



Upper French River Cottagers Association

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *Dave Minden*

WELL, SUMMER IS DONE. THE LEAVES ARE CHANGING and falling, and in the North Bay area, they were at their peak in the first week of October. The air is crisp now with many frosty nights, and those hot, hazy days of summer are well behind us. We hope that your summer plans were fulfilled, but as it goes with all summer plans, there's always next year to do those projects that were put off.



DAVE

Your 2016-17 Board of Directors met for the first time in mid-September and we are studying various projects and initiatives. At the AGM, the following were elected to the Board: Dave Minden, Sam Goodwin, Peter Rooney, Holly Waters, Jeff Hamilton, and the "two Liz's" – Liz Gallagher and newcomer Liz Gribbon. In September we appointed a second new Board member Kathy LaBranche, who will be a Director at Large. There are presently 8 directors on the Board and there remains one vacancy. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please let us know. The positions of officers and committee chairs are slightly changed from last year and can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Another big change that you've probably already noticed is the new look of the newsletter. We hope you like it. While the newsletter remains under the direction of Liz Gallagher, Chris Fry (brother of Board member Holly Waters) has volunteered to put everything together in this brand new design. Thanks Chris!

It was another great Annual General Meeting on July 31 at Solid Comfort where a crowd of over 70 were on hand. Thanks again to the very gracious hosts at Solid Comfort and we hope to repeat next year. Please take time to review the draft minutes of the AGM that are attached with this newsletter. Photos from the AGM were posted (thanks to Kim and Holly Waters) in the Gallery on the web site (see 2016 Fish Fry and AGM), as were the winning photos and all entries from the Photo Contest (thanks to Jeff Hamilton – and see Jeff's article later in the newsletter about the Photo Contest for 2017).

And please—share this newsletter with others in your home and with extended cottage family members; it's always a struggle to keep the membership informed.

Dave

Have a good fall season.



Solid Comfort crew greets UFRCA members arriving for AGM



Left to right: Susan Ray, John Follis, Karen Follis, Walter Harley



Dave Minden presents UFRCA T-shirts to Dokis First Nation Chief Gerry Duquette & West Nipissing Police Chief Chuck Seguin

DOKIS LIAISON *Holly Waters*

DOKIS MUSEUM

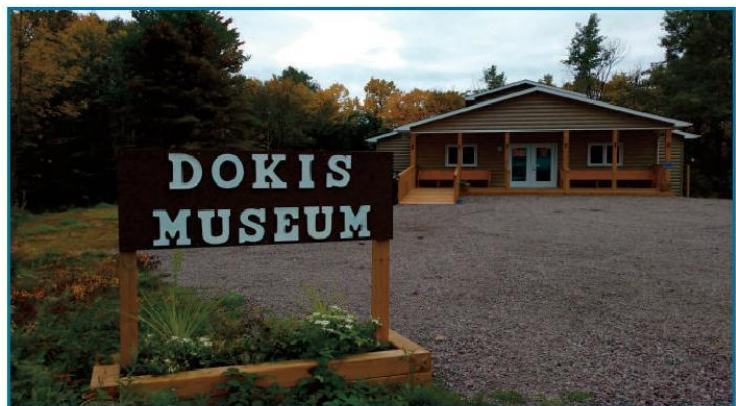
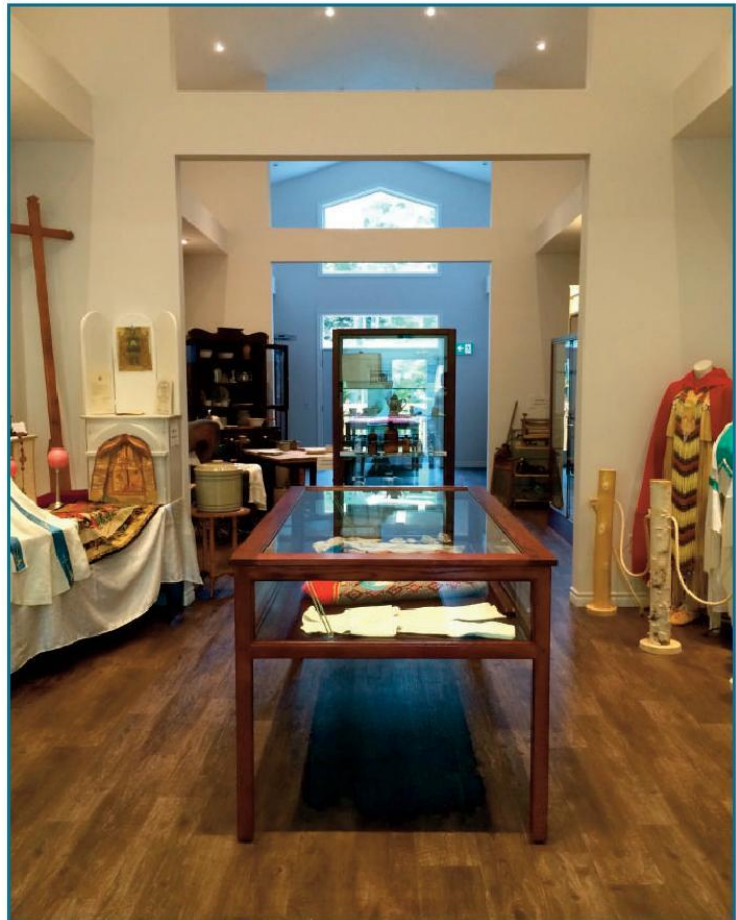
IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE history and culture of the *Dokis First Nation*, many dedicated community members took on the responsibility and hard work to create the Dokis Museum which opened its doors in July, 2016.

