

OTTER LAKE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, August 1, 2009

OPEN MEETING

- President, Gary Acker opened the meeting at 9:40am and welcomed the 32 cottagers present, including Peter Livingston and Gregg Mills who are first-time AGM attendees.
- Elections for next year's Executive will take place at the end of the meeting. Anyone wishing to be a Director and run for office is welcome.
- Attendance sheet is being passed around – please include your email if you wish to be contacted about power outages on the Lake. This information will not be shared or sold.
- Gary thanked the Boychoff family for hosting the AGM and Fun Day event for the 28th year.
- Gary introduced the other Directors – Scott MacMurchy, John Waltho (Parkers Landing liaison), Larry Cassie (Website liaison), June Lambden (Lake Steward), Cliff Ayer (Treasurer) and Nita Acker (Secretary).
- Gary announced the Directors held meetings on August 31, 2008 and May 16, 2009.
- He welcomed guest Diane Griffin, our Algonquin Highlands Councillor, who will give a report later.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Nita Acker read a letter from Kerry Lock of Dorset Blooms thanking us for last year's donation.
- She also passed along a reminder from Dorset Fire Dept that smoke alarms are mandatory in cottages as well as outbuildings such as bunkies, and that Carbon Monoxide Detectors would be a good idea too.

MINUTES – Secretary, Nita Acker, read minutes from the last Annual General Meeting, August 2, 2008 and Gary asked for errors or omissions. As there were none, Sue Cassie moved that the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by Cliff Ayer, all in favour, motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

- Cliff Ayer reported opening balance of \$1,982 with revenues of \$2,850 and expenditures of \$3,219. His detailed report is posted on the Boychoff deck and is attached to these minutes.
- Membership dues from 69 cottages (a record high) totaled \$2,070.
- This year is the last of 4 installments of \$500 to WOLRA for repairs to the culvert and, because we have sufficient money in the bank, Cliff moved, seconded by Sharon MacMurchy, that dues remain unchanged at \$30. Discussion followed, motion carried.
- Cliff motioned, seconded by John Roots, that Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

- June Lambden attended FOCA's Fall Seminar last November in Toronto and found it very informative.
- Her report today centered on Healthy Water Fronts: 90% of our lake species pass through or live in the 20-30 ft water front zone so you are encouraged to keep shoreline trees and natural vegetation in place as much as possible. Don't remove rocks or logs from the water and don't clear your entire waterfront area, just the area in use. If you have a lawn, keep a buffer zone of trees and bushes to protect the water from runoff. These filter out 90% of harmful substances. Don't use fertilizer on your lawn. Avoid spillage from boats because the fish will leave. Install lake-friendly docks and avoid concrete barriers that kill everything that lives near them. Regarding your septic, avoid using cold water and cold-water detergent as cold destroys bacteria. Remember, no cooking oils or food waste down drains and, if you use a hot

tub, don't drain it into the septic. Clean out your septic every 2-3 years, more often if you use it more frequently, and take quick showers. Ensure that you make Septic instructions available for guests and renters. June asked for suggestions for topics to be discussed next year.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT (cont'd)

A discussion took place about taking well water samples to the Public Health Department on Chaffy Street in Huntsville (there is no cost for this service). They are open Monday to Thursday (not very convenient for weekend cottagers). Maybe bottles could be distributed to interested cottagers on the August long weekend and dropped off in Huntsville by a volunteer. It was suggested to send an email requesting a volunteer. June also announced that a map of Otter Lake cottagers was produced and is displayed on the Boychoff deck.

PHOTO CONTEST – June reported entries would be collected and displayed after the meeting. Please vote by 1:30pm. New this year are three categories –People, Animals and Landscape.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT (additional)

- Gary Acker reported that two water tests by SGS Lakefield Research were completed, August 2008 and June 2009. Analysis attached to these minutes.
- John Waltho reported on Parkers Landing. He has sent a letter to the Township of Algonquin thanking them for fixing the light and, although they topped up the dock gravel last year, that it needs replacing again. There is great concern that the dock needs major repairs. Discussion followed about the ramp condition and Diane Griffin interjected that to remove any gravel from the water the MNR had to be contacted. She encouraged John to keep up the fight with the Township of Algonquin as they have a 5-year plan in place for working on docks and landings. Parkers Landing is extensively used by most cottagers on Otter Lake and, because it is government owned, can also be used by the general public.
- Gary, on behalf of OLCA, has been attending the meetings of the Coalition of Haliburton Associations. This group started in 2008 and it's mission statement is "A broadly based Haliburton Coalition drawing upon the collective knowledge and strength of its member associations to create synergy through sharing Best Practices, effectively studying common issues, developing common solutions, recommending County wide policies, and influencing outcomes." One item on the CHA's agenda has been discussions on Nickel Mining in McClintock Township. Crown land can be mined right up to the property owner's land. The Provincial Government will have a second reading of the Ontario Mining Act in the fall and, upon this legislation passing, there will be no further claims staked. Gary read a letter concerning the activity of Ransburg Mining Company from 2001 to 2009. At this point in time it appears that Ransburg activity has decreased significantly and that they have lost interest in this area. A map showing Ransburg's claims in this area is displayed on the Boychoff's deck. If you would like to discuss further, please see Gary after the meeting.

