



Hello and Happy 2021 from the SLWA Communications Committee!

Member Engagement



Two ZOOM SLWA membership meetings and three meetings of the Board of Directors have contributed to a positive kick-off for the new year.

SLWA Board of Directors and Committees continue to be enthusiastically engaged on our behalf.

SLWA Communications

Newsletter

Welcome to our first quarterly Newsletter for 2021.

Contributions such as a new newsletter name, photos or content suggestions are most welcome! Please email:
slwa.communications@gmail.com

SLWA Website

Watch for upcoming updates at starlakewoods.com. **If you have any suggestions of what you'd like to see on our website, let us know at:**
slwa.communications@gmail.com

Yearbook

The SLWA Board of Directors and the Communications Committee are working on the first annual SLWA yearbook to:

- share Star Lake Woods Association history, culture, news, etc., and
- contribute to future winter road funding through the sale of advertising space.

We encourage Association members to consider:

- **submitting photos, cottage recipes, articles and/or content suggestions; and**
- **contacting any businesses that would be interested in purchasing advertising space in the Yearbook.**

For more detail such as format, pricing etc., please contact:

starlakecottagers@gmail.com

Our Special Environment

- **Winter night sky** is spectacular, as are sunrises and sunsets.
- **Lake is frozen** – some ice fishing, cross country skiing, skating, snowmobiling.
- **Fluffy snowfalls** – moose, wolf, deer, rabbit, squirrel, wild turkey tracks abound.
- **Birds chirping** – blue jays, rose and white breasted nuthatches, black cap and Carolina chickadees, mourning doves, downy and hairy woodpeckers, evening grosbeaks, yellow finch and cardinal heard but not seen!
- **February 2, 2021 was [World Wetlands Day](#)** – wetlands store and clean water, feed us e.g. wild rice, provide nature a home, contribute to the economy and regulate climate.



Hairy Woodpecker Photo: Karen Gillies



Turkey Photo: Debbie Coulombe



Animal tracks in the snow photo: Sara Slater

Safety First

Lake Ice Safety:

Conditions can be deceptive and variable

(adapted from news.ontario.ca)

- Ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness across most lakes and rivers, and can be particularly evident at the start of the winter season when near-shore ice is often much thicker and safer than ice further out. Check thickness regularly with a spud bar or auger as you move further out on the ice.
- Not all ice is created equal. Ice that has formed over flowing water, springs, pressure cracks, old ice holes or around the mouths of rivers and streams can be weaker than surrounding ice.
- Clear blue ice is the strongest. White or opaque ice is much weaker.
- Ice that has a honeycombed look, common during thaws or in the spring, should be avoided altogether.
- Travelling on frozen lakes or rivers with snowmobiles or vehicles can be particularly dangerous and added precautions must be taken.



Clearing a Rink, Photo: Brian Spiteri

Before venturing out:

- If going ice fishing, check conditions with local ice hut operators.
- Let others know where you're planning to go and when you plan to return.
- Warm clothing and appropriate equipment are critical to safety and comfort.
- Anglers are encouraged to wear a Canadian Standards Association-approved floater suit and carry a set of ice picks.



Venturing out on the ice, Photo: Sara Slater

HIGH SNOW SAFETY

Due to the high amount of snow that has fallen in the past few weeks:

- If you usually get your roof shovelled, it is probably time to do it.
- Cottage owners who have a low slung chain at the entrance of their driveway are now buried under snow and may pose a risk to snowmobilers and liability for the property owners.



Wood Shed Snow Photo: Anne Bergen



Shovelling The Roof: Courtesy: Bothwell Cottage

Roads, Roads, Roads

Roads have been icy – Mr. Jacklin is carefully scheduling plowing to minimize ice issues and keep our road system clear and safe.

Special thanks to all members who provided seasonal and very festive signage along Star Lake Woods Road. Now we know how far it is to the North Pole!



Snow Plow Photo: Brian Spiteri



Winter Signs Photo: Ann Masson



Plowing The Roads Photo: Alain Masson



Clearing The Roads Again! Photo: Debbie Coulombe

Seguin News

[Humphrey Library Service](#) is fantastic for online orders and pick-up. As well, they have free wi-fi if you park outside the building.