The building is a new prefabricated structure and is located beside the Band office on Main Street. The interior of the building is an impressive two storey space and houses a collection of artifacts, both historical and cultural, celebrating the heritage of Dokis and its people. The museum is divided into several different rooms, each devoted to a different theme including history, traditional, industry, war, religion, and the French River.

Guided tours are offered by the docent on hand. The stories shared behind the artifacts and photos, are very engaging and informative.

The hours of operation will be determined for next season and there will be an entry fee per person. There is also a gift shop selling handmade local arts.

If you have something you feel would make a significant contribution to the French River room, and would like to donate or loan it to the museum, please contact *Holly Waters* at hollywaters@rogers.com



SOCIAL & EVENTS *Jeff Hamilton*

PHOTO CONTEST

THIS PAST SUMMER SAW 70 pictures entered in the UFRCA Photo Contest. All of the photos entered can be seen on the UFRCA website and we congratulate the winners: Kathryn Gribbon, Karen Follis, Josh Bergman, Daniel Waters, Christian Graca, Ross Hamilton and Gale Hamilton. The contest can't be done without the members who put in their time to judge the photos. This year our distinguished panel of judges included Larry Smith, Liz Gallagher, Jeanette Fox, Bonnie Witmer, Jenny Young, and Jim Abbott.



The 2016 Grand Prize Winner is Kathryn Gribbon's submission in the *Nature* category



THIRD DOCK SALE SUCCESS

WE SPONSORED OUR THIRD Dock Sale. The Dock Sale allows our members to "clean out" their excess cottage accessories and provides a good reason for buyers to drive up and down the river socializing as they go.

FISH FRY at CHAUDIÈRE LODGE

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, CHAUDIÈRE Lodge had another successful Fish Fry. The Lodge prepared an outstanding dinner and we all socialized and enjoyed the music of Derek "Bud" Restoule on guitar and vocals. With him was Jason Restoule. In between sets we had Emma Hanlon play acoustic guitar



and sing. Our very special and very talented guest vocalist was (UFRCA member) Liliane Murdoch.





This photo by Josh Bergman won First Place in the *Watersports* category

PARK & MNR REPORT
Dave Minden

Lake Nipissing and Upper French Water Levels

THERE WAS MUCH CONCERN THIS summer about the low water level, which resulted from the extended lack of rain. Except for a brief period of time in early May, the lake level was below the summer target range (between 195.75 and 195.95 metres above sea level). For most of the summer, the lake and Upper French were between 10 and 20 cm below this range, and this was very noticeable where docks are in shallow water. There was some discussion

in the spring between UFRCA and MNRF about the possibility of the Upper French (represented by the UFRCA) having a seat on the Sturgeon-Nipissing-French Advisory Group, but this has not materialized. We will continue to have dialogue directly with MNRF. The latest news is that the drawdown of the lake, which typically begins on the Thanksgiving weekend, will proceed. Last year, heavy rain in the fall and a very late freeze-up delayed the drawdown, and this probably accounted for the damage to many crib docks.

