

LAKE WESLEMKOON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, AUGUST 2, 2008

TANGLEWOOD MARINA

Directors in attendance: Dan Derumaux (President), Terry Beetham, Diane Morden, Barrie Evans, Glen Hogg, Stuart Inglis, Jon Keeble (Secretary), Ed MacKenzie

Regrets: Sean Boyle, Susan McTavish, Paul Bottos

Opening Comments and (Dan Derumaux , President)

Meeting began at about 10:10. Dan announced the death overnight of board member Mike Scrimgeour (#710) and expressed the member's condolences to his wife Marcia and family. Availability of various printed materials at membership table was announced.

Guests at hand were Reeve Henry Hogg and 3 members of the MNR.

Review and Approval of the 2007 AGM Minutes (Jon Keeble)

Annual minutes were on web site and in 75 copies at the meeting. Future minutes will also appear on web site prior to next AGM's approval. No amendments were made. Motion to accept from Barrie Evans (#926), seconded by Bob Bourne (#256). **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report (Diane Morden)

Budgetary figures were available in hard copy form. Diane reported that Interest earned on the T.D. Money Market and T-Bill Fund was allocated on a reasonable basis between the Environmental fund, the Book Project Fund and General operations. Diane also explained that though the present budget showed a shortfall based on projections, she was confident that the association would not be in a deficit position on this year's expenditures.

Motion to accept from Alan Whyte (#955), seconded by Ian Sine (#255). **Carried.**

Membership Report (Diane Morden)

Diane reported that there were 199 full members at the time of the meeting. There are 13 Friends of the Lake. Last year at this time there were 227. She received no questions.

Water Quality Improvement/

Boater Package

(Barrie Evans)

Barrie reported first on the return to water testing on July 29, 2008. Begun in 1971 and revived for the early 90's, the association has stepped back in after the Ministry of the Environment terminated a much simpler sampling system in 2007. The procedures this summer followed the sampling processes of the 90's. 16 stations were tested at a 1 metre depth for: temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, acidity, turbidity and salinity. Lab samples were taken for Phosphorous, TKN, total coliform and e-coli. Related to turbidity, secchi disks were used for water transparency. Results are expected from the lab within 10 working days and then the numbers must be interpreted and related to history for both the lake as a whole and the specific sites on the lake and its bays. Two stations were used for deep water samples which will add data in the following categories: temperature and chlorophyll (indicator of algal growth). A summary of the July results will be reported on the web site and next year's meeting. Volunteers for July were: Glen and Judy Hogg, Domenic Angelozzi, Betty Ann Glassford, Mike Benson and Jon Keeble (coordinator of the project). Special thanks are extended to Mike and Jan Benson who hosted Lab technician Brian Sinclair who ably assisted the entire team of volunteers. Volunteers are required for the Thanksgiving water sampling (Saturday Oct.11)

The boater package was demonstrated with a large sign prepared by Stuart Inglis and Barrie. To be posted at the four marinas and the public boat launch, the signage reminds incoming boaters and fisher people of appropriate conduct while visiting Lake Weslemkoon.

Municipal Affairs (Dan Derumaux for Paul Bottos)

Dan introduced the Reeve for Addington Highlands and welcomed him to his first Association meeting. Reeve Henry Hogg referenced the recently completed bridge replacement on the Hartsmere Road, required after the original failed an inspection. He then opened the floor to questions. Alan Whyte (#955) asked why the garbage and recycling system at the north end had been terminated, as in his opinion it had been working well to divert garbage from the Hartsmere land fill site. Reeve Hogg noted that the dump can only be open under Ministry of the Environment guidelines when the attendant is on duty. The present hours did not fit the schedule of Mr. Seamons, owner of Tanglewood. In addition, the county had been paying Mr. Seamons \$3000 for the garbage and recycling hosting and transferring, a fee they were not paying other marina operators. They were unable to extend this to the others and so ended it

this year. Reeve Hogg noted that the hours of land fill operation had been expanded this year.

An association member noted that the Hartsmere operator was saying that this might be the last year of operation to which the Reeve noted that the MOE had not told him so.

