

**SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 4, 2009
PINEVIEW FREE METHODIST CHURCH**

Attending: 105

1. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

The President, Kent Farrow called the meeting to order at 10:10 and commented as follows:

- He thanked the executive for its hard work in organizing today's meeting;
- He stated that one of his goals as President was to improve communications and in that regard gave special thanks to the newsletter editor, Cathy Hook and the SDR A Webmaster, Gary Evans;
- He thanked the newsletter sponsors and asked members to frequent those businesses;
- He thanked Northbrook Foodland for its continued sponsorship of the AGM BBQ;
- He mentioned today's elections and noted that there was no representation from Pringle Lake;
- He stated that the Executive would be reviewing the constitution at an upcoming meeting to correct some inconsistencies in executive positions - e.g. past president (voting or non-voting) and looking at expanding the number of directors; and
- He commented on the use of the SDR A website for information purposes. All actions undertaken by the SDR A is communicated on the website.

2. 2008 AGM MINUTES

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Jim Osborne, seconded by Len Meinhold and carried unanimously the members agreed to dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting as posted on the SDR A website.

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Jim Osborne, seconded by Mike Cumming and carried unanimously the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held July 5, 2008 are approved.

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3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Lynn Garnish reported as follows:

- She reported at year end of 2008 there were 169 paid members down 7 from 2007 Year end 2008 closing balance was \$8,540.75;
- We are down 30% for 2009 - Lynn will send out reminders;
- There are 321 cottage addresses on the database, however a percentage of those residents do not want to be members;
- 231 newsletters were mailed - 74% of those paid their membership in 2008;
- As at 2008, accumulated clothing sales over the years have made a profit of \$1,911.15;
- Ramp fund :accumulated balance is \$1,696.50;
- With new members the SDRA is completely self sufficient in 2009;
- Lynn asked members to invite any new cottagers in their lake locations to become members.

4. LAKE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Gord McCulloch reported as follows:

- There are nine lake rep positions covering the nine major areas of the lake;
- These positions are considered the "eyes and ears" for the SDRA;
- The reps report on local news, birth and deaths;
- main responsibility should be to try to visit any new neighbours and make sure they know what the SDRA is about and ask them to join;
- more members = stronger organization.
- He is looking for reps for the upper lake, causeway/lower lake, east shore, and narrows.

5. WATER TESTING

Ken Hook reported on the water testing completed in 2008 and reported in the 2009 Newsletter as follows:

- New in 2008 was the testing done for invasive species - the testing kit was supplied by OFAH and MNR and consisted on taking samples of zoo plankton. The good news is that no invasive species were detected. However, the MNR

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stressed that even though no evidence of invasive species were found during the test period it does not mean there are none in the lake;

- Zebra mussels – Skootamatta does not have high volumes of calcium or limestone which means the lake likely will not support zebra mussels;
- Spiny water flea are the size of thumb nail which feed on zoo plankton which we need in the lake to eat algae;
- Round goby – there was a non-confirmed sighting of round goby this spring – they grow to 10 inches in length and are very aggressive – they eat the fry of native fish; it is illegal to have live gobies in your possession;
- Prevention: buy bait locally; do not empty minnows in lake - put on land; clean boats before going to another water body – pressure wash or leave in sun for 5 days;
- Partners Program: reports Skootamatta is a very healthy lake;
- Secchi disk testing measures the clarity of lake; Ministry of Environment – no significant issues;
- Also new in 2008, the lake was tested for e-coli in several locations. The testing indicated a reading of 2 parts per million, likely from bird species – A reading of 100 parts per million will close beaches;
- Ken stressed the importance to maintain vigilance with regard to keeping invasive species out of our lake.

6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Bill Garnish, Economic Development Committee Chairman, and SDRA Representative on the AHEAD Committee reported on Committee matters as follows:

- Background – In the fall of 2007 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the County of Lennox and Addington and the Township of Addington Highlands Council for development of an “eco” lodge on Sheldrake Lake. The RFP closed November 2007 with no respondents.

