



# Shoreline News

## Spring 2017

STEENBURG LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

## President's Message

by Pat Stallaert

Every time I sit down to write these messages, I have to think if I should be reflecting on a great season just passed or look ahead to an even better one just starting. I used to think this was as easy as setting a clock: You know, spring forward, fall backwards...

But in these days, the trend seems to be more and more towards enjoying cottaging and what the lake has to offer, year round. The line between end and start of season seems to be blurring for many people, and this year was no exception.

So we bid farewell to one of the best winters in years: Lots of great snow, and plenty of bright sunny days. Some may still dread the arrival of winter, but kudos to all of us hardy Canadians who have discovered that the lake and cottaging is a year round pleasure. Perhaps our fulltime resident members don't see it quite that way as they endure bitter cold days, and insane amounts of snow, but I for one envy them...

As the memories of a wonderful winter spent up at the lake begin to fade, and we eagerly watch the ice grow thinner on the lake, one can't help but to look forward to another great spring and summer. And this being Canada's and Ontario's sesquicentennial year, you can be sure that there will be many great activities planned on the lake and throughout our community.

Your SLCA, and many individuals around the lake, are planning a lot of great events this summer. Even the townships have some special Canada 150 celebrations in store. I invite you to come out and take part in these wonderful activities. Get to know your neighbours and this great community, and enjoy all that it has to offer. There's bound to be something that appeals to everyone and to all ages.

Better still, why not get involved and help run some of these events, or organize your own event. The SLCA is always more than happy to help sponsor and promote events in our community.

Check out the list of scheduled events on the back cover, and keep an eye on the [Steenburglake.com](http://Steenburglake.com) website for any changes or updates as they may occur.



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# Family Day – February 11, 2017

by Pat Stallaert



This was the fourth consecutive year that Mike and Donna Cochrane have hosted a Family Day and Ice Fishing Derby weekend, and without question, this event just keeps getting better each year.

This year's event was very well attended, and unlike past years, the weather was a very pleasant +2°C. There was no talk of postponement because of bitter cold like we had past years: Just a perfect, sunshine-filled day. Even the fish were in full attendance!

There were plenty of fun activities including ice skating, curling, darts, kite flying and of course, ice fishing.

As always, Mike and his crew served up some great treats of hotdogs and French fries, and there were many great prizes raffled off and awarded. A perfect time to enjoy a beautiful winter day at the lake. Thank you again Mike and Donna and friends for a wonderful time!



## SLCA Executive

**PAT STALLAERT**  
PRESIDENT  
[President@steenburglake.com](mailto:President@steenburglake.com)

**(VACANT)**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**JUDY PLATT**  
SECRETARY  
[Secretary@steenburglake.com](mailto:Secretary@steenburglake.com)

**DAVE MCDONALD**  
TREASURER  
613-474-2946  
[Treasurer@steenburglake.com](mailto:Treasurer@steenburglake.com)

**DIANE BURKE**  
MEMBERSHIP  
905-831-2908  
[Membership@steenburglake.com](mailto:Membership@steenburglake.com)

**ANNA HUK**  
SOCIAL  
[Social@steenburglake.com](mailto:Social@steenburglake.com)

**DON MILLS**  
LAKE STEWARD  
613-474-4224  
[LakeStewardship@steenburglake.com](mailto:LakeStewardship@steenburglake.com)

**NANCY KELLY**  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS  
[MunicipalAffairs@steenburglake.com](mailto:MunicipalAffairs@steenburglake.com)

**DEAN BUTLER**  
MERCHANDISING  
613-474-0268  
[Merchandise@steenburglake.com](mailto:Merchandise@steenburglake.com)

**MELISSA STALLAERT**  
NEWSLETTER  
[Newsletter@steenburglake.com](mailto:Newsletter@steenburglake.com)

**ANTHONY GENOVESE**  
INTERNET  
[Internet@steenburglake.com](mailto:Internet@steenburglake.com)

**ROB WAYWELL**  
ROCK MARKERS  
[Rocks@steenburglake.com](mailto:Rocks@steenburglake.com)



# New Dock Regulations

by Don Mills

The Ontario Building Code Regulations requiring permits for docks larger than 10 square metres have been in place for a considerable length of time, but inconsistently interpreted and enforced by municipalities. These are the regulations that have and still do apply to the floating docks that a lot of us have.

In the summer of 2015 a case involving a floating boathouse went to court in a location where the municipality did not require permits. In that case an Ontario Supreme Court Justice ruled that the municipality was wrong and rendered a decision that made municipalities in the province as well the Ministry of Natural

Resources & Forestry (MNR)F responsible for managing the permit issuing process for most docks. What that did, at the time, was create the need for a cottage owner to seek two permits to build a large dock.

Clearly the MNR, whose budgets have been cut significantly in recent years, did not have the manpower or resources to manage the process. The Province has passed legislation to get them out of the process and the regulations required are currently under review. One would think they would be passed in the near future. This will leave the Building Code Regulations as the only ones which will apply. As was stated earlier, in the past, municipalities were not consistent in

enforcing the need for permits. With the Court ruling they will have to be. They will need to write by-laws to deal with the process and because of the variety of docks, differing shoreline configurations, and the potential proximity of some to neighboring properties, this will not be an easy process.

Note that if you are putting cribs into the lake to support your dock the requirements are more intense and you need to clarify what is needed for permits from both your municipality and, in our case, the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority. The rules for cantilever docks with cement poured on shore may also be different and need to be clarified.

## Social Corner

by Anna Huk

With another summer on beautiful Steenburg Lake fast approaching, we're looking forward to bringing back the SLCA's favourite activities, and are adding a few new ones, too!

From July 1 to August 31 the SLCC will be running a Geocaching contest, and everyone is encouraged to find all the caches on the list for a prize! Stay tuned to [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com) and the Steenburg Lake Facebook page as the cache locations and details about this fun, family-friendly event are revealed.

The SLCA will kick off the season with our annual Regatta & BBQ, so get ready to hit the beach for a day of fun and awesome trophies! We're hoping for a big turnout, so get your paddles ready for July 8.

