



# Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

P O Box 146 Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0

## 2022 SDR A Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday July 9th, 2022

Meet & Greet: 9:30 am

Formal Meeting: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Barrie Community Hall  
14225 Hwy 41, Cloyne

**Or**

Online via Zoom (Meeting link to be sent out before the meeting)

**The Formal Meeting started at 10:03 a.m.**

### Land Acknowledgement

**Welcome and Introduction of SDR A Board Members** Joel Arthurs 5 mins

- Joel introduced the board members and noted that some members were attending virtually due to Covid, and some were not available due to other commitments.

**2022 Ontario Municipal Election** Joel Arthurs 5 mins


- If you rent or own in this municipality you are eligible to vote.

**Foodbank Update** Gordon McCulloch 5 mins

- The foodbank is currently under a lot of pressure with more people in need requesting services. A large part of those served are seniors who are having more of a struggle.
- The number of boxes that have been distributed so far this year is 100 over the same time last year.
- More new clients have been coming due to financial pressure.
- The donations from SDR A are greatly appreciated.

**Great Skootamatta Ice Contest Winners** Marianne Plumb 5 mins

- Marianne welcomed everyone and noted how awesome it is that so many vote for the ice-out contest. We received 93 entries this year with estimates spanning from March 31 to April 27. The winning date was April 15. There were 13 people who chose the correct date. Their names were put into a computerized random spinner.

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- Sue Walden was the grand winner and the prize, donated by Beth and Shane Buck, included a gift card from the MAZ for ice cream.
  - The runner up was Gord Kissman who won a BBQ scraper with Skootamatta Lake inscription.

### **Approval of July 2021 AGM Minutes**

Marianne Plumb

5 mins

- Minutes had been sent out to members and were posted to the website.
- Motion to Approve the AGM Minutes: Wayne Arthurs
- Seconded: Lynn O'Borne
- Motion carried

### **Approval of Slate of Directors**

Joel Arthurs

5 mins

### **Proposed Slate of Officers**

President: Joel Arthurs

Vice President: Marianne Plumb

Treasurer: John Coombs

Secretary: Carla Baetz

Lake Steward: Martha Warriner

Webmaster: Ben Koehler

Communications Director: Christie Arthurs

Director: Jim Chinnick

Director: Bill Blake

Paul Lindsay and Jackie Bleecker have stepped down from board. They were both thanked for their long years of service.

A call for New Directors was made 3 times in accordance with the rules.

There were no offers at this time.

Please contact SDRA by email or at the website if you are interested.

### **Approval of Slate of Directors:**

- Motion to approve the board slate: Ron Nowell
- Seconded: Gord McCulloch
- Motion Carried

## Guest Speakers

### Land O' Lakes Lions Club

Nawar Hage

10 mins

Nawar Hage presented on the history of the Lions Club, (which started in 1917 in the United States), and on the more recent history of the Lions Club of Land O'Lakes which was formed in 1969. Lions Clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, and have made a strong commitment to community service and servicing youth around the world. Currently, the local Lions Club is involved with the LandO'Lakes Food Bank, the KGH Foundation, the Mazinaw Swim club, the Pine Meadow Nursing Home, the Alzheimer Society, the Kaladar-Barrie Fire Department and the North Addington Education Centre, to name a few. For more information, members are encouraged to contact the Lions Club at [lionscluboflandolakes@gmail.com](mailto:lionscluboflandolakes@gmail.com).

### Cloyne and District Historical Society

Elspeth McCulloch / Ken Hook

10 mins

Elspeth McCulloch and Ken Hook presented on the history of Cloyne and area.

- There has been an Indigenous Presence first evident in the area between 800-500 B.C.
- It was noted that the oldest remaining structure in the local area is the Loon Lake School which was built in 1868.
- Logging was the main industry in the 1800's with 300-400 year old White Pine cut and squared on site. A tramway was built to move logs but a road was needed, which was built in 1856, to allow settlers into the area. In 1899 Bon Echo Inn, a 3 story inn was built in the Narrows, which later burned to the ground.
- Mining was also evident in this area including Gold, Copper and Mica.
- RCAF had a search and rescue station in the Upper Lake in the 1900's which was purchased from a lumber company.
- Skootamatta Lake is a crater which formed as part of a meteor strike about a billion years ago. There is a great debate about the meaning of Skootamatta. Based on the poet, Wallace Havelock Robb, the meaning of Skootamatta, which is an Ojibway word, appears to be, "the place where the stars spill from the river into the lake". There is a legend regarding the Lake of the Spilled Stars. The Ojibway, upon arriving at the Lake using stars as their guidance of light, noted that they no longer needed to navigate using the the stars as they had tumbled down, and filled the lake with light.

