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SALERNO LAKE SENTINEL



Winter Time at Salerno Lake

Late Breaking News!

As we go to press with this issue it seems like there might be more going on with Uranium mining in our area than we have heard about previously.

We received these links below from Susanne Lauten who is on Gull Lake, and a Toronto Star article link from the lake Facebook group. We will post more information on the website.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/537397>

www.fighturanium.com

www.ccamu.ca

After a gorgeous fall and a Thanksgiving Weekend that seemed warmer than any in August, November brought a brief but dazzling Indian Summer. Now winter has arrived on Salerno Lake.

Throw another log on the fire and dig into this issue of your very own cottagers' newsletter.

We hope you enjoy it.

Check out these Sites on the Web!

<http://salernolake.blogspot.com/>

Get in on the Salerno Lake conversation - put in your two cents worth.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salerno_Lake

Add to the Wikipedia entry for Salerno Lake.

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2364818147

Check out the Wall, see the photo's, post some thoughts on this Facebook group.



Message from el Presidente



Most cottagers value their lakeside retreat as a place to escape the complexities and bother of city life. At the cottage we try to avoid the day to day obligations that seem to rob us of precious time. It may be spending time with our family or living in closer proximity to nature but whatever the rationale, at the lake we treasure the feeling of life slowing down, of the simpler life. We want to enjoy our time there in peace. Although we prefer to keep our 'retreat' as uncomplicated as we can there comes a point when it becomes impossible to ignore the developments that threaten the peace and tranquility we crave. For example nothing mobilized the Salerno Lake community like the proposed development of the asphalt plant at the Bark Lake Quarry site. People feared the intrusion of an industry that might have an indelible effect on our special lake. That threat while dormant for the moment, still exists – Royel Paving has another 20 years remaining on their license for the quarry and the MNR has still not made a final decision on their application for an asphalt plant.

More recently we have learned of the potential bio-hazards of the uranium mining exploration that has been taking place in Haliburton County. Then there is the matter of the rising tax assessments on waterfront properties, or the machinations of local town councils who seem uninterested in the needs and priorities of the cottagers although we pay a great deal of tax money into their coffers. There are zebra mussels and other invasive species that threaten the ecological balance of our lake, to say nothing of pollution and illegal back lot development.

My point is this – as individuals there are only so many issues we can be aware of and deal with but as a group we are far more capable of tracking and responding to problems as they arise. Thus I appeal to you to join the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association (or to renew your membership if it has lapsed) and also to speak to your friends and neighbours on Salerno Lake about becoming members. We are planning an upgrade and redesign of our website www.salernolake.ca to make it THE best place for you to follow the issues and obtain important information about our lake. Our website will be the best and easiest way to reach your fellow cottagers or members of your Road Association for important news or just for social reasons. Our next newsletter will spell out the changes in more detail but I invite you to check out the site in the next few months and experience it for yourself.



Of course the SDLCA also presents the Annual Canada Day Fireworks celebration and the Canoe Race, Barbecue and Children's Games which has been the highlight of the August long weekend for 41 years. However for the last five years our membership has represented only about 50% of the cottages on the lake. We need to see those numbers increase dramatically because without an informed, unified and coherent voice we stand the risk of not being heard at all.

CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING

With this issue of the Salerno Lake Sentinel we begin a regular column on fishing - related matters - especially as they concern our lake. At the August AGM we created a new committee to examine the questions and to propose means by which we might improve the fish population on Salerno Lake. The Committee is composed of Phil Woodard, Chair, Miro Iskic, Mike Durante and Steve Burton. Anyone with thoughts on this please e-mail Phil @ philwoodard99@rogers.com.





Skating on the Lake

There are a few things in this world worth dropping everything for..... but if you've ever been lucky enough to experience skating on our lake on a beautiful winter day, you'll know how rare a treat it is. You remember it fondly, and want to do it again - and again and again!

Well, how about signing up for our Skating Alert List - This will become active on our website early in the New Year. We have look-outs on the lake who will keep us up to date on lake conditions, and when the ice is just right, we'll post a notice on the website. Then all you have to do is get up to the lake and lace up the skates.

All you have to do is send in your name and e-mail to the website to be put on the Alert List, and when conditions are perfect, you'll be (among) the first to know - via email.

