



SDRA ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2004

Skootamatta District
Ratepayers Association
Inc. 1983

A Message from your New Reeve Ken Hook

I hope your SDRa Newsletter finds you well and looking forward to spending another summer at the cottage.

As many of you know, Cathy and I have recently purchased John and Doreen Howard's house and will be joining you as residents on Skootamatta Lake beginning in July.

We have had a busy winter in the Township and the Road staff are grading and repairing roads after the spring thaw. I trust most of you have read the Town Newsletter included with your latest tax bill. In case you did not receive one let me know and I will mail you a copy. Other Township news is available on our web site at www.addingtonhighlands.ca.

Many challenges lie ahead but we are full of enthusiasm and ready to meet these challenges. Please feel free to contact me anytime at 336-3211 or by email at kennethhook@aol.com. Hope to renew many acquaintances again at the next AGM!
Kind Regards,
Ken Hook, Reeve

**Remember to bring
your new
neighbours to the
Annual General
Meeting !**

Your 2004 Executive

Ron Nowell, President

Kent Farrow, Vice
President

Lynn Garnish, Secretary/
Treasurer

Esther Demczak, Director

Laury Hitchcock,
Director

Carol Bessie, Director

Ben Koehler, Director

A Message from your SDRa President: Ron Nowell

Hello all !!, Another season or two has come and gone since many of you were at the lake, the ice came out April 18th, so life will soon get back to the regular commute from the city to "home". Forget basketball, hockey, and whatever was going on all winter and bring on the **cottage life** and good neighbours.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the season finale fireworks show last year, I would like to thank all those that made it possible, volunteers, paid members, those that contributed extra funds, and to Jim Rose and his staff for the great show. Without everyone's help it could not happen, **Thank You**.

Last but definitely not least. Please check your 911 number to be sure that it is correct and properly visible, the persons responding to your emergency may not be familiar with the area and depend entirely on those numbers.

If your number is not right or is missing, please call the township office or one of the councillors for further assistance. **See you at the AGM. Ron.**



NORTHBROOK IGA
Proud sponsor of the
SDRA AGM for over
10 Years

Your Executive Biographies..Betcha Didn't Know ????

Ron Nowell President

..Ron was born and raised in the area . He bought his property on Skootamatta in 1978.

After trying a stint in the "city" he realized there is nothing better than Skoot and moved here permanently in 1985 to start his own business.

Ron has 3 children, Melanie, Ryan and Melissa.

Ron has been on the SDRA Exec for 9 years.

Kent Farrow Vice- President

...third generation cottager has memories of 'Skoot' dating back to the mid 50's. His grandparents arrived on the lake in the late 1930's. Kent's parents purchased property on North Shore Rd.in 1970 for about \$16.00 a shoreline foot (yikes!!)....Kent's Dad, Wilf Farrow, was a past President of the SDRA. Kent, wife Jan, daughter Erin ,sons Scott & Cory, make 'Skootamatta' their summer home. This has been Kent's 5th year on the

Lynn Garnish Secty-/Treasurer

... married to Willy who has been on Skoot for over 40 years. They still have no road, no hydro, no phone and love every minute of it. Their son Cameron is a fixture on the lake and is picking up where his Dad left off. Scary.

Lynn and Willy only "survive" Canadian winters because winter brings spring and spring brings Skoot!
This is Lynn's 10th year on the SDRA exec.

Laury Hitchcock Director

Laury and Don have lived at Skoot for three years and have been coming to Skoot for over 20. Laury is a Grade 5 teacher at N. Addington in Cloyne . They have two sons, Dave and Bryan, who have summered at Skoot all their lives and enjoy living here now. Their original cottage burned in 1999, so they decided to build their dream home and fast forward their plans to come to live at the lake. Don is a retired Toronto police officer, now enjoying retirement. The "sentinel" of Jacques Bay is their wonderful black lab, Jessie. Laury is in her 3rd year as a Director of the SDRA.

Esther Demczak Director

Esther has been on Skoot for 12 years. Born and raised "north of 7" she plans to retire "north of 7". Currently living in Whitby with her 3 children, Paul, Mark and Katie, Esther keeps busy working full-time .With 3 teens in sports, her second job is "taxi driver"
This is Esther's 2nd year on the SDRA exec

Carol Bessie Director

Carol has been coming to Skootamatta for most of her life and now owns a cottage on her favourite lake. Her mother Annie was well known on the lake for her amazing "perogies" .

Carol and her husband Craig are a testament to the true fisherman as they patiently wait for the "big one" This is Carols first year on the SDRA exec.

