



# Think Spring! Think Spring!

## MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

### A Letter from the President

Dear RIF Members,

Welcome back for a great 2019 season! I am hoping for good weather, lower water levels, and a peaceful and safe summer.

We have many RIF events planned this year and the first is our Memorial Day ceremony. The older I get, the more this ceremony means to me. None of us knows how many more seasons we will have, and each season is precious. The Memorial Day ceremony is a chance to stop for a moment and publicly remember and honor fellow islanders whom we loved and who loved Russell Island.

We will be honoring many beloved islanders including Bud Breitmeyer. He was a charter member of RIF and very generous to RIF throughout the years.

Please come and share your kind remembrances of all the islanders being honored this year.

Respectfully,

Karen Ridgway

### High Water Information

#### Water Level Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS) maintain a network of water level gauges on the Great Lakes and connecting channels. The St. Clair River is a connecting channel and there is a gauge at the Algonac Water Treatment Plant a little upstream of the Algonac boat launch. The data for this and other gauges and water level forecasts can be found on the internet at:

<https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/>

Or simply search for "Corps of Engineers Detroit District", enjoy!

**Boat Speed Guidelines for High Water Levels:** As all are aware, RIF helps support many of the capital projects on Russell Island including beach projects, greenspace, parking efforts, etc. Amongst RIF's purposes established in our bi-laws is *"to raise the level of awareness of the hazards and adverse consequences of excess boat speed on the river channels within and abutting the Island, including shoreline damage and injury to person and property."* For those who have been on the Island this Spring, it is evident that water levels are higher than we've had for several years. The combination of high water levels aggravated by excessive boat wake creates negative consequences including increased erosion, environmental upset and property damage. ***The law requires that for the waters directly abutting Russell Island, boats less than 26 feet in length to maintain no wake speed within 200 feet of shore, while boats more than 26 feet in length to maintain no wake speed within 600 feet of shore.*** The speed limit for freighters traveling through the St. Clair River is 12 miles per hour. These rules are designed to protect the shore from damage caused by the waves generated by

fast-moving boats. Many recreational boaters stopped for violations are unaware of the rules, which establishes wider no-wake zones than the 100 foot buffer in place on most Michigan waterways. RIF encourages all Russell Islanders to observe these rules. To contact the Canadian Coast Guard with questions or complaints related to Canadian freighter boat speed, call 250-363-8904. ***Keep your boat speeds down near the Island and encourage your family and guests to do the same.***

## Memorial Day

The Memorial Day Ceremony, an island tradition, will take place on Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 at the Ferry Landing. Please join us as we add the names of islanders being honored this year, and read the names of islanders and loved ones who have been added in the past. Following the ceremony we will have light refreshments. Please feel free to bring a memory or memento to share with your island family that morning. If you have any questions, or would like to help contact Kathy Engelhart 248- 930- 2122.

## RIF Auction Fundraiser Event

Save the date- June 8th -Belmont Stakes. Everyone get your creative, artistic hats on! Rob and Mugs Hall have graciously offered part of their property for another RIF auction this year. Please mark your calendars and begin your projects. We will be accepting baskets, handmade crafts, and any other donations at the Leasia cottage beginning June 1st. (this is a non- Tin Can Auction year) Please let Bev or Ginger know if you can help out. See everyone on the Island.

Beverly 248-431-2076 [bevleasia@gmail.com](mailto:bevleasia@gmail.com)  
Ginger 248-763-8402 [harringtonginger@yahoo.com](mailto:harringtonginger@yahoo.com)

## Music Festival

Save the date, our August 10, 2019 Russell Island Musicfest is on solid ground with the return of Catfish Mafia. Our island favorites, Marginal Effort, will again open for us. We also picked up a new band, Paul and Oats. For those who attended the Winter Fling you had a taste of their talents. They are a great cover band and will no doubt get people on their feet. See you there!

## A Bit Of Island History

In the Old Days: Part 2  
By Anne Buesser Steel  
March 2019

In the old days the last day of school in June meant that the next day we'd pack our black and white, '56 Ford Fairlane and make the pilgrimage to Russell Island, where we would stay the WHOLE SUMMER!

The drive from Farmington to Algonac was country roads, boring until we rounded the bend at Anchorville and first spotted the sparkling expanse of Anchor Bay. A few miles past Fair Haven we came 'round the curve at St. John's Marsh and vied to be first to shout "I see the tower!" Pearl Beach flew by, then the last bend at Henry's, and as the road straightened out into Algonac's main street, on the right flowed our river, the St. Clair, impossibly blue, with the tall oaks of Russell Island like a distant, beckoning Shangri-La.

But first Fred, Bill and I were dropped off at Rexall's Drug Store, where we sat at the counter on high stools and ordered ice cream sodas while mom went to Poole's for a big load of groceries. Dad visited Guinness's Hardware, as we always seemed to need new work gloves or hedge trimmers.

Then we rushed to meet at the ferry dock for the 2 o'clock boat. The Pride of Lake Huron was already idling, ready to cast off. It seemed that at the beginning of every summer we just barely made the ferry before she pulled away from the dock. Dad and my brothers loaded all our bags on the ferry, but handsome, white-bearded Captain Russ McCartney offered his hand to Mom and me as we boarded, and I felt like a queen. Russ was my first love.