Let's hope there are lots of days this winter worth dropping everything for! Anyone for pond hockey?

What is a Heritage Tree ???

According to Paul Aird, former professor of forestry and U of T, a heritage tree is:

- *an outstanding specimen because of its size, form, shape, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution, or other distinctive community landmark;*
- *a specimen associated with a historic person, place, event or period;*
- *representative of a crop grown by ancestors and their successors that is a risk of disappearing from cultivation;*
- *a specimen recognized by members of a community as deserving heritage recognition.*

Do you have a special tree you look forward to greeting on hikes, or in an urban setting? If you'd like to safeguard it, or raise awareness of it, you can find out more about heritage trees and efforts to identify and protect them at www.oufc.org, or Google the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance.



Man Fined for Shoreline Work

(from The Haliburton Echo, Sept 23, 2008)

A Burlington man has been fined \$1000 for filling shorelands without a work permit.

James Coles, 60, pleaded guilty in court to the offence and was also ordered to remove the fill material. Court heard that Coles had illegally deposited three truckloads of fill along the shores of Cranberry lake, west of Eagle Lake. A work permit was not issued as required by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Justice of the peace Linda Kay heard the case

in the Ontario Court of Justice, Minden on Sept 4th 2008.

To report a natural resources violation call 1877 TIPS-MNR (847-7667) toll-free at any time or contact your local ministry office



Canoe Race Results

Another great canoe race and picnic this summer!!

Thanks go out to Rob Stuart, Kim & Scott Field, Barbara Gordon, volunteers on the BBQ's and games, the River Rats, the launch crew and all who helped for all the work in organizing and running this yearly event.

Juniors

Jason Pifer & Nick Schilley	1:37:19
Kenneth Green & Shane Patterson	1:40:48
Julia Covelli & Wendy McElwain	1:56:43

Sr. Women

Kay Armatage & Barbara Gordon	1:32:57
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Sr. Men

John Leonard & Rob Stuart	1:13:28
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Womens

Marilyn McAvoy & Anne VanHoof	1:27:16
Jennifer Marshall & Laura Mayes	1:32:46

Mixed

Scott Fletcher & Kelly Short	1:19:14
Ron Edding & Terry Fauvo	1:22:34
Wendy & John Kidd	1:24:04
Louise & Dwayne Moore	1:26:40
Catie & Gavin White	1:26:53
Kelly & Chris Caswell	1:27:09
Katie & Dave Mak-Fan	1:30:49
Donna & Bob Veldhuis	1:32:48
Cindy Wilson-Leonard & Mansel Wilson	1:51:34

Mens

Bill Bayard & Eric Orschel	1:03:58
Todd Mansfield & Corey Witham	1:07:04
Jesse Boyer & Tim Millan	1:12:55
Sean Fletcher & Drew Labbett	1:13:45
Dave Bartley & Jeff Patterson	1:14:02
Collin & Rob MacDonald	1:16:34
Mike Bartley & Steve Simone	1:26:28
JR Clark & Alec Phillips	1:31:26
Alex & Michael Schiller	2:02:26



Open

Jean, Sierra, Mike & Tyler Orschel	1:16:01
Morgan, Peggy, Logan & Roman Boehm	1:19:31
Melissa & Brian Hardy (tandem kayak)	1:25:02
Shari Akow; Laurie Covelli & Jill McElwain	1:32:58

Kayak Women

Julie Lock	1:09:41
Chris Whittemore	1:21:47
Rachel Bentley-Lauzon	1:27:03

Kayak Men

Brian Kerr	1:12:31
Doug Rodger	1:16:09
Kyle Woodard	1:18:14

Games Results

RUNNING

6 & under → 1st Michael Field; 2nd Kai Patterson; 3rd Rob Field
 7-9 years → 1st Beau Binnie; 2nd Patrick Rainbow;
 3rd Patrick Wing / Emily Spragg / Jacob Bayard
 10-16 years → 1st Justin Rose; 2nd Mitchell Binnie; 3rd Rachael Baird

HOP RACE

3 & under → 1st Sophie Kerr; 2nd William Phillips

3 LEGGED RACE

7-9 years → 1st Patrick Rainbow & Jacob Bayard / Claire & Grace Joseph
 2nd Patrick Wing & Michael Field
 10-16 years → 1st Adam Spragg & Tyler Orschel
 2nd Justin Rose & Keaton Proud
 3rd Sierra Orschel & Emily Spragg

