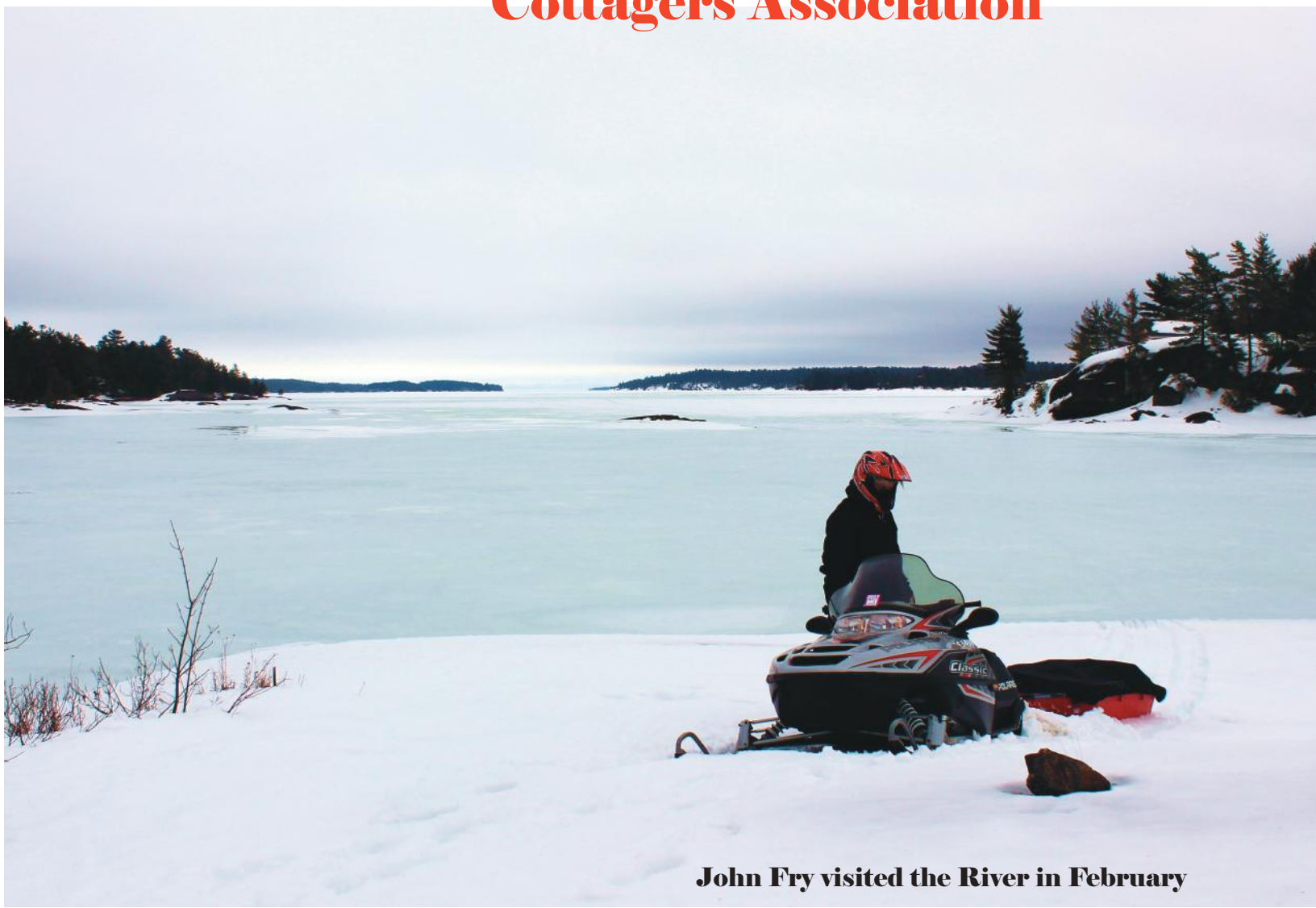


March 2017 Newsletter

Upper
French River
Cottagers Association



John Fry visited the River in February



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dave Minden

Hello UFRCA Members!



