



# Shoreline News

## Fall 2019

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Message

by Pat Stallaert

While driving up to the lake one fall afternoon, I marveled at the brilliant autumn colours and wondered how such a beautiful land could ever become anything less. After all, the trees and the ruggedness of the landscape that frames our peaceful water bodies have been around for thousands of years. Surely they will endure and be a gift for future generations to enjoy. But knowing the stresses that our ever expanding footprint has on the natural world, it is easy to become skeptical. Until our society realizes that more is not always better, and that growth must be tempered by good stewardship, it seems unlikely that we can be sure that these natural gifts will always be around.

As I sit here this sunny Saturday morning, putting thoughts to paper and pondering the



outcome of Monday's federal election, I wonder will things start to get better, or will they just get worse. In a time where the world is full of turmoil and uncertainty, will humanity ever come to its senses and find the will to work together.

Seems I've started every meeting this year with a comment about how busy the past year has been and how those of us actively involved in the SLCA have not had a break from one threat or another since last fall. Even those with the greatest appreciation and dedication eventually run out of steam. But it's amazing how one's faith and determination can be rekindled when you see others heed your message and answer the call.

I was very encouraged to see that at our last Annual General Meeting, we as a community could still have constructive and open discussion about even the most controversial issues. And I was particularly thankful to see a couple of fresh young members take up the challenge and help fill some long vacant positions on our SLCA Board. But we still have the important positions of **Secretary** and **Newsletter** open for the next courageous individuals to step forward: Search your soul and play a role!

We have so much to be thankful for... let's not take it for granted. Stay safe and stay involved.

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# Photo Contest Winners



Blake Deboo – Photos by Kids



Cathy Wilson - Nature

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# AGM Update

by Pat Stallaert

This year's Annual General Meeting was very well attended. Perhaps not to the point of last year's meeting where news of the McBride Mining Project was just resurfacing, but a great turnout all the same. We launched the meeting with a brief video by Dave Meslin, a Toronto public speaker and community activist, with a thought provoking presentation called "Antidote to Apathy". The full video is available online and I strongly encourage everyone to watch it.

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dave\\_meslin\\_the\\_antidote\\_to\\_apathy?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/dave_meslin_the_antidote_to_apathy?language=en)

## Opening Remarks

For anyone that has been keeping track, and as last year's minutes were reviewed and approved by the membership, last year WAS in fact the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the SLCA, making this year our 61<sup>st</sup> year.

It has been an incredibly busy year for your SLCA Executive team as we continued to face pressures involving a potential mine on our doorstep, as well as threats from both Townships to close off access to our South Road in one fashion or another. Read more about these and other challenges our community continues to face, later in this edition of Shoreline News.

## Financials

Once again, our Treasurer, Dave McDonald reported that the SLCA is in a very strong financial position. Normally by the time the AGM comes around, we are still facing a small loss position as we wait for the final membership fees to come in, but this year, our income was higher by August due in part to new revenue from a number of generous sponsors.

## Municipal Affairs

Nancy Kelly, our Municipal Affairs Director, provided a comprehensive review of some of the developments we are following at the Municipal and provincial level. She reminded all that both Townships have fire regulations and that daytime burning is not allowed in the summer months.

Limerick Township is looking to enact a new by-law requiring the Owners of boathouses located on or adjacent to municipally owned lands, to enter into a long-term lease agreement with the Township, and to provide proof of adequate liability insurance. I attended a special Limerick Township meeting this summer when this subject was discussed and input from many affected residents was received. It is important to note that this matter deals exclusively with approximately 13 long standing historical boathouses at the south end of St Ola Lake, where the buildings were erected many, many years ago on public land, without permits and not conforming to any building codes, and that these boathouses are nowhere near the privately held cottage properties. In many cases, these buildings are in a poor state of repair, and ownership of them isn't always known. The Township is seeking to reduce its liability with respect to these structures.

I asked, and was advised, that this by-law is not intended to apply to all boathouses in the Township, and particularly not to those built adjacent to cottage properties, even when the shoreline road allowance is still held by the Township. The SLCA will be following this

issue closely to ensure that this clarity is reflected in any future by-law that may result.

## Merchandise

Scott Caverly and Cathy Wilson have volunteered to handle merchandise sourcing and procurement while Jerry and Janet Vander Ploeg offered to handle the SLCA sales at our summer events. Thank you all for stepping up and taking on these important roles.

## Lake Stewardship

Maria Kaczmarek, our Lake Steward, reported that that last summer's FOCA funded investigation and report into invasive species on our lake, did not uncover any new evidence of zebra mussels. We do, however, have a number of areas where Eurasian water millfoil is taking hold.

All other testing under the Lake Partner Program seemed to be within historic ranges, and continue to indicate that we enjoy a healthy lake. See Maria's report later in this newsletter for ways that we can all work to keep our lake as clean and healthy as possible.

## Membership

Diane Burke, our Membership Chair, reported that as of the AGM we had 150 paid-up members in good standing. More were expected as the last canvassing packages were returned. Last year we reached a record 181 members which represents a very impressive 85% participation rate on our lake.

Let's continue to be the envy of all our neighbouring lake associations, and renew our memberships so we can continue the good work the SLCA performs in protecting this lake and the interests of those property owners on it. It's not too late to renew your membership if it has slipped your mind.

## Social

As of the AGM, the position of Social Chair remained vacant. The many great events run by the SLCA and by individual members around the lake were recapped. Thank you for all those who make these events possible. Know that the SLCA is always looking for new ideas and volunteers, and willing to help support these events.