Next, we'll all pitch in to help keep our community clean at the Annual Road Clean-up on July 9! We'll supply the bags, gloves, and refreshments for everyone who participates. We'd love to have lots of helpers, so please considering donating an hour of your time for a good cause: Steenburg Lake! We're also looking for volunteers to help run the Road Clean Up, and anyone interested can email [social@steenburglake.com](mailto:social@steenburglake.com).

Finally, we'll round out the summer with everyone's favourite Annual Fun Run on August 12. A huge thank-you to the Butler family who will be running this terrific event again! But they can't do it alone, so please consider volunteering an hour of your time helping with this cottage tradition.

But what events do you want to see on Steenburg Lake? Maybe it's yoga on the beach, a canoe or kayak meet-up and paddle, or a kid-friendly hike through the trails of McGeachie Conservation Area? Email [social@steenburglake.com](mailto:social@steenburglake.com) with your suggestions and feedback!

Finally, I'd like to take a second to say thank you to everyone, past and present, who have volunteered their time to make all the events on Steenburg Lake possible. We greatly appreciate you and your involvement in our community!

## Please note...

The Steenburg Lake Community Association wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

- Bancroft Brewing Company
- Bognar Tree Services
- Butler Marketing Services
- Century 21 – All Seasons Realty
- Cosby's Small Engines
- Dwayne Nicholson
- Old Hastings Mercantile & Gallery
- RE/MAX Realty – Country Classics
- Superior Propane
- The Barn Chefs
- The Gate Family Restaurant
- Tin House Wood Working
- Whitfield Plumbing & Heating

This newsletter and the [SteenburgLake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com) website would not be possible without their support.

Please give them the courtesy of your consideration the next time you are in search of these types of services in our community, and don't forget to let them know how much you appreciate their support if you do meet or speak with them.

Don't forget to mention them to any friends who may be up in the area visiting, or looking to move to our community.

Details of our summer events are available on page 20 and on our website at [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com). Check the website or the Steenburg Lake Facebook page for any last minute changes to scheduling.

# Lake Water Level: A Controversial Subject

by David Langman

The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) maintains a set of stop logs at the outflow of Steenburg Lake at Bass Creek. These logs have the effect of raising the water level in the lake. Assuming these logs are 8"x8" squared timbers, two timbers would raise the water level up to 14", and three logs would raise the water level up to 21" maximum. It could also be said that the logs don't do anything because the beavers have backed up Bass Creek such that the creek is at the spring high water mark. This depends on the year and beaver activity, which was pretty significant last year (2016).

Some of our members would prefer a higher water level, while others would enjoy a lower more natural level. There are benefits to both high and low water levels. This article is a discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of both a higher and lower water level. The image provided shows a random exposed rock on the south facing side of Birch Island around 1967. That rock has rarely been exposed in the past decade or so. Therefore it can be said that "modern" water levels are about 8" - 12" higher than more natural water levels.

## Pro - High Water Level

- Today's boats are big. They are fast. They have a lot of draft. Cottages with docks in shallow areas would benefit from a little more water depth on their shore. Shorter less expensive docks are required to moor boats.
- Boaters that are not as familiar with the rocks on the lake would also benefit from more depth as it reduces the risk of a rock strike and high dollar repairs to their lower units.
- Shallower shorelines might not be so great for swimming. NO one wants to scrape a knee or bang a toe when crawling back and forth at a safe (close) distance to shore.

## Pro - Low Water Level

- Raising the water level wiped out my natural beach, even if it was only a few square feet. My kids loved that beach. It is now about 4" under water. I sure would like to see the water drop so I could have my beach back. I bet there are lots of other members who would like to see their beaches back too! Can you say "Grand Child Catcher"?
- Shore Line Erosion has become a serious problem. Crab Island was half washed away a few years back. The gap between Birch and Crystal (Bateman's) Island is now doubled in width. Trees roots are being undercut, and trees are falling into the lake. Larger boats leave large wakes that are crashing directly into the literal zone above the once exposed rubble/rip-rap zone and pulling silt and sand into the lake. This does have an impact on the lake's ecosystem.
- Higher water levels shorten the distance, particularly in low ground areas along the shore, to septic beds that are loaded with nitrates and phosphates. This likely allows those excellent fertilizers a quicker path to the lake, and the ability to enhance weed growth, lower oxygen levels and impact water quality.

Raising the water level a foot or so back in the day might have had a significant impact on a once active Lake Trout fishery in our lake. Lake trout require sharp, broken rubble, 1" to 3' in diameter at a depth of about 18" according to research for a lake our size. That rubble needs to be on the leeward (sheltered) side to protect from prevailing winds. (Reference Article Below) I can think of only a few places where those conditions might exist on Steenburg Lake. They include the east facing side of the lake where water is not too deep and rocky. On the north road - in front of emergency numbers 363, 421, 689 (Hughes' point), 875 (Butler's), and on the east sides of Birch, Crystal, Dewey's and Brook's Islands. Adding a foot of water probably has submerged those once productive spawning beds and reduced them unusable.

Lower water levels would re-expose the once natural riprap. Wave action is broken up onto the natural rip-rap and the shoreline is protected. The rock/water interface makes for an excellent ecosystem for crayfish. When sitting on the docks around the lake and a boater goes by (remember these are not 1000 lb 13' Crestliners with 40 Johnson's on them - they are 3000 lb 18' bowriders) , the resulting waves crash into shore, and once the wave action dissipates, there is often a murky sandy mess that takes time to settle out. With a lower water level, those waves would have crashed on the rocks resulting in little or no sediment movement.

If the water level dropped a foot, I would not have enough water at the end of my dock to leave the motor in a down position. I would have to raise the tilt for parking purposes. This is inconvenient to me. But when I weigh the impact of the high water level on the shoreline, on erosion, on the impact on spawning beds, and on the silt and muck that is being added to our lake, and on my submerged beach that I could get back I would gladly trade that inconvenience for the lower water level. I wonder where you stand on the subject.

*Ye'll tak' the high water and I'll tak' the low water  
And I'll be at the Lake afore ye  
But me and my true love will never meet again  
On the bonny, bonny banks of our Lake!*





1967. Note the absence of Seadoos!



About 1959 - It is the second rock that is in the back ground.



