

2022

**CELEBRATING
OUR HISTORY!**

See inside for our
tribute to 100 Years
of cottaging on
Skootamatta Lake



SDRA NEWSLETTER

Photo credit: Carly Stacey

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I think I'm looking forward to this summer more than any other. Whether it is getting together on the dock, or having dinner with friends, I am hopeful that things will be safe to go back to some semblance of normal soon. As a board, we are discussing the possibility of hosting in-person SDRA events, if it is safe to do so. It would be wonderful to have the opportunity to talk with members in person again.



2022 also marks an important time in the history of Skootamatta: One hundred years ago, the first cottage was built on Osborne Point by Alfred Ross (Tiny) Osborne. We've included three pieces in this newsletter honouring the history of the lake. It's great to be able to look back on how the area has changed over the past one hundred years, but maybe more importantly, how it has stayed the same. While dress pants and white pressed shirts have been exchanged for Crocs and t-shirts, we still come together to do the heavy lifting and share a coffee while discussing the best way to dig that hole. If you haven't made it out to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives, be sure to stop by this summer.

Looking back on 2021, it was a busy one for the SDRA. While some events were cancelled or changed, the Board continued to work to represent our members and serve this wonderful community. We had many meetings with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNR) to discuss the ten-year forest management plan. While we may not have always agreed, the discussions were meaningful and will lead to further involvement by the SDRA in the implementation of the forest management plan. The Board also worked with the Township of Addington Highlands to develop a camping by-law, that works to address issues with camping on shoreline road allowances in front of crown land. The NDMNR ministry was also involved in these discussions to identify hot spot areas and work to ensure proper enforcement. We will continue our efforts to keep tabs on camping and address any infractions of the by-law or crown land camping regulation. Last year also featured a great new event: the treasure hunt, organised by volunteer Nancy Kallina, which was a highlight for the younger generation. The boat parade and fireworks also went on as usual, and were both well

attended. The photo contest was a huge success again and the entries were stunning; we have some very talented photographers around the lake and some even better subjects! We were glad to be able to continue offering these events last year, and look forward to what this season will bring.



This newsletter is full of great content, so be sure to read through everything we've pulled together and let's get ready to kick off summer 2022!

SDRA Annual General Meeting

Please join us for the SDRA Annual General Meeting on Saturday July 9th, 2022. We are planning to hold the AGM in-person this year! We are also looking at how we can provide a virtual option for those that aren't able to attend in-person.



We have some pending changes to the Board slate this year, including the retirement of long-standing director, Paul Lindsay. Paul has served the Board for 12 years as a director-at-large, vice-president, and most recently, the communications director. Paul has been the author of those great SDRA POPs you receive in your email inbox, the coordinator of the Great Canadian Skootamatta Ice-Out Contest, and the AGM master of ceremonies. Paul has always worked hard for the Board and we can't thank him enough for everything he has done.

All SDRA Members are invited to join us!

When: Saturday July 9

Where: Barrie Township Hall, next to the Cloyne Museum

9:30 - 10:00: Meet & Greet

10:00-12:00: Formal Meeting

12:00-1:00: Hot dog BBQ sponsored by Foodland.

Find out more about volunteering or about joining the Board during the AGM! We hope to see you there!



PROXY VOTING

Charlene & Kevin Van Dusen
Store Owners and Friendly Neighbours

Highway 41
Northbrook, ON
K0H 2G0

fld6740northbrook@sobeys.com

(T) 613 336 2647
(F) 613 336 9492

If you are unable to attend in-person or online, you can choose to give another member your proxy. The SDRA Constitution, Articles 8 Section 5, states;

Proxy votes will only be considered when in writing and signed and given to a Member in good standing and provided to the Chairperson of the Meeting in advance of such Meeting.

Suggested text for a proxy note could include:

Member _____ hereby grants proxy voting rights to _____, a member in good standing, for the purpose of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Signed this date, _____, 2022.

Member

Proxy Member

Proxy voting provides the attending member the right to vote on behalf of a member not in attendance. Please provide any written proxies prior to the AGM. You can send scanned copies to admin@skootamatta.ca or bring them to the in-person AGM.

CURRENT AND PROPOSED SDRA BOARD SLATE

Position	Current	Proposed
President	Joel Arthurs	Joel Arthurs
Vice-President	Marianne Plumb	Marianne Plumb
Treasurer	John Coombs	John Coombs
Secretary	Carla Baetz	Carla Baetz
Lake Steward	Martha Warriner	Martha Warriner
Webmaster	pending	pending
Communications	Paul Lindsay	Christie Arthurs
Director	Jim Chinnick	Jim Chinnick
Director	Bill Blake	Bill Blake
Director	Jackie Lessard-Bleecker	Jackie Lessard-Bleecker
Director	Christie Arthurs	<i>Vacant</i>
Director (up to 10 more)	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Vacant</i>

Have you ever wanted to know more about joining the Board? Please let us know and we'd be happy to answer your questions. There are lots of opportunities to get involved!

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

1. Email info@skootamatta.ca and let us know
2. Volunteer to join the Board during the AGM

We're always looking for more help and we'd be excited to have you join us.



Photo credit: Anne Lavoie

SDRA BOARD VOLUNTEER ROLES:

President

- Represent SDRA to external stakeholders and governments
- Chair the AGM
- Keep apprised of topics and issues of interest to members

Vice-President

- Assist the President with external stakeholders and governments
- Serve as key liaison with FOCA
- Collect articles and data in preparation for the newsletter

Treasurer

- Prepare financial reports, including an annual report for members
- Prepare annual tax filings on behalf of the SDRA
- Ensure SDRA insurance information is current and valid
- Maintain financial records, bank accounts, and GIC investments

Lake Steward

- Coordinate and complete various water testing responsibilities,
- Update the Lake Management Plan and lead on actionable strategies
- Keep apprised of MLFI operations and participate in consultation opportunities

Secretary

- Schedule regular Board meetings and develop agendas
- Take Board meeting minutes, assigning action items
- Maintain an electronic SDRA asset log and ensure it is up-to-date

Webmaster

- Post content and respond to comments on SDRA website
- Manage the photo contest, including voting and tabulation
- Maintain domain and hosting registrations

Communications Director

- Maintain mailing list and email POPs to SDRA members
- Put up and take down all kiosk signs, as needed
- Organize and administer contests such as the "Great Canadian Skootamatta Ice Contest" and "Canada Day Dock Decorating Contest"

Directors-at-Large

- Take an active role in Board activities and volunteer where possible
- Lead initiatives and special interest projects that advance the goals of the SDRA
- Identify potential new members and promote SDRA activities

2021-2022 Financial Statement

Prepared by
John
Coombs

2021-22 Treasurer's Report

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

Operating Statement for year ending March 31

		2022	2021
Revenue:			
Membership Revenue	1	8,130	7,960
Newsletter Advertising	2	2,040	1,680
Boat Launch Intake		899	1,085
Merchandise sales	3	1,312	0
Interest		88	126
Total Revenue		12,468	10,851
Expenses:			
Communication	4	4,064	2,692
Member Events	5	221	196
Stewardship	6	1,697	2,319
Community Relations		500	500
Lot and Launch Maintenance	7	800	941
Administration	8	828	915
Insurance	9	1,981	1,903
Assets		0	0
Total Expenses		10,091	9,466
Net Revenue over Expenses (Surplus/Deficit)		2,377	1,385
Opening Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund)		22,260	
Closing Cash Position (excluding Fireworks fund)		24,637	
Fireworks Fund			
Opening		280	
Contributions		4819	
Event Cost		(4,859)	
Closing Fireworks Fund		240	
Closing Cash including Fireworks Fund		24,877	

Notes:

- 201 paid memberships received during the year, up from 197 in the prior year.
- Increased canvassing and improved collections from the prior year.
- SDRA calendar project completed in-house this year.
- Newsletter printing costs increased due to higher postage, more copies printed due to increased advertisers and members. Purchased current publisher software.
- Treasure Hunt prizes.
- Water testing costs lower as full testing is done every other year.
- Lawn and grounds maintenance at Trail's End.
- Director registration, Zoom subscription, internet domain renewal, PayPal charges.
- 3% general insurance increase.

2022 EVENTS

Please note these are the *planned events*, however, please stay tuned to communications from the board for any changes

Canada Day Festivities

**Boat Parade and Dock
Decorating Contest**

**Friday July 1st @ 1:00 pm
Starting in Sheldrake Bay**

Decorate your boat and docks, then
Take pictures and send them in!



Our 2021 Winner - Ellen Copeland

Annual General Meeting

**Saturday July 9,
9:30 Meet & Greet
10:00 am meeting start**

NEW LOCATION: Barrie Township Hall

Join us for SDRA updates, meet the
board, and ask questions.