## Newsletter

The position of Newsletter Editor remains vacant following our AGM. As always, we are happy to receive submissions in the form of articles, reports, stories, and photos so don't be shy. Members were reminded that the newsletter is available for download in full colour from the [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com) website. So in addition to saving some trees, why not save your SLCA the ever increasing costs of printing and mailing and request your newsletter digitally?

## Internet

Anthony Genovese confirmed that depending on your location and distance from the fiber optic backbone that runs along highway 62, Bell remains your best option at this time. Satellite based line-of-sight as offered by Xplornet is another option offering higher speeds at a higher price, providing you have a clear view of the south west skies from your

property. If you are experiencing problems with your service, make sure to contact your provider and that they create tickets in the hope that they will invest in improving the infrastructure in our area.

#### Old Business

I provided an update on the McBride Mining and Exploration project. See the update on the McBride Project later in this newsletter.

#### New Business

Pat Schad gave a brief update on the South Road issue, her research and presentations to the Townships.

A motion was passed requesting the SLCA to set aside up to \$2,000 to help fund legal fees aimed at securing an expert legal opinion on the matter. See an update on the South Road maintenance challenge later in this newsletter.

Hydro One Networks has been warning that massive distribution rate increases may hit the majority of rural customers following the OEB's order to eliminate rural rate customer classifications. See the update on Hydro One later in this edition.

A lively discussion regarding lake water levels and recent fluctuations ensued. As expected, this was a very contentious issue, but it was good to see that we can still have these types of discussions and try to move towards a better understanding. The President and Lake Steward were actioned to meet with Crowe Valley Conservation Authority staff to

find out how they determine what the water levels should be for our lake and the rest of the watershed, how they seek to control these levels, and to investigate possible methods to more accurately measure and record water levels on the lake.

#### SLCA Elections

Matt Dockrill volunteered to assume the role of **Vice President**.

There were no volunteers for the position of **Secretary** now vacant by the departure of Judy Platt following an impressive 12 year term in the position. A special acknowledgement of Judy's efforts and gift from all the SLCA was presented. Thank you Judy for your many years of dedicated service.

There were no volunteers for the position of **Newsletter Editor** so this role remains vacant for a second year.

There were no volunteers to fill the position of **Social Director**, but Jennifer Vanner later volunteered in an Acting capacity until our next AGM.

Nancy Kelly completed her first term as **Municipal Affairs** director. As there were no nominations or volunteers for the position, Nancy graciously volunteered to stand for a second term.

There were no nominations or volunteers for the position of **President**, so I reluctantly agreed to carry on for a second term.



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## Fall Fire Safety

by Pat Stallaert

The days are getting shorter and colder... It's time to review and consider some seasonal safety tips...

Fire and asphyxiation from carbon monoxide increase dramatically at this time of year!

Please ensure that your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly, and have fresh batteries. By law, there must be a fully operable smoke alarm and CO monitor on each floor outside any sleeping area. Test them and check the dates to make sure they are not expired.

If you heat with wood, make sure that your chimney is cleaned regularly to avoid dangerous creosote deposits that can cause chimney fires that compromise the chimney and spread quickly through the dwelling's structure.

Keep combustibles away from fires and heat sources, and always keep all access to the outdoors free of any obstructions.

Even if you heat with electricity, check that your heating equipment is working properly and make sure cords are not damaged, don't use extension cords, and be careful not to overload circuits. Never put in a larger fuse or breaker just because the load exceeds the capacity of that circuit.

Never store combustible liquids and gases like gasoline or propane indoors.

Never leave candles or lanterns unattended.

Follow all local fire regulations regarding outdoor burning. No open fires before 7:00 PM. Burn barrels must be covered with metal screens with no larger than 1.0 cm openings.



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SMART Tank monitoring system lets you know each week what your propane level is. FOCA members are eligible for their first year tank rental free.

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# Membership Report

by Diane Burke

Thanks to our members and canvassers! With your support we have 172 paid members this year.

Please join me in welcoming the Gabriela family (#79) to our community. We know that you will enjoy being part of our active community.

Sadly, we lost some of our members this year. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to the Langman family (Sandy Langman), the Opsahl family (Barry), the Bateman family (Charles), the Smid family (Olga), and the Fitchett family (Dee). We extend our condolences to these families.

This year we had 55 members pay their dues via e-payment (PayPal or e-transfer). We continue to donate \$1 for each electronic payment to a local cause – this year \$55 is being sent to the Think Turtle Conservation Initiative. This organization works tirelessly building awareness and protecting, rescuing and rehabilitating turtles in distress in our community.

As always, a big thank you to our canvassers – Patrice Simmons, Amy Fletcher, Heather Lloyd, John Harnett, Margot Withey, Wendy Butler, Pat and Heather Stallaert, Elaine McCarthy, Christina Candy, Janet Vander Ploeg, Wendy Rudd, Dave McDonald, Susan Bridger, Bill and Carol Landon, the Cameron family, Cathy Wilson and Eileen Walsh. Your assistance and support are truly appreciated.

Thanks again for being a member and supporting our lake and community. Have a safe and happy winter!

## East Bay Web Cam Needs a Home...

The SLCA is still looking for someone interested in hosting the East web cam. Camera's update every 15 minutes requiring minimal bandwidth. Camera can be mounted indoor or outside (outside recommended). Year round internet is required. Setup and support provided.

