

First Draft
LAKE WESLEMKOON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 5, 2006
SMITH'S LANDING

Directors in attendance: Chris Cromien (President), Terry Boucher (Secretary),

Dan Derumaux, Barrie Evans, Glen Hogg, Stuart Inglis, Jon Keeble, Susan McTavish,

Regrets: Terry Beetham, Sean Boyle, Jim Reynolds, Marcia Scrimgeour

Opening Comments and Review and Approval of the 2005 AGM Minutes (Chris Cromien)

Chris Cromien called the meeting to order at **10:15** and welcomed all members to the **49th** Annual General Meeting. He acknowledged the presence of Reeve Ken Hook. He thanked Josh Chiddy for his attendance, and his leadership in organizing Junior Loon events this summer. As well, Chris thanked Pam Boucher who was filling in for Marcia Scrimgeour with membership registration.

The minutes of the **2005** AGM were reviewed. There was no business arising from the minutes.

Motion: That the minutes of the **2005** AGM be approved. Moved by Susan McTavish (**#780**) and seconded by Gillian Lavelle (**#640**). Carried.

Land Use Planning and Zoning Update (Glen Hogg)

The Official Plan (OP) was passed by Township Council October 2005. The OP was passed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMHA) on February 27, 2006. A copy of the OP can be down loaded from the Township web site www.addingtonhighlands.ca. The next step is bringing the bylaws in line with the OP. The Township has drafted a proposed set of bylaws and zoning regulations to comply with the OP. A public hearing was held on the first draft July 15, 2006 and July 16, 2006. One item missed in the bylaws was that for existing cottages the setback should be 30 meters for new structures not requiring proximity to the water (e.g. boathouses). A written copy of this addition was given to the Planner.

The proposed draft of the bylaws will have amendments made and sometime in early fall 2006 will have another comment period. Notification for this will be on the township web site.

The Official Plan for the Township of Addington Highlands has been several years in the works. The OP is the basic outline for the creation of bylaws, and will guide the future growth and development within the township, covering a 25-year period. The creation of new building lots is one of the development functions laid out in the plan. New building lots may be created in two ways: subdividing tracks of land, and or severance of existing lots. The OP for Addington Highlands encourages development to occur in the main township corridor of HWY 41, as this makes it more efficient for the township to provide services.

Highly Sensitive, “At Capacity Lake Trout Lake”

The MMAH has informed the Township that Lake Weslemkoon has been classified as a “highly sensitive, at capacity, Lake Trout Lake.”

New Lots – Highly Sensitive Lake Trout Lakes

Where a lake is identified as a Highly Sensitive Lake Trout lake, no NEW lots will be created and no buildings, structures or private sewage disposal systems shall be permitted within **300** metres of the shoreline.

Generally, the creation of new lots within **300** metres of the shoreline on an “at capacity” lake by consent or plan of subdivision will not be considered. Council may consider the creation of new lots where it can be demonstrated, in consultation with the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources that one or more of the following conditions exist:

- Drainage of the proposed lot flows to a separate, non-sensitive watershed as a result of the physical features of the property.
- Detailed site-specific hydro-geological studies show that the drainage of the sewage effluent will effectively result in a circuitous flow path that extends for at least **300** metres before reaching the lake.
- That new technologies in sewage disposal systems intended to serve any proposed development have been accepted by the Ministry of the Environment and will result in no adverse affects on lake water quality.
- That any conventional sewage disposal system designed to serve a new development will be setback a minimum of **300 m (984 ft)** from the high water mark.
- That a detailed, site-specific hydro-geological and soil study which assesses phosphorus distribution, migration velocity and long-term soil retention capabilities has been undertaken.

The minimum lot area for seasonal and year round residential uses is **0.4** hectares **1** acre). The minimum lot frontage on a public road or shoreline shall be **61** metres (**200** feet).

A natural vegetative buffer strip shall be maintained between the setbacks and the water's edge to filter pollutants from runoff. Within this buffer area, clear cutting of trees and shrubs is not permitted.

Only those buildings, structures, and uses requiring proximity to water, such as docks, boat houses or similar accessory uses, may be located within **15** metres of the high water mark.

