

# S.D.R.A. Annual General Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Free Methodist Church, Cloyne, Ontario

### Attendees:

Kent Farrow  
Derek Mendham  
Ron Nowell  
Gordon McCulloch  
Heather Machan  
Ken Hook  
Cathy Hook  
Laury Hitchcock  
Lynn Garnish  
Gary Evans  
Rick Sears

### Regrets:

Karen Stacey

#### ○ **President's Welcome**

- Kent opened the meeting and welcomed SDRA members and Sheldrake Lake Association members to this year's AGM. Kent advised the members that this meeting will need to be interactive considering the topics of the agenda.
- Kent thanked the executive for their support this year and special thanks to the following:
  - Ron Nowell as past president
  - Cathy Hook for great job on the newsletter
  - Gary Evans for his work as web master
  - Foodland – Bob Glecoff
  - Mike Cummings for his donated time and labour on sign posts for AGM and for rebuild of Lynn's garage
  - Wendy Thompson from Interior Design for \$100 donation from "earn your lake dollars"
  - Karen & Dave Stacey for the banners for this year's AGM
  - Trevor Snider for the mulch for the sign in the parking lot
- Kent reminded the members of long time member Harvey McKay who recently passed away and expressed condolences on behalf of the SDRA
- Kent advised members that he reviewed allowance in constitution in regards to offering of a directorship and introduced Derek Mendham, a new member of SDRA executive team, as the Director of Sheldrake Lake Association

#### ○ **Guest Speakers**

- Kent introduced Bob Taylor who is in the process of introducing an FM station to the region. Some points of interest from Bob's speech below:
  - About 1 year ago, created the idea of a FM station for the community
  - Was 50 watts initially, now looking at 250 watts

- Marketing the station now and the recent survey had an overwhelming response from the community
- Received letters of support from council as well as local businesses and residents
- Now formed a subcommittee and made note of the following:
  - Received some grants, selling memberships, \$10 per, includes bumper sticker
  - Donation board will be set up in the studio as well
  - Will be advertising the type of music
  - CRTC – very specific, must be certain amount of new and local artists
  - Remote broadcasting and online streaming is expected
  - \$40 per day to run the station, online streaming \$30-\$40 per week
  - Broadcasting engineering review – normally a 3 year project, 1 year ahead of time
  - Golf tourney, Aug 16<sup>th</sup> to support the station – please sign up
- Kent introduced Brad Robson (in place for Casey Cuddy) from the local fire department. Some key points of Brad's speech below:
  - Brad is from Kaladar, Cloyne, and Denbigh firehalls, joint relationship between all 3 halls
  - Auto extraction, Emergency health calls, and fire fighting are the main duties
  - All firefighters volunteers, chief is only full time employee and paid position
  - Volunteers get paid for training, \$15 a training night, \$25 per call
  - Training – Brad has been a volunteer for 5 years and has trained for fire fighting as well as medical related calls, majority of calls are for medical reasons
  - Responding to a call for “boat access” locations – somebody on the main line should be used as a contact, dispatch is in Napanee so they are unfamiliar of the area, therefore need an address or location
  - Pamphlets available at the meeting includes advise on incinerators, what you can burn and what you can't only
  - Fire bans – if there is one it is typically from 7am to 7pm banned for brush fire, campfires ok
    - Camp fires left unattended – a lot of times neighbour calls in; they can be charged if left unattended, \$200/hr per truck, \$25 per firefighter, chief makes decision
    - Regular problem on Sheldrake Lake – call fire chief is best solution
    - There have been people charged, so he will not hesitate to charge people when required, most cottages have a fire pit, campers on the island is a problem mostly
  - Setting of fire ban sign for fire hazard is set by fire department, MNR do humidex readings and consider wind factor, they will contact chief by email if setting is to be changed
  - Smoking alarm must be on every level in cottage, every 10 yrs have to replace them, it is the law, and they should also be in bunkies, and on each level ensure alarm is outside of bedrooms
  - Green flashing light is volunteer responding to a call – city people don't know, usually light is in the dash of the vehicle, so be aware
  - Pumps on our lake – pump on Blake Island, sign on north side of island, extremely heavy pump, can be put in a boat, another two at Ron Nowell's, gas powered, one doesn't work
  - In winter – keep a hole in the lake, fire dept can use a portable pump
  - Matches lighters have killed more children than guns
  - Pamphlets also include fire warnings for cooks
  - Carbon monoxide detectors – if you have a fireplace it's a good idea to have one, not law for existing buildings but all new buildings it is law; symptoms of carbon monoxide effect is light headed and tired, best to get outside right away
  - House fires – unattended cooking and alcohol is number 1 contributor
  - Fire extinguishers, make sure it is ABC, class A is combustible, B – electrical, C – burning liquids
  - Pay attention when cooking – 95% of calls on structure fires is leaving pots unattended

