

OTTER LAKE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, August 2, 2008

OPEN MEETING – President, Gary Acker opened the meeting at 9:45am and welcomed the approximate 40 cottagers present.

He then thanked the Boychoff family for hosting the AGM and Fun Day event for the 27th year.

Gary introduced the Directors – John Waltho (Parkers Landing liaison), June Lambden (Lake Steward), Larry Cassie (Website liaison) and Nita Acker (Secretary). Cliff Ayer, our Treasurer, is away. He also welcomed our newest Director, Scott MacMurchy.

Our newest cottage owners from last year were asked to introduce themselves – the Shrives (David & Sherry) and the Lehman's (Dan & Jan).

He welcomed our guest Diane Griffin, the Algonquin Highlands Councillor, who will give a report later.

Gary announced the Directors held meetings on Sept 2, 2007, May 18 and June 29, 2008.

And he invited everyone to view all the OLCA Information today posted on the Boychoff's deck railing.

MINUTES – Secretary, Nita Acker, read minutes from the last Annual General Meeting, August 4, 2007 and Gary asked for errors or omissions. As there were none, June Lambden moved that the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by John Waltho, all in favour, motion carried. Today's minutes will be posted on our website.

TREASURER REPORT – In Cliff's absence, Nita reported a bank balance of \$1,982.35. Membership is at 62, down 3 from last year. The 2007/08 expenditures are up from the previous year due to the purchase of Fun Day ribbons at \$225.72. Ribbons will not have to be ordered for several years. Competitive quotes for Fun Day insurance were received and a decision made to remain with the same agent as last year at the same cost of \$378. The FOCA fee structure has a base fee of \$75 plus \$2.50 for each member, plus tax. The winter cottage checks totaled \$1,400, an increase of \$100 from last year. Regarding the West Otter Lake Road Association (WOLRA) and our \$500 yearly installment commitment to the culvert for four years, this will be fulfilled the end of 2009. Membership dues (\$30) will be collected by Mary Vernon today in Cliff's absence. The Treasurer's full statement is posted on the Boychoff's deck railing and follows these minutes. The Directors proposed that \$50 be set aside for the community and Barb Penny made a motion, seconded by Diana Scott that we give the Dorset Community Planning committee \$50 to purchase 2 shrubs for the Dorset Hwy 17 Welcome sign. A discussion following – Cliff's suggestion was read regarding donating the money to replace the very worn Canadian Flag at the Township Office. Ian Meldrum shared that it was actually against the law to fly a tattered Canadian Flag so the Township Office will be asked to replace it. Barb's motion stands, all were in favour, carried.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT – June Lambden reported on the increase of bears in our area. This may be due to the electric fence now surrounding the Dorset landfill site. The fencing was a joint decision by the Township and the MNR sighting potential danger as the reason. Bears have utilized this food source for many years and now are foraging further a-field. Bears can smell food as far away as 6K so cottagers are encouraged to leave no garbage outside, to keep garbage and recycle containers clean, to clean BBQs, especially the drip tray, to restrict bird feeding to the winter months. Also hummingbird feeders can attract bears. If you compost, meat and fruit should be kept out and lime used to reduce odors. Doug Vernon shared that screens or railings will not keep bears out and Ian Meldrum suggested that the bears are now a potential danger in more places than the landfill, that we should lobby governments and FOCA to address the situation, to live trap them, move or possible shoot nuisance bears and to re-install a Spring bear hunt.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT (cont'd)

Doug Vernon also stated that hunting in general is decreasing and the numbers of bears, coyotes, deer and turkeys are increasing and are having less fear of humans. Gary Acker suggested that the MNR be called when you have bears on your property and, if their presence continues, that the MNR be requested to come out and deal with them. June Lambden had information brochures for everyone with a hot line to call (1-866-514-2327). She also suggested if you have fruit on your property that it be picked and to avoid planting anything bears like. If you have to dispose of meat, freeze it first and then collect it for garbage day. Also do not feed your pets outside. And remember, dogs may not be a deterrent for bears as their barking may indeed agitate them more. Information on bears is posted on our website and also on the bulletin boards at Tock Lane and Parkers Landing. June asked how many cottagers have sighted bears on their property and over half the members present put up their hand.

On another matter, June announced that the Photo Contest will be setup after the meeting, that photo entries should have your name and address on the back, that everyone present at Fun Day could vote up until 1:30pm.

Diana Scott reminded everyone to use phosphate free soaps and detergents.

Gary Acker reported on logging in our area. It will proceed but Tock Lane will not be used as a logging road. Existing logging roads and County Road 12 will be utilized during the period from August or September through to end of March 2009 and cottagers could expect to experience increase in noise levels. Gary also reported that a research project was being conducted in our lake on the Spiny Water Flea. Anneli Jokela, a Queen's University PhD student, received permission from the MNR and personally visited cottages in early June distributing information pamphlets. Spiny Water Fleas are an exotic invasive predatory zooplankton species which have spread throughout the Ontario inland lakes, originally introduced to the Great Lakes in the early 1980s. It is hoped that the testing will establish how the flea is interacting with native macroinvertebrates and whether it is having any negative impact. Anneli will be here about 11:30 to answer any questions you have.

Regarding water testing of our lake water for clarity and phosphorous, Gary has had delay in starting due to boat problems and the excessive rainfall. He hopes to start testing next week.

Professional water testing quotes from SGS for ecoli, mercury, phosphorus and nitrates were received – \$10 Ecoli, \$20 Mercury, \$15 Phosphorus, \$20 Nitrates, \$12 Shipping plus GST, for a total of approx \$80. Sharon MacMurchy moved that we order testing for August and again in May 2009, seconded by John Roots, all in favour, motion carried.

