

NEWSLETTER

2020

Skootamatta District
Ratepayers Association

FEATURES:

*Going Green at the Cottage
Quinte Conservation Update
The Shaping of Bon Echo
Longtime Member Profile
The Story of a Cottage
...and more*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 was a year of many notable events for the SDRA community and 2020 promises to be no less eventful!

Spring flooding in 2019 was some of the worst many cottagers have ever seen; flooded boat houses, dislodged docks, and shoreline erosion were the most obvious impacts. Water levels stayed high most of the summer, with frequent heavy rains. This was in sharp contrast to alarmingly low water levels just a couple of short years ago.

The cottage season kicks off with the Great Canadian Skootamatta Ice-Out Contest; be sure to read about the tied results !

The Board saw a significant change last year, with the leaving of President Debbie Awde. Debbie's dedication to the community during her many years as a board member did not go unnoticed, and we hope she is enjoying some much needed time on the dock. This year, we say goodbye to Vice-President Paul Lindsay who has served for over a decade. With that, the Board is looking for new officers and directors-at-large to join. All you need is a sense of fun and a sense of humour! Stay tuned for more information.

The many events of 2019 seemed to have more participants than ever, including the Canada Day Boat Parade, Annual General Meeting, Lake Festival, and Potluck. It's great to see the community come together to enjoy these events and I hope to see even more people this year.

The fireworks sounded off at the end of the traditional Canadian summer on Labour Day weekend with the coming and going of boats being half of the excitement for those watching from their docks.

The final SDRA event of the year was the annual photo contest. I'm always amazed at the talent of our members and this year was no exception. We received 45 submissions and a 2020 calendar was designed and put up for sale on the SDRA's Zazzle store. Check out page 5 of the newsletter for the winners and pages 6-7 for a collage of all entries.

As I look forward to the coming year of the SDRA, I'm thrilled about what lies ahead and hope you'll join me in all the excitement.

Joel Arthurs, President



Updates from SDRA

Lake Festival 2019 Highlights

2020 Key Events

2019 Photo Contest Results

Lake Steward Update

Hydro Rate Changes

Ice Out Results

FOCA Information



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Arthurs'.

SDRA Annual General Meeting: July 4, 2020

Please join us at the SDRA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, July 4, 2020, at the Pineview Free Methodist Church (located at Hwy. 41 and Skootamatta Lake Road).

From 9:30 -10:00 enjoy some coffee and donuts, and catching up with other members from our community, then take a seat to discuss items of interest to our members, and hear updates from the board.

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

Find out more about volunteering at our events, such as the Lake Festival, or about joining the board.

After the official meeting, join us for a BBQ hot dog lunch, courtesy of Northbrook Foodland

CURRENT SDRA BOARD SLATE

President: Joel Arthurs

Vice President: Paul Lindsay

Treasurer: Bill Blake

Secretary: Christie Arthurs

Lake Steward: Anders Holder

Webmaster: Jackie Bleecker

Director: Marianne Plumb

Director: open

Have you ever wanted to know more about being on the Board of Directors for the SDRA? Please let us know and we'd be happy to answer any questions you have.

Ready to join the board? You can do this two ways:

1) email info@skootamatta.ca and let us know

2) volunteer to join the board during the 2020 AGM

We're always looking for more help! Thanks for considering it.



All SDRA Members are invited to join us!

WHEN: Saturday, July 4, 2020

WHERE: Pineview Free Methodist Church (Hwy 41 & Skootamatta Lake Road)

9:30 - 10:00 Meet & Greet with coffee & donuts

10:00-11:45 Formal Meeting

11:45-12:15 Visit AGM Booths

12:15-1:00 BBQ lunch

You can view updates to the agenda and also read the minutes from the 2019 AGM on: www.skootamatta.ca.

AGM BOOTHS

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



Charlene & Kevin Van Dusen
Store Owners and Friendly Neighbours

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2019-2020 Financial Statement

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Year End Report for Period Ending
March 31st, 2020

Prepared by Bill Blake

		2019-20 Year End	2018-19 Year End
Revenue:			
Membership Revenue	(1)	8,320	8,240
Newsletter Advertising	(2)	2,110	2,355
Boat Launch Donations	(3)	803	802
Other	(4)	140	177
Total Revenue		11,373	11,574
Expenses:			
Communication	(5)	3,119	2,670
Member Events	(6)	2,244	2,636
Stewardship	(7)	850	849
Community Relations	(8)	693	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	(9)	1,348	2,243
Administration	(10)	2,316	2,415
Total Expenses		10,570	11,313
Surplus or Deficit	(11)	803	261

Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks)	20,070	
Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks)	20,873	
Opening Fireworks Fund	225	
Change in Fireworks Fund	305	
Closing Fireworks Fund	530	
Closing Cash with Fireworks Fund	21,403	(12)

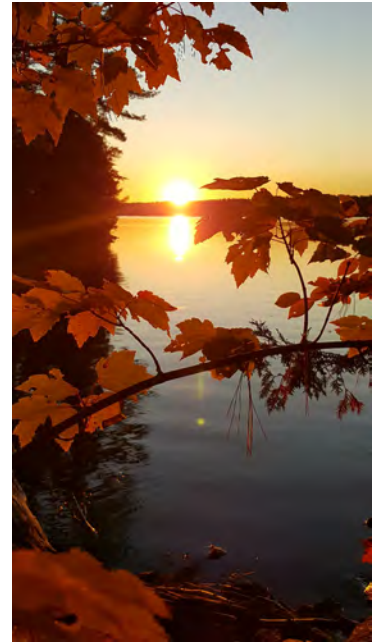
Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association Notes to Accompany Year End Financial Statements March 31st, 2020

- Revenue includes one voluntary double payment, for a total of \$40 beyond expected revenue of \$8280 for the 207 memberships
- Offsets the cost of publishing the Annual Newsletter
- Collected on a voluntary basis from boaters who launch at Trails End
- Interest on matured GIC
- Newsletter and web-site hosting
- Lake Festival, AGM, Pot Luck and Ice and Photo Competition prizes
- Membership in Federation of Ontario Cottage associations (FOCA)
- Community Services donation (\$500) and materials to build Community Library Box
- Grass cutting and new signage at Trail's End
- Liability insurance and administrative expenses
- Surplus is largely due to the result of water testing not being done in 2019. It will be used towards testing in 2020
- Closing cash includes a GIC with a face value of \$7000

2019 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



1st Place: "A Tasty Morsel"
by Adam Schiefer

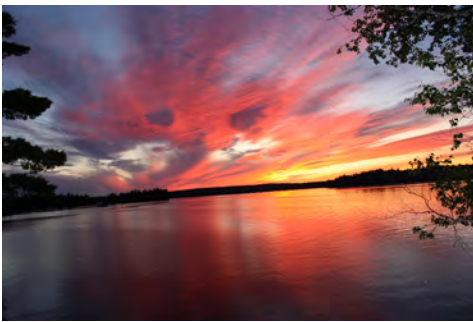


2nd Place:
"October Dusk" by
Joanne Volpe

3rd Place:
"Spring Thaw"
by Tricia
Sinclair



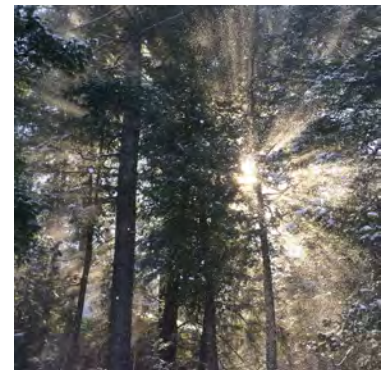
Honourable Mentions go to...