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It was felt there were too many conditions on the transfer of title of land to developer.

- During the 2008 AGM there was a mandate given to the SDRA to review future RFPs and any responses; the Economic Development Committee was formed;
- The Committee first met in August 2008 and its first item of importance was improving the communications between the SDRA, the Township and MNR. As a result of a presentation at council, it was suggested that a representative be given a position on the AHEAD committee. The Committee also met with MNR, and has received ongoing updates.
- A professor from the University of Ottawa introduced three groups of students to the area and all were to research and prepare independent report on the proposed development on Sheldrake Lake. The decision whether to publish their reports was left up to each group. Two groups did publish with findings that the eco lodge would not be economically viable;
- To protect its interests in the RFP process, the SDRA has retained a municipal law and land use planning lawyer;
- Another contact from Trent University is preparing an assessment on the environment at the proposed site – there are a lot of wetlands on Sheldrake and on Skootamatta which should be protected;
- RFP now dormant but the Committee will continue to monitor; the largest condition in the RFP relating to title has now been removed and the area for sale is significantly smaller than first offered;
- The Committee will continue to meet over the winter to review and confirm mandate of committee and the roles of the members.

7. LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rosemary Teed reported on the activities of the Lake Management Committee relating to the LMP survey and other lake activities as follows:

- Accomplished development and distribution of survey;
- Information received from member and non-member base;

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- Currently in the middle of tabulation and preliminary assessment - more information will be posted on website;
- The LMP core committee for 2009 plus volunteers from 2008 hope to be more task specific for 2009;
- After members indicated their concern regarding the state of the lake beaches and crown land campsites, MNR was contacted and arrangements made for MNR Junior Rangers to do campsite cleanup. The clean up is scheduled for July 20th or 21st; the SDRA to partner in clean up - remove garbage, broken glass, fire pit refuse This is another example of partnering with MNR who have been most helpful with everything SDRA has asked;
- Invasive species signs have been erected at boat launches - OFAH provided all information and signs - more information is available on the table at the back of the room as follow up to Ken Hook's presentation relating to invasive species;
- Checklist for boaters handed out last year at landing lot;
- Septic seminar last summer - Quinte conservation authority presented on septic - great attendance and feedback;
- LMP Survey - sent 345 surveys; 115 returned which is a significant return 35% / 50% of members returned. Still time to return survey;

Highlights

- 89% of respondents urged septic inspection
- Overwhelmingly want crown land left wilderness
- if any proposed development want proposals rigorously vetted
- Majority of respondents have issues with jet skis

Future plans

- Publish survey result
- Will establish LMP mission and objective - lots of comments from respondents
- Develop timeline for tasks
- Assign specific task for committee
- State of lake report by summer 2010

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- Rosemary concluded by thanking all those who returned their completed surveys as their comments are important and will be communicated to Addington Highlands Council.

8. WEBMASTER REPORT

Gary Evans reported that website input from members was excellent and updated the members as follows:

- 2008 Photo contest - winner: Noreen Coombs - another contest running this year;
- In an effort to include the children in lake matters, the SDRA is sponsoring a poster contest for children ages 6 - 12. Laury Hitchcock announced the theme: "TAKING CARE OF SKOOTAMATTA LAKE" - a combination of words and pictures. Children may submit as many posters as they want with their name, age, address and phone number. Cloyne Village Foods (CVF) has very kindly offered to accept all completed posters;
- 2008 Recipe Contest was a joint venture of CVF and the SDRA. The winning entry "Big Island Burger" was submitted by Marty McBride. Corey Keller, one of the new owners of CVF honored the commitment of the previous owners and presented Mary with a \$25 meat gift certificate and BBQ tools. CVF is now offering the Big Island Burger for sale at the store;
- Corey reported they are working to resolve the water issue and confirmed the water is tested regularly;
- Kent added there were over 16,000 hits on the Skootamatta.ca website which confirms it is a tremendous communication tool.

