



## Summer reflections

With around 65% more rain than normal for six consecutive months, it's fair to say this really has been a very wet summer! Nothing, though, could dampen the festive spirit that permeated The Bay as it celebrated Canada 150 at the start of July.

However, the challenges of getting ready for the season between downpours slowed boat traffic by about 30%, says Roger White at Rideau Breeze, even before the brief closures of locks and Brass Point Bridge. On the plus side, those who braved the forecasts and came anyway have reported even better fishing than in past years. This has been a bonus for the mainly US visitors to Melody Lodge on Cranberry Lake, where owner James Miao has actually seen a 20% increase in bookings.

Inevitably, with the reduction in boaters and fewer sunny days, the politest thing Dale Moore at Nest Egg had to say about ice cream sales was "disappointing". She did add, though, that the last few weeks have been great, with the pleasure of many familiar faces. And there should still be ice cream available till Thanksgiving.

Doug Brooks at Burnt Hills Farm has had a great season for garlic and four times last year's yield of blueberries. But his tomatoes are not yet ripe, with spotting to foliage and spoiling of some fruit. Pragmatically, he quipped that "farmers always have something to complain about! Last year it was too much heat, this year too much water, next year who knows . . ."



### Mayor's Breakfast

In the midst of an exciting year in which we as Canadians celebrate both our differences and that which unites us, it is a pleasure and an honour for Seeley's Bay to host the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mayor's Breakfast**.

"We are excited to share our achievements, goals and initiatives", says Mayor Joe Baptista. "After recapping 2016 accomplishments we will be looking to the future to hear news from Le Boat and Watershed Canada for this year and next".

Following the presentation of the Annual Report, we'll hear from guest speakers Cheryl Brown, Le Boat Managing Director; Barb King, Watersheds Canada Executive Director; and Cara Lemkay for Canada 150 events.

**When:** Friday, September 22, 2017; registration at 7:30, breakfast at 8:00

**Where:** Seeley's Bay Community Hall, 151 Main Street

Tickets are \$15 - seats tend to sell out fast, so hurry to reserve your place!  
Contact Kimberly Almeida at the Township office on 613-659-2415 Ext. 231  
[kimberly@townshipleeds.on.ca](mailto:kimberly@townshipleeds.on.ca)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### SEPTEMBER

Sep 16 Lyndhurst Turkey Fair



Sep 22 Mayor's Breakfast | Seeley's Bay

Sep 23 Turkey Dinner | Seeley's Bay

Sep 24 Truffle Shuffle | Seeley's Bay

Sep 24 The Harvest | Seeley's Bay

Sep 29 Small Halls Festival | Seeley's Bay  
Ashley MacIsaac



### OCTOBER

Oct 14 ROLL Aid Food Drive

Oct 19 SBARA AGM

### NOVEMBER

Nov 18 Santa Claus Parade | Lyndhurst

### DECEMBER

Dec 1 Seeley's Bay Tree Lighting

Dec 3 Community Carol Singing | Lyndhurst

See <http://visitseeleysbay.ca/events/>

## C21<sup>st</sup> Community

Talking for the last newsletter to both Barry Davies and Danny Roantree about what's changed and what's stayed the same in Seeley's Bay over the last 50 years, I was struck by the challenges to maintaining that sense of community that is the lifeblood of any village or small town.

In the past, farming was at the core of multigenerational continuance. More recently, farms have grown bigger but fewer. Businesses that supported that larger farming community have fallen away – from the multiple barber shops and gas stations to the cheese factory and, most recently, the bank. Some, like Main Street Hardware have evolved and remain part of village life. And new businesses have sprung up, though many are driven by an

individual dream; their capacity for continuance may be more fragile than when an enterprise passed from generation to generation.

Back in the 1960s, it was individuals in the community who made things happen. Centennial Park was created from the ideas and labour freely given by local people, as well as village fundraising. Legislation, bureaucracy and an evolution from what was community driven to what is 'held' by the township have had a significant impact on how community can operate, what individuals can do.

Looking to the future, Danny hopes that Seeley's Bay will remain a friendly, attractive village and fishing area to which people continue to return year after year, filled with good memories of childhood.

Barry stressed the need for continuance, especially in food

production, backed by proper governmental support for revitalization. Community spirit and a genuine interest in developing the village remain key too.

As a newcomer, I see real strengths in Seeley's Bay; so many great people are trying to make things happen - activities, events, improvements. There are opportunities, and with them real possibility of regeneration. When we were house-hunting, though, in another village, someone drew my attention to a potential divide between lake-dwelling incomers and other residents. My hope is for a community for all, able and willing to bridge that gap.

I'll end with an important question, posed by Barry, for each of us; "how can we, as individuals and as a community, be proactive rather than reactive in the next 50 years?"



## Back to school and back from the brink

A year ago, it looked as if Sweet's Corners Elementary School was slated to be shut down; but on Tuesday, September 5, it welcomed new principal Valerie Horsfall, and started the school year bursting with energy and excitement.

In the face of the threatened closure, a dedicated school council - with tremendous support from staff, the school family and surrounding community, including members of both SBARA and the Lyndhurst Rejuvenation Committee - made a strong, rational presentation to the accommodation review committee. When the final report was drafted, our school was no longer included.

For 2017-18, the school is now home to a before- and after-school program offering subsidized care. It has a brand new track funded by the Township and school board, with long and triple jump pits alongside. It has a well supported 'sponsored hot lunch' program - new sponsors are always welcome!

For information on how you can show your ongoing support for Sweet's Corners, please see the full report from Angie Kelman, School Council Chair on our website, [www.visitseeleysbay.ca](http://www.visitseeleysbay.ca).



## SBARA NEWS ROUNDUP

*On September 29, we're excited to be hosting **Ashley MacIsaac** in Seeley's Bay for the **Small Halls Festival** this year, already sold out! For the full program and to book tickets, see <http://thefestivalofsmallhalls.com/>.*

*SBARA will be holding their AGM on Thursday October 19 - please do come, hear what's been going on and what's planned going forward, and take the chance to share your thoughts. More details to follow soon via our Facebook page, [Support Seeley's Bay Ontario](#).*



## WANT TO KNOW MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in volunteering, have something to donate or would like more information about the Seeley's Bay Area Residents' Association, please contact [sbara@seeleysbay.com](mailto:sbara@seeleysbay.com).

This e-newsletter is currently sent to over 300 households every few months. To sign up, please email us at: [newsletter@seeleysbay.com](mailto:newsletter@seeleysbay.com).

Please print a copy of our newsletter and post a copy on your public bulletin board and/or share copies with neighbours.



You can also join nearly 1400 people and follow us on our [Facebook page, Support Seeley's Bay Ontario](#) - 'Like' us to get the latest area news - and there are lots more photos of our community in our Albums!



Follow us on Twitter @Seeleys\_Bay

Compiled & edited by Gina Bearne