Rod Trimble

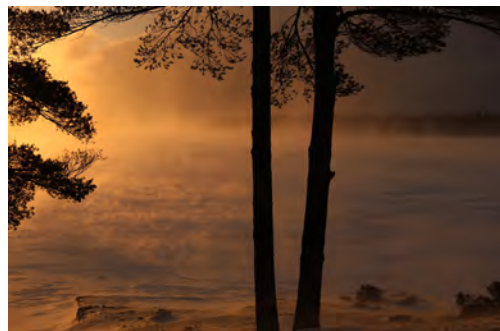


Marian White



Paul Lindsay

Gregory
Castellano

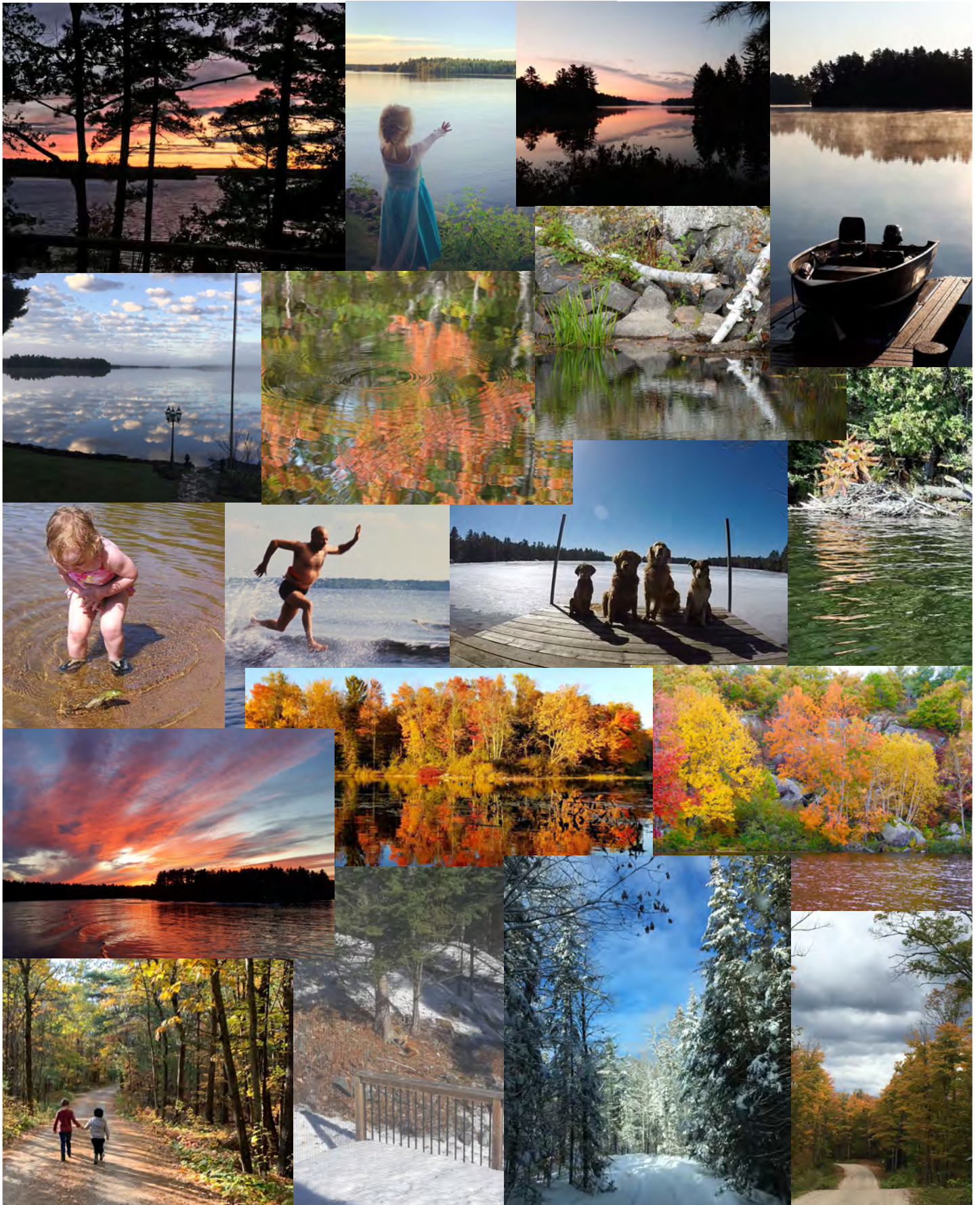


Adam
Schiefer

2019 Photo Contest Collage



2019 Photo Contest Collage



TRAILS END UPDATE



In our last Newsletter we talked about making improvements to our information board at Trail's End. We unveiled our new **"Welcome to Skootamatta Lake"** board just in time for the Lake Festival.

It was great to see our Lake Festival attendees spending time reviewing the map, meeting with other members, sharing stories and pointing out where their cottage was located.

Our new board shows a full view of the Lake, indicates important locations such as boat launches and identifies the most common fish species found in our lake. In addition to welcoming visitors, it also reminds them to help us protect our lake and environment.

" Take only memories - Leave behind only footprints"

Did you know that the SDRA maintains Trail's End grounds, parking lot and boat ramp on behalf of the Township and the Ministry of National Resources and Forestry? The boat ramp provides important boat access and is also the skidoo access to the lake. Our donation box helps generate funds for the SDRA to support our work and to fund member events.

Addington Highlands Waste Site Operating 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

An Update on Hydro Rates

In Ontario, hydro rates are made up of two main components: the electricity price and the delivery costs. The electricity price is set in November of each year, and for most customers will be shown as time-of-use, with the peak price being the highest. For seasonal customers, this is usually the lowest portion of the bill. In the off-season, this may even be zero if all of the power is shut off. At the time of publication, the time-of-use hydro rate was set to off-peak pricing

Electricity **Residential - Seasonal** **\$2.38**

This is the cost of generating the electricity you used this period. Usage is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) and depends on the wattage of devices you use and how long you use them. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) sets the cost per kWh and the money collected goes directly to the electricity generators.

What is my Time-of-Use breakdown?			
Oct 23/19 to Oct 31/19	Usage (kWh)	Rate (¢)	Amount
On-Peak	0.0504	13.4	\$0.01
Mid-Peak	0.048	9.4	\$0.00
Off-Peak	0.1812	6.5	\$0.01
Nov 1/19 to Jan 24/20			
On-Peak	2.6592	20.8	\$0.55
Mid-Peak	2.652	14.4	\$0.38
Off-Peak	14.1768	10.1	\$1.43

Delivery **\$128.33**

This is the cost of ensuring you have reliable power when you need it. Hydro One collects this money to build, maintain and operate the electricity infrastructure, which includes power lines, steel towers and wood poles covering 960,000 sq. km. A portion of this cost is fixed and a portion varies depending on the amount of electricity used.

Regulatory Charges **\$0.83**

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) uses this money to manage electricity supply and demand in the province, which is necessary to ensure that there is enough electricity to meet Ontario's needs at all times.

HST (87086-5821-RT0001) **\$17.10**

8% Provincial Rebate **-\$0.96**

Ontario Electricity Rebate **-\$38.03**

Total of your electricity charges **\$109.65**

around the clock, due to the pandemic.

The second portion of the bill is set once a year, usually by January 1st. This is primarily delivery costs, which has been moving towards 100% fixed pricing, instead of paying based on how much you use. This will usually make up the majority of the bill.

In 2015, the Ontario Energy Board ordered Hydro One to eliminate the Seasonal Rate class, which is how most cottagers are

billed, and move all customers to a density-based rate class. The rationale was that all customers should be billed based on how much it costs Hydro One to transmit electricity to the customer. For SDRA members, this would mean moving to a low-density rate class, which is the most expensive. For those customers that use the least amount of energy, this would have meant a hydro bill increase of up to 177% (FOCA, 2020). In addition to this, there are credits provided to low-density year-round customers. As the cottage is not the primary residence for most cottagers, they would not be eligible for these credits.

Since 2015, there has been considerable discussion between Hydro One and the Ontario Energy Board, with advocates such as FOCA voicing their opinion on behalf of all Ontario cottagers. After nearly four years of back and forth, the Ontario Energy Board has agreed to reconsider the elimination of the seasonal rate class. While we don't know how this will turn out, it is evident that the engagement by both private citizens and organizations like FOCA has had a significant impact on the proceedings.

Source: FOCA, 2020. Electricity Pricing. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>

LAKE STEWARD UPDATE

BY ANDERS HOLDER, LAKE STEWARD



Common Yellowthroat

Thank you for all your kind support throughout my first year on the SDRA Board. I have enjoyed this past year getting more acquainted with neighbours and fellow cottagers, fielding questions on the health of the lake, and continuing my research on Skootamatta. I look forward to another productive year and welcome any and all questions related to Skootamatta and the watershed.

Water levels:

Skootamatta Lake has seen quite a variance in water levels over the past few years. From low water levels in 2017, to highs in 2019, this roller coaster does not appear to be stopping. The most current climate change modeling scenarios predict increasing precipitation in the winter and spring, with reduced precipitation in the summer and fall. Since Skootamatta is reliant solely on precipitation (little to no groundwater recharge), we expect to continue to see these dramatic changes to the lake levels seasonally.