The ride to the island in those days was a chance to view almost its entire shoreline, because the ferry stopped at everyone's dock who requested it, on either the North or the South Channel. Our Springer Spaniel, Duke, balanced in the open ferry door during the whole ride, tail wagging, sniffing the river smell, as excited as the rest of us about returning to the island for another summer.

Russ dropped us off at the dock that we shared with Ham and Flo Burdick on the downriver side of us, and our Carpenter cousins on the upriver side. We lugged our suitcases and bags of groceries into the cottage. Then each of us had jobs. Mom would fill a huge pot with tap water from the river and put it on the stove to heat. By the end of the afternoon there'd be several pots of boiled water cooling on the counter. I held the funnel while Mom carefully poured the steaming water into glass bottles. That was our drinking and cooking water; we didn't mind the residue of sand at the bottom of each bottle because it was "good for the digestion."

My brothers and I helped carry the porch furniture that had been piled up in the living room all winter back out onto the front porch, while dad pulled the cords on the heavy canvas awnings to let the breeze blow through the screens. An array of interesting dead spiders and insects would fall to the floor.

While dad went outside to check the water pressure in the pump house, we kids ran upstairs to open the bedroom windows, knowing it would be too stuffy for sleeping that night otherwise. Often we'd spot our first freighter of the summer from up there, which required a stampede downstairs, across the lawn, and out to the end of the dock to wave at whoever was on deck, and see how big the suction was.

Being on the dock reminded us we hadn't even gone swimming yet. We raced back to put on suits and grab towels. Fred and Bill beat me out to the platform and dove in like porpoises. As I jumped, holding my nose and wearing my bathing cap, I vowed that *this* summer, now that I was eight, I too would learn how to dive. Actually, my first dive would be two years in the future!



## Kroger Community Rewards Program / AmazonSmile

### Kroger:

To get enrolled in the program, all you need to do is register online at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com). Be sure to have your Kroger Plus Card handy and register your card with the Russell Island Foundation after you sign up. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus Card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger store.

Here is a step by step explanation of what to do to get enrolled in this beneficial program:

1. Go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) and click on MICHIGAN, scroll down the page and click on the ENROLL box.
2. Click on SIGN UP TODAY in the "New Customer?" box.
3. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering your zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password. You will need to agree to the terms and conditions.
4. You will then get a message to check in your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email. Follow the instructions in your email.
5. Click on MY ACCOUNT and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
6. Click on EDIT KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS INFORMATION and input your Kroger Plus Card number. Update or confirm your information.
7. Find Russell Island Foundation which can be selected from the drop down list (or enter the NPO number – 90286) click SELECT in the next section and Click SAVE CHANGES in the third section

To verify that you are enrolled correctly, you should see Russell Island Foundation on the bottom left portion of your information page. It will take 7-10 days before your purchases will begin earning rewards for the Russell Island Foundation after you have registered your Kroger Plus Card online. You will know that you have successfully registered your Kroger Plus Card because at the bottom of your Kroger receipt you will see: ***"At your request, Kroger is donating to The Russell Island Foundation"***.

REMEMBER that purchases will not count for the Russell Island Foundation until after you register your card – so please take the time to do that now! You will need to swipe your registered Kroger Plus Card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus Card when shopping for each purchase in order for it to count towards the quarterly rewards check sent to the Russell Island Foundation. For those of us who regularly shop at Kroger – this is an easy way to help the Foundation accrue monies.

### Amazon Smile:

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know with the added benefit of supporting charitable organizations like the Russell Island Foundation! It offers the same products, prices and services as Amazon.com.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. On your first visit to : you will need to select the Russell Island Foundation as your charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the Foundation.

Please take advantage of this program, encourage family and friends to sign up also! This is just another way to add money to the Foundation by doing what we normally do....shop!

## A Great Gift Idea



The Russell Island Foundation is reissuing the Russell Island note cards and prints. The note cards are \$2.00 each. The prints are professionally matted and can be ordered in two sizes. An 8" x 10" is \$30.00, and an 11" x 14" is \$60.00. For more information, or to order, please contact either Barb Bierbusse or Kathy Engelhart.

Barb 313- 885-8303 [bjbierbusse@aol.com](mailto:bjbierbusse@aol.com)

Kathy 248-930-2122 [skipsloan@gmail.com](mailto:skipsloan@gmail.com)

## Russell Island Foundation Board

President – Karen Ridgeway

Vice President – Claude Caponi

Secretary – Beverly Leasia

Treasurer – Mark Warner

Trustees: Kathy Engelhart

Ann Steel

Dan Hickey

Barbara Bierbusse

Margaret Mutch

RIPOA President:

Steve Engelhart

## Membership Dues

Annual dues of \$100 are tax-deductible and qualify you to be a voting member at the annual meeting of the Russell Island Foundation held on Labor Day Weekend. You do not have to be a cottage owner to be a member. Please consider membership.

Please send annual dues made payable to: **The Russell Island Foundation**

Mail to: Kathy Engelhart  
1011 Satterlee Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

My gift is in: Dues      A contribution (\$100, \$150, etc.)

Memory of      Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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