



Upper  
***French River***  
Cottagers Association

June 2017 Newsletter

## UFRCA June 2017 Newsletter

### Presidents Report Dave Minden

## Hello! UFRCA Members



It's been a very soggy spring in the French River and Lake Nipissing area. As you probably know, water levels are high but have been held below flood level. If you're on the water at this time of year, keep alert for hazards like rocks that are normally quite visible but may be submerged, and floating debris. Some cottagers with lower docks have placed water-filled barrels on the dock to hold the planking down, and the ones I saw per-

have been very cooperative the past couple of years in limiting the number of boats arriving at the Solid Comfort dock. Keep on boat pooling and making arrangements to get ferried to the meeting.

I would like to thank the current Board of Directors for their work and efforts over the past season. Sam, Peter, Holly, Liz and Liz, Jeff, and rookie Kathy have all been pitching in with many positive results. Additionally, thanks to Wendy Kennedy Sadler who, while not on the Board, has moved the first responders' map closer to completion.

We have been operating with eight Board members this past season, and our By-laws call for nine, so one vacancy continues. In addition, two Board members are stepping down. Liz Gallagher will be leaving the Board

mittee includes Dave Minden ([minden.dave-andjane@gmail.com](mailto:minden.dave-andjane@gmail.com) 705-495-9908) and John McFadgen ([musky444@gmail.com](mailto:musky444@gmail.com) 1-705-763-2020 or 1-905-634-2020).

Over the last few months, there has been an adjustment of committee responsibilities as I have handed off a few of these to others. In addition to financial responsibilities, Peter Rooney has taken over the Park and MNR Liaison role. A ``Membership Team`` consisting of Peter, Liz Gibbon, and Kathy LaBranche are handling the membership responsibilities during this present membership renewal period. And recently, we created a new committee called Publicity and Promotions, chaired by Kathy LaBranche. You will be noticing the results of those changes.

I wish you all a wonderful summer season

sonally on May 16 seemed to be working, although it was strange to see blue barrels seemingly floating on the water with no dock visible!

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday August 6 at Solid Comfort. We will try to limit the business end of the meeting to allow a longer social time - and that means more time to enjoy the treats prepared by the Solid Comfort chef. UFRCA members

and her post as Newsletter chair, and I will be stepping down as well. All the other Board members are remaining so there are a total of three openings on the Board, and we hope to fill these at the AGM. Thus, nominations are now open.

If you wish to nominate another UFRCA member, or volunteer yourself, please contact any Board member or a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Com-

(when it gets here), and I hope to see you either at the AGM or cruising on the river. It's been a blast! It's been fun! And it's been a pleasure working with past and present Board members, and the entire membership, to further the aims and goals of the association.

**Dave**

## Burning Brush Rules



**Sam Goodwin**  
Secretary  
Vice President  
Municipal Liaison  
and Security

We get a few calls each year from members asking about open brush burning – for example, limbs or trees that have come down in a storm or been removed for safety reasons. The following information is from West Nipissing Fire Service and applies within the boundaries of Municipality of West Nipissing.

- \* Burning brush in the open at any time of year requires a Burn Permit from West Nipissing Fire Service (contact 705-753-1171 for information about obtaining a permit).
- \* No burning of any kind – even with a permit – is allowed during a fire ban.
- \* Permits are \$10 and the duration of a permit can be several weeks if that is what is required.
- \* Obtaining a permit gives the Fire Service notice that open burning is occurring and helps to avoid false alarms. While permitted open burning is taking place, the Fire Service will not dispatch a unit to that address because someone saw smoke. They will only respond if the permit holder calls.

\* There are limits on open burning that make it very difficult to get a permit in cottage situations on the Upper French River – at least 50 feet from combustible materials, and 300 feet from buildings.

\* In these cottage situations, the preferred alternative is to burn materials in a bottom ventilated steel drum with a spark screen – feeding the material in to fit with the capacity of the drum. No permit is required for this type of burning.