About 1979



Way back when - Maybe 1920. Water even lower. perhaps caused by the sand bar being built up at the end of the lake, or the culvert being installed to replace a bridge.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE SPAWNING HABITS AND EARLY LIFE OF LAKE TROUT

Stuart E. DeRoche  
Department of Inland Fisheries and Game  
Gorham, Maine 04330

**THE LAKE TROUT** (*Salvelinus namaycush*) is an important game fish in Maine and has been the subject of intensive, long-term studies on Cold Stream Pond and Thompson Lake (DeRoche, unpublished<sup>1</sup>). Additional information about the spawning habits and early life of this trout in Thompson Lake has been obtained by using self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA).

### Study Area

Thompson Lake, an oligotrophic lake with an area of 4,426 acres and a maximum depth of 122 feet, is in southwestern Maine. Thermal stratification occurs during the summer, with the thermocline at a depth of about 30 feet. The surface temperatures usually reach 75° F., and temperatures in the hypolimnion remain in the midforties. Dissolved oxygen ranges from 8.2 p.p.m. at the surface to 7.2 p.p.m. at 100 feet.

The bottom in Thompson Lake, especially in the deeper basins, is silt; but many shoals and bars in deep water are covered with boulders, rocks, and shale.

<sup>1</sup>DeRoche, S. E.: A comparison of lake trout populations in two Maine lakes. Final report (1962), Dingell-Johnson Project F-13-R. Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, Augusta, Maine, 32 p. (Mimeographed)

This study was financed in part under Federal Aid to Fisheries Projects, F-8-R and F-13-R, Maine.

The exposed shores are lined with large rocks and boulders which extend into the lake to a depth of 40 feet.

Reference will be made frequently to work done on Cold Stream Pond, which is about 130 miles northeast of Thompson Lake. Although slightly smaller, Cold Stream Pond is similar to Thompson Lake in depth, temperature, and water chemistry (DeRoche and Bond, 1957).

### Spawning Habits

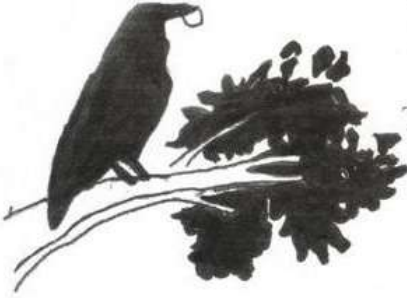
#### Place of Spawning

Lake trout are selective with respect to spawning area (Martin, 1957; Eschmeyer, 1955; Royce, 1951; Daly, Hacker, and Wiegart, 1962; DeRoche and Bond, 1957). Frequently, shoals and bars that appear to be suitable for spawning are not used, and artificial spawning reefs constructed in lakes where facilities are limited have been used with varying degrees of success.

Observations made with SCUBA on lake trout spawning beds in Thompson Lake revealed that the eggs are deposited over sharp, broken rubble, 1 inch to 3 feet in diameter. This material may be found either in long stretches broken by occasional large, jagged boulders, or in nested patches amid boulders. The depth of the rubble ranges from a few inches to a foot. There was no spawning where the bottom rubble was smooth.

In Thompson Lake and Cold Stream Pond lake trout spawn at water depths ranging from 6 inches to 4 feet, but most

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## Financial Report

by David McDonald

As of April 30, 2017

We finished our 2015-2016 fiscal year with a profit which was up slightly over the previous year.

To date this fiscal year we are in a loss position due to the timing of revenues vs. expenses. The loss is higher than usual at this point in the year due to the purchase of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) for the lake. Membership Fees, Advertising Income, and Interest Income to date this year are all consistent with prior years. Year to date expenses for the current year, with previous year-end figures in parentheses, are: AGM/Regatta \$50 (\$470), FOCA Dues & Expenses \$698 (\$716), Insurance \$1,235 (\$1,652), Newsletter Expenses \$468 (\$1,579), Bank Paypal & Admin Charges \$30 (\$86), Donations/Gifts/Memberships \$40 (\$169), and Community Investments \$1,695 (\$0).

Further detail on our financial results is always available to SLCA members upon request. 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.

## Stay Alert!!!

With the return of fair weather more visitors and higher vehicular traffic along our local roads, it's worth reminding everyone to stay alert.

Drivers please pay close attention and always drive at a safe speed along our roads. Be courteous to pedestrians, cyclists, off-road vehicles, and keep the dust down.

Pedestrians are advised to do their part as well – whenever possible, walk facing oncoming traffic, listen for approaching vehicles and wear bright clothing, particularly in the evening and early morning hours. Be aware of blind turns and road restrictions and approach them with caution.

Let's all do our part to stay safe, and avoid a needless tragedy!



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# Update on the North Road Rehabilitation Project

by Pat Stallaert

As most of you are probably aware, Limerick Township has plans to redevelop Steenburg Lake North Road. Construction is scheduled to commence soon after the August long weekend, and be over by October. The SLCA has been monitoring the project closely and along with several members, have offered input to the Township's plans.

One contentious issue has been the extensive use of solid steel beam guiderails along many areas of the road. Thankfully, the Township has realized that much if not all of these railings were unnecessary, and posed a risk to pedestrians, cyclists and operators of off-road vehicles because the road and gravel shoulders are too narrow in many places to permit safe passage when vehicles pass other users of the road. Other concerns centred around the likelihood that vehicular traffic would further exceed the posted speed limit as the smoother road surface and modernized accessories like said guiderails may give the impression that faster is better. To counter this, the Township will be introducing several other measures, including radar signs that collect the data on speeding vehicles, and make it easier to make the case for enforcement by the OPP.

The Township will do its best to minimize full closure of the road, but a couple of closures will be necessary to replace a couple of larger culverts that pass beneath the road, and to facilitate the laying of fresh asphalt. Signage and advance notice will be provided for these closures. Check the [www.steenburglake.com](http://www.steenburglake.com) or the [www.township.limerick.on.ca](http://www.township.limerick.on.ca) website regularly for updates.

Please use added caution and pack extra patience while construction workers are on the road, and as always, be courteous to other users of the road.



