



## CALABOGIE CLUB 55 PLUS

### 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented: January 2026**

Happy New Year to you all. While your executive is planning and looking forward to an eventful and fun year, it is time to look back at 2025. The interim reports were presented at the October meeting. Much of what you read in this report will be duplicative in that the Annual Report needs to reflect activities for the whole year. Changes to the Constitution now reflect our decision to have the fiscal year run January to December, although we will continue to hold elections for the upcoming year in October.

#### **Your Executive: 2025**

President: Susan Lomas  
Vice-President: Gale McRae  
Secretary: Marilynn Luce  
Treasurer: Doug Jordan  
Membership: Paola Ventresca  
Dining Committee: Jean Libbey  
Social Committee: Vacant

We welcomed three new members to the executive this year: Marilynn Luce; Doug Jordan and Paola Ventresca. We thank Denise Lavallee, Robert Lavallee, Lori Armour and Val Trotter for there years of service on this executive. Thanks to Jean Libbey for her support as past president and for accepting the role of Dining Coordinator. Val is staying on a Newsletter Coordinator.

Note that the Social Committee Coordinator position has been vacant for 16 months. Jean Libbey has picked up the bulk of this work but we cannot expect this to continue. If no one comes forward to help us with this role, we regret that the number of social activities will decrease.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge some special contributions. As you may remember, Denise and Jean worked with Renee Mask at the Township Office to apply for a grant for a Seniors Active Living Centre. We (the Township of Greater Madawaska) were successful in receiving a grant and now have a new part-time position in the Township Office, Caitlin Norton, who is responsible for the SALC activities. SALC programs target 55+ members of our community, many of whom are not Club 55+ members. Some are shut ins and have health issues. SALC funding can target these members as well as collaborating with us for other

activities. Caitlin planned two trips this year: one to the Tulip Festival and one to view the autumn leaves with lunch in Deep River. These outings included SALC members from Dacre and Griffin. We encourage all of our members to become SALC members. There is no cost. There has been some confusion as we are called Calabogie 55+ Club and SALC was registered as Greater Madawaska Club 55+. There are opportunities for our Club to receive funding for activities if we offer the activity across the Township. Something to consider for our hikes and road trips.

I also thank Dave Abraham for providing a new platform and features for our new website and thanks to Rick Brown for his ongoing support with our previously outdated, unsupported and unfriendly website. Rick will continue on as photographer and you will see many of his photos on our site.

The executive members from 2025 are all remaining for 2026 and I am grateful for the dedication and commitment these people display for your benefit.

## **Reports**

### **1.Treasurer's Report**

Separate Document

### **2. Secretary's Report**

Calabogie 55+ Club Executive committee meets monthly except in December and typically at the home of one of the executives. In 2025, the executive met ten (10) times between January through to the end of November. These meetings are usually held the week after our monthly dinner meetings to review the dinner meeting per se as well as to review any action items, discuss future dinner meetings and scheduled events, etc. Our last meeting in 2025 was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The current Executive will continue until the election of new officers at the October 2026 dinner meeting.

### **3. Membership Report**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026 January</b>
<b>Life Membership</b>	27	27
<b>Members</b>	178	173

In Memorium – Remembering Life time member Ronnie Brown who passed away in 2025.

14 did not renew in 2025

31 did not renew as 1/1/2026

4 confirmed not returning

Welcomed Back in 2025 – Gary & Veronika Evers, Nancy & Norm Turnau, Murray Fleming

Welcomed New in 2025 – Vern French, Peter & Elaine Russell, Brian & Patricia Hunt

Email Enquiries – 14 people

On January 2nd, 2026 Sent out an additional email Final Reminder Letter to Membership regarding Dues for 2026.

#### **4. Dining Committee Report**

This year we have held the monthly dinner meetings with the following caterers, Redneck, Brewery, Charbonneaus, Mackies, Renfrew Shawarma, Shanloon Chinese, Calabogie Pizzeria and we went to the Highlands Social House. All were well attended.

For some of these dinners appetizers and desserts were prepared/supplied by the Club. We also asked members to complete a Dining Survey which we will use for our 2026 planning.

As always as we go forward every effort will be made to make the cost of these meals as reasonable as possible.

#### **5. Social Committee Report**

After our Monthly Dinner Meeting the Social Committee organized Trivia (January), music by Peggy Williams (February), Game Night (March), Canadian Trivia (June), SALC Band (July), Lion's Bingo (August), Halloween party (October) and music by Kevin Lentz (November).

The following activities were also organized; visit to the Diefenbunker, Sens game, road trip to Rideau Ramble & Merrickville, a road Trip to Imonte which included visits to Equator Coffee, Hummingbird Chocolate, Vodka and lunch.

A Hike at the Racetrack lead by Rick Levitsky was enjoyed by all participants.

