Just show up or contact Mike at mike.cramer3@gmail.com

2018 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

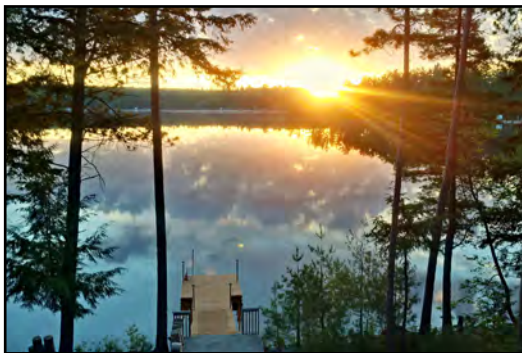
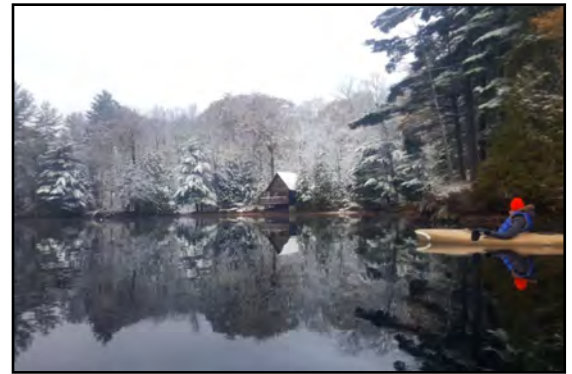


FIRST PRIZE!! 'TREE AFLAME'

by Nigel Van Loan

SECOND PRIZE! 'SNEAKING UP ON THE OCTOBER MAGIC'

by Joanne Volpe



THIRD PRIZE! 'SPECTACULAR SKOOTAMATTA SUNRISE'

by Jackie Bleecker

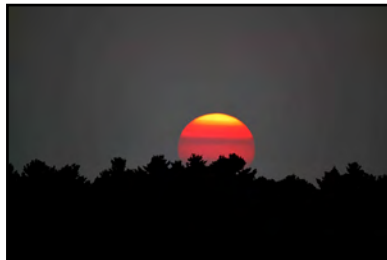


HONOURABLE MENTIONS



'Ducks on a Dock'

by Don Bailey



"Sunset Bible Island"

by Adam Schiefer



"Our Paradise"

by Patricia Detlor

Thanks so much to everyone who submitted photos to the contest this year! Congratulations to the prize winners! There were 73 photos submitted this year!

Thanks also to the members who voted for the winners this year!

[illegible]

[illegible]

2018-2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

2018-19 Treasurer's Report

Prepared by Bill Blake

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year ending March 31

	Notes:	2019	2018
Revenue:			
Membership Revenue	1	8,240	8,280
Newsletter Advertising	2	2,355	2,290
Boat Launch Intake		802	635
Interest		177	152
Total Revenue		11,574	11,357
Expenses:			
Communication		2,670	2,824
Member Events	3	2,636	2,570
Stewardship	4	850	1,720
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	5	2,243	832
Administration	6	472	369
Insurance		1,942	1,903
Assets		0	520
Total Expenses		11,313	11,238
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		261	119

Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 19,809

Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund) 20,070

Fireworks Fund

Opening	225
Contributions	4,500
Event cost	(4,500)
Closing Fireworks Fund	225
Closing Cash including Fireworks Fund	20,295

Notes:

- 1) 206 paid memberships received during the year. 207 paid memberships the prior year.
- 2) Newsletter expense largely offset by advertising revenue
- 3) Lake Festival, AGM, Pot Luck and Photo Contest prizes
- 4) Lower than previous year due to water testing being a bi-annual expense
- 5) SDRA share of repairs at Trails End Boat Launch was \$1443
- 6) Includes \$154 for web hosting

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 LAKE FESTIVAL EVENT WINNERS!

5 K Run:	1st	2nd	3rd
Boys under 16	Aidan Robertson		
Girls under 16	Lea Brossier		
Men 16 -39	Greg Garey	Adrien Brossier	
Women 16 – 39	Tara Brossier	Florence Awde	Mackenzie Robertson
Men 40 – 59	Colin Crollly	Duncan Awde	Struan Robertson
Women 40 – 59	Hilary Young	Lea Komaromi	Alison Cote
Men and Woman 60+	Ken Hook	Mary Blazey	
Swimming:	1st	2nd	3rd
Children under 7	Nolan Koehler	Finley Koehler	Naiomi Holub
7 – 8 girls	Kaycea Winslow	Stella Batteh	Zahra Batteh
7 – 8 boys	Dickson Koehler	Landon Livingston	
9 – 10 girls	Lilly Koehler	Isabella Brandiferri	
9 – 10 boys	Rory Kallina		
11 – 12 girls	Mackenzie Wilson	Stella McBride	Sarah Milani
11 - 12 boys	Aiden Salivan	Aidan Robertson	Jaxon Koehler
13 – 14 girls	Molly Robertson	Chloe Kallina	Claire Tennant
13 – 14 boys	Adam New		
15 – 19 girls	Jack Robertson		
15 – 19 boys	Haley Grennell		
20 – 29 men and women			
30 - 39 men and women	Adrien Brossier		
40 – 59 women	Susie Blatchford	Nancy Kallina	Katherine Grennell
40 – 59 men	Paul Grennell	Struan Robertson	
60 + men and women	Ken Hook	Wayne Arthurs	
Kayaking:	1st	2nd	3rd
12 and under girls	Jet McBride	Stella McBride	Sarah Milani
12 and under boys	Aidan Salivan	Aidan Robertson	Rory Kallina
13 – 17 girls	Adam New	Jack Robertson	
13 – 17 boys	Chloe Kallina	Claire Tennant	Molly Robertson
18 – 40 women	Michelle Teed		
18 – 40 men	Tyler Teed		
41 – 64 women	Sarah Alkenbrack	Nancy Kallina	Jennifer Robertson
41 – 64 men	Bill Suddick	Ken Hook	Brian Johnston
65 + men and women	John Teed		
Laddergolf:	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	Sarah Milani Jack Robertson	Aidan Robertson Aidan Salivan	Owen Kallina D'Hondt Rory Kallina
Adult	Hermann Balon Stephen Bogall	Ken Hook Cathy Hook	Tom Birnie-Wartley Peter Birnie-Wartley
Tri-Generation TRY-athlon	1st	2nd	3rd
Kayak	Jack Robertson	Bill Suddick	Eleanor Grennell
Run	Struan Robertson	Susie Blatchford	Katherine Grennell
Swim	Ken Hook	Aidan Salivan	Haley Grennell