- When you call 911 – can the trucks get to you safely, boat access get a buddy, say that you are on an island, call trucks come to an address, make sure have a boat there
  - Fire dept has no boat, trying to fund one
- **Kent introduced Helen Yanch – deputy reeve, member of AHEAD Committee. Some key points of Helen’s speech below:**
- Apologized for Henry Hogg not making the meeting
  - Lives on Skootamatta river, just outside of Flinton
  - Family have worked in the township for over 100 years
  - Thanked SDRA for information in Newsletter
  - The region continues to be challenged on funding road repair
  - After Helen’s speech, Lynn Garnish raised a concern about the Cloyne dump hours closed now at 1:00 pm on Sunday. Helen advised that it was a North Frontenac decision, not Cloyne council. Helen advised that they could not get someone to work at the Cloyne dump so now the Highway 506/Kashwakamak dump and Cloyne dump have to share the hours of the one employee. Kent requested that Helen go back to council and raise this as an official concern of SDRA as the dump hours should be negotiated, not dictated.
  - Kent had 2 questions for Helen regarding the RFP:
    - There is a new RFP, according to what we are hearing, and yet Kent nor SDRA nor the Sheldrake Lake Association were advised. Kent asked what is council doing to improve communication, and what vision do you see in terms of our role (SDRA) in providing help to council?
    - Helen responded that they know people are upset of the idea of an Eco Lodge or Resort, but we need to generate work for people in the township. Helen advised that she believes there has been fair communication sent out but will take this matter back to council.
    - Kent advised Helen that there needs to be a communication line established between the associations and council’s private meetings, otherwise members will think council is secretly making decisions without notice. Kent explained that it is not about a webpage, it is simply picking up a phone and having the courtesy to advise associations of what is going on. Kent explained that is how he operates when there is a requirement for him to contact Henry on any issues, yet the council does not. This only breeds the atmosphere of secrecy and people are concerned as they have money invested in their property.
  - Mark Brundage specifically asked whether this communication will be sent out via some newsletter or in a tax bill. Helen responded that they could probably put something on the council website (Addington Council minutes). Kent responded that the council’s minutes are not very concise, sketchy and selective, and that property issues are private meetings and that realistically any information on RFP will never appear in their minutes.
  - Bill Garnish asked about this latest rumour of a revised RFP, a parcel of land, 20 acres, near Sheldrake Lake, its crown land. Helen responded that the RFP is for a smaller piece of land than original request. Bill expressed his concern about the secrecy of this council and motioned that Helen take back our concern to council regarding the council’s secrecy and lack of communication to associations, seconded by Jim McKay an SDRA member.
  - Kent advised that he has heard that the RFP is for 20 acres in the same general area, and that it is now in the hands of the assessor and that they are going into the property to get a land value.
  - Jim McKay expressed his concerns and that decisions are being made without fair representation from the community which is the cottagers, and that likely most cottagers do not want this Eco lodge. Jim explained to Helen that while the members understand there is a need to develop the economy of the region there are other ways to do that. While this lodge

might be creating jobs for 50 people, if council is having problems getting someone to work at the dump, what makes council so sure that they will get people to work at this lodge.