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**HAVE IT DONE RIGHT.**

# Lake Steward's Report

by Don Mills

For those of us on the lake year round this was a long winter. The snow started the third week of November and seemed to never stop. The short piece of road running into our place gets plowed when there is more than 10cm (4 inches) of snow and it was done at least 13 times. Late in the winter the Bancroft area had received well over 200 cm of snow, It was also a strange winter. Snow is a good insulator and because it came early and stayed most of the season, the ground itself never had frost in it most of the winter. Many snowmobile trails never opened or were closed early because the ground or water in low lying areas under the snow did not freeze enough to support the weight of the trail groomers or the snow machines.

Water quality test samples for the Lake Partner Program were taken near the end of May. Total phosphorous levels were 7.4 and 7.8 micrograms per litre in the two samples submitted for analysis. The calcium level was 22.7 milligrams per litre and the water clarity depth measurements averaged out at 5.2 metres. These numbers are all similar to and consistent with those from previous recent years. For past data and data from other monitored lakes in the Province see the Lake Partner Program website ([www.desc.ca/programs/pp](http://www.desc.ca/programs/pp)).

As in 2015 we also submitted water samples to the Invasive Species Watch Program. The three samples were, again in 2016, found to be free of zebra mussel veligers (larvae) and spiny water fleas both of which reduce water quality. Zebra mussels originated in Asia and quickly spread to Europe. It is believed that sometime in the 1980s a freighter from that area entered the Great Lakes and dumped ballast water which contained either adult mussels or their larvae.

They have spread from there. Lakes and waterways that are part of or close to the Trent-Severn and Rideau systems, which both connect directly to Lake Ontario, were affected first. We are somewhat isolated in the middle away from direct contact with these areas. Of the 129 lakes sampled in 2016, zebra mussel veligers were found in 37 with 9 new occurrences. Spiny water fleas were found in 21 with 8 being new. Unfortunately, one of the new lakes found to contain zebra mussels was Wollaston Lake. With them being so close it seems only a matter of time until they are found here. For more information on invasive species or the program contact their website ([www.invadingspecies.com](http://www.invadingspecies.com)) or the Hotline at 1-800-563-7711).



## Steenburg Lake

### Arts & Crafts Exhibition

Attention all artisans, craftsmen, painters, carvers, photographers and hobbyists of all kinds!

Please join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual exhibition of the talent in the Steenburg Lake Community.

Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

at the Sobotkas'

944 Steenburg Lake North Road

Show runs from 11 am to 2 pm, rain or shine.

Free admission to all.

Contact **Lynn Rusaw** at (613) 474-3365 ASAP to register and for full details. Cut-off date is July 15th.

Friends, mark this date in your calendars... Come see what your very talented friends and neighbours like to do with their time and passions.





# Membership Report

by Diane Burke

I hope that everyone had a great winter and is ready to enjoy another summer at Steenburg Lake!

Our membership dues continue to remain at \$30 for each cottage. These dues allow us to provide you with numerous events throughout the cottage season, ensure that hazard markers are placed in the lake, enable us to be part of FOCA (Federation of Cottage Associations), print and mailing of our bi-annual newsletter, provide water quality and invasive species testing, host our annual general meeting as well as ensure we have funds on hand when necessary to provide advocacy services and assistance in support of our lake. We appreciate your ongoing support for our active lake community.

If you enjoy meeting new people on the lake and providing us with assistance for a few hours each year, please let me know as we require some new canvassers again this year. Each canvasser is assigned approximately 10 to 15 cottages to visit over the summer. If you are interested in helping out, please give me a call or send an email to [membership@steenburglake.com](mailto:membership@steenburglake.com). Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

On a sad note, Elizabeth May Hill, a 50 year+ plus member, recently passed away. We extend our sympathies to her family. If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies and if you have any updates on your fellow members, please be sure to let me know.

Please remember that we also have a PAYPAL service available to you on our website – a quick and easy way to pay your membership dues. If you choose to pay this way, your canvasser will still drop by and say hello and provide you with your 2017 information kit.

Enjoy your summer on the lake and I hope to see you at our many summer events!



The image shows a woman with red hair and glasses, wearing a green shirt, sitting on a large green propane tank. The tank has several lines of text on it: "JOIN THE STEENBURG LAKE ASSOCIATION BUYING GROUP, ASK ME HOW?", "PRICE MATCHED @ 0.495/LITRE LOCKED IN & RENEWED ANNUALLY ON OCT. 1<sup>ST</sup>", "CHECK OUT OUR SMART TANK – FOCA MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THEIR 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR RENTAL FREE", "CALLOR EMAIL ME TODAY!", "Superior Propane", and "1-613-849-7480". There are also two thought bubbles above the woman. The left one contains a yellow propane delivery truck and the text: "Joanne Barr", "Energy Sales Representative", "C: 613-849-7480", and "joanne\_barr@superiorpropane.com". The right one contains the "SMART TANK" logo.

**Are you a current Superior Propane customer?**

Why not give Joanne a call and get yourself added to the Steenburg Lake Buyers' Group now, and start saving on your propane refill costs. There is no obligation and no contracts to sign.

# A Taxing Matter

by David McDonald

Property taxes are one of the biggest and most contentious issues that cottagers face. Municipalities in Ontario have been facing increasing pressure over the past few years as costs have been downloaded to them from the province, and they have then had to turn to property owners as a source of increased tax revenue. Property taxes are an especially thorny issue for cottagers, considering the fact that they receive very little or nothing in the way of services from the townships.

As can be seen in the chart to the right, the trend over time, at least in most cases, is for the tax rate to gradually rise. However, the true rate of taxation will actually increase more significantly than these rates would suggest, with the increase in property valuations that most areas are experiencing.

It is interesting to review the tax rates for neighbouring municipalities in Hastings County. There are some surprising variations between townships, with Marmora and Lake being at the low end of the scale, and Deseronto holding the unenviable position of having the highest tax rate in the county. The tax rates as shown are comprised of three portions: the lower rate (individual municipalities), upper (county-wide), and school. The last two categories are the same for all municipalities in the chart. Please note that most municipalities have not yet finalized their tax rates for 2017.

