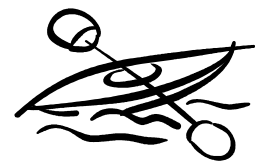


# Seeley's Bay and Area Residents' Association

## Community Update – October 2012



- Projects
- Advocacy
- Finances
- Volunteers



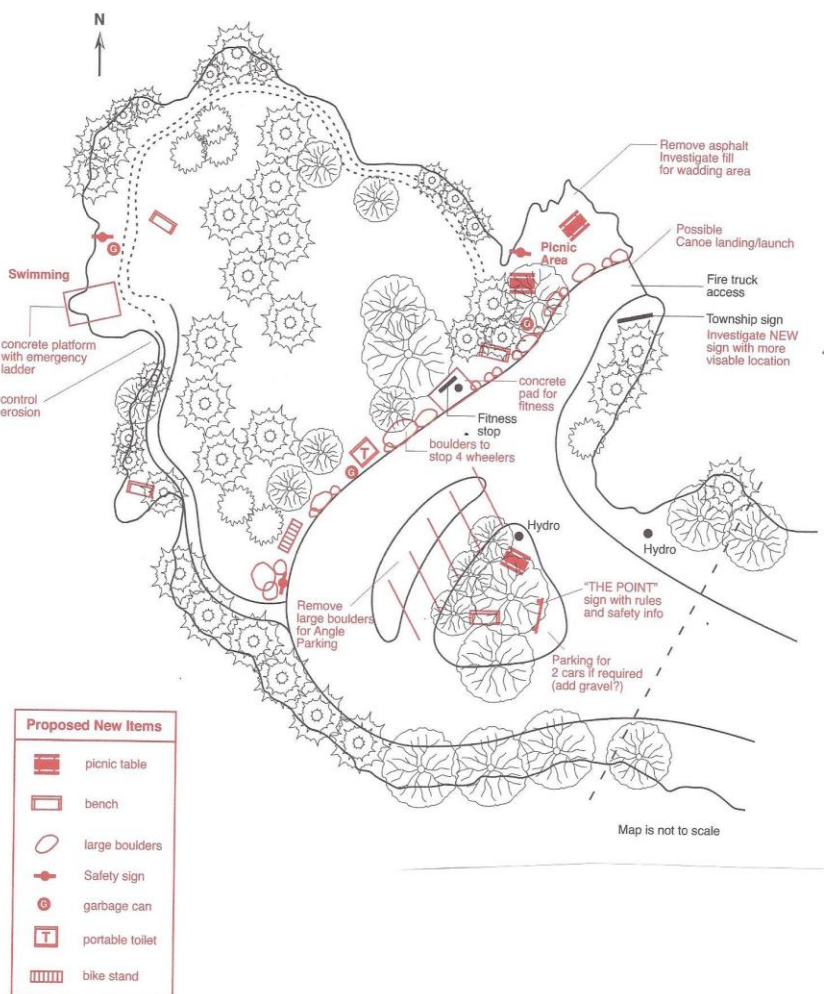
### Paddling Station at Centennial Park

By partnering with the Frontenac Arch Paddling Assn and the Rideau Heritage Route Assn, SBARA created a new paddling station at Centennial Park to encourage more paddlers to visit the village. This also creates a safer area for non-motorized boats. The summer of 2012 saw many new paddlers using the special dock and visiting Main Street. As a result of this new facility, we will be a stop for the Voyageur Brigade Society in 2013. Plans are underway to welcome their 80 paddlers next August – volunteers to help with the reception are needed.

### Trillium Funding for Haskin's Point Project

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has approved a grant of \$45,200 to the Township of Leeds & Thousand Islands (TLTI) in order to do restoration work at Haskin's Point which is a core element of **Seeley's Bay Steps Up**. Plans for the work, to be done over the winter/spring of 2012/13, include some erosion control, some stabilization to the swimming area, an emergency exit ladder, path improvements, safer parking, picnic tables, benches, bike racks, and minor landscaping work. Our gem on the Rideau will be preserved for future generations, and more of us will be able to get safely to the swimming area.