Water Quality Improvement Program (Barrie Evans)

Barrie reported that the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is working on a new policy re severances on “highly sensitive lake trout lakes” . In addition to MoE testing, LWCA conducts its own testing and participates in the “Lake Partners Program” . In terms of water quality, some factors are out of our control (e.g. climate change). However, each of us should focus on things which are within our control, such as:

- Carefully managing grey water and septic systems
- Eliminating (or at least reducing) the use of phosphorous products
- Safely disposing of toxins

Glen Hogg is coordinating the pumping of septic tanks this summer (Get Pumped program), and reported that pumping will cost **\$700** plus GST, and that a minimum of **10** cottages are required.

Municipal Report: Addington Highlands Township Update (Dan Derumaux)

Dan introduced Reeve Ken Hook. Ken congratulated LWCA, saying that it is the largest and best run cottagers' association in the area. He conducted a straw vote among meeting attendees re permitting Sunday hunting. The vast majority were in opposition. Ken said he would take our sentiments back to council as it considers whether to permit Sunday hunting.

This has been an overall tax increase of **2%**. For a residence assessed at **\$145,000**, that translates into a **\$66** tax increase.

For November's municipal elections, it will be possible to vote electronically, either by touch-tone telephone, or the internet. Personal Identification Numbers will be mailed to property owners in October.

By special arrangement the Township made, household hazardous waste may be taken to Renfrew for disposal.

The hard-topping of Hartsmere Road has been completed.

Financial Report and Environmental Fund Update

The financial report was distributed. Chris Cromien reviewed the highlights.

Catherine Rathbun(#890) moved that the financial report be accepted.
Seconded by Christine Bird (#760). Carried.

Logging and Forest Management (Glen Hogg)

Glen spoke of the positive relationship LWCA has with the logging industry, and with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). He introduced Bob Walruth, Mazinaw Area Supervisor, MNR, and Arnie Mikkelsen, a forester and invasive species expert with MNR. Bob spoke about the new fishing regulations, with focus on lake trout. There will be no winter fishing on Lake Weslemkoon. MNR has recently renewed its Memorandum Of Understanding with LWCA whereby the association is responsible for managing water level. LWCA has in turn renewed its contract with Ralph Seamons to manage the dam.

Arnie made a presentation related to forestry management, and talked about the visibility analysis, and the issue resolution process which has been implemented.

Daphne Nicholls (**#173**) asked the logging status of Heath (Mink) Lake, and Arnie said that the area will not be harvested.

Arnie also spoke about forest pests. He stressed the importance of NOT transporting firewood to the lake from more southern regions. He said that trees are particularly stressed this summer because of the climate. He also indicated that we were due for another cycle of tent caterpillars.

Two bear technicians spoke about the “Bear Wise” program, and distributed brochures describing the program (**1-866-514-2327**).

Nolan Shortt of MNR spoke about the “Fire Smart” program, and distributed information about it (www.affm.mnr.gov.on.ca).

Glen reported that most of Lake Weslemkoon and surrounding area falls into the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management area. The Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management logging plans are prepared in **20** year blocks that are further divided into **5** year periods.

A great deal of correspondence and dialogue has taken place over the past year between the LWCA and the Planning Team with regards to the upcoming logging plan period **2006** to **2011**. The LWCA has made sure that the Planning Team was aware of our concerns. The Planning Team has listened to our concerns and made modifications to the plan as follows:

- Assurances that all new logging roads are temporary and will be fully and effectively closed so that future access or use is prevented.
- No new public access will be created by the building of new logging roads. There will be a strategy for road closures and removing culverts etc.
- Attention to viewscape preservation if logging were to occur on applicable hillsides.
- The use of herbicides on harvest blocks in the area of Weslemkoon Lake will be avoided. If tending is required, manual/mechanical options will be used.
- Cutting operations during cottage season (**May through October**) will be avoided.
- Identified hiking trails will have special treatment.

At the LWCA Annual General Meeting the Ministry of Natural Resources reported that they were undertaking a study to do a Visibility Analysis of the viewscape for the proposed logging areas of Otter Lake and Regina Bay. The Viewscape Visibility Analysis mapped out the potential of seeing missing trees or tree tops at various locations on the lake. The mapped out

results were unclear, which lead the LWCA to further discuss with the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Planning Team how to minimize the affects.

The viewscape of the two logging blocks at the north of Otter Lake continued to give us concern. The shoreline in the area is fairly flat. Moving inland from the shore, there is a ridge that rises quite steeply. The logging was planned to come down the slope of the small ridge that runs along there. If the logging had come down the ridge it would most likely show from the lake.

