



Christmas Greetings to all of our Sturgeon Point Friends,

We are living up in Winter Wonderland this year, lots of snow, very white and a little ice shining on the trees. It is very different from last year at this time.

Your Sturgeon Point Board of Directors is busy at work. As you have all seen, the park is this year's main focus. I would like to explain what has taken place since our last newsletter.

We have formed 2 committees to help in this process. Greg Taylor, a SPA Board member, who lives next to the Park, heads the first one. Greg is a parent of 2 young children. In addition, his wife Debra is also on the committee. Other members are Jalyn (Kennedy) Anderson, Lisa (Steward) Vehrs and Simon Aspinwall. These are all parents of young children and people who spend a lot of time in varying playgrounds. The second committee is the fundraising committee headed by Bob Barrett and consists of Tom Anders, Ken Nyhuus, Maureen McKeller, and myself.

The first committee organized, sent out and analyzed the survey that you all received. The information gathered was terrific and is helping in all of the planning that is going on now. The park has been carefully checked out. There will be some trees that need to be removed, but the philosophy is that only trees that are too close to the playground structures or those that are diseased or with dangerous limbs will be removed. We are looking at this as a chance to carefully manage the trees so that the remaining trees will have the proper space and light to grow. The fundraising committee is doing all of the necessary planning for the campaign now and will be sending out information in January. We have put an application into the City of Kawartha Lakes for a playground funding program that they have and we are also looking for other corporate or special funds.

I would like to take this chance to talk about something that is frequently heard, which is "what does SPA do for me". As we were reviewing what has been done since SPA was incorporated in 2000, it was apparent that a lot has been done. Our mission statement is that SPA was to maintain and protect the Village as it was. We inherited lands that were put in trust by the last council, which included the park, the public beach, the Government Dock and the leaf dump. These are all properties that your fees are used to maintain. With the help of many volunteers, SPA provides the flowers and shrubs that beautify the public spaces. SPA provided the upgrade to Rain Shelter of the Government

Dock that has resulted in the Heritage Designation. The playground, the raft and slide at the Beach and the garbage in these locations are all looked after by SPA. We also fund the annual running and swimming races and our various social events, such as our Canada Day Welcome and our Street Dances that give us all a chance to get together to visit with old friends and meet new members of the Sturgeon Point community. We belong to FOCA (Federation of Cottages Association) so that we are informed of programs and other issues that we need to be involved in and through them, we also provide liability insurance to the Board of Directors. These are all costs.

Back in 2000, we set the membership fee at \$25.00 per person so that it was affordable to all cottages and their adult children. Back then, we also managed everything by volunteers because we had no money. Over the first few years, we accumulated what we are now using as our base for the playground reconstruction. However, today we are operating with budget that is barely covered by our fees for the following reasons: we have had to hire Jeff Boksman to maintain the public spaces as it became too much for volunteers to do. We have had to buy liability insurance; we have expenses for newsletters and other communication issues etc. We have managed our expenses carefully and have not raised our fees. But at the same time, our expectation that all adult members of the cottage family would join in order to keep Sturgeon Point as that very special place has not happened. We have many families where only one member of the household belongs, yet children and adults are still at the park, or the running races or the street dance.

I hope that I have answered, “What does SPA do for me and my family”. I will be reiterating this review when memberships are renewed in the spring, but this year we really need your support.

We have a new website format that James Wisener has set up and that should be easier for us all to use. Chris Appleton is now our representative to FOCA and has attended their annual meeting and we will be getting feedback on that at our December 29th Board Meeting. Jill Hunt, Tom Anders and myself have put together a budget, which will be approved, at our Board meeting. As I have said, we are very tight for funds. We are in communication with our councilor, Pete Cziraky and have had him here to see the state of our roads. We are hoping to get some needed attention to the many critical areas.

We are hoping that many of you will be up during the coming holidays. If there are issues that you would like to address, or communications that you would like to make, please let me know through the SPA communication website, or by calling me at 705-887-1989.

All the best of the season,

Lynne Manning
President
Sturgeon Point Association