

Minutes for AGM: July 8th, 2017

SDRA Annual General Meeting

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pineview Free Methodist Church – Basement

Master of Ceremonies – Paul Lindsay

9:30 -10:00 Meet and Greet

10:00 -11:45 Formal Meeting

11:45 -12:15 AGM Information Booths

12:15 - 1:00 Barbecue lunch

FORMAL MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and introduction of SDRA Executive

Paul Lindsay 10 min.

- Paul brought the meeting to order
- Introduced the board members
- Debbie made some announcements:
 - Thanked everyone for coming
 - Noted the board members that weren't able to come
 - Welcomed the guests, Brad Robson and Matt Mertins
 - Noted and thanked those leaving the board:
 - Nancy Kallina - as treasurer and organizer of the lake festival. Nancy will continue to support the board and run the lake festival. Role of treasurer will be handed over to Bill Blake
 - Jennifer Alkenbrack-Robertson - as secretary. Role of secretary will be handed over to Christie Arthurs
 - Paul Grennell - as Webmaster. Role of Webmaster will be handed over to Jackie Bleecker
- Noted that we have now reached over 200 members, and we're in the top 5% of lake association memberships. Thanked the members and volunteers for all their support, and the board executive.
- Henry Hogg brought a recycling magnet for people to pick up
- Friends of Bon Echo has opportunities for student employment, university students are encouraged to apply. There's a limited amount of space, but it is difficult to find local people.
- They also have a Bon Echo photo contest that everyone is welcome to submit to
- Co-ed recreational softball is recruiting participants.
- Thanked Tracy Hill from the Unconventional Moose for donating prizes.
- Thanked those who are running tables or donated prizes today:
 - Esther from the LOL Quilting club for coming, who also introduced Laury Hitchcock
 - Carolyn McCulloch from the Cloyne & District Historical Society
 - Lynne Osborne from LOL Garden Club
 - Lynne talked about some of the art that is on display (plaques that are painted with the provincial and territorial flowers) around the museum. All the plaques will come down in the fall and will be auctioned off. Proceeds from the auction will go to community projects. Garden club meets every second Thursday here at the church.
 - Lake Events table, run by Katherine Grennell
 - Membership table, run by Nancy

- Great Skootamatta Ice Contest Winner
 - Paul brought up all the participants in the Ice Contest.
 - Icewine was donated by Gary and Cathy Shortt
 - Syrup was donated by Roy and Nona Cummings
 - Those who tied were required to compete by tossing ice cubes
 - First prize went to Laury Hitchcock
 - Second prize went to Kent Farrow
- Canada Day Boat Parade Contest: Ron Nowell won the boat prize. Lisa Chomisky won the dock prize.

Approval of July 2016 AGM Minutes

Paul Lindsay 5 min.

- Motion to accept: Wayne Arthurs
- Seconded by: Kent Farrow
- All in favour: passed

Approval of Slate of Directors

Paul Lindsay 10 min.

- Director Retirement
 - Nancy Kallina
 - Paul Grennell
 - Jennifer Alkenbrack-Robertson
- Director Nominees from the Floor
 - Paul asked for nominations from the floor
 - Asked 3 times
 - Nominations closed
 - Motion to accept the slate of officers: Ron Nowell
 - Seconded by Don Stafford
 - All in favour: Passed

Approval of Treasurer's report

Nancy Kallina 10 min.

- Treasurer's report was presented in the newsletter and covers April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017
- Revenues from all sources: just shy of \$13,000. Expenses were also close to \$13,000, for a surplus of \$37
- Membership increased by 9 members, reaching and surpassing our goal of 200.
- By the end of the year 95% of members had renewed. 30% make use of the PayPal feature
- Advertising: a bump in advertising this year (thanks to Tricia for spearheading this and speaking to over 40 businesses). The advertising alone covers all of our printing.
- Expenses: every other year we do water testing. There was none last year, but we will be doing it this year. With the money that we would normally spend on the water testing we spent it on other things, such as the luau/potluck, and purchasing a shed to store Board assets and materials.
- Explained why we reduced the membership fee for the 3 year period (because we do not want to accumulate a large surplus). The membership fee will be revisited at the end of the 3 year period. We are hoping that the reduced cost will encourage new members to join. There are packages available for members to pass out to neighbours to encourage to join.
- Malcolm Stewart commended the maintenance of the Trail's End site. But is concerned about the boards on the dock at Trail's End. Is there a possibility to earmark some funds to replace those boards? There are funds from

the launch donation box to maintain the dock and Malcolm requested these funds be used to fix the dock. Jim McKay asked, since the Reeve is here, can he address the previous question? Henry Hogg responded that he'll have someone look into it. Debbie noted that we'll take that issue away and look into it.

