



# Shoreline News

## Fall 2017

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Message

by Pat Stallaert

While thinking of how to present my latest thoughts, I was reminded of a past interest of mine, namely, ancient Greek history.

We certainly owe a great deal to the ancient Greeks. Not only did they sail around in ships much as we do on Steenburg Lake, but so much of what our society is founded on, stems from principles and pursuits they developed. The very concept of democracy was born in places like Athens. So too were the ideas of mandatory military service and civic duty.

Though I don't see the need for a Steenburg army, at least not at this point, I'm sure we would be a formidable force. It would however be nice to think that the tradition of getting involved and helping our community was second nature to all of us.

In 2018, the SLCA will become 60 years old. I'm not quite sure why we didn't seize the opportunity in 2008 to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup>, but I suspect the exact date of incorporation was not well known to many at the time.



As I scan through the long roll of notable volunteers, and see the names of many prominent families on the lake, both past and present, I wonder to myself, "Which of our current families will take up the charge, and see us through to the next years to come?"

The SLCA was founded on a shared belief that a cooperative effort by many with the common goal of protecting and enjoying our waterside community was the best means to ensure its future. The idea was certainly tested more than once in the past, and I'm convinced that this approach is still valid today.

Although there may not be such an external threat at this time, one might be lurking just on the horizon. Then there is the threat from not only external forces, but the need to protect the lake from ourselves.

Membership is a big part of keeping our SLCA strong, and we thank all of you who have renewed your membership this year. For those who may have let this slip, know that it is not too late to mail in or make your payment online. But the key to our success is the continued participation in events and volunteering in whatever capacity we each can.

It's been a great 60 years, but we're just getting started!

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# Photo Contest Winners



Judy St John - Landscape



Fred Neub – Life at the Cottage

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# AGM Update

by Pat Stallaert

This year's Annual General meeting was held at the Tudor & Cashel Community Centre on Weslemkoon Lake Road. We had a great turn out and there was a general consensus that we should hold next year's meeting there again.

Before getting into the general business of the meeting, we had a presentation by guest speaker, Tim Pidduck, General Manager of the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority. Tim explained how the McGeachie Conservation Area came to be from donations of land from Jack and Ethel McGeachie back in 1994, and then later with the donation of additional land from the Lee family.

Over the past several years, the CVCA has developed a network of trails through the area with the help of volunteers and with donations from many other supporters in the area.

The SLCA is pleased to remind all members that donations to the CVCA for the McGeachie Conservation Area are still being matched by a very generous anonymous donor, and will be until the \$10,000 limit has been reached.

Following a brief social intermission for treats and refreshments, the official meeting got underway. There were reports from each of our Executive members.

Don Mills, our outgoing Lake Steward described and demonstrated the tests and equipment used to sample the lake for several parameters, and the programs we report our results to.

The good news is that the lake overall has been relatively stable and in generally good health though this means that phosphate levels still continue to be moderately high. This of course means that we could be more prone to algal blooms if some of the other conditions were met. And although we have not tested positive for either zebra mussels or spiny fleas in recent years, the bad news is that these species continue to spread in lakes across the province, and this year, nearby Wollaston Lake was one of them. It may be only a matter of time for us, unless we can keep up our diligence, and encourage visiting fisherman to exercise the right precautions

and due diligence to avoid spreading these unwanted creatures.

Outgoing Social Chair, Anna Huk, gave us a recap of this year's activities and events and thanked all the volunteers who helped make these possible. In addition to those events organized by the SLCA, we are fortunate to have a number of great events put on by members of this vibrant community, and they were all very well attended.

Of course, this was the year we joined together to celebrate Canada 150, and there was plenty of pride and celebration on display around the lake this year.

Although Dean Butler, our Merchandise Contact for the SLCA, could not be at the meeting, he did provide a written report and we were delighted to hear that this year's sales of merchandise far surpassed all previous years. Obviously, the sale of special Canada 150 T-shirts was a big part of that. Thank you to all the members who helped support the SLCA, and showed off our pride doing it!

Our Membership Chair, Diane Burke, confirmed that not only did we easily have quorum for the day's meeting, but that all indications so far were that our membership numbers are actually up a bit from last year. Diane thanked all our many canvassers for their help to make this possible, and all our members who continue to support the work of the SLCA.

Melissa Stallaert, our Newsletter Editor could not make the meeting either, but the report provided indicated that our Shoreline News is still being very well received. Our newsletters make up approximately one third of our annual expenses so if anyone would prefer to just receive newsletters electronically, they can do so by visiting our Membership Update page on the website, or contacting any member of the Executive.

We appreciate all input and submissions to the newsletter, and can always use more.