- Rosemary expressed her concern with Helen's remarks about "you cottagers don't want this development". Rosemary reminded Helen that the majority of the tax payers in the area are cottagers and should be considered no different than a local resident. Making a distinction between the two is unnecessary and is not helpful especially in situations like this RFP.
- Derek Mendham asked how does his vote get to council? Derek explained that while he agrees with developing jobs, but is concerned why we are not asked to participate in the process. Helen responded that she believes council are communicating and is sorry if that is not the case. Derek responded to say that this time 'sorry' is not good enough.
- Gary Evans explained that anything the council does for financial gain or loss being in-camera is ok, but not to include the rest of council's agenda has an impact on residences
- Lynn Garnish asked Helen that after the RFP in the fall when our president sent a letter to council with SDRA's concerns about the lack of communication, why would council go ahead and leave SDRA out of the loop the 2<sup>nd</sup> time? No response from Helen.
- Helen advised that there might be an opportunity for SDRA to attend a council meeting on a Saturday or Sunday to get some questions out of the way. Helen will mention it to council.
- Kent explained that he wrote a letter to council advising them that SDRA want to attend a council meeting and that we would like to attend sometime during the summer. Kent advised that council responded indicating this was fine and that they will accept our attendance.
- Kent closed SDRA's position on this matter with Helen and explained that this is not idle chatter, it is a real concern of our members and that we would like some direction from council. Kent reminded Helen that in our constitution SDRA's mandate is to ensure our members' rights are not impacted by neighbours or government agencies.

#### ○ **Treasurer's Report**

- Lynn Garnish covered an overview of the report.
- The report is in the newsletter, it represents June 2007 to June 2008
- By end of 2007 we had 176 paid members, as of today we have 140 and by July of last year we only had 87 members paid, so at this rate we will likely come in at over 200 paid by year end 2008
- There were over 225 newsletters mailed out.
- Boat ramp fund – people are putting money in the box; \$46 collected so far
  - If you are paid member you don't have to pay
  - We don't let police boat pay
- Insurance rate premium stays the same this year
- Lynn closed by thanking the community and Mike Cummings for pulling together for her and Bill in regards to their help with the rebuilding of their garage.

#### ○ **Introduction of Lake Reps**

- Gord McCullough explained to the members that the reps have responsibility of the lake in their respective area.
- The purpose is to keep SDRA and cottagers informed of what is going on in their area and to let cottagers know about SDRA, some of the information goes in the newsletter
- Gord introduced lake reps at the meeting.

#### ○ **Elections**

- Kent advised that Ann Chisholm has resigned and therefore there is one position open for a director.
- Kent explained that Ann's position has no title but there are many activities that we divide up between directors.
- Kent opened the floor for nominations, Jane Falby was nominated by her husband, Len Meinhold seconded. Kent welcomed Jane aboard.

- **Water Testing**

- Ken Hook covered an overview of the water testing program for this year
- More extensive than ever before, and Rosemary, Gord, and Ken involved
- This has been a volunteer program since 1997
- Ken explained that Secchi readings were done for water clarity
  - It is a partners program, coordination done by Gord
  - 1997 – 2006 we were getting Secchi readings annually of 3.9 to 4.9 metres clarity
  - SDRA will do 2 tests this year
  - Ken advised that it is possible that the lake is getting clearer, this doesn't necessarily mean a good thing, for instance on some lakes it can mean zebra mussels are present
  - Comparison to other lakes – Kashwakamak was 4 – 6 metres, Mazinaw was 4 -6 metres
  - Charleston, Kennebec, and Stoney lakes are comparable
- Ken explained that on July 8<sup>th</sup> there will be an invasive species program launched by the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters, some notes:
  - Over 200 lakes will be sampled, looking for spiny plankton and look for villagers (larval stage of zebra mussels)
  - Zebra mussels can occur in a lake 2 years before they actually can be seen
  - We will have readings of our lake sometime in the fall on our web site. We will sample different areas of the lake
  - If villagers are found in our lake, we will have to find out what we can about it from OFAH
  - Newsletter outlines the common prevention
- We will do 9 locations on the lake for water testing, testing for ecoli, phosphates, etc.
- Ken explained that we are trying to establish a database so that we can track our own water quality
- We will also have links to other information such as the septic seminar and any related information such as poor septic systems linked to ecoli levels.