IT'S BEEN THAT KIND OF WINTER! Lots of snow, then untimely periods of rainy days, now back to a cold, snowy winter wonderland and great skiing. At the same time, there was the great excitement of planning the Chief Commanda Cruise, followed by the disappointment of

cancelling. It's been one of those up and down winters.

As Sam Goodwin noted in the cancellation notice (citing the American writer Thomas Wolfe) sometimes "you can't go home again" and relive the past. That struck a chord with me. My cottage experience, different from most of those on the French, started in Huntsville, Ontario when my grandparents bought a cottage on Lake Vernon just to the west of town in the late 1940s. I recall the epic drive from Hamilton, the obligatory picnic lunch at Champlain Park in Orillia (roughly the half-way point), entering Huntsville to the sweet yet pungent aroma from the sawmills, and driving down Main Street to the next mandatory stop at Boley's Bakery for do-nuts. (Tim Horton would not play for the Leafs for quite a few years!) A highlight of cottage life in the 1950s was the cruise on steamboats in the area. As on Nipissing and the Upper French, steamboats had been a major driving force in the development of the Muskoka Lakes area. In Huntsville, we would take the steamer Algonquin from the town dock, sail under the swing-bridge and head down the river to Fairy Lake and then down into Pen. At the end of the lake, we would dock and disembark and take the Portage Flyer narrow gauge railway to Lake of Bays where another steamer had docked to exchange pas-

sengers heading to or from Big-Win Inn. But those days have gone. The steamers sunk or burned many years ago, save for the RMS Seguin that still sails with sightseers out of Gravenhurst. The Portage Flyer is a



tourist attraction on the nearby Oxtongue River, and "the portage" is now a road. The old Huntsville cottage, where we still visit my sister and family, was torn down and replaced with a more modern structure about fifteen years ago. But in my mind's eye, I recall the old place, the old Duro piston pump, drafty windows and tilting floors, the old wood stove in the kitchen. Sometimes, you can't go home again.

Well with that bit of nostalgia out of the way, we hope you all have a great rest of the winter. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for some important upcoming dates regarding the annual photo contest, the

Chaudiere Lodge Fish Fry, and our Annual General Meeting. Keep up to date with current news by checking the **UFRCA** web site regularly.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Jeff Hamilton



Photo Contest

THE DEAD-
LINE for
submitting
photo-

graphs for the photo contest is rapidly approaching (April 15). Please send in your entries as soon as possible. Remember, we need high resolution pictures, and note that any one photographer can enter only 3 photos. But of course there are many "photographers" at every cot-



Gale Hamilton's photo took 2nd place in the 2016 Nature Category

tage. [This link](#) will take you to the details on the UFRCA website. Enter in all three categories

Nature/Wildlife – trees, bugs, landscapes, flowers, snakes, turtles, fish, fungi, birdsetc.

Scenery– Find you best sunset, approaching storm, foggy bay or similar photos!

French River Life– anything to do with life on the French River!

Chaudiere Lodge Fish Fry

Get ready for another great Chaudière Lodge Fish Fry! This year we won't have a chance to remind you at the AGM as Chaudiere Lodge will be running the event on the weekend **BEFORE** the AGM. As in the past, the UFRCA plans to sponsor some live entertainment. More details will follow.

**Mark your calendars
for Sunday July 30, 2017**





Beautiful winter photography of light pillars captured by North Bay photographer Timothy Joseph Elzinga

When Will the Ice Be Off the Lake?

[Check here](#) for the dates that the lake has been declared ice-free since 1901. The last two years, the date was the same: May 5. What will it be this year?

Always be safe! Lately in North Bay news, ice huts have been asked to be removed (well ahead of the usual March 31 deadline), vehicles have gone through the ice, and snowmobile trails are being closed. [Police warning](#) and a [truck goes through](#).

Lake Nipissing and French River Water Levels [here](#). This web site is updated weekly every Monday.

The following is the water level forecast for Lake Nipissing and the French



**ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**
Liz Gribbon

River as of Monday, February 27th, 2017, as provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada. The precipitation at the French River Dams station for the month of February is currently at 93 % of the total monthly historical average.