Hastings County Residential Property Tax Rates: 2011 - 2016

MUNICIPALITY	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Marmora & Lake	1.0158%	0.9983%	1.0074%	1.0188%	1.0292%	1.0806%
Tweed	1.1283%	1.1446%	1.1740%	1.1868%	1.2090%	1.2650%
Tyendinaga	1.1503%	1.1584%	1.1748%	1.1777%	1.2011%	1.2603%
<b>Tudor &amp; Cashel</b>	<b>1.1695%</b>	<b>1.1725%</b>	<b>1.1604%</b>	<b>1.1557%</b>	<b>1.1031%</b>	<b>1.1789%</b>
Hastings Highlands	1.1876%	1.1622%	1.1507%	1.1503%	1.1355%	1.1885%
Faraday	1.1986%	1.1953%	1.1800%	1.1599%	1.2249%	1.2444%
Wollaston	1.2483%	1.2543%	1.3585%	1.3769%	1.3872%	1.4077%
<b>Limerick</b>	<b>1.2602%</b>	<b>1.2470%</b>	<b>1.2131%</b>	<b>1.1834%</b>	<b>1.1543%</b>	<b>1.1573%</b>
Madoc	1.2899%	1.2876%	1.2823%	1.2707%	1.2744%	1.3159%
Carlow/Mayo	1.2973%	1.3123%	1.3261%	1.3533%	1.3326%	1.3820%
Centre Hastings	1.3393%	1.2855%	1.2855%	1.3016%	1.3135%	1.3783%
Stirling Rawdon	1.4231%	1.4063%	1.4061%	1.4028%	1.4078%	1.4215%
Bancroft	1.6921%	1.6654%	1.6489%	1.6421%	1.6037%	1.6431%
Deseronto	1.7328%	1.7268%	1.7133%	1.6710%	1.6194%	1.6561%





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The above ad for The Old Hastings Mercantile & Gallery was overlooked in the printed copy of this newsletter. The SLCA greatly appreciates the support shown by our sponsors and deeply regrets the omission. Please let our sponsors know how much you appreciate their support of our community.



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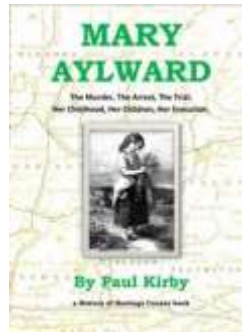


*Were Richard and Mary Aylward hanged because they were Catholic?*

*Was she a cold-blooded murderer or a fearful wife protecting her husband?*

*Was Mary pregnant when executed?*

*Did three small children need to be made orphans?*



## The Cottage Bookshelf

Reviewed by Pat Stallaert

Mary Aylward – Book Review

Back when we started this column in the fall of 2014, we first featured a review of another book by Paul Kirby, called “[The Trail of Broken Hearts](#)”. “[Mary Aylward](#)” (ISBN: 978-0-9692497-5-7) is subsequent book in the History of Hastings County series, that expands on the sensational murder, trial and eventual hanging of Richard and Mary Aylward, first noted in [The Trail of Broken Hearts](#).

The book starts out describing the deplorable conditions of poverty growing up in Ireland during the early 1800s, and living through the potato famine while boatloads of wheat, oats, cattle, pigs, eggs and butter sailed south to England, all to bolster the purses of rich English landlords. Richard and Mary Aylward were young Irish Catholic immigrants who made their way separately to New York. Mary O’Brain as she was known then, immigrated to America with her brother John in 1851. She met and married Richard Aylward in Poughkeepsie New York in 1855. Together they had three daughters.

Like so many, they made their way to North Hastings at the promise of free land, but not before a three year stay near Kaladar on the Addington Colonization Road. They established their residence just off the Old Hastings Colonization Road in the Township of Wicklow in 1861. By many accounts the Aylwards were not well liked, though it is uncertain whether this was merely because they were Irish Catholics.

Across the road in the Township of Monteaagle lived their nearest neighbours, John and Christina Munro, who were Scottish immigrants. By all accounts, things were generally peaceful between the two families though there had been some difficulties arising from some of Munros’ hens getting loose and crossing the road into the Aylwards’ wheat field. It was just such an incident that lead to the struggle, injury and eventual death of John Munro back in May of 1862. Immediately, the locals and the press who reported on the event called it a grievous murder, even though the casualty died some 11 days later, and there was considerable evidence to suggest the act was one of self-defence. An angry mob wanted to lynch the young couple right then and there.

The author does a very good job of chronicling the arrest, and then the trial and subsequent double hanging of the Aylwards that took place in Belleville in December of 1862. As was customary in the day, the defendants were not allowed to speak at trial in their own defence. Though there were many appeals made for clemency on behalf of the accused, executions were carried out less than seven months after the death of John Munro. Even the widow and son of the victim petitioned for leniency in the sentencing of the Aylwards, and to have their sentence commuted to imprisonment.

Such were the times in the early days before confederation. Blatant prejudice and discrimination and angry mobs demanding swift justice were common then. Even the desk notes of the presiding judge in the case, William Henry Draper, revealed that he was surprised by the verdict returned by the jury in the case.

This book is a short and compelling read, just perfect for a late night or rainy day at the cottage. And like other books in the History of Hastings County series, it is available at the Old Hastings Mercantile and Gallery in nearby Ormsby.



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*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).*

# Cottage Cookbook

by Heather Stallaert

Here are a couple of easy to make and delicious family favourites you might like to try. The second one was served at the Austin's Bay BBQ held at Judy Platt's cottage a few years back:

## Scalloped Potatoes

- Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Pare and slice thinly 3 cups potatoes (I boiled the potatoes a bit before slicing them)
- Grease a 10 inch baking dish. Place the potatoes in it in 3 layers until all potatoes are in the dish
- sprinkle goat cheese in between the layers

### Heat:

1 ¾ cups hot condensed mushroom or cream of celery soup (I used celery soup)

Pour the mixture over the potatoes. Bake about 1 hour, (found it took longer to cook) testing for doneness with a fork.

## Hot Cheddar and Artichoke Dip

### Ingredients:

- 1 jar/can of artichoke hearts
- 1 cup Hellman's mayonnaise
- 1 or 2 cloves of fresh garlic
- ¾ cup (generous) of shredded old white cheddar cheese

### Directions:

Place all ingredients in a blender and blend until smooth.