- **Lake Management Plan**

- Rosemary Teed introduced the LMP to members, some notes below:
- Rosemary explained that a large contributor to lake problems is due to boats and trailers not being rinsed off before entering the lake
- We are likely to see invasive species in our lake
- The LMP is all about stewardship
- Lakes that have undertaken an LMP have found them useful and they draw the community residences together
- Its an education for all of us, to learn how to be true stewards of the lake, for example:
  - Soaps should be 100% organic
  - Sewage issue needs focus, often people turn a blind eye
- Goals and objectives:
  - How do we capture our residences requirements/concerns? – through questionnaires, workshops, we involve different levels of government, including Addington Highlands council, all councils have a role to play in this
  - All of us will be included in the communication process
  - Everyone will have a say on what is important to them – you will be able to provide input
- Process – is important as the product developed
  - We may muddle along thru the process, but the whole idea of discussing the lake and what we want from it, is really the plan
  - Addressing the diverse views as well
- Today there are a number of lakes undertaking this task, lake associations in Canada and U.S.
- Tay River watershed – Crow Lake, Bob's Lake for instance have undertaken an LMP
- Rideau Lake association will help us, Tay River Association will help us as well as Quinte Conservation

- Options –
  - 1 – do nothing
  - 2 – hire a consultant, extremely costly, or find an environmental master's degree student to develop an LMP for their thesis
  - 3 - undertake it ourselves, it will be a 3 year process and is well worth it
  - SDRA executive decided in March that we would put it to vote today at AGM
  - If decision is to proceed, we will establish a steering committee, educate volunteers, we then reach out historical societies and council, establish a timeline, and then a high level plan
  - Rosemary turned the discussion over to Kent to organize vote with members. A show of hands indicated that the majority of SDRA members want an LMP.
  - Kent noted that it is an official SDRA mandate that the members want an LMP.
  - Rosemary indicated that the LMP will also include signs being posted at various boat ramps around the lake indicating to boaters that boats and trailers are to be rinsed.
  - Guy Viggers indicated that the MNR already has an LMP for Skootamatta Lake and yet this doesn't seem to matter. The township destroyed amphibious eggs with the reconstruction of Hughes Landing road (i.e. paved over turtle eggs), and in order to make your LMP have some teeth it has to come through the MNR office. It should include Sheldrake Lake and be aware that in some cases boat ramps being closed is a possibility.
  - Bruce Cook from Jacques Bay asked why we can't fast track the process by using another lakes plan and leverage their process and findings. Rosemary indicated that we will do that where applicable.
  - The other concern raised was about who was going to regulate and police this plan. For instance perhaps we will have to put a policy in place about size of motor boat allowed on the lake. Rosemary indicated that there is no law in the country policing an LMP. In this case, the LMP committee will do the policing. An LMP means we have a lot of people watching have a greater force.
  - Rosemary closed by advising everyone that volunteer sign up sheet will be provided at end of the meeting.
  
- **Request For Proposal (RFP)**
  - Kent opened by advising everyone that we are attempting to communicate to the membership as much as possible about the RFP. Kent provide some background as follows:
    - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Kent received a letter from HEAD committee, MNR and A&H, that an RFP for an Eco lodge was going out
    - A map was provided, it would be accessible by north access road of Skootamatta Lake
    - This created a sense of panic and it seemed to conveniently come out when cottagers had already packed up for the season and went home
    - This RFP also followed the announcement of the Hughes Landing road rebuild of \$900k, was explained to Kent as coincidental, there was no intent to provide that road for any economic development and told that by members of council
    - This was explained to **Kent** as broadening the economic growth, tax base, and jobs
    - We attended the proponents meeting, asked a series of questions and explained that we don't seem to be partners in this, just outsiders looking in, and not privy to information
    - We looked at the economic business case that the numbers didn't make sense
  - Kent opened the floor for members to provide comment, the following is an overview:
    - Bill **Francetto**, 39d Osborne point road, full time resident:
      - Asked about a phone survey that was done on this matter. Heather Machan explained that this was an informal survey. Heather offered to give results of the survey, Kent declined.
    - Bill Garnish, from Upper Lake:

