

Seeley's Bay Newsletter

Seeley's Bay Area Ratepayers Association

Issue #3, February 2010

...and check out www.seeleysbay.ca

Noteworthy Neighbours

This new column will provide a brief glimpse into the lives of people of Seeley's Bay – the tireless volunteers, the old-timers and the people who shine the light on our community from beyond its boundaries, such as James Raffan.

It's fair to say that love brought writer and geographer **James Raffan** to Seeley's Bay. Over 25 years ago, James and the object of his affection, Gail Simmons, drew circles around their respective communities of employment and discovered that the circles overlapped in Seeley's Bay. Before long they had purchased a property on Cranberry Lake. Twenty-two years later, when he took on a part time role as Executive Director of the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, he and Gail briefly contemplated moving. But after 48 hours of individual reflection they both realized they absolutely wanted to stay in this community. James says that Seeley's Bay is off the beaten track, but close to almost everything. He can quickly get to airports in Ottawa or Syracuse, and to meetings or connections in Toronto or Montreal by train, for his various speaking appearances and research trips. Yet at the same time, he can paddle in all directions, ski from his door, enjoy the unique geological landscape of the Frontenac Arch, and share life with wonderful neighbours here in 'The Bay'.

After spending 18 years as a professor at Queen's University, James became a full time author. His most recent book *Emperor of the North: Sir George Simpson and the Remarkable Story of the Hudson's Bay Company* (Harper Collins 2007) is a best seller and it is a great read. Just back from a project in Antarctica, James is now working on a book and film project that will take him to Siberia, and reflecting on the canoe as a symbol of reconciliation amongst First Nations, French and English-speaking communities in Canada.

James was awarded a Governor General's Award for Gallantry in 1968, he became a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 1988, he was the Chair of the Arctic Institute of North America, he was awarded a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, and in 2009 he was awarded the Camsell Medal. In addition to his activities outside of our village, James also helps out by teaching tennis to young people here in the summer; he enthused about how Frost Fest is such a wonderful sign of community spirit, and he says the thing he is most excited about locally right now is the news that the hardware store will be re-opening on the main street!



James Raffan & Gail Simmons, with daughter Laurel on their horse Earli-bird



Happy Valentine's Day to Everyone

Frost Fest a HUGE Success

It was a picture perfect weekend for Frost Fest 2010; the turn out and the events were first-class thanks to the efforts of the hard working volunteers, all under the leadership of the outstanding committee chair Marg Brooker (in spite of 6+ hours without hydro!). The new scavenger hunt had visitors scurrying all over the village, the ATV Poker Run from the deGraaf farm was very popular, Dale Moore won bragging rights with her winning chile recipe, and the Abrams Brothers concert was as good as any top notch show you could see in Nashville, yet right here in our community centre.

Thanks to Frost Fest webmaster Rick Couper you can view many great pictures from the weekend. It is easy...just click on the link below. And after you check out the mini slide show, click on the link below the Gallery for even MORE FROST FEST 2010 photos and look through the three albums – many of the weekend's fantastic events got captured.

<http://www.seeleysbayfrostfest.com/page7.html>

Seeley's Bay Athletics

As part of the Seeley's Bay Family Medicine Centre's commitment to healthy opportunities for all generations, and under the leadership of Tanya Abrams, a number of excellent activities occur every week – and they are FREE. There is indoor walking in the winter, chair yoga, fitness classes and now even clogging! According to Wikipedia, clogging is a type of American folk dance with roots in European dancing, early American dance and traditional Cherokee dance in which the dancer's footwear is used musically by striking the heel, the toe or both in unison to create audible percussive rhythms. Now that sounds fun!

As a fundraiser for the Seeley's Bay Athletics, Grace Orme is making a wonderful basket full of fantastic goodies – to be won by a draw on Easter weekend. Raffle tickets are \$2.each or 3 for \$5. To buy tickets please contact Grace at 387-2957 or ask one of your neighbours who attends one of the weekly classes.

Details of the Athletics program are available at <http://seeleysbayathletics.ca/>

What's happening:

Euchre – Legion Hall, Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Old Time Fiddlers – Legion, 2:00, March 7th, and first Sunday of every month

Legion Dance - Mar 19th, 8-12 pm, music by "Jeff Code & Friends", \$15.00; contact Gary for tickets @ 613-544-4659 or leave a message at the Legion 613-387-3208

Message from local Township Councillor

Holy Cow it is the middle of February already and I just received in the mail my seed catalogue. That got me thinking about planning. I need to plan to vote (in the provincial by-election) on March 4th. I need to see who is running and what their platforms are. No sense complaining unless I exercise my right to vote for the candidate of my choice. I also need to plan for my revised budget as the HST is coming into effect on July 1st. I found some information on the web that showed me what is going up in price.

I also need to plan to ensure my life is in balance between family and Township business as both are very important. While I could say, planning can wait, it really can't. So if you see me, and I do not say hello, it is probably because I am planning something in my head.

Boy - am I ever looking forward to spring!

Charlie Kellington

Editor's favourite Frost Fest photo



Gordon Moore takes a lesson in Penguin Dancing

Passion for helping out starts young



Annabel and Sophia – successful fundraisers

Ratepayers Association

Seeley's Bay and Area Ratepayer's Association acting chair, Carole Johnson, recently presented a report to the Township of Leeds and Thousand Islands Council. The presentation was about the Hayden Stanton Memorial Wharf Improvement project. Mayor Frank Kinsella invited Carole to explain the work because it is a great example of the spirit of the "Dare to Dream" initiative of the Township. It's an example of how a few volunteers, in partnership with Council, can take on a big project for the benefit of the whole community.

Viral Marketing Coup – we posted a 'fake' photo of penguins under Seeleys Bay on The Weather Network to promote the festival – and got 13448 'hits' before Frost Fest!

Fundraising for Haiti Earthquake Relief

Annabel Cowan and Sophia Jackson Kelso, both 10 years old, took to the stage at the close of the Abrams Brothers concert to draw the winning ticket for their Haiti fundraising efforts. Annabel said that she and Sophia started talking about the earthquake during recess and about how people wanted to help out. Sophia's dad gave them the idea of having a pie-throwing event featuring the principal of Sweet's Corners School, Mademoiselle DuFour. Overall the girls' efforts raised \$1973.00 at the school and over \$200.00 during the concert.

This newsletter now **goes to over 75 households** in the area. To sign-up and/or publicize community-oriented events, please send information to the editor at liz.huff@sympatico.ca