2018 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

BY NANCY KALLINA

It is hard to believe that we will be hosting our 8th Lake Festival this year. Time has flown by since Debbie Awde, Lynn Garnish, and I strategized how we could bring back the lake regatta. Previously, there had been a number of similar events on the lake. In the 1970s and 80s, and likely even earlier, there were horseshoe tournaments, corn roasts and swim races at the Hughes General store, some sponsored by the SDRA, and some sponsored by individual families. There also were sailing regattas at other parts of the lake, and other events held at Trail's End and the Upper Lake beach. In those days, word travelled by the newsletter or word of mouth, and many were not aware of these events. Now we can notify people almost instantly. While the detail of these events are somewhat foggy in my memory, what I do remember is meeting people, lots of activity, and a friendly community feeling.



When we planned the first "Lake Festival" in 2011/12, we had a simple mission in mind: to

bring families together, and to help foster memories for the next generation. Our original framework of kids' games, running, water races, and a BBQ lunch has proven successful. We see many families returning each year, and the feedback has been positive. We are open to new ideas and leadership, so raise your



hand if you want to help, organize, or introduce new ideas.

In 2018, we changed the format slightly

to fix the kids' games to ninety minutes in order to give our volunteers the opportunity to cheer or participate in the races. This small change made a big difference to our volunteers.

Also, we introduced new minute-to-win-it games. We witnessed many children (and adults) determined to win. Come see what new activities will be offered this year.

The delicious food was again hosted and prepared by Susanne and Mike Stevens and the delightful homemade desserts were all prepared by Jill Cote. We are so fortunate to have these generous people part of our community.

To successfully put on such an event, we are at the mercy of our volunteers. So many of our original volunteers help us each year, but even though we have a number of dedicated helpers, we scramble to find enough people to help. **If you have an hour or so and are able to help, please contact me [nancy.kallina@gmail.com].** The more help we have, the easier the tasks are for everyone. This is a wonderful opportunity for high school students to get a couple of community volunteer hours.

We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and to welcoming new participants. It is worth a visit for sure! Come check it out on August 10th.

THANK YOU!

Many volunteers work together to make our Annual Lake Festival and other events successful. Without the help of all these volunteers, these events would not be the same.

Your help is appreciated by many. Thank you for being so giving of your time and energy to help make our community such a fun and vibrant part of the lake experience.

Wayne and Susan Arthurs
Andrea, Johannes and Jakob Bernhard
Susie Blatchford
Marilyn Cole
Jill Coté
Esther Demczak
Bev Donaldson
Katherine, Haley and Paul Grennell
Ken Hook
Nancy and Chloe Kallina
Jane McBride-Falby
Jyles, Jet and Anne Marie McBride
Erica and Stella McBride
Gord McCulloch (AGM)

Malcolm McCulloch
Jacob Milani
Gwynneth Morais (AGM)
Greg and Adam New
Ron and Ryan Nowell
Sue Pritchard
Molly, Jack, Jennifer and Struan
Robertson
Alan Smith
Mike and Suzanne Stevens
Claire and Bernie Tennant
Daphne Williams
Sara Young

2019 FESTIVAL

(You might want to start training...)

DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

PLACE: TRAIL'S END GROUNDS

Event Schedule:

- 9:00 am – 9:15 am Set up
- 9:15 am 5 KM registration only
- 9:30 am 5 KM run
- 10:00 am – 11:15 am Event registration
- 10:00 am – 11:30 am * Children fun games and bouncer
- 10:00 am – 11:30 am Youth Ladder Golf tournament
- 11:30 am – 2:00 pm Swim and Kayak races
- 11:30 pm – 2:00 pm Barbecue lunch

** After 11:30 am, volunteers will be relieved and the games will be parent-run for those who come late. The bouncer will continue to be supervised and the craft materials available. This is to allow the volunteers the opportunity to participate in the races and to cheer on their family members.*

The anticipated event categories are as follows. They may 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

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

Laddergolf:

10 – 18 Youth

Adult laddergolf tournament will be held at Ron and Esther's pot luck on August 17th.

Tri-Generation TRYathlon

Three 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.

Barbecue:

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



THE SDRA LOGOS

At last year's AGM, we announced that we were refreshing our merchandise logo. We opened up a contest to our members and their families to design the new logo that would be featured on the merchandise offered through Zazzle.