## SDRA Business

### Approval of 2022 Treasurer's Report

John Coombs/Joel Arthurs

10 mins

A video from John Coombs was provided which outlined the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer's report is available from the newsletter and was reviewed in depth.

No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's Report

- Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report: Lynn O'Borne
- Seconded: Wayne Arthurs
- Motion Carried

### **Lake Health Update**

Martha Warriner

10 mins

Martha Warriner joined the board as Lake Steward this past fall and looks forward to sharing information with the board.

Martha presented an in-depth review of the lake assessments that have been carried out for the past few years. Currently, Skootamatta is in good shape due to many factors.

Questions:

1. Could higher levels of e-coli at Wolf Creek be due to waterfowl excrement or other issues?  
Response: Although many variables can cause an increase in e-coli, septic systems are the leading cause of e-coli. We encourage members to speak to their neighbours and to assess whether or not it is time to clean out septic systems.
2. Dying program, which was used at another lake, was questioned. Response: not needed on Skootamatta. The data does not support this as the data does not support this intervention.

### **Forestry Operations Update**

Jim Chinnick

10 mins

Jim Chinnick provided an in-depth update on Forest Management. This update is available in the 2022 newsletter. Part of his update was reiterated as follows:

The SDRA has been an active participant in discussions related to the development of a new Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest, which is the forest region in which our lakes are located. This has been a rather long, and somewhat frustrating process.

The SDRA has raised several concerns regarding the proposed plan, which can be summarized as:

- Harvesting activities up to the very edge of private properties, with no buffer zone (of particular concern to property owners in Jacques Bay, north of Jacques Bay Road)
- Harvesting activities up to the edge of public and private access roads, with no buffer to protect the viewscape
- Minimal protection for damage to the extensive wetlands included in the planned harvest areas, wetlands that are directly part of the Skootamatta, Sheldrake and Pringle Lake watersheds, and key to protecting water quality and flooding control

● Lack of adequate protection for the viewscape of the shoreline as seen from the lake. These concerns were eventually brought forward to an Issues Resolution process administered by the Department of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry (NDMNRF). Unfortunately these concerns were not accepted. While the rationale for rejecting these concerns is somewhat arguable, there is no appeal process, and the plan was officially released in December, 2021. Work is currently underway to develop the logging road infrastructure to support the planned wood harvesting.

- 1) The gains achieved by the SDRA during the negotiations regarding the 2011 – 2021 FMP were retained.
- 2) The protection status of Pringle Lake was upgraded, which increases the protection around the shore line. This is a positive result for the Pringle Lake community and for Skootamatta Lake for which Pringle Lake is a key part of the watershed.
- 3) And finally, we had issues with the process that led to the development of the plan. Specifically our concerns related to the lack of involvement of the Lake Associations in the process at the beginning. Our position was that the lake front property owners are significant stakeholders in the forest region, and should have some priority in the planning process, rather than just having a reactionary role to a plan already developed.

We are making a determined effort to document what we have learned to better equip future SDRA Board members to participate in the planning process for the next Forest Management Plan.

#### Questions?

1. Ron Nowell asked about clean up following the impact of the May 21 storm. There has been permission given to clean up the strip along Narrows Road and help to clean up the Sheldrake Bay area.
2. Kent Farrow noted that the powers of the forest industry are robust and very influential. He noted that there were many local achievements made in the past, and that 12 years ago the ministry was supportive of the concerns of SDRA. He acknowledges Jim Chinnick's endeavours to continue to be involved and to ensure that the SDRA's interests continue to be heard and addressed.

#### **Trails End Clean-Up**

**Joel Arthurs**

**5 mins**

Joel thanked council for their help with clean up at Trails End.



**Member Questions to the SDRA Board**

All

10 mins

1. Please remind members about the 5 k race next Sunday at 9:00 a.m. starting at Trails End.
2. Kent Farrow has two large tarps available to members who may be in need due to storm.
3. The boat parade and dock decorating were both low in numbers due to the weather. We plan to get it going next year

**Raffle Draw**

Marianne Plumb

10 mins

Several members won the raffle draws. Individuals had to be present at the AGM (in person or virtually) to win their prize.

**Formal Meeting Adjourned**

Joel Arthurs

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Ron Nowell

Seconded by: Ellen O'Borne

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon

**Join us for a BBQ lunch, provided by Foodland,  
and visit the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives.**

**Special thanks to Foodland for supporting the annual SDRA AGM!**