Nancy Kelly gave a detailed account of the goings on in both our host municipalities, and included an update on the North Road rehabilitation project that Limerick Township is now in the process of completing.

Dave McDonald, our Treasurer, gave us an excellent financial report and indicated that we continue to be in a strong financial position thanks to our

continued high level of membership, strong merchandise sales, careful control of expenses, and prudent investment strategies over the years. Also, we are fortunate to have strong support from our local sponsors, and Dave encouraged all members, their friends and families to give these businesses their fair consideration while shopping or looking for such services.

Though we no longer publish full financial statements, these are available to any member upon request from [treasurer@steenburglake.com](mailto:treasurer@steenburglake.com).

Finally, as President, I gave a brief recap of the activities the SLCA Executive have been involved in of late and some issues that we are following on behalf of the Association.

Members are reminded that the AED unit which was purchased last fall, is now available for emergencies from the Cochranes at 1035 the North Road. Fridge magnets with the contact information were distributed with membership packages this year, and instructions on its use are available on our website at [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com).

One such issue we continue to monitor is the potential impact that the sale of the Headlands property might have should any new owners attempt to over-develop this remaining wildlife area.

A brief social time followed the meeting providing members a chance to mingle with old and new friends, while we enjoyed treats and refreshments provided by Jackie Rudd, and Anita Waddell.

Just a reminder that the draft minutes of this, and past AGMs, as well as Executive meetings and correspondences are available online in the Reports Archive.





## Look Who's Turning 60...

In 1958, the Steenburg Lake Community Association was incorporated as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the Province of Ontario. That means that the SLCA will be turning 60 years young next year. In recognition of this achievement, and in honour of all the contributions its members and volunteers have made over the years towards the betterment and enjoyment of this community, we will be reinforcing this theme at our events throughout the year.

Just to make it interesting, your SLCA Executive are also introducing two great new contests to help members get involved in the fun! Send your submissions to [merchandise@steenburglake.com](mailto:merchandise@steenburglake.com) by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### CONTEST!

Help develop a new logo for our SLCA merchandise...

and

Help come up with a new slogan for the special celebrations by completing the phrase:

*"Steenburg Lake Community Association –  
60 years of ..."*



# PayPal Paves the Way...

Once again, your SLCA has opted to donate \$1 from each membership paid by PayPal, to the local volunteer Fire Department. PayPal is a great way to quickly and conveniently make your \$30 payment, and it saves your canvasser having to handle money or make repeat visits to collect.

Donations like these also help support our local emergency team by helping to pay for new equipment.

We are happy to announce that we were again able to present a cheque for \$40 to Jason Post, Limerick Fire Chief.

Thank you to all members who renewed via PayPal, and for those we missed on or our canvassing visits, or for some reason or other still haven't made your payment in support of the SLCA, PayPal is an easy way to check that off your list, and keep your membership current!



## Fall Fire Safety

by Pat Stallaert

With the autumn colours and cooler temperatures, we would all do well to remember that with heating season, comes a heightened risk of house and cottage fires, and the dangers of heating with various fuels.

Make sure that your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detectors are functioning properly, and have fresh batteries. Check the dates to ensure 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 clutter.

If you heat with electricity, 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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# Membership Report

by Diane Burke

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and that you were able to enjoy some of the many events.

Our total paid membership this year is 161. Thank you for your ongoing support.

We have several new members to welcome to the lake! Please join me in welcoming Jenene & Jason Clark (#81), Kieron Pope & Kelly Ellis (#44), Bruce & Linda Welch (#49A), Reg Corbett & Laurie Lee (#53), Pete & Trina Jost (#42B), Kevin Stewart (#115) and Don & Leslie Allain (#32A). We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events and know that you will enjoy being part of our active community.

Thank you as well to all of our canvassers – Cris Langman (new), John Harnett, Margot Withey, Wendy Butler, Pat and Heather Stallaert, Dave Anderson, Elaine McCarthy, Christina Candy, Janet Vander Ploeg, Wendy Rudd, Dave McDonald, Susan Bridger, Bill and Carol Landon (new), Brendan Cameron, Cathy Wilson and Eileen Walsh. Your assistance and support are truly appreciated. I also want to thank Joanne Boyce and Dave Anderson for their past service and support in this important role.

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



*Paying your membership fees couldn't be easier with PayPal... Just visit:*

<http://forms.steenburglake.com/Membership.html>

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Victoria Day to  
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## Changes to Private Road Signage

Earlier this summer, I had the pleasure of running into Richard McCarthy and Dennis Mouncey as they were in the process of changing a road sign near the beginning of Maple Landing Lane.

An interesting discussion ensued, and later, as promised, I received a letter from Richard and Marilyn explaining the changes and what prompted them.