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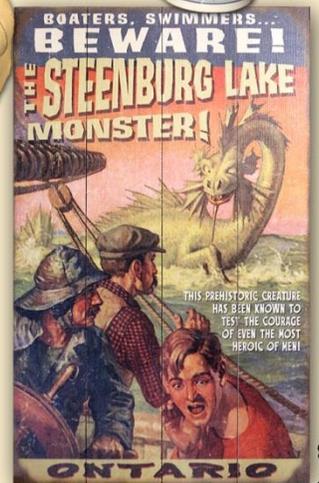
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We feature **Steenburg Lake** clocks, mugs, coasters, 3D map art, clothing, hats, key chains, cutting boards, custom vintage signs, and more!



[www.oldhastingsgallery.ca](http://www.oldhastingsgallery.ca)



### Some highlights (current at 2016) include:

- The elimination of the Seasonal Class will result in over 70,000 customers moving to the R1 class and close to 84,000 customers moving to the R2 class, a large majority of whom are low-consumption customers.
- Hydro One's detailed analysis demonstrates that the move to all-fixed rates alone (already underway) addresses the key concern of some customers that low consumption customers are not paying their fair share of costs.
- The analysis also demonstrates that from a customer's perspective, very little incremental benefit is gained by the elimination of the Seasonal Class. The elimination of the Seasonal Class combined with the move to all-fixed distribution residential rates results in only a small benefit to the 70,000 seasonal customers moving to the R1 class, and very large negative impacts on the 84,000 seasonal customers that would move to the R2 class.
- Seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R1 rates will see only a small benefit from the elimination of the Seasonal Class (i.e. a reduction of \$7 to \$9 in their bill)
- Seasonal customers moving to all-fixed R2 rates will see large unfavourable impacts from the elimination of the Seasonal Class (i.e. an increase of about \$65 in their monthly bill).

In particular, low consumption seasonal customers would see a **177% increase** in their monthly bill if they move to the R2 class with an all-fixed rate. Note: About 46% or 70,000 seasonal customers consume less than 150 kWh/month on average over the year.



Roughly 65 participants hit the golfing green to help raise funds for North Hastings Children's Services. Photo submitted by Karl and Janet Sobolka

## Playing golf for NHCS

by Kristena Schutt-Moore

On Saturday, Aug. 24 roughly 65 golfers took over the Bancroft Ridge Golf Course for the Steenburg Lake Charity Golf Tournament. This event is the annual end of summer celebration for the Steenburg Lake Cottage Association.

This year they were able to raise \$2,175 for the arts and crafts supplies for North Hastings

Children's Services, nearly double what they raised last year. In 2018, they raised \$1,215 which was able to provide the centre with six months of supplies.

The centre receives no funding for the crafting supplies for their programs, so they thank the golfers for their support.

### Recent Media Coverage of this issue:

September 27, 2019 – [Proposal heralds significant hydro rates for seasonals](#) (Manitoulin Expositor)

August 21, 2019 – [Hydro One fighting to keep seasonal rate class for Ontario cottagers](#) (Durham Radio News)

August 21, 2019 – [Pending changes to electricity rates for cottagers](#) (CBC Ontario Morning; audio starts at 15:42 of podcast)

August 20, 2019 – [Electricity rates for some Ontario cottagers could jump if plan goes ahead, Hydro One says](#) (Toronto Star, CP)

August 20, 2019 – [Hydro rates could jump in Ontario's cottage country](#) (CTV News, CP)

August 20, 2019 – [Cottage hydro rates could jump: Hydro One](#) (Ottawa Citizen, CP)

August 20, 2019 – [Cottage hydro rates would skyrocket under Ontario Energy Board plan](#) (TBNewswatch)

August 19, 2019 – [Cottagers brace for 'disastrous' jump in electricity costs](#) (CBC Ottawa)

July 16, 2019 – 570 News Radio – [Mike Farwell interviews Terry Rees](#) about hydro pricing (jump to 108:20 on the recording for Terry's interview)

July 15 – Global News Radio – [Scott Thompson Show interviews Terry Rees](#) about hydro pricing (the link should take you directly to Terry's section, at minute 34:00 of the full podcast)

July 12 – Global News: [Ontario cottagers may see a hydro hike soon](#) including video interview with FOCA's Executive Director Terry Rees. (> click image to be taken to the Global website to view the video)

July 12 – 640 News Radio: [Terry Rees interviewed by Kelly Cutrara on the subject of hydro rates.](#)

July 11 (updated) – Cottage Life: [Your hydro bill is going up. Ouch!](#)

July 4 – My Muskoka Now: [Cottagers to see higher electric bills](#)

For more background, see additional notes after "Recent Media Coverage" below.



Reprinted in part from FOCA website (2019-10-11)  
<https://foca.on.ca/electricity-pricing/>

# Steenburg Lake - Water Levels

by: Tim Pidduck – General Manager, CVCA

Steenburg Lake is part of the headwaters of the Beaver Creek subwatershed. Historically, lake levels typically peak during the spring freshet and subside to summer recreational levels, which depending on weather conditions remain relatively constant until the fall drawdown period.

As the lake level question is analyzed and debated, all stakeholders should recognize human activity, past and present in conjunction with nature has affected the hydrological function of the lake. Whether it was early 20<sup>th</sup> century road construction/maintenance, filling in marshes or the implementation of stop logs at the Bass Creek culverts, all have contributed to the alteration of the lake level over time to some degree. Reversing the impact of these alterations on the lake would be challenging.