\* It is very important to burn only dry materials to minimize the amount of smoke. Damp materials increase the amount of smoke and also the likelihood that a neighbour or passer-by might call 9-1-1.

\* Whenever you are an open burn permit holder and are ready to begin burning, you are required to call West Nipissing Fire Services, who will ask for the permit number and will let them know if conditions are appropriate.

\* Don't burn on very windy days but also don't burn when there is rain, fog or some other weather condition that prevents the smoke from being readily dispersed.

\* To avoid complaints, let your neighbours know you are burning.

\* You must have on hand the means to extinguish the fire (at least three pails of water, a charged garden hose, a shovel).

For more information, contact the West Nipissing Fire Service at 705-753-1171.



### 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

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



YOUR HOMETOWN BROKERS FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS

# *Memories of the old Chief*



Following WWII, Ontario's Near North became a popular travel destination, so in 1946 the Northern Ontario Boat Lines company was established and launched the cruise ship "Chief Commanda". The boat was named in memory of Chief Raymond Commanda who drowned on the French River two years prior. This 200 passenger double decked, steel boat was prefabricated in Trenton Ontario and shipped in pieces by rail to Callander Bay, where it was assembled, launched and put into service touring the reaches of Lake Nipissing.

The "Chief" as it was affectionately known, berthed at the North Bay city dock where she took aboard tourists from May to September everyday but Tuesday, from 10 am to 5 pm, on a 90 mile round trip cruises across the lake, down the Upper French River as far as the Dokis Village. There were also two very popular "moonlight" cruises, Tuesday and Friday evenings, leaving at 7:30 and crossing the lake to Keystone Lodge, and returning by 11:00. Young people especially enjoyed the live band on the upper deck. Many times I was asked to go on a date there and I would reply "If you don't mind if I work in the commissary for an hour or so – you could be my guest".

Some of the original crew included: Captain Bill Rowe, Engineer George Jenkins, Purser Lawrence Dokis and we three gals, Chris Wilcox, Marie Rivet and myself, Louise Fry (Crowe) who ran the restaurant. We made and served sandwiches, coffee and tea and the local North Bay Beaties' Bakery supplied

by Louise (Crowe) Fry Island 150

fresh pastries including the very popular lemon meringue pie. I was never sure who made the pickled eggs which sat in a large jar on the counter – a crew favorite. Not only did we feed pas-



sengers and crew who seemed to eat all day, but many of the cottagers took advantage of our menu at stops along the way including, Keystone Lodge, Solid Comfort, Lunge Lodge, Chaudiere Lodge, Casa Blanca and the Dokis Village.

The "Chief" was a life line and a welcome visitor to the seasonal inhabitants of the river, as we delivered not only paying guests but freight as well. "Chief's in" noted by a loud blast from her horn at Keystone, was an especially popular meeting place for