Ben Koehler Director

Ben has been coming to Skoot since he was in diapers. Even during the time when Ben did not own property on Skoot he would drive from the city "just to fish"
He probably knows more fishing holes than most!
Ben now has his own cottage and can fish whenever he wants.
This is Bens first year on the SDRA exec

**SPACE
AVAILABLE FOR
NEW
VOLUNTEERS**

**PLEASE SIGN UP
AT THE AGM**

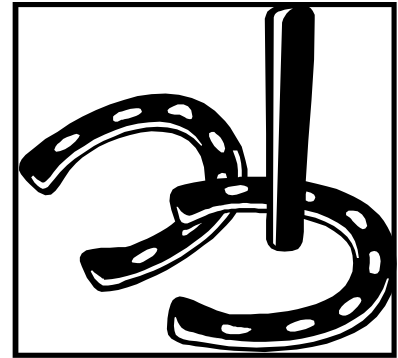
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SAT JULY 3RD 10:00 AM

This is a great time to meet up with your friends, neighbours and new members. Bring a chair and plan to stay for our BBQ after the meeting.

Your executive will be there to answer your questions and bring you up to date on lake news

**PLEASE SHOW SUPPORT TO YOUR "VOLUNTEER" EXECUTIVE
BY ATTENDING THE AGM**

2003 SDRA Horseshoe Tournament



Thirteen teams took part in the 2003 SDRA horseshoe tournament held under the majestic pines and speaking of those pines they appear to be losing some of their majesty (too many misguided shoes apparently the cause). The weather was terrific and the enjoyment level seemed to be high. When it was all over, the team of **Rod Trimble and Jim Knox** took home the 'Aquino family' championship trophy. Kent Farrow hopes that more cottagers take advantage of the fun at this year's tournament so that this and other SDRA traditional activities remain vibrant and entertaining. Entry fee \$ 2.00 per player.

We desperately need 2 volunteers for this day willing to oversee the activities. We hope to see you Saturday, July 31st at 10:00am at the pits.

Perseid Meteor Shower Aug 11th and Aug 12th

Meteor watching is like fishing, only easier; one can simply relax and enjoy the canopy of the sky while waiting for a bite. It is easy for the observer to feel connected to the cosmos, the link between the heavens and the Earth being provided by the meteors themselves. Meteor showers provide a most accessible and rewarding observing experience, requiring no optical aid whatever. "Equipment" requirements include a comfortable lawn chair or mattress, a sleeping bag, bug spray, and warm beverages. Clear skies are a must, preferably (but not necessarily) dark, rural skies.

Bright moonlight will hamper observations, which is dependent on the luck of the calendar from shower to shower and from one year to the next. Meteor observing can be done alone, but is most enjoyable when done in a group with family or friends.

BAT BOX TO THE RESUE ...

One of the best ways to help eliminate mosquitoes and the threat of **West Nile Virus** is to build a Bat Box.

Mosquitoes make up a significant portion of a bat's diet. A small bat can capture more than 1,200 mosquitoes in a single hour! Bats cannot contract West Nile Virus by eating infected mosquitoes. Myths that bats are aggressive and carriers of rabies are abundant. But the fact is that bats are actually quite harmless and are important indicators of a healthy environment.



Click on www.bestnest.com and follow the links to bat houses for further info

Care to "lend" your Cottage for Cancer Care?

COTTAGE DREAMS

is a charitable organization that provides recent cancer survivors with the opportunity to get away to a donated cottage for a week of rest & relaxation

Who are the recipients?

The recipients are adults and children who are currently in remission or are recuperating from cancer and will benefit from time spent with their family, enjoying the peace and quiet of Ontario's cottage country.

Those who have been out of treatment for a time of 6 months or less are eligible.

Who are the donors?

Those who are fortunate enough to have a vacation property and are willing to donate it to Cottage Dreams for 1 or 2 weeks a year.

This is the opportunity to give the gift of peace of mind to those who have recently won the battle of their lives and wouldn't otherwise be able to get away.

WEB Site Update

We have been so fortunate to find a volunteer "Webmaster" to help us get our website up and running and do ongoing maintenance.

Thank you Thank you to Kim Johnston, Skootamatta Lake cottager for giving her time for this.

We're on the WEB!
www.skootamatta.com

This is a HUGE undertaking and if anyone can assist Kim with this it would be really great.

We are still "Under Construction" but hope to be up and running at the beginning of July.

Keep checking us out !

We plan to have access to our Newsletter and message boards to help keep everyone informed !