Apparently we have a lot of talent in our membership! We received a variety of excellent entries, and were impressed by the amount of effort that the designers put into their work.

From there, the board reviewed all of those excellent entries and made a selection that was based on the criteria set out in the original contest (clear, high resolution, no text, etc.). We considered each entry carefully, looking at the different ways that it could be used on our SDRA products. The winning entry was designed by Janet Banks, and it was inspired by the beautiful sunsets on the lake, and of course, by the loons that call our lake home. The logo is pictured here, and can also now be found on new Zazzle items at www.zazzle.ca/skootamatta.



Some have been asking what will happen to our old "business logo," now that we have an exciting new logo for our merchandising materials. We're happy to say that nothing is changing in that regard. This logo of the iconic loon was designed by Karen Stacey years ago, and has long been associated with the SDRA as it is the image that adorns our work, letterhead, and official correspondence.

Thank you to Karen for giving us this symbol which has become so recognizable by our members and the community we support.

QUINTE CONSERVATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

As with the past couple of years, we have been in ongoing conversations with Quinte Conservation to ensure that the dam stop logs are placed shortly after ice out. The SDRA Board will contact them immediately following ice out so they are aware that the lake is ice free. Quinte has always been a great organization to work with and very responsive to our many questions. Check out www.quinteconservation.ca to see all that they do, listen to their short weekly podcast, or check out their event calendar for something to do.

LIFE JACKET & PFD SAFETY



Do you have a collection of old life jackets in your shed or boathouse?

Ever wonder if they are still approved?

Do life jackets expire?

Know the Regulations: All boats in Canada must have a Canadian approved (Transport Canada or Coast Guard) life jacket or PFD for each person on board. Approved means it carries an approval label from Transport Canada or the Coast Guard, but beyond that the life jacket must be in a good state of repair, provide the right level of buoyancy and fit you and each of your passengers appropriately.

What constitutes expired? It's easy to know if your inflatable life jacket has expired since the canister is clearly labeled with a date indicating when it should be replaced. While foam life jackets don't have such a clear expiry, it is generally the foam filling that can lose some of its buoyancy over time, making the jacket less effective. In addition, any jacket which has been altered, is torn or is damaged is not approved for use.

Inspect your life jackets regularly to ensure they are safe. Make sure belts and zippers are working properly. If the foam is compressed it has likely lost some of its buoyancy. A good way to check is to pinch the foam section of the life jacket tightly to half its thickness and watch to see how quickly it recovers. You should also test its buoyancy by wearing the jacket in chest deep water and testing its ability to support you and keep your chin above water.

There are lots of resources available to help you assess your life jacket:

Check out <https://csbc.ca/en/hooded-on-life-jackets> sponsored by the Canadian Safe Boating Council for a video on life jacket inspection.

The Canadian Red Cross offers information on testing your life jacket at www.redcross.ca

Take good care of your life jackets. Keep them out of the sun, dry them after use and don't use them as seat cushions or boat bumpers. Most importantly, a life jacket can only save your life if you wear it!

Treat your life jackets with respect.

Remember they are intended to save lives!

THE BLAKE ISLAND CHRONICLES

ABRIDGED VERSION - 2019

BY JOANNE VOLPE

When I set out to capture how the founders of Blake Island came to be, I had no idea of the ripples that would be generated. Blake Island had become a special place to me and my family, largely thanks to Ken and Miki Meikle and also to Dick and Edna Blake, and I just wanted to capture the “how” of what we had grown to treasure. In 2002, I wrote Blake Island Chronicles documenting how Dick Blake had met Bob Chinnick while assigned to the Canadian Armament Research and Development Establishment (CARDE) in Valcartier, Quebec. Bob regaled Dick with stories of fishing and camping at Skootamatta Lake as a child. His dream was to build a cottage there. In 1959, Bob invited Dick and Edna



Blake to “camp through” on their way back from Algonquin Park. Dick and Edna fell in love

with Skootamatta Lake. The Blake family continued their camping vacations and in 1960, while camping at Cavendish Beach, Prince Edward Island, they met Ken and Miki (Margaret) Meikle and family. Ken and Dick’s mutual backgrounds of Naval service and Queen’s University as well as love of water and family composition, led to a lasting friendship. Both families were, at that time, stationed in Ottawa. They traveled together to Skootamatta to check out Island #6. There were 5 lots surveyed on the island and the Ministry insisted on an “all or nothing” purchase. The Blakes were then posted to Washington, D.C. Their

neighbours were Dr. Johan Cammermeyer and his wife Margret. Johan stopped in for a visit one day while Dick was showing a home movie of Island #6. Johan fell in love with it immediately, as it reminded him of his native Norway. Soon thereafter, a trip to the Land Registry Office in Tweed was made to put in the Blake/Meikle/Cammermeyer offers. It took until 1970 for survey issues to be resolved and applications approved.

Johan and Margret Cammermeyer made annual pilgrimages from Washington with their two sons to their “piece of heaven”. The property was sold in 1987 to a couple from Belleville and sold again in 1988 to Joanne and Lou Volpe who have raised their four boys, reveling in its beauty ever since.

Dick and Edna shared their summers and memories with 5 generations of family and countless friends. No matter where in the world the family was, they always felt they were “coming home” to the Island - a lovely constant through the years. Likewise, Ken and Miki shared their summers and hospitality with 5 generations of Meikle/Martin family and countless friends. Joanne and Lou are currently sitting at 4 generations of family and friends enjoying the splendor of Skootamatta.