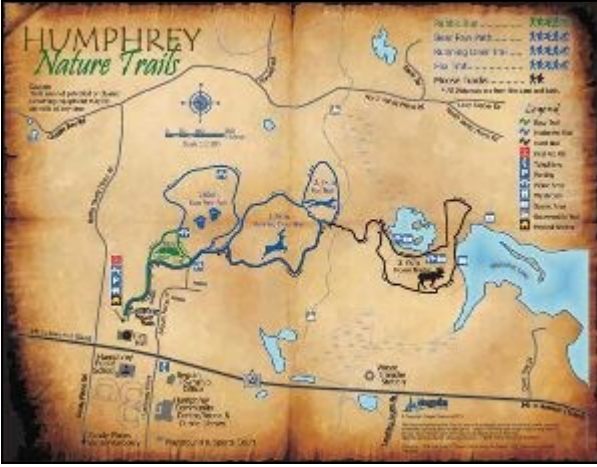


Photo courtesy of sequin.ca. Click image for printable map.

COVID UPDATE

- No Star Lake issues this winter – permanent residents and a few cottagers have been staying at home, respectfully distancing on friendship walks and sharing goodies from time to time!
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit is currently in the grey zone - Lockdown.
- Cautious optimism for upcoming months.



Hockey Foes But Good Cottage Neighbours **Safely** Lending a Helping Hand!

Photos from our Members



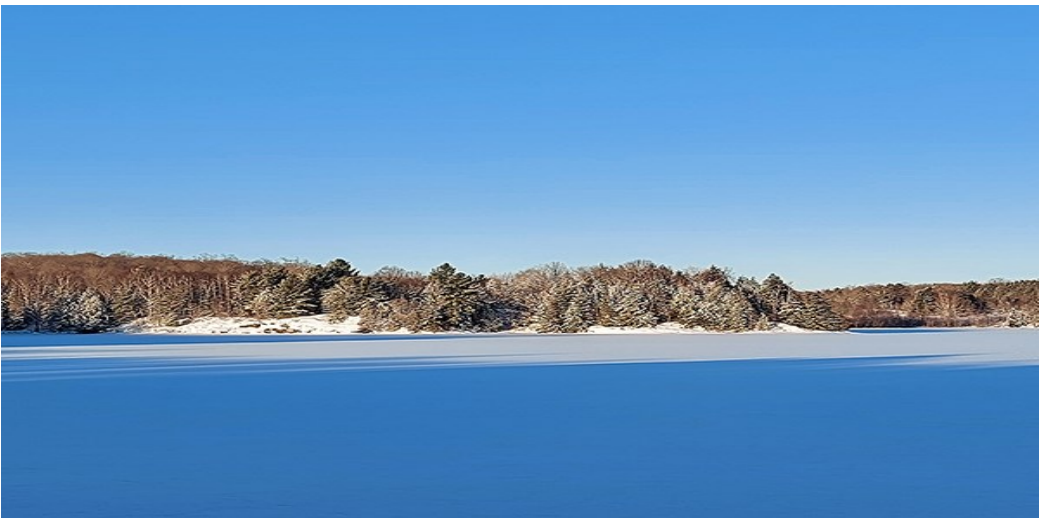
Family Photo in the Mirror: Brian Spiteri



Sun through the trees, Photo: Debbie Coulombe



Snow Canoe, Photo: Ann Masson



Winter on Star Lake Photo: Brian Spiteri



Snow, Snow, Snow! Photo: Debbie Coulombe



Chief Snowshoeing, Photo: Julie Beattie



Mailboxes shoveled out, Photo: Dawn Sendzik



Sunrise over the Frozen Lake Photo: Ann Masson

Our Board & Committees

Board of Directors

President – Rick Coulombe

VP Star Lake Woods/Hilltop – Bernie Cissek

VP Morningside – Brian Gee

Director of Roads (SLW/HT) – Martin Bliss

Director of Roads (MS) – Bill Bergen

Director of Environment – vacant

Treasurer /Secretary– Elles DeWolf

Member at Large – Ray Armstrong

Committees

See SLWA website for [Committee Membership](#)

The following is a list of our standing committees:

- Road Committee Star Lake Woods/Hilltop
- Road Committee Star Lake Woods/Morningside
- Winter Road Committee
- Recreation and Welcome Committee
- Environment And Safety Committee
- Communications Committee
- Nominating Committee



Full Moon In the Star Lake Night Sky

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