- Kent Farrow asked, are we still a member of FOCA, and if so, what are the benefits and rewards to being a member of FOCA? Debbie responded that they are a great source of information, collaboration, etc. They are able to put us in touch with other lake associations that may be facing some of the same questions/issues we are. We can interact with other associations that can help us with ideas, etc. The same member was concerned about the cost of the membership to FOCA. \$3 from every membership to be a part of it, wanted to make sure there was a benefit to it. Debbie responded that FOCA provides templates for things like Lake Management Plans, access to all kinds of information, discounts for Cottage Life, conference calling, etc.
- MEMBER asked if FOCA also did things with spawning, etc. Debbie responded that it's more of a local Quinte issue. Nancy also pointed out that any of our members can sign up for the FOCA newsletter and receive valuable information and access to seminars, etc.
- Erica McBride asked if we could send out a POP that indicates when the seminars are coming up. She also pointed out that if it makes the executives' jobs easier, then it is worth it to save us some time.
- MEMBER also said that FOCA should start "jumping up and down" about our Hydro rates, because cottagers are not eligible for the rate cut currently being offered. Debbie responded that there was a whole section on Hydro rates at the FOCA AGM. We'll stay tuned to whatever information they put out. Would like FOCA to come to the AGM next year if they're available.
- Erica McBride asked with the fee reduction, how is the food bank faring from the extra donations? Nancy responded that some people are using the feature to add a donation, there have been some larger donations, but many still aren't donating. However, we will have about a \$1000 donation to make specifically from those who contributed through their fees.
- Ron Nowell asked what about the fireworks? Nancy responded that the fireworks are usually about \$3500 and was increased to \$4500 for the past four years which is around what we've raised. This year we were hoping to do a bigger show, which we are hoping will cost \$5,000, which we can use some from the reserve, but we are still collecting to be able to put on the bigger show. Nancy mentioned that a lot of non-members or people who don't donate to the show still come to enjoy it. Ron Nowell pointed out that people from Mazinaw come. Nancy would like to put something on the website to collect donations. A variety of people made a variety of suggestions to collect for the fireworks.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Erica McBride
- Seconded by: Gary Shortt
- All in Favour: Passed

Lake Steward's Report

Joel Arthurs 10 min.

- It's been a busy year for lake things
- Water testing is done every two years:
 - In 1974 the MNR conducted a comprehensive study of water quality.
 - This year, we're going to do a similar range of chemical tests, etc. Shelldrake is also conducting tests this year, which will give us a bit more information on our own tests and how their water impacts ours.
 - The results will be on the website and at the next AGM.
- Water levels:
 - 2016 saw very low water levels for a variety of reasons (weather, dry spring, etc.)
 - Dam logs were replaced last fall with minimum impact on water levels.
 - 2017 has very high water levels. Large amounts of snow melt, early spring rain. Lots of damage around the lake from ice.