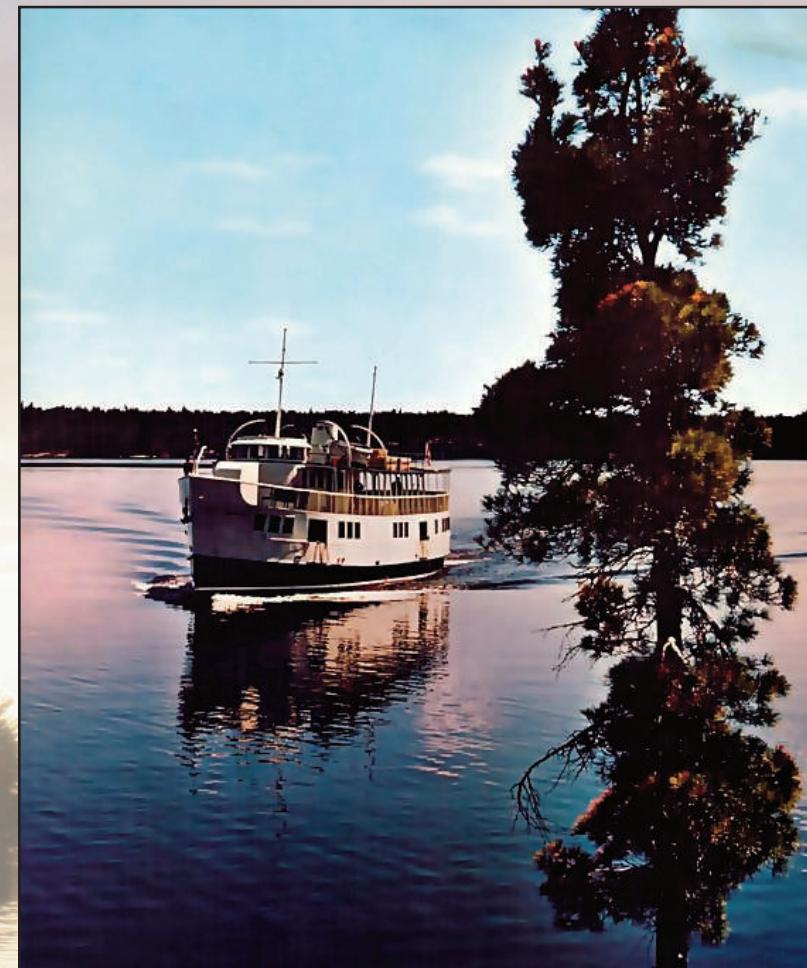
young and old. Dozens of boats, nose to dock, unloaded cottagers to pick up their grocery orders, mail, newspapers, and ice cream! It also provided an opportunity to exchange gossip, plan activities, find out where the fish were biting and where the best blueberries were ripe for picking.

I worked the first two summers the Chief ran and especially loved it when the lake got rough. We would have to close the restaurant because the dishes were flying off the shelves. On one memorable occasion we delivered a baby grand piano to the Heinzmann cottage near Lunge Lodge - I could just imagine what wonderful parties they must have had. I also remember when the Chief docked at our cottage just behind Keystone. My father, Dr Loren Crowe brought the nuns and nursing staff from Saint Josephs Hospital to the cottage for the day. They were picked up on the Chief's

return trip from Dokis.

I remember another very foggy Sunday morning when Captain Rowe was continually sounding the fog horn to warn other vessels and listening for echo's off the rocks. Finally he shut down the engines and as the Chief drifted slowly to a stop, out of the fog just a few feet off the bow, loomed from the vertical cliffs at Campbell's Bay!

The Chief was decommissioned in 1974 and took up residence at the Dokis Village. Years later she was towed back to North Bay and now operates as a popular restaurant at the foot of the government dock, the same place where for 28 years she'd cast off her lines and made magic memories for thousands of lucky people.



## "Smooth Sailing"

Photo (Kodachrome):

William F.J. (Bill) Kennedy circ. June, 1969  
The Chief Commanda, captained by Lorne Rowe, on the  
first run of the season, landing at Keystone Lodge,  
homeward bound for North Bay. Taken during a field  
excursion by art students of Mr. Ernest Taylor, West Ferris  
Secondary School, North Bay, ON. Bill sold the publication  
rights to Ontario Northland for \$100, and they printed  
postcards, calendars, brochures and framed prints which  
were circulated worldwide.



**DOKIS LIAISON**  
*Holly Waters*

*Dokis First Nation*

# 17TH ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POW WOW

Traditional Pow Wow Grounds  
Old Graveyard Road  
**June 24 & 25, 2017**



*Honouring Our Past, Present & Future*

<b>Host Drum</b> Young Eagle	<b>Specials</b> Team Dance Potato Dance Noodin's Lil' Warriors
<b>Co-Host Drum</b> Boys From the Bay	
<b>Invited Drums</b> High Eagle & Moose Bay	