Cut out centre of Italian bread loaf and use cut out portion cut into chunks for dipping.

Heat mixture in microwave until piping hot, and pour into loaf cavity.

I usually double the recipe for a group and use two loaves of Italian bread. You can make the dip portion the day before use and keep it in the refrigerator. Heat dip just before serving.

Enjoy!

Submit your cottage recipe ideas to:

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

## Steenburg Lake Photo Contest is Back!

### Categories:

- Photos by kids aged 11 and under
- Photos by teens 12 – 15
- Action
- Landscapes
- Nature
- Life at the cottage
- Best Lake Video (2 – 3 minutes max)

### Photos or videos to be emailed to:

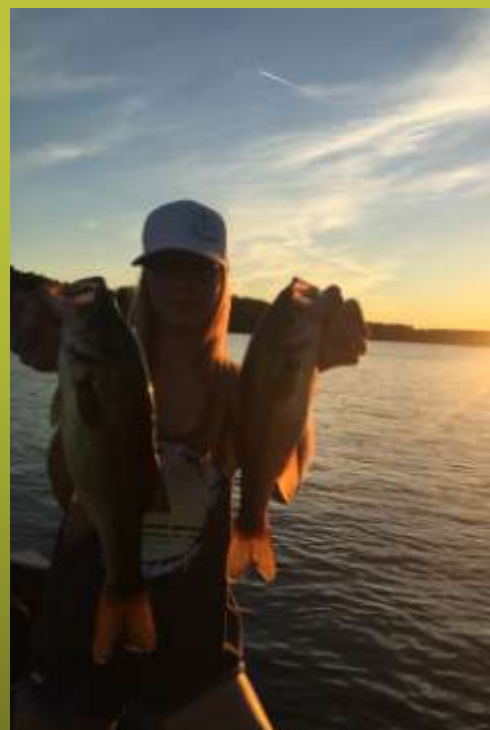
[photocontest@steenburglake.com](mailto:photocontest@steenburglake.com)

### Or mailed to:

Steenburg Lake Photo Contest

Box 307, Gilmour Ontario, KoL 1Wo

Provide name of photographer, age (of youth or teen), membership/cottage number and category entered.



**Deadline:** October 1, 2017

Winners will be announced in the Fall 2017 Shoreline News

Sorry, contest open to SLCA members only.

# Municipal Affairs Report

by Nancy Kelly

## Roads Committee - Steenburg Lake North Road

Recently Limerick Council put forth a plan for the rehabilitation of the North Road. The Province has offered to pay 90% of the costs to upgrade roads in many municipalities in Ontario. There were several meetings that took place over concerns of the impact on pedestrian traffic and the visual distraction of the natural beauty of the area. Many thanks to all those who turned out to the road meetings and made written submissions, and to council for their willingness to compromise. Special thanks to Pat Stallaert who kept on top of the issue and Frank Pinder for his invaluable engineering advice. While all concerns were not met, it was a great improvement from the original plan. The road will be resurfaced with asphalt, aging culverts will be replaced and guide rails will be installed at various points of concern along the road. Construction is expected to begin after the long weekend in August so as to have minimal impact on the community during the summer, but enough time to complete construction before winter sets in. With the paving of the road it is expected that traffic speeds will increase. Speed monitoring signs will be installed at various points along the road and speeds will be tracked. If there is a problem with excessive speeds, the OPP will be called in to monitor the road for violators. But – this is a road used by many people for morning and afternoon walks, biking and dog walking and used to visit neighbours. We should all remember that safety is of the utmost importance. Tell your friends, family and renters to always be on the lookout for people and pets and drive within the designated speed limits. There is no word on improvements for the south road.

## Other Roads

Speaking of roads; as you know there is ongoing construction throughout the Province at any given time. Here's a short list and all will impact traffic to some degree or another.

Hwy 62 – Madoc to Bannockburn – expected completion date: Sept 2017

Hwy 62 – Bancroft – South of 620 to Detlor Rd. – expected completion date: May 2017

Hwy 62 – Belleville – North of Foxboro to south of Ridge Road/Moira Road – expected completion date: Sept. 2017

Hwy 7 – Peterborough – Structure upgrade at Jackson Creek – expected completion date: Dec. 2017

Hwy 35 – Lindsay – Glenarm Road to Lake Breeze Road, Cameron Bridge – expected completion date: Aug. 2017

Hwy 28 – Harley Road (Bancroft) to Refrew Road, 41km – expected completion date: Oct. 2018

Hwy 62 – Pearsall Creek structure Wilson Road to Oran Road – expected completion date: June 2017

Hwy 7 – Peterborough – from Hwy 115 eastbound to east of Ottonabee River, long duration lane closures – Nov. 2018

Hwy 401 – Cobourg – Widening of highway from 4 to 6 lanes, Burnham St, Interchange 427 to County Road 45 east of Nagle Road. Possibly nightly single lane closures. Also widening of County Road 45 underpass – expected completion date: Nov. 2017

Hwy 62 – Madoc – south of Moira River to 2km north – expected completion date: Aug. 2017

For more info call 1-800-268-4686 or [www.mto.gov.on.ca](http://www.mto.gov.on.ca)

## Buildings

Tudor and Cashel approved a minor lot variance to allow for the building of a cottage on a small lot and Limerick Council approved a couple of land owners who applied to purchase the shoreline road allowance on their property.

## Summer Jobs

Both townships, Tudor & Cashel and Limerick, submitted applications to Canada Summer Jobs to each hire two students for the summer. For more information, contact each township respectively.

## Provincial

MPP Randy Hillier, PC, Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington introduced Bill 77 *Kick-starting Public Participation, 2016*. The Bill would require that the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport or another member of Executive Council will maintain a website that facilitates crowd-funding of projects to benefit local communities. It passed 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading and was ordered to Standing Committee. I think both our townships would be in favour of this as, with many others, they are dealing with aging infrastructure and struggling to make ends meet. We'll see if it makes it to 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading before the House rises for the summer.