Blake Island is named after Dick Blake’s brother, William Vincent (Bill) Blake. When Dick heard that unnamed geographic features could be named after decorated casualties, he wrote to the Federal Government seeking permission to name the Island after his brother, giving them the details of his Distinguished Flying Cross

(DFC). They approved, and Island #6 was re-named Blake Island. While William Vincent Blake received the DFC for a particular mission, the most important mission of his life, and sadly, the last, off the coast of Sweden, went unrecognized by the Canadian - or any other - Government.

A ripple effect of the Blake Island Chronicles came after presentation to the Cloyne and District Historical Society (CDHS) and the book was entered into the archives of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum in 2006. Also in 2006, an abridged version of the Blake Island Chronicles appeared in the SDRA Newsletter.

In 2007 - another ripple - the CDHS created a plaque to commemorate William Vincent Blake and it was installed on Blake Island in a ceremony on July 1, 2007. A short time later, another ripple - UK-based Kate Tome was researching stories of WWII airmen for the British website called Aircrew Remembered. She came across William Vincent Blake's story in the CDHS. Her report detailed how Bill's team were laying mines off the coast of Norway when their plane was attacked and severely damaged. Bill managed to parachute his injured and able crewmen to safety over neutral Sweden and headed his plane out to sea. His plane was eventually found, however Bill's remains were never recovered leaving his family broken-hearted and forever hopeful.

In April 2014, another ripple - John Johansson of Solvesborg, Sweden became aware of the 70th anniversary of William Vincent Blake's final mission. He convinced local Swedish authorities of the need to honour the pilot with a memorial.

In September 2015, a Hamilton Spectator Article was written about Dick Blake and his brother's final mission. Around the same time, the ripples continued as members of the Blake family were contacted by Swedish authorities and five members of the family flew to Sweden to attend

the commemorative ceremony for William Vincent Blake. Daughters Dr. Jennifer Blake and her husband Dr. Denny DePetrillo, and Christine Watson and her husband Richard, as well as Dick and Edna's granddaughter Caroline Blake, were in attendance while Dick and Edna participated via Skype. A plaque was unveiled on land. The family was taken by boat to the area where Bill's plane had gone down - a ceremony was held and a flower wreath and poppies were placed upon the ocean waters. A capsule with mementos from the family (including some from Blake Island) and a letter from Dick to his brother was put into the sea. To the final strains of Taps, the capsule slipped below the surface of the still waters. The ceremony was a proud yet emotional time for the Blake family. Finally, Dick could feel some sense of closure over the loss of his dear brother.

Sadly, Dick Blake, Ken and Miki Meikle are no longer with us but their legacy lives on. It has been an honour and a privilege to learn about life at the Island - to feel a connection to the past, to feel a path to the future - to see smiles on tiny faces when they wake up "at the cottage"; to hear the children mimic the sound of the loon or the bullfrog or the chickadee or the owl; to see how they want to share it with their cousins and friends and how, of all the places in the world they go, Blake Island is the best place on earth to be and a place where William Vincent Blake will be forever remembered. And the ripples continue...



JULY 1ST AT SKOOTAMATTA LAKE

BY LYNN OBORENE

I feel this is the most important date for my family. My father, James Ross Osborne, was born on July 1st, 1915. Seven years later, he celebrated his birthday at Loon Lake on property my grandfather, A.R. Osborne, bought in 1922. ARO was the first cottager on the lake and many of the first owners were either friends or business associates of his. After he died in 1947, my parents took ownership of "Sunset Lodge." My two brothers and I spent every summer here. Each year we celebrated Dad's birthday. A second birthday boy came along with my Mum's brother-in-law, Lorne Loney, sharing the same day.

On July 1st, 1972, we gathered to celebrate 50 years at Skootamatta Lake. Many members of the original families attended: George & Betty Pearson, Chuck & Elena Schwenger, Eleanor & Bob Lindsay, Bob Blatchford, Ron & Willie Stevens, amongst others. It was a beautiful sunny day with many memories and laughs shared. We no longer had to park at Trails End as we had a road taking us across the causeway right to the cottage door. We no longer needed the ice box nor oil lamps as we had electricity. Times were advancing, though sometimes I miss the simplicity of evenings around the fire, and playing cards like "Pennies from Heaven," "Canasta," and "Cribbage" with no television, internet, nor cell phones!

In 1974 my second son Stephen, aka David, was born on July 1st. Thereafter we had three celebrating



Grandpa and Stephen sharing their birthday cake

their birthdays around the dining room table. In 1995, again on July 1st, we gathered to celebrate 75 years at the lake.



Sunset Lodge, 1922. Loon Lake, aka Skootamatta Lake

Sadly many of the friends who came in 1972 had passed away.

Dad died June 28th, 2013, just three days from his 98th birthday. Family still came that weekend though our hearts were heavy. Lots of chatter about the "Good Old Days" and stories about Dad/Grandpa Ross. He really was an extraordinary man and I thank my parents and grandparents almost every day for finding this little bit of heaven on Skootamatta Lake.

Now, like most families, we come to the lake for the July long weekend. My four children and their families take turns coming for that weekend. David, his wife, and five children try to come to celebrate his birthday at my cottage. The original "Main" cottage belongs to my eldest brother Jim. We now enjoy decorating the pontoon boat in red & white and join in on the annual Lake Parade.