*We are also hoping to provide an online
option as well, for those unable to or
uncomfortable joining us in person. Please
stay tuned for further information and links*

Ron and Esther's Potluck

August 20

**Annual Pot Luck at
1191 Hughes Landing
Road - hosted by Ron
Nowell and Esther
Demczak.**



Fireworks

**Saturday
September 3rd
@ 8:30 pm
Causeway**

A farewell to
summer



Annual Food Drives

**Labour Day Weekend
and Thanksgiving
Weekend**

**Hwy 41 and
Skootamatta Lake Rd**

The SDRA will be
collecting for the Cloyne
Food Bank



A note about the Lake Festival:

Due to the complexity of the festival and the
need for so many volunteers, the Lake
Festival will not be run this year. Instead, we
are looking to do a couple of smaller events
this summer. In order to operate these
events, we require volunteers, so please go
to our website at

<https://www.skootamatta.ca/about/volunteers/>
and sign up. We'll be in touch with details as
they are finalized.

2021 PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS



1st Place: Mary Koehler
"Reflection on
Skootamatta Lake"



2nd Place: Marian White
"Sharing"



3rd Place: Suzanne Stevens
"Peek a boo, I See You"

Once again, we were stunned by the photo contest entries!

Take a look at the collage on the next two pages to see all of the incredible talent in one place. We also have used the pictures throughout the newsletter this year!

Keep taking those pictures this year, and save them for the 2022 photo contest - the announcement will be coming in the fall.



The website continues to serve as a central point of communicating with members. Whether it is about recent news, the photo contest, or membership renewals, the website has it all. A big thank you to outgoing webmaster, Jackie Lessard-Bleecker, for all her hard work in keeping things updated.

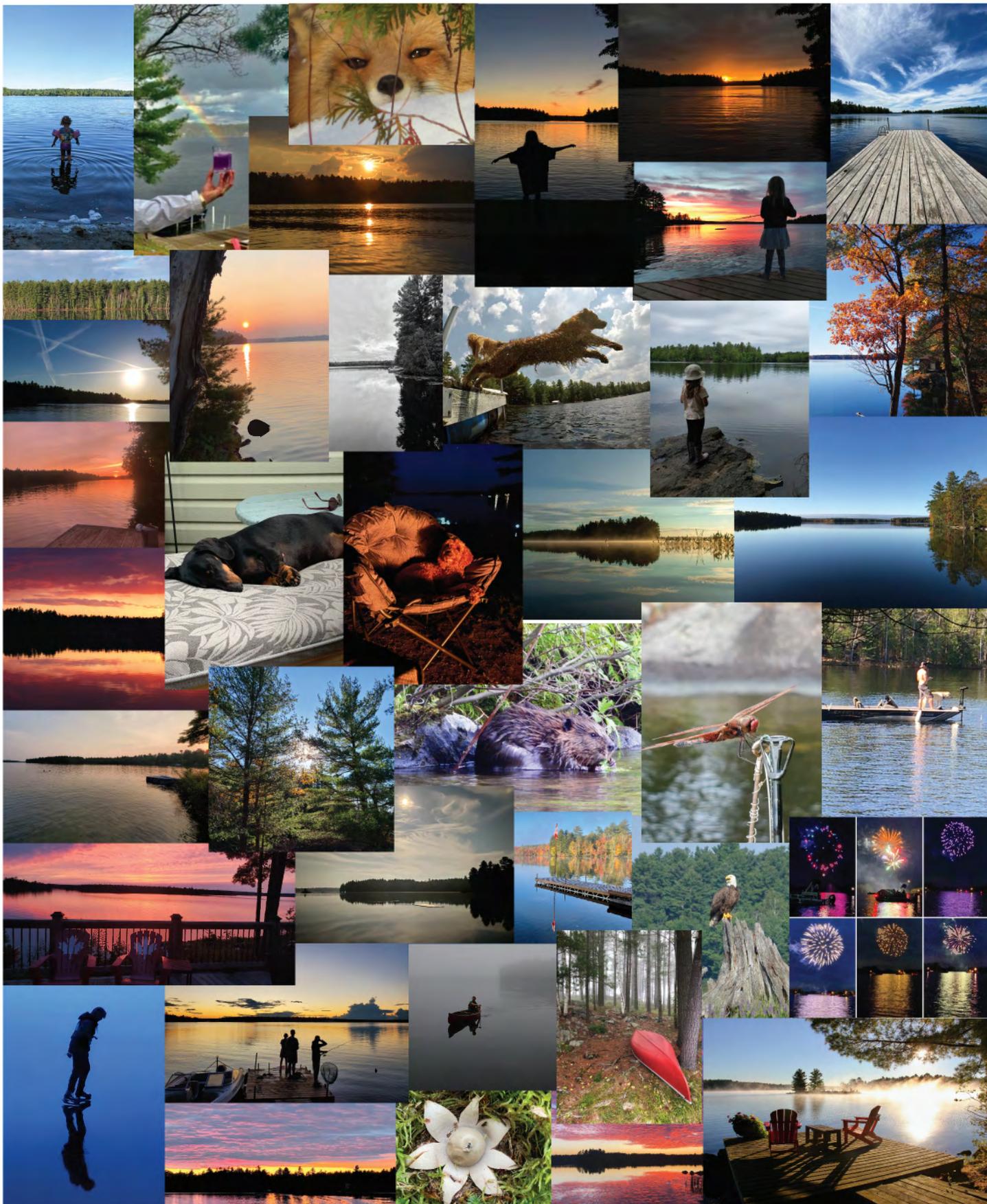
Facebook continues to expand our reach to both members and non-members alike. We are able to promote local issues and reach out to the community at large. The three most viewed posts last year included one about the camping-bylaw, and two more about the LDD moth spraying program. We have 419 Facebook followers, which is an increase of 69 from the year before. The Facebook page reached 2369 people, which is a nearly 20% increase from the previous year! We'll continue to use Facebook to reach out to the community and share what is happening.

Instagram also saw considerable activity last year. We know how much people love the photo contest, so Instagram is a great way for members to share pictures of life on the lake. It's like a photo contest, 365 days a year. We reached 179 people last year, which is a 35% increase from the year before. We also gained 20 new followers. You can find us on Instagram using the handle: Skootamatta_district

Be sure to find us on the website, Facebook, or Instagram to keep up with what is happening.



2021 Photo Collage



COMMUNITY DONATION

The Land O'Lakes Food Bank thanks you!

For many years, the SDRA membership has generously supported the Land O' Lakes Food Bank in Cloyne, through both the Labour Day and Thanksgiving weekend food drop-off boxes and via cash donations. The Foodbank's eleven volunteers would like you to know how much your generosity is appreciated!



The LOL Food Bank started up in 2000 as a partnership among four churches (Anglican, Free Methodist, United, and Catholic) in the area, also reaching out to the community through LOL Community Services in Northbrook. In 2011, the Food Bank moved into its present space in Cloyne, provided by KFL&A Public Health. After enduring some very difficult years, the group reorganized and gained membership in the Quinte Regional Food Sharing Shelter in Belleville, which supplies many food banks in Eastern Ontario. Each month, the volunteers shop carefully and bring in food items from Belleville, box them for Friday pick-up by clients, or deliver the boxes to those without transportation – all done at no cost to the food bank.

Many factors, both economic and social, affect people's ability to feed themselves and oblige them to seek help from the community. In 2018, the Food Bank served 412 individuals, which



almost doubled to 763 in 2021. Access is generally once per month, with each donation designed to sustain a family for two weeks, including a small gift card from Foodland in Northbrook for personal and staple items. With the longstanding support of the volunteers and contributors such as the SDRA membership, the LOL Food Bank has achieved a stable and sustainable level of operation. On behalf of its clients, the food bank thanks you for being there! Official tax receipts are provided for cash donations of \$20 or more.

PayPal vs. E-Transfer

When you renew your \$40 annual membership via PayPal, SDRA receives \$38.54 and PayPal collects the other \$1.46 in fees (3.65%). Transferring the funds from PayPal to our bank takes 3-5 days. When you renew via Interac (e-transfer), SDRA receives all of the money, and the deposit is instantaneous!

LABOUR DAY FIREWORKS

As the sultry days of mid-August roll on, many of us start looking forward with anticipation to the annual Skootamatta Lake Fireworks show on the Labour Day weekend. Through the auspices of Ron Nowell, we have enjoyed year after year of outstanding spectacles, expertly and professionally staged by our long-standing supplier, Capital Pyrotechnics of Ottawa.

Over the past three years, increasing costs of product, insurance, transport, and other operational items have challenged our supplier to come up with various means of keeping the economics of our show intact.

In the wake of the pandemic, however, a sharp rise in global shipping costs has led to a situation where we must choose between sourcing more funding and curtailing our display. As a result, your Board has elected to increase the suggested contribution per family to \$35 from \$25, where it has been for many years now. We hope and trust that most families around the lake will still see value in this expenditure.