## Fire Services

Limerick Council will write in support of a resolution from Port Hope with Petitioning the Ontario Government to recognise municipal fire service as critical infrastructure and provide funding under Infrastructure Strategy to Move Ontario Forward.

Earlier this year Tudor and Cashel Council brought forward an item for later discussion regarding a fire agreement with the town of Madoc. That discussion was deferred to the April 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Minutes are not yet available.

April 1 to Oct. 31, there is a 'No Burn' Fire policy in the townships. No burning from 7am to 7pm. No burning at all during a Fire Ban.

## Waste Disposal

Limerick waste disposal falls under the Ministry of the Environment and a proposed expansion of the site is underway.

Limerick Waste disposal: Summer hours 1-8pm Wed, Sun. & Holiday Mondays, Saturday only, 10-5pm.

Tudor and Cashel Waste disposal: May 15 to Sept 15, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-7, Stat Holiday Friday, Noon-4, and Stat Holiday Monday, 9-4.

Clear bag policy is in effect in both municipalities and some fees may apply. These dump sites are not infinite. Please remember to recycle responsibly.

## Health

The Clerk for the Township of Limerick will forward a letter to the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit in support of their efforts to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus illness in the area and will give permission for the H & PE Counties Health Unit to carry out larviciding program for prevention and control of West Nile Virus in our area.

Limerick Council has passed a by-law to adopt a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Policy

## Recreation

Tudor and Cashel Public Library has wifi and updated computers. The main hall has a sitting area for accessing wifi with your own devices during municipal hours when the centre is open. They have a selection of print, audio and video materials and information with reference staff to assist. 371 Weslemkoon Lake Road, Gilmour, 613-474-1096, Mon. 5-8, Wed. 4-8. A selection policy is in place due to volume and space limitations.

During the last Roads Meeting in Limerick, there were several ideas put forward regarding beautifying the public beach. Council seemed to support the plan for a paved parking lot that would assist in easing erosion of gravel into the lake that currently poses an environmental hazard and the placement of large boulders to take the place of the guide rails that are there as a means of a barrier.

There has been some talk of opening up another lake access point from the south road. There is no definition of what this would be used for and there have been no preliminary talks. There is no funding in the municipal budget this year, but a broader discussion will most likely take place in the future when a plan is in the works.

## Municipal Vote 2018

We are a little past the halfway mark for the current municipal term of office. The next municipal election will take place October 22, 2018. Limerick Council has approved the creation of a by-law to approve the use of Telephone and Internet Voting for that election. Just a reminder, that unlike Federal or Provincial elections, if you permanently reside in one municipality and own property in another municipality, you may vote for each Municipal Council. With all three levels of government you must be a Canadian citizen and 18 years of age or older in order to vote.

If you are interested in running for office, contact the municipality where you would like to run for office and consult the Ministry of Municipal Affairs website for municipal election information at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca>, click on the *local government* link. You can also view the [Municipal Election Act](#). As we get closer to the election, more information will follow.

Have a happy and safe summer!



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# AED Now Available on Steenburg Lake

by Pat Stallaert

As mentioned in the fall 2016 Shoreline News, and as directed at last year's AGM, your SLCA has acquired an Automated External Defibrillator or AED, for use on the lake. This compact, portable device can be used to save the life of someone experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). Though a defibrillator will not help all forms of heart attack, it can help with many situations, and there is never any risk in trying to use it as it will not administer a shock if one is not required.

The device is very simple to use as there are clear verbal prompts to guide even the least experienced user. Having said this, a knowledge of First Aid and Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) is highly recommended. The device even guides a user to properly administer CPR to a patient if required. But to be effective, the AED must be used within minutes of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

This was the reasoning behind the purchase of the AED: To cut down the time it takes to get the needed equipment to a person in need of a shock from an AED, and to improve the odds of survival and full recovery of someone experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Your SLCA is pleased to announce that the Defibtech AED unit (featured here) is being hosted at the Cochranes' boat launch at 1035A the North Road. If you have an emergency and suspect an AED might help, follow the protocol below:



## 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 laydown 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.

The AED will be displayed and demonstrated at the AGM and other events this summer, and if there is enough interest, training sessions will be scheduled.

## Fun Run Entry Form

August 12<sup>th</sup> – Registration at 9:30

Race starts at 10:00

Please drop off the entry form below with Payment to Wendy at (613) 474-0668 or email :

[wendy@butlermarketing.com](mailto:wendy@butlermarketing.com)

by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Entry fee is just \$5

**DEADLINE TO GUARANTEE YOUR**

**T-SHIRT IS JULY 31<sup>ST</sup> – DON'T DELAY!**

**Note: Special Canada 150 SLCA T-shirts will be available for purchase at the Fun Run!!!**

Race T-shirt Sizes:

Youth: Small, Medium, Large

Adult: Small, Medium, Large, XLarge, XXlarge

Male or Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

# Steenburg Lake Fishery and Lake Trout - a Brief History

by David Langman

Being a fifth generation resident of the lake, I've been exposed to plenty of fish tales. One of those tales involves a plentiful Lake Trout fishery that existed back in pioneer days. Ralph Brooks, one time owner of Big Bob Island (Ireland's/Brooks'/Turner's) was quoted to say that the pioneers would net out the lake trout with enough offal to use as fertilizer for their gardens. Jack McGeachie also makes reference to a thriving Lake Trout fishery in his history books. My impression from his historical discussion of winter pioneer life in the 1850 – 1880's was :men would saw and hue logs, and women would ice fish for Lake Trout.

Since many of those early pioneers were great aunts, great uncles, and great and great great grandparents of mine, I've felt a bit guilty about the extirpation of lake trout from Steenburg Lake. I dream that someday, Steenburg Lake will have a vibrant Lake Trout Fishery, and that I will have had a helping hand in making that happen.

We have a ready supply of Lake Trout hatchlings up at the North Hastings Community Fish hatchery. It seems simple enough to ring those good folks up, and ask for them to drop a "load" of Lake Trout. Who knows, reintroducing Lake Trout into Steenburg Lake might be as successful as Ontario's reintroducing Elk and Wild Turkeys. Easy as pie!

