

Seeley's Bay Newsletter

Seeley's Bay & Area Residents' Association

Connecting the community...

Issue #9, March 2011

...and check out events calendar and local resources at www.seeleysbay.ca



Misty morning at village entrance

Photo courtesy of Rick Couper

Help put Seeley's Bay 'on the map'!

The "Seeley's Bay Steps Up" Marketing Team has tried to capture the essence of the Seeley's Bay *brand*. Now they want you to help develop the perfect logo to communicate our brand, as well as a great 'tag line'. A logo is a visual image that becomes a recognizable symbol for a product or place, like the 5 rings symbolize the Olympics. A tag line is usually 5 words or less, that people start to link to your brand; most people know that 'Yours to Discover' is the tagline for Ontario's tourism campaign. So think about OUR BRAND and please enter our contest to suggest logos and/or tag lines.

OUR BRAND – The Seeley's Bay area is:

Proudly known for our place in the landscape - close to the Thousand Islands, nestled in the Frontenac Arch, a gateway to the world heritage Rideau Waterway.

A destination of choice for eco-tourists - A base for paddling the Rideau, cycling tours, hiking the Arch; for sustainable fishing, connecting to local artisans and foods, with 'green' accommodation (cottages, B&B's)

A community that delivers on the promise of a safe, friendly, restful & healthy haven for visitors and residents.

You can enter our contest at www.seeleysbay.info OR drop off your entries at the Post Office, and you MIGHT win \$20. The deadline for submissions is April 16. The best submissions will be posted so you can vote for your favourites.

So far we have heard some great suggestions for tag lines, including – "Mayberry goes Blackberry", "Reel Living", "Experience the Rideau", "Gateway to the Rideau". Please send us your suggestions, and get ready to vote for your favourites after April 16.

Our safety depends on volunteers

In January of 1950 a large part of the village of Seeley's Bay was destroyed by fire. The citizens met in July to discuss the possibility of establishing a fire department so that they might have better protection from future fires. A committee was formed to investigate the purchase of some firefighting equipment. Debentures were issued by the township to help pay for the equipment and a Fire Area was established with John Hartley being appointed the first Fire Chief. Volunteers went to Woodstock to receive instructions and become familiar with the operation of a pumper. When they arrived back in Seeley's Bay, nearly everyone turned out to see the new fire truck, which was stored in Perry's Garage, but the goal was to have a fire hall. In 1951 a vacant store was purchased for \$700. Again the municipality issued debentures to build a new fire hall. It was accomplished with all volunteer help – even the farmers gave a day or two of their time in this endeavour. The firemen never stopped raising money in order to acquire the equipment needed to do their job, never stopped training in order to give their best. Volunteer firefighters have been the backbone of the fire service for more than 300 years. During this time, they have trained and retrained, learned and relearned. Few volunteers have had to work so hard and sacrifice as much as firefighters.

Volunteer firefighting is a very rewarding and valuable way to serve your community. Through training, you can gain skills such as fire prevention, firefighting skills, child and adult CPR, defibrillator use, first aid, safe emergency driving and many other areas of expertise related to emergency calls. The skills you will learn benefit the community and give you an ability and confidence to assist your own family and friends in times of emergency. Please enquire about becoming a volunteer fire fighter – call fire chief Gerry Bennett at (613) 382-8299 (*Many thanks to Carole Johnston*)

What's happening:

Mar 24 – FINAL Story Fest; Fire Hall, 7:00; \$5 cash
Mar 26 – Rock n Roll @ Legion “Smith & Brady”, 8:00
Apr 1- Seeley's Bay Athletics schedule resumes
Apr 3 – Old Time Fiddlers @ Legion, 2:00
May 8 – Mother's Day Brunch @ Legion
May 14 – Dance @ Legion, “The Reasons”, 8:00

Food bank information donrobin@kos.net

There is a lunch time seniors diners club in the Seeley's Bay Community Hall every 2nd Wednesday of the month

Village to Welcome Famous Visitor

On Thursday March 24, at 7:00 pm, the final StoryFest of the season will take place at the Seeley's Bay Community Hall. This series, featuring Jim Raffan, has been a successful fundraiser for Seeley's Bay Steps Up and a very popular social activity for the winter months.

The final event, “Voyageur Highway” promises to be particularly interesting because Bill Buxton will join Jim for the evening. Bill Buxton is a Toronto-based scientist, designer, writer, lecturer, and outdoor enthusiast. He is the Principal Researcher at Microsoft and a ‘rock star’ in the world of technology. Bill is a co-recipient of an Academy Award for Scientific and Technical Achievement, a Fellow of the Association of Computing Machinery, and has been awarded numerous honorary doctorates. In 2010, Business Week named Bill among the World's Most Influential Designers. Finally, Bill is passionate about the outdoors, especially mountains (summer and winter) and tripping in his birch-bark canoes. Jim and Bill will tell the story of their 2010 adventure re-tracing an early voyageur route in northern Saskatchewan.

Recently Queen's University was informed that Mr. Buxton would be in the Kingston area in March and potentially available for a presentation. The university queried why Buxton would be in the area, and were informed he had an engagement in Seeley's Bay. “What the hell is happening in Seeley's Bay?!” was the astonished response. Please join us in welcoming Bill to Seeley's Bay on March 24 ☺



Sunny March days will melt that snow soon!



Seeley's Bay Steps Up!

A SBARA delegation made a presentation to the Township Council in January, stressing the importance of the Main Street reconstruction work, and requesting official sponsorship of funding proposals to the provincial ministry responsible for rural economic development, the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation, and to the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Key elements of the plan include:

- Repaving Main Street, replacing sidewalks, improving drainage
- Improvements at Haskin's Point & Centennial Park (swimming, fishing and paddling station)
- Creating 3 'rest and info' spots within the area to include a bench, information signage, a planter, a waste receptacle
- “Branding” and marketing the area through the established tourism links and use of social media
- Supporting local businesses (e.g. collaborative marketing, hospitality training)
- Improving directional signage within village, and on provincial Highway 15, and on Rideau Canal
- Helping to improve water quality in appearance and in capacity to sustain healthy species – the water is the primary asset for tourism potential and related economic spin-offs

If you want to get involved and help, or if you want more information, contact: Peggy Sweet McCumber (Chair of SBARA) at sbara@seeleysbay.com

This electronic newsletter is published every 2-3 months, and goes to over 160 households. To sign-up and/or to publicize community-oriented events, please write to the editor at newsletter@seeleysbay.com. Feel free to print and post a copy on your public bulletin board and/or share copies with neighbours. You can also join the over 400 people who are on Facebook at “Support Seeley's Bay Ontario”.