



## SBARA steps up!

It's been a pretty special year for SBARA. We are delighted and honoured that our *Steps Up* program was recognized in the categories of Design, Community Building and Economic Development by the Rideau Corridor Recognition Awards Program.

*Steps Up* is a 'multi-faceted revitalization plan intended to help sustain and support local businesses, and to improve the overall quality of life for all area residents'. Since 2011, SBARA has focused on improving and developing community infrastructure and facilities and promoting the village and local businesses, as well as providing advocacy and support for local concerns - the village dock and park, the #KeepSweets campaign and more.

Moving into 2018, SBARA continues to advocate for investment in the local community, making recommendation to TLTI. Plans include repairs and improvements to the Vita Parcours fitness trail; ongoing partnerships with other village volunteer groups to support events and services; continued efforts to connect local businesses through [www.visitseeleysbay.ca](http://www.visitseeleysbay.ca) and liaison with tourism and economic development partners in the Rideau and 1000 Islands; fundraising for future goals and village enhancements; welcoming new residents; and engaging new volunteers and Board members.

The strategic plan for the next five years, including *Steps Up - Phase 3*, is 95% complete. However, to be complete, it needs your thoughts and ideas. If you have any suggestions as to community revitalization projects that SBARA might take on or concerns about local community conditions you would like to share, please do email us at: [sbara@seeleysbay.com](mailto:sbara@seeleysbay.com)

## le boat

### Who's on board?

You could feel the excitement radiating from Le Boat MD, Cheryl Brown, when she spoke at the Mayor's Breakfast.

She described the Rideau as 'the best of Europe's waterways in one destination', recalling so many 'pinch me moments', not to mention 'incredibly good looking lock-keepers'!

Le Boat opens up a massive international market, as well as telling Canadians about the Rideau's under sung delights. Even before the official

global launch of the Canadian program, 25% of 2018 capacity was already sold.

'The louder we shout, the more people are coming your way,' says Cheryl. 'We need to know EVERYTHING!'

She encouraged us to reach out to the local community to ask that you share any special places or activities that you know about that might be of interest to Le Boat's clients.

'Give our customers a reason to choose Seeley's Bay!' she said.

*Please send your ideas for Cheryl to [sbara@seeleysbay.com](mailto:sbara@seeleysbay.com) so that we can pass them on.*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### DECEMBER

Dec 1 Seeley's Bay Tree Lighting



Small Hall-idays Concert a *Very Celtic Christmas with Coig* | Seeley's Bay

Dec 3 Community Carol Singing | Lyndhurst

### FEBRUARY



Frost Fest | Seeley's Bay

Feb 11 A special Storyfest, with Dr. James Raffan | Seeley's Bay

### JUNE

Red Canoe Fest | Seeley's Bay

### JULY

July 1 Canada Day

See <http://visitseeleysbay.ca/events/>

## Commitment to food security

As R.O.L.L. Aid approaches its 20th anniversary in January, it continues to lead the way in supporting those in need in the Township.



Building on the emergency response to the 1998 Ice Storm, local resident and teacher Donna Robinson became the driving force behind the first rural foodbank in the area. There are now five, but it is still the only one that makes deliveries, “crucial to reaching people in the hinterland”, says Donna.

For Donna, Administrator until 2016 and Director until Spring 2017, her involvement has been “extremely rewarding”. But this is a good moment to step back (if not totally out of the picture), both for her own wellbeing and because she can see a healthy renewal of volunteers. For this year’s well-supported food drive, there were 75 or so canvassers, a mix of regulars and newbies. For the first time though, none had taken part every year.

Donna’s hope is that the organization will continue to branch out and be more than a foodbank - it currently administers a crisis intervention fund and links with other initiatives, including school cooking programs.

Donna also says that she’d “like folks to look for the need in the community and make contact with the R.O.L.L. Aid Centre if they become aware of food insecurity issues.”

*The R.O.L.L. Aid Centre is open on Tuesdays, 10 - 12, at the Seeley’s Bay Royal Canadian Legion Branch*

📞 613-344-0554

## Volunteering - community for the future

Early in October, local MP Gord Brown and MPP Steve Clarke awarded 152 Canada 150 medals to Leeds-Grenville volunteers and community builders who ‘take the extra step to ensure that the rest of us can live better lives’.

Volunteerism is a major thread in Canada’s cultural fabric, with 12.7 million volunteers contributing close to 2 billion hours annually. There is a shift, though, from more traditional volunteer activities to a variety of forms of social engagement.

Volunteering can be about helping to create community, about ‘paying it forward’, about making a difference. Not necessarily a major commitment, it can be as simple as a small act of kindness like shovelling a driveway or picking up groceries for a neighbour.

But what is it that motivates someone to volunteer?

Canada’s 150 for 150’s definition of volunteering states that ‘people who choose to spend their time with others as their focus do receive a return. These personal returns include enhanced compassion, sense of self, health, skills, experience, and impact to name a few’.

I asked some of our local award winners why they do what they do.

SBARA director and former chair Peggy Sweet McCumber noted that,

to some extent it came from her parents; because they contributed so does she. ‘But I also enjoy it,’ she said. ‘I enjoy meeting people through events and I love to organize’.



As well as meeting people, Danny Roantree enjoys ‘planning something, working hard - there’s such a feeling of achievement, which is good for self-esteem.’ Danny has an involvement spanning decades with local events like Frost Fest and Canada Day, when, like a Pied Piper, he leads the children’s parade.

For Karen Simpson, another event stalwart, it’s about her kids and grandkids. ‘I want to make this a good place for them to grow up, to make them want to stay’, she said.

*Find out about local volunteering opportunities by emailing SBARA or by talking to Karen Simpson at the Post Office.*

## SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL FROM SBARA!



As part of the Deck the Small Halls series of concerts, SBARA are excited to welcome Còig on December 1<sup>st</sup>, after the tree lighting, to celebrate A Very Celtic Christmas.

*‘With the fiery Celtic style as its musical core, Còig easily shifts between century old tunes of past generations to original and contemporary compositions, featuring the band’s range of over a dozen instruments (vocals, fiddles, piano, guitar, banjo, mandolin, viola, bouzouki, whistles, and more).’*

Book your tickets at <http://thefestivalofsmallhalls.com/>

## WANT TO KNOW MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in volunteering, have something to donate or would like more information about the Seeley’s Bay Area Residents’ Association, please contact [sbara@seeleysbay.com](mailto:sbara@seeleysbay.com).

This e-newsletter is currently sent to over 300 households every few months. To sign up, please email us at: [newsletter@seeleysbay.com](mailto:newsletter@seeleysbay.com).

Please print a copy of our newsletter and post a copy on your public bulletin board and/or share copies with neighbours.



You can also join nearly 1400 people and follow us on our Facebook page, [Support Seeley’s Bay Ontario](https://www.facebook.com/SupportSeeleysBayOntario) - ‘Like’ us to get the latest area news - and there are lots more photos of our community in our Albums!



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