Another concern that people have raised is the environmental impact of fireworks on local flora and fauna. Manufacturers do continue to improve on processes and products in the effort to meet ever-evolving government standards. While there has been progress made in developing fireworks with less smoke and noise, to date these products are more



effective on stages or in rock concerts than in outdoor displays. Capital does, however, calculate the carbon emissions and offset for each and every show, which we are advised is actually quite small – we will be able to get an emissions report for our shows. Moreover, Capital has recently decided to partner with a conservation charity that plants the necessary number of trees to offset the Company's footprint exponentially. The Company is also closely following the development of nitrogen-based fireworks in the effort to make these lower-impact products affordable and available in Canada.

Stay tuned for announcements on time and date for this year's grand finale!

Shoreline Camping Update

With many travel plans interrupted last year, and even a short period of time where provincial parks were closed to camping, we saw an increase in shoreline camping on Skootamatta. This was especially evident in the upper lake, near the boat launch. On its route along the Narrows and to the upper lake, the forestry road that extends from Hughes Landing runs near the shoreline. This road provides easy shoreline access to campers, especially on pre-cut sites.



Photo credit: Erin Farrow

Through discussions with the Township and Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF), a by-law was created to provide clear rules around camping on the shoreline road allowances, which encircles Skootamatta. Because there are no clear lines where the shoreline road allowance ends and crown land begins, the by-law was written to mirror the existing regulations that exist for crown land camping under the Public Lands Act. A copy of the by-law was provided during last year's AGM.

Discussions are ongoing about

how to better educate campers and enforce these rules and regulations. The Township and Ministry have been very receptive to coming up with solutions and the Board has been communicating any issues that arise during the summer. We encourage members to report any shoreline camping that may be in contravention of these rules and regulations to the Township (613-336-2286) and the NDMNRF TIPS phone line (1-877-847-7667). The only way issues can be addressed is if those with the power to enforce are notified.

Baseball Team Update

Adult and Family softball will be resuming this year!

Tuesday evenings at 6:30 and Friday mornings at 9:30

Starting Friday May 27, and Tuesday May 31

If anyone is interested, call 613-661-2449 or 613-661-4419

or email: shanebeth2@gmail.com



Quinte Conservation Authority: Strategic Planning Initiative

In last year's Newsletter (2021) we discussed the roles of the Quinte Conservation Authority (QCA) in managing the watershed that includes Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes, and their associated wetlands. We also looked at the challenges to the QCA's operation as a result of regulatory changes, financial limitations, large increases in volume of users of their extensive Conservation Areas, and climate changes causing increases in flooding and risks to basic water sources.

As a result of these challenges, the QCA undertook a Strategic Planning process to determine the best uses of their resources to meet these challenges over the period 2021 – 2030. The SDRA participated in this process, and background and initial results of the Strategic Planning process are described in last year's Newsletter.

Since the release of the 2021 Newsletter, the

QCA has refined their plan, and it is now released, and available on their website – this is highly recommended reading.

<https://gis.quinteconservation.ca/ContentGallery/StrategicPlan/StrategicPlan2021-2030.html>

A few highlights are presented below.

The 2021 – 2030 Strategic Plan focuses on four drivers towards achieving the QCA vision for 2030

“Advance watershed knowledge and collective actions to strengthen our natural ecosystems”

- Accelerating Advocacy
- Boosting Well-Being
- Advancing Environmental Science
- Strengthening Brand Recognition

Each of these drivers has four associated priority goals that form the basis for positive

actions by the QCA in the years ahead.

The Strategic Plan, as presented on the QCA website, is comprehensive and complex, but it is important to all of us with a high level of interest in the environment in which we live and play. The summary contained near the end of the Strategic Plan is quite to the point:

“Be audacious, but start small is the call-to-action by stakeholders”

“This aligns with the way conservation authorities typically approach their ever-present long-term challenges. The need to cultivate nature and build a “force” of allies will require more alliances, community education, planning with political leaders and most of all – patience.

Revenue generation, financial security, smart “green” infrastructure, more environmentally-aware and appreciative citizens, and significant environmental protection will follow.”

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Plan 2021-2031

As has been communicated previously, the SDRA has been an active participant in discussions related to the development of a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest, which is the forest region in which our lakes are located. This has been a rather long, and somewhat frustrating process!

The SDRA raised several concerns regarding the proposed plan, which can be summarized as

- Harvesting activities up to the very edge of private properties, with no buffer zone (of particular concern to property owners in Jacques Bay, north of Jacques Bay Road)
- Harvesting activities up to the edge of public and private access roads, with no buffer to protect the viewscape
- Minimal protection for damage to the extensive wetlands included in the planned harvest areas, wetlands that are directly part of the Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lake watersheds, and key to protecting water quality and flooding control
- Lack of adequate protection for the viewscape of the shoreline as seen from the lake.

These concerns were eventually brought forward to an Issues Resolution process administered by the Department of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry (NDMNR). Unfortunately these concerns were not accepted. While the rationale for rejecting these concerns is somewhat arguable, there is no



appeal process, and the plan was officially released in December, 2021.

Work is currently underway to develop the logging road infrastructure to support the planned wood harvesting.

As a reminder, the composite map on the opposite page outlines the areas of harvesting of most impact to SDRA members.

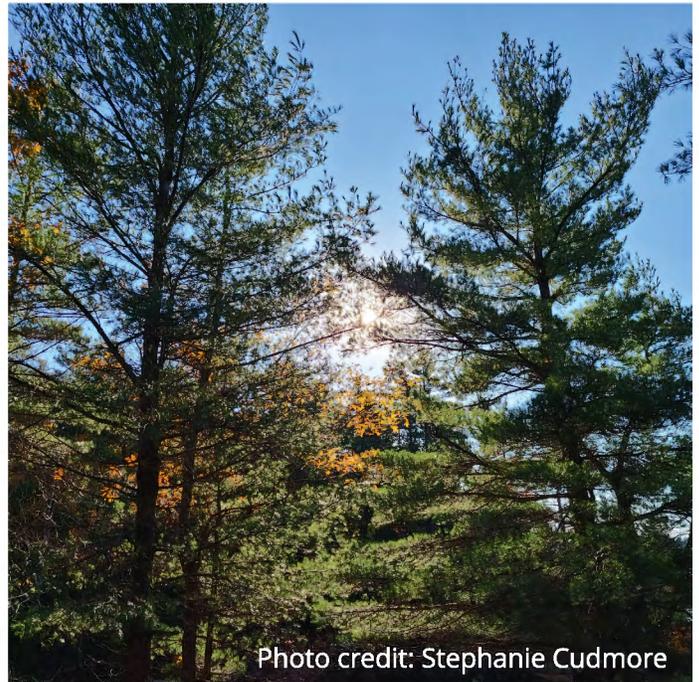
While generally we were disappointed by the results of the consultation process, there are some positive points to note:

1. The gains achieved by the SDRA during the negotiations regarding the 2011 – 2021 FMP were retained.
2. The protection status of Pringle Lake was upgraded, which increases the protection around the shore line. This is a positive result for the Pringle Lake community and for Skootamatta Lake for which Pringle Lake is a key part of the watershed.
3. And finally, a potential long term success. In addition to our concerns as to the details of the proposed FMP plan, we had issues with the process that led to the development of the plan. Specifically our concerns related to the lack of involvement of the Lake Associations in the process at the beginning. Our position was that the lake front property owners are significant stakeholders in the forest region, and should have some priority in the planning process, rather than just having a reactionary role to a plan already developed. This viewpoint was acknowledged, and an opportunity to increase our influence on the process was offered through the following ruling:

My (Jim Chinnick's) review determined that the consultation process and the composition of the planning team and local citizens committee is consistent with the FMPM and that the planning team made adequate efforts to engage and resolve the concerns raised by the ML Forest Based Lake Associations. However, I recognize the role of the ML Forest Based Lake Associations in the ML Forest and the importance of fostering strong relationships with our stakeholders and I am directing the District Manager to contact you with a view to setting up a teleconference to discuss opportunities to get engaged in the implementation of this FMP and the development of the next FMP.

The SDRA is following up on this opportunity.

