

SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION (S.D.R.A.)

JULY 6, 1996

Minutes From Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held on Sat. July 6, 1996 despite the inclement weather. The Executive wish to thank all of those members who attended and waited patiently for the meeting to get under way. The attendance was a great show of support.

The meeting commenced with O.P.P. Officer Robert Hudson speaking to us with regards to the proposed reorganization of the O.P.P. detachment . Officer Hudson advised us that this proposal will not affect our police service other than ensuring we are now provided with 24 hour police protection. The changes proposed will affect where the central dispatch is located with dispatches made to the nearest available detachment. The rising number of break-ins was brought up and Officer Hudson suggested we could obtain police assistance to start a community policing system. The executive will be obtaining this information for all members in the next month and will make it available for distribution at Skootamatta Marina. Having a community policing system is very similar to Neighbourhood Watch and should be arranged by the members to cover their areas around the lake. Officer Hudson also mentioned placing signs in the participating neighbourhoods. Anyone interested in a sign can contact the executive for information on obtaining one.

Next, John Bolton Township Fire Chief provided us with an update to the implementation of the '911' service. All of the mapping has already been done by the current and past executive to enable this process to go smoothly. Mr. Bolton advised that all location numbers have been allocated. Residents will be advised of all details prior to the implementation of the service and installation of the poles and number signs. Currently, the scheduled date is July 1997.

Also in attendance was our Reeve, Mr. Tommy Thompson who spoke to us about the pending 'Fair Market Assessment' implementation in 1988 and it's minimal impact on our ratepayer's. Mr. Thompson explained to us the Township had already started FMA back in 1992 and due to the fact our area is not commercially based there should be minimal affect in 1998. In addition, we were advised the Township has budgeted for the cost of the poles and signs for the 911 service and will be installed at their expense. A map of the allocated numbers is available for perusal at the Township Office for anyone who is interested. We were advised the Township Council had voted against the proposal to allow camping sites for the marina. The association advised Mr. Thompson that it was also turned down by the members of the S.D.R.A.

The elections were held and your new executive is:

Bill (Willy) Garnish	President
Lori Bessie	Vice-President
Lynn Garnish	Secretary-Treasurer
Darryl Thompson	Director
Ron Nowell	Director
Reva Nowell	Director
Darien Kissman	Director
Kent Farrow	Director
Bill Rahm	Director

We are enclosing a map of the lake to show you where your executive is located and where the portable fire pump is located. There will be a demonstration on how to use the fire pump at the Horseshoe Tournament Aug. 3/97. Please make yourself familiar with the location of the fire pump. After consideration of the proposal to identify the location of the pump with a flag, the executive decided not to have a flag placed at the location as this will only advertise it for possible theft. It is for the use of our members but is available for any fire prevention required on the lake. If you are unable to attend the demonstration please contact an executive, if you require a demonstration.

Beach litter was discussed and we have purchased two signs at a very reasonable cost from Karen & Dave Stacey that will be located at the beach on Big Island and in the upper lake at the beach on the east side of the lake. The signs will ask people to please clean up. We will also have garbage pails but remind all members and guests to take their garbage home with them and try to keep our beaches clean and safe for the use of everyone.

As requested at the meeting, the rock at Osborne Point is now marked.

Current issues we are faced with in the coming weeks are :

- There are several dead trees on the property where the horseshoe pit is located. We, the executive along with several volunteers will be removing these on Sat. July 13/96. Ron Nowell has kindly offered to assist us with this as he is licenced and experienced with this kind of work. The association will however be paying Mr. Nowell for the use of his equipment (Backhoe & Dumptruck). This will start at 8 a.m. Saturday. Rakers will be needed after the job has been completed.
- The horseshoe pits are in a sad state and require new boards, cleaning and sand. We will obtain new stakes, however we need volunteers to help with the repairs on Saturday July 27. Please contact your executive before then to volunteer some of your time. We would also like to have a picnic table or two located near the hill for events. Anyone having an old (solid) picnic table they would be willing to donate would be greatly appreciated!
- On a serious note, it was brought to our attention on Sunday, July 7/96 the boat ramp at the marina has been damaged and a large piece of concrete in the middle has broken away. Several boat trailers have been stuck in this and their owners have threatened to sue. We contacted the MNR and our Insurance

Broker who both advised us we had two options:

1. Shut down the boat ramp altogether.
2. Post a sign stating the ramp is damaged and is to be used at your own risk.

We have opted for the sign and once again thank Karen & Dave Stacey for obtaining one to be in place by July 16th.

This does not deal with the matter of repairing this ramp. The S.D.R.A. dues are clearly not enough to cover the insurance and major repairs. We will be meeting with the surrounding businesses whose customers very often require the boat ramp, for any ideas on how we can go about raising funds for this repair. Please contact your executive if you have any ideas to help.

- We have Fireworks Posters and tickets distributed to businesses in the area, hoping to increase sales and cover the full cost of the show this year. Let's try this year to have a great show. Every penny we collect goes directly towards the purchase of the fireworks. So if you have a boatful or several families at your cottage, please bear this in mind when you purchase the tickets if you have not already done so. All members who have already sent in their money with their dues are already noted on our records and do not need an actual ticket.

- The dock sale will be held at the land surrounding the horseshoe pits and parking lot for those who do not want to sell from their dock from 10:00 to 4:00. We hope to advertise in the local paper and make lots of sales. Bring your own tables and chairs and valuable antiques !! A donation to the S.D.R.A. for the space would be greatly appreciated, but is not mandatory. Please see Lynn Garnish on that day should you wish to make a contribution.

- Although it was not mentioned at the A.G.M., the outhouses have been cleaned and painted. They are actually usable and very clean. Let's hope they stay that way.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS !!!
PLEASE ASK YOUR NEIGHBOURS TO JOIN IF THEY ARE
NOT MEMBERS. INCREASED MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS US ALL**

In closing, we will also be posting a list of our events at Skootamatta Marina in case you have misplaced your newsletter. And once again, if you did not receive a newsletter this year please contact Lynn Garnish who will be at the cottage all summer. Unfortunately the Garnish's have no phone, no road, no hydro. But a large dock and Lynn makes a great cup of tea!

Let's have a great summer and enjoy the beauty of what we have at Skootamatta Lake.

Sincerely,
Your S.D.R.A. Executive