Water Temperature:

In addition to the increase in precipitation, temperatures are also on the rise. This summer, at several locations throughout Skootamatta, record water temperatures were recorded. On July 11, 2019 a recorded temperature in lower Skootamatta reached 29.9C. While we think warmer temperatures mean a longer summer and more swimming days, we also need to consider the impact this is having on the biodiversity of the lake. These warmer temperatures can facilitate the growth of nuisance algae, which have been known to cause harmful algal blooms in other lakes. The main reason for these blooms is due to excessive nutrient inputs into the lake. It is vital to the health of the lake that cottagers take these three steps to reduce their impact on the lake:



View from Bible Island



Northern Redbelly Dace

1. Avoid using fertilizers on your property:

Most fertilizers are comprised of phosphorus and nitrogen, the two key ingredients to support algae growth

2. Naturalize your shoreline:

Having at least 2m (6ft) of naturalized shoreline (native plants) on your waterfront property will reduce the direct spread of excess nutrients from entering the lake. The Township also enacted a policy regarding shoreline vegetation, and it reads;

"Natural vegetation buffers should be at least 15 metres to 30 metres in depth measured from the high- water mark. Maximum clearing for access should be no more than 9 metres."

3. Routine septic inspections:

Ensuring your septic is not leaking and functioning normally will greatly reduce both the nutrient input into the lake, but also the presence of E.coli and other fecal coliforms.

Fish health/Stocking:

While we know there are walleye being caught, this is becoming a rarer occurrence. There have been inquiries as to whether we can stock walleye in the lake, or consider other options, such as trout or splake. The challenge is that stocking may not be the answer to a sustainable population of game-fish. We know from recent research that the lake is quite healthy, with a variety of fishes of varying ages, and adequate water quality parameters to support these species. The primary issue with stocking cold water species, such as trout, is that the water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels may no longer be adequate to support these species. An independent study is planned to conduct temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements over the course of the next two years, pending funding.



Northern Pike

Water Testing

Due to several factors last fall, our water quality testing was unable to happen. Fortunately, the testing kits are still viable and will be used this season. We will notify members where and when we are doing the water testing, so if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Looking forward to another spectacular cottage season!

All Photos Credit: Anders Holder

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS AT THE 2019 LAKE FESTIVAL!

5 K Run:	1 st (Time min.sec)	2 nd (Time min.sec)	3 rd (Time min.sec)
Boys under 16	Aidan Robertson (26.04)		
Girls under 16	Lea Brossier (26.10)	Molly Robertson (37.10)	
Men 16 -39	Greg Garey (17.04)	Adrien Brossier (18.31)	Brian Gaucher (19.26)
Women 16 – 39	Solstice Saliba (21.36)	Tara Brossier (23.18)	Florence Awde (23.29)
Men 40 – 59	Paul Grennell (24.10)	Duncan Awde (25.01)	Struan Robertson (26.02)
Men and woman 60+	Ken Hook (21.31)		
Swimming:	1st	2nd	3rd
Boys under 7	Gavin Holub	Grant Irvin	Sam Black
Girls under 7	Marley Drudge	Mya Drudge	Tabitha Koehler
7 – 8 girls	Naomi Holub	Aurelie Brossier	Abby Koehler
7 – 8 boys	Luka Kasumovic	Finley Koehler	Nolan Koehler
9 – 10 girls	Lily Koehler	Kaycea Winslow	
9 – 10 boys	Luke Koehler	Dickson Koehler	
11 – 12 girls	Stella McBride	Sarah Milani	
11 - 12 boys	Aidan Robertson	Rory Kallina	
13 – 14 girls	Mackenzie Wilson		
13 – 14 boys	Aidan Salivan	Adam New	
30 - 39 men and women	Adrien Brossier		
40 – 59 women	Nancy Kallina	Daphne Williams	
40 – 59 men	Bernie Tennant		
60 + men and women	Ken Hook		
Kayaking:	1st	2nd	3rd
12 and under girls	Stella McBride	Sarah Milani	Sydney Winslow
12 and under boys	Aidan Robertson	Rory Kallina	Luke Koehler
13 – 17 girls	MacKenzie Wilson	Molly Robertson	Claire Tennant
13 – 17 boys	Adam New	Aidan Salivan	
41 – 64 women	Nancy Kallina	Erica McBride	Diana Milani
41 – 64 men	Ken Hook	Paul Grennell Greg New	
Ladder Golf:	1st	2nd	3rd
Youth	Rory Kallina Aidan Robertson	Molly Robertson Claire Tennant	
Adult	Susan Arthurs Dorthey Knox	Dom Vetere Dianne Hering	Jan and Frank Schram
Tri-Generation TRY-athlon	1st	2nd	3rd
Kayak	Wayne Arthurs	Shelley Alkenbrack	Greg New
Run	Lea Brossier	Aidan Robertson	Rory Kallina
Swim	Adrian Brossier	Paul Grennell	Ken Hook

2019 Lake Festival Highlights

BY NANCY KALLINA



The day of the 2019 Lake Festival started out cool and damp, and did not warm up from the usual August heat. Spectators, participants, and volunteers arrived in sweatshirts instead of t-shirts and sunhats, and many kept them on the entire day. Sometimes opting to skip entering the races because the water was too cold. But those that did participate put on a show for the many spectators.

This was the 8th Annual Skootamatta Lake Festival, after beginning with the first one in 2012. In the beginning, we had a handful of organizers and we begged for volunteers. Most of the first-year volunteers continue to help us every year afterwards, and we gathered a few more helpers over the years that followed. Our volunteers are valuable and give of their time selflessly. I intended to feature these loyal volunteers and photographed each one, but alas all my pictures turned out over-exposed and not usable. But I will forge on and highlight them anyway.

Debbie Awde: Together with Lynn Garnish and myself, Debbie helped sculpt the festival concept in 2011. She is the busiest person I know, being a mother of three active daughters and a senior manager at TD Bank; while also being the past president of the SDRA for eight years. Debbie is a key volunteer at the festival, helping from set-up to take down with whatever is required, often dragging along one of her daughters to help with the kids' games.



Daphne Williams: When I first mentioned the idea of the festival to Daphne, she immediately and enthusiastically signed on. I knew exactly what to assign to her: race coordinator and overall Master of Ceremony. The job was made for her; she is confident, engaging and motivating. She moves the races along while cheering for everyone. Daphne's day starts early and with the help of her family, including her three daughters and husband Paul Grennell, sets up the race markers. Also, being a physician, she is our backup first aid person which she does together with Cheryl Rattray, another volunteer and lake guest who helps whenever she is visiting.

Jennifer Robertson: Jennifer, whose children were young when we started the festival also offered to help, and has been the main coordinator of our kids games. Being a primary school teacher, she knows the types of activities that appeal to kids. Jennifer, together with her three children, purchase the supplies and set up the games. Her daughter, Molly, creates the signs and festival banner, and her husband, Struan, helps ensure the children are safe in the water.



Katherine Grennell: Katherine, who is a speech and language therapist, is also artistic. Katherine, together with her daughter Claire, take on the task of selecting, procuring, and organizing the craft activity every year which involves creating samples to display. Some of her past projects include a collective banner, tie-dye t-shirts, rock painting, and cottage inspired paintings. Katherine's husband Bernie Tennant is my reliable race spotter, often spending hours on the water in the hot sun.

Erica McBride and Jane McBride-Falby: Erica and Jane were the first to reply to our call for volunteers, and brought with them a number of family members to help each year, including Stella, Marty, and Anne-Marie McBride. Their team reliably arrives early to set up and coordinate the kids games, including testing new game ideas. Erica also provides valuable feedback and encouragement.

Jill Cote: Jill's contribution warms my heart every year. Jill has grown up in the community and is our postmaster. At the start of the first festival, she arrived with many large tins filled of cookies, squares and other delectable treats donated for everyone to enjoy. She has done this every year, without me asking, although always hoping. One year, a family reunion conflicted with the festival, but she prepared the treats anyway. The kids go crazy for her desserts; they are a real delight.

Suzanne and Mike Stevens: We try to give lots of praise and appreciation to Suzanne and Mike because their contribution is remarkably generous. Owners of the successful Napanee business, Country Traditions, Mike and Suzanne not only donate all the food; they also prepare the accompaniments and barbecue the burgers and hot dogs that usually include a vegetarian option. They even bring the barbecue and tables.



Lorraine and Olof Saliba: Lorraine and Olof have helped us in many ways for several years. Lorraine is a master at keeping the swim races organized and Olof, together with their children have managed the kids activities.