Richard was kind enough to provide the information shown to the right, for the benefit of all our members in the Steenburg Lake community.

## MAPLE LANDING AREA ON STEENBURG LAKE

Mr. Pat Stallaert, the president of our Steenburg Lake Cottagers Association, asked me to write a short article about the Maple Landing area and to explain the need to make some changes to the signage at the entrance to Maple Landing Lane.

### Some background information:

Most of us on Steenburg Lake realize that the north part of the lake is in Limerick Township and the south part of the lake is in Tudor & Cashel Township. The Maple Landing area is on the north boundary of Tudor & Cashel.

There are approximately 40 residences in the Maple Landing area. The majority of them (about 34) are in the Austin's Bay area of the lake and about 6 are at the end of a laneway called "Headland Lane". These last 6 residences are on the north bay of the lake, including the Stallaert property.

Of the 34 cottages that are in the Austin's Bay area, 30 of them that use the Maple Landing Lane and Bay View Lane contribute annually towards the ongoing maintenance of the road.

All of the residences in the Maple Landing area have a registered right-of-way to their property along the Maple Landing road. Prior to Marilyn's and my ownership of the area, my Dad, Malcolm McCarthy, had granted a right-of-way to Art Robertson for his cottage and other cottages to be developed along the north bay shoreline.

### Current developments:

This summer, I requested a meeting with Wanda Donaldson, Reeve and Bernice Crocker, Chief Administrative Officer of Tudor & Cashel Township. Mr. Dennis Mouncey, one of our neighbours on Maple Landing Lane, was kind enough to accompany me to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what involvement, if any, that the township wished to have with regard to Maple Landing Lane. The sign at the entrance to our private road stated "UNASSUMED ROAD - USE AT OWN RISK" which was incorrectly inviting all of the general public to use the road that was being maintained by the cottagers.

The results of the meeting were as follows:

Tudor & Cashel were unwilling at that time to provide any funding for the road maintenance. There was no desire on Tudor & Cashel's part to plan for any connection of the north and south roads of the lake. Signage on private roads is the responsibility of the landowners, and I was directed at the meeting to replace the sign with the current one, indicating that it is a private road maintained by the homeowners.

### Conclusion:

Maple landing Lane is for the use of owners in the Maple Landing area, their invited guests, three hunt clubs who have written documentation for their members to access their camps by way of Maple Landing, and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobilers who have an agreement for a groomed trail for its members use in the winter. Although the 3 hunt clubs use the road to access their camps, they know that there is no hunting on the Maple Landing property so that residents can go for hikes without concern.

## North Road Construction Update

By the time this newsletter goes to print, we expect that work on the redevelopment of the Steenburg Lake North Road will be completed. And although we all hope to enjoy the improvements made to the road for years to come, it cannot be stressed enough that we all have a responsibility to use the road wisely and with caution.

Be alert, and watch for pedestrians, cyclist, and other users of the road in all seasons. And above all, **watch your speed!** The new smoother paved surface will be a tempting invitation to drive more quickly.

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## Four New Web Cameras Around the Lake...

This year, your SLCA Executive voted to replace the dated and failing web cams around the lake. The old technology had served us well, but was approaching its end of life. In addition, the method used to upload their images to the website, exposed a security vulnerability that our internet hosting provider was about to close down.

Visit these web cams at our website:

[www.webcams.steenburglake.com](http://www.webcams.steenburglake.com)

Thanks to Anthony Genovese, our Internet and Web talent, we now have all four cameras configured and sending high resolution images to the website every 15 minutes. Thank you also to our members who host these cameras on their high speed internet connections. Enjoy the show everyone!

North



South



East



West



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# Lake Stewardship Report

by Don Mills

It is a windy, rainy day in early October and a good time to reflect back somewhat on my three year term as Lake Steward. As I am sure everyone would agree this was the wettest year of the three. At times it seemed to rain at least every other day.

Acting as Lake Steward has been a great learning experience and I hope my successor will enjoy the experience provided by this role as much as I have. The staffs at the Invasive Species Monitoring Program and the Lake Partner Program have very efficiently provided the tools to monitor for the presence of invasive species like zebra mussels and to sample for water quality and clarity.

The water quality test, which is done to determine the phosphorus and calcium levels in the lake water, was done near the end of May. The water clarity measurements were done monthly and hopefully if Mother Nature cooperates I will conduct the last one later in October. The results will be published later in the winter ([www.desc.ca/programs/lpp](http://www.desc.ca/programs/lpp)). Taken together with those resulting from testing by my predecessors they provide a picture of the general health of our lake. The results from my testing have been very similar to those from recent years. The numbers have not changed significantly and suggest the lake is reasonably healthy at this time.