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) Board of Directors in 1982 agreed by motion to operate the stop logs at the Bass Creek culverts. An agreement was reached between the Steenburg Lake Community Association, Limerick Township and the CVCA that the logs would be placed at the culverts after the spring freshet and removed after Thanksgiving. This was not intended to be an operating dam, but simply a seasonal recreation weir to maintain summer water levels. In the meantime, beaver activity continues on Bass Creek and would also control the lake water level, thereby making the stop logs redundant.

Of course, weather conditions will contribute significantly to water levels. Usually, hot dry summers will result in lower lake levels and conversely, wet cool summers will see an increase in levels. As per normal fall operations on lakes with dams, stop logs are removed in the fall to draw down Steenburg Lake to create flood storage capacity for the following spring's runoff. However, if beaver dams are not broken, water levels usually will not decrease sufficiently enough and the higher levels combined with spring rain and snowmelt could result in increased damage to infrastructure around the lake.

Without a significant environmental or flooding issue, the CVCA will not initiate or impose any change to the current operating practices. However, the CVCA would suggest consistent water level data collection would provide the foundation for a more definitive Steenburg Lake operating plan. While no plan is perfect, it would assist with the delicate matter of water management on Steenburg Lake.



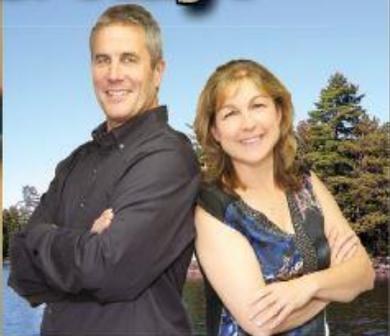
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# Municipal Affairs Report

by Nancy Kelly

License To Occupy for boathouses is now in effect on municipal properties in Limerick Township. Strict insurance and fees are now required. There are no allowances to increase original footprint.

Managing recyclable and non-recyclable plastics falls to municipalities and costs are passed onto property taxpayers. Remember to recycle.

Tudor and Cashel Councilor Bob Bridger has been appointed to the Quinte Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

Transfer payments to Crowe Valley Conservation Authority has been reduced by 48.4% for 2019. The Board will make no adjustments to the budget this year but will determine the deficit by end of 2019. They will prepare a report regarding long term options for expenses for administrative offices.

Ewart O'Dwyer is the new Integrity Commissioner for both townships as is now required by provincial law.

Hydro One delivery rates have gone up over the last few months. Tudor and Cashel passed a resolution regarding this issue and circulated it to government entities and all municipalities.

Provincial Bill 108 was passed in June regarding changes to LPAT (Local Planning Authority Tribunal that replaced the OMB). Changes mean that LPAT will again consist of an unelected and unaccountable body and participants in LPAT hearings will not be allowed to provide in person evidence. Other changes were made affecting municipal acts which limit municipalities' ability to make decisions on how their communities will grow.

Daryl Kramp, MPP for Hastings-Lennox and Addington announced Eastern Ontario Regional Network. EORN is a high-speed cellular internet Broadband plan for rural and remote communities funded by Federal and Provincial gov'ts and the Private sector. Total value of the project is \$213M.

The AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) submitted a paper Oct. 1 regarding joint and several liability. Municipalities are faced with massive increased insurance costs. They have until Nov. 1 to submit a resolution to the Min. of the Attorney General.

Interim Animal Cruelty enforcement measures was passed in Bill 117. The AMO had pushed for a system for OSPCA affiliates and municipalities.

Ontario has given municipalities until Jan. 2021. to develop a community safety and well-being plan. Seven North Hastings municipalities participated to develop a plan to improve the quality of life for residents in the County.

## Update on the Headlands

by Pat Stallaert

Final approval was given for the creation of a right-of-way to the undeveloped property on the Headlands, following the approval of the rezoning of this property to Limited Service Residential (LSR). Conditions imposed on this property limit development on the property to no more than one, single family dwelling and one outbuilding.

Hastings County Official Plan designates Steenburg Lake as an 'at capacity' cold water lake, and as such, any new development is prohibited within 300 m of the high water mark.

The subject lots cannot be further subdivided.

This should end a long running concern for the over development of the Headlands, but the SLCA will remain vigilant in ensuring that these conditions are respected going forward.



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## Dwayne Nicholson

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1. Tell them exactly where you are located (remember your ER address number) and what the emergency is
2. If you suspect a possible Sudden Cardiac Arrest, you can tell the operator that an AED is located on the lake and someone is being dispatched to get it.
3. Have the casualty lay down with the head elevated slightly if possible.
4. Stay with the casualty and monitor for consciousness, breathing and pulse. If there is no breathing and no pulse, perform CPR.
5. If possible, have someone meet emergency responders at your driveway.
6. Contact the **Cochranes** at (613) 474-3167 and arrange for the quickest pick-up or delivery of the AED. Mike is a trained member of the Emergency Rescue crew.
7. If there is no answer at the Cochranes, or if you know they are away, contact their neighbours **Karl and Janet Sobotka** at (613) 334-6145 as they will have access to the AED when the Cochranes are away. Karl and Janet are also on the Emergency Response team.



Please keep in mind, that although this AED is easy to use with full audio instructions that guide you through its use, there is no substitute for adequate CPR training in an emergency.

