

# **MINUTES OF THE LWCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday July 31st @ 10:20AM @ Four Loons Marina**

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome & Opening Comments (Terry Beettam)**

### **2. Review of 2009 AGM minutes (Leslie Reynolds)**

- No questions
- Approval of minutes
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Lavelle #640
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcia Scrimgeour #710

### **3. Financial Report (Diane Morden)**

- No questions
- Approval of minutes
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Larry Onley #425
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Joanne Duffy #196

### **4. Introduction to Community Survey (Terry Beettam)**

- Felt a survey was the best way to get the cottagers opinions about what was happening on the lake and to understand what their main concerns and issues were and to help give this board and future boards direction
- 161 completed surveys were received, among the respondents were lake association members, non-members, friends of the lake, seasonal and permanent cottagers
- To include all stakeholders and make sure people knew about the survey
  - flyers were left at the marinas informing people of the online survey
  - flyers were also distributed to houses along the road
  - survey results were available online as of July 31<sup>st</sup>
  - more comments are welcome on the website after members have read over the survey results

### **5. Survey Overview (Pam Boucher)**

- Most important questions were questions 8 and 9

- Question 8: please indicate the importance of the following positive personal values of our lakes to you and your family. Answers listed in order of most important to least: water quality (ranked #1 by all respondents), swimming, scenery, peace and tranquility, shorelines, night skies, fishing, wildlife viewing, non-power boating, hiking trails, power boating, hunting and winter activities
- Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey
- There were no questions from the membership at this time

## 6. LWCA Membership Report (Jean Greig)

- A number of people who responded to the survey were non-members. One of the reasons they are not members of the association may be that they don't know the various benefits that the association brings
- Jean will drop of membership flyers at marinas and real estate agents in an attempt to drum up membership
- To date there are 183 members and 14 friends of the lake. Membership in 2009 was 209
- There are currently approximately 411 cottages on the lake
- Change in member's information should be forwarded to Jean so she can update her information
- If there are any errors in the directory, please let Jean know so we can correct them
- New or returning members to the lake are:
  - Jeff & Bertha Anderson #275
  - Jeff & Janice Daniher #545
  - Michael Richards #401
  - Wayne & Terri Todosey #635
  - Doug Walker #259
  - Mark Warlow #348
  - Donna Dillabough & Mike Hudson 2078 Hartsmere Rd
  - Kal and Yolanda Deep #453
- Suggestions:
  - members could be contacted to remind them when their membership has lapsed

- name tags at meetings
- Gillian Lavelle: years ago the directory included non-members as well. This was a preferred list because then you could lobby your neighbours who weren't members. Jean said she would look into this and see if we can bring it back

## **7. Water Quality Report (Jon Keeble)**

- According to survey results, the opinion of most respondents is that they believe the water quality of our lake is good
- The most popular comments made by respondents are that they would like the water quality testing done regularly and they have concerns regarding septic systems
- Some members brought up the fact that the lake smells in certain areas. Jon asked them to email him with the details and he will see if we can get them looked at during the next round of water testing
- Septic Systems
  - The Ontario Government, with its Clean Water Act, is starting a mandatory inspection of all septic tanks. Starting in Lake Simcoe in January 2011 and will be rolled out to all lakes in the province by 2016.
  - Matthew Doyle (613 336-8989) is the new health inspector in charge of septic systems
  - If you have concerns about someone else's system, call Matthew Doyle's office.
  - Old septic systems have problems dealing with showers and dishwashers as these appliances can flood the system and put older systems under stress. They may not be able to handle that much activity
  - Detergents contain phosphates which harm the lake water quality. Look for phosphate free detergents and cleaning products. They are also made with grease cutting surfactants which clog the gills of fish, so it is essential that the septic system not find a path to the lake
  - Zehrs has a whole section of phosphate-free detergents, cleaning products and soaps that are lake safe
  - Make sure dishwashers and washing machines are hooked up to septic systems properly

## **8. Municipal Affairs (Paul Bottos)**

- Guest speaker Reeve Hogg
  - 356 properties (all waterfront, no back lots) were assessed. The total assessment was \$65 million

- Status of Otter Lake had been changed to highly sensitive. This will be included in the 2011 plan
- The list of candidates for election will be available in one week. Check with the township office to make sure you are included on the list of registered voters
- Reeve Hogg has filed his name for re-election
- New Candidate for ward #2 (south end) Larry Pealow, lives in Northbrook with his wife. They have owned the Pinegrove Hotel for the past 8 years. He is also the chairman of Addington Highlands Community for Development and President of the Kawartha Tourism board

#### Questions & Comments

Unidentified Member:

Q: Who determines the highly sensitive status of the lake?