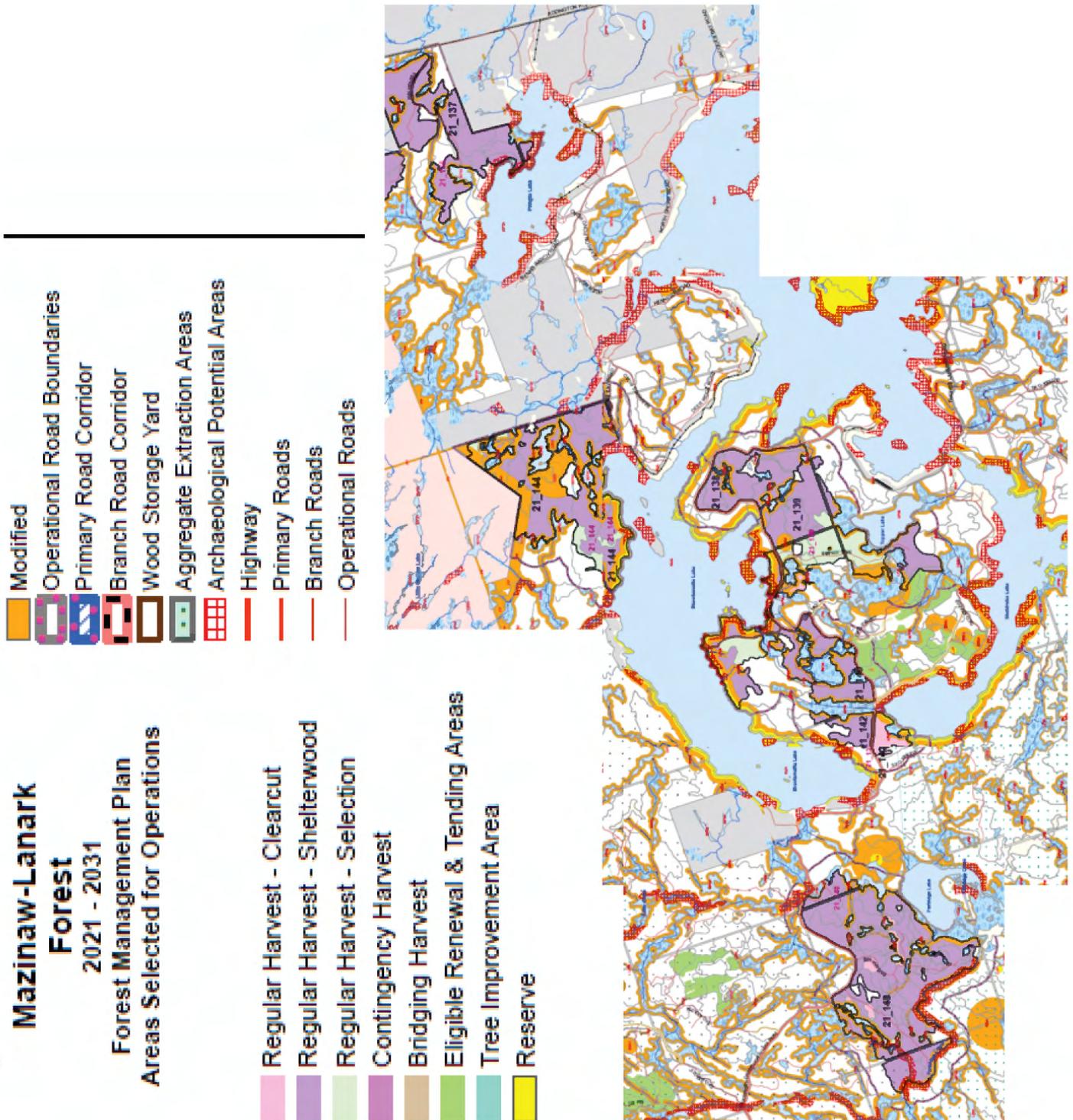
The Lake Associations operate at a disadvantage in this process, since the ministry and logging company personnel tend to be long term and full time and there are thousands of pages of documents full of industry specific acronyms, whereas the SDRA Board membership is more fluid, and knowledge gained is not easily passed forward over 10 year periods. We are making a determined effort to document what we have learned to better equip future SDRA Board members to participate in the planning process for the next Forest Management Plan.



Composite Map outlining the areas of harvesting

Note to readers: This map is a composite created from the separate maps used in the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Plan, which can be found at:

https://nrp.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/published-submission?language=en_US&recordId=a0z3g000000ofS9AAI



SAFE DRINKING WATER

Safe drinking water is something a lot of us take for granted, especially when connected to a municipal system. The stringent requirements and testing protocols in place ensure a continuous and quality water source directly from your taps. However, many lakefront residences are not connected to a municipal system and therefore rely on a private well source or treated water system to ensure a safe drinking water supply.

While lakes, streams, and rivers may look clear enough to drink directly from the source, there could be many possible sources of illness lurking in surface water that can have an especially profound effect on those that are immune compromised, the elderly and very young children. In water, many pathogens have no smell, taste, or colour, and can only be detected through specialized laboratory testing.

Water samples are often tested for indicator organisms that can indicate bacteriological contamination of the drinking water supply. One such indicator organism is Escherichia coli (E. coli), which is a bacterium naturally found in the intestines of humans and animals. It is easily measured in water, making it a useful indicator for detecting fecal contamination in water. Most strains of E. coli bacteria are harmless, however certain strains may cause illness. Fecal contamination means there could also be other harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites in your water. Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards require E. coli not be detected/present in any drinking water sample. Sources of E. coli can vary, but property run-off, faulty septic systems, and wildlife/waterfowl activity are often the main contributing sources.

Health Canada recommends testing your well water or private water system a minimum of every 6 months, with the best time to sample when there is the greatest chance of contamination – early spring after the thaw, after heavy rainfall or flooding, prolonged drought, or if the system has been dormant for a long period of time.

If you have a treatment system in place, it is recommended to verify the safety of your drinking water supply. Free testing and sampling kits are available from the Public Health Ontario Laboratory. These kits can be picked up at any KFL&A Public Health Office, with the closest satellite office located at:

KFL&A Public Health – Cloyne
14209 Highway 41
Cloyne, ON
Open Wed 8:30 – 11:30 am

As a general precaution lake water should always be boiled or treated prior to use. We encourage the membership to be proactive and disinfect all water taken from the lake, no matter how clean it looks!

Visit the KFL&A Public Health website to view office hours and instructions for sampling your drinking water system or private well:

<https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/Drinking-Water.aspx>

For more information access the Public Health Ontario fact sheet: Drinking Water Quality – Indicator Bacteria

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/f/2019/fact-sheet-drinking-water-quality.pdf?la=en>

“The health of Skootamatta District Lakes shall be sustained through the combined efforts of the residents and users of the Lakes and their watershed, in partnership with government and non-government organizations”

Source: SDRA Lake Management Plan 2019, Vision Statement



Lake Steward's Report

Monitoring Water Quality

The SDRA participates in the Lake Partner Program (LPP) through our membership with FOCA. This is a free province-wide, volunteer-based water quality monitoring program. We currently have 5 test sites with this program which monitors for total phosphorus in late spring, and monthly water clarity observations from May to September. These results are mailed in and reported on the Ministry of Environment webpage at a later date. New for 2021 we joined a non-profit program called the Water Rangers Program (WRP). This program provides easy to use test kits and an open data platform which makes it easy to upload, share and view data. Testing is done 3 times per year, typically in May, July or August and September or October. Testing is completed for air and water temperature, along with Alkalinity, pH, Conductivity, Chloride, Hardness, Dissolved Oxygen and Water Clarity.

Lastly, we have our bi-annual testing program consisting of 10 sampling sites with samples analyzed at an external laboratory. This testing comprises of bacteriological testing for E. coli and a larger assay of chemical analysis such as nitrogen, calcium, ammonia and sodium.

We encourage our members to explore the free data tools available and check out the data collections by our own lake volunteers and others from across the province.

Water Rangers Data Platform: <https://app.waterrangers.ca/>

LPP Open Data Catalogue: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/map-lake-partner>

2021 Water Quality Results

Elevated E. coli results seen at certain sampling sites in 2020 prompted the SDRA to commence testing again for 2021. This allowed us to monitor for any changes and enhance our data set for trend analysis. As shown in the table below, small increases in E. coli have been detected at certain test sites in recent years. These single point increases most likely are part of the natural variability in an aquatic ecosystem and could be attributed to the presence of waterfowl and other mammals near the sampling site. Seasonal factors can also have a significant impact such as recent rainfall causing run-off and higher than average temperatures. The levels found are still well within the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO) standard for recreational water quality set at 100 cfu/mL, and our water remains safe for all recreational activities. The SDRA is expanding the testing sites for E.coli in 2022 to continue to monitor any ongoing areas of concern and keep a check on any further increases in levels. However, it is important to note that septic systems are the leading cause of bacterial contamination and it is important to ensure your septic systems are working properly.

