



THE LIGHTHOUSE NEWSLETTER

Wow! Hard to believe the first flakes of snow are already falling. Winter is not far off! Before it takes hold, we want to take a quick look back at the events and milestones that made Summer 2019 so fantastic.

After a wet and buggy Spring we were wondering if Summer 2019 would ever arrive. When it did, it brought almost continuously glorious weather - it was truly a summer to remember in many ways! And it was a very busy summer too!

The first Rosseau Family Day/Regatta organized by the LRNA was held Saturday, July 27th, continuing and expanding on the 51 year tradition of the Rosseau Regatta. Anchored by a huge tent lent to us by Rosseau Lake College we were able to offer a full day of fun including the traditional regatta canoe, kayak, paddleboard and swim races plus bouncy castle, face-painting, water trampoline, fly board demos, wakeboard show and more.



A huge thank you goes to our many generous sponsors who made this day possible by helping us fund the events, donating prizes to the silent auction and supporting us in every way.

Another well deserved thank you to the many volunteers who gave generously of their time and talents to ensure this event was well organized and went off without a hitch!

Special recognition goes to **Crossroads Restaurant** who provided a huge and delicious array of fruits and breakfast goodies in the morning followed by an equally impressive assortment of meats and salads for lunch.



We are pleased to report that in addition to the fun, we were able to meet our goal of raising funds for three important local causes. A phone and on-line campaign raised \$ 38,000.00 for Camp Ooch to help them continue to bring the magic of Ooch to children affected by childhood cancer.



Our silent auction raised a further \$6,340.00. We donated 50% to Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary which, at the time, we hoped would help them defray costs for the 19 permanent animals and upwards of 600 rehabilitated animals they care for each year.

Little did we know that the Sanctuary would soon be called on to take in an additional 20 permanent resident animals - that cannot, for a variety of reasons, be rehabilitated into their natural habitats. This has placed unexpected demands on the Sanctuary.



At the moment their most urgent need is to build an appropriate enclosure for 4 new black bears - an anticipated cost of \$50,000. We will send you information on the various fundraising events they are holding to help them meet this target.



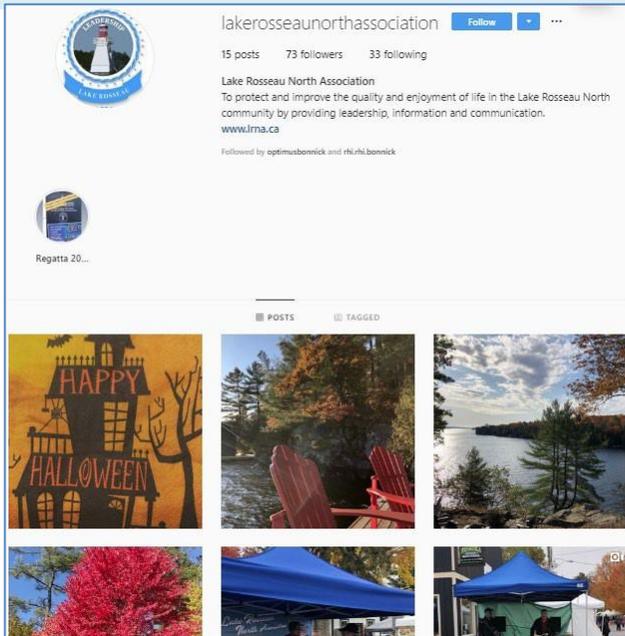
The remaining 50% was donated to West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) to be allocated to the summer weekend hours initiative at the Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic - Rosseau site.

AGM

At the Annual General Meeting on August 8, 2019 your 2019/2020 Board of Directors was elected. Returning Board members include Corinne Hagerman (President), David George (Vice President), Brenda Handyside (Treasurer), Ken Bodnar, Brian Bonnick, Bernadette Davidson, Brett LaGamba and Claude Leblanc. We were very pleased to welcome three new Board members, Scott Bond, Teri McGurk and Susanne Powell, whose talents, experience and passion will be definite assets to our Association.

Instagram Twitter Accounts

The LRNA is pleased to announce that we have officially launched both Twitter and Instagram accounts.



We have 13 initial Twitter followers and are using Twitter mainly to share news in and around Muskoka and to update our followers on what's happening today. If you are not able to be in Rosseau and area all the time, you can still share news and information on what is happening.

We have an initial 56 Instagram followers. This platform is gaining traction as we use it to promote participation in the community and post photos of Muskoka. We will use Instagram to keep you informed on events LRNA is involved in and on other issues/events we think you may want or need to know about.

Please follow along on Instagram by following @LakeRosseauNorthAssociation and on Twitter by following @RosseauNorth.