For the most recent water level information, see these links: [Water Office](#) and [Public Works Government Services Canada](#).

COMMUNICATIONS
Dave Minden

Visit Your UFRCA Website

CHECK THE WEB SITE REGULARLY for current news. There have been recent postings about native and sport fishing on Lake Nipissing, cottage closing routines to discourage thieves and break-ins, a fire south of Lake Nipissing on Obashking Lake in early August, and the ongoing political scandal in West Nipissing (with OPP charges being laid). Got some news to share? If there's something we've missed and you think the UFRCA membership should be notified, contact us right away.

2017 UFRCA PHOTO CONTEST*Jeff Hamilton***3 CATEGORIES FOR 2017**

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

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

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

AWARDS

Nature: Winner and Runner Up
Scenery: Winner and Runner Up
French River Life: Winner and Runner Up

Grand Prize Winner
Grand Prize Runner Up

To be selected from pictures submitted in all 3 categories (above)

Details/Rules/Requirements

Photos may be entered until April 15, 2017 - They should be sent as attachments to photocontest@ufrca.com

Three photos max per photographer, no limit per cottage

When submitting include:

- The UFRCA member name associated with the photos.
- For each photographer, full name and mailing address if different than the address on record with UFRCA
- Entry category for each photo

Any photo may be entered except those entered in a previous UFRCA contests

10 MB max file size

JEFF'S HELPFUL HINTS

After submitting, watch your inbox! You will receive a confirming email from Jeff Hamilton (sent to the email address that was used to send the entry). If Jeff does not reply, try again!

If possible, use your computer to send photos. A winning photo must have good resolution. Sending pictures from your phone tends to compress the pictures. We suggest a file size greater than 100K for decent resolution. Files less than 50K will not be considered. If you don't understand file size, find a teenager and ask for help.



Karen Follis submitted the Grand Prize Runner Up

Think about the categories and content. Increase your chance of winning by entering in all three categories. - Visit <http://ufrca.com> and look at last year's winners in the Photo Gallery.

The judges receive printed 4 X 6 copies of each picture. There are many photos to be printed and they are "auto cropped." That means that the computer decides how best to center the content if the picture is not already formatted with a height to width ratio that matches a 4 X 6 print (that's a 3:2 aspect ratio in camera talk). This usually is not a problem; but can be if the photo is very odd shaped (such as wide panoramic pictures).

Judging criteria to consider when submitting a photo in the contest.

20	Subject Matter	Does the photo tell a story? Most often, the difference between a photo you remember and one that you quickly forget depends on whether the photo tells a story. Is the photo original? New and different? Did the photo make you smile?
25	Artistic Merit	Does the impact of the picture benefit from the lighting? Camera angle? Shadows? Focus? Did you think, "oh that's cool?" Etc.
20	Difficulty	Was this a once in a lifetime shot or could it be repeated without much effort? Did the photographer have to spend a lot of time to make it happen?
10	Composition	Is there a clear center of interest? Is there a sense of overall organization? Is the frame filled? Is the background non-distracting? Are elements included that do not contribute to the subject of the image?
10	Quality	Is the picture well focused? Is the lighting correct? Not too dark or too light? Is the picture clear and crisp?
15	Regional Relevance	Does the photo have a tie to the Upper French River? (for example, a pizza box on a table ...no, a pizza box being handed out of a boat ...yes) Does the picture promote or positively reflect on the UFR region? In other words, could you use it in a brochure?

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MUNICIPAL LIAISON & SECURITY

Sam Goodwin

Be Aware Be Prepared

WHEN IT COMES TO COTTAGE PRIORITIES, there really isn't anything more important than the health and safety of our families and guests. And the fact that UFRCA members are in a remote and hard-to-service area makes it even more critical that we are aware of the risks involved, the services that are available and their limitations, and the need to have plans in place in the event that something goes very wrong.