Beach Clean-Up Day Sun July 4

In the past we have sporadically tried to organize beach clean up days. It is timely again to do this. If you ever use any of the beaches on our lake please take the time to volunteer for just one hour!

Executive members will be on hand with water and garbage bags. Please bring your own rakes.

The Upper Beach near Jacques Bay tends to be used the most.

Lets make sure we clear the glass, garbage to ensure an accident free summer.

Many cottagers have donated items over the years for the use of all at this beach.

BBQ's ,chairs and children's tables.

These items are now damaged and require disposal.



Keep our Beaches Clean
and Safe

Goodbye Trail's End Cabins.. 'Hello' Trimble's Cottages'

In the Fall of 2003 the property formerly known as Trail's End Cabins was purchased by long-time Skootamatta Lake cottagers, **Rod & Cynthia Trimble.** We wish the new owners every success in their new venture !

You can contact them at
Trimble's Cottages
Skootamatta Lake
Cloyne rtrimble@sympatico.ca
613-336-8067

News Regarding Office of Safe Boating

The Office of Boating Safety is now part of **Transport Canada** and is no longer with the Canadian Coast Guard effective April 1, 2004.

DUMP BAG TAGS INCREASE TO 2.00

MEMORIES IN THE CORNER OF MY MIND

We have not forgot the 'Memory Book'.

Keep putting pen to paper !

Plans are to have a section on our website for all of our memories.

If you already have yours written please give a copy to one of the executive. (Preferably in disk format if possible)

Read memories from our "First Feature Family" on page one 13 !

**Memories
are the
foundation
of our
future.**

**They will
live forever.**

Condolences

Our Sincere Condolences to

The Dicks Family on the loss of Brian Dicks

The Schram Family on the loss of Lloyd Schram

The Laws Family on the loss of Frank Laws

The Tate family on the loss of Jack Tate

If we have omitted any family's please also accept our condolences

COTTAGE DREAMS PROGRAM

(Toronto Star March 2004)

Myles McLellan was 9 when the doctors found a cancerous tumour in his brain. Marcy O'Neill was 52 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. The two have never met, but last year their lives became inextricably linked through a novel approach to cancer recovery that combines good will, fresh air and a leap of faith.



Called **Cottage Dreams**, it is the brainchild of O'Neill's

daughter, Seana, and Seana's husband, Tavis Valentine. Simply put, the group offers cancer survivors and their families a week free of charge at a cottage donated by owners who understand and support the cause.

The program, which operates year-round, is still in its infancy. For now, it can't accommodate anyone still in the midst of chemotherapy, radiation or other heavy-duty treatments.

But already it's showing promise in its ability to alleviate some of the stress that goes with the aftermath of one of the world's most dreaded diagnoses.

"It was just what the doctor didn't order," says Myles' mother, Susan, of the week in Haliburton she spent in September with her husband, Wayne, their son and his friend, Jordan.

"It seemed as if everything else in Myles' life required a prescription; this just happened. He had gone through a year of chemotherapy, six months of radiation and a 20-hour brain operation. We had never been away like that; just us without anybody else."

Myles, who turned 11 last month, "loves to fish and he loves nature," says Susan McLellan. "There was a paddleboat, which was more stable than the canoe, so he could go out on the lake. He caught 120 fish. He also had a chipmunk eating out of his hand."

When Myles and Jordan were in the cottage, Susan and Wayne had time to just sit on the dock and talk. "We had been distant," she says. "Things had taken a toll on our marriage. So it was like a chance for a new beginning.

"I'm not sure if the people who donate their cottages for a week realize the impact they have. We could never have afforded to do this otherwise."

The idea for **Cottage Dreams** came after Seana O'Neill, her husband and sons got their own cottage. Having watched her mother, a nurse at St. Michael's Hospital's family practice unit, go through cancer treatment, they realized the power of peace and quiet.

"I can't begin to explain the response we've had from people willing to donate their cottages for a week," she says. "We've had offers from Lake Erie to North Bay and from the Manitoba to the Quebec border."

Bruce and Ginny Miller, who donated the cottage Myles and his family stayed at, **read about the program in a local newspaper.**

"It reminded us how lucky we are and that there are many times when our cottage is not in use," says Bruce Miller. "Seana came to talk to us and check out the cottage." It was also checked by one of the local companies Cottage Dreams uses to manage the dream weeks.

"The whole thing went seamlessly," Miller says. "Everybody pitched in. Our neighbours Bill and Cathy Murray donated their paddleboat. And when we went back to our cottage, not a thing was out of place."