RLC Dock Restoration

During the Spring 2019 thaw, the century old dock at Rosseau Lake College (RLC) and the finely detailed gazebo that stood atop it were decimated. This magnificent dock was built by local craftspeople to receive the Eaton family by steam ship to Kawandag--the meeting place among the pines--and has welcomed hundreds of students and boaters over the decades since.

As many of you know, there have been a number of tragic losses to Kawandag's architectural legacy. The property suffered 3 devastating fires in the 1970's. The dock was one of the last original structures on the property, as was the gazebo. The dock and gazebo have stood as a recognizable landmark, similar to the Rosseau Shoal Lighthouse, on this end of the lake for over a hundred years.

As a result, the LRNA felt that it was important that we assist RLC in its efforts to rebuild.



Robert Carreau, Head of School at RLC, has informed that the cost to rebuild the dock and gazebo on their original footprints is approximately \$200,000 in total. A considerable portion of this cost has already been contributed charitably by RLC alumni and parents, who have donated over \$60,000 to the initiative. In addition to this, insurance will cover \$30,000 of the cost and the LRNA has committed a \$5,000 donation from our Community Projects Fund.

Robert reports that Rosseau Lake College school is thriving – the staff is exceptional, and enrolment has never been higher; however, for an intentionally small non-profit school, the balance required to rebuild the dock and gazebo remains prohibitive.

They would be deeply grateful for your assistance through a charitable contribution. Please consider donating today and help to restore the historic look to the waterfront by contributing to the “LRNA Gazebo Fund” through the online donation form. All contributions will receive a tax receipt by mail with the heartfelt thanks of RLC and the LRNA. Please follow the link below to access the online donation form.

<https://www.rosseaulakecollege.com/donate-online/>

Should you have any questions about the school or our charitable programs, Robert would welcome the opportunity to speak with you. He can be reached directly at 705-732-4351 x 130.



News re Summer Weekend Hours at Rosseau Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic - Rosseau Site:

Summer 2019 was the busiest summer yet for the extended summer weekend hours initiative at the Rosseau Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic - Rosseau Site. On average 13 patients were seen on Saturdays, Sundays and holiday weekend Mondays - up from 10 patients per day in 2018 and 7 in 2017. A total of 43 patients were seen on the August Civic Holiday Weekend. The patient breakdown was 77% seasonal residents and 23% permanent local residents. Clearly, there is a need being filled - patients are able to get the care they need without the inconvenience and long wait involved with a visit to the Emergency Room.

And given that this initiative has proven to be so successful, we need to continue to fundraise to ensure we have the funds necessary to keep it open every summer. We are therefore delighted to give:

A BIG SHOUT OUT TO LRNA MEMBERS - THE BORIS FAMILY

The LRNA expresses a special 'Thanks' to Les Boris and the Boris Family for their wonderfully generous donation of \$50,000 to help keep the Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic - Rosseau Site open on weekends during the summer months of July and August.

The \$50,000 will ease the need for the LRNA to actively fundraise for the next few years. It covered the costs of operating the Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic – Rosseau Site during summer weekends for the summer of 2019 and will cover all anticipated costs for a further 2 years - 2020 and 2021.

Les Boris and the Boris family have been Lake Rosseau cottagers and boating enthusiasts for close to 50 years. Their generosity is a testament to their support of and commitment to our community. The LRNA is truly appreciative.

New for 2020:

The LRNA is pleased to announce that we will be coordinating a 2nd Rosseau Family Day/Regatta (the 53rd Rosseau Regatta) on July 25, 2020. Watch for further updates and information on how you and your family can participate in the fun and/or volunteer to help us ensure it is a successful event!

And, due to popular demand the LRNA will also be hosting a Social Event for members and their guests on August 8, 2020. Stay tuned for details including times and location.



Rosseau Community Action Committee (RCAC) Update:

The Rosseau Community Action Committee (RCAC) is a committee of Seguin Township, appointed by the Council and reporting to the Council through the Ward 6 Councillor (currently Gail Finnsen). The membership consists of representatives from local businesses and residents active in the Rosseau and area community and, in addition, includes the Township Director of Community Services, the Township Program Coordinator and the Ward 6 Councillor. Issues and initiatives are related to the Rosseau area overall, not necessarily limited to the Village of Rosseau.

The RCAC is considered the voice of the Rosseau community and the conduit to Seguin Township Council. It represents the Rosseau area on a variety of issues. Over the last few years the RCAC has taken on a variety of community concerns and issues including litter management and the lack of public washrooms. Rosseau has suffered from an abundance of unsightly litter. The litter pilot project saw litter bins strategically placed throughout the Village and emptied regularly by a summer student ensuring a cleaner and inviting village. The pilot project will be continued as a model in future years.