A: The Ministry sets guidelines that determine the lake's designation. Dissolved oxygen levels and lake trout population make Otter Lake a highly sensitive lake (Barrie Evans)

Paul Bottos (#381)

C: One of the concerns from the survey was status of development on the lake...

R: Highly sensitive designation prevents new lake front development. This will stop new development on the lake (Reeve Hogg)

Gord Nicholls (#173)

Q: What about a company coming in and wanting to put up a 20 million dollar condo development like on some other lakes?

A: The current lake plan would not allow for this, no way it could happen. I would oppose this sort of development. Something like Four Loons is okay, a small trailer park, less than 50 campsites, convenience store and restaurant would not be opposed. A 100 unit plus development would be opposed. (Reeve Hogg)

Q: What about crown land opening up for development?

A: Crown land opening is not supported for private use and I would oppose anyone trying to manipulate the system for personal gain. If elected I will make sure the people of this area will be looked after (Reeve Hogg)

David Biernaskie (#315)

Q: What about cell phone service to the area?

A: Rogers has surveyed possible tower locations in the highway 41 corridor. Government red tape is still holding up the roll out to our area. Service should be available soon as well as high speed internet (Reeve Hogg)

Paul Bottos: Landfill Survey

- Last year the association lobbied hard to get better hours at the dumps
- In order to get more hours at the dump we need lake members to call the township directly to lodge complaints
- We asked the township to share all needs development requests with the LWCA

Sid Howes (#456)

- 500 people were removed from the voter list.
- Municipal voter's lists were lost in a lot of bureaucratic red tape. In 2006 they started confirming citizenship and if it was not confirmed that you were a citizen, you were removed from the list. A confirmation form was sent out to all registered voters
- Municipal election voter qualifications: you need to own or occupy property in Addington Highlands
- [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca) has a form that needs to be completed in order to add yourself to the voters list
- Addington Highlands will be doing internet voting this year, so it will be very easy for seasonal cottagers to vote. Addington Highlands is one of the first townships to offer internet voting
- Cottagers can also vote for school board positions

#### 9. Survey Questions (Terry Beettam)

- Concerning the website- we realise we have a lot of work to do. We will talk about this as a board to see how we can improve and update information more quickly
- Stewardship- these signs come from the MNR/FOCA. We will work with marina owners to make sure there is signage to remind people of the things they can do to keep the lake healthy and clean
- Cell phone services to the lake- 80% of respondents said yes. Many felt it is a safety concern not to have cell service since the land lines are down so frequently

Marcia Scrimgeour (#710)

C: There are no more phone booths along highway 62 on the way into the lake. They are taking away service but not replacing it

R: Bell is working up highway 62 with towers. Rumour has it there will be a tower within range of us in one year (Jon Keeble)

Q: Will the Board be consulted on tower location?

A: Not likely. The towers usually go up on crown land and they will just appear (Jon Keeble)

Paul Lavelle (#640)

Q: Will one tower cover the whole lake?

A: Only if it is placed right in the middle (Jon Keeble)

Daphne Nicholls (#173)

Q: Water testing, will it be done again this year?

A: Not sure. We are working on it (Terry Beettam)

Our survey promised that all write-in comments would remain confidential to the board. That said, the following is a synopsis of these in order of importance:

- Continue to improve communication
- Increase the hours of access at the dump
- Wake & speed of boats need to be controlled
- Restrict boat size and power
- Do not allow any more Personal Water Crafts, ban PWC
- No large scale development, restrict any further land development and opening of crown land
- Enforce natural habitat along the shorelines
- Polluting water systems (septic tank leaks)

Members appreciate the survey. Maybe this is something that can take place every 5 years to make sure the board and the membership are all on the same page

#### **10. Shoal markers & Water levels (Ken)**

- Reg Smith will still look after the shoal markers but has stepped down as lake custodian
- Guy Boudreau will be the new lake custodian
- The new marker application form is available on the website

Marcia Scrimgeour (#710)

C: Shoal markers in the narrows are two flashing lights, flashing in unison. Could they be more staggered so there is no black- out time?

R: I will check with Reg to see if this is possible (Ken)

#### **11. Logging (Glen Hogg)**

- Ministry has prepared a 10 year plan starting in 2011 looking at some logging blocks around the lake
- ½ to ¾ km back behind Mackie Bay and an eastern bloc behind West Bay and behind the lighthouse
- If people would like more details, Glenn has maps that people can look at. These maps are also available on the website and the logging plan was also outlined in the latest Loon Call
- Clear cut logging: designed for regeneration of trees that are intolerant to shade
- Shelter wood: can take some shade but needs sun (oak, ash, white pine)
- Select cutting: hardwood forest, pick the individual trees to cut (maple, beach)
- July 5<sup>th</sup> logging hike to the bottom of West Bay- the new saplings are over 6 feet and the forest is regenerating quickly after 1 year
- August 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a paddle and hike @10am leaving from Weslemkoon Marina
- Glen will be taking photos of the shoreline and will present them to the ministry so the logging will not cause any changes to the look of the existing shoreline
- Get pumped campaign will start on August 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost of septic pumping will be \$850 + HST = \$960.50
  - Need names of everyone who is interested by the morning of August 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Cheques need to be made out to Kawartha Utilities
  - Manholes need to be opened on the tanks
  - Map of the tank location is required
  - Location of the where the barge can pump from is also needed
  - The requirements can be dropped off with Glen or with Dan at Weslemkoon Marina

Q: How frequently should tanks be pumped?