Lake Nipissing

As of February 27th, 2017, the water level of Lake Nipissing was 194.78 metres. The lake level is above the long term average due to abnormally high precipitation early this week. As the lake inflows begin to gradually decrease, along with below freezing temperatures, the lake level should remain stable for this week. Further change in the lake level is dependent on the amount of inflows and precipitation. This Environment Canada Water Office [website](#) is updated continually.

Contribute to Science

With spring on its way (Really?? I'm writing this in a blizzard), many cottagers look forward to listening to the Spring Peepers' night songs. If you are someone interested in monitoring the health of our ecosystems,

you may want to sign up for www.naturewatch.ca to record frogs, worms, ice, and plants. You can also view other peoples' observations by zooming in on your area of interest.

Independent Expert Panel Completes Lake Nipissing Fisheries Review

To request a copy of the full report, please contact the local [MNR](#) North Bay District Office at 705-475-5550.

Paul Cormier was the UFRCA rep on the Lake Nipissing Fishery Advisory Committee (FAC), and this spring Paul has volunteered to help out again on a committee with wider scope. MNR has recently initiated the Zone 11 FAC, and meetings will begin shortly

From FOCA LATEST NEWS

The Federation of Ontario Cottager Associations investigates and reports on many topics that may be of interest to those on the Upper French River.

The following is the [link](#) to FOCA's February 2017 Elert notice.

Tompkins and Sons General Contracting

Quality Experience Customer Service

- New cottages & bunkies
- Additions and renovations
- Foundations
- Windows and doors
- Roofing
- Decks & docks
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Gas fitting
- Barging