Photo Credit: Nathalie Restoule

<b>Master of Ceremonies</b> Kirby Mianskum	<b>Schedule</b> Sunrise Ceremony 5:30am	<b>Special Invited Guest</b>  MISS INDIAN WORLD Raven Swamp Kahnawake, Quebec
<b>Arena Director</b> Clifton Mianskum-Couchie	GRAND ENTRY Saturday 12:00pm & 7:00pm Sunday 12:00pm	
<b>Elder</b> Lorraine Liberty	Honorariums for registered dancers: Must be in Grand Entry!	
<b>Head Dancers</b> Tim Restoule Brittney Shki-Gizis Noodin Restoule-Pitura Alivia Restoule	Registered Drums with minimum 5 singers will receive an honorarium of \$400	

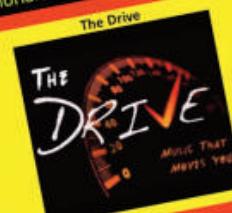
**DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT - No Pets!**  
Rough Camping Available - Please Camp in Designated Area!  
Dokis Cultural Committee will not be responsible for injuries, theft, damages,  
or any other liability associated with the pow wow.  
Authentic Native Craft Vendors only: \$100.00 weekend  
Food Vendors: \$200.00 for weekend (no electricity)  
For more information, please contact  
Paige Restoule, 705-494-0912 Gwen Dokis, 705-763-2112

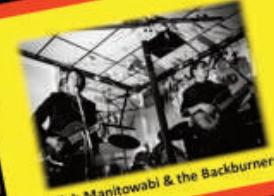
# DOKIS Summerfest

## July 21-22-23 2017

Softball - Music - Food - Children Activities

Robert Restoule Memorial Athletic Facility - 190 Subdivision Road, Dokis First Nation

The Drive  


Elijah Manitowabi & the Backburners  


**LIVE MUSIC ALL WEEKEND!**

Softball Tournament starts Friday night (3 Pitch)  
(Mixed 5 men, 5 women)  
\$350 per team Recreation Division  
\$400 per team Competitive Division  
**\$1000 cash prize for competitive division**

Horseshoe tournament- Begins Sunday at Noon  
Food provided Saturday by:  
Jamie Ellis "Traditional Nish Dish"  
Sunday by: Bear's Fish Fry

For more information please call (705) 763-2200  
or visit Dokis Summerfest Facebook page

Sponsored In Part by the Ontario Arts Council and Dokis First Nation  
No pets allowed inside the designated areas  
Partial proceeds to Dokis LNHL registration

ONTARIO 150 

ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO 



## DOKIS FIRST NATION UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dokis First Nation Museum

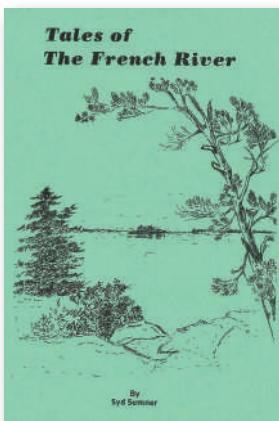
Location: 956 Main Street, 705-763-2252

Please check summer hours as they are not yet posted.

Entry fee is cash only. Adults age 19+ are \$5.00, Seniors and Teens (12-18 years) are \$4.00, and children under 12 are free. Be sure to visit the French River room.

## TALES OF THE FRENCH RIVER, stories and poetry by Sid Sumner

In honour of Canada 150, the UFRCA has chosen to share a collection of stories and poetry about life on the French River, written by former cottager Sid Sumner from his cottage in Satchel's Bay back in the 1930s.



The poetry and stories were originally written by hand and then later in 1935, transposed into a booklet. The stories entertained many in the family

and circle of friends of Syd Sumner.

In 1973, C. Carlton Hartley used the technology of the day and copied the collection of stories by typewriter and then reproduced them by photocopy machine into a 5 by 8 inch booklet. This booklet was

distributed to many French River families in order to keep these wonderful stories alive.

Fast forward to 2017, the booklet was scanned onto a computer and reformatted to fit on 8 1/2 by 11 inch standard paper. The font was increased to 12pt Calibri and stored in a printable PDF file which is posted ([here](#)) on the

UFRCA website, to be read, copied, printed and shared. We are attempting to preserve this collection of original stories and share them with all of the UFRCA families.