Cottage Dreams has about 60 cottages on its books and **hopes to add more**. Visitors sign a waiver releasing cottage owners from any liability. And the group pays to increase insurance coverage for cottage owners during the week visitors will be there.

To participate in the program, cottages must be within a 45-minute drive of a hospital and easily accessible from the road. They must have indoor plumbing and a telephone.

Visiting families are chosen in consultation with medical experts and must agree to respect and look after the donated property.

Cottage Dreams also has the support of local "ambassadors," volunteers who deliver welcome baskets and are available to answer any questions visitors may have throughout their stay.

Other supporters include *Cottage Life* magazine, which donates a portion of the proceeds from its Mosaik MasterCard, a host of local businesses that donate time, services and expertise and people who don't have cottages but donate funds to help defray administrative costs.

As for Marcy O'Neill and Myles McLellan, both are doing well.

Mining Rights. Did You Know.....An Update from FOCA

How would you like to find a stranger on your property, cutting down your trees, and telling you he has a right to be in your yard with a backhoe on 24 hours notice? Furthermore, he's telling you that he has right to do so.

In September of 2000 prospectors came into Bedford Township north of Kingston, entered private property, and staked mining claims. In doing so they did not ask permission to enter the property. They cut down mature trees to use as claim posts, cut lines, and blazed trails through wood lots. The claims cover 5,500 acres on private land, in an area known for its good quality lakes and recreational properties. All of this is condoned by the Ministry of Northern Mines and Development (MNMD). Ontario's *Mining Act* purports to allow unrestricted access to a prospector on private lands where the mineral rights are held by the Crown. **This access is not impeded by privacy, trespass, environmental, municipal, fisheries or forestry acts or regulations.**

Many of the waterfront homes or cottages are on lakes designated *highly sensitive* Lake Trout Lakes with extensive protection to quality of water and limits on development. **The *Mining Act* does not recognize these environmental incentives.** Once established, the mining company can proceed with exploration work, which ranges from wandering around your property to intrusive exploration including trenching, drilling, and blasting. This can result in either an open pit or shaft mine on your property. This work can be carried out anywhere including at the water's edge or off the ice in winter.

Ownership of surface rights versus mineral rights can be determined at the land registry office or through your lawyer. The MNDM website also shows maps for most of the province showing what lands are open for staking. You can also phone the Provincial Mining Records office in Sudbury at 888-415-9845. Visit the Ministry Website at www.mndm.gov.on.ca

FOCA has become involved in this issue. We have a seat on the Minister's Mining Act Advisory Committee (MMAAC). FOCA's concerns include but are not limited to privacy rights, limiting access without consent, staking claims without notice, property owner's liability, and the implementation of procedures to ensure the prompt and fair adjudication of disputes and statutes that reflect property owners' and industries' obligations to related legislation (municipal, environment, fisheries, forestry, tax assessment and so on.)

To prevent this from happening in your backyard, contact the Minister's Office, care of Jim Wilson, Minister of Northern Development and Mines, e-mail jim.wilson@ndm.gov.on.ca. Your action on this issue will help FOCA effect change.

There is however some good news and it comes from the new government. As you know FOCA has representation on the Ministers Mining Act Advisory Committee. We were once again invited by the new Minister, Rick Bartolucci to participate at MMAAC which met February 17, 18 in Toronto. Since the Liberals coronation in October 2003 we have been working with Mr Bartolucci's office staff as they develop their understanding of the Surface Rights v Mineral Rights problems. We have also copied two other Cabinet Ministers, Leona Dombrowski, Minister of the Environment and John Gerretson, Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Now that the Minister is supporting changes, the Ministry has taken the position of supporting amendment to the Act which provides: * mineral rights may be acquired provided there is zero impact upon the incumbent surface rights. * no entry, no claim posts, no lines over or upon incumbent surface rights. * no right of entry upon incumbent surface rights at any time to stake, prospect or explore without consent. * although the mineral rights may be acquired, no ground activity may proceed except through a consensual process. These recommendations set the path to reform. The challenge is to stay on that path and get to the end with all of the good intentions intact.