A: Depends on how much you use it and how many appliances are using it. If you use your cottage like a home, the recommended pumping is every 5 years. It costs a lot more to fix an overflow

Ian Mackenzie (#285)

C: take a stick and wrap it with paper towel and stick it in the hole to see how much sludge is at the bottom

## 12. Lake Book (Stuart Inglis)

- Polishing the book, behind schedule but hoping to have it finished by the end of August
- Looking for a volunteer to help him in the completion of the book

- The book is 5 years in the making. Came about at Director's dinner
- 35K has been collected to pay for the making of the book
- 152 books have been ordered
- 350 copies will be printed
- The books is 216 pages, hard-cover
- 1500 pictures have been scanned
- Contains 14 maps, earliest being from 1857
- The book will be distributed through the marinas. The DVD will be great and it will be coming out too

### **13. Guest speaker from the MNR (Dr. Kris Vascotto)**

- Nice to see an active cottage association
- Water quality is great. Stopping development is key
- Algae levels are high - ice went out early, water temperature warmed up early, a dry spring and then heavy summer rains dragged debris from the forest into the lake. Then warm water and sun made the algae grow
- Lake Trout – 10,000 eggs will be collected this year
- This lake has a healthy trout population that is naturally reproducing
- This year's test will include 2 nets. They will be set up in the cold water sections of the lake
- 650 fish were marked last year
- The testing this year will look at marked vs. unmarked fish to determine how many trout this lake actually contains
- 28 fish died in the 2007 testing
- Once the 2009 testing is complete, a report will be provided to the board to distribute to board members
- Testing is done on a 5 – 10 year rotation. Not sure when the next round of major testing will be conducted

Q: You are taking fish out but not replacing them?

A: A healthy lake that is naturally repopulating fish cannot receive stocked fish. Disease can be brought in and there is also more competition for resources

The testing this year will be compared against the 2007 results to see if the removal of eggs is harming the natural population

Dave Biernaskie (#510)

C: 500-60,000 trout were introduced back in the 1950s

R: this is to the detriment of the lake as stocked fish kill the natural ones (Kris)

Glen Hogg (#790)

Q: When testing the deep water fish, can you also test the dissolved oxygen and temperature?

A: We can absolutely do this and we do. I will coordinate with Jon to share the results (Kris)

Jean Greig

Q: Otter Lake, why so sensitive?

A: Climate change- trout can only live in a very small area. Some lakes have 25° surface temperature (Kris)

Gillian Lavelle (#640)

Q: What effect does logging close to the shoreline and the streams that run through the logging areas have on the lake trout?

A: If logging is done correctly, there is a barrier set up to prevent all the logging activity from actually affecting the watershed. Culverts are set up to handle a 100 year flood and are big enough to allow fish to still flow through it when they need to

#### **14. Cockeyed Loons** (Catherine Rathbun)

- Hilda Lott
  - Started the road into the north end
  - Long-standing cottager, her family helped build many of the older cabins on the lake
- Barrie Evans
  - Former LWCA board member
  - Long time environmentalist
- Jim Orr (not at meeting)
  - Friend of the lake, Good Samaritan
  - While fishing on the lake one day, he noticed some teens who had been camping had left behind an unattended fire. He put out the fire and then went to the marina in hopes of tracking the teens down
- Reg Smith (not at meeting)

- Served as cottage custodian
- Feels the lake has given him so much over the years

#### **15. Nominations/Elections (Dan Derumaux)**

Motion to re-elect current members

1<sup>st</sup>: Nancy Dickinson (#327)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Fred Inglis (#565)

Sean Boyle will be new Vice President

Leslie Reynolds will be stepping down from the board

No new members to be elected

#### **16. New Business/General Information (Terry Beettam)**

- Karen McGee #345 offered to help organize activities for kids at next year's AGM so that members with young children could more easily attend the AGM
- Terry thanked all the guest speakers and the Blanchards for hosting the AGM

Larry Olney #425

C: Thanked all the board members for their work on behalf of all the members

Motion to adjourn @ 12:45

1<sup>st</sup>: Mike Benson (#935)

2<sup>nd</sup>: Ian Mackenzie (#285)