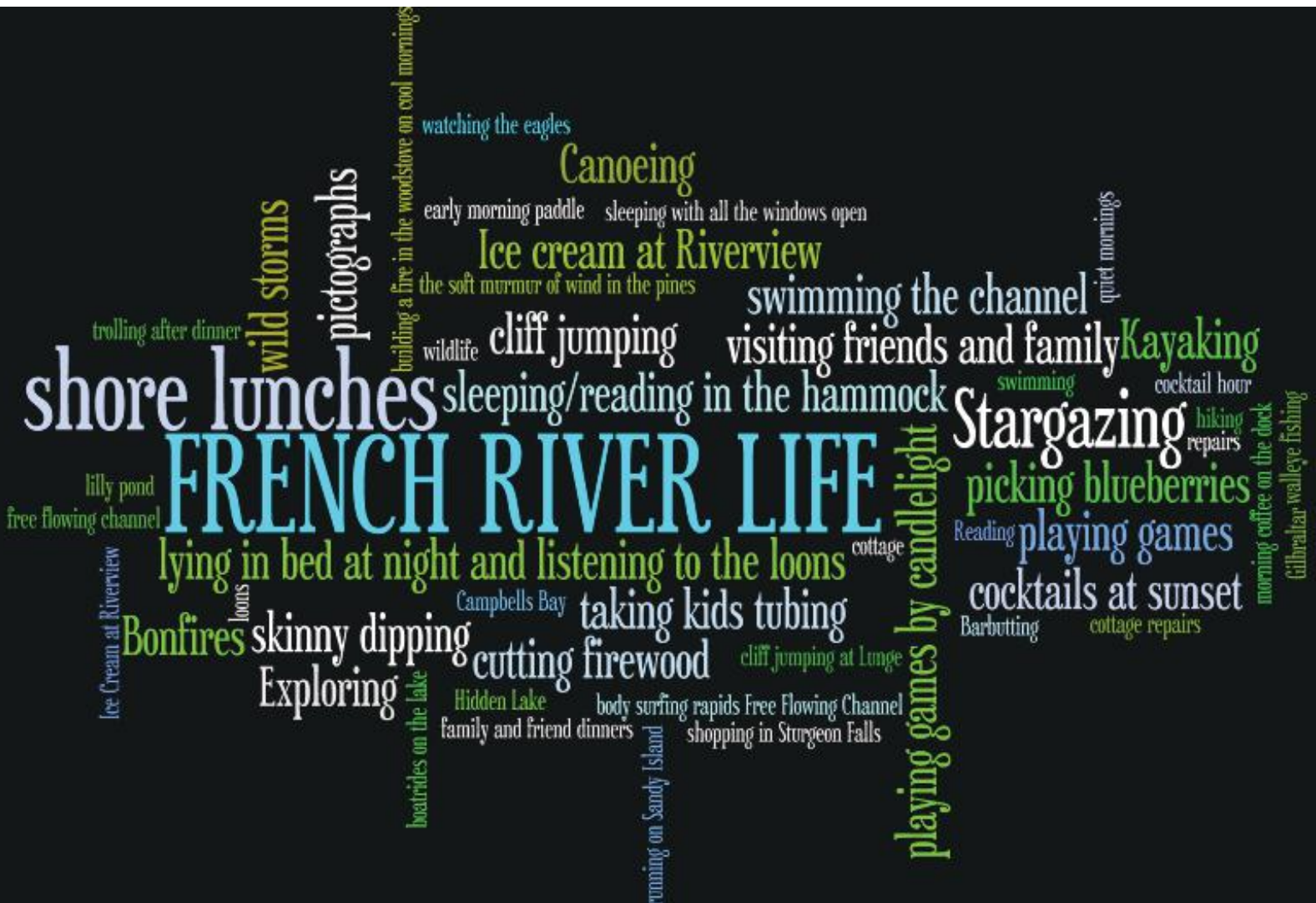


Terry Tompkins
705-498-2332
tompkinsandsons@gmail.com

Tarion Certified
Licensed, certified gas, plumbing and electrical on all
installations, upgrades and repairs
All municipal approvals and documentation
References available

by Holly Waters

This fall when my husband and I went on a road trip I noticed that he would google the Top Ten Things to Do in each town or city that we



We need your participation to get a true picture of the top ten things to do on the Upper French River. Please email your top ten lists to canada150@ufrca.com by April 1, 2017.

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Chief Commanda Cruise

In case you missed it, the announcement to cancel the Chief Commanda Cruise was distributed to all UFRCA members and many past members on Feb. 23, 2017. The project gave us an opportunity to test out whether online surveys are a viable means of engaging with UFRCA members on topics of interest, and we learned that the answer is a great big “yes”. Again, thanks to all who participated in the survey. For those that missed the announcement, [follow this link](#).

We all have so many great memories of the Chief Commanda and the project brought those memories back to life for everyone



The old Chief at Keystone Lodge in the early 60's

PRE- AND POST-SEASON SERVICE									
All times shown are Eastern Daylight Saving Time									
WED.-SAT.-SUN. Effective May 16 to June 17, incl. and Sept. 8 to Sept. 30 incl.					D.S. "ALETIS"				
					Sept. 8 to Sept. 30 incl.				
10.00 a.m.	Lv.	NORTH BAY	Ar.	5.00 p.m.	10.00 a.m.	Lv.	NORTH BAY	Ar.	5.00 p.m.
11.50 a.m.		KEYSTONE		3.00 p.m.	11.50 a.m.		KEYSTONE		3.00 p.m.
12.15 p.m.		NARROWS		2.45 p.m.	12.15 p.m.		NARROWS		2.45 p.m.
12.35 p.m.		SOLID COMFORT		2.25 p.m.	12.35 p.m.		SOLID COMFORT		2.25 p.m.
12.55 p.m.		LUNGE LODGE			12.55 p.m.		LUNGE LODGE		
1.30 p.m.		CHAUDIERE LODGE			1.30 p.m.		CHAUDIERE LODGE		
1.55 p.m.	Ar.	CASA BLANCA	Lv.	2.05 p.m.	1.55 p.m.	Ar.	CASA BLANCA	Lv.	2.05 p.m.
In addition to the above service, the "Aletis" will operate May 21, 22 and 24, 1951									
SPECIAL DAILY CRUISE FARES									
f—Flag Stop									
TIME TABLE									
REGULAR SEASON SERVICE									
Friday Only Effective June 22 to including Aug. 31, 51	Wed.-Sat. Sun. Effective June 20 to including Sept. 3, 51	Mon.-Tue. Thurs.-Fri. Effective June 21 to including Sept. 4, 51	LAKE NIPISSING FRENCH RIVER				Mon.-Tue. Thurs.-Fri. Effective June 21 to including Sept. 4, 51	Wed.-Sat. Sun. Effective June 20 to including Sept. 3, 51	
P.M. 7.00 for French River	P.M. 3.00 3.40 4.45 5.00 5.25 5.45 P.M.	A.M. 10.00 11.40 12.15 1.00 1.25 1.45 P.M.	Lv.	NORTH BAY	Ar.	5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.	Lv.	NORTH BAY	Ar.
				KEYSTONE		5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		KEYSTONE	
				NARROWS		5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		NARROWS	
				SOLID COMFORT		5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		SOLID COMFORT	
				LUNGE LODGE		5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		LUNGE LODGE	
				CHAUDIERE LODGE		5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		CHAUDIERE LODGE	
				Ar.	CASA BLANCA	Lv.	5.00 5.20 2.45 2.25 2.00 P.M.		
MOONLIGHT EXCURSIONS EVERY TUESDAY AND FRIDAY June 22 to September 4 inclusive Leave North Bay Wharf 8.30 p.m., Return 11 p.m.									