Rod and Cynthia Trimble: Rod and Cynthia reside next to Trails End. At earlier festivals, Rod was a spotter for the swim races. It was not until last year that I realized the extent of Rod and Cynthia's help behind the scenes by cleaning the beach before the day. I was astonished by the debris that landed on the shore and the clean-up job is laborious. They have cleaned the beach for us every year without any recognition.

Ken Hook and Wayne and Susan Arthurs: After the first few years, Ken approached us asking if we were interested in having a community run as part of the festival activities, and offered to work out the logistics and coordinate the route. Since then, we start the day with an arduous 5 KM run that has proficient runners panting. When it became apparent that we needed someone experienced to record the runners as they finished, Susan and Wayne Arthurs stepped in and have managed that task expertly each year.



Don Stafford and Al Smith: From the beginning, both Don and Al offered their assistance with the messy jobs such as setting up tents, moving water cases, cleaning up, and disposing of the garbage. Whenever they are available, they arrive to help. Sadly, Don and his family sold their cottage last summer.

Greg New: Finally, my suffering husband who tolerates my fretting and mercurial moods, allows random items to be added to our shopping list, and packs and schleps the numerous large and small items to the festival site, year after year.



Many more members have assisted us over the years, and we appreciate everyone's support because without this wonderful group of volunteers this event would not be possible.

At the time of writing this summary, Festival 2020 is uncertain as we wait for the current situation to unfold. However, we look forward to our next festival either this year or next for us, to come together to celebrate the lake community.



Thank you to all of our SDRA Volunteers!

Where would we be without the hard work of our volunteers? Up the lake without a paddle, that's where. Our volunteers are amazing and they often work quietly behind the scenes to make so much happen, all year long.

The newsletter wouldn't get out the door without volunteers submitting content, organizing the printing, stuffing envelopes, and mailing more than 250 newsletters. At the AGM, we have people handling the coffee and muffins, working the membership table, providing a bbq for lunch, and doing the actual cooking. At the end of the meeting, many hands make for light work as we put away chairs and tables to leave the space spotless. The Lake Festival, our biggest event of the year, is all because of the tireless efforts of volunteers. Managing the registration table, water station for runners, ladder golf, kids centre, water race safety, bbq, and awards ceremony make for an event that has been a success every year and would never happen without these great people. The Potluck at Ron and Esther's was a great success, with lots of food, ladder golf, and great conversations. The end-of-summer fireworks might seem like a simple event, but without volunteers to coordinate and maintain traffic before and after the show, the event could not go as smoothly as it does.

So thank you to our volunteers, the dozens of you, that put in your time to help run these great events. If you want to volunteer, just check out our website and sign-up for one of the above events or ask where we could use help. There is never a shortage of need!

Wayne Arthurs	Erica McBride	Maeve Rose
Susan Arthurs	Gord McCulloch	Olof Saliba
Debbie Awde	Jan Marconi	Solstice Saliba
Jill Coté	Rob Marconi	Don Stafford
Esther Demczak	Gwynneth Morais	Mike Stevens
Katherine Grennell	Greg New	Suzanne Stevens
Paul Grennell	Adam New	Claire Tennant
Ken Hook	Ron Nowell	Bernie Tennant
Nancy Kallina	Molly Robertson	Rod Trimble
Rory Kallina	Aidan Robertson	Cynthia Trimble
Dave Lindsay	Jennifer Robertson	Daphne Williams
Jane McBride-Falby	Struan Robertson	

2020 Lake Festival Preview

On your marks, get set....

Saturday, August 8, 2020 at the Trails' 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 15th.

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.



GOING GREEN AT THE COTTAGE

As a member of the SDRA community, you probably have a personal connection to the natural environment that surrounds you. Whether it's the lake, the trees, or the many species of animals that we share our space with, we are all stewards of the environment and it's up to us to preserve it for now and the future. Cottage property, and especially waterfront property, is unique and some of the things we may do in the city can be damaging to the cottage environment.

Some Like it Hot

There's nothing quite like a warm, dry cottage when you've been working outside in the cool temperatures of spring or fall, or that smell of the wood stove on a crisp morning with a cup of coffee. While wood burning fireplaces and stoves are actually considered "green" heating solutions, that may not always be the case. Wood burning produces particulate matter that floats in the air and can contribute to breathing problems and smog. While your little stove in the corner may not produce much, every effort to reduce these particulates helps. Newer wood stoves and fireplaces are airtight and burn more efficiently, releasing the heat into the room, instead of out the chimney. They also burn hotter, so less particulate matter actually makes it outside. If you are thinking of adding electric heat, so you don't have to chop all that wood, consider an air-source heat pump. These systems, during the spring and fall, are up to 350% efficient, whereas baseboard heaters are 100% efficient. In the winter their efficiency drops, but still outperforms baseboard heaters. As with all heating solutions, consider adding insulation to walls, floors, and ceilings, where possible. Replacing old windows and doors and sealing air gaps will help to keep some of that heat inside as well.



Getting Down and Dirty

Whether you are doing laundry, scrubbing toilets, or even taking a shower, what you put down your drain goes back into your septic and the environment. Septic systems rely on bacteria to break down all of the solid matter that goes down the drain. These bacteria can be killed by normal household cleaning and bathroom products, such as bleach and detergents, resulting in systems that need to be serviced more often. If there is a leak in your septic system, these harmful agents could end up in the ground or water, harming both plant and wildlife. There are many septic-safe biodegradable cleaning and bathing products on the market at an affordable price, that work just as well as regular household options. Replacing your products with these alternatives is just one way to save your septic and the environment.

Food Rot Waste Not

Most cottagers worry about bears or raccoons when they think of composting. There are a few ways to limit these kinds of encounters, while also reducing how much goes to the landfill. Can you safely compost food waste at the cottage? Cottage Life answered this question:

Yes. Assuming you compost appropriate materials (for example, vegetables, breads and grains, tea bags, coffee grounds, egg and nut shells, yard trimmings, leaves) and don't include any meat, seafood, fats, oils, bones, dairy, diapers, or pet wastes. What about fruit, you ask? It's good fodder for the pile, but when rotting, it smells strong and sweet. So, for bear-proof compost, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources recommends that you avoid adding it. (Cottage Life, 2017)

Using an elevated composter, like the one pictured makes it easy to move the composter around, clean it out in the fall, and store it for the winter in a shed. It's also simple to turn the compost regularly, improving the digestion process. Because composting can attract animals, it's best to place it far from the main cottage. The rich black compost can be used in both flower and vegetable gardens, or to feed worms for the fishing season. Each cottager will have a different comfort level with composting and it's recommended that you do your own research. The above are guidelines only.



Cottage Life (2017, Jun 12) Can I safely compost garbage without attracting bears?
<https://cottage.life.com/outdoors/can-i-safely-compost-garbage-without-attracting-bears/>

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Our New Website

The beginning of last year saw a few hiccups with the website, so our apologies for that. We moved to a new platform, and that transition should have been more seamless. Unfortunately it ended up requiring quite a bit of effort and some trial and error to get right. With that being said, we are up and running and I hope you'll agree that the new layout makes it easy to navigate. If you haven't had the chance to see some of the new and improved features, take a look and provide your feedback. There's a new Marketplace, a simplified Advertising portal, and a simpler interface for our Webmaster to post new content. The website is ever evolving, so stay tuned as we continue to make improvements and offer new content. Since the new platform went live, the website

has been visited over 4,500 times, with the photo contest being the most popular reason for visiting.

Facebook

Facebook continues to be another primary source of communication to both our members and local community. Many of our communications will appear on our Facebook Page in the hopes that you'll share it to your network and encourage other lake residents to join as SDRA members. It's a great way to get and stay engaged with the SDRA board and cottage community. Come check it out.

Instagram

We recently started an Instagram account too. Tag any of your lake pictures that you want to appear with @skootamatta_district.

A Lifetime of Memories at Skootamatta: Profile of Don Hall

BY MARY JANE SELLE

Don Hall first visited Loon Lake in 1945 as a 14-year-old boy. Since then, the now 89-year old retiree has never missed a summer at the lake.

"My parents, Laurice and Martha Hall, my sister, Dodie, and I drove from Buffalo to stay at the newly-opened Loon Lake Lodge owned by Paul and Fran Sowden, which only consisted of five cottages and the main lodge. Loon Lake Lodge eventually grew to a total of 13 sleeping cabins and the main lodge over the years," Hall says.