This book is presented in its original form with spelling mistakes, punctuation and grammatical errors. It is written in the language of the day, which

may seem offensive to some groups, but remains as a snapshot of that time. These are not the views of the UFRCA and we apologize to anyone who might be offended. Please enjoy these memories and entertaining episodes from a bygone era, set in the land that we cherish so much.

by Holly Waters

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2017!**

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## COMMUNICATIONS

**Dave Minden**

### Website Upgrade

This past spring, the web site was upgraded to a more recent version, and it has presented a few background administrative changes and new systems that needed to be mastered. Casual users will not see much change. If you use your personal profile page, there is a slightly different look, but the general processes are the same. On web site pages, when attachments are posted, the text is now underlined, indicating there is an active linkage.

### Contact Sheet

One page that has been recently updated is the Contacts and Directory page in the Members Menu section. The first item on this page is the "Printable Contact Sheet". It provides contact information for all Board members and a variety of emergency and other contacts. It is recommended that you print and post a

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Upper French River Cottagers Association. At the top, there's a banner image of a lake surrounded by trees. Below the banner, the text "Upper French River Cottagers Association" is displayed. To the left, there's a sidebar menu with sections like "Main", "About Us", "Photo Gallery", "Events", "Environment", "Water Quality", "Or The Water", "Security", "French River Parks", "Dakota First Nation", "Municipal Taxation", "FOCK and WRAFT", and "Links". The main content area features a "Welcome To The Website of the Upper French River Cottagers Association" message, a picture of a loon, and a "CURRENT NEWS" section with a single article titled "Positive for Fisheries Management" posted on May 25, 2017. On the right side, there are links for "Environment Canada Forecast - North Bay", "Weather Network Forecast - Dokis", "Intelligent Radar Map - U.S. & Canada Today, Tomorrow", and "Lake Nipissing Web Cam". A "Weather Report" box shows conditions for North Bay, ON, CA at 09:00 AM EDT, including a brief forecast for the next few days.

current copy at the cottage. Knowing your GPS coordinates will assist someone reaching you in an emergency. As cell phone reception improves and usage

tory. It includes the cottage phone number and e-mail address of all members who have given permission for their name to be listed here. [Find Contacts and Directory here.](#)

### Membership Renewal

On May 1, all members received the membership renewal information and we thank all who have renewed their membership to date. Membership information and forms for the 2017-18 season are on the web site. Those who enjoy fishing will note the recent postings on the web site Home page regarding the walleye fishery and the recently released study Achieving a Sustainable Lake Nipissing Walleye Fishery. See something of interest for the web site? Let us know.

spreads, remember that if you call 911 on your cell phone, those at the receiving end do not know your location. Only land-line phones in Bertram Township (West Nipissing Municipality) are linked to your cottage address number and GPS coordinates. Those on the river's south side must also know their GPS coordinates if calling 911 from a land-line phone. The second item lower down on the Contacts and Directory page is the Members Direc-



**ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE**  
*Liz Gribbon*

## Spring is Here!

I recently drove into Dokis Marina to drop my daughter and a friend off for summer employment at Chaudiere Lodge. Along the way, I pointed out fiddleheads as I saw them, which reminded me of [this recent Cottage Life](#) article on choosing which fiddleheads to pick and how to cook them. Delicious! Enjoy!

## Fisheries Updates

Lake Nipissing's walleye population is said to be increasing due to restocking efforts and changes by Chief McLeod to local fishing practices.

[Stocking](#) and [Gill netting](#) links

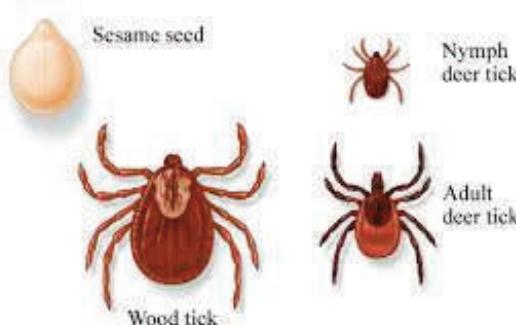
## Ticks – How to Prevent them, Remove them and Signs of Lyme Disease

Warmer climates are causing ticks to spread further north, causing an increase in Lyme Disease and the Powassan Virus. As always, know strategies to [prevent ticks](#) and be aware of [how to remove](#) them.

