

# The Glengarry News

## **Friends, Family and Neighbours Gather for a Potluck on the Wharf**

**July 17 2018 BY TARA MACDONALD News Staff**

Friends and neighbours gathered at the South Lancaster Wharf last Friday to celebrate the summer solstice (albeit a wee bit late) and enjoy a community potluck.

“It’s here to be used,” said South Lancaster resident and organizer Marianne Muller, “what’s better than this?”

Starting at 5 PM, there was a steady flow of people arriving by foot, car, truck, bicycle and even by kayak. The event continued until around 8:30 pm when party-goers packed-up and headed home for the night.

"It's definitely a success," said Ms. Muller with a smile. "People come down with food to share and their chairs. You get to chat with old friends and new, while enjoying the food and the view."

"We were out fishing this morning off the pier when my fiancé saw the signs," said South Lancaster Resident Ken Sauvé. "We caught some bass and some perch and decided to come down and enjoy the party."

"This is my first time here and I love it!", exclaimed Mr. Sauvé. "The food is awesome and so are the people. You come down here -- whether you're from the village or not -- and they make you feel welcome."

### **Spanish Shrimp Makes a Big Splash**

The most popular dish was the Spanish Shrimp, prepared fresh at the wharf by cottager Art Johnson.

"You just heat up some olive oil, add some chopped garlic, then throw in the shrimp," said Mr. Johnson. "When the shrimp are just about done, you add some sweet paprika and chilli flakes before you finish it off with some chopped fresh parsley. It takes about five minutes."

### **South Lancaster Wharf: The Gateway to Glengarry**

Oft referred to as the ‘Gateway to Glengarry’, the South Lancaster Wharf dates back to the late 1700s. “Boats were docking there long before the area the settlement,” said local historian David Anderson. “Over the years, the wharf evolved. With the age of steamboats in the 1820s, you had boats coming and going so they would have had a big wharf.”

According to Mr. Anderson, by 1851 there were as many as 17 shipwrights residing in South Lancaster who would have been working on the big steam boats that called-in to the wharf. “That tells you a lot about what it would have been like,” continued Mr. Anderson.

### **A Sailor's Delight**

In the early days, the wharf would have been used for moving commercial goods, cattle and passenger traffic. "It used to angle differently but it was the same location where the road runs in," said Mr. Anderson. "The structure of the old wharf was bigger and ran the other way. It was

for those big three steamboats that used to come in at that time from Montreal and heading up mostly to Prescott where the river boats met the lake boats."

"Back then," said Mr. Anderson, "You could have a drink, a meal or a dance. It was a sailor's delight."

Over the years, the wharf was lovingly maintained by the Friends of the South Lancaster Wharf. However, according to former presidents Glenn Patton and Shauna Rousseau, ownership and responsibility fell back to the Township of South Glengarry in early 2017 when the group dissolved over liability issues and the burden of fundraising to fulfil insurance requirements.

Today, the wharf remains a colourful gem nestled along the banks of the St. Lawrence river. Luring in locals and tourists alike, the wharf is a popular spot for swimming, fishing, kayaking, bird-watching or taking in the view of the nearby Glengarry Cairn.