He admits he didn't have a big impression about the lake during that first outing. "I hadn't done much fishing and the lake was a long, eight-hour drive from Buffalo. We'd leave at 3 a.m. and drive all night." However, he soon grew to love the lake. "That was the beginning of our annual fishing trips. I stayed at Loon Lake Lodge for 25 years and even brought my new bride, Barb, here on our honeymoon."



Don Selle, Ted Shand and Don Hall celebrate a successful fishing trip in August, 1978.

One of his favorite fishing stories is when a group went to Sheldrake Lake for fishing and a shore dinner. "Fran Sowden set up a pork chop dinner

but our guide, Walter Meeks, realized we were one pork chop short. So I said, 'I'll catch a fish for dinner.' I cast out, snagged a three-pound walleye and brought it up. The fish fell at Walter's feet. He reached out, grabbed the fish, pulled out his hunting knife, filleted the fish, and had it in the pan within 30 seconds." Don claims he had the freshest fish he ever caught.

In the mid-1960s, Hall and his longtime best friend, Don Selle, began taking their families on week-long fishing trips at Skootamatta Lake. Soon, the two buddies realized they would like to get their own cottage. While looking for a site, the pair stopped in to visit the Sowdens who suggested they talk to Cliff Weeks at Trail's End since he was working in real estate.

The three men went to the western part of Skootamatta (Sheldrake Bay) to look at a spec cottage that eventually was owned by Carl and Marian McWilliams. Two other families already had their cottages under construction and there was one lot available.

Hall and Selle realized that the spec cottage would not have enough room for their families, which included a total of six children, so eventually they worked out a deal with Ernie Tully to buy the vacant lot and have him build a cottage in April 1968. Since Don Hall was a construction manager for a hotel corporation in the States, he dictated the specifications for the cottage, hoping to have the cottage ready by Memorial Day. However, due to some delays, the cottage wasn't ready till the end



Original Hall-Selle cottage in 1968.

of June. "My wife, Barb, and our two kids, Kathy and Keith, along with Dottie Selle and their four kids, Tod, Cindy, Debbie and Dan moved in that summer," says Hall. "We didn't have any inside doors installed, just curtains on the bathroom and four bedrooms and it was open rafters. Everyone was very happy when we installed a ceiling along with a door to the bathroom."

The two moms and six kids stayed at the cottage from the end of school until Labour Day every summer until the late '70s when the kids started going to college. The fathers came up for long weekends during the summer as their work schedules allowed. Don Selle passed away in 1995 followed by Dottie in 2012.

"We've had five generations of Halls here," says Hall, "along with many friends from our motor home days – hundreds of visitors. The question they always asked was: 'how did you find this place?'"

When asked where his favorite fishing hole on the lake was, Hall laughs and says, "I don't tell. All I can say is that it's over by the pine tree

and that rocky point."

Macular degeneration has blinded Hall, but he was able to catch a four-pound smallmouth bass last year with the assistance of his son, Keith, Tod Selle and Ted Shand. "We told him how far and where to cast and he laid it in there perfectly," says Keith.

Jitterbugging has always been Hall's favorite way of fishing. "At night, when it's so quiet that you can hear the jitterbug gurgling away and the bass come up to hit it, it's wonderful."

In 2018, the 50th year of the Hall-Selle cottage was celebrated along with the Banks and O'Connor families who had populated the small bay. Eleven of the fourteen original "kids" came from Texas, Ohio, Ontario, and New York. Former cottage owner Marian McWilliams was a special guest. "We were glad to have her here since she was always so kind to put up with the gang of kids who ran through her yard every summer," says Hall.

"There are so many good memories here," Hall says. "Don Selle is the only person I

would have done this with. We didn't see a lot of each other throughout the year, but we knew we'd have our time together each summer at the lake."



Don Hall (standing), Barb Hall and Dottie Selle with one of the many pieces of art that decorates the cottage.

LAND O'LAKES GARDEN CLUB

BY LYNN OBORNE, CHAIR

After a long winter, I am sure we are all looking forward to sunnier and warmer weather to get our growing season started. Whether it is vegetable gardens, potted plants, or hanging baskets, I think we are all



anxious to see the beauty and feel the satisfaction that gardening can bring us.

Our club will be beautifying our community by planting more

than 30 planter boxes that can be seen at many of our local businesses. We also plant and take care of the gardens at the Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery and Barrie and Harlowe Halls. We caringly plant and tend to the gardens at our local nursing home, Pine Meadow in Northbrook, where the residents thoroughly enjoy and appreciate our hard work.

Not only do we plant planter boxes and tend to local gardens, but our members offer a fun project twice a year to children at LARC (Lennox and Addington Resources for



Children). They have made Fairy Gardens, decorated live tiny Christmas trees, made a Jack and the Beanstalk in which they planted bean seeds, and last December made and decorated a Santa sleigh. Our goal is to encourage children to learn about planting and to see for themselves how their plant creations flourish, all while having fun!

We meet on the second Thursday of each month, from April to November at the Pineview Free Methodist Church on Highway 41 in Cloyne. To learn about the guest speakers and topics please check out our website, landolakesgardenclub.com. Come on out to

our next meeting where you will learn something new, meet and make friends and enjoy a cup of tea and goodies.



We have many interesting speakers lined up for 2020, however, due to the global health crisis, our regular calendar of events has had to change. Notice of future speakers will be on our website and in the North Frontenac newspaper.

The Great Canadian Skootamatta Ice Contest

What started as a whim has grown into a much anticipated contest each spring. A few years ago I was wondering to myself what date the ice would go out. I put that wonder into a POP and almost immediately started getting guesses back from members. Thus began the contest. I get around 100 guesses each year. This year topped out at 121. It's really about bragging rights, but prizes have been donated by various members each year which make it that much more fun. This year the ice went out on Monday, April 13, 2020. The winners will compete for the ultimate prize at the AGM through some sort of ridiculous run off that I come up with. Our winners this year are:

Cathy Koehler, Gord Kissman, Joanne Volpe, Bob Perrin, Carolyn McCullough and Marilyn & Roger Cole. Thank you to Gary & Kathy Shortt for their donation of the contest prize for the past three years.



Mazinaw Lake Swim Program



The Mazinaw Lake Swim Program (MLSP) will be running again this year and we are proud to say that this will be our 48th year! The program started following the drowning death of two local siblings in 1972. The mothers in our community got together to fundraise so that they could create a swim program to teach their children how to swim and MLSP has been running ever since. The dates this year are from June 29th to July 24th at Bon Echo Provincial Park. The cost is \$100 per child for the full month and this includes bus transportation with pick up points at various locations. If you are interested in registering a child please contact Mary Kelly at yram@golden.net for more information.

Attention Baseball Players!

Cloyne Seniors Co-ed Softball wants YOU!
Ages 55+ (we make exceptions)

All skills levels welcome. Team selection is informal/random.

We play at the Cloyne Baseball Diamond on Tuesdays evenings at 6:30 and on Friday mornings at 9:30.

Contact Mike at mike.cramer3@gmail.com or Shane at shanebeth2@gmail.com

OR JUST SHOW UP!

Note that this is dependent on the COVID-19 situation. An SDRA POP will be sent out as a reminder of our start date (TBA).

Ron & Esther's SDRA Potluck

A quick phone call to Ron Nowell and Esther Demczak resulted in a very enthusiastic speaker phone conversation with both of them about the Annual SDRA Potluck. Ron and Esther have hosted this potluck on behalf of the SDRA at their home for the past 18 years. It's an event that many members look forward to each year with an average attendance of 60-70 people. It has maxed out at about 100 on a couple of occasions. Fortunately, Ron and Esther have a very large, open yard that can easily handle that many people. Folks arrive by boat and car from all over the lake. It is a great opportunity for members of all ages to renew friendships and make new friends. Your friends who may be visiting are also welcome.



The potluck goes ahead rain or shine. They have only had to move the event indoors on one or two occasions due to rain. Dusk will bring the mosquitoes out and force people indoors but that deluge eventually ends and everyone can gather around the bonfire, which can go on to the wee hours of the morning.

The potluck has had many highlights over the years. Themes like a Pig Roast Luau, Red & White Canada 150, Redneck and Crazy Shirt & Wacky Hat Day

add fun to the day. A Scavenger Hunt was held one year and a Beauty Pageant another. Kent Farrow was the winner of that Pageant, with Hugh Rose being the disappointed runner up. A Ladder Golf Tournament has been part of the afternoon for the past several years.



And what would a potluck be without food? The potluck meal always features a vast selection.