SHOE KICK

4-6 years → 1st Cy Joseph; 2nd Clayton Danyshyn; 3rd Cooper Lousell
 7-9 years → 1st Beau Binnie; 2nd Jacob Bayard; 3rd Emily Spragg
 10-16 years → 1st Adam Spragg; 2nd Keaton Proud; 3rd Tyler Orschel

BUBBLE BLOWING CONTEST

→ 1st Mitchell Binnie; 2nd Brianna McBrien; Sydney Patterson

ADULT SHOE KICK

LADIES 1st → Leslie & Taylor Millar
 2nd → Patty Bayard
 MENS 1st → Eric Orschel
 2nd → Michael Orschel

BALLOON TOSS

ADULT/CHILD → Adam Spragg & Tyler Orschel / Mitchell & Beau Binnie /
 Connor McQuilkin & Keaton Proud
 ADULT/CHILD → Adam & Tyler Orschel / Sierra & Eric Orschel /
 Brianna McBrien & Julie Lock

EGG TOSS

ROUND 1 → Tyler & Eric Orschel / Dustin Skillins & Connor McQuilkin
 ROUND 2 → Keaton Proud & Justin Rose

HULA HOOP

CHILD → Grace Joseph / Mitchell Binnie
 ADULT WOMEN → Kim Field / Xuan Zhang
 ADULT MEN → Colin MacDonald



Dry Stone walls

Early one lovely Saturday morning in September I drove up from Toronto to a quiet spot on County Road 503 to take a one day workshop in the art of Dry Stone Wall Building. This is a building technique by which structures are built from stones without any mortar to hold them together. As an example of their durability, portions of the Great Wall of China and Hadrian's Wall built by the Roman invaders in Britain, remain standing many centuries after they were built.

I had learned about this workshop from a notice posted on the board outside the former Detman's Variety in Kinmount. In fact the advertised workshop had been held on the previous weekend but I called the number anyway and asked to be notified when another one might be scheduled. A month or two later it came to pass. I'd worked late on the Friday evening and after a few hours sleep, set off by 6 am Saturday to be there for a 9 am start.

I've always enjoyed working with stone and since arriving on Salerno Lake, Barbara and I have built stairs leading down to the shoreline, footpaths, a retaining wall and a flagstone patio of sorts without ever doing much more research than getting a book on Stoneworking from Lee Valley. Otherwise we learned by trial and error – and we did make a few mistakes, like occasionally using mortar instead of doing the hard work of placing the stones properly. (Most of the mortar is long gone by now, broken up by the freeze and thaw cycle of the seasons.) It was difficult manual labour but the results were immensely satisfying. Power tools are unnecessary so it was quiet work that didn't disturb any one's peace. No chemicals or fertilizers are required so it is ecologically neutral for the most part. As a major bonus, the materials were free – there were rocks all around us. However we quickly decided that we didn't want to 'harvest' many rocks from the steep slopes of our property because of the erosion factor. Removing too many rocks could cause soil to be washed into the lake, a most undesirable result.

So for a few years we couldn't seem to drive

anywhere without bringing rocks back to the cottage with us. The back seats of the minivan were removed and left on our front porch. We put plywood down in the cargo space and kept gloves, ropes, scraps of wood, a pick and a pry bar in the vehicle at all times. Cruising down the back roads we got the same pleasure out of spotting and retrieving good-looking granite that we used to get from say, finding a great bakery or local winery. We were constantly on the lookout for rocks with at least two flat sides and often when you found one, there were likely others nearby. Some shapes were just not conducive to building and in time we learned to recognize them. They simply weren't worth the effort required to gather and transport.

Using all of our strength augmented by the rudimentary principles of physics, we pried, levered and wrestled rocks out of the Canadian Shield and into the Caravan. Once we had gotten the rocks in the parking lot of our cottage we then had to drag them down the steep slope to the site where we were building. Experience had taught us that the larger the rock selected, generally the better it performed. If you could get a good-sized slab into place properly, it tended to remain stable. This was very important especially when we were building stairs. On one memorable occasion it took four of us to retrieve and install one great honking slab of rock about twenty feet up from the water line. When it was at last installed it was large enough that all four adults could stand on it at once. I think it's a pretty safe bet to say that that particular step will be in place long after we are gone. You never have to scrape sand or paint stone. Shovel it off and sweep it, end of story. Even the worst of winter weather will not disturb a well-laid stone. Some of our work is almost ten years old and we have seen no sign of deterioration.