FUN DAY

- Robinson's no longer donates food; however, they offered this year's at a price reduction (total of approx \$290).
- Food tickets will remain the same at \$3 each or \$10 for a family of 4. We may have to revisit the ticket prices for next year.
- Canoe Race will start after the AGM, with the Water Races and Land Games immediately following.
- Larry Cassie has prepared Buttons again this year. Your choice of a frig magnet or pinned button at a nominal cost of \$1 each.
- Fish Pond will take place after lunch. Nita requested help and Scott and Sharon MacMurphy volunteered.

- Nita thanked cottagers for their donations for the Raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or \$5 for 3. Help with selling tickets requested – John Waltho, Diana Scott and Rob Boychoff volunteered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Logo Contest: 14 entries are on display, including the OLCA existing logo. Please vote. The winner will receive a sweatshirt with the new logo.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane Griffin's Report:

- Reminder to use *Big Red* at the Landfill site for your batteries, cell phones, compact fluorescent bulbs and print cartridges.
- County of Haliburton received top honours for recycling from Waste Reduction Ontario.
- Landfill hours of operation were extended so that they no longer will be closed for two days in a row.
- Effective January 1, 2010 boat shrink-wrap will no longer be accepted at any landfill sites in Algonquin Highlands. For further info contact Gail Short at 705-489-2379.
- Hazardous Waste Days are August 1 at Oxtongue, September 5 (1-5pm) at Dorset and October 10 at Maple Lake. Ratepayers can use any of these landfill sites.
- Regarding hauled sewage, the McClintock township lagoon off County Road 12 had been temporarily closed due to excessive rainfall. With a Provincial and Federal funding grant of \$150,000, along with the Township's share from reserve accounts, work is underway to improve the lagoon.
- Reminder that there is no daytime burning between 7am to 7pm from April to October.
- Regarding your 911 signs, if they are defective please contact Cathy Howe at 705-286-2036. You are responsible for keeping them visible.
- In 2009 the Buckslide Dam Bridge was rehabilitated with grant monies, and some road closure was necessary. If you have a road emergency, please contact Richard Keown (new Superintendent Dorset Yard) at 705-854-0303. If he is not available call Brian Whetstone (Mgr of Operations) at 705-745-5450.
- Regarding Taxes, the 2009 Budget resulted in an overall tax decrease of 7.94%, representing a decrease of \$59.25 per \$100,000 assessment. Next tax notice due dates are August 28 and October 16.
- Chief Administrative Officer, Lorne Mitchell, retires end of December (with accrued paid leave entitlements and vacation his actual departure is October 30). Applications and interviews for his replacement will be undertaken over next few weeks.
- Diane gave a report on the Haliburton-Stanhope Airport expansion. This airport has been in existence for 40 years. The proposed runway mostly affects the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes. Current tax dollars for airports are \$9.80 per \$100,000 assessment, compared to \$97.30 for roads, \$30.10 for fire, \$57.90 for waste and \$32.60 for parks/recreation/culture. Both the Provincial and Federal Governments have listed airports being eligible for grant monies and the expansion has been planned for many years. Funding is 1/3 Provincial, 1/3 Federal and 1/3 Municipal for a total of \$3.4 million. There has been both controversy and support for this project. A full environmental assessment has been requested and a decision to go forward is at a stall.
- Diane announced that she will be leaving the office of Councillor for Ward 3 as of November 2010, and will not be seeking re-election. She is hopeful that a new candidate will come forward from Ward 3.

ELECTIONS – same Executive was approved: President (Gary Acker), Treasurer (Cliff Ayer), Secretary (Nita Acker), Lake Steward (June Lambden). Larry Cassie, Scott MacMurchy and John Waltho also remain as Directors.

Next Annual General Meeting – Saturday, July 31, 2010. Special celebration of the 100 year founding of Camp Otter will be planned.

CLOSE MEETING – As there was no further business, John Waltho motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 11:30am, seconded by June Lambden. All in favour, carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nita Acker, Secretary