We recommend that you familiarize yourself with the device's use prior to any emergency, this is highly recommended. Please review the manufacturer's video located on our website at:

[www.steenburglake.com/AEDinfo.html](http://www.steenburglake.com/AEDinfo.html)

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*"Let's Talk Real Estate"*

# Social Corner

by Pat Stallaert

Well, it looks like we were again treated to a full slate of wonderful events on and about the lake this summer.

Mike and Donna Cochrane along with the help of friends and family, were able to host another spectacular evening of fireworks to celebrate Canada Day.

The Beach Regatta and BBQ on July 6<sup>th</sup> was well attended and a lot of fun for all ages. Thanks again to the Little family and Scott Caverley who helped to run the actual events, to Rick and Diane Burke who produced the great wooden paddles for first place finishers, to Eric Sigurdson who stopped in the middle of his morning bike ride to help set up for the event, to Anita Waddell and Heather Stallaert who helped serve out food and to Anthony Genovese who spotted me on the grill while I had to rush off for some forgotten items. Thanks also to Eric Huygens of Ontario Tree Care for the loan of the BBQ grill.

Thank you to the small group of volunteers who came out on July 20<sup>th</sup> to conduct our annual Roadside Clean-up. Special thanks to David McDonald who lead the effort along the South Road, and to Dawn Newman who spearheaded efforts along the North Road.

July 27<sup>th</sup> saw another successful Artisans of Steenburg – Arts & Crafts Exhibition. Thank you to Lynn Rusaw for organizing the event, to Karl and Janet Sobotka for again hosting the show and to all the exhibitors who took part and shared their passions with us.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Tudor and Cashel Community Centre on August 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a good turn out, and some lively debate, as well some significant business was taken care of. Thank you to Anita Waddell who organized our catering team, to Ken Waddell who helped with set-up and tear-down afterwards, for all the members of your Executive and Patrice Schad who provided great updates on a wide range of topics, and to all those who attended to stay informed, asked great questions, and made for a fun social gathering.

The Annual Steenburg Lake 5 km Fun Run was held on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Christiane Langman and volunteers who helped run the event.

The Annual Steenburg Lake Charity Golf Tournament was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> in Bancroft, raising another \$2,175 for the North Hastings Children Services. Thank you again to Karl and Janet Sobotka and your team of organizers for another fun and successful event.

Finally, we were again treated to the musical tones and humorous antics of Claidhmor and friends, as well as some of our own local musical talents for the Have-a-Dock Jamboree on August 21<sup>st</sup>. There just something about live music and an open-air concert, but throw in the rocking of the waves and the beautiful backdrop of Steenburg Lake, and you are bound to have something magical happening. Thank you again to the Coties for organizing and hosting this most enjoyable afternoon and to all the very talented performers who shared their love of music and song with us.

Finally, thank you to all our members and guests who came out and participated in all of these great community events. This is a rich and vibrant community. Why not make a point of joining us next summer and experiencing part of what makes Steenburg Lake such a wonderful place to enjoy and be part of?



Annual Beach Regatta and BBQ



2nd Annual Steenburg Lake Charity Golf



12<sup>th</sup> annual 5 km Fun Run

# Lake Stewardship Report

by Maria Kaczmarek

The summer has come and gone – again! This cold autumn season has come out of the blue and it looks like we should be bracing ourselves for another cold winter.

Steenburg Lake continues to be blessed with great water quality which is indicative of the care and concern our members take to keeping it this way. For 2019, SLCA continued partnership with the Lake Partner Program and tested four water quality parameters: total phosphorus, calcium, dissolved oxygen and will continue to monitor water clarity until mid-November 2019. The results will be made available in the new year.

For this autumn season, I wanted to touch on the importance of maintaining a natural and healthy shoreline to help with the conservation of our lake and contribution to wildlife populations. Natural shorelines have six benefits:

1. Maintaining water quality
2. Moderating temperatures
3. Creating wildlife habitat
4. Mitigating flood frequency and impacts
5. Reducing erosion
6. Maintaining or increasing property values

LoveYourLake (2018) suggests some ways you can create and maintain a healthy shoreline. To begin, a buffer zone of native vegetation along your shoreline is recommended. Around thirty metres is preferred, however, anything is better than nothing. Second, if your shoreline has a retaining wall, vegetation is recommended to be planted along the top of the wall to absorb wave energy and reduce the risk of erosion. Third, make sure to get regular pump outs and inspections of your septic systems to reduce the risk of harm for both the lake's health and your own personal health. Finally, if your cottage is on a slope, consider a path that meanders down rather than one that goes in one straight line to reduce your impact on sensitive soils and banks that lead down to the water. If your design calls for stairs, make sure the steps are raised off the ground with open backs to encourage vegetative growth.

I encourage you to self-assess your property through LoveYourLake at the following link: <http://loveyourlake.ca/self-assessment/>

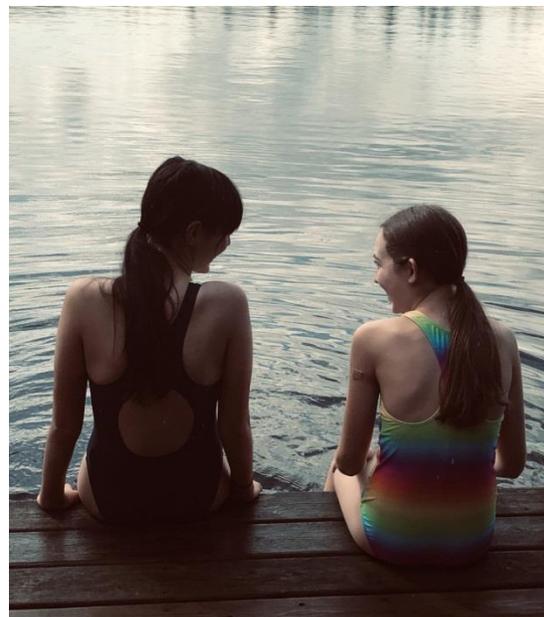
Stay warm everyone and keep up the great work!