- Explained that he is not opposed to any development, as long as good for everyone long term. This policy of council excluding SDRA of information is something to be worried about, and personally is opposed to this RFP.
- Bill further commented that we should get numbers from other lodges that are successful and determine whether this RFP is going to be successful or just going to end up a “white elephant” that’s going to draw from all of our taxes
- John Coulter – former resident of Lake Muskoka:
  - Has seen this situation before in Muskoka where contractors didn’t get paid, it was Venachy Lodge, \$47 million of federal money, Ontario spent \$40million on the road, lodge was not successful, it was to be turned into an Inn for rock and roll bands and eventually was shut down.
  - John explained that he is an acoustical engineer, designs hotels, provides environmental assessment. John commented further that SDRA is naïve if they think nothing is going to happen and that we need to step up and act fast. We need to get in front of council and sustain pressure.
- Mike St. Amand – Skootamatta Lake resident:
  - Use this land for hunting and fishing
  - The next thing we know that the lodge will be giving out hunting and fishing guides
  - Resorts come in, crown land will be reserved by them, yet crown land is for everyone
- Gordon Birnie has a cottage on Vardy Road
  - Small community of Flinton is not the controlling mind, someone at the cabinet level did this likely
  - Asked where’s the environmental assessment, where’s the sewage going?
- Ken Hook – Skootamatta Lake resident
  - Expressed his concern about the notion that members are thinking that council is under some conspiracy to keep information from everyone. This is not the case and no one is making a lot of money on this.
  - Ken further explained that Louise Scott from Hughes Landing road has been fighting for us for quite some time to get this road upgraded and it was finally put as a high priority on council’s plans and this was long before the RFP came out.
  - On October 2006 Ken was approached by a developer. He did his job as Reeve at the time. The matter was taken to MNR and by December he was out of office.
  - He is not proud of the way that council has communicated this matter.
  - Ken recommended 2 people in SDRA, 2 locals to represent the lake and town and get input into council on our expectations. For instance, we can have a say on planes landing in our lake that it be struck from the deal.
  - SDRA should have a role to play on council, we should recommend to council to allow SDRA to have an official role.
- Jim Osborne – Skootamatta Lake
  - Jim explained that he doesn’t suspect anyone is here to make money on the RFP, and that there is good intention here on what they are trying to do, but if you don’t know where you are then you need to establish that first. The time to kill this is now.
  - From what he has heard this is going to be an eco bubble of \$150 per night with 65% occupancy per night – this is not viable financially. This is going to turn out to be something else in the longer term and we won’t like it.
- Don Naduriak – owner of Loon Lake Lodge, Skootamatta Lake
  - Don explained that there is pressure on the area, there is going to be development, we can’t stop it. He is noticing a difference himself in terms of the impact on the lodge. He has problems getting people hired now with his lodge.
  - Instead, we should create submit some alternative development plans to council.

- We don't own the lake, instead of trying to stop it, bind together and offer some other ideas. We want to control the development, so offer other ideas.
- Kent closed the discussion with the following:
  - At last exec meeting, we decided to form a committee to address this matter with council.
  - Kent explained that as long as he is president, to respect the privacy of each member, there will be no motion for a vote "for or against" the RFP.
  - The committee will report back to SDRA on a regular basis on progress and findings. If people are interested being on the committee that they are to speak to him after the meeting.
  - Kent officially motioned ... "That the SDRA executive be entrusted to form a committee, no more than 8 individuals, to investigate and deal with an RFP on or adjacent to Skootamatta Lake, report findings regularly to its membership, with the caveat that SDRA is not opposed to development per say as long as it is in the best interest of its membership". Don Hall seconded the motion.
  - Jim O'Boerne had motioned earlier that we should vote today on this matter, Lynn Osborne had seconded it. Jim later withdrew his motion.
- **Other news:**
  - 'Name the Meat' and Photo contests
    - Gary Evans explained this is a great way to communicate with everyone using the website
    - The contest was in conjunction with Cloyne foods. Contest is closed and Gary thanked everyone for participating. The winner will be announced shortly on the web site.
    - Photo contest – Gary indicated this will open immediately and he asked everyone to please submit photos, sunsets are good. Contest closed on Labour Day and winner will be announced shortly after that.
  - Kent reminded everyone that the Septic seminar is on July 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, POT Luck is on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at Ron Nowell's place, and Fireworks display is on August 30<sup>th</sup>, rain day is Aug 31<sup>st</sup>
- **New Business:**
  - Kent indicated that some information came in on an Addington Highlands bylaw about dog ownership.
  - Kent read some of the overview. No comments from members.
- **Closing Remarks and adjournment:**
  - Kent thanked everyone for attending and noted that it has been a very interactive meeting with good feedback on the RFP from the membership.
  - Kent adjourned the meeting, Laury seconded.