Everyone outdoes themselves with a great array of dishes to add to the table. There is always lots of food to go around. If you leave hungry, then you weren't paying attention!

Thank you Ron and Esther for doing this every year. Mark August 15 on your calendar for this year's potluck.

GREETINGS FROM QUINTE



We are looking forward to another year of supporting your lake group's goals for a healthy watershed. From providing guidance on protecting lake water quality, to monitoring flood and drought conditions so that you and your property remain protected, our staff are here to help! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have. Staff can be reached by calling the main office at 613-968-3434 or by email info@quinteconservation.ca.

FLOOD FORECASTING

Flooding may occur at any time and can happen when rivers and lakes swell to accommodate runoff caused by snow melt, rain, and storm events. Quinte Conservation aims to reduce the threat of loss of life and property damage caused by flooding through flood warnings, flood forecasting, and the operation and maintenance of flood control structures. Current water level data is available on the website at www.QuinteConservation.ca. Residents can report flooding by calling the main office and listening to the prompts.



Skootamatta Dam

THE SKOOTAMATTA LAKE DAM

The Skootamatta Lake Dam (owned by MNRF) is located on the Skootamatta River system (a tributary of the Moira River) and is one of 39 Water management structures operated by Quinte Conservation. The dam's primary

purpose is to control the lake's water level for recreational, fish, and wildlife benefits as well as to provide low-flow augmentation and flood control for the Skootamatta River. An Operations Manual guides when and how operations occur and staff will continue to update the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association when those operations happen.

ADDRESSING DROUGHT

Many extreme weather events, ranging from ice and wind storms to flooding and drought, have occurred throughout the Quinte region over the last decade. One of the worst droughts to impact the region occurred in 2016. During this time, residents who solely relied on wells had difficulty identifying alternative sources of water, farmers struggled to provide water for livestock or to sustain crops, water sources for fire management became compromised, and low water

levels in rivers, inland lakes, and streams damaged important fish habitat. Measures were adopted to forecast, inform, and help protect the watershed's communities. A low water response team was established and included Quinte Conservation staff, municipal and provincial representatives, and members from interested groups/organizations. This team still operates and is responsible for determining the severity of drought within the watershed as well as issuing drought condition statements.

Moving forward, Quinte Conservation has installed additional monitoring equipment to better predict future drought events and has secured funding to develop drought management plans for this watershed's municipalities. The plans will identify measures for preparing and responding to drought and include ways to maintain a level of water supply for residents, both human and animal. In addition, Quinte Conservation's monitoring network has been enhanced through the installation of automatic gauges that will record lake levels and transmit near real-time data through a satellite and will soon be available for viewing on Quinte Conservation's website.



ADDRESSING DROUGHT – HAVE YOUR SAY!

Public Consultations for the Drought Plan will be conducted in 2020. To learn more about this project or to help guide the development of the plan, please visit www.QuinteConservation.ca. If you are concerned about the future security of your water supply or have experiences to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mark Boone at mboone@quinteconservation.ca. A survey is available at www.QuinteConservation.ca. Let us know how drought and climate change affects you.



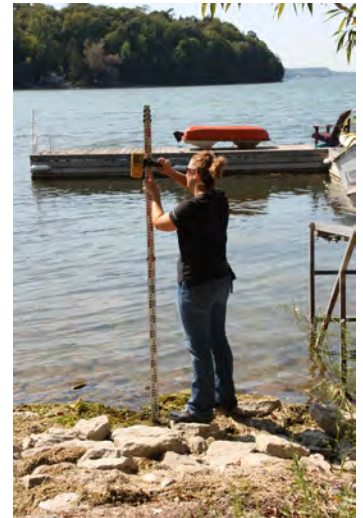
WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FROM THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY?

If you are planning some work or development on your property, you may require a permit from Quinte Conservation. Our staff can provide you with advice on permits, approvals, and information to help you best plan your project so that you are complying with provincial regulations. Some examples of development projects that require a permit include, but are not limited to:

- Any shoreline alterations or work along a watercourse or wetland including erosion protection and any in-water work;
- Development adjacent to a slope/escarpment or on unstable soils/bedrock;
- New construction/reconstruction of any kind, or placing a building or structure of any kind, or the change of use of a structure;
- Site grading, whether importing fill or removing fill;
- New infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance.

You will require a permit if your project is adjacent to hazardous lands. Hazardous land is considered to be land that could be unsafe for development because of naturally occurring processes associated with flooding and erosion. Dynamic beaches or unstable soil (leda clay), bedrock (karst), and wetlands are all considered hazardous lands.

Before you begin any development, make an appointment with a Quinte Conservation Regulations Officer by calling (613) 968-3434 ext. 129 or emailing regulations@quinteconservation.ca.



NATURAL EDGE, SHORELINE PLANTING PROGRAM

Quinte Conservation and Watersheds Canada invite waterfront property owners to take part in the Natural Edge Program. This program offers full-service shoreline restoration and includes a free (confidential) site visit, creation of a shoreline planting plan, and the ordering, delivering, and planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. In addition, funding is provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, therefore landowners only pay 25% of the total project cost, which will vary depending on the size of the property.



NATURALIZING YOUR SHORELINE HELPS TO:

- Stabilize soil and slow the erosion of your shore
- Improve water quality through the filtration of water runoff
- Regulate water temperatures for aquatic life
- Provide important habitat for over 90% of aquatic life

If you are interested in learning more about the program or would like to connect with project staff for a free confidential site visit, contact Watersheds Canada at naturaledge@watersheds.ca or call 613-264-1244.

Community Donation

Each year, the SDRA makes a donation to a community organization. Once again this year, the donation was directed to the Land O'Lakes Community Services in Northbrook. As you may know, 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 support, 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. Additional information and a deeper profile of the LOLCS can also be found in our 2018 newsletter.

History of the Van Loan Cottage on Lake Skootamatta

BY NIGEL VAN LOAN

In the summer of 1934, E Ross Van Loan and his new bride, Helen (née Cranswick) were invited by their Toronto-based friends, Hank and Eleanor Ingram, to holiday as guests at the Ingram's grand cottage on what was then named Loon Lake.

On a lovely summer day during that stay, Ross and Helen were canoeing down the eastern shore, keeping an eye on the shoreline for a likely landing spot for blueberry picking. They noted a somewhat level and low-lying, smooth and firmly rocky section of shore just north of what I believe is now called Dick's Bay, and thought it might be an ideal spot for berry picking (and it is). In exploratory mood, they soon ventured south and up onto an elevated plateau some five or so meters above the Lake, there to discover a somewhat dilapidated cedar frame and stucco cottage — really not much more than a shack — with a posted notice that it and its five-acre plot were for sale “for back taxes.”

Ross was an avid outdoorsman — especially devoted to fishing — and was soon to school Helen in the art of bait-casting: Loon Lake, then teeming with fish, seemed ideal as a locale for almost-wilderness holidaying, yet within a not unreasonable day of travel from Toronto. So, he set out to follow-up on the possibilities of buying the cottage. I have been told that the “back taxes” owing were what was then a large price of \$200. To put that in perspective, Ross, as a clerk at Canadian Oil (their gas stations were named White Rose) was earning the princely sum of \$25 a week! But he procured a bank loan and the sale went through.

Their first son, Paul, was born in 1935, and has recalled in his memoirs events at the cottage from 1939 onward. Perhaps the highlight of those recollections is that, during the two-week vacation in 1939, four-year-old Paul, while “helping” our Aunt Kaye pull up a bucket of water from the lake, tripped and fell off the five-metre cliff into the metres-deep water. Fortunately, Kaye was a strong swimmer and was able to rescue Paul.

I was born the following year, 1940, but have no memories of cottage stays until 1950: Ross was stricken with appendicitis in Sep 1943 and died of peritonitis after the organ burst — the possible curative treatment of penicillin was only available for dealing with war wounds. A widowed Helen wasn't going to risk another of her sons falling into the lake until I proved that I could swim. That finally became the case when I was ten.



Van Loan Cottage in 1951, just after the new siding had been painted.

Around 1951 Helen contracted a local handyman to strip away the old siding and replace it with clapboard, as well as install new roof shingling. We arrived at the cottage that summer to paint the new siding (discovering in the process that there were almost more gaps than tight joints in the siding and that the only really solid fixture was the beer opener!). Nevertheless, this “new” cottage was our regular family hideaway until the early sixties, as Paul and I went to various distant and overseas destinations for work. For about ten years we used it infrequently until, in the mid-seventies, the cedar frame that had never been peeled finally began to collapse from bug infestation damage.