Site Name	Coordinates	E. coli Result (cfu/100mL)		
		2017	2020	2021
Upper Lake Boat	44.846389	<2	0	1
Jacques Bay	44.856389	<2	2	2
Narrows South End	44.841389	<2	2	0
Sheldrake Lake Boat	44.822778	2	6	6
Causeway	44.82222	2	7	6
Oborne Back Bay	44.845 -77.223611	<2	3	0
North East Bay	44.843889	2	2	1
Trail's End	44.846944	<2	5	6
Wolf Creek	44.854167	22	7	3
Henniger Road	44.846111	<2	5	25

Looking forward to 2022, the SDRA will complete the bi-annual testing last completed in 2020. This will include expanded analysis including E. coli, Nitrogen and Calcium. Historical results from previous years have shown that Calcium levels have remained well below the requirement

for Zebra Mussel growth.

Plans are in the works to publish all testing data as it is received on the SDRA webpage allowing our members to access test results as they become available.

What can cottagers/residents do to impact water quality improvements?

- Know your Septic System
 - Have your septic inspected and pumped out regularly (recommended every 3-5 years)
 - Ensure the size of your system can handle the amount of wastewater created
 - Don't plant trees or shrubs too close to the system or leaching bed and don't drive over or park on the tank or leaching bed
- Naturalize your Shoreline
 - Leaving a minimum 3m buffer zone of native vegetation around all shoreline areas helps to prevent run-off of excessive nutrients from entering the lake
 - Don't use fertilizers and pesticides
- Eco Friendly Practices
 - Choose non-toxic, environmentally safe and biodegradable cleaning products
 - Refrain from washing/bathing directly in the lake
- Prevent the spread of Invasive Species
 - Clean boat hulls and bilge if travelling between bodies of water
 - Clean, drain, and dry all gear
- Watch Your Wake
 - Speed limit is 10 km/h within 30m of shore
 - Large wakes can cause disruption to nesting birds along the shore, disrupt sediment in shallow waters releasing excess nutrients, and cause shoreline erosion.

As rising external pressure continue to impact the health of our lake, the SDRA will continue to monitor and keep our members informed of our findings. Please do your part in helping to keep our lake healthy!

Pine Meadow Special Needs Fund

Many of our members have looked forward to the Annual Pine Meadow Golf Tournament each year. With the pandemic putting a halt to the tournament the last two years, the Pine Meadow Special Needs committee has not yet formalized their fundraising approach for 2022.

The Pine Meadow Special Needs Fund was established to help close the gaps that are not filled by basic public health care funding. Fundraising is a critical element in providing the best care to those members of our families, relatives and the community most in need.

Please watch for more information on the fundraising plan for 2022. Details will be communicated in the Frontenac News, the Tweed News, as well as through flyers posted in the community. Please do help support this very worthy cause.

2021 TREASURE HUNT

"Fun adventure, great camping spot. Thank you"

Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, and whether there would be Provincial gathering restrictions or whether families would feel comfortable participating in a public event, for 2021, we changed the children's activity to a Treasure Hunt. A treasure 'cache' with a prize, logbook and pen was hidden at various sites around the lake. A vague description of the hiding spot, and its GPS coordinates were provided, and families were invited to search for the cache, take a prize and sign the logbook. Every two weeks, the prizes were replenished and the cache was hidden in a new location. The prizes were as simple as a temporary tattoo or sweets, and a more substantial prize such as a tie-dye t-shirt kit.



***Thank-you very much!
Highlight of the summer.***

"The treasure hunting is absolutely amazing"

The first three sites were only water accessible, while the final two were both water and road accessible. While searching for a hiding spot for hunt number three, we identified an ideal spot on an island by the Hughes Landing Road causeway but once we approached the island, we discovered it had been badly littered with camper garbage. We still placed the cache on the island and sheepishly suggested that the participants bring a garbage bag and remove some of the trash. What a heartwarming response from our community as our participants hauled heaps of garbage from the site - thank you!

Overall, the feedback about the treasure hunt was very positive! Thirty four children from ages

"Kids loved the adventure. Well hidden. Thank you."

one to fifteen participated. Seven children found all five caches and four children found four of the five caches. Parents commented that their children asked daily if the cache had moved so they could search for the new treasure. This activity was appreciated by families who visit the lake infrequently and were unable to attend the lake festival in prior years. We will have this same activity during Summer 2022, but beware treasure hunters ... the searches will be more difficult this year!



"We have absolutely loved this! Kids ask each time we are up if it is time for a new treasure hunt!"

MLSP CELEBRATES 50 YEARS!

The Mazinaw Lake Swim Program began in 1972 after the drowning of two local children. Mothers from the community decided to prevent this tragedy from occurring again by raising money to provide swimming lessons. Lessons (including Bronze Star, Medallion and Cross) take place in July in Bon Echo Provincial Park, staffed by qualified instructors and a lifeguard. It's a true community effort. Many local teens are employed as instructors and many volunteers donate endless hours organizing, fundraising and teaching life saving skills. The support of local businesses, community members and cottagers is crucial to keeping the program afloat.



We are back! Offering vital lifesaving water skills to youth in the shadow of Mazinaw rock—easily the most picturesque swimming lessons available in Ontario!

Oh, how we have missed you! After two years of continuing to provide crucial water safety information virtually, we are thrilled to tell you that in-person lessons are back for the summer of 2022. As of writing, dates, busing details and prices are still being finalized so watch the website.

Please join us in celebrating the 50th anniversary of this wonderful program!

Learn more about the Mazinaw Lake Swim Program and how to support it at:

www.mazinawswim.com or under the community funded programs tab at: www.lolcs.com

Great Skootamatta Ice-Out Contest: 2022

This year the ice went out at a more usual time than last year. Our date this year was April 15. High winds on the 15th likely helped it go out a few days earlier than it might have.

There were 13 correct guesses. So we will have a run off at the AGM. Our finalists are:

Sue Walden, Rob and Jan Marconi, Ellen Copeland, Cecilia Jasuawan, Kent Farrow, Joyce Burton, Jennifer Robertson, Stephanie Cudmore, Marian White, Gord Kissman, Roy Cumming, Andy Tamas, and Jeff Durish.

Hope to see you all at the AGM.





Looking Back on 100 Years The Road to Loon Lake in 1920 ©*

The road to Skootamatta Lake, then known as Loon Lake, was very basic back in 1920. That it existed at all was probably related to the fact that the T.A. Wilson company operated a sawmill just north of Trail's End.

That sawmill represented the end of an era on the lake. In the 1800's Skootamatta was an important part of a

logging industry that harvested the giant pines that covered the area at that time. While much of the wood was shipped to the northeast to the Ottawa River via the Mississippi and Madawaska Rivers, some made its way south. Logs were "lifted" by tramway from the lower Mazinaw, transshipped overland to Pringle Lake and then moved on to Skootamatta. From there they were

"run" down the river through Flinton, on to Belleville and finally to Trenton. At Trenton they were processed at the massive Gilmour Company Mill, at the time the largest lumber mill in the British Empire, before being shipped to England. Most of the logs were shipped not as lumber but "square cut" and were destined for the British Navy. The last recorded log drive on the Skootamatta was in 1906 and the Wilson

sawmill closed in 1949.

A lot was happening in Canada in 1920. The first world war had ended in 1918, and the Spanish Flu Pandemic in 1919, the Roaring Twenties were starting, railway and road expansion were opening up new areas to visit and, most significantly for us, recreational development was about to start on Skootamatta. The first cottage on the lake,

part of what would become known as the "Loon Lake Colony" would be built in 1922 by Alfred Ross Osborne. And that first cottage marked the beginning of 100 years of cottaging on Skootamatta, the anniversary which we are celebrating this year. The accompanying article by Jim Osborne, reprinted with the kind permission of the Cloyne District Historical Society, tells the



Loon Lake 1920 - Photo Captioned; "Before the Invasion"©*

story of those early days on the lake.

Much has changed over the past 100 years. In the 1920s Highways 7 and 41 had yet to be built so getting to Cloyne was more difficult than it is today. As for the lake, for many years there were no roads beyond the one to Trail's End. Most cottages were water access and had no

electricity, no phones and certainly no internet! Cottages were built without the benefit of power tools and countless propane tanks were taken by boat to cottages to run lights, stoves and fridges. Coleman and oil lamps were also popular for reading or playing games in the evening, because, of course, there was no television. And every cottage had its outhouse!

In 1955 the new dam was built, raising the lake level, and the name of the lake was changed to Skootamatta, because the Government thought there were too many Loon Lakes in Ontario. In the early days most cottages had been reached by boat but, as time went by, new access roads would be built, new lots opened and new cottages built.

The next major area to be developed was Sheldrake Bay at the western end of the lower lake. The first cottagers there were Stan and Georgina Hughes who built a boat access cottage well before the road now known as Hughes Landing Road was completed in the early 60's. For many years Stan and Georgina ran a store on their property and over time it became a focal point on the Lake. With the opening of the causeway in 1962 new crown land lots were surveyed and sold, allowing more cottages to be built around the bay. In 1967 the last parcel of 20 lots was sold, and the road giving access to them was finished.