We have also worked with the Township on the obtaining the SALC grant which we anticipate will be ongoing. With the grant the Township was able to subsidize a trips to the Tulip Festival, tour to view the fall leaves, and a trip to the casino as well as activities throughout the Township.

Please consider joining SALC it is free and will help us arrange with the Township other activities and trips.

Thank you to all who have participated in these activities and who have helped with them.

#### **Sub Committees Reports**

##### **1) Bogie Lights – Jean Libbey**

Another successful Bogie Lights was held on Nov 14th. Thanks to all the Club members who helped install trees and lights, bake cookies and participate in many ways. There were

approximately 110 people in attendance. Singing was led by Peggy Williams and Alison Fay. The lights were turned off the second week of January

## **2) Christmas Float – Lorna Johnston**

The theme for this year's float is "A Lumberjack Christmas" The float decorations were built and painted during the summer and a costume meeting has been held to determine who will ride on the float and who will walk. Thanks to Lorna for organizing this group and especially to Dan Trotter for his amazing carpentry skills (and to Val for taking direction well.) The day of the parade was cold but we were dressed warmly. Our float placed second and was awarded \$150 prize.

## **3) Barnett Gardens**

This spring the work of revitalizing the garden continued with the planting of 96 native flowering plants. For a full list and photos of each of the 10 types of flowers, and before and after photos of the garden, please check out our club website. Once again, I would like to acknowledge Ontario Power Generation for the grant for both the hard and soft landscaping and to our club volunteers who helped plant and weed the garden. We are always looking for volunteers and will be gathering once more this year to do some garden maintenance. While some of the new plants did bloom this summer, next year promises to bring many more blooms, so be sure to check it out then.

## **4) Nine and Dine –**

On May 9 there were 38 golfers and 41 diners. In July we had 20 golfers; in August we had 12 golfers. And in September we had only two couples. Thanks to Doug Jordan who has agreed to organize this event next year. The dates for next year have been submitted to the golf course management team.

## **5) Bowling – Rick Copley**

### **55+ Club Bowling League for 2025**

The 2024/2025 bowling season officially ended on April 15, 2025. However, since the weather was cooperative (i.e. not too hot, or cold), many of our bowlers continued for an additional 2 weeks with Bingo Bowling – a fast-paced, think on your feet, game, that many love to play.

The current 2025/2026 bowling season started in mid-September.

We continue to gather on Tuesday mornings at the Opeongo Bowl Drome in Renfrew. Our purpose is to get together to have fun, socialize, meet new friends, and also (incidentally) to get a little exercise. We managed to get a couple of more bowlers signed up from the Calabogie 55+ Club – but would still love to see more of you (Remember this for next September!). 55+ Club members are given priority to be regulars on teams.

There was a good show of interest from both past bowlers, and newly interested bowlers – some of whom were new to bowling, and some who hadn't bowled in many (many, many) years. We

managed to almost fill 6 teams with regular bowlers; as well as enough spares to fill in for absentees when needed. (Due to various reasons, there always seems to be a few that can't make it on a particular date.)

After the Christmas break, we started back on January 6th. Regular bowling will continue for 2026 until April 14th. I'm sure that a couple of more weeks will follow with more Bingo Bowling games – many are really keen on these “competitions”, but all in the name of having fun.

If you want to join in the fun, let me know, or speak to Dan Ventreska. We could definitely use a couple of more regulars.

## **6) Website – Dave Abraham**

After a year online, the Club's new website has been well-received. Comments are positive, reflecting easy access to information, simple communication, organized signups, and meaningful content. The most viewed pages are the dining page, photos, activities and Val's news.

In addition to the website, a new email platform is now operational. The mail is web-based and designed to take members to the website where information is displayed.

Our communication/media focus is on content delivery. Member suggestions are welcome.

## **7) Ontario Senior Games Liaison – Denise Lavallee/Val Trotter**

The Ontario Senior Games held their annual summer games in and around Renfrew County in the months of May and June. We are in District 5 and our district extends from Arnprior to Deep River, Wilno/Barry's Bay, etc. These games are available for anyone who resides in Ontario and are over the age of 55. Several of our club members participated in two district games held in Calabogie, Renfrew and Eganville. Our first game was the prediction walk, both Nordic and regular prediction walks, both Nordic and simple walking where participants are not judged on the fastest time walked but on how well you predict the amount of time it will take you to walk either a 1.5 km or a 3 km walk. The route was established years ago in downtown Calabogie (Strachan, Larabie and Hutchinson). Ten people from district 5 came out on a wet and rainy May 23rd morning to walk, (actually run) in this activity. Several winners were from Calabogie Club 55+, namely Anne Hutchinson, Linda Cloutier, Jane Benoit, Donna Kearns and Val Trotter. Denise Lavallée was the OSGA convenor for this event.

Note: The Prediction Walking Games will be held again in Calabogie but will be later in May or early June 2026, in order to avoid the bugs.