- The water levels downstream are low, so they pull logs to address that. However that will affect Lake Ontario which is high.
- Hard to say at this point how they will pull logs and manage the flows. Ultimately it comes down to Quinte watershed management.
- Jacques's Bay
 - Beaver dam let go on May 22, and the culvert at Jacques's Bay & Little Road couldn't handle the flow and the road washed out.
 - The water quality issue was asked of Quinte, MNRF, and Ministry of Environment and Climate Change etc. but the water quality is not a concern. Water clarity tests done in June showed improved clarity, indicating the sediment has settled.
 - Jim McKay pointed out that when he was swimming he saw a great deal of algae now. Joel is doing more testing this weekend.
 - Jim pointed out that there may be a fire safety issue with the large amount of dead material. Is this an issue that can be addressed with MNR, since it's crown land?
 - Another MEMBER stated that Quinte is underfunded and not able to deal with everything in their mandate. He pointed out that climate change is going to continue to impact the lake levels in the future. The log removal is a big issue and they need to figure out a way to manage it.
 - Another MEMBER talked about a swamp that has formed on his property over the last number of years that never used to be there. He believes that the beavers should be prevented from rebuilding.
 - Gord Bernie responded that we can't control the beavers, the answer is a siphon.
 - Joel responded that we rely on the membership to tell us about issues, but we can bring the issues to Quinte, or the province to help mitigate it. However, if it's on Crown land we're limited to what we can do.
 - Debbie suggested that we need to follow up with Quinte to see about what can be done about the issue.
 - Gord Bernie said that we need to be monitoring ice levels before it gets too high (i.e. in March), so that the logs can be removed before the ice elevation causes too much damage. Then we can be in contact with Quinte to let them know about the concerns to see if we can have a strategy to handle the ice.
- Boat Washing Station
 - The Invasive Species Act came into force last year.
 - Recent regulations have required a shift in focus on how a boat washing station can be implemented.
 - Looking into a more mobile station at this point to comply.
 - Hoping to set up several events a year at central locations
 - The Invasive Species Act requires people to wash their boats before putting them the water, and it involves hefty fines for those who don't.
 - a MEMBER asked that since the ministry has implemented this law, can they be involved in supporting the boaters in their washing (or in a washing station). Joel responded that he is looking into it and the variety of options available.
- Lake Management Plan
 - Doing a bit of restructuring based on the FOCA models.
 - Updating with the water testing results, and comparing the water results from 1974 to now.
 - Will also be making some additions about invasive species, etc.
- Questions?
 - A member asked about rental cottages on the lake, and the guests that are coming with their boats. Who is monitoring them?
 - Debbie responded that we need to be educating our guests, but also that we'll have signage, and a boat washing station to help remove any excuses for not washing boats.
 - There will also be signs at our kiosks to help inform guests of the regulations.
 - Joe Jeronimo asked how many boat launches there are on the lake.

- Nancy responded that there is one official, but there are a lot of “unofficial” launches that people often use.
- Wayne Arthurs suggested that if you have a power washer, offer to help guests wash their boats.
- Debbie wrapped things up for this section that we have a number of questions to take back to Quinte. Nancy also wanted to thank Joel for all of his work, and Debbie pointed out how much he has done on the boat washing and his tenacity in finding a site.
- Lynne asked if there was a way to enforce that people wash their boats, and have a permit or something before they are allowed in the lake. Just as they do with a fishing permit, they would have to carry something to prove that it’s been washed. Debbie suggested that we discuss it at the next meeting.

Cottage Fire Safety

Firefighter, Brad Robson 15 min.

- Discussed where the two stations are: Northbrook & Cloyne - both respond at the same time
- About 170 calls a year; 2/3 of which are in the summer
- They also do extrication on Hwy 41
- Protocol is that if you call an ambulance, and they’re more than 15 minutes away, then they call in fire to assist.
- 31% of their calls are medical
- Green lights are in the response vehicles. Pull over, it’s the courteous thing.
- Don’t leave fires unattended.
- This year fire bans are not a huge issue, but last year we were pretty dry.
- Campfires can destroy habitat; make sure you water it down really well.
- There is a by-law about burning. From April 1-October 31, burns can only be done at night. That does not include campfires for cooking or staying warm.
- Campfires must stay within a certain size. Must be attended by an adult at all times.
- Fire Bans are implemented when climate conditions are such that fire can spread quickly and easily get out of hand.
- A fire ban means no open fires including: campfires, outdoor burning, incinerators, chimineas, Chinese lanterns, cooking fires, etc.
- Install a smoke alarm in your cottage: it is the law. Don’t forget bunkie or trailer.
- Home and cottage fires are the leading cause of death for children. Most fires happen at night.
- Smoke alarms are required on all levels and outside all sleeping areas.
- All smoke alarms have a date, and are only good for 10 years.
- All dwellings must also have a Carbon Monoxide detector.
- Change the batteries twice a year. When you change your clocks, change the batteries.
- Have a fire escape plan - 2 exits at all times.
- 1/5 of all kids who die in a fire, it’s because they were playing with matches.
- Keep roads and driveways accessible for emergency vehicles, and also make sure that the road address is visible.
- Malcolm asked if there is water access needed: yes, there is a fire boat, etc. but they also use other people’s boats.
- A MEMBER asked if we could maybe have a demo on how to use a fire extinguisher. Brad said that was a great idea, and ran us through the basics.
- The visitor from the Friends of Bon Echo pointed out that there is a demo fire extinguisher that can be used to train. Debbie made a note.
- A MEMBER asked about the requirement for inspections. Brad responded that the insurance companies require a wet inspection and have to approve a wood burning appliance. If the house burns down and you don’t have the inspections, it’s probably not going to be covered.

