

Seeley's Bay Newsletter

Seeley's Bay & Area Residents' Association

Connecting the community...

Issue #14, April 2012

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

Welcome back spring!

Well it may have been the mildest winter in memory, but it is still good to bid it goodbye. Although we remember the Abrams Brothers concert, Frost Fest, and Storyfest with Jim Raffan, as great entertainment highlights. But the ice is now long gone, many of the seasonal birds are back, and the buds are bursting out all over. Some keeners have even been heard to fire up their lawnmowers.

Spring will bring some new activities to Seeley's Bay. **Phase 2 of the reconstruction of Main Street is expected to begin shortly.** This year the goal is to have the bulk of the work done before Canada Day, so that we have a new and improved downtown look for our busy summer visitor season.

Ron Rudd and the Seeley's Bay Spruce Up team will once again be leading a "Pitch In' day to help clean up the village. Please volunteer to help on **April 21st – come to the Retirement Home for 10:00 a.m.** to get bags, gloves and directions about where to help – it's sure to be a neighbourly morning of fun.

There is also exciting news about a new paddling program for Seeley's Bay. See the article below for more details, and please plan to pack your own picnic and come to a very special Spring Opener at **Centennial Park on May 20th.**

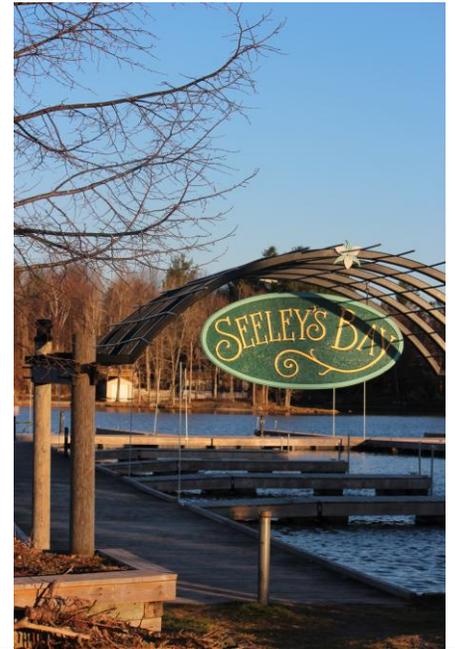


photo courtesy of John Truyens



Paddling is Us!

Seeley's Bay is about to get known as a **paddling hot spot** thanks to a new project of the Rideau Heritage Route (RHR) destination marketing organization. The RHR is developing a new high tech website that will allow paddlers to choose sites they wish to visit in order to create their own customized route. For 2012 **Seeley's Bay is going to be featured as a model paddling community** on this web site.

In order to deliver on the promise of being a paddling-friendly community, a unique paddlers' station is being constructed on the shore of Centennial Park. The services will include a customized dock, directional signage, boat racks and stow bins so that visitors may safely protect their gear while they take a stroll into the village to shop and sightsee. This project **will be officially launched on May 20th at the first annual Spring Opener celebration** and the Seeley's Bay and Area Residents' Association, which is leading the project, is hoping for financial assistance from the Township's Grants Committee to help cover the costs involved.

Area Member of Parliament **Gord Brown** and other special guests have been invited to officially launch the new Seeley's Bay paddling services at **4:30 on Sunday, May 20.** Please "BYOP" **bring your own picnic** down to the site, join in the celebration, and get a **free chance at winning a high quality kayak**, a paddle and a lesson from an expert - Scott Ewart of 1000 Islands Kayaking. If you **bring your old pennies**, you will win even MORE chances on the prize package. More details about this event will be in upcoming posters and publicity. Please tell your friends and plan to be there!



The Seeley's Bay Community Garden committee has been formed by the ROLL-Aid Food bank to look into the **establishment of a community (food) garden** in Seeley's Bay. The goal would be to provide means and opportunity for people to take some control over their own food production and to benefit from the joy of successful creation as well as building community. The group is holding a **free Gardening Seminar on Saturday May 5th, 10:00 – noon** at the Masonic Hall, across from United Church. Dave Alguire will talk about 'growing your own vegetables for beginners'.



In 1941 a plane crashed into the bay killing a grandfather and grandson who were in a boathouse near the present site of the public dock, as well as the pilot. Information about our heritage, like this tragic crash, is being compiled for our profile on the Rideau Heritage website thanks to area historians Keith Sly, Danny Roantree and Donna Robinson; thanks to Danny for this amazing photo

The Seeley's Bay Spring Opener – Over the next few years you can expect to see more and more activities in Seeley's Bay over the Victoria Day weekend as a new spring festival develops. It will be known as the Seeley's Bay Spring Opener and it will celebrate all that is wonderful about our community – the residents, the visitors, the Rideau Waterway, and our many recreational activities. This year the weekend's fun will begin with the annual Volunteer Firefighters' Chicken BBQ on Saturday afternoon, and the big community picnic on the Sunday when we will launch the new paddling station down by the water. After the official ceremony there will be music at the tepee and a kayak will be won by some very lucky person. And you can get an extra free ticket on the kayak draw for every pound of pennies you bring! Alison Langham is chairing the organizing team; contact SBARA if you want to get involved.



You can help make this weekend even better by **holding a yard sale and/or a plant sale on Saturday, Sunday, or both**. There will be plenty of promotion to attract visitors to the village for these events. Please let us know as soon as possible if you will hold a sale; call The Nest Egg (387-9902) and leave a message with your name & the location of your sale so we can make sure you are 'on the map'.

What's happening:

- April 21** – Pitch-in clean up, @Retirement Home 10:00 am
- April 21** – Camp Hyanto fundraiser, \$25, 5pm, St.Luke's
- April 28** – Teen dance @ Legion, \$5, includes snacks
- April 29** – Rideau Masonic Lodge annual Roast Beef Dinner, take-out or eat-in @ the Firehall, get your tickets from Laurie Langille, Eric Aiken, Keith Perry, Glen Morris, or at the door
- May 5** – Gardening Seminar, 10:00 a.m., Masonic Hall, free
- May 13** – Mothers' Day Brunch @ Legion, 11:00 am, \$8
- May 19** – Volunteer Firefighters' Chicken BBQ; mmmm good
- May 20** – Spring Opener – yard sales, kayak draw, grand opening at 4:30 @ Centennial Park with Gord Brown
- June 23** – Annual Bass Derby & Fish Fry @ Legion
- June 28** – Library Open House 1-8; Lynn Shaw's retirement
- July 1** – Canada Day – food, fun, fireworks and the parade!



If you want to volunteer, donate or get more information about the Seeley's Bay and Area Residents' Association, please contact: Peggy Sweet McCumber (Chair of SBARA) at sbara@seeleysbay.com

*This e- newsletter is sent to **over 190 households** every 2-3 months. To sign-up and/or to publicize community-oriented events, please write to newsletter@seeleysbay.com. And please print and post a copy on your public bulletin board and/or share copies with neighbours. You can also join the **over 550 people** who 'like' "Support Seeley's Bay Ontario" on Facebook.*