9. GREETINGS FROM THE REEVE

Kent Farrow introduced the Reeve of Addington Highlands; Henry Hogg who congratulated the SDRA on such an active association and indicated he was looking forward to working together. At that point, Henry opened to meeting to questions or issues from the members as follows:

- Ross Cooper and Ron Nowell took issue with the new STOP signs at Hughes Landing Road and Skootamatta Lake Road. This intersection is now a 3-way

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stop. The Reeve indicated there had been lots of close calls and complaints and due to the safety issue the sign was installed;

- Mike Cummings asked if there was any record of an accident ever occurring at this site. The Reeve said not as far as he was aware but the OPP would have those records not necessarily the Township
- Members asked if a 3-way stop was planned for the Skootamatta Lake Road / Jacques Bay Rd intersection as it was the same type of "T" intersection but Reeve Hogg indicated the Township had received no complaints for this intersection;
- The 2009 tax bill newsletter announced a change in disposal of household garbage. Effective August 15th garbage must be put in clear bags supplied by the Township. For each container of recyclables you will now receive a clear bag in place of a bag tag. Garbage must be placed in the clear bag to be accepted at Township dumps and at the Cloyne Transfer Station. Reeve Hogg indicated the Township was not meeting the provincial targets of recycling and it was hoped the clear bag system would make people aware of the importance of recycling;
 - Rosemary Teed pointed out to Reeve Hogg that a large percentage of LMP respondents reported that they take their garbage out of township to their homes which the Province would not approve;
 - A member asked if green garbage bags could be used for recycling and Reeve Hogg indicated we need to use blue boxes;
 - Residents using the dump could be asked to open bag - applies to both commercial/residential users;
 - Lynn Garnish advised the Reeve that not all stores in Cloyne sell Addington Highlands garbage tags i.e. Cloyne Village Foods sells North Frontenac only and Home Hardware sells Addington Highlands. Since the dump accepts both tags the revenue is not accurately apportioned as people are not going to go to a separate store just for garbage tags. The Reeve said this could pose a problem for Addington Highlands revenue and would look into it
 - Clear bags from North Frontenac and Addington Highlands to be clearly labeled with Township name. The Reeve agreed that bags should be available at more retail stores;

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- Recycling Update - Reeve Hogg indicated glass is now being recycled by Addington Highlands and pointed out the Cloyne site is operated by North Frontenac;
- Hazardous Waste Disposal - RONA accepts paint for recycling but the paint must be in its original can; RENFREW is the closest hazardous waste site - the cost is very prohibitive - Ministry of Environment is working on changing how hazardous waste is disposed of but the process is very slow
- Empty, dried paint cans may be disposed of at Township dump sites.

Kent thanked the Reeve on behalf of the SDRR for attending the meeting and answering all questions and concerns of the members.

10. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

At this point in the meeting Karen Stacey presented the slate of officers and directors standing for election as follows:

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Laury Hitchcock

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by John Teed, seconded by Ron Nowell and carried unanimously Laury Hitchcock be elected as President of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of two years.

VICE-PRESIDENT 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Karen Stacey

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Sharon McKay, seconded by Jim McKay and carried unanimously Karen Stacey be elected as Vice President of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of two years.

SECRETARY 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Heather Machan

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Carolyn McCulloch, seconded by Gary Evans and carried unanimously Heather Machan be elected as Secretary of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of two years.

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TREASURER 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: **Hermann Balon**

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Christine Balon, seconded by Ron Nowell and carried unanimously Hermann Balon be elected as Treasurer of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of two years.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Director/Lake Steward 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Rosemary Teed

Director 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Gary Evans

Director 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Gord McCulloch

Director 2 year term, OPEN Nominated: Cathy Hook

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Len Meinhold, seconded by Sandra Clark and carried unanimously the slate of directors as set out above be elected as Directors of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of two years.

One Year Term:

Director 1 year term, OPEN Nominated: Jim Osborne

Director 1 year term, OPEN Nominated: Kent Farrow

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Mike Cumming, seconded by Ron Nowell and carried unanimously the slate of directors as set out above be elected as Directors of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association for a term of one years.