Over the past few years, health and safety has been a particular priority for the UFRCA, including:

- The introduction of speed limit signs and greater public awareness for Canoe Pass.
- The creation of a limited emergency first response capacity at Sandy Haven, that continues to evolve on its own in the form of ongoing coordination and equipment sharing between Todd Thomas and various West Nipissing emergency services.
- New information bulletins and fact sheets for members on what to in an emergency situation.
- Offers of support and assistance to the volunteers at Riverview Marina.

This summer, a couple of incidents that could have had tragic consequences underscored the importance of supports like Riverview and Sandy Haven and also how essential it is to have cottage emergency plans in place.

One of these incidents involved a boat loaded with gear and people that capsized. The passengers were rescued but some of them needed urgent medical attention. Fortunately, there was a plan including a call to Valarie Viau at Riverview. That call resulted in an ambulance being dispatched (just the latest example of the exceptional contribution that Valarie and the Riverview staff make to the community). And other individuals on the scene had the wherewithal and transportation available to get the injured parties to Riverview in short order.

The other incident took place at night and demonstrated that even with well coordinated 911 services, things can go wrong. In this incident – a suspected heart attack – the air ambulance could not land at Target Island. EMS officials were also dispatched by boat but were unable to approach the dock because of the large number of rocks, made worse by low water conditions. Again, it was our volunteer first responders that made all the difference – Todd Thomas from Sandy Haven Camp attended the scene and was in ongoing communication with EMS. With Todd's training, EMS officials were comfortable with him transporting the

individual into his boat, ferrying that person out to meet the EMS officials on the water, and then doing a boat-to-boat transfer.

Fortunately, both incidents ended positively for the individuals involved. But they remind us of the limitations and risks we accept to be on the Upper French River where EMS services, even under the best of conditions, may be an hour or more away. They are striking examples of our fundamental reliance on volunteers, friends, and neighbours. And above all, they hammer home the importance of safety awareness and preparedness, and having a plan ready to go if and when the unexpected happens.



John Fry with 35 lb musky off Keystone
early September 2016

ENVIRONMENT **Liz Gribbon**

Meet Liz Gribbon

I AM APPRECIATIVE OF THE OPPORTUNITY to serve the UFRCA as the Environment Representative. I grew up in North Bay and we spent lots of time on Trout Lake, later buying a cottage on Lake Kipawa. Our best family memories were made by the water. I grew up knowing I wanted a similar lifestyle and was lucky my husband felt the same way. We have owned cottages since 1995 on Lake Vernon, Lake Nipissing and the French River. Our neighbours, Mike and Karen (Rooney) Montcalm informed us when our cottage was for sale, and within a week we had struck a deal with Dick Peoples of Elliott Island. I am a Special Education teacher, and my husband is a principal so our family is lucky to live at our cottage all summer. We've made some wonderful friends on the French River and our two daughters have had employment at Dokis Marina and Sandy Haven. We value all the cottage has to offer and I am interested in preserving the environment. I hope to serve you well.

Walleye Population Declines

RECENTLY IN THE NEWS: LAKE Nipissing's walleye population in decline¹:

- 19th straight year Lake Nipissing has been studied by MNR for Walleye population

- Few lakes as well researched
- Gill nets set out in Callander Bay and the French River to determine the health of the population of walleye, northern pike and yellow perch
- Data collected helps Ministry determine things like catch limits
- Trying to keep younger fish in the lake so they can spawn
- There are younger fish in the lake but the population is in serious decline

Links, Tips and Thanks



Holly Waters takes a water sample

THANK YOU TO THOSE UFRCA members who participated in the water collection survey at Nipissing University with Dr. April James. Thanks to Holly Waters for distributing the extra collection bottles at the UFRCA AGM.

There are some interesting things to read in the latest FOCA "Elert" for October 2016: [linked here](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Dianne Saxe, for a webinar on October 27, 2016 for high



Commissioner Dianne Saxe

lights of her first Environmental Protection Report, "Small Steps Forward." The report assesses government action on several issues that are of interest to FOCA members, including biodiversity threats and forest fire management. Register for the webinar by clicking here. For more about biodiversity, see the recent State of Ontario's Biodiversity Report.