July 1st is not the same but offers new memories. The important thing is that our family loves to come here and for the past two years it is where I live throughout the year...lucky me. In 2022 our family will recognize 100 years on the lake and no doubt will host a party...here's hoping my descendants will continue for another 100 years.

CHRISTMAS AND CURLING AT THE COTTAGE

BY PAUL LINDSAY

A number of years ago my sister, Jan, and I were faced with a dilemma. Our parents were no longer able to host our Christmas get together so we needed to find another location. I had recently moved to my cottage full time so we decided to hold Christmas here. This would become an annual adventure. A new tradition. Jan and Mike would open up their cottage and her family would stay there. Her cottage is the old family cottage which is strictly a summer cottage. So heating it and working without plumbing was a challenge. They would close off the back bedrooms and hunker everyone down in the living room and upstairs bedroom. The outhouse would be the only washroom facility. Supplies were taken in by sled. It's about 500 feet from my parking area to their cottage over snow. But heating their cottage has proved to be very doable. One year after putting the new red steel roof on the cottage (which can be seen from outer space) the heat from inside the cottage also heated the roof. In the middle of the night the entire back half of snow cover came thundering down taking the kitchen



chimney and the satellite dish with it. An hour later the entire front half came thundering down.

The main meals are at my cottage. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings for 15 – 20 people

depending on the year. Work schedules dictate who can or can not be there but every year I have been amazed how hard all the nieces, nephews



and my kids try to make it to the cottage. We hold our Christmas a few days after the 25th or the following weekend. This has proved to be a very relaxing time for everyone with the Christmas rush over.

Every year we try to have some sort of outdoor activity. Bleach Bottle Curling has been the first choice each year. That has depended on ice conditions but when they are right it is a lot of fun. We spend whatever time on the ice that weather will allow or until a winner has been determined. We follow standard curling rules as best we can. Several nuances to those rules have popped up. Bleach bottles must remain upright, no sweeping because we can't, no laughing at players who miss shots. After the game we go inside for hot apple cider and discussion of the games played. My rink requires 16 bleach bottles half filled with sand, which I collected from the local dumps one year, a snow shovel and a board with screws in it to scratch circles in the ice. Once you have your bleach bottles the rest is really easy to do.

New traditions have made our family get together special. And always better when they happen at Skootamatta.

LAKE STEWARD UPDATE

BY JOEL ARTHURS, LAKE STEWARD

Well, you'd think when everything freezes that there wouldn't be much happening around the lake all winter, but instead it has been a busy winter with a new development policy, water test analysis, and a number of other topics, so let's get into it!

Shoreline Vegetation and Tree Canopy Policy

This winter, Addington Highlands passed a new development policy regarding tree canopy and shoreline vegetation. New development will require that lot clearing not be undertaken within 15 metres from the high water mark, but they recommend 30 metres. Within this zone, only a clearing 9 metres wide will be permitted leading up to the shore. This is great news for the health of the lake because shoreline vegetation keeps pollutants and silt from running off the land into the water.

The tree canopy part of the policy recommends that trees and vegetation that are removed for construction should be replaced by planting new trees and vegetation, in an alternate location.

This policy will be referenced by the Chief Building Officer during any construction/development applications.

Water Levels

In 2018, we saw water levels that were kept pretty high. Water levels for 2019 are hard to predict, but with all of the snow we saw this winter and a wet spring forecasted, the lake should start on a high note! The summer weather conditions will dictate water levels for summer and fall. Hopefully we see enough rain to keep levels steady, but not so much that we miss out on outdoor cottage time!

Water Testing

Every two years, we complete comprehensive water testing; 2019 will be the fifth such test. The data we have seen so far has been encouraging: our lake is very healthy and abundant with life. One of the more interesting things that we have discovered is that the calcium levels in Skootamatta are at such a concentration that Zebra Mussels are not able to survive in our water.

If you have any questions about water testing or would like to get involved with taking samples, please contact the board.

Boat Washing

Did you know it is actually illegal to move invasive species throughout Ontario? This includes those that hitch a ride on your boat or trailer. Be sure to give it a thorough cleaning when you pull it out of the lake. Boat washing is one of the most important things we can do to keep invasive species out of Skootamatta. If you move your boat between different water bodies, please be sure to clean your boat before moving it to another water body.

Lake Management Plan Update

After a lot of hard work, research, and fact checking, the Lake Management Plan is finally ready! A quick thank you to the LMP committee members for their contributions to the plan:

- Anders Holder
- Bob Hasler
- Sean Geddes
- Christie Arthurs
- Joel Arthurs

The Plan can be viewed on the SDRA website as a live document, and will be updated regularly as new information becomes available. Comments and suggestions are welcome!

SKOOTAMATTA SCIENCE UPDATE

BY ANDERS HOLDER

We would first off like to thank everyone for your continued support over the last 3 years. It is always great to see so many people as passionate as we are about keeping Skootamatta Lake healthy.

This year's research will be expanding to include Sheldrake Lake and the largest source to Skootamatta, Wolfe Creek. Since both of these water bodies drain into Skootamatta, we will better understand how species interact with these water bodies, and how (dis)similar these areas are compared to Skootamatta.

This year we are hoping to get enough data from each site to be able to develop a trend analysis to understand what species exist in the lake, and how these species interact with each other.

This will also help us to understand what changes are happening in the lake, such as climate change and invasive species impacts.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer on Skootamatta. If you see us around the lake, please say "Hi". We are always happy to answer any questions you have.