[Peppermint Oil](#) is said to effectively remove ticks!

## Lake Nipissing and French River Recorded Water Level Forecast

The following is the [water level forecast](#) for Lake Nipissing and the French River as of Monday May 15th, 2017, as provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada. The precipitation at the French River Dams station for the month of May is currently at 89% of the total monthly historical average.



relatively stable this week. Further change in the lake level is dependent on the amount of inflows and precipitation.

## French River CAUTION:

### HIGH RIVER LEVELS

At Dry Pine Bay, the river level on May 15th, 2017 was 182.38 metres, which corresponds to a flow of 425 cubic metres per second. The river flow is expected to remain stable this week. Further change in the river levels will be dependent on the amount of inflows and precipitation.

## Contribute to the scientific understanding of Canada's Environment

The Spring Peepers' night songs have been singing their spring

chorus. 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 people's observations by zooming in on your area of interest.



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.**

At the April 3, 2017 Board of Directors meeting, there was a small shifting of committee responsibilities and the creation of a new committee: Publicity and Promotions. The changes are reflected in the current listing.

**Dave Minden**  
President  
Communications

**Sam Goodwin**  
Secretary  
Vice President  
Municipal Liaison  
and Security

**Holly Waters**  
Dokis Liaison

**Kathy LaBranche**  
Publicity and Promotions  
Membership Team

**Jeff Hamilton**  
Social and Events

**Liz Gallagher**  
Newsletter

**Liz Gribbon**  
Environment  
Membership Team

**Peter Rooney**  
Treasurer  
Membership Team  
MNR and Park Liaison

# 2017 Fish Fry and Social



## Chaudière Lodge

**Sunday August 6th, 2017**

**4:30 - 7:30 pm**

**\$25/person**

**\$12.50 children 12 & under**

**Live Music Sponsored by UFRCA**

This event takes place on the same day  
as the UFRCA AGM



A public service  
announcement  
from West Nipissing  
Fire and Emergency  
Services

### Change those Smoke Alarm Batteries!

May is when most Ontarians open their cottages and other seasonal homes. The West Nipissing Fire & Emergency service is urging cottagers to add Fire Safety and Prevention to their plans.

Cottages and other seasonal homes are vulnerable to unsafe conditions that can arise over the winter such as smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that no longer work, and chimneys that have become blocked or combustible accumulated near the cottage. Supervise campfires at all times, be Fire Smart.

For more information please contact the West Nipissing Fire and Emergency Service. [www.wnfs.ca](http://www.wnfs.ca) (705) 753-1171



### Menu

Fish  
Baked beans  
French fries  
Pasta salad  
Potato salad  
Home made  
cookies

RSVP by July 28th  
to Chaudière Lodge 705 768 2220  
Cash, cheques and  
credit cards accepted  
Please bring a lawn chair or blanket  
for this festive outdoors event!

Liz Gallagher  
Newsletter



The picture last month was taken from the suspension bridge at the French River provincial Park Visitors Center. The persons to correctly guess this were Melinda Pierce, Dave Minden, Jeff Hamilton and Susie Ray.



Photo: Sarah Stredny

Where on the river is it?

## UFRCA Supports Emergency Services Preparedness at Riverview Marina

When you call for help, Riverview always responds. It's one of the many contributions that Valarie Viau and her team make to community life on the Upper French River. And it's part of what makes cottaging in our locale so unique – our reliance on volunteers and neighbours in time of need.

With that in mind, the UFRCA continues

to look for ways to strengthen the capacity of volunteers to respond and this year, we're donating \$800 to Riverview to provide for safety equipment upgrades and enhanced staff training. On behalf of UFRCA members, we wish to express our continuing gratitude to everyone at Riverview for all of their efforts on our behalf.