The invasive species monitoring samples were taken on August 8 this year in three deep water sites as in the past two years. The results will be published ([www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)) later in the winter. Last year's results showed that we did not have zebra mussel larvae in the samples. That is the good news – the bad news is that they are creeping closer and were found last year in the samples taken from Wollaston Lake. Those of us moving boats from one body of water to another, especially if the water contains zebra mussels, need to take precautions to ensure that we are not bringing contaminated boats or water into our lake.

During my time as Lake Steward there have been a number of issues arise that required some external help. The most common one was, and will continue to be, about lake water levels, usually because they are high. Crowe Valley Conservation manages the watershed into which Steenburg Lake flows and can to some degree control the rate of outflow into Bass Creek and on to Limerick Lake. In my experience adding or taking out logs in the small dam near the beach on the North Road reduces some of the problem but does not solve it. Time and time again in the last three years beavers have been the culprits through the building of beaver dams between here and Limerick Lake or by plugging culverts. Writing this reminds me of my relatives that live on the Ottawa River south of Arnprior. The water levels at their place can go up or down six feet in a day – is a nightmare trying to dock or moor boats. At least our water levels fluctuate only a few inches or so.

In August of 2015 cottagers on East Bay Road noticed a purple coloured plant in the water near the beach. It looked a lot like the highly invasive Purple Loosestrife. Fortunately it was identified at the Invading Species Program in Peterborough as Pickerel Weed which gets its name from the fish that in some lakes exist around it. Actually, the plant is edible, a natural filter, and good for the lake. In the spring of 2017, floating "blobs" of something were seen in the lake in front of a cottage on the South Road. The cottager took a sample to the MNR office in Bancroft where a biologist identified the material as a harmless form of moss. It is not totally clear how it got into the lake. The other concern that

comes up on a regular basis relates to misplaced or missing rock markers. They move in the wind and the anchors break. As well, there always will be rocks that don't have markers and they are not a problem for years until one of us hits one of them. The placement of rock markers has been coordinated by the Community Association for years. Taking them out in the late fall and putting them back in the spring seems to me to be one of those tasks for which there are few rewards. I say to those who have looked after this in the past and are doing it now "Thank You!"

A big thanks, as well, to those residents and cottagers who cared enough to report a concern and assist with the resolution of potential problems that could have represented a serious danger to our lake.

As I noted in the beginning this has been a great learning experience for me. I hope the experience for my successor will be just as rewarding and just as much fun.

## Municipal Affairs Report

by Nancy Kelly

### Township of Tudor and Cashel

A request had been made to allow for a dock to be built on the 66' shoreline road allowance on Steenburg Lake South Road and was denied until the shoreline had been purchased and the necessary permits were provided by the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority.

Estimates are coming in for a culvert replacement near 606 South Steenburg Lake Road that will require Ron Earle to complete.

From the Sept. 12, 2017 Roads Committee Meeting, County has stated that municipalities are not to take on any new roads. Seasonal Roads – Winter maintenance such as plowing can be stopped by by-law. Rule of thumb is to leave the road open until after hunting season then maintenance can be stopped.

A by-law was passed Oct. 3, 2017 to establish a policy in regard to requests for a building permit for construction on a road allowance.

### Township of Limerick

Public Works and Infrastructure have been directed to investigate all historical locations within the Township for the placement of heritage markers.

The township has waived signage fees for the Limerick Waterways Ratepayers Association for the purpose of installing Invasive Species signs at the St. Ola Boat Launch and at Limerick Lake Lodge.

Limerick Council has requested of the Minister of Municipal Affairs eliminates the requirement of a candidate's nomination to be endorsed by 25 of any Municipality with less than 10,000 electors.

Limerick council supports resolutions from other municipalities to insist that the Province of Ontario show the carbon Tax / Fee on a separate line on all carbon based fuel companies including hydro and natural gas.



### In any emergency, always call 9-1-1 first

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.



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*"Let's Talk Real Estate"*



# Social Corner

by Anna Little Huk

Another incredible Steenburg Lake summer has drawn to a close!

As the outgoing Chair of the SLCA Social Committee, I'd like to say thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed our annual summer events. We had a huge turnout for the Annual Regatta and Beach BBQ, collected a massive amount of litter during the annual Roadside Clean-Up, hosted a full house at the AGM with an awesome door prize table, and packed the South Road with runners and walkers at the Annual Fun Run organized by the Butler family!

In addition to these great events put on by the SLCA, there were of course a number of other awesome events organized and put on by some of our members.