The RCAC was also successful in securing an undertaking by Seguin Council to provide a sanitary and appropriate interim solution to the lack of public washrooms. Council has approved funding for 2020 with some contributions from the RCAC. A proper “trailer” washroom will be purchased and located adjacent to Rosseau Memorial Hall until such time as a permanent solution is available. This addresses a most urgent public need.

New initiatives the RCAC has pursued include getting Rosseau an Ontario by Bike destination via the installation of new bike racks and environmentally friendly water fountains.

The RCAC has taken a lead in the restoration of the Rosseau Memorial Hall resulting in Seguin Township Council commissioning a Master Plan for the renovation of the Hall in time for the Hall’s Centennial celebration in 2024. The prime recommendations in the Master Plan were approved by Seguin Council and funding has been allocated in the Township’s Five Year Capital Plan. Work on this renovation project is expected to begin in 2022 with target completion for the 2024 Centennial celebration. The RCAC endeavours to engage the community and determine its needs and interests and to liaise with other community groups to ensure the Village of Rosseau is a vibrant and liveable community. The LRNA will work with the RCAC over the next few years to determine how best we can facilitate and assist with this important historic community project.

The RCAC holds both regularly scheduled meetings and periodic Town Hall meetings. Observers and presenters are always welcome to attend to ensure it continues to fulfill its mandate to serve the needs of the Rosseau community.



Status Update on the Legacy Cottages Development



We had hoped to provide you with an update on the status of the Legacy Cottages project. The Legacy developer is proposing to build 43 condominium units on 470' of shoreline property located off Juddhaven Road in Minett that is zoned for a commercial resort. A Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly OMB) was scheduled for October 16, 2019. This hearing was postponed at the last minute.

We have heard concerns from some members that construction has been continuing despite the fact that the Tribunal has not yet reviewed and made a decision regarding the development. We can confirm that building permits have been issued and construction is underway, however the units will not be able to be occupied unless the required approvals are given for the water treatment and septic system. In addition, the units may not be individually sold unless the LPAT hearing results in a decision favourable to the developer allowing the units to be owned through a condominium.

The LRNA will continue to keep you informed of any new developments with regard to the Legacy Cottages Development.

Resort Village of Minett

The Minett Joint Policy Steering Committee has been working over the past year to make recommendations to the Township of Muskoka Lakes and the District Municipality of Muskoka on policies to guide future resort development in the Minett area.

The work of the Committee is not complete at this stage; their current mandate ends in May 2020. However, they presented an interim update report to provide some initial Proposed Policy Directions.

The following excerpt from Report #4 tabled on October 16, 2019 provides an initial understanding of their concerns:

"The Committee's recommendations can be effectively summarized as having a scope and tone that focuses on the Committee's intent that any development in Minett must respect the environment first, protecting the shoreline attributes and restoring them where possible. Development at the expense of the environment is not acceptable going forward. This means that development must be done differently than in the past. Any new development must have a light footprint and be designed to incorporate climate change mitigation or adaptation. Development must also work with Minett's topography, vegetation and within the capacity of the environment to absorb the potential uses and water demands. Economics, boating, sewage, and road capacity are still issues to be assessed and inform the policies."

While The Committee still has work to do in refining all of the Recommendations it will make to the TML and DMM Councils, there is one early recommendation that the Committee believes should be brought to the attention of TML's Council immediately. The Committee recommends that TML Council initiate a process to repeal By-law 2008-129, which permits a 582 foot dock and number of slips in Wallace Bay.

The Boat Impact Study that the Committee commissioned conclusively demonstrated that there has been a significant increase in the boat traffic on Wallace Bay since a similar study was completed approximately 12 years ago. The Committee's boat study also documented a significant increase in the number of instances when the boat traffic on Wallace Bay exceeded the safe boating capacity of the Bay. Allowing the construction of a 582 foot dock and a large number of new boat slips in Wallace Bay will have the unavoidable effect of significantly increasing boat traffic on the Bay and exacerbating the number of unsafe boating instances experienced during the summer months. It is for this reason the Committee recommends that TML Council begin the process of repealing By-law 2008-129 as soon as possible."

The LRNA will continue to monitor and inform you on the progress of this important initiative. Although both the Legacy Cottages Development and the Resort Village of Minett fall outside the LRNA catchment area they are potentially precedent setting projects and there will be spin off impacts on those of us who reside and/or cottage on Lake Rosseau and share the roads, environment and economic impacts.

Your Board will continue to keep abreast of developments, initiatives and events in our area and is committed to keeping you informed.



In the interim, let us know if you have comments, questions or ideas to share. We are striving to build a vibrant and informed community and it takes all of us to assist in achieving that!!

We look forward to hearing from you. ***Reference [lrna.ca](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)***

Have a wonderful countdown to Christmas!!

Corinne Hagerman

LRNA President