I had heard a rumour that the MNRF said the lake wasn't conducive to Lake Trout. This was an old rumour based on work done 40 years or so ago. Perhaps the present day environment of Steenburg Lake has improved due to a higher lake level, less pollution from outboards, improved septic systems, less run-off from the roads. Maybe minor improvements to spawning beds would result in better reproduction and survival rates of fry. Who knows – the lake might be good to go for Lake Trout right now. The question is – what are the parameters necessary for a vibrant Lake Trout population?

With that question in mind, I went to the internet and started searching the literature. It turns out that there is plenty of information describing minimum requirements for a successful Lake Trout Fishery. I was able to create a list of those requirements, and attempted to get data on the lake to determine if we had a "good" or "no good" habitat. There was not much info available, so I contacted the good folks at MRNF in Bancroft, and received a wonderful literature review covering close to 100 years of activity associated with water quality measurement, fish population surveys, and stocking programs. I'd like to share that summary with you. Erin MacDonald is our Bancroft MNRF Biologist. Though too long to publish here, her summary is available online in the Reports Archive of the steenburglake.com website, and is intended as "an interesting read" for our SLCA community. Her report includes a discussion on netting results (Wow! Lots of suckers back in the 70s) and stocking programs both of Lake Trout and Yellow Pickerel. Also there is a discussion about the reason for introducing Rock Bass into the lake. It is an interesting read! Enjoy!



As I see it, Steenburg Lake has only a very thin water depth at around 25 feet (interestingly where the Splake hang out) that has enough oxygen and colder temperatures suitable for mature lake trout. Not much room for Lake Trout to manoeuvre! Young lake trout need even colder, deeper more oxygenated water than is available in the lake. Therefore keeping stocked fish alive could be difficult without artificially adding oxygen to the deeper part of the lake using available "pond/lake" aeration technology that costs \$7,500 per deep hole (we have two deep holes in Steenburg Lake) and about \$100/month in electricity charges to run. Also, since the last oxygen testing took place back in the 80s, I will coordinate the loan of MNRF testing equipment and work with our Lake Steward – Don Mills – to see if we can get some good updated reading this September.

The spawning beds for Lake Trout have very specific requirements – gravel/cobble beds that face away from the prevailing winds at a depth of about 18". There really are not many beds that fit that requirement in our lake these days. Some beds may have been destroyed in the past by the addition of beach sand into the lake for recreational purposes. Therefore, it can be concluded that reproduction of Lake Trout will not be successful until those beds are re-created at significant cost.

It makes a lot of sense to continue with the Splake stocking program. There seems to be moderate success with our "put and take" Splake fishery, and the warm water bass fishing remains decent.

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*"Let's Talk Real Estate"*

## How Things Fit Together

by Pat Stallaert



Growing up, I was always intrigued by things like Babushka or Matryoshka dolls. You know, the little hollow, nested figures that fit so perfectly into one another... Only in our house, they were these intricately hand painted Easter eggs that only came out once a year. I'm not sure if my parents had brought them over from Europe, or if they were sent to us by my paternal grandmother.

Well, I've come to see how governments are designed much the same way: First you have the federal government, then inside you have the provincial or territorial governments, followed by county governments and finally township or municipal governments. All of these are nested one inside the other.

I believe our society elects people to positions in government so that a few trusted and hopefully capable people can make the necessary decisions on behalf of all of us. Imagine how much more chaotic it would be if we all had to decide every issue that every level of government does for us.

But because we delegate the responsibility to govern to others, it does not relieve us of our civic responsibility of understanding the issues we face and making sure our elected representatives know how we stand on these issues. One always hears talk about bad governments, but could it be that they are just not receiving the right input from each of us on how they should proceed?

We all hold a responsibility for keeping elected politicians accountable and for letting them know what is expected of them.

Just a reminder to place your orders for some great **Steenburg Lake Merchandise** in time for Summer. Hats, T-shirts, hoodies and more... These quality items make great gifts, and each item purchased helps support your community and the important work the SLCA performs.



New Canada 150 T-shirts and other articles available in limited quantities this summer. Shop early!!!

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



# Summer Events

## July 1 Canada Day Fireworks

The fireworks will be held out in front of the Cochranes' boat launch. (Check website for start times and possible postponements due to rain...).

## July 2 Have-a-Dock Jamboree (Note new date)

6 PM out in front of the Cody's dock.

## July 8 Beach Regatta

**Time:** 11:00 am @ The Beach

Come and meet your friends and neighbours at the Regatta!

Bring your own kayaks, canoes, paddles and life jackets. Medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers. BBQ to follow. Steenburg Lake merchandise will be on sale.

## July 9 Roadside Clean-up (Volunteers to help organize this event are still needed)

**North Road** – Meet at the Beach

**South Road** – Meet at the first Y in the road

Garbage bags will be provided. Please try to bring your own work gloves. Refreshments will be served following the event.

**Reminder to high school aged students:** Participation in this event can be applied towards community volunteer hours.

*Bring your forms!!!*

## July 29 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Artisans of Steenburg - Arts & Crafts Exhibition

**Location:** The Sobotkas' at 944 Steenburg Lake North Road

**Time:** 11 am to 2 pm

**Contact:** Lynn Rusaw @ (613) 474-3365 to register as an exhibitor

## August 6 Annual General Meeting (note change of venue!!!)

**Continental Breakfast:** 9:30 am **Meeting:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Tudor-Cashel Community Centre, 371 Weslemkoon Lake Rd., Gilmour Ont.

Please note the change in venue...

All members are encouraged to attend. Get the latest updates on issues facing our community, and what your SLCA is doing to protect our lake. Hear great guest speakers on a number of topics that matter to you.

Have your say and cast your vote on any SLCA motions or Executive elections.

Come meet with friends and neighbours, enjoy some treats and refreshments and have chances to win some great door prizes! Steenburg Lake merchandise will be on sale.

## August 12 Steenburg Lake Fun Run

**Registration:** 9:30 am

**Race starts:** 10:00 am

Awards will be handed out to the top 3 Male and Female finishers in each age group.

**Fee:** \$5 – includes a Fun Run T-shirt, drink and a snack

**Contact:** Wendy Butler (613) 474-0268

**Please register in advance to reserve your size T-shirt!**