CURRENTLY SERVING FINAL YEAR OF A 2 YEAR TERM

DIRECTOR - Bill Garnish

DIRECTOR - Jane McBride-Falby

DIRECTOR (Sheldrake Lake) - Derek Mendham

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It was noted that a Directorship is Open to represent Pringle Lake and every effort will be made to fill this position.

At this point in the meeting, Jim McKay stood and called for the recognition of the time and effort spent by Lynn Garnish over the past many years on behalf of the SDRA.

11. OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Kent Farrow concluded his term as President with the following remarks:

- he thanked the executive and volunteers for past works and emphasized the importance of volunteers;
- he commented that as issues surface, people recognize a collective voice is the best way to be heard;
- he commented that the first issue that started the relationship with the Township of Addington Highlands was the landing property and now the SDRA maintains the property and boat launch;
- he commented that the SDRA is always looking for new members;
- when people ask what do the SDRA do, the answer is: social events; educational events; donations to local groups; boat launch; Economic Development Committee; LMP; your voice at council on tax issues, and dump issue, to name a few;
- He commented that we all need to look after Skootamatta Lake -change will come but the need for balancing of environmental / legal issues while at the same time respecting privacy of neighbor;
- He recognized the pressure on the Township to broaden its tax base - citing the RFP as one example, and reiterated that the SDRA must remain connected to Addington Highlands council;
- Kent pointed out that cottagers and seasonal residences represent the majority of the Townships tax base;
- He commented that he was proud to have been President during these past two years from the horseshoe tournament to the RFP process and personally thanked the executive and members for its support;
- Kent concluded his remarks with the introduction of the new President, Laury Hitchcock.

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12. NEW PRESIDENT REMARKS

- Thanked Kent for his leadership and focus during the past two years;
- Laury thanked Lynn Garnish for her contributions as newsletter editor, Treasurer and super contributor to the SDRA for the past 15 years;
- Laury commented that the SDRA was sorry to be losing Ken Hook and thanked Ken for his contributions as a tremendous addition to the SDRA;
- Laury thanked Rick Sears for his contribution and noted his huge workload which forced his resignation; and lastly
- Laury thanked the entire executive for its past contribution and she looked forward to exciting times ahead.

12. OTHER NEWS

- Annual "Nowell" Pot Luck - August 15th - 4:00pm - guaranteed to be lot of fun
- Fireworks - September 5th at the causeway - rain date September 6th
- Carolyn McCulloch of the Cloyne & District Historical Society announced the events planned for the Cloyne 150 celebrations - museum will be open for children, teens, and adults - good place on rainy date - Beef BBQ Saturday, August 8th, Pancake Breakfast Sunday, August 9th - dedication of the Cloyne Pioneer Cemetery as restored by garden club, Sunday, August 9th at 2:00 pm.
- Lynn Garnish announced that her son, Cameron Garnish has volunteered to revive the Horseshoe Tournament. The proposed date is Saturday, August 8th. Anyone interested should let Lynn know.
- Karen Stacy showed off the "Skoot" environmental bags available for sale for \$5;
- Karen also demonstrated environmental products available from Swish and asked if there was any interest in the SDRA making the kits available to members at a cost of \$32/box. There was very little interest.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Laury then took questions from the members:

- Bill Franchetto expressed concern about Loon Lake Lodge and the fact that there did not appear to be any monitoring of the buildings. His concerns included:
 - gas tanks, are they filled with gas?
 - sewage tanks, Reeve Hogg suggested the Cloyne Health Unit be notified;
 - it is believed that the Bank took out hydro meter; vandalism.

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The SDRA agreed to act upon this concern.

- Sandra Clark asked if there was any data on the number of cottage break-ins over winter. Members to let executive or lake rep know of any break-ins when reported to OPP;
- Rosemary Teed - had SDRA member call and ask that boaters be reminded of the speed limit 10km within 30 meters from shore (according to Ontario law).

14. CONCLUSION

MOTION: Upon motion duly made by Karen Stacey, seconded by Bill Garnish and carried unanimously the meeting adjourned at 11:52 p.m.