Terry Beettam (#27) told the members that the Association has asked that the hours at Hartsmere be expanded on Sundays. Presently 4 to 7 pm, earlier hours are needed for those travelling farther to reach home. The new hours requested are 1 to 7 PM. Past President Jim Reynolds (#293) asked the Reeve if the policy to deny Mr. Seamons a landfill gate key was still in place. It was. The reeve was then asked if negotiations could be resumed with Mr. Seamons. The Reeve said they had broken off some months ago but discussion could resume on hours of operation. The Reeve noted that contamination of the recycling was a problem in past years requiring the contracted company to reject the loads and that for the free bag tag exchange to work, the operator had to be on hand. As to the suggested increase in hours, the Reeve will take it forward. A motion from the floor from Joe Myers (#216) to move the recycling bins outside the gates for use by passing residents was seconded by Peter Chiddy (#928) and was passed with two dissenting votes. The Reeve said that would require input from the MOE and he'd follow that up. Dan Derumaux noted his worry that they would soon be contaminated by those who now leave their garbage bags by the gate.

Barrie Evans (#926) expressed appreciation to the Reeve for coming and stated to applause that we have expectations that he and the Council will treat the lake taxpayers with respect and be responsive to our needs when considering steps that impact us.

Logging/Trails and MNR Guests (Glen Hogg & Terry Beettam)

Glen led off by noting the still active logging sites on the south side of Canoe lake, Arnott lake and site 147 at High Dam. On his hikes he noted that the tree felling looked a lot like thinning—significant trees remained standing with a lot of material on the ground to promote natural re-growth. He announced two hikes: one in a blow down area requiring kayaks and then a bush whacking into Green lake.

The next ten year cycle of logging from 2011 to 2021 will be announced shortly by MNR Bancroft. Copies of that document can be requested by members. The plans take 3 years to refine and amend and the Board will be participating in that activity.

Trails are being cleared by Board members and volunteers. More are needed and Glen can be reached by phone to let you know which trails still need attention. David McTavish was thanked for creating the trail signs.

Terry started with the procedures for fire. His research has shown that 911 should be sufficient to get the chain moving, though residents should have as many facts at hand as possible to assist those responding. Residents should be aware that there is no water access fire fighting possible for structures. Fires in the forest are MNR responsibility and they will respond in daylight hours with appropriate forces.

Terry introduced Dan Thompson, an MNR Fire Technician and Doug McMillan, a supervisor with Haliburton MNR. They introduced the newest "Firesmart" program, patterned on programs from Western Canada. The steps in the charted program are designed to mitigate the highest risks to your property without destroying the environment. Particular attention was paid to ground cover which can allow fire to creep quickly under trees. Mr. Thompson urged members to share the program with neighbours. Be particularly aware of storing inflammable material under buildings and locating firewood near the residence. A small red pail was available to drive home the Firesmart message and most particularly the need to water down campfires.

Doug McMillan reconfirmed Terry's message about fires discovered at night. He noted that using "Firesmart" would assist in holding the ground until daylight. When the MNR receives a night call for a forest fire they prepare response teams for first light. They are on 24/7 duty from March to October.

Barrie Evans asked about pumps. Mr. Thompson noted that he'd seen trade show results which appear to indicate that powerful sprinklers driven by a gas pump have been seen to create a boundary that protected the encircled residence. With an auxiliary gas tank, a pump can run for up to 5 hours and you can leave it working while you escape.

Conservation Officer (Dan Derumaux)

Dan introduced Darren Bishop, a Conservation Officer working out of MNR Bancroft. He and seven others cover a large eight-county territory which encompassed Weslemkoon. His role is to enforce Provincial and Federal regulations. Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act he has powers of arrest, and noted that though he's not a policeman he and his colleagues do encounter the same people, thus explaining the body armour, radio gear and sidearm.

Darren noted that there are 200 species at risk in Ontario alone. He said his division responds to thousands of calls a year. All calls to 1-877-TIPS MNR (1-877-847-7667) are recorded for followup prioritized by their assessment of importance..

Fishing regulations have been refined over several years for clarity by users, especially slot sizes and later openings. This region has one-quarter of the province's Lake Trout habitat and decline is evident. Restocking programs are underway and a few lakes are now open all year round. Peter Sandiford (#820) asked how trap lines are monitored as he observed fewer beaver and mink. MNR field biologist Steve Lawrence sets those limits out of Bancroft. Darren noted that fluctuations are normal. At this time mink are less evident but fishers are on the rise.