### Haskin's Point Restoration



### Main Street Improvements

SBARA worked to encourage the Township and County Councils to complete the needed improvements to Main Street including drainage changes in the village, and over the past two years SBARA's Infrastructure Team liaised with the Township and building contractors regarding the project implementation. The work is now complete except for the installation of new material in the 'bump outs' – we understand patterned cement will replace the grass and gravel currently in place.

### 1000 Islands CDC Funding

The Thousand Islands Community Development Corporation has made a major contribution to Seeley's Bay Steps Up with a grant of \$37K to the Township. These funds will finance the design work for a new Seeley's Bay brand, some signs and markers for a new historic walking trail, an updated brochure about village services and amenities, and some furnishings for rest spots on Main Street, at the dock and across from the Legion. SBARA's Marketing Team will have the lead on the branding, brochure, and sign projects, and the Infrastructure Team will work with the Township on the design and installation of 'parkettes'.

### Billboard

SBARA has rented a billboard south of the village on Highway 15 for 5 years. Keep your eye open to see repairs to the sign, an appealing new photo image and the new logo, to appear at this location in the coming months!



### Chamber of Commerce

SBARA has joined the Seeley's Bay and Lyndhurst Chamber of Commerce given our shared interest in helping our businesses to survive and thrive. The Chamber received a grant from the Township this year and decided to use the funds to help both communities raise their profile on the Highway 15 corridor. SBARA will be putting the Seeley's Bay share towards the billboard project.

### Advocacy and Liaison

An aspect of SBARA's mandate is to "support effective, efficient, transparent and accountable municipal services, and to present positions to local and senior levels of government". As such, SBARA volunteers attend local Council meetings regularly, and on occasion present local issues of concern to higher levels of government, e.g. raising concerns about delays to Highway 15 improvements, and communicating that reductions to the season on the Rideau Canal will hurt our local businesses.

### Fundraising

SBARA continues to raise funds for Seeley's Bay Steps Up (a \$250K project). The province has frozen the Rural Economic Development (RED) program so the \$99K grant request to that program is unlikely. The Township is applying to the Great Lakes Water Guardian Fund for money that could go to the water quality initiatives in Seeley's Bay Steps Up. SBARA also raises funds locally through Storyfests, sponsorships, the Scarecrow Showdown, and the **Seeley's Bay Spring Opener**. Mark your calendar for **May 18, 2013** and join us at a concert and square dance featuring the fantastic **Sheesham and Lotus!**



### Financial Report

Between October 1, 2011 and September 30, 2012, SBARA's revenues were \$15,470.16 including the \$9K grant for the construction and promotion of the paddling station, 'bucket' donations, sapling sales and Storyfests revenues. During the same period approximately \$750.00 has been spent on administration (rentals, printer cartridges, postage, printing, etc.), \$1750 on advertising (including listings in 2013 tourism guides), \$8000 in equipment for the paddling station and expenses directly related to the launch event, and some bills related to branding etc that will be reimbursed from grants. SBARA also has approximately \$15K in pledges through the furniture sponsorship program, and a cash balance of **\$9332.19** for Seeley's Bay Steps Up activities. Detailed accounts are available.

### Volunteer Opportunities

SBARA has a variety of opportunities for volunteers who want to help. Our volunteer Directors meet monthly. Our Steps Up Teams (infrastructure, spruce-up, marketing and water quality) meet as needed. In particular the Spruce Up Team can use some volunteers who are agile and/or blessed with green thumbs. This is the team that maintains the canoe gardens on the Highway, the planters throughout the village, and they also organize the Scarecrow contest and the Christmas Tree lighting! In addition, our special events (e.g. Storyfests, Spring Opener, Voyageur Canoe Welcome, etc.) can always benefit from an extra hand. Whether you want to make a one time donation of time or money, or whether you would like to help on an ongoing basis, there is likely a match between your talents and our needs.

For further information please contact our Chairperson, Peggy Sweet-McCumber at [sbara@seeleysbay.com](mailto:sbara@seeleysbay.com) or call her at 613-387-3968.