Left: 1951 Aletis fare and schedule and below the Aletis docked at Keystone.



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
UPPER FRENCH RIVER
COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
SUNDAY AUGUST 6, 2017 10:00 A.M.
SOLID COMFORT FISHING CAMP
ON THE UPPER FRENCH
(COORDINATES: N 46.160202 W 79.980413)**

**PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS
UFRCA T-SHIRTS FOR SALE
REFRESHMENTS
& MORE**

**9:30 A.M. REGISTRATION OPENS
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME**

**10 A.M. TO 11:45 A.M. - BUSINESS MEETING
AND SOCIAL**

**COMPLIMENTARY REFRESHMENTS FROM THE
SOLID COMFORT CHEF**

**NOTE: REMEMBER THAT DOCK SPACE IS LIMITED.
PLEASE ARRANGE TO "BOAT-POOL" WITH OTHER
COTTAGERS OR ARRANGE A DROP-OFF.
CONTACT SOLID COMFORT 705-763-2182 IN
ADVANCE FOR BOAT PICK-UP IF REQUIRED.
THE DOKIS BARGE CAN TAKE A FEW FROM
RIVERVIEW TO SOLID COMFORT.**

Dave Minden
President
MNR and Park Liaison
Communications

Sam Goodwin
Secretary
Vice President
Municipal Liaison
and Security

Holly Waters
Dokis Liaison

Kathy LaBranche
Director at Large

Jeff Hamilton
Social and Events

Liz Gallagher
Newsletter

Liz Gribbon
Environment

Peter Rooney
Treasurer
Membership

Ontario Law and Some Common Sense – Requirements for Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors

Last year we learned of the tragic and untimely deaths of David and Jenna Hill of Halcyon Cottage. They died from exposure to Carbon Monoxide (CO) gas at their residence in Ohio. It may be the case that you have procrastinated on this, or maybe think that in the “wilds of Northern Ontario”, regulations and laws don’t apply so much. But of course, they do! Probably every cottage on the French

has several fuel burning appliances, which would include a wood stove/fireplace, propane hot water heater, stove, refrigerator, and pos-



sibly propane or coal oil lights. All of these can produce CO from incomplete combustion. Note that

smoke detectors work on different principles from CO detectors, and one is not a substitute for the other. Both are needed and both are required by law. CO detectors must be placed adjacent to any bedrooms in buildings with a fuel burning appliance. One model to consider is the Kidde Model C3010-CA . It’s designed to be portable rather than installed on a wall. See the following [for detailed information](#) on Ontario regulations for CO and smoke detectors. For more about smoke detectors [follow this link](#).



SERIOUS COVERAGE FOR YOUR COTTAGE.

- Available to non-residents of Ontario
- Discount for members of a cottage association
- Can include vandalism, theft, collapse and bear damage
- Can include watercraft, snow machine and recreational vehicle coverage
- Specializing in remote and island access properties
- Coverage available for cottages that are rented

kennedyinsurence.ca 1 800-263-5950 705-472-5950



YOUR HOMETOWN BROKERS FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

Where is this?



“Take a guess” where it was taken. The correct guess will be printed in the following newsletter. Responses and new pictures should be sent to: ltrescher123@gmail.com



“There were no correct responses to the October mystery photo, so we’ll save it for another time. Keep looking around!”