

SPARROW LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer 2017



President – Sara Clipsham – 705-689-6180 – saraclipsham@gmail.com
Please see our website sparrowlake.ca for a complete list of executive and contacts.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



Hello to Everyone,

What a glorious fall we are having at this point. We're hoping that this nice weather will have everyone out and about and planning to come to our **Annual Fall Meeting, September 30th at 6:30.** We will be sitting down to potluck dinner at the Severn Bridge Community Hall, 1035 Southwood Road. (Hall opens at 6 PM, sit down at 6:30.) We missed some of you at the spring meeting and hope that we will have a full house on the 30th. Following dinner, George Page is going to share with us his wealth of knowledge on the fauna and flora of Sparrow Lake and the Lower Severn. As many of you know, his photographs are beautiful, and he will give us an account of how our plant environment has changed over the years.

Our summer outing was a great success with a visit to Kilworthy Park, Sparrow Lake Community Church, and Silver Pines, once known as Franklin House. We owe much thanks and gratitude to Marlyn McDonald and her family and friends, who prepared the church for our visit and who continue to maintain and care for the building and property. Thanks also go to Silver Pines, who served us tea and treats after our church visit.

Hope to see you all on September 30. Please bring a friend or neighbour who would like a good meal with friends and an interesting look at the plants and trees of our area over the decades.

Sara Clipsham



Sparrow Lake Community Church



In 1886, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church was built on land donated by Duncan McDonald, Lot 25 Concession 8, Morrison Township, about half a mile from Sparrow Lake, with a driving shed for the horses at the rear of the lot. There was not a regular minister in those early days. Sometimes a circuit rider would take the weekly service, or a minister would come from Gravenhurst. Eventually, the congregation became part of the Severn Bridge Pastoral Charge, and later became known as Heritage United Church, Sparrow Lake. Many early settlers in this area were German, and Lutheran services were held in German with an interpreter on hand for the English settlers. Otto Jarrick was the first organist, and when a new organ was purchased in later years, he received the old one as a gift. Robert McMaster and Annie Boyd were the first couple married in the church in 1905. Membership climbed from 20 in 1910 to 120 in 1913, while Mr. Reddon was the minister.

A Ladies' Aid was active as early as 1913. The ladies worked on improvements for the building, such as lining the church with plaster and putting in the hardwood floor, and held church suppers that were vital to the social life of the community. A Sunday School room was added on to the rear of the building in 1923, and the church chairs were moved to the back after pews were purchased for the main sanctuary. A Sunday-School Treasurer's book from 1913-1968 records receipts from picnics, concerts,

donations, as well as special and regular offerings. Disbursements at the time show great social concern. In 1914-1918, Sunday-School money was donated toward Belgium Relief, Soldiers' testaments, and the children of France. From 1918-1922, money was donated to American Relief and Chinese Famine Relief. An annual Sunday School picnic in May was a fun-filled highlight of the year, held at the picnic grounds near present-day Delmonte, with home-made ice cream and lemonade, and home-built "chariot" races with horses.

After weekly services at the Sparrow Lake Community Church were discontinued in the twenty-first century, title to the land reverted to the McDonald family, who continue to maintain the property in the hope that the local community will use this historic building for meetings or social events.

Notes from Annual Summer Outing

The annual SLHS Summer Outing on August 20, 2017 was a visit to the village of Kilworthy in southern Muskoka. A local group met at Kilworthy Park where Betty Chish-Graham gave a short presentation on the origin and continued maintenance of the park.



Sparrow Lake Historical Society Membership Renewal & Application Form

Please note: The year that your membership subscription is paid up to is shown on the envelope in bold letters next to your name.

**For those email recipients who are not sure of the year please contact Karen McKenzie.
kswood@sympatico.ca**

Name -----

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Will you receive your newsletter via email? **YES** **NO**

Single \$15.00 ----- **Family \$25.00** ----- **New** ----- **Renewal** -----

Also note that now there is a ten-year membership available for \$200.00 for a family or \$125.00 for a single membership.

Ten Year Single ----- **Family**-----

Please make cheque payable to – **Sparrow Lake Historical Society** – and mail to Treasurer -
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