Handy "LINKS" and "CONTACT INFORMATION"

Township Website

www.addingtonhighlandstwp.ca

Mazinaw On-Line

www.mazinaw.on.ca

Federation of Cottagers Association

www.foca.on.ca

Lank O 'Lakes News

www.newsweb.ca/

Reeve: Ken Hook

(613) 336-3211

email: kennethwhook@aol.com

Deputy Reeve: Loraine Berger

(613) 333-2787 Home Phone

RR #1 Denbigh, Ontario
KOH 1L0

Councillor:Ward 2 Louise Scott

(613) 336-1133 Home Phone

P.O. Box 124, Cloyne, ON KOH 1K0

Fire Chief Casey Cuddy

EMERGENCY CALLS 9-1-1

Home Phone (613) 336-8135

FAX (613) 336-1851

Ward 2 Hall, #23 Fire Hall Road,
Northbrook FAX (613) 336-1851

ROADS/BRIDGES

Royce Rosenblath - Supervisor,
Wards 1 & 2

Mike Kerr and Clifford York - Lead
Hands

Ward 2 Garage, # 868 Flinton
Road, Tel (613) 336-8674

"VOLUNTEERS" are the Key to Survival of the S.D.R.A.

Each year we promote the importance of being a "volunteer". This year is no exception.

Your current executive has been together with minimal turnover for the past **10 years!** Let's see some new blood and help keep our traditions going!

We need volunteers for

**Annual General Meeting:
4 Volunteers Needed** **Horse-
shoe Tournament:
2 Volunteers Needed**

A Big Thank-you" to the

Brundage Family

for helping make our AGM BBQ a success for the 2nd year in a row !

Long Live Our Lake !!

Are you one of those people whose family has been on the lake for generations? Think back 30, 20 or even 10 years. If you haven't been around that long, talk to a neighbour who has. They will remember a time when you could drink the water without fear of illness, a time when there were long stretches of undisturbed shoreline and when you could see fish swimming

30 feet down. (Yes rumor has it there are fish in Skoot!)

Now think 20 years into the future. Waterborne disease only takes on tablespoon to swallow. Even if your drinking water comes from a well you are not immune.

Leaky and old septics can contaminate ground water as well as lake water.

Please have your Septic System checked and pumped regularly.

This is for the protection of our lakes current water quality and the future of our lakes ecosystem

FINE ..FINE ..FINE...

Boating Fines

Under the Small Vessel Regulations, the Contraventions Act permits the issuance of tickets on the water in the same way offences are issued under the Criminal Code.

Fines for some boating offences include:

- operating a vessel in a careless manner, without consideration for other people, boat traffic, potential hazards or the number of people around the boat. Fine is \$250 plus surcharges.
- Speeding in excess of 10 km/h within 30 metres or 100 feet from shore. Fine is \$125. Maximum fine is \$500 or six months imprisonment.
- Insufficient number of life jackets (Canadian Coast Guard approved.) Fine is \$245.
- Minimum safety equipment not on board. Fines could exceed \$500 depending on what isn't present. Check the Safe Boating Guide for a list of mandatory equipment.
- Insufficient number of oars or paddles. Fine is \$150. · No paddle/anchor \$125
- No buoyant heaving line \$125.

TREASURERS UPDATE

PLEASE NOTE:

Our "Calendar Year" runs from July 1st to June 30th . Dues for the current year **MUST** be received by the AGM Date .

This year we received only 57% of membership dues .

Many dues were mailed in after Labour Day and we need to remind members of the following:

We do not receive mail after Labour Day.

Please **MAIL** your dues. If you give them to an Executive member it creates more "work" for these volunteers to ensure the dues get to the appropriate person.

**Member DUES
are due by
July 4th !**

Mail your dues form to:
SDRA Secretary/Treasurer
C/o Lynn Garnish
50 Hawkrigde Avenue
Markham, Ontario L3P 1V9

FIREWORKS DISPLAY "SAVED" BY ALL

Our **BIG THANKS** to all members who bought Fireworks Tickets. Especially the ones who knew they would not be attending.

A "SPECIAL" Big Thank-You to the many members who dug deep into their wallets to give additional donations to this event. Everyone's efforts once again proved we all love this end of summer event. This summer we plan to sell tickets at Cloyne Village Foods to try and increase revenue. The tickets will be on Sale during the first 2 weeks of August, so please, if you find you need **extra** tickets, make sure you buy them during this time.

This will allow sufficient time to determine how much we can spend on fireworks supplies.

SDRA Members can pay for their Fireworks in the same manner as usual, when they send in their dues.



**SDRA Annual
Labour Day Fireworks**

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR "FILL" YET ?

As some cottagers were "chilled" to discover, oil tanks must now be inspected and registered before a supplier can fill or top them up.

This legislation was introduced in 2001 and Oil Tank owners had until May, 2002 to comply to the regulations. This legislation failed to recognize "seasonal" users and have therefore extended their deadlines. See Timeline included with this article.