We can also be reached by email:
skootamattascience@gmail.com

Pictures will be posted on the Skootamatta Science Facebook page and on Instagram @anders.holder

Thanks everyone again for your continued support!

Anders

TRAIL'S END UPDATE



Last year at newsletter time, we were working with the Township on much needed repairs to the Trails End dock. As we shared in a June 2018 POP, the dock repairs were completed and we are happy to say our Trails End dock looks fantastic!

This year the SDR is undertaking another improvement project at Trails End. This time we are working on improvements to the information board at Trails End. We believe there is an opportunity to better use this board to welcome visitors to our area, share a little information about

our lake and also inform them of the "dos and don'ts" to ensure we take care of our precious lake and environs. Stay tuned for more information on the new communication board design.

LAKE REFERENCE MAP



Last year at the AGM, a member suggested that it would be great to have a map of the lake to help new members identify the locations we were discussing. Building on that suggestion, the SDR has created just such a map which shows our lakes, roads, boat launches, water pump locations and other important reference points. A copy of the map has been included on the back page of this newsletter. We hope you find it useful.

ADDINGTON HIGHLANDS WASTE SITE HOURS

	Kaladar Year Round	Cloyne Summer Hours May 15 - September 30	Cloyne Winter Hours October 1 - May 14
Sunday		9-1 and 1:30-4:30	9-1 and 1:30-4
Monday	8-12	9-1 and 1:30-4:30	
Wednesday	11-4	9-1	1-4
Friday	8-1	9-1	9-12
Saturday	8-4	9-2	
Holiday Monday*		9-1 and 1:30-4:30	

*For information on holiday closures visit the website addingtonhighlands.ca

THE MEANING OF SKOOTAMATTA...

We asked our members in a recent POP, "what do you understand Skootamatta to mean?" We had a great many responses to the question. Some leaned toward an understanding of the Ojibwa translation, others to what was passed down from grandparents, a few pulled from old documents, but for many it was truly an emotive response based on how they feel about their beloved lake.



We have created a word cloud to display the themes in a visual way. The top response was "Spilling Stars" (either "Lake of" or "River of") along with variations such as "Star Spilling Lake" or "Lake of Spilled Stars." Other popular responses included "Sparkling Water," "Burnt Shore," "Falling Stars," and "Loon."

Overall, the word cloud effectively captures the things we love and cherish about Skootamatta. Thank you to everyone who participated. We will continue to research the history and origins of Skootamatta and share the findings with you.

WEBSITE REPORT

This past year has seen a flurry of communication through the website and the SDR Facebook page. Our membership is very engaged and we want to make that experience even better. The website has served as a vital place for the SDR to communicate with members, allow for a place to buy and sell cottage stuff, and to renew your SDR memberships. Over the past year, the website has been visited more than 7000 times, with most of the activity in late November and late March. Recently, the Board decided that it was time to move the website to a new platform to make things a little easier for our Web master, and hopefully add even more features that will help our members be a part of this great community. Stay tuned for more information after the move!

Facebook serves another purpose. Members can connect and discuss things like road washouts, lost boats, and other topics of local interest. We have 311 followers, which is an increase of 60 people from the same time last year. The most popular posts have been about community events happening around the lake and ice/flooding conditions. Overall, the Facebook posts were seen over 30,000 times. The favourite post was on July 24, 2018 about the fire ban, with a reach of over 7,100 people, being shared nearly 100 times! We will continue to keep you up-to-date with all of our communication methods.

COMMUNITY BOOK SHARE

BY NANCY KALLINA

A couple of years ago, the board discussed creating a community book share, but we were unable to find an appropriate unit. It took a couple of years to find this discarded beauty. It needed new doors and some TLC, but should do just fine for the purpose.

The book share cabinet will be placed by the kiosk at Hughes Landing and Skootamatta Lake Roads between May and October. We ask that members contribute books they enjoyed (hint, this is not a depot for discarded books) and would like to share. Please record the date the book was donated or returned. This is so we can see the books that are read and to remove those that are of little interest. We will also accept puzzles for sharing (no missing pieces please).

Drop by and take a look! Who knows what book treasures you will find.



2019 EVENTS

BOAT PARADE

The **2019 Canada Day Boat Parade** will be held on **Sunday June 30**, led by Ron Nowell and will leave Trails End at 11:00 a.m.



SDRA AGM

Be sure to join us for some fun and information at the **Annual General Meeting Saturday, July 6** at 9:30 a.m. Pineview Free Methodist Church in Cloyne.



LAKE FESTIVAL

On your marks...be sure to come to our **Lake Festival** and enjoy the festivities! **Saturday, August 10**

9:30 am 5K Run Registration
10:00 am Festival begins!



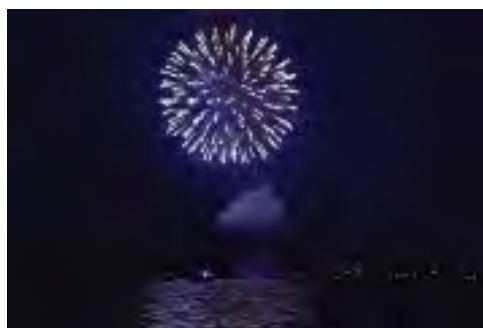
POTLUCK

Wear your wackiest T-shirt and/or hat and pull up a chair for the **Annual Pot Luck on Saturday, August 17** at 1191 Hughes Landing Road - hosted by Ron Nowell and Esther Demczak.



