



Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

P O Box 146 Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0

2024 SDR A Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday July 6th, 2024

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 10:05

Land Acknowledgement

Land O'Lakes Food Bank

Carolyn McCulloch

5 mins

Carolyn thanked the members of the SDR A for their generous monetary donations, to the sum of almost \$4000 this past year alone, and their continued donations of food. The need for food in the community has increased exponentially since 2020.

SDRA Business:

Welcome and Introduction of SDR A Board Members

Joel Arthurs

5 mins

Joel introduced the board members who were in attendance.

Approval of July 2023 AGM Minutes

Marianne Plumb

5 mins

Minutes have been sent out to members and were posted to the website.

Motion to Approve the AGM 2023 Minutes: Robyn Rock

Seconded: Wayne Arthurs

Motion Carried

Approval of Slate of Directors

Marianne Plumb

5 mins

Jim Chinnick and Martha Warriner have stepped down from board and were thanked for their years of service, including their commitment to ensuring the protection of the lake and the forests surrounding Skootamatta Lake.



There is no Water Soldier, an invasive weed, evident on our lake. However, a particularly concerning invasive, Eurasian Watermilfoil, has been found in many locations of the lake. It can be spotted by its orangey-red hue on the stem. It has likely been in our lake for a decade but it spreads very easily and can grow extremely quickly. It should NOT be pulled out as this will increase its spread. Duncan strongly urged our members to be proactive by protecting and maintaining the natural shoreline of the lake and to inspect and pump septic systems regularly. Members were encouraged to speak to individuals not present at the meeting to apprise them of the risks, in an effort to slow down the spread. Duncan encouraged other members to volunteer to assist with water testing and invasive species detection.

Question: There was a newsletter article regarding the concern of the impact of boat wakes on nesting loons and shoreline erosion. However, when boats drive slow with their bows up, an even larger wake can result.

Answer: It is challenging to know how to get boaters to reduce the size of wakes. Signs to deter boaters from producing large wakes and to avoid loon nests have been found to attract some boaters. This issue continues to be discussed and will be brought to the board for discussion and clarification.

Question: Is algae tested?

Answer: As noted in the presentation, the SDRa participates in two annual water testing programs: Water Partner Program and the Stewardship Rangers Program. The SDRa also conducts extensive testing every other year for ten different metrics associated with lake water quality. While we do not test for algae, we test for other metrics that indicate if algae can grow, such as phosphorus, e-coli, secchi disc (readings of lake depth to which light penetrates) and water temperature, to name a few. So far our test results are good, but unregulated shoreline development (lawns), excessive boat wakes, invasive weeds, and failing septic systems are potential threats to stable lake water quality and algae growth.

Year in Review/Year Ahead

Marianne Plumb

15 mins

- We are now in compliance with ONCA (Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) and have completed all of the necessary amendments well in advance of the deadline.
- We will continue to work with council on a number of issues including providing input into the Official Plan and advocating on behalf of members.
- We have made some progress this past year on Shoreline Camping, including the increased involvement of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP).
- We continue to monitor the Forest Management Plan with special thanks to Jim Chinnick. Please refer to his in-depth article in this year's Newsletter to see how you can get involved.
- Trail's End Maintenance has been an ongoing issue including the rebuilding of our kiosk sign. Thank you to council and the SDRa Membership for helping to clear the area of brush.
- We have made progress getting Lake health data on the website. This will be an area of focus going forward including the building of a "Best-in-Class" communication program, with the assistance of Communications Director, Paul Lindsay.
- We continue to support our local community by supporting the Land O'Lakes Food Bank and by donating \$1000 towards the Lions Club Emergency Preparedness Program.

- We continue to provide our members with our annual Newsletter, which doesn't happen without the contribution of our members, on many areas of interest. Review the latest edition which covers such issues as Lake Water Management, Forestry, Good Neighbour conduct, and people telling family stories.

Year Ahead

In addition to continuing with the progress made in all of these initiatives, this year we want to refresh our "Strategic Plan", and are planning on holding a workshop in late August where our members are asked to participate. Please get involved in helping develop our strategy.

Question: Where will the Strategic Planning meeting be held?

Answer: Likely to be held at the Town Hall in Cloyne

We also need your help to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of our lakes, especially taking a comprehensive approach to tackling invasive species. Volunteers are needed for scouting and monitoring this threat. Please see Duncan or Marianne to volunteer.

Events: The Lake Festival (to be held August 10), Potluck (planned for August 17) and End of Year Fireworks Extravaganza (to be held August 30) are all back, thanks to our many volunteers including the Koehlers, the Stevens and Jill Cote, Ron Nowell and Esther Demczak, and our Corporate Fireworks sponsors, Larry Zajdlik, Brian and Joanna Milligan and Tracy and Sandra Hook.

Guest Speaker:

CAMSafe.ca

Jeremy Ashley, Staff Sergeant

20 mins

Staff Sergeant Ashley presented on CAMSafe, a community-based program that was developed in Belleville by the police department. CAMSafe is about empowering the public to partner with the police to solve crime. It is a policing strategy that can assist police in solving crimes.

Residents who have security cameras installed on their property can choose to join CAMSafe by registering their cameras at camsafe.ca. There is no cost to this process and the police do not have access to your cameras. Signing up allows the police to see your contact information only. If a crime was committed on or near your property, you may have evidence on your camera. Police can reach out to you directly and request your footage. Thus, your contact information acts like a phone book or registry of those registered citizens with security cameras. Anyone can register their camera on the website. This may be even more important for our membership, many of whom are seasonal residents.

Question: Can you recommend any specific brand of security cameras?

A: No, because different factors must be considered in choosing a security camera.

Question: Is there signage akin to "Neighbourhood Watch"?

There are no signs but people can make their own signs if they wish to do so.



Other SDRA Activities:

Great Skootamatta Ice Contest Winners Marianne Plumb 5 mins

We had an early spring thaw this year and, despite the over 100 guesses, no one person guessed the actual date. Nine close guesses were entered into a spin-off and Gord Birnie won the prize!

Member Questions to the SDRA Board All 10 mins

No questions were raised.

Formal meeting closed off Zoom at 11:45.

Motion to adjourn: Ellen Copeland
Seconded: Ross Cooper
Carried

Marianne is honoured to be taking on the role as President of the Board of the SDRA. Carla thanked Joel Arthurs for his leadership, and presented a gift on behalf of the Board.

Raffle Draw* **Bruce Schwenger** **10 mins**

Several raffle prizes were won by those in attendance.

Special Draw

LeSage Property Maintenance donated a gift certificate which was raffled off in a separate raffle with those in attendance. As a result, \$115 was raised. The money was donated to the Land O'Lakes Foodbank which Carolyn McCullough received on its behalf.

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

*Raffle will be for in-person attendees