As the lower lake was being developed the upper lake had remained largely untouched. In fact, a Royal Canadian Air Force aerial survey done in 1946 showed no dwellings at all on the upper lake. In the early 50's the RCAF acquired land on the south side of the upper lake upper lake not far from the current public access boat launch for a survival training camp and maintained it for many years. You can still see the remnants of the crib used for the dock and some of us can remember the seaplanes from Trenton landing on the lake to bring in the trainees.

In the following years two hunt camps were built on the upper lake and while the one at the top



Hughes Landing in 1974©*

of the lake is gone the one next to the Sand Beach is still there. By 1953 the Wicketts had acquired land on a bay on the north shore of the upper lake and camped there as they built what would become the first cottage on the upper lake.

In the early 50's there were no cottages on Jacques Bay. Our second feature story is about the early days on the Upper Lake of the Chinnick family, who built the first cottage on the Bay in 1957.

From the late 50's through the 60's Crown Land Lots were surveyed and sold on the East side of the narrows which connect the lower and upper lakes. By 1958 the road from Trail's End to the bottom of Jacques Bay had been put through, largely as the result of efforts of the Little family, who would be cottage owners on Jacques Bay for many years. Anyone who lived on Jacques Bay at that time has fond memories of Don Little's annual pig roast and picnic.

Over the next few years, the road system was further extended, providing access to the new lots on the Narrows. The road around the south side of lower the Lake was also extended providing access to the lots at the top of the Upper Lake. Today, with the exception of the cottages on Islands and the north shore of the Upper Lake, all cottagers enjoy road access and the roads have been upgraded from the one lane switchbacks of the 60's to the well-maintained two-lane roads we now take for granted.

Looking back, it is clear that a lot has changed on Skootamatta over the past 100 years and it is as hard for us to imagine what it will be like 100 years from now as it would have been for those first cottagers back in 1922 to visualize the lake today. We are lucky to enjoy such a special place and, hopefully, it will continue to offer future generations the same pleasure, relaxation and closeness to nature it gives all of us all today.

Author's note: We hope you have enjoyed this brief history. While we have done our best to fact check it, we do apologize if we have made any errors and would appreciate receiving corrections from you if we have. With the history we are sharing we are trying to give you a sense of the development of our lake over the past 100 years. In doing so we recognize that there is much that has been left out and many other stories about families and cottages that could have been told. We hope to bring you some of those in future Newsletters and encourage all of you to capture your family history on Skootamatta for future generations.

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Ten years ago Jim Osborne wrote an article about the “Loon Lake Colony” and the beginnings of cottaging on Skootamatta Lake for the Pioneer Times Newsletter of the Cloyne & District Historical Society. This year being the 100th anniversary, we asked for permission to reprint that article. It’s a wonderful story of how cottaging on this lake began. Thank you to Jim Osborne and the Cloyne & District Historical Society for their permission to reprint this article.

THE LOON LAKE COLONY

1922 - 2012

By James Osborne

On July 1, 2012, we at Skootamatta Lake (nee Loon Lake) will celebrate two anniversaries – 145 years of the founding of the Canadian Confederation (Canada Day) and the 90th anniversary of the building of the first permanent cottage on the lake at Osborne Island – and the Osborne Family will celebrate the 97th birthday of the last living person that was there at that founding by his father – J. Ross Osborne.

Born in Montreal in 1889, Alfred Ross (Tiny) Osborne was an inventor, an investor and manufacturer's agent who in his business travelled extensively in the U.S., Europe, and Russia. He was a graduate of St. Andrew's College, and as a young man loved adventure, fishing and hunting. His father, James Osborne, was a senior executive of The Canadian Pacific Railway. As such, Tiny had a free pass anywhere the CPR went. As of 1884, it went to Kaladar, and around that time, the railroad started promoting resort vacations to improve their business – St. Andrews By-the-Sea, Banff Springs Hotel and – Bon Echo Resort.

Travelling by rail to Kaladar, and then by horse drawn carriage, stopping overnight in Northbrook, Tiny or ARO eventually made his way to the Inn around 1910 – 1911. A side trip to fish brought him to Loon Lake. Travel during World War 1 could then be done by car. During the period between 1915 – 1919, he cemented his vision to establish a summer settlement on Loon Lake.

With the able assistance of the Bey and Schwager Brothers, Tiny completed his cottage on Osborne Point (then an island) for occupancy on July 1, 1922. It was built with cedar, birch and pine, windows from Walter Osborne (a distant cousin) and cement floors. It had a dining room and a kitchen and living room as it stands today. There were 2 bedrooms along with a boathouse, storage shed, outdoor toilet, woodshed and ice house. He called it Sunset Lodge.

Recognizing that he was on to a good thing, and being a promoter at heart, he realized he needed to encourage others to also build. Through business and relationships developed on his many visits to Bon Echo, he developed a list of friends who brought a variety of skills to this new community. Land could be



LtoR: Harry Gibbs, Alfred Ross (Tiny) Osborne and Harry Bellingham at Skootamatta Lake in 1922. Photo from the Osborne Collection, Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives.

purchased for as little as \$5 per acre (maximum of 5 acres per name). From 1919 – 1923 Tiny bought many parcels of land and registered them, on an interim basis, in the names of over 30 friends and acquaintances, his wife and two kids and even in the name of his secretary, until final registration was completed.

A sampling of the initial landowners encouraged to come to Loon Lake were Andrew Stevens (Simpsons Hardware in Toronto), Carl Schwenger (Toronto Hydro), George Pearson (Electronics in Chicago), Walter Osborne (Toronto Contractor), Dr. Ralph Williams (Ingersol), Tom Masson (Aikenheads Toronto), Frank Seddon (Electric Toronto), Art Ingram (Funeral Business, Toronto), Fred Stroud (Toronto Hydro), E.J. Harrington (Doors Toronto), E. Jacobs (Metal Windows), Harry Gibbs, Norman Mathew, Ray Chaffee (Detroit), Sprague Moore (Father of the Lone Ranger), Chris Rutland, R.H. Clark, Sid Ballard (Father of Maple Leafs executive Harold Ballard), and others.

Travel to the lake in the nineteen twenties was very difficult, a real journey. Highways 7 and 41 were not completed until 1933 & 1935 respectively. While automobiles were now used (first recorded auto was a Cadillac owned by Merrill Denison's father in 1911), the roads were bumpy. Each car carried at least 2 spare tires and patches for flats. The distance from Toronto was 175 miles, often taking the whole day. From Belleville, you travelled north through Tweed, Bridgewater (Actinolite), Finton then turning at the Addington Road through Cloyne. Then you travelled along the Skootamatta and Jacques Bay road to Trails End where the road stopped. The final journey to your cottage was by boat. Ed Landon, who owned the store at the top of the hill, rowed people until motor boats arrived in the mid 1920s.

Many local families were involved in the construction and maintenance of the early cottages. The early cottage builders included Bill and Mike Schwager, the Bey Brothers (Charlie and Pete, who worked at Bon Echo), Jim Meeks and others. Andrew Meeks built the ice houses with Leo and Elburn Meeks Sr. filling them every winter. Mike Schwager specialized in making the fireplaces and beds. Charlie Bey made cedar and birch furniture. All lumber came from the mill in Cloyne (behind the museum). Materials were put on a 30'x 30' barge at the landing, then pulled over to the property being built by a metal boat with 2 1/2 HP motor. All materials came from Cloyne by wagon along the Addington Road.

Life at the cottage in the 1920s & 1930s was substantially different than today (we did not get



The Osborne cottage on Skootamatta Lake was completed in 1922. Photos: Cathy Hook, 2010

hydro until 1953). Most people bought their staples at Wheelers store in Cloyne (now Grand's). One could buy everything from eggs, bacon, and potatoes to nails, axes, hammers and saws, as well as clothing. Andrew and Martha Meeks raised chickens and vegetables. Joe Reid ran the local blacksmith shop in Cloyne (where Nowells is now located). He made fireplace screens, grates and tools while his wife made rag rugs for cottages. Martha Meeks grew a variety of vegetables.



Mike Schwager lower left, Peter Bay standing middle, Bill Schwager standing right. The Bays and Schwagers were involved in the construction of many of the original cottages on Skootamatta Lake. Date approximately 1925. Photo from John Schwager.

Wilfred Lessard collected the local taxes on the lake by canoe. The Archie Meeks family owned many boathouses at the Landing which stored motor boats (Boston whalers) in the mid 1920s as well as renting skiffs and boats to fisherman and hunters.