Van Loan Cottage, currently

Upon my return in 1981 from an overseas posting in Belgium, we agreed to have the old cottage torn down. We then hired a crew from the Land of Lakes builders in Northbrook, led by Earl Holley, to construct a new, albeit modest, structure, to a plan that I had developed for a three-bedroom, open kitchen and sitting room, screened porch on the side, and an open deck along the front. Oh! And running water with a real bathroom! They did all of the plumbing and electrical, but installing the interior walls, doors, ceilings, counters and finishing became my joyous task for the next many years: when one is employed in jobs mostly requiring working with the mind and coordinating others, then working alone and with one's hands can truly be an enjoyable way to holiday and refresh.

I should note here that doing the indoor finishing truly impressed upon me the high quality of work done by Earl and his team: I've worked on a number of indoor renos and seldom seen construction as square and plumb!

Over the many years since, we Van Loans have regularly been at our cottage, usually opening it in April, doing many weekend visits, at least one major summer stay and closing around or just after Thanksgiving. For many of those years perhaps the one who most loved the place was Patricia, my wife. Sadly, she died in 2007 from Lou Gehrig's Disease but not before we had done some modifications — like a ramp from the parking area — that enabled her to continue visiting almost up to her death.

From my perspective, the “really good news” is now that my younger son, Andrew, and his family have shown a great affection for the cottage and for Lake Skootamatta. Andrew is a consummate outdoorsman and hunter so it is currently usual for him to “open” as soon as the road in is passable and to go almost weekly until the early winter. Therefore, it was highly sensible that arrangements were completed last year to transfer the ownership to him: the third generation of Van Loans to enjoy the beauty and solitude of our wonderful lake.

THE SHAPING OF BON ECHO

For many of us, going to the cottage means just that. We drive to Skootamatta and we stay there until it is time to leave. After all, there is lots, or nothing, to do, depending on your inclination. Venturing out to Cloyne or Northbrook for needed supplies takes us away from the cottage and we head back as soon as we can.

For those who approach Skoot up Highway 41 from the south, we never see the signage for Bon Echo Park, and for those arriving from the north, there is a modest sign to mark the Park entrance. But this is a wonderful resource for the area and one which needs to be explored.

Bon Echo offers hiking, swimming, boating, and numerous other activities but where did this wonderful Park come from? We are grateful to the Frontenac News for allowing us to republish their 2015 article on the history of the Park. It gives us a fascinating glimpse into the past and the history of Bon Echo. Enjoy!

The Big Three Who Shaped Bon Echo Park

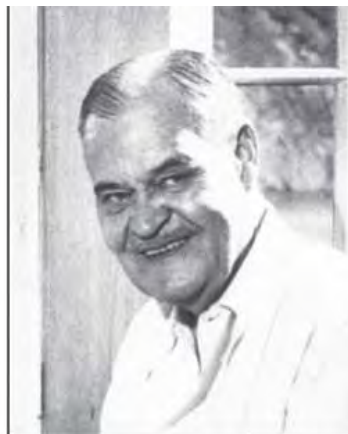
BY JULIE DRUKER, 2015

Long before it officially became a provincial park in 1965, the flavor of Bon Echo Park had begun to take shape decades earlier, thanks to the influence of three distinct personalities.

In a presentation titled "The Dentist, the Feminist and The Writer", local historian Margaret Axford spoke of the influence these three people had on the park, which continues to draw visitors from across the country and from all over the world. The first was the dentist, Dr. Weston A. Price, who was born in Newburgh, Ontario, but who lived and worked in Cleveland, Ohio. Price's wife was from

Brampton, Ont. and she taught in Ardoch. In 1898 Price began renting land in what is now Bon Echo in the summer months from a farmer named David Weese. In 1899 the couple acquired land in the area and Price decided to build an inn modeled on the tourist hotels of the Adirondacks. Axford stated, "He [Price] knew that the setting of the Mazinaw Rock would be a natural draw and it was the Prices who gave the name 'Bon Echo' to the area, and who gave birth to tourism in the region."

Price, who was described by one observer at the time as a "wiry man, always rushing somewhere with a hammer in his hand" used local labor to build the inn, which consisted of the main building, five cottages, a separate staff house, a boat house, a laundry house, an ice house, numerous docks and a bridge across the Narrows. By the end of Price's second summer after purchasing the



From left: Flora MacDonald Denison, Dr. Weston A. Price and Merrill Denison, courtesy of Ian Brumell



Reprinted with permission from: Cloyne District Historical Society (2018). Unknown People at Bon Echo. Retrieved From <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cdhs>

land, the Bon Echo Inn was complete. In 1901 a telephone line that originated at the Kaladar train station and ran along the old Addington Road became the first telephone line in the area. Price hoped to attract like-minded nature lovers to the area, and because he was a teetotaler and a religious man, the inn was dry until Merrill Denison took it over decades later.

In 1901, Flora MacDonald Denison arrived on the scene at Bon Echo with her husband Howard, and son Merrill, first as guests in the tower room suite of the inn. Axford said that "she would have bought the place at that time if Price had been selling it" but instead she bought a lot south of the Narrows, where she built a summer cottage. Flora and her family would spend the next nine summers there. Flora MacDonald Denison was born in 1867 in Actinolite, worked as a teacher near Actinolite, and as a dressmaker in Toronto. She later was a writer on women's rights and the suffrage movement.

It was on her annual trip to Bon Echo in 1910 that Flora learned that Dr. Price wanted to sell the inn. Differing reasons are given for Price's reason for selling. One was that his 10-year-old son Donald was ill at the time; he later died either of spinal meningitis or from a diving accident.

Flora paid Dr. Price \$13,000 for the inn, Big Bear Island, and numerous acres of land, and Flora's husband Howard ran the Inn from 1911-1913 until the two separated and their marriage ended. Flora then took it over and her intent was to create "a haven for artists and philosophers in an inspiring natural landscape with an incredible view of Mazinaw Rock, where visitors could renew their souls, their energies and their creative instincts." Flora also celebrated the teachings and writings of Walt Whitman, the famed 19th century American poet. According to Axford, Flora "was caught up in his [Whitman's] democratic ideals and she saw Bon Echo as being a symbol of democratic freedom...that would always be enhanced by the spirit of Walt Whitman."

It was Flora who had a large rock face on the lake inscribed with a dedication to "Old Walt". As a practicing spiritualist and part of a group whose members claimed they could communicate with the dead, Flora held numerous séances at Bon Echo. One observer at the time recalled that guests at Bon Echo "often preferred a séance at midnight to a Sunday morning church service." Under Flora's command, the inn housed many notable guests, including James Thurber, Morley Callahan, Frank Lloyd Wright, and the painters from the Group of Seven; the latter would often be guests when Flora's son Merrill took over ownership. Financially the inn ran at a loss, with "Flora's dreams always outstretching her financial capabilities".

Flora died at 54 years of age on May 23, 1921 and a bronze urn holding her ashes was deposited in Mazinaw Lake just below the Whitman inscription. Her son, Merrill Denison, a writer and later a well-known radio personality, inherited the inn and its 10 square miles of property, and began some much-needed repairs. His contacts at Hart House and the Arts and Letters Club in Toronto put him in touch with many famous Canadians artists of the time, many of whom would become regular visitors to Bon Echo. Merrill's partner, Muriel Goggin, whom he would marry in 1926, ran the inn from 1923-1928 "like a general", and it prospered during this time until the stock market crash of 1929. From then until 1934 it was closed to the public at large and became Camp Mazinaw,

a boys' camp for Trinity College School in Port Hope.

In 1936, the inn burned down after being struck by lightning. A Toronto woman who was working at the inn at that time, when she was 16 years old, sadly recalled watching it burn. Though the inn was never rebuilt, Merrill and Muriel continued to spend the summers at Bon Echo after selling off some of the land. They kept less than 100 acres for themselves. Merrill's aim still was to preserve the area as "a meeting place as it was for the Algonquins, a center to which people would come to learn and discuss ideas in an inspiring natural surrounding."

In 1959 he turned over the buildings and land to the provincial government to be used as a provincial park. The official ceremony did not take place until 1965. Merrill died in 1975 at the age of 81.