FIREWORKS

The **2019 Fireworks Display on Saturday, August 31 (at 8:30 sharp!)** is a great way to end the summer - Rain Date Sunday September 1.



FOOD DRIVE

On Monday, September 3 and Monday, October 14 the SDRA will be collecting food items for the Cloyne Food Bank at the corner of Hwy. 41 and Skootamatta Lake Road.



LAND O'LAKES GARDEN CLUB



BY MARY KELLY

The Land O'Lakes Garden Club meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month from April to November at the Free Methodist Church on Highway #41 in Cloyne. When we started the club we did not hold meetings in the summer months, but at the request of many seasonal visitors we changed that so that those who come to their cottages for the "season" can come to our meetings. We have some great speakers lined up and you can check out the details on our

Perennials being heeled into Elaine Miller's pumpkin patch in Fernleigh.

website at landolakesgardenclub.com. You do not need to be a gardener to join our group, all are welcome. We will be having our annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 25th at the Barrie Hall in Cloyne starting at 9:00 am sharp. The Cuddy family in Harlowe are helping us again this year and are growing tomatoes, herbs, and other veggie plants for us in their greenhouse. Their tomato varieties and other veggies are responsibly grown in a special soil mix that is pesticide free. So, don't shop at the big box stores for your tomatoes this year; buy local and help support our Garden Club for its community projects. There will also be lots of perennials for sale at very good prices. These plants are donated each year by the Garden Club members, so you can be sure they will do well in your cottage gardens.

CAMPING ON CROWN LAND

At the last AGM, one of the concerns that was raised by several members was the camping that occurs on crown land. Camping on crown land is a perfectly legal activity, however there are rules that the campers are to follow. For instance, clearing trees is not permitted, nor is littering. Staying at one site for more than 21 days is also not permitted.

In discussion with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, they advised that if any campers are seen damaging crown land,

leaving behind garbage, or outstaying their welcome, then a call should be made to the MNRF tips line.

At no point should private citizens act in the capacity of a conservation officer or attempt to enforce these rules.

Anyone can make the call to report the incident, and the MNRF will investigate. To report a natural resource violation or submit a tip, you can call the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667.

GREAT CANADIAN SKOOTAMATTA ICE CONTEST WINNERS!



April 24, 2019

Thank you to Susan Hopkins and Jackie Bleecker for watching the ice. And thanks to Gary Shortt and Susan Hopkins for sending regular water level reports.



April 26, 2019

Congratulations to our ICE-OUT contest winners!

Sean Gilmour
Matt Folling
Jason Field

Karen Stacey
Susan Arthurs
Bill Suddick

Andrew Meredith
Ken & Cathy Hook
Ed Koehler

MAZINAW LAKE SWIM PROGRAM



The Mazinaw Lake Swim Program will be running again in July, and we are proud to say that this will be our 47th year!

The program started following the death of two local siblings in 1977. The mothers in our community got together to fundraise, so that they could create a swim program to teach their children how to swim.

The program runs from July 1 - 26th at Bon Echo Provincial Park. The cost is \$100 per child for the full month, including bus transportation. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact Mary Kelly at gram@golden.net for more information.

PINE MEADOW SPECIAL NEEDS FUNDRAISING 2019

BY LAURY HITCHCOCK

Tickets for the annual Pine Meadow Special Needs Fund raffle are now on sale at various locations. The proceeds from the raffle sales go towards monthly excursions for the residents at Pine Meadow Nursing Home in Northbrook. This year the prizes are a beautiful quilt funded and constructed by the Treadles Quilting Group, and a concrete fire pit designed by Tuscany Concrete. Tickets are \$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00 and will be sold until the date of this year's **Pine Meadow Charity Golf Tournament on June 22nd**. The draw will be held at Pine Meadow that afternoon and will be announced at the tournament at Hunter's Creek. There will only be 2500 tickets printed so they may not be available for long. They are available at Bishop Lake, Nowell Motors, and at Pine Meadow, and will be sold by volunteers at local grocery stores over the next month.

The Special Needs Committee also organizes the annual Pine Meadow Charity Golf Classic at Hunter's Creek golf course. It is the biggest fundraiser that they undertake. Last year this event raised over \$20 000. Tickets for the golf tournament, which include a BBQ lunch and

green fees, are a reasonable \$55 per person, and are available through Eleanor Nowell at Nowell Motors in Cloyne. Call 613-336-2547 for information. The funds raised through the raffle and the tournament owe a great deal of their success to the support of the small business community and to families in the surrounding region. The tournament has 80 to 100 sponsors annually, and new sponsors are included each year. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please call Laury Hitchcock at 613-336-2394 or Esther Demczak at 613-336-2751.

Over its 16 year history, the tournament has raised thousands of dollars which is all directed towards extras that are not covered in Pine Meadow's funding. The home is a community owned, not for profit enterprise, under the umbrella of Land O' Lakes Community Services. This year the funds will be used for additional adjustable dining tables, wing chairs for the activity room, heel supports, wheelchair positioning rolls, outdoor storage sheds, and all of the monthly outings!

COMMUNITY DONATION

This year's communication donation has once again been directed to Land O'Lakes Community Services in Northbrook. LOLCS is a community-based, non-profit, multi-service organization that provides access to a full array of health and social services. Some of the services offered include a Women's Program, a Community Support program, and an Adult Protective Services Program. Each of these programs provides a wide range of supports, activities, and needed services to the residents of the area.

For more information about Land O'Lakes Community Services, please go to their website, www.lolcs.com or visit them on Facebook.