Up until 1953 when Hydro arrived, cottage life was rustic and basic. You were lucky to have running water via a hand pump. Wood stoves were your oven and heat in the early mornings. Most people had ice houses and ice boxes. Leo and Elburn Meeks Sr. cut the ice on the lake and using a horse drawn sleigh, took the blocks to the cottage ice house each winter. They spread sawdust on the ice to help it survive the summer heat. The ice box in the cottage was zinc lined and made of oak. The ice was put on the top level, food inside. There was a tray on the bottom to collect water. The ice had to be replaced every 2 days. Light was supplied via coal oil lanterns as well as very large hurricane lanterns and flashlights. These hurricanes were vital and they provided a beacon for motor boats at night guiding them to your property (a hazardous journey in fog and rain, especially around Mike's Island and Osborne Point). Cleaning sheets, towels, and clothes was done with yellow sunlight soap on a washboard down by the lake, and then dried on clotheslines. Hot water was boiled in a kettle on the wood stove.

During the day, people did chores – cooking, baking, cleaning, carrying water, filling the ice box and wood container: constant building and repairs, hauling rocks, wood cutting and splitting, lots of swimming, some fishing. In the evenings, some congregated at the Landing or Schwengers on the weekend to sing, dance and tell stories. Many stayed at home relaxing after a hard day playing records on wind-up phonographs, or playing games like snakes and ladders, crazy 8s, crib, gin rummy, old maid, hearts, fish etc. Bed early, rise early. No TV, computer, phone – not bad but pretty remote.

People in the early days of the 1920s went to the lake to get away from their jobs and city life. Just like today. While their daily and weekend activities were different then in July and August, some things remain the same 90 years later:

- the lake is still beautiful and clean

- we still go there to get away from the city but now can do it for weekends
- many still have wood stoves
- there are still chores and building activities
- kids today still enjoy the lake as much as their grandparents did when they were kids.

May we enjoy the pristine beauty of our lake for many generations to come.

DID YOU KNOW

1. The first permanent cottage was built by Alfred Ross (Tiny) Osborne on July 1, 1922. Today the 5th generation still enjoys time at Skootamatta in the original compound.
2. Until the mid 1950s, the lake was known as Loon Lake. As there were many lakes in the province with the same name, to prevent further confusion, the government renamed our lake Skootamatta. Skootamatta was named by the Mississauga or Ojibwa tribe meaning "burnt at the forks" or "burnt shoreline". The lake encompasses 3015 acres, has a perimeter of 49 kilometres, and has a maximum depth of 99' and mean depth of 23'. Fed by artesian wells, the lake eventually drains into Lake Ontario. Another tribal translation, the one we prefer is "Land of Shooting Stars".
3. Mike Schwager (Mike's Island) had the local post office on Loon Lake in 1927 – 1928. It was called Festubert, named after a famous WWI battle where many of Tiny Osborne's school mates at St. Andrew's died. It served 22 cottages. People would row up to the cabin and receive their mail in slots on a cabinet. Thereafter, mail service was transferred to the mainland and run by the Yanch family.
4. Locals and area cottagers did most of their shopping at the general store in Cloyne owned by the Wheelers, then Harvey and Rachael Spencer in the 1920s & 30s (now Grands). Supplied weekly from Tweed, the store offered drugs, lumber, paint, equipment, clothes, boots, and gas. Many items were offered in bulk – eggs by the case, bacon by the slab, beef by the side and potatoes by the bushel.



Mike's Island barely accommodated Mike Schwager's cabin which operated as Festubert Post Office in 1927 and 1928; Mike Schwager was also foreman for the construction of several of the first cottages, under the supervision of 'Tiny' Osborne, including the massive stone Skootamatta Lodge, owned by the Pearsons and now the Halperins. Photos from the Cloyne and District Historical Society Album, CDHS flickr website.

Tomatoes cost 10 cents/tin and dry beans were 25 cents for 10 pounds. Credit was offered between paychecks.

5. Highway 7 was completed in 1933, and highway 41 in 1935. Both were government make-work projects during the depression.
6. Rutland Lodge (now owned by the Tait family) was the first fishing lodge on the Lake. Built in mid 1920, it employed many local people.
7. The original lake association was incorporated as a provincial company in 1928. It was formed to get discounts on fishing and hunting equipment. The Greater Loon Lake Fishing Club had a board of 8 chaired by Tiny Osborne, and 33 chartered members.
8. The last lumber operation on the lake, the Wilson Lumber Co. closed its doors on the north shore in 1949. The property was bought and developed by the Lazell and Moir families in the 1950s.
9. There were two properties with telephones in the 1920s – Bon Echo Resort and Pearson's Skootamatta Lodge.



Alfred Ross Osborne, unknown date. Photo from the Cloyne and District Historical Society Album, CDHS flickr website.

Bon Echo Provincial Park, on land donated to the Province of Ontario by Merrill Denison, was officially opened in 1965.

The Cloyne Pioneer Museum

If you enjoyed reading about the history of the Lake you should plan a visit to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. Established in 1982, and added to in 2013, the Museum is operated by the not-for-profit Cloyne and District Historical Society. We would like to thank the Society for allowing us to reprint the article on the Loon Lake Colony and the use of pictures from their website.

The Society's catchment area is the Highway 41 corridor from Kaladar in the south to Denbigh and Griffith in the north, as well as Flinton to the west and Harlowe to the east. In addition to the artifacts, documents and displays housed at the Museum, there is a wealth of information about the history of the area in the stories in the Pioneer Times, which the Society publishes twice a year

The Pioneer Museum collections reflect the history of this area beginning from settlement times in the 1850s, with emphasis on such themes as settlement and pioneer life, mining, logging, tourism and the building of the Addington Road.

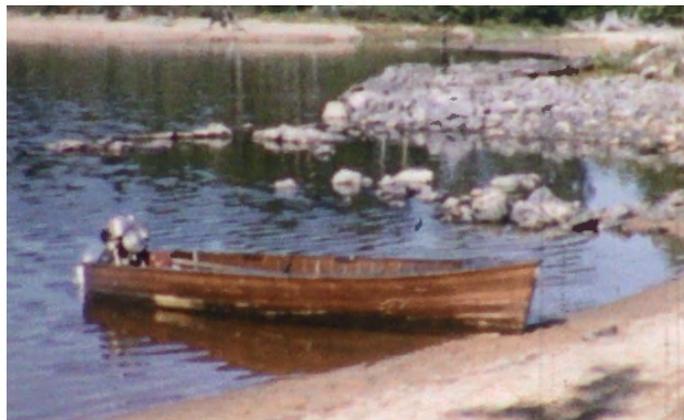
The Museum offers free admission and is open mid-June until Labour Day, receiving over 1,000 visitors during the summer. Students are employed throughout the summer to ensure the Museum is well staffed to receive visitors.

Chinnicks at Loon Lake By Jim Chinnick

My Dad (Bob Chinnick) knew about Loon Lake from his own time fishing there with his father Perce Chinnick, in the early 1930s. My grandfather was a business man from Chatham, Ontario, and had made many friends, one of whom was Norman Mathew from Islington, who, according to the history of the Greater Loon Lake Fishing Club, was elected a Director in December 1928. Norman's cottage was part of the Loon Lake Colony and that was where Dad and my grandparents stayed during their visits to the lake.

In the summer of 1955 my parents, Bob and Catherine Chinnick, and their four children, were living in Sainte-Foy, a suburb of Quebec City. That July they welcomed a new son, whom they named Andrew. Apparently to give our mother some "room," Dad borrowed some camping gear from our friends, Bruce and Yvonne Heney, and took three of the older children, Karen, Elizabeth, and me, on a camping trip, leaving Ruth and Andrew at home with Mom.

Dad told Mom that he wasn't sure where we were going, but it would be somewhere in Ontario. In truth we went directly to Loon Lake! We eventually arrived at Trail's End, where Harold



Maybee was running a small store. Harold also had boats available, and we arranged to rent one, on which we mounted a vintage (probably about 1947) 7.5 h.p. Johnson outboard motor, that Dad owned. This would be our workhorse motor for several years, and I still have it. It is mostly notable for producing a lot of noise and smoke, as the oil-to-gas mixture was 2 quarts oil to 5 gallons of gas (10:1). Here is a picture of the rented boat and the motor.

We camped the first night on a promontory at the mouth of Wolf Creek, close to a sand outcropping. This would be the Henniger road side of the creek, and I think a road was already in place at this time.

The next day we motored to the north end of the narrows and settled in the small bay on the eastern shore just before Jacques Bay. There was a beautiful sand beach, and an impressive rocky point jutting out into the entrance to Jacques Bay. In addition to the beach, the bay was notable for the large number of birch trees. You can tell from the picture (opposite page) that there were also a large number of stumps along the shore, and why these were there has never been clear to me.