Lake Book Project (Stuart Inglis)

Stuart began with a well received show and tell. Copies of photos, newspaper clippings and some sample pages were circulated. A designer has been found for the book, James Beardmore (#286). Some material—cottage histories and the lake timeline are on the website and need the members overview for clarity and corrections. Current cottage pictures and stories are needed. The deadline for content is October if the project is to stay on target. Almost \$17,000 of the \$20,000 have been committed so that last push is needed as the target for handing out the book is next year's Annual Meeting. Many contributors have options for more purchases and those will need to be exercised within a year of publication.

Website (Ed MacKenzie)

Ed acknowledged he is a third generation lake resident. His website changes include a "memories" section which will assist or supplement the book. He asked for short stories and photos to draw more interest to the site. His e-mail is posted on www.weslemkoon.com

Cockeyed Loons (Catherine Rathbun)

The Grand Loon called forward Past President Jim Reynolds and MNR forest and self confessed MNR "bug guy" Arne Mikkelsen. Arne and his Bancroft colleagues have played a big role in much improved communications relating to forests, logging, fisheries...and bugs. Arne was at the centre of the discussions relating to the present 10-year logging plan and in formulating the work schedule and cutting patterns to reduce the impact on Weslemkoon and Otter Lakes. Jim Reynolds' tenure as President included extensive and successful efforts to improve relations and communications with the County council and Ministry of Natural Resources, including a unique agreement with MNR on Lake level management, web information and member phone conferences with candidates for municipal office.

Arne thanked the gathering and added a few notes about forest pests:

The Emerald Ash borer has extended its range to Ottawa and Quebec with horrific consequences for the ash. Probably spread by people ignoring the ban on moving firewood from infested areas. The Asian Long Horn beetle is also a continuing but contained threat. People invited to continue to bring suspected beetles to the MNR office in Bancroft. So far, all examples have been the local and non-threatening Sawyer beetle. Active in our area is the Hemlock borer and Looper which are causing defoliation but will not destroy the hemlocks.

Nomination / Election (Jim Reynolds)

Jim presented the slate of returning and new directors:

Terry Beettam

Sean Boyle

Paul Bottos

Dan Derumaux

Barrie Evans

Glen Hogg

Stuart Inglis

Jon Keeble

Diane Morden

Nominees as new Members of the Board for election as Director:

Ed MacKenzie (currently serving as LWCA Webmaster)

Nominated by Jim Reynolds (#293), seconded by Alan Whyte (#955)

Carried

Thanks were extended to the late Mike Scrimgeour (webmaster and membership), and the retirements of Ian Mackenzie and Susan McTavish were noted with appreciation for their work on the board.

Nominations from the floor:

Leslie Reynolds nominated by Catherine Rathbun (#890), seconded by Glen Hogg (#790)

Ken Senter nominated by Dan Derumaux (#800), seconded by Gillian Lavelle (#640)

Jean Greig nominated by Joyce MacKenzie (#200), seconded by Bob Bourne (#256)

Carried

Remembrance of deceased members (Terry Beettam)

Terry asked for and members observed a period of silence to honour recently deceased lake residents:

Mike Scrimgeour

Ahti Raisinen

Don Fitzpatrick

John and Grace Hickey

Jim Goldey

Bill Shortt

Ermes (Nino) Bottos

Bob and Dawn Walker

They are missed.

New Business (Dan Derumaux)

Terry Beettam is working with a few volunteers to revive the Treasure Hunt. Signs are posted at all the marinas, created by Stuart Inglis. Some more volunteers are needed along with participating teams for the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend, August 30, 2008

Peter Sandiford (#820) announced the annual regatta would follow tomorrow (August 3) at 1PM at his cottage. Kevin O'Rourke (#872) is this year's coordinator.

Closing remarks & Adjournment (Dan Derumaux)

Dan extended appreciation to Ralph and Cathie Seamons, proprietors of Tanglewood Marina for their hospitality and use of their open space. Next year's meeting at Smiths Landing (#511)

Motion to adjourn made by Ken Senter (#680), seconded by Cliff Noble (#430) **Carried**