Axford ended her presentation defining the legacy that these three

personalities left behind for all who continue to visit and enjoy Bon Echo Park. "The legacy they left was that the democratic spirit should prevail and the ordinary person must continue to have access to this wonderful place." For those wanting a more detailed account of the history of Bon Echo and the personalities who helped to create it, a number of books on the subject are available at the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. They include "The Oxen and The Axe" (Brown, Brumell and Snider), "The Mazinaw Experience: Bon Echo and Beyond" (John Campbell), "Sunset of Bon Echo" (Flora MacDonald Denison), and "Bon Echo: The Denison Years" (Mary Savigny).

Druker, J. (2015, May 28). The Big Three Who Shaped Bon Echo Park. *Frontenac News*, Retrieved from <https://www.frontenacnews.ca/frontenac-150th-anniversary/item/9442-the-big-three-who-shaped-bon-echo-park>

BON ECHO
***** INN *****

Situated on Echo Point
in Front of the Cliff



Bon Echo Inn from the Pier

This excellent new Hotel, built last season, has two fronts, the above overlooking the north lake and the other toward the precipice. It will be reopened July 1st, 1904, until September 5th.

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Reprinted with permission from: Cloyne District Historical Society (2008). 1904 Brochure of Bon Echo Inn. Retrieved From <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cdhs>

2020 EVENTS

Please note these are the *planned events*, however, they are subject to change depending on the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Canada Day Boat Parade

Wednesday July 1st @ 11:00 am
Starting in Sheldrake Bay
Decorate your boat and docks in Canadian colours!



SDRA AGM

Saturday July 4th @ 9:30 am
Pineview Free Methodist
Join us for SDRA updates, meet the board, and ask questions.



Annual Lake Festival

Saturday August 8th @ 9:30 am
Trail's End property
A day full of good fun and some healthy competition!



Ron and Esther's Potluck

Saturday August 15th
1191 Hughes Landing Road
Stay tuned for this year's theme!



Fireworks

Saturday September 5th @ 8:30 pm
Causeway
A farewell to summer



Food Drive

September 7 and October 12
Hwy 41 and Skootamatta Lake Rd
The SDRA will be collecting for the Cloyne Food Bank



FOCA MEMBERSHIP & AGM

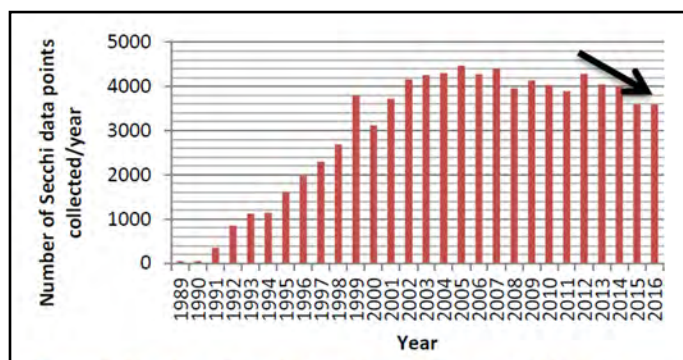


The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) represents over 500 member associations across Ontario. In March, SDR Board President, Joel Arthurs, attended the FOCA AGM. If you had a chance to see the event summary or even watch the session videos that the Board made available in April, you would have seen that the day was packed with information.

One of the key agenda items was a rate increase to the FOCA membership fees. This increase is from \$3.50 to \$4.00/association member. The increase will start in 2021 and is the first increase in several years. This was discussed, at length, with association representatives and was ultimately approved. This will represent an approximate increase of \$100 for the SDR's membership into FOCA, so we wanted to take the opportunity to outline some of the FOCA benefits to SDR members and how FOCA operates on our behalf.

- Electricity pricing advocacy: FOCA has been very active in challenging the Ontario Energy Board on matters related to electricity pricing for cottagers.
- Lake Partner Program: Through the help of volunteers and association lake stewards, FOCA manages the Lake Partner Program as part of the membership fee. This program collects

more than 4000 data points every year from across Ontario to monitor lake health. In the last few years, lake association participation in the program has declined province-wide. We are looking for volunteers to help us with data collection.



Source: FOCA, 2017. Retrieved from <https://foca.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>

- Resources for members, including: information on rural property issues, cottage succession planning, invasive species monitoring, and more.
- Discounts for members, including: cottage insurance, Cottage Life Magazine, DockinaBox, Canadian Canoe Museum, National Observer, and more.

If you want more information on any of the above or want to take advantage of the discounts, just go to <https://foca.on.ca/member-services/benefits/> and contact FOCA at communications@foca.on.ca for the login information. Be sure to let them know that you are an SDR member!

A Special Note to our Advertisers

We recognize that 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year for all of you. From the local essential businesses who stayed open and supported our community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.....to the small businesses that needed to close to keep us all safe.....to our seasonal businesses who are hoping for a timely recovery this summer; our local small businesses are a critical component in our community.

On behalf of the SDRA and all of our members, we sincerely thank you for your support!

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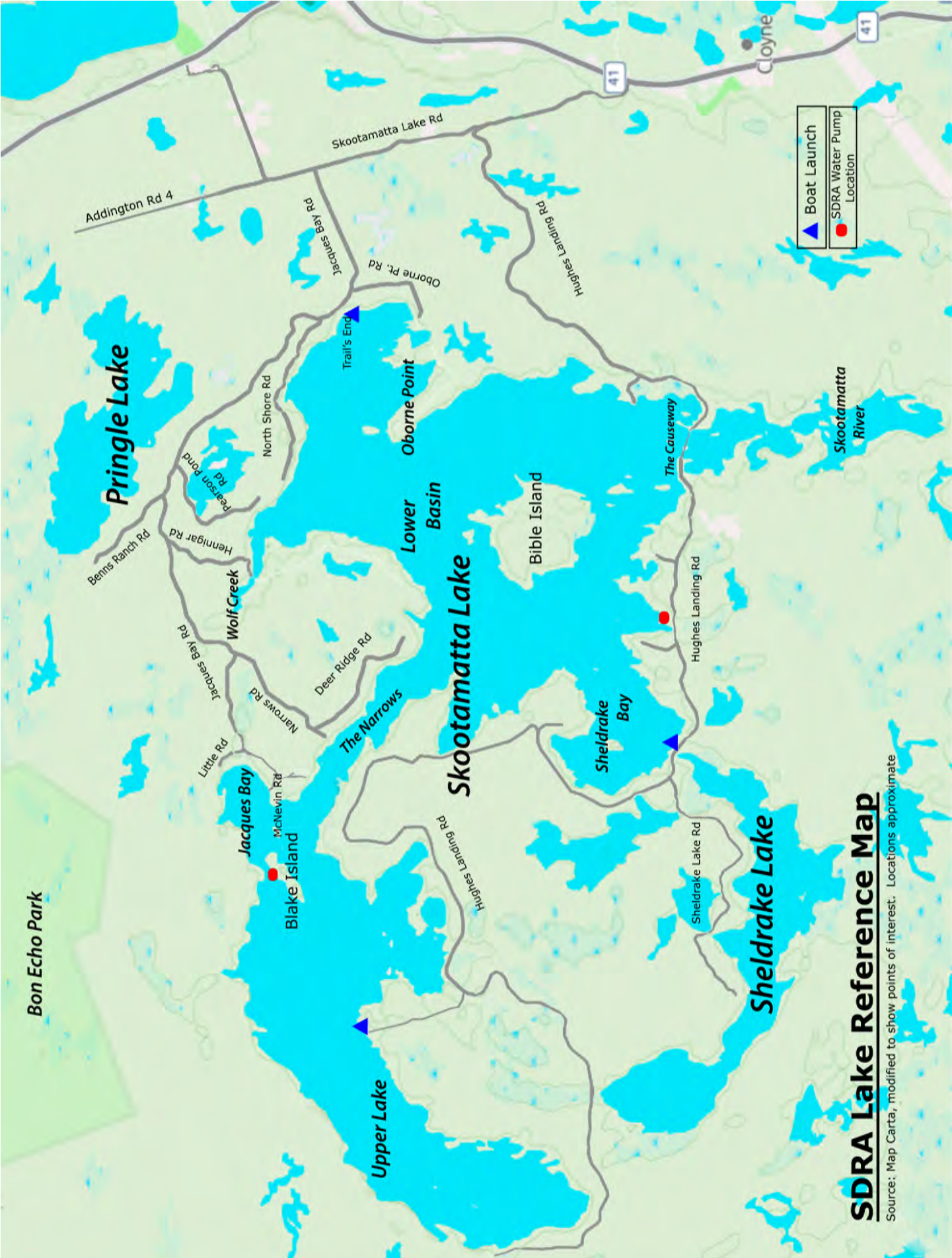


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SDRA Lake Reference Map

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