(Note the outboard motor)

At the time of our visit there was no road to this area of the upper lake and no development in Jacques Bay. Dad staked two properties in the bay, one for us, that extended from the middle of the beach area, around the point and then along the shore on the Jacques Bay side, and a second lot for our friends, the Balfours. Dad marked the boundaries of these properties by nailing pieces of wood to trees with notes in beer bottles for the surveyor, and subsequently arranged to have them surveyed and purchased.



In the summer of 1956, the entire Chinnick family travelled to Loon Lake and camped in an old bell tent on the property behind the beach. The only access to the property continued to be by water, launching the boat at Trail's End, and motoring from there. Dad came and went as he had only limited vacation time, so for much of the time Mom was camping alone with five children. Some coordination was required to meet Dad when he came, as communications were quite limited as compared to today.

Mom's sanity was probably maintained through the support of her sister, Audrey Lemmon, known to all as Aunt Audrey, who spent this camping summer (and subsequent ones) with us, along with her daughter Catherine, a 1 year old in 1956. Ultimately Aunt Audrey purchased the Balfour property, and now Catherine and her family (the Warriners) are active participants on the lake – the legacy continues!

One big surprise when we arrived in 1956 was the water level – since the new dam was now in operation the water level was significantly higher than what we had seen the year before. I will note here that prior to the development of the new dam, there may have been significant natural changes in the lake water level, by year and season and the water level during our first visit might have been particularly low.

That summer our friends the Heney's, intrigued by stories of our visit the prior year, visited the lake and camped with us. They also fell in love with Skootamatta and would soon become the third lot owners on the bay, after Don and Jane Little, who had recently purchased lots at the east end of the bay.

In the spring of 1957, the shell of our cabin was built by Sandy Drysdale from Northbrook, using materials that had been trucked in over the ice the preceding winter. That year Dad also arranged to purchase a second piece of property along the shore of Jacques Bay adjoining our first lot, and reaching down to where the access lot is now.

In 1958 we built a boat house, and the road to Jacques Bay was put through. Using this road, we were now able to drive to the Little's and walk to the cottage. The Littles were extremely generous neighbours. We frequently loaded our boat from their dock, which allowed us to move large amounts of materials easily to our cottage, rather than carrying them along the shore through the woods.

By 1959 the road was extended along the south side of Jacques Bay. Also in 1959 friends of Dad's, the Blakes, visited us from Quebec City, and also ended up as long term cottagers - on



Wolf Creek Bridge Construction for new Jacques Bay Road

Blake Island - so the semi-French name "Jacques Bay" was well supported by cottagers from Quebec!

Sometime in the next couple of years the road was extended into the Narrows. During this same period Mrs. McNevin, who had purchased what would be known as McNevin's Island, pushed a road down to the shore of Jacques Bay where the access road/parking lot is now. In 1970 we put in our driveway and now we could drive all the way to the cottage.

Development in the Narrows and the Upper Lake now proceeded fairly quickly, with an influx of new people bringing their love of the

lake and their experiences, and enriching all of our lives on the lake.

As Mom and Dad moved numerous times while we were growing up, the lake became the one place we all knew and felt most at home. As Dad hoped when he started this, the whole clan, including cousins, nieces, nephews and now their children, have been active users of the lake ever since, and have strong bonds with the lake, and memories of our history continue to evolve.

Winter Activities at Skoot

I love winter at the cottage. There is nothing quite as exhilarating as being out in the snow and cold then coming inside to a wood fire. Winter used to mean closing up the cottage. Since moving here full time it just means a continuation of cottage season. How can you beat that?

Winter activities also help make the season more enjoyable. Once again bleach bottle curling on the lake became our main activity. Curling last winter was an extraordinary social outlet that brought a group of us on Osborne Point out to play at a time when Covid had isolated everyone. It became an anticipated daily event which we could do safely. I wondered if we could re-establish the same magic that we had then. Well we sure did. The same enthusiasm and daily get-togethers took place again.

The weather proved to be more challenging this year. One storm dumped a foot and a half of snow on the rink. We had to call in all the curlers to shovel it off. Even finding the rink was a challenge. The rocks were so deep in the snow that there was only a slight bump where they were. But we found the rocks and the rink and were curling that same day. The extra snow also provided deep enough snow to hold our brooms. We called this our clubhouse.

We kept the rink going until surface water took over the rink. Our season was shorter this year but just as enjoyable. If you are interested in a fun winter activity that brings people together try this. Lots of fun.



Land O'Lakes Horticultural Society News

Our much-anticipated ANNUAL PLANT SALE will take place on May 28th at 1444 Highway 506, which is the home of one of our Co-chairs Janis St. John. The sale starts at 9AM sharp. As usual there will be a good choice of plants provided by our members. It is the place to find excellent, good-sized hostas for your garden at very reasonable prices, and many other plant varieties. We will also have some seedling vegetables for sale. It is a good idea to bring along a large cardboard box to hold all the potted plants you purchase, ready for transplanting.

Our 2022 Speakers

Come and join us on the second Wednesday of each month at the Barrie Township Hall, in Cloyne, at 7:00 pm

<p>Wednesday, April 13, 2022 Bonita Ford presents "Embracing Life in an Age of Ecological Destruction and Climate Change"</p>	<p>Bonita is an amazing speaker, and she will share all she has learned and what we can do to help combat climate change in our neck of the woods.</p>
<p>Wednesday, May 11, 2022 Coleman Boomhour presents "Property Management"</p>	<p>Coleman is a local arborist and is extremely knowledgeable in all things trees. He will teach us how to manage our properties and identify trees that need care.</p>
<p>Wednesday, June 8, 2022 Anna Leggatt presents "Big, Bad, Beautiful but Beware!"</p>	<p>Anna will talk to us about what we need to do to stop our gardens from being overrun. Many more plants have been added to the "Beware" category.</p>
<p>Wednesday, July 13, 2022 Tawny Stowe presents "Getting to know plants in a spiritual way"</p>	<p>Tawny Stowe is a Métis business owner, who has been instrumental in the setting up of our Indigenous Commemorative Healing Garden</p>
<p>Wednesday, August 10, 2022 Susan and Brian Nilsson present "Monarch Butterflies from egg to flight"</p>	<p>Susan and Brian will tell us about their dedication to protect the Monarchs that grace their gardens every year.</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 14, 2022 Master Gardener, Astrid Muschalla, presents "Recipe for a great Herb Garden"</p>	<p>As well as being very informative, there will also be some tasting!</p>
<p>Wednesday, October 12, 2022 Debb Poole from Connon's Nursery presents "Clematis and Other Plants That Climb"</p>	<p>Let's think outside the box – climbing plants are not just for growing on arbors and trellises – how about up a tree?</p>
<p>Wednesday, November 9, 2022 Some sort of Christmas Workshop</p>	<p>Always a perfect way to end our year with something we can take home to grace our homes at Christmas. This will also be our AGM meeting and Potluck Supper. Please note this meeting will start early at 5:00 p.m. We will follow any current Covid restrictions for this event.</p>

Please come and listen to a speaker. You may decide to join our group!

Special Project 2022/2023 Indigenous Commemorative & Healing Garden



The Land O'Lakes Garden Club is currently developing a culturally significant community project. We are building, with design input from our Indigenous neighbours, a traditional Medicine Wheel Garden, in readily accessible local public space. We have been deeply touched by stories of the lost children and survivors of the Residential school's system and have read the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the recommendations contained therein. Our club wishes to develop the garden as a step forward in building better historical understanding, relationships, and friendships within our communities.

Investigating the creation and development of this project, we came across some wise words by an Indigenous man, who was also involved in building such a public space.

"This is but a little garden, but it opens hopefully a lot of opportunities to be in relationship, to have nation-to-nation relationship, to be in conversation about what it means to be stewards of the land." (Joce Two Crows Tremblay is an earth worker with the Indigenous Land Stewardship Circle in Toronto.)

The garden will be in Cloyne, at Benny Lake Heritage Park between the Barrie Township Hall and the Cloyne & District Historical Society Museum. The most prominent feature, centrally located in the park, is a Medicine Wheel with plants important and native to Indigenous culture. We hope to also include a butterfly garden for the children, a contemplative & sharing area with log seating, and provide a peaceful view of the pond. We are inviting as many participants as possible to help with the basic structure, including the members of our club, local businesses, and tradespeople and importantly the NAEC who are going to build the kiosks we are including for educational and informative signage. Once you see work beginning you may wish to drop by and see the progress. All will not be completed this year as funds from grants and other donations are often tenuous. Our requests are submitted, and we are hoping for good financial news that will permit us to complete our vision.

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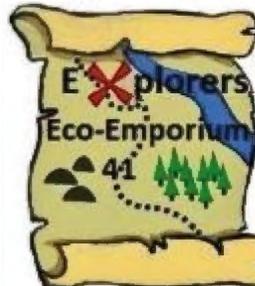
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Source: Map Cartia, modified to show points of interest. Locations approximate