- MLFI manages a sustainable forestry licence.
- Operations around the area in the last year:
 - One harvest operation, south of Hughes Landing Road, east of Sheldrake Lake, south of the causeway. Mostly young pine thinning.
 - Renewal operations: site preparation for tree planting and manual tending
 - MEMBER question: when do the trees get replanted? Matt responded that many of the deciduous trees reseed naturally, so conifers are the focus of their tree planting.
- Operations are planned for this year:
 - In the spring, completed tree planting of 43,000 red and white pine trees.
 - After Thanksgiving weekend, there will be harvest operations in the Hughes Landing Road area. Same type of harvest as before (i.e. mostly thinning of pines)
 - At the head of the lake, and northwest of the lake, operations are unlikely (but they are scheduled) and would occur after Thanksgiving weekend.
 - Member question: what do you mean by shareholders? Matt responded that it's local forestry companies and people involved in the harvesting and use of the wood, they work in collaboration with MLFI to manage the operations.
- Provided some links to information and maps: Online Electronic Maps of Forest Management Areas.
- MEMBER question: do you have any jurisdiction on the logging mess that was left on Jacques Bay Road? Answer: It's on private land, and unfortunately it paints the whole industry in a negative light. When something happens on Crown land, there are standards that must be met. Another member asked if the township knew anything about it, or if there were laws about it. Matt responded that there are often by-laws, but there is not a tree-cutting by law in this township. Another member asked if there was a property standards by-law related? Nancy responded that we need to approach the township to ask about property standards.
- Lynne thanked Matt for his help with the plantings in the community.
- Malcolm asked about the tour that was organized last year. Matt responded that they will do something in the future, but not this summer. He will make sure that we're aware of the next one.

Member Questions to the SDRA Board

All

15 min.

- No questions

Raffle

Debbie Awde

5 min.

- All prizes raffled off.
- Debbie thanked Joyce Berton for bringing the puzzles that anyone can take
- Nancy asked again for the membership to keep their eyes open for a cabinet for a Little Library.
- Debbie thanked Pineview Methodist for hosting us, and Foodland for donating the food for our BBQ.
- Katherine asked people to mark August 12 for the lake festival, sign up to help with an event or to come.
- Potluck is also coming up on the same date: wear red & white
- Esther from the Land of Lakes quilting, they are recruiting new members of all ages and talent levels. They do lots for the community, donations to auction off.
- Carolyn from the Cloyne & District Historical Society spoke about her thanks to Matt and Lynne, and her own organization for the collaboration with North Frontenac to create the new Heritage Park. Encouraged people to come and see the museum, because it is a thing of beauty now, and they often change the displays.
- Paul thanked Mike and Suzanne Stevens for supplying the food at the Lake Festival. He also thanked Jill Cote for providing all the desserts and treats.

Formal Meeting adjourned

Paul

Lindsay

- Motion to adjourn: Erica McBride
- Seconded by Leroy Watson (who also mentioned a \$15 turkey supper tonight at the Flinton community centre)

Visit our community representatives at our information tables located around the room!

- **Addington Highlands (Kaladar/ Barrie & Denbigh) Fire Dept. – Fire Fighter, Brad Robson (Speaker)**
- **Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc. – Matt Mertins, Forest Management Supervisor (Speaker)**
- **SDRA Membership sign up – Nancy Kallina**
- **Land O’ Lakes Garden Club –Lynn Osborne**
- **Friends of Bon Echo Park – Beth Freeland**
- **FOCA Information table – self serve**
- **Lake Events table - Volunteer sign up for Lake Festival – Katherine Grennell**
- **Cloyne District Historical Society – Carolyn McCulloch**
- **Land O’ Lakes Quilters – Esther Irving**