This summer, we enjoyed another great display of fireworks on Canada day, put on by the Cochranes and Friends. A number of boats were decked out in Canadian flags, banners and lights to mark Canada 150 celebrations. Then on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we were entertained by Fred Cotie and the band Claidhmor, with a special appearance by Emma and Joel Harvey.

Come July 29<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed the return of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Artisans of Steenburg exhibition, organized by Lynn Rusaw and hosted this year by Karl and Janet Sobotka. This show just keeps getting bigger and better!

Then let's not forget the entertaining and social side of our Annual general meetings, held this year at the Tudor & Cashel Community Centre on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Steenburg lake Golf Tournament was held at the West Highlands golf course in Madoc. Thanks again to the Cochranes for organizing this event.

To everyone who volunteered to help make these events happen: Thank you! We greatly appreciate your time and effort. And while summer 2017 is behind us, it's never too early to start looking forward to another awesome summer on Steenburg Lake.

The SLCA is looking for someone to chair the Social Committee, and for volunteers to help with our events. Can you spare an hour to hand out garbage bags at the Roadside Clean Up? Could you write down the names of the winners during the Regatta? Maybe you'd like to hand out ribbons to the participants, or blow the air horn to start the races? If you're interested in lending a hand, email [social@steenburglake.com](mailto:social@steenburglake.com)!



Emma and Joel Harvey performing at the Have-a-dock Jamboree



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



3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Steenburg Lake Golf Tournament



Annual Beach Regatta and BBQ



# Scientists urge Muskoka residents to make the area more hospitable . . . to bats

By Jessica Faulds



Bats need a new image. The night-flyers tend to get a bad rap, usually getting associated with vampires, haunted houses, and hair entanglement. But conservationists are urging Ontarians to change their views of these flying mammals (which are, by the way, the only flying mammals) and hopefully help to save them before it's too late.

"Eight species of bats live in Ontario's cottage country and five of them are threatened: the little brown bat, big brown bat, northern myotis bat, eastern small-foot bat, and the tri-coloured bat," Christina Davy of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forests told [Muskokaregion.com](http://Muskokaregion.com). "People living in Muskoka can do a lot to help save these species."

In recent years, bat populations have been under threat due to fungus pathogens, insecticides, wetland destruction, and the loss of native plant species that support their food sources. A pathogen known as white nose syndrome has made its way to North America from Europe and Asia, but unlike the bats there, North American bats have no immunity. And unfortunately, the decline in bat populations go largely unnoticed, possibly in part because they are viewed as undesirable.



A little brown bat with white nose syndrome.  
[Credit: Wikimedia Commons/Marvin Moriarty]

Maria Franke, curator of mammals at the Metro Toronto Zoo, believes that bats are hugely underrated. "About 70 per cent of bat species feed on insects, something which is of great value to us in controlling insects that damage our crops and gardens," she told [Muskokaregion.com](http://Muskokaregion.com). "Bats consume many times their own weight in bugs each night, reducing pesticide usage by as much as 50 per cent. Bats are indicators of a healthy environment. Their future is directly linked to our quality of life and the quality of our environment."

So what can Muskoka residents do to help bats? First, we can leave them alone. If bats are roosting in an unused attic or barn, don't evict them — or if you must, hire a professional who will get them out humanely, not fumigate or harm them.

If you want to go above and beyond, you can also add a bat box to your property, that is, a dark, partitioned box that they can use to roost. And planting native wildflowers can lure insects that the bats then feed on.

It's time for us to stop seeing bats as menacing bloodsuckers (a myth, by the way) and start seeing them as an essential part of the ecosystem that needs our protection. As Davy puts it, "They are amazing creatures with complex social life we're just beginning to understand."

## How do we get rid of bats without hurting them?

By Jackie Davis



Clearing out bats is a multi-stage process that takes time, patience, and probably a few late nights. First of all, friends don't evict friends without suggesting alternative sleeping arrangements. For bats, this means bat boxes. (They're about the size of birdhouses, but insulated, with rough interior walls that the bats can cling to.) Before situating your bat boxes, determine where the critters are getting into the cottage. Time for some nighttime surveillance: At dusk, wait outside your cottage and watch where the bats enter and exit; place the boxes near these spots. Seal up all these entrances and exits (bats can squeeze through a space as small as six mm) except one. After a few days, the bats will learn that this single hole is now their only option to get in and out. Then, one night, after the bats all leave, cover this last opening with a piece of hardware cloth. Leave it loose at the bottom to make a one-way exit door. Bats inside can push it out and leave, but can't get back in. You can seal up this hole for good after a few weeks.

Timing is everything here: Don't boot out the bats in June or July, baby season, since the young left inside may die. August or September (or early spring) are better options.