Denise also convened the bowling games at Opeongo Bowldrome in Renfrew earlier in May. There were no participants from our Club at that event.

At the end of May, golf was once again a popular senior game that many from Calabogie participated in at Whitetail Golf Course. There were seventeen (17) club members who played in this golf game out of a total of 45 participants. Winners from Calabogie Club 55+ were Marjorie Watts, Vicky Chantler, Jane Benoit (75+); Sue Beaton, Susan Veale (65+); Alyson Gaffney (55+) with several other residents from Calabogie. These games use the callaway scoring system thus allowing a recreational golfer an opportunity to get a medal as a handicap is not needed. Val Trotter, assisted by Lori Armour were the OSGA convenors for this event.

Note: The Golf Senior Games in 2026 will again be held at Whitetail on Wednesday May 27th. Mark it on your calendar!!!

Other games took place in (Arnprior), Cobden, Chalk River, Deep River, and Pembroke. Pickleball, another popular sport, was moved to Deep River this past summer as the Nick Smith Arena in Arnprior was undergoing renovation. We are looking at bringing it back to Arnprior in 2026.

Now onto the winter games. These games are not as popular at the moment and is typically snow dependent and we are in need of convenors. Last year we brought back curling to the area/district after many years of it not happening. We are holding it again this year on Nov 1 at the Renfrew Curling Club and have a full house, i.e. 8 teams. Two of the teams are from our neighboring district 6 (Ottawa) as they do not have an active district, and as such they are able to join us for this year. We have over 16 people from the club 55 participating in this fun filled event. It is a mixed event, but as we are still trying to get participants and interest, we are being lenient and allowing for either a 3 ladies team with one man, or an all-women's team, competing for the coveted gold medal. Winners and I believe all participants will be eligible to go to the Provincial games in Huntsville in February 2026. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.

The next event will be in Calabogie at St. Andrews UC. It is mixed contract bridge. As of Wednesday, Oct. 29th, we have five tables already confirmed. You must sign up with a partner and play with said partner for the entire duration. This too, is a full house and is the first time district 5 (OSGA) is holding their winter contract bridge tournament/competition.

I, along with my side-kick, Lori Armour are convening the curling and Denise Lavallee is convening the bridge event on Tuesday, November 4th.

If you are an avid badminton enthusiast then you can also go to Petawawa on December 12 (Friday) to join this senior games event. It will be held at the Garrison Petawawa Badminton club for only \$3 participation fee.

## **8) Mixed Summer Bridge -Val Trotter**

Mixed Bridge was again held from May through September at Barnet Cottage. As in past years, we have an active group of card players within our Club. Our spring/summer bridge is held once a month on a Tuesday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Dates in 2025 were May 13th, June 10th, July 15th, August 12th and September 9th. We had anywhere from four tables to six tables at each afternoon game. Only two afternoons in June and July had unseasonably warm and humid temperatures but luckily we had portable fans to help cool us down as we tried to concentrate and persevere.

Winners were:

May (five tables) 1st place Marie Kennedy, 2nd place Jane Benoit, 3rd place Andrina Butler

June (four tables) 1st place Doug Jordan, 2nd place Marie Kennedy, 3rd place Joan Bedard

July (five tables) 1st place Val Trotter, 2nd place Ann Anderson, 3rd place Rick Holock with some others in the 3000's (note we had an individual from SALC who joined us)

August (five tables) 1st place Dona Lamoureux, 2nd place Bob Lomas, 3rd place Paul Lamoureux (and some really good scores in the 3000's as well, except me...I only had 820—wtf!!!)

September (six tables) 1st place Joan Newton, 2nd place Brenda Morrow and 3rd place Chrissy Kennedy plus some other really good scores in the 4000's as well.

Thanks to all who came out whether it was only one time or all five times. This is a great fun loving group of individuals who enjoy each others company. My appreciation to all who help clean up the cottage at the end of the day as this ensures that we will continue to have a place to play summer bridge. Dona/Lorna now commence with Valley Community bridge for these next several cold and snowy months. Mixed bridge will be back at Barnett Gardens starting in May on May 12th, June 9th, July 14th, Aug 11 and likely Sept 8 (labour day is on the 7th).

## **9) Keep in Touch – Jane Benoit**

To date Jane has sent eight cards offering condolences or get well wishes.

## **10) Christmas Dinner Dance-Jean Libbey**

Our Christmas Party was held on Dec 13th at the Calabogie Community Centre Hall. A wonderful turkey dinner was catered by Annette Charbonneau's team. Eighty tickets were purchased; however, two people were unable to attend due to illness. The centre pieces made by Peggy Williams and Jean Libbey as well as five door other prizes were awarded. I wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. Music was provided by Red Rock Music (Cam Gavin).

Respectfully submitted by Susan Lomas

January 2026