Maria

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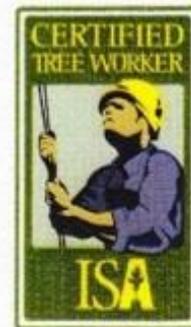
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# Steenburg Lake South Road Update

by Patrice Schad

Tudor and Cashel Council finally made a decision on the South Road during the October Council Meeting. There will be no change. It has taken one whole year for this decision. South Road will not be closed in the Tudor section and we can contract ploughing. Councillor Reilly and Councillor Carroll have consistently voted against Tudor and Cashel Township providing winter maintenance to the South Road. Councillor Reilly voted against winter maintenance as she feels it's detrimental to the whole community. Councillor Carroll's opinion is that our road is Limited Maintenance and should stay that way. Councillor Reeds feels if the township maintains the South Road in the winter all other roads will demand the same service. Councillor Bridger has been on our side as North Jordan Lake Road where he is a permanent resident has the same issue as Steenburg Lake South Road.

There are only 5 seasonally maintained roads in Tudor and Cashel; all other unmaintained roads are either private roads or not assumed by the township. 13.3% of the total tax collected by Tudor and Cashel Township comes from Steenburg Lake South Road. Just over 10% of the total households are on our road. As far as I can tell from my research an assumed municipal road cannot be *Limited Maintenance Use At Own Risk* as the Municipal Act statutes clearly outline the township's responsibility on an assumed road. (All statistics are for Tudor Township and does not include Limerick households on the South Road).

I have made several presentations before council and members have ignored all the information I have presented. South Road is an assumed municipal road which should be maintained to the same standards as all other class 6 roads in the community. Seasonally maintained only

means no winter maintenance. Council feels it would be too costly to upgrade the South Road to a level which would allow existing Township trucks to do winter maintenance. The Township is responsible for maintenance on Steenburg Lake South Road and if the road is not up to standards they have a responsibility to correct deficiencies on our road.

There has been no new information from Limerick Township. Both Tudor and Limerick have a responsibility to come to an agreement regarding the Boundary portions of the South Road. We believe the whole road is a Boundary Road. At present both councils want an agreement from Hwy 62 to East Bay Road. This is the same area as the agreement from the 1950's prior to any development beyond East Bay Road.

We have not given up the fight for winter maintenance. Residents of Steenburg Lake South Road deserve the same level of service provided to other community members. It appears that members of council, with the exception of Bob Bridger, don't want to commit to winter maintenance unless they are forced to do so. Libby Clarke has not voiced an opinion other than to encourage council to make a decision.

We all hoped the new council members in both townships would be a breath of fresh air for our community. It appears that although there are new faces on council the old attitudes are being reinforced. As more seasonal residents become permanent residents in these communities council members must realize we are no longer a silent voice in the community but active members who need to be treated the same as every taxpayer and no longer ignored.



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### 2021

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## Winter is coming...!

Just a friendly reminder that if you enjoy visiting your cottage off the South Road in winter, please contribute to the snow plowing that makes year round access possible. Until we can finally convince our host townships to honour their obligation to maintain this municipal road, our members will continue to plow and sand the road in winter at their own expense. Please help defer the costs.

Contact :

**Jim Tanner or Ken Deboo**

*Email addresses are available at*

[www.steenburglake.com/MemberList.html](http://www.steenburglake.com/MemberList.html)

# McBride Mining and Exploration Update

by Pat Stallaert

In the spring of this year, we were delighted to report that Pancontinental Resources Ltd. had decided to terminate its option agreement on the McBride Mining Project on March 25<sup>th</sup>. This was a significant victory as the sole backer of the McBride/Hastings Highland Resources project realized that fierce local opposition to the project, coupled with questionable financial viability was not worth their trouble.

Throughout the spring your SLCA, working with five other lake associations and with members of the Limerick Area Conservation Coalition, were able to persuade two Townships to join us in our opposition to the project. First Limerick Council showed true leadership in passing a resolution in council, declaring its opposition to a large scale mining project in their township, and appealing to various levels of government to instead work with them to bolster the established and growing tourism and recreation industries that have taken hold. Later, Tudor and Cashel Council followed suit passing a similar resolution in Council.

Limerick went the extra distance in formally requesting an update from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (MENDM) on the status of the McBride Exploration Project as its two year exploration plan was about to expire on May 6<sup>th</sup>. A ministry spokesperson wasted no time in responding to Limerick Council that the plan had expired and there was no indication of any activity with the claims in question.

In August, a member of one of our lake associations finally received a long awaited reply to a letter he wrote to Minister Greg Rickford, expressing his concerns with the exploration work taking place and the potential impact of a large scale open pit mine in this area. Among the minister's platitudes was an invitation to the writer to contact the local office of the MENDM for confirmation with regards to this specific project.