It was suggested that results be posted on the bulletin boards at Tock Lane and Parkers Landing.

Don Shaw reported a possible ecoli problem last year with several guest swimmers getting sick. He contacted the Ontario Ministry but they only analyze drinking water, not lake water.

WEBSITE (www.otterlakedorset.com) – Webmaster, Sam Mason, reported that the domain is up for renewal August 16th. Cost would be in U.S. dollars, \$25 for 1 yr, \$45 for 2 and \$90 for 5 years. Ian Meldrum moved, seconded by Richard Lambden that we renew for 5 years, all in favour, motion carried. Sam will order and be reimbursed by our treasury. Views (unique IPS's) are over 1,000 since August 2006.

FUN DAY – Gary Acker acknowledged Robinson's for supplying the food and beverage for today and will send thank you letters to Robinsons and those sponsors who donated raffle prizes. All the names of our sponsors are posted on the deck railing.

Gary also thanked cottagers for donating raffle prizes and thanked Nita, Larry Cassie and Karen Cassie for all their help.

Fun Day (cont'd)

Last year's race results unfortunately couldn't be sent to local newspapers due to incomplete information. This year's race results will be posted on our website, and local newspapers will be contacted. The names of last year's 3rd place Canoe racers are unknown and still remain a mystery.

Canoe Race will start at 11am, followed by Water Races & Land Games, including Fish Pond. BBQ lunch is at 12:30 and Raffle at 2pm. Nita Acker asked if anyone could help as lifeguard for the water sports and Julie Brooks will. Also she asked for volunteers to help with tickets sales today.

NEW BUSINESS

1. John Waltho reported on Parkers Landing. He continues to monitor and has written letters to the municipality asking for repairs. Holes in the gravel area have been repaired but gravel is still seeping through the wood barrier. He has not heard what they plan to do about the launch area which continues to fill up with gravel which is very precarious for launching boats. The light pollution problem has been addressed and now an orange light has been installed which only shines at night. John also reported concerns for gravel, large rocks and asphalt which had been deposited in the ditch across from Parkers Landing, hindering the culvert flow. The asphalt has been removed and he is still waiting to hear about the gravel and large rocks.

Concern was voiced about campers at the Parkers Landing location and a discussion ensued. Diane Griffin will ask the Municipality to put up a "no camping" sign.

2. Gary passed along a request from FOCA to encourage our membership to go to WRAFT (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation) website <http://www.wraft.com/home.php> and participate in an on-line petition to show concern for increasing taxes. Also for those without a computer, a few copies of the petition are available today.

3. Gary announced a New Logo Contest – deadline is Thanksgiving Weekend, October 13th, prize is a sweatshirt displaying winning design, submission is to be black & white on 8 1/2" x 11" plain white paper. Include your name, address and telephone and mail to *Otter Lake Logo Contest 2008, PO Box 55, Dorset, ON POA 1E0*. Full details are on the Boychoff's deck, our website, at Parkers Landing and Tock Lane

4. Algonquin Highlands Councillor Diane Griffin's report – tax bills to come out next week which will include a 2.46% increase. The freeze on assessments will be lifted in 2009 so we can expect more increases at that time. She reported hazardous waste days August 30th at Dorset Landfill and October 11th at Maple Lake. Hours of the Dorset Landfill site have changed and concerns noted that the site is closed for an extended period from 1pm Mondays to Thursdays. There is a "Big Red" container in the Dorset landfill building which will accept single use disposable batteries, rechargeable batteries, cell phones, printer cartridges and compact CFL bulbs. The Bowles inquired about Landfill Access Cards and Diane noted that its use is a bylaw. New owners of the Dorset landfill site are requesting the cards be shown, even by long-term customers. She suggested that cards are available at no cost from the Township office in Dorset. Gary also volunteered to pick up a few for anyone needing them. Diane will be available for further questions after the meeting.

Next ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Saturday, **August 1, 2009, 9:30am** – coffee's on!

CLOSE MEETING – As there was no further business, John Waltho motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 11:20am, seconded by Hester Ellerington. All in favour, carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nita Acker - Secretary

Otter Lake Cottagers Association
Year-end Statement 2007-2008

Fiscal Year	03-'04	04-'05	05-'06	06-'07	07-'08
Opening Balance	###	###	###	###	###
Revenues					
Fun Day	\$459.12	\$-	\$693.00	\$679.00	\$642.00
Inventory Sales	\$-	\$-	\$86.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Membership	###	###	###	###	###
Interest	\$27.13	\$15.45	\$16.42	\$16.02	\$15.40
Donations	\$-	\$-	\$170.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
Total Revenues	###	###	###	###	###
Expenditures					
Fun Day	\$60.00	\$27.75	\$23.30	\$20.00	\$323.34
Inventory Purchases	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
F.O.C.A.	\$200.63	\$203.03	\$207.85	\$217.83	\$246.23
Warden (winter check	###	###	###	###	###
Insurance	\$-	\$405.00	\$567.00	\$378.00	\$378.00
Donations	\$-	\$200.00	\$-	\$75.00	\$-
Administration	\$130.32	\$129.01	\$26.10	\$46.05	\$16.25
WOLRA Culvert Instalr	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Expenditures	###	###	###	###	###
Closing Balance	###	###	###	###	###
Annual Profit	\$165.30	\$(719.34)	\$491.17	\$233.14	\$(246.42)
# of Paid Members	57	51	55	65	62

Respectively submitted,

Clifford T. Ayer