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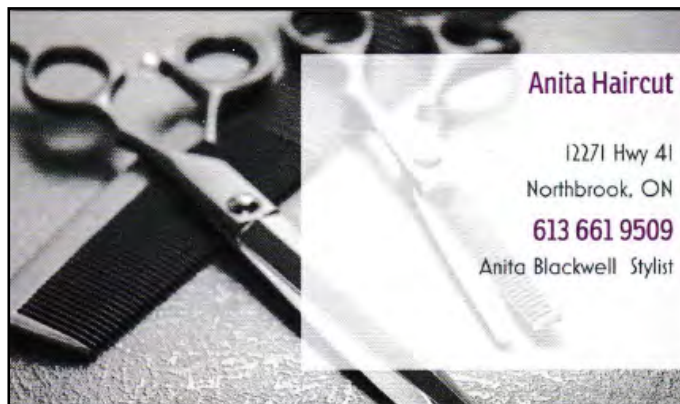
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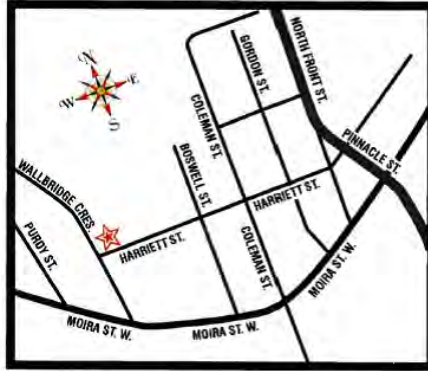


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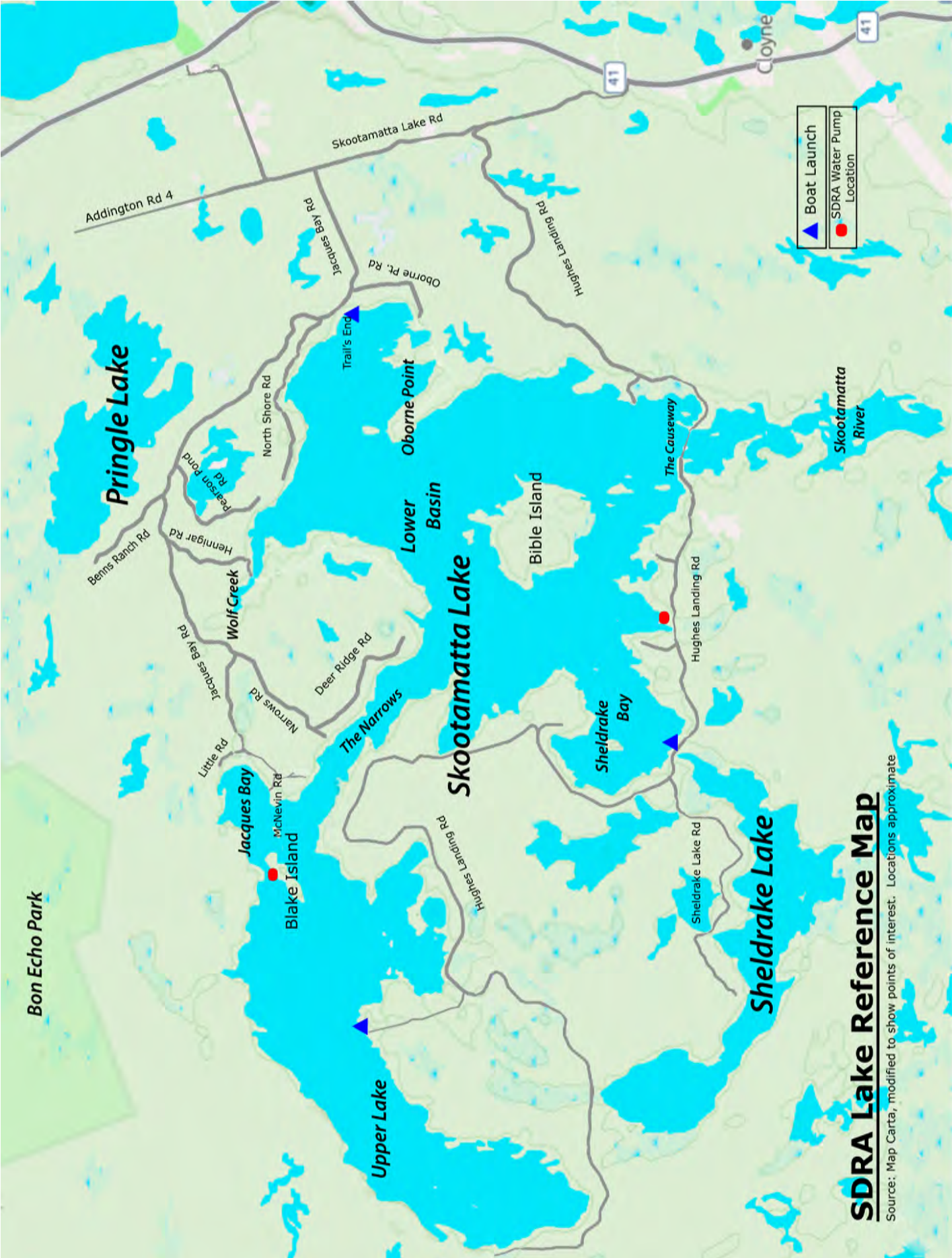
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SDRA Lake Reference Map

Source: Map Cartia, modified to show points of interest. Locations approximate