Handy Links for Closing

If you haven't already closed up your cottage for the season, below are several links with checklists and ideas. These are worth keeping for next year! From Cottage Tips: [linked](#)
From FOCA: [linked](#)
From Muskoka Region: [linked](#)

1. Source CTVNorthernNews

French River Park

DURING THE SUMMER, we learned that the Park had exhausted the campsite signage that the UFRCA and Friends of the French had provided previously. These signs encourage campers to pack out their garbage, and they also advertise the presence of the UFRCA. Those who attended the AGM will recall a hastily added item to the 2016-17 budget for an expenditure of \$400 to print more signs. This was done in August and the signs were delivered. My personal suspicion is that occasionally these signs "walk away" as souvenirs. If you are at a campsite and notice the sign is not present, let us know.

ANOTHER ISSUE we are keeping an eye on is the presence of large sailing vessels, houseboats, or large cabin cruisers that moor overnight at or near Park campsites. The Park informs us that there is no clear policy. Generally, if any group occupies a campsite overnight, the group must have an overnight permit for every person in the group. If a boat is moored at the site, but the site itself is not occupied (people are sleeping and eating on board), then the boat must have at least one permit. Where things get complicated is when a large boat moors overnight "near" a campsite, and in so doing discourages a group travelling by canoe or kayak from stopping there due to the presence of others too close. Also, what should be the policy for large vessels that moor overnight anywhere in the Park regardless of their proximity to other Park campsites and cottages? These have been longstanding issues and we will continue to dialogue with the Park. Contact me directly if you have any concerns related to Park issues, or if you want to adopt a campsite.

Dave Minden



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EMERGENCY AND IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police - West Nipissing 705-753-1234
 O.P.P. 1-888-310-1122 O.P.P. from cell phone * 677
 Fire - West Nipissing 705-753-1170 Fire - Monetteville 705-898-3399
 Poison Information Centre 1-800-268-9017 MNR 705-475-5550
 North Bay Regional Hospital 705-474-8600
 West Nipissing General Hospital 705-753-3110
 North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority 705-474-5420
 West Nipissing Councilor – Guy Fortier 705-594-2301 (Lavigne)
 French River Park 705-857-3228 (Alban)

FIRE PUMPS MAY BE AVAILABLE AT:**MAIN PUMPS**

Riverview Dokis N 46.137638 W -80.017568 705-763-2127
Sandy Haven N 46.234012 W -79.883354 705-763-2146

Casablanca Lodge Sand Bay N 46.144027 W -79.986608 705-763-2160
 Robbie Jenkins, 9 Chaudiere N 46.15288 W -80.01751 705-763-2605
 Anita & Justin Madden, 9 Chaudiere WB9-177 N 46.15404 W -80.02728 705-763-2051
 Arthur Miller WB52-1 N 46.163933 W -79.97970 705-763-2213
 Elizabeth & Henry Maguire, 93 N 46.171800 W -79.935622 705-763-2604
 John & Gail McFadgen, 10 N 46.173869 W -79.915064 705-763-2020
 Timothy Murdoch, 92 WB92-1 N 46.174722 W -79.95000 705-763-2604
 Bill & Mary Murdoch, 92 WB92-1 N 46.174722 W -79.95000 705-763-2265
 Robert & Carolyn Allison, 110 WB110-1 N 46.18000 W -79.925278 705-763-2136
 Lynne Carleton, 155 WB155 N 46.194147 W -79.874172 727-596-3734
 Wendy Kennedy-Sadler, 148 Cleland WB 148-100 N 46.205077 W -79.863820 705-763-2097
 Walter & Gail Harley, 143 Elliot WB143-1 N 46.875417 W -79.875417 705-763-2221
 Martin Scrocchi, 166 N 46.209056 W -79.868417 705-763-2033

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Your Cottage Location: _____

Your Cottage address: _____

Your Cottage Coordinates (GPS) Express as decimal degrees e.g. N 79.123456° W -46.123456°

Latitude: North _____ degrees

West _____ degrees

IN AN EMERGENCY Call 911 North side (Bertram Township) Land-line phones are linked to EMS and your blue cottage sign. South side (Patterson and Hardy Twps.) Land-line phones are not linked to EMS. *Know your cottage coordinates.* Cell phone 911 calls go to North Bay. *Know your cottage coordinates/location.* After calling 911: First aid kit, basket stretcher, AED (Defibrillator) are at: Sandy Haven Camp (Todd Thomas) 705-763-2146

Where in the world?



“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

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