So why take the course now, when the greatest amount of work has been done? This was the question I asked myself as I pulled up to the home of Dean Reeds where the workshop was just beginning.



Well for one thing, we had relied heavily on finding rocks that fit our needs without having to cut, shape or alter them in any way – but that created a lot of extra work looking for 'perfect' rocks. I wanted among other things to learn how to customize the stones to better suit the projects we were building.

Dean Reeds and his partner Christine live near Stayner but they have built a straw bale house on a sloping lot beside the Irondale River. Here on a property generously endowed with rocks, he has hosted a few of these workshops, conducted by Kevin Dunfield, a graduate of the Heritage Masonry Program at Algonquin College. As I got out of the car I could see they had gathered plenty of materials and laid out with mason's string the parameters of the day's project.

It was a glorious sunny day more like summer than fall. As we sweated and swatted bugs in the heat, Kevin led us through the techniques of wall-building. We all got to try cutting and shaping rocks while he shared information with us. Kevin is a strong young man as you would expect a stonemason to be but he is not lacking in verbal skills. We learned about technique while doing the work and although we didn't accomplish as much as we expected to overall, the whole process was instructive and the wall we built was aesthetically pleasing too.

You can check out Kevin's work at www.dunfieldmasonry.com and perhaps get in on one of his frequent workshops in the Haliburton area.

Fish Management on Salerno

Whether fishing for you or some members of your family or friends is an occasional endeavor or a passion, managing the fish resource on our lake is something we all need to be conscious about.

Not long ago an angler's expertise was measured in pounds of fillets and photo's of stringers of dead fish. Now, live releasing of your catch is more common as anglers become more conservation oriented. They realize, as we on Salerno need to, that no body of water has a limitless supply of fish, and understand that we have all have a responsibility to protect and improve the fishery.

We would like to encourage all anglers on Salerno to adopt a CATCH & REALEASE attitude on the lake to help build back our fish stocks. While we will be researching other efforts we can undertake to help the fishery, releasing a fish back to spawn again and let someone else enjoy the fun of catching it is the single greatest contribution an angler can start making to help improve our local fish stocks!



Winter for the Young (and the young at heart)

Here are some experiments to try during your time up north - or back in the city!

Rainbow icicles: Hammer holes in the bottoms of tin cans, and also the tops (for hanging purposes). Fill the can with water in freezing weather; (the size of your hole and the temperature will affect the rate of growth). Add food colouring or water colours.

Snow melt guessing game: How much snow does it take to make a cup of water? Write down your guesses, and then bring snow inside and let it melt. Also experiment to see if new snow and old snow have the same results.

Snowball melt race: Make snowballs of equal sizes, maybe give them racy names; bring them in, place them on plates or in bowls (all in the same area of the room - no cheating by the woodstove!) and countdown.....
Maybe make a big bowl of popcorn to fill the time.....

Snow Sherbet: Using CLEAN, new fallen snow, mix with Jello or juice powder in cups and enjoy a wintertime treat.

Rhododendron Thermometer: On a day when the temperature is below freezing, notice how rhododendron leaves are all curled up. Cut a sprig, bring it indoors where it's warm, and watch the leaves uncurl like magic. Take them back outside and after a while, see how they curl back up! (They curl up when the air is cold and dry to conserve moisture.)

Animal track stories: Find animal tracks in the snow and identify them, using your trusty track guide. Follow them and find out the story they tell. Was someone following someone? Were they alone? Did the tracks disappear? Did they lead you into a place you couldn't fit?

If you are still receiving this newsletter by snail mail consider changing to an e-mail version. It is MUCH better in colour! Just e-mail Susan Thomson at :susan.thomson4@sympatico.ca and she will switch you over. You can also read this on our website.

We'd like to encourage you to send us your pictures and anything else you feel is relevant - elpresidente@salernolake.ca - perhaps a link to an interesting newspaper article or web page - we can use it in the newsletter and post it on our website

- www.salernolake.ca - It's your lake folks - jump in!

Members