For additional information please contact the Technical Standards and Safety Authority by calling the Fuel Safety Program at 1-877-682-8772 or by visiting their website www.tssa.org

TANK TIMELINE

Deadlines for upgrading/removal are determined according to tank age:

25 yrs or older : Oct. 1, 2006

20-24 yrs : Oct. 1, 2007

10-19 yrs : Oct. 1, 2008

Less than 1 -9 yrs : Oct. 1, 2009

COFA : Conservationists of Frontenac Addington

COFA has been diligently working to ensure our wildlife and surrounding environment is used wisely

COFA has been directly responsible for maintaining and enhancing fish and wildlife populations for the optimum benefit of all residents. They also recognize the need for sound conservation practices with respect to natural resource manage-

Why not become a member of COFA today to ensure their good works continue. ?

Individual Membership is \$20.00 and Family Membership is \$30.00

*Payments can be mailed to COFA
Box 74 Flinton Ontario
KOH 1P0*

Your COFA Contacts are

Ted Snider

(613) 336-2658 or

Ron Pethick

(613) 336-9400

Skootamatta Designer Duds Now Available

We are once again taking orders for Skootamatta gear. This year we are selling

T-Shirts and Hoodies of ultra cotton quality

AND

Hats made of brushed cotton with velcro adjustable straps.

'SKOOT' embroidery on cap

Refer to the order form on the reverse side of membership form

PLEASE NOTE: ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 10TH

Skootamatta Ratepayers "Buy and Sell" Section

FOR SALE

17' RAMBLER TRAILER

(1970)

No Reasonable Offer
Refused !

Ideal for a building site or
hunting.

As is: propane stove, light
fridge, toilet

Sleeps 6

Call: (905) 799-3167

FOR SALE

Bed & Dresser; Kitchen Table &
4 chairs : Bunk beds with good
mattresses

1986 Suzuki ATV

Bailey's Point. Only cottage on
west side of the narrows

Call: (613) 592-3292 or email
hannah.bailey@sympatico.ca

**Don't Forget the
Annual Dock Sale
Sat July 17th**

A great way to "unload" your
items on your neighbours!

Seriously, one mans " dispos-
ables" can be another man's
treasure.

BIG TIME Moving Sale May 22, May 23 & May 24 9:00a—2:00p
JOHN AND DOREEN HOWARD
14 NORTH SHORE RD.
SKOOTAMATTA LAKE

CASUAL CHESTERFIELD,
GLIDER AND CHAIR
PAIR MAPLE TWIN SIZE
BEDS
DRESSERS FURNITURE
WICKER
BEDDING, HOUSEHOLD, DISHES
HAND MADE TWIN BEDSPREADS,
SHAMS

ANTIQUUE TABLE, 4 CHAIRS
ENTERTAINMENT UNIT
WITH COMPONENTS

4 GALLONS WALNUT STAIN (REZ)
SPORTS EQUIPMENT MUSIC
ANTIQUUE CAST IRON CHURCH BELL
FROM BANOCKBURN, ON.

ANTIQUUE CAST IRON US.NAVY BELL
2 CAST IRON MAPLE SYRUP
CALDERONS

ANTIQUUE ICE TONGS,
MARINE ITEMS
BOOKS, ANTIQUUE, OLD AND
NEWISH
ANTIQUUE BRASS LAMP CARRIAGE
LAMP
WALNUT STEREO CABINET
GARDEN STUFF

ODDS AND ENDS
HAND PAINTED TOLE PIECES BY
DOREEN
TOLE PAINTING BOOKS, SUPPLIES,
OIL AND ACRYLIC PAINTS
WOOD PIECES, FINISHED AND UN-
FINISHED
ORIGINAL WATERCOLOUR PICTURES
OLD CROKINOLE BOARD ETC.
ETC.ETC.ETC.

AND THE LIST GOES ON!

Addington Highlands Official Plan

Submitted by Alex Chisholm Skootamatta Lake Representative

A considerable amount of progress has been made on the AH Official Plan, primarily as a result of work of the contractor (Cumming Coburn Ltd). Following award of the contract late in the spring of 2003, a first draft was completed, reviewed by the Planning Advisory Committee and opened for public comment both by public meeting (held in Flinton/Denbigh in late Sept 2003) and by correspondence. Although there were plans to hold a public meeting during August – the schedule was very tight and despite valiant efforts by the contractor it was not possible to hold a public meeting prior to the end of the summer cottage season.

It was not surprising that the public meeting was poorly attended. Aside from council members and Planning Advisory Committee members, there were four ratepayers in attendance (three of whom were from Skootamatta Lake).