# 10 things you might not know about bats

By Colin Field



Bats get a bum rap, as most people are creeped out by them or downright terrified of them. But they aren't all bad. Sometimes they can even be pretty cute. To help you get to know our furry, wing-flapping friends, we've compiled 10 bat facts you might not know.

## 1. Bats are the only true flying mammals

While many mammals, including the flying squirrel, feather-tailed possum, and sugar glider (an arboreal marsupial), have evolved the ability to glide for surprisingly long distances, bats are the only mammal capable of sustained flight. They accomplish this feat thanks to incredibly light, flexible bones in their hands, which spread thin, elastic flaps of skin between them.

## 2. Bats eat a ton of insects

You probably already knew bats eat insects, but did you know how many they eat? A lot. Over the course of one summer night, a bat will devour hundreds of bugs. So if you've ever complained about mosquitoes and bats before, then you contradicted yourself. More bats equal less mosquitoes, so bring on the bats!

## 3. You're more likely to get rabies from bats than from any other animal

Most bats don't have rabies, but according to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of the few cases of human rabies that are reported in North America each year, the majority are caused by contact with bats.

## 4. Bats belong to one of the biggest families on the planet

Think you have too many cousins to keep track of at Christmas? Well, according to Wilson & Reeder's Mammal Species of the World, there are nearly 5,500 recognized species of mammals on the planet, and about 1,240 are species of bats. That's approximately 20% of all species of mammals!

## 5. You can find bats almost anywhere on Earth

There are few places in the world where you can escape cohabitating with bats. They inhabit nearly every type of ecosystem, and flight has allowed them to distribute themselves across every land mass, save for the Arctic and Antarctic, as well as a few remote islands. So unless you're willing to live at one of the poles or in the middle of the Pacific, you'll need to learn to live with bats.

## 7. Bats rarely fly in the rain

Scientists have long known that bats don't like flying in the rain. And while they once long believed it was because rain droplets affected the bats' sonar and their use of echolocation, a recent study published in the journal *Biology Letters* suggests that it's because their fur holds water, increasing their weight and the energy costs of flight.

## 8. A bat's wings have the same basic bone structure as your hands

They may be used for wildly different purposes (flying in the case of the bat, and shuffling the euchre deck in the case of cottagers), but bats share the same five-bone structure in their limbs as you and all other mammals. It's known as the "pentadactyl limb", and Darwin noted its widespread presence among mammals in *On the Origin of Species*:

"What could be more curious than that the hand of man formed for grasping, that of a mole, for digging, the leg of a horse, the paddle of a porpoise and the wing of a bat, should all be constructed on the same pattern and should include similar bones and in the same relative positions?"

## 9. Bats hibernate during the winter

While some Canadian bat species migrate to warmer climates in the fall, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources, five bat species—the little brown bat, the Northern long-eared bat, the Eastern small-footed bat, the big brown bat, and the Eastern Pipistrelle—are known to hibernate in Ontario. These species seek protection from freezing temperatures in caves and abandoned mines, as well as buildings and barns. The body temperature, heart rate, and breathing rate of bats decrease dramatically during hibernation, and they must rely solely on stored bodyfat as a source of food.

## 10. Bats produce one of the world's best natural fertilizers

Bat manure, known as guano, is the excrement of bats, some seals, and some species of birds. Because of guano's high content of nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium, it's long been a prized source of natural fertilizer for food.

All three articles on bats, reprinted with permission from

**Cottage Life**



## Eulogy to Tom Flavelle

By Dave Langman

Tom (Bud) Flavelle and his brother Al bought the lodge property after being released from the Canadian Navy at the end of the Second World War. He ran the lodge for some years eventually selling the property to the Hacket Family. Bud wrote about his adventures running the lodge property, and they are found in the archives of Steenburg Lake for those that are interested in some lake history.

While running the lodge, Bud met the girl next door - Adrienne Powers (Redlogs), a romance took full bloom, and eventually Bud and Adrienne got hitched at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Madoc. Of interest is the fact that the lodge property was originally owned and pioneered by Adrienne's great grandfather, Robert Powers. Robert owned the marina property and built the little white cottage you see in the Carol's Marina post card. Bud's sister-in-law was Carol (of Carol's Marina). The Diamond Cottage (owned by Steve Brown) was once owned by Bud's parents.

Bud Flavelle loved the lake. He was a manager at Hickock Belt and Carnaby Canada - belt makers in Toronto. He got two weeks holidays a year, and spent them with his wife Adrienne and son Bruce at the family cottage - Red Logs. He commuted from Scarborough on the odd weekend as well.