After a site inspection in early December **2005** the Planning team agreed with our concern that it was best not to log down the slope of the ridge and for some parts, stay even farther back, on the other side of the logging road. Logging will stay **90** meters from the lake and this change should maintain the viewscape of the area. For the same area the log landings for loading logs will be located adjacent to the logging road, thereby keeping the activity as far away from the lake as possible.

The block behind Regina Bay is a contingency block and may not be logged at all. It has now been written into the Plan that before the Regina Bay block is to be changed from a contingency to active block, the LWCA will be contacted to discuss the viewscape and how it can be maintained.

The majority of the harvest area is scheduled as either "Shelterwood" or "Selection harvesting" . Some harvesting will use the "patch clear cut" silviculture method. This system was chosen because of the species mix and spatial distribution of the trees. The areas of "patch clear cut" are identified as areas of less productive scrub trees and the operation is intended to revitalize the forest. This is in accordance with the forest

operations and silviculture manual (FOSM) that is one of four regulated manuals in the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA).

The plan for the **2006** to **2011** period has just been approved. The logging operations on the Crown Land blocks around the lake could start after Thanksgiving and end by May **24, 2007**, thereby being off-season for most of the cottages.

Limmerick Waterways Ratepayers' Association (LWRA) – OMB Funding

(Dan Derumaux)

Dan indicated that we have been monitoring the OMB hearings, and that he and Chris attended the LWRA annual meeting. In detail, Dan described the nature of the dispute between a developer and LWRA. LWCA has made a \$1500 donation to LWRA to help defray legal expenses.

Membership Report

On behalf of Marcia Scrimgeour, Chris welcomed new members including Laurel and Ian Mackenzie (#285) Membership currently stands at 195, and there are 15 Friends of the Lake. About 170 members have registered e-mail addresses with us.

LWCA “History of the Lake” book project (Stuart Inglis)

As reported last year, there are plans to produce a commemorative “coffee table” book about Lake Wes. The book is to be released to commemorate the 50th anniversary of LWCA in 2009. Stuart made an enthusiastic presentation about the project, describing the preproduction and production phases. Extensive fundraising is being planned, and there will be three levels of contribution (Patron @ \$500; Sponsor @ \$250; Contributor @ \$150). Each contributor package includes expanded benefits. For more information, or to find out how you might become involved with the project, Stuart can be reached at (416) 536-5197, or atawolf@speakeasy.org. Information is also available on the LWCA website.

Cockeyed Loon Awards: All Previously Invested Cockeyed Loons

Christine Bird received a Cockeyed Loon Award for her extensive work with LWCA, most recently as its secretary. As well, Kim Derry, who has raised more

than \$20.000 for charitable causes through her long-distance swimming, was recognized. Christine and Kim were joined in the investiture ceremony dance by a flock of Cockeyed Loons led by Grand Loon Catherine Rathbun.

Marker Lights/Custodial/Non-Marina Commercial Liaison (Susan McTavish)

We currently have 17 Shoal Marker locations with 18 lights in operation. These lights are inspected 5 times during the cottage season, prior to each long weekend. We are continuing the process of upgrading the lights, and to that end, we have purchased and installed 6 new lights this year. Only 4 of the older lights remain in operation. Budget permitting these lights will be replaced next year and the older style lights will become spares. We are fortunate to have the services of Reg Smith who installs the lights, inspects them as described and removes and stores the lights at the end of the season. He also completes the security checks of the cottages during the winter. Reg has arranged with Bill Gunter to act as his back up in the event he is unavailable.

Election of Directors: Paul Lavelle

Paul presented the list of Directors for the 2006-7 year. There were no nominations from the floor. The Nominees on the list were declared elected.

Directors for 2006-7

Terry Beettam, #27

Glen Hogg, #790

Marcia Scrimgeour, #710

Stuart Inglis, #565

Terry Boucher, #231

Jon Keeble, #890

Sean Boyle, #237

Susan McTavish, #780

Chris Cromien, President, #736

Jim Reynolds, #293

Dan Derumaux, #800

Barrie Evans, #926

Remembrance of Deceased Members: Dan Derumaux

Dan asked members to mark a minute of silence in memory of Max Allen, Hume Cronyn, Mattie Smith, Marilyn Nash, and Helen Queale.

New Business

Members were reminded that boating licences will be required by all boat operators beginning in 2009.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Chris thanked Freda and Frank Smith for hosting the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50. Lunch followed.