For the record, one ratepayer from Skootamatta Lake has taken considerable exception to the Official Plan and voiced his concerns at the public meeting as well as in an open letter in the local newspaper and in a letter to the township council. His concerns center around the general objective of the Official Plan which is to encourage economic development – (but with a major emphasis on protecting the environment). While most ratepayers on Skootamatta Lake would be very unhappy to see major development on the lake – this is rather unlikely, and it is my impression that this is certainly not the intent of the current township council nor is it the general intent of the Official Plan.

Following the public meeting in September, a second draft of the Official Plan was prepared taking into account the comments of the public, council and the Planning Advisory Committee. This draft (No. 2, dated November 2003) is available on the Addington Highlands Township website in pdf format (83 pages). It is accompanied by a series of schedules, which I presume are the maps that accompany the Official Plan – and which I have not personally downloaded because of the large size of the files. The maps contain some rather interesting background information, but are not policy documents like the Official Plan itself.

For example, one of the maps outlines that approximately 60% of my shoreline is classified as an “environmental protection area” and subject to an environmental impact assessment if I wished to develop it – such as the installation of a dock. This came as a bit of a surprise as neither I nor the previous landowner were aware of this designation of the shoreline!!!

This version of the Official Plan was submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) in late 2003 for review by MMAH and other government departments. This process typically takes three months or longer. To date, the township has not received a reply or comments from MMAH.

I understand that following receipt of the government comments (and concerns) that a final draft of the Official Plan would be prepared, a public meeting held and following council approval, the Official Plan would then be submitted to the Ontario Municipal Board for final approval. It is most likely that the public meeting would be held during the summer (to accommodate cottagers), but I suspect that final approval of the Official Plan would not come until late 2004 or early 2005.

Issues: While it is not possible to cover all the issues that might interest cottagers on Skootamatta Lake, the following will touch on the more common ones. Much of this discussion centers on policies that will be applicable to cottagers on new lots, although it would also be applicable to new buildings, new sewage disposal installations, etc on existing cottage properties.

General: It is clear that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing wishes to encourage “development” in the hamlets and villages nominally to concentrate the population growth and make service delivery more efficient. This would likely, in the future, include the provision of municipally operated water and sewage treatment facilities. While this is possible in some portions of the township, as many of us know bedrock is not conducive to laying sewage lines. The Planning Advisory Committee and the township council have not bought into the MMAH concept as presently the majority of development is on small acreages and on lakes – both of which are anticipated to continue – at a relatively slow pace. This could result in MMAH not recommending approval of the Official Plan as presently drafted.

Specific: Cottage Development - much of what controls the development of cottages on lakes in Ontario is related to fish habitat regulated by the Ontario Ministry of Environment. There are three general classifications of lakes – non-lake trout lakes, moderately sensitive lake trout lakes and highly sensitive lake trout lakes. Skootamatta Lake is no longer classified as a trout lake, and this is recognized in the set back (ie. distance of a building from the lake) required for buildings on a cottage lot. The Official Plan (Draft 2) contains a setback of 15 metres from the high water mark and a setback of 5 metres from the floodline elevation as defined by the Conservation Authority. There is an exception to this where the shoreline is classified as an Environmental Protection Area – where a 30 metre setback applies. However, docks, boathouses or similar accessory uses may be located within 15 metres of the high water mark.

This is in considerable contrast with the setbacks for moderately sensitive lake trout lakes (Mazinaw for example) where the setback for “existing lots of record” is 30 metres from the high water mark and 300 metres for applications to create a lot or plan of subdivision. On highly sensitive lake trout lakes, the 300 metre setback would apply to all new lots and all new buildings or sewage disposal systems. If an Environmental Impact Study demonstrates that no negative impact will occur – the 300 metre setback can be relaxed.

Additionally, “a natural vegetative strip of 15 metres width will be maintained adjacent to the water’s edge --- clear cutting of trees and shrubs is not permitted within this zone.”

Minimum Lot Size/Frontage: The “minimum lot area for seasonal and year round residential uses is 0.4 hectares (1 acre) and the minimum lot frontage on a public road or shoreline shall be 61 metres (200 ft).”