Bud was a tinkerer. He liked mechanical things - maybe because of his experience with industrial sewing machines. He started fixing old clocks he found at garage sales. His house and cottage seemed full of clocks that all bonged away every 15 minutes or so. He was good at fixing outboard motors - he got me started on outboard motor repair. He built his own plywood boats in the 1950s. He bought a speed boat around 1970 - a dark blue Crestliner with a 45 Chrysler. He had a 5.5 Johnson, a 3 horse Johnson and an old Viking 1.5 he called Betsy. He used the small boats to troll for Lake Trout using steel line. You could find him putting alone with a wine tipped colt cigar on many a morning. He also had success catching Splake after the stocking program began.

His social circles included the Savages, the Riels, Bruce Fitzgibbon, the Harts, and Langmans, Lemoines, and many others. Bud and Adrienne were wonderful hosts, and entertained a lot.

We lost one of the original cottagers on the lake, and Dave Langman shared some memories with us...



Tom Flavelle with his wife Adrienne Flavelle (right) and Evelyn (Powers) McClung (left) about 1983 on Birch Island.

As retirement approached, he started preparing the cottage for extended 3 season use. He added a fireplace insert, improved the windows, and started splitting and hoarding wood. He loved to have a fire on. It seemed that the fires burned all summer long. Eventually the snows would start in late October, and Bud and Adrienne would pack up and head back to Scarborough where he could resume his friendships with his golf and snooker pals at the Royal Canadian Legion. Bud and Adrienne spent quite a few extended summers at the lake, eventually finding the drive a bit much, so retired to their home in Toronto. Son Bruce would bring them up for short visits to the lake.

Bud lived to the ripe old age of 90+, survived by Adrienne, who resides in Kingston near Bruce and Mary Anne. He was a long time lake resident - 1946 to 2016 - 70 years! He was around before electricity reached the lake and was here before the east shore was developed. Visiting Bud and Adrienne was always a great adventure, a lot of fun, and a great learning experience. He is missed.

Just a friendly reminder that if you enjoy visiting your cottage off the South Road in winter, why not contribute to the snow plowing that makes year round access possible.

Contact :

**Jim Tanner or Ken Deboo**

(Phone numbers and email addresses are available at [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com))





# Financial Report

## August 31, 2017

by Dave McDonald

We finished the 2016-2017 fiscal year with a respectable profit of \$1,440, in spite of having made investments in an AED for lake members (\$1,695), and new web cameras for the lake (\$301).

Membership Fees, Advertising Income, and Merchandise Sales all increased significantly over the prior fiscal year 2015-2016. In addition to this Newsletter Expenses and Member Handout costs decreased due to supplies which had been purchased in advance in the prior year to take advantage of lower prices. Expenses for 2016-2017, with prior year figure in parentheses, were: Merchandise Costs \$1,729 (\$1,450), Fun Run Expenses \$607 (\$315), AGM/Regatta \$559 (\$470), FOCA Dues and Expenses \$698 (\$717), Insurance \$1,659 (\$1,652), Newsletter \$1,163 (\$1,579), Members Handout \$268 (\$669), Bank/PayPal Charges \$80 (\$86), Rock Markers \$250 (\$328), Donations/Gifts \$71 (\$169), Web/Webcams \$436 (\$218).

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) with any requests for details, or with any questions or comments.



## A fond thank you...

After 10 years of dedication to the Steenburg Lake Community, Wendy and Dean are stepping back from their volunteer roles: Wendy from her role as Fun Run organizer, and Dean from his role as Merchandise Chair on the SLCA Executive Committee.

"It's been a fun 10 years." said Dean. "We wanted to finish on a high note, but now we look forward to attending the many great lake events as participants..."



And what a high note it was... This year's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5 km Fun Run was the best attended ever, and sales of Canada 150 T-shirts helped put us well over the top of our fund raising goals.

A huge thank you goes out to both Dean and Wendy. As they put it, time for some new volunteers to step up. Wendy and Dean will still be around to help with the transition for these roles, and Steenburg Lake merchandise will still be available, though we will probably need to make some changes to the way we have been offering one-ofs and custom orders going forward. More information will be available in the spring with regards to what merchandise will be available and how and when to obtain it.



# The Cottage Bookshelf

Review by Pat Stallaert

Where I Belong: Small Town to Great Big Sea

By Alan Doyle

For those of you who have read any of my earlier book reviews, you would notice that this book, "Where I Belong" by Allan Doyle, is a far departure from the types of books I generally choose to write about in this newsletter. Usually I prefer to review books about the historical past of the area around North Hastings, but this time, I thought I'd switch it up a bit. I'm not really sure what drew me to read this book, other than the fact that my daughter Melissa highly recommended it to me and she has a pretty good idea of the kinds of books I like. Maybe it's the fact that I have long yearned to visit Newfoundland and Labrador, the last province I have yet to set foot in, or that I quite enjoy the songs and music of the band, Great Big Sea.