When so contacted, we were advised that Dr. McBride had indeed filed for a new Exploration Plan, and that after a 30 day review, the plan was approved on July 27<sup>th</sup>, allowing the proponent another 2 years to actively engage in early exploration activities at the claim site just north of Steenburg Lake.

There was no advanced notice of this application and review, and no opportunity for either Township to participate or have input into the matter, despite both recent resolutions and the request for an update by one. The local area lake association mining task force is still trying to confirm whether the Alderville First Nation was consulted and given opportunity to have input into this application, as the MENDM is mandated to do.

Subsequently, we learned that a delegation from Limerick Township, which included our own Reeve and SLCA member, Carl Stefanski, was very impolitely rebuffed by Minister Greg Rickford at a recent municipal conference: All this after previously arranging a meeting with the minister to discuss concerns with exploration and mining in this sensitive area. This can only be seen as a blatant disregard and lack of respect for your elected representative, and a shameful demonstration of this Ford Government's bullish pursuit of "Open for business, at all costs!"

Your SLCA, along with its partners, will continue to fight for the protection of our lake and surrounding area against ill-considered and dangerous industrial developments like this McBride Mining Project, but keep in mind that we all have a part to play in this challenge if we are to be successful. Please continue to voice your concerns to your MP and MPP as well as the ministers most responsible. Keep in mind that a well worded letter, copied to other related individuals is generally more effective than a hundred emails.

**Daryl Kramp** MPP – Hastings - Lennox and Addington  
 Phone: 343-600-3310  
 Toll-Free: 1-855-229-6676  
 FAX: 343-600-3329  
 Email: [daryl.krampco@pc.ola.org](mailto:daryl.krampco@pc.ola.org)  
 Address: 26A St Lawrence St W, PO Box 70  
 Madoc, ON, KoK 2K0

**Derek Sloan** MP Elect – Hastings - Lennox and Addington  
*Contact information yet unknown as he has yet to be sworn in as a member of parliament, and establish his constituency office(s).*

**Greg Rickford** Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines  
 Phone: 416-327-0633  
 Fax: 416-327-0665  
 Email: [greg.rickford@pc.ola.org](mailto:greg.rickford@pc.ola.org)  
 Address: Whitney Block - Suite 5630  
 5th Floor  
 99 Wellesley St. W  
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**Jeff Yurek** Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
 Phone: 416-314-6790  
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**John Yakabuski** Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
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**Lisa MacLeod** Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
 Phone: 416-314-1400  
 Address: 6th Floor  
 438 University Ave.  
 Toronto, ON M5G 2K8



# Financial Report



## August 31, 2019

by Dave McDonald

The past fiscal year 2018-2019 we again wound up with a surplus, continuing our organization's solid financial position. This allows us to continue our present functions and be in a position to better deal with unexpected occurrences. The main factors contributing to the increase in assets were a one-time return on the maturity of a GIC, and an increase in Advertising/Sponsorship Income. Partially offsetting these gains were lower Membership Fees (a matter of timing), a decrease in sales of merchandise, and slightly higher expenses.

Expenses for 2018-2019, with prior year figures in parentheses, were: Fundraising Costs, (Merchandise) \$435 (\$927), Fun Run Expenses \$467 (\$490), AGM, Regatta \$629 (\$415), FOCA Dues & Expenses \$818 (\$648), Insurance \$1,692 (\$1,684), Newsletter \$1,316 (\$1,300), Members Handout \$70 (\$81), Bank Service Charges \$100 (\$83), Rock Markers \$393 (\$377), Sign Maintenance/Road Clean-Up \$20 (\$0), Donations/Gifts \$215 (\$154), Web/Webcams \$448 (\$525), Community Investments \$143 (\$0) – expenditures relating to maintenance of the AED, and Community/Environmental \$25 (\$31) – expenditures relating to our activities opposing proposed mining in the area.

Further detail on our financial results is always available upon request to SLCA members. Please feel free to reach out directly to [treasurer@steenburglake.com](mailto:treasurer@steenburglake.com) for details, or with any questions or comments.

## Fool's Gold

Word that a Toronto based investor may have bought up controlling interests in the old abandoned mining claims south of our lake near Eldorado Ontario, did not come as welcome news. This is not the kind of attention our community should be hoping to attract at this time given all other mineral exploration that is active in our area.

Although technological advances may have made gold recovery from low-yielding deposits more attractive to mining companies and their investors, the same cannot be said about the impact that gold mining can have on the environment and neighbouring communities. It seems mining companies are locked in on maximizing profits, not minimizing their impacts.

The following article in the Financial Post provides an excellent history and background about Ontario's first gold mine and the very brief gold rush that started back in 1866.

<https://business.financialpost.com/commodities/mining/an-historic-gold-mine-in-a-tiny-ontario-town-could-be-the-epicentre-of-canadas-next-great-gold-rush>



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# The Cottage Bookshelf

Review by Dave McDonald

## Letter Perfect: The Marvelous History of Our Alphabet From A to Z

(previously released as *Language Visible: Unraveling the Mystery of the Alphabet from A to Z*)

By David Sacks

I read this book several years ago. It's a memorable book that I often like to look at again. It may seem like a strange subject for a book, or it may seem like a boring topic, but on the contrary I found it very informative, thought-provoking, and in some ways quite fascinating.

When you think about it, as the book says, in terms of inventions the alphabet should rank right up there with the wheel, based on its longevity and the extent of its modern usage. It has a kind of genius, the way that letters denote the smallest particles of sound and can be arranged in endless combinations as necessary to capture the sounds of words. In addition, this gives the alphabet flexibility, allowing letters to be fitted easily from one language to another.