Conversion from Seasonal to Year Round Residential Use: To convert from summer cottage use to year round residential use, it will be necessary to apply to the township for permission to do so and to meet several conditions for permission to be granted. The main conditions are:

- i) the lot size and frontage are suitable for Class 4 sewage disposal system (as defined by the Ontario Building Code) which is approved by the appropriate authority
- ii) there is an adequate supply of potable water available year round
- iii) the converted dwelling meets the Ontario Building Code

Summary: The Addington Highlands Draft Official Plan is a balance between protection of the natural environment and the development of living and recreational space for humans. Much of the actual policies are those advocated by various provincial ministries. In the end, I believe that the Plan is appropriate to the township, will create few hardships and will guide development in a reasonable and environmentally sensitive fashion.

OUR FIRST "FEATURE FAMILY" OF THE MEMORY BOOK

In the summer of 1939, I first came to Loon Lake, later named Skootamatta. My father, Wilmer Trimble, who knew Harold Ballard through business, was offered a cabin by Harold, for his vacation with our family.

This log cabin was situated at the top of the hill directly above the landing, now the boat ramp, near Trail's End Cottages. Nearby, was a store owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fennell. They sold milk, bread, candy, pop, and a few canned items, as well as blocks of ice, which were preserved from the previous winter in an icehouse full of sawdust.

Many of the few cottages on the lake at that time had no road access, so every evening boats would cross the lake, dock at the "Landing", and the occupants would walk up the hill to Trail's End Store for supplies, primarily milk.

My family of four came to the Ballard cabin for twenty years without payment, except for some improvements that Dad made. It had been a hunting and fishing cabin built in the 1920's by Harold Ballard's grandfather.

The log cabin consisted of one large room made of unpeeled logs, with a few add-ons : a kitchen and three small bedrooms. Of course there was no electricity or running water.. We brought up pails of water from the lake and they were placed on a bench outside at the back of the cottage where we "washed up." An old mirror hung above for shaving, combing hair etc.

There was a well, not far away from the present circular parking lot, close to the Osborne Point Road sign, where we dipped a pail into the well on a crooked branch and brought up our drinking water (no one ever got sick from this water!)

During our vacation, my father would sometimes splurge and rent a rowboat from the Fennells, and later from Archie Meeks. Cost was from \$1.00- \$2.00 a day. We often fished from the shore of the property now owned by Loon Lake Lodge. Pickerel, right from the shore!

In the early 40's, I met Doreen Wood (Howard) whose parents rented the cottage now owned by Bert Clement. We often swam at a beach, which later became the shore in front of the property that the Howards now occupy. I remember many huge logs lying about the area, remnants of a logging camp nearby. Around this time we met the Meeks family. I remember Isobel, Dorothy, Walter, and Elburn, and the Tully family, who also came down to swim there.

In 1960, my parents bought the Moore property located along the peninsula now called Osborne Point Road. Apparently, the " Lone Ranger" had spent some summers on this property. An old cottage was torn down and a new cottage, presently owned by my sister Marianne Lee, was built.

In 1989, the property was divided and my husband, Harvey, and I built our own place beside the original one. Now, the next generation, our daughter Jan and husband Anthony Abate, have built their own place on the bay side of this property on the same peninsula.

I have enjoyed coming to this lovely area for 65 years and have seen many changes, but not so many as to spoil the serenely beautiful spots of Skootamatta Lake.

Submitted by Doreen Crone.

Thurs July 1st 11:00 am

3rd Annual Canada Day Boat Parade starting point in Jacques Bay.

Sat July 3rd at 10:00 am

Our Annual General Meeting and BBQ lunch will be held at the "horseshoe pits", across from the payphone and loo, near the public dock "

Bring your chairs !!

Sun July 4th at 11:00 am

Beach Clean-Up day. Bring your rakes

Sat July 17th 10 to 1 pm

Place your "treasures" at the end of your dock and be ready to barter with your fellow cottagers.

Sat July 31st at 10:00 am

Horseshoe Tournament will be held at the horseshoe pits. Entry Fee \$ 2.00

Sat Aug 7 & Sun Aug 8th

Cloyne Craft Show held at North Addington School

Wed & Thur Aug 11-12

Perseid Meteor Shower

Sat Aug 14th at 6:30 pm

Our 3rd Pot Luck Dinner will once again be held at Ron Nowells on Hughes Landing Road. If you plan to attend please note the food will be served between 7:30- 8 pm
Bring your chairs !!

Sat Sept 4th at "Dusk"

Annual Firework's Display held at the causeway.
Come by boat or car.

SDRA EVENTS SCHEDULE

July 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Boat Parade	2	3 AGM
4 Beach Clean up	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Dock Sale
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Horseshoe's

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Craft Show
8 Craft Show	9	10	11 Meteor	12 Showers	13	14 Pot Luck
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	SEPTEMBER			4 Fireworks