This book is unmistakably a memoir of the author as he grew up in a small town called Petty Harbour in Newfoundland, and how he eventually became the lead singer in one of Canada's most successful musical bands. Interestingly enough, the story begins telling of this small rural fishing community and how it was clearly divided into a Catholic and Protestant side. From the detailed description that Doyle provides of life in such a small village, you would think that it was nestled in some far away and hard to reach area of the province, but in fact, it is just a short distance south from the busy capital of St. John's.

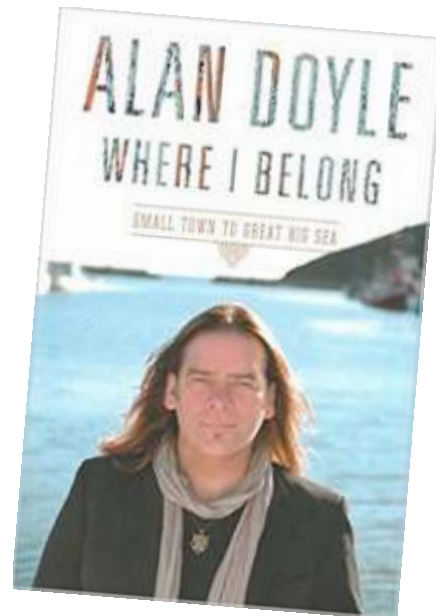
Doyle paints a charming picture of this little sea-side village in the 1970s, back when the very existence of such places was so inextricably bound to the inland cod fishery. He tells of life growing up in a relatively poor family with his parents and three siblings, in a small and humble home, but not in a way to incite pity, but rather to relate the richness and charm of a simpler life not all that long ago. The author's vivid recollection and detail of the town he grew up in and the people who influenced his life are remarkable. Though there are ample pictures throughout the text to help illustrate the story he tells, the author's words do a wonderful job of putting you there, in the moment.

Throughout the book, Doyle explains how even from a young age, he has always struggled with ideas, concepts and labels. Things such as the difference between Catholics and Protestants, townies and baymen, rich and poor, boys and girls, being a Canadian or a Newfoundlander,...

Doyle's humour and wit are evident throughout the book, as the anecdotes, expressions, traditions and lyrics of songs come flooding through.

It's a delightful read that just leaves you yearning to experience first-hand the places and the people the author depicts. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Newfoundland, the band, Great Big Sea, or if you simply enjoy a good laugh. I know that it's only helped to strengthen my desire to visit this part of our country, and I hope to someday visit many of the places that Doyle writes of in his home town.

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).




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# Cottage Cookbook

Submitted by: Heather Stallaert

The following is an old high school friend's recipe. I haven't made it myself yet, but I remember it well and it was marvelous!

## Dorethy's All Time Favourite Streusel Coffee Cake Recipe

You can use prepared cherry, apple or blueberry pie filling (19 oz).


Preheat oven to 350°F.

**Preparation Time:** Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes

**Baking pan:** Use 9" spring form baking pan, well-greased and floured to prevent sticking on the sides.

**Baking Time:** 50 – 55 minutes in a regular oven or reduce by 10 in a convection oven. Take out when top has browned a bit.

### Ingredients:

2 ¾ cups	all-purpose flour	
¾ cup	white sugar	
¾ cup	softened butter	
½ tsp	Magic baking powder	
½ tsp	baking soda	
1 only	egg	
¾ cup	milk (Sour the milk as if to turn it into buttermilk by adding 2 tablespoons of white vinegar and stir, let sit, re-stir then add egg as described before adding to mixture.)	
1 can	your choice of prepared pie filling	

### Method:

1. Combine flour and sugar in a large bowl
2. Cut softened butter into mixture above until crumbly. Remove ½ cup of the mixture and set aside (to be used later to sprinkle as topping)
3. To remainder of dry ingredients, add baking powder and baking soda
4. Combine egg into soured milk, stir and add to dry mixture
5. Spread 2/3 of wet batter over bottom of spring form pan, and up the sides a little as well
6. Pour prepared pie filling over top of batter
7. Drop spoonfuls of remaining batter over top of cake
8. Sprinkle the reserved ½ cup of crumbly mixture over top of cake
9. Put into oven, set time and enjoy later when cooled, with ice cream, whipped cream or just plain. This recipe is not overly sweet.

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Feel free to submit your favourite cottage recipes to:

[Newsletter@steenburglake.com](mailto:Newsletter@steenburglake.com)





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*Continued...*

# Photo Contest Winners



Joanne Burghardt - Nature



Shawn Murphy - Tweens







*Around the Lake...*