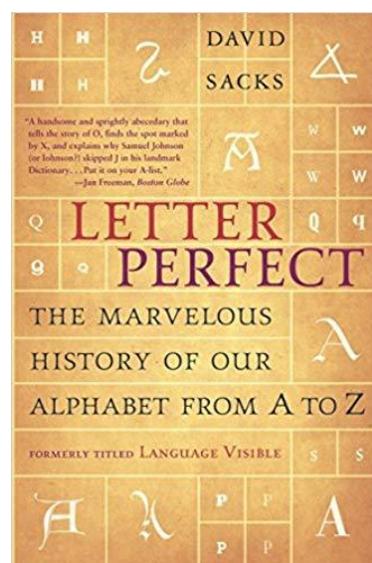
The book is arranged with an extensive introduction, followed by 26 chapters, each one devoted to a letter of our modern alphabet. The introduction traces the history of the alphabet from its invention in Egypt around 2000 B.C., through its many descendants, up to the present day. It is interesting to note that aside from the nonalphabetic writing of China and Japan, almost all major scripts in use in the world today belong to this single alphabet family. A notable exception is the 28-symbol Hangul system of Korea, which was invented from scratch in the mid-1400s A.D.

There is a lot of interesting information when you go through the origin and use of all the letters. A number of points come to mind, things you may not have known or may not have thought of, such as:

- The three-way rivalry of C, K, and Q. All three letters can be used to denote the same sound. The big loser of course is Q which is one of the least-used letters in English. But K comes out badly too, losing ground to the letter C, the one that can't seem to make up its mind as to how it will be pronounced, yet comes out much further ahead in terms of frequency of usage. However K fares much better in other Northern European languages such as German, Dutch, Swedish, Czech, and Hungarian.
- H is the least qualified to be considered a letter. Unlike other letters which represent sounds created by expelled breath interacting with the vocal cords, throat, tongue and teeth, H is nothing more than the expelling of breath. Instead of a consonant, it could be considered as just an aspirate, or phonetic breathing. In addition, most English letters are named for their sounds, but H, or "aitch" as it is pronounced, doesn't even have the sound H.
- V is one of the youngest letters (along with J). It was born from U (as was W) and emerged as a later response to vast European language changes that began around the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire. It gets a little confusing – we've all seen the Latin inscriptions that include Vs, and heard the messages like "Veni, vidi, vici". The answer is that this was actually a U, written as V, and pronounced as W. Ancient Latin had no V sound, but did have a W sound, which was represented by U as a consonant.

I could go on and on, but for the sake of brevity will leave it at that. These are just a few of many interesting bits of information to be found in Letter Perfect. It's a great book for people, like me, who enjoy trivia and who have an interest in language. It's the type of book that can be read here and there, not necessarily in order, and can be put aside for a while and picked up again with no concerns about losing continuity. Overall, it's quite educational, one of my top picks, which I hope others will enjoy.

The Cottage Bookshelf is a regular feature of your Shoreline News. Feel free to submit your own reviews and recommendations to [Newsletter@steenburglake.com](mailto:Newsletter@steenburglake.com).



ISBN: 978-0767911733



# Cottage Cookbook

Submitted by: Heather Stallaert

We recently found and made these 'Greek style' potatoes for some friends who visited us at the cottage. They were relatively easy to make, and so delicious! As much as the entire dinner of pork souvlaki, Greek salad and garlic bread and tzatziki were well enjoyed, these potatoes stole the show. We used the variation suggested below...

## Roasted Potatoes with Garlic, Lemon, and Oregano



Makes 4 to 6 servings

### INGREDIENTS

- 3 pounds baking potatoes, peeled and cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup beef stock or chicken stock
- 1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2-3 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano

### PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Place the potatoes in a single layer in a 13-x-9-inch baking dish and pour the oil over them. Add the garlic, dried oregano, salt and pepper to taste and toss well to coat with the oil.
3. Bake the potatoes for 15 minutes. Add the stock, toss and bake for 10 minutes more. Add the lemon juice, toss and bake for 10 to 15 minutes more, or until the potatoes are cooked through. If you like, preheat the broiler and broil the potatoes for 2 to 3 minutes, or until golden brown.
4. Sprinkle with the fresh oregano and serve at once.

**Variation:** Dissolve 1 tablespoon tomato paste in the stock, and reduce the amount of lemon juice to taste.



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*Continued...*

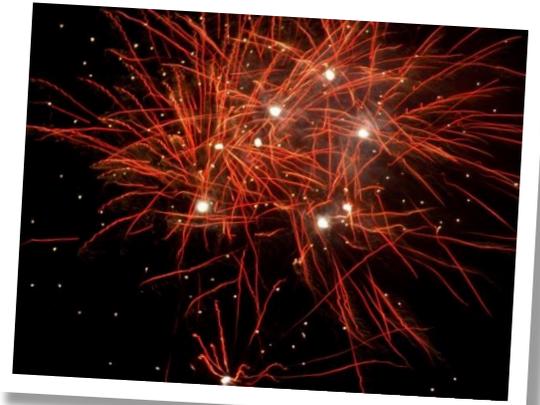
# Photo Contest Winners



Avery Di Giorgio - Landscape



Maribeth Fitts - Life at the Cottage



*Around the Lake...*

