

SDLCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The annual general meeting of the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association was held on August 4, 2001 at St. John's Church Irondale, with approximately 40 people in attendance. Minutes of the last AGM were distributed and a motion to accept was made by Marianne Cassin, seconded by Norm Wheeler and all were in favour.

The financial statement was presented by Nikki Wilson (treasurer). A motion to accept was made by Shari Akow, seconded by Bob Clark and all were in favour.

Road Steward's Report

Dan Pappas reported via Susan Thompson that Minden Hills road conditions are good. The Highlands East portion of the road will be worked on in the fall.

Guest Speaker - Heather Stuart

Heather presented her undergraduate thesis on the Chemical Analysis of Nutrients in Salerno and White lakes. Three samples were taken at six different times in two basins of Salerno Lake and one basin of White Lake during the spring/summer of 2000. They were analyzed within two hours of the sampling as the nutrient phosphate (PO₄) degrades quickly. Typically, higher phosphate levels will be seen in the early spring and late fall when the water column turns over due to changes in lake temperatures (water becomes most dense and thus sinks at 4 degrees C). However Salerno and White Lakes experienced an abnormal increase in PO₄ at the end of July and early August. These secondary peaks are also supported in our water testing results, as well as in recent historical records.

Why the increase in PO₄:

1. Septic tanks - PO₄ absorbs to soil particles and will enter the lakes one to two months after being deposited in a septic system. Thus the initial flush of the season around the May 24th weekend will be evident in the lake water during late July and early August.
2. Land altering – Local rocks contain the mineral apatite which is a source of PO₄. The nutrient is only released after severe weathering, or by erosion. High levels of erosion are caused by the construction of roads, cottages and the alteration of natural terrain adjacent to the lakefront.
3. Lake sediment - Algae blooms that are produced by the increase in PO₄ production eventually die and sink to the bottom of the lake, creating an anoxic (low oxygen) environment. Low levels of oxygen at the bottom of the lake promote the release of phosphorus from lake sediments. The PO₄ is then re-released into the water column with the next seasonal lake turn over.

Solutions:

1. Keep natural plant life along the waterfront that will absorb PO₄. Natural shorelines have the ability to "treat" phosphorus.
2. Ban the use of fertilizers on lake front property.
3. Use low phosphate shampoos and detergents in cottages (some regular shampoos and detergents still contain phosphates that eventually reach the lake through septic systems)
4. Update current septic systems. Yearly emptying of local septic tanks with the help of sewage removal companies (thus the sewage is taken to water treatment facilities where the phosphorus can be removed from the waste).
5. Use low erosion construction practices (i.e. cover large piles of dirt and exposed soil to decrease sediment movement into lakes)

6. Stop the dumping of sediment into the lake to “improve” waterfront properties (this can be a large source of phosphorus)

Heather also analyzed the Carrying Capacity Analysis, Salerno Lake by Michael Michalski Associates, a study commissioned by a local developer when applying for building permission from Glamorgan (Highlands East) Township in 1997. The data collected was highly questionable as there was only one test period chosen. The timing of the samples was also carried during a time when conditions did not actually reflect the overall health of the lake.. The data is supported by technical information that seems to be quoted from empirical sources. The report states that Salerno Lake can withstand the addition of 121 seasonal waterfront lots, not including any existing, non-developed properties. We dispute the validity of the report. This led to a discussion that will see the executive pursue this report's validity with the Municipal Councils.

Corporation Name Change – Shari Akow

The Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association has been functioning with the name of Salerno Lake Cottagers Association with the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Shari Akow moved and Kay Armatage seconded that the association amend the name to that currently used at a cost of \$185, and all were in favour.

Leo McCarthy will be presented with a lifetime membership in the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association for his many years of service. The plaque, will be presented to him at a future date, and reads; “In appreciation of your many years of service on the Salerno Devil's Lake Cottagers Association Executive.”

Clothing – Emily Rayburn

Golf shirts, hats, vests and T-shirts, sporting the SDLCA loon logo, are available to order through Emily. At present they are not available at Hancock's store.

Canoe Race – Rob Stuart

Rob with the help of Al Russell and Scott Field have cleared the river so it is canoe accessible. Participants were warned that the water levels are low. The participant cost is still \$5.00 per member and please advise cottage friends that they should identify your membership when registering. Non-members will pay \$10. Registration begins at noon and the first canoe will be launched at 1 p.m. The six categories are as follows Junior (for ages 15 and under); Womens, Mens, Seniors (for 50 and older), Mixed and Open (for alternative water craft and canoes carrying more that 2 individuals).

President's Report – Sydney Clark

Into her second year as President, Sydney is feeling more at ease. She expressed her gratitude to the present executive and their helpers for their support during the past year. The newsletter continues to be published on a tri-annual basis. Major focus for the year will be a possible Septic Re-inspection Program and the follow up to the Baker Development Study. On August 21st Sydney will represent us at the Community Forum where the 911 emergency system and the road names will be discussed. A reminder to all, that there is a fire ban in the area. Please remind your neighbours that the cost of extinguishing a fire, caused by negligence, will be charged to the perpetrator. Another reminder to parents to watch their children closely around water and at the cottage with the present wildlife situation.

General Issues

The SDLCA dance will be held at the Galway Hall on August 18th from 8 p.m. – 1 a.m. at a cost of \$5 per person. It is a family affair and a light luncheon will be served at 10:30 p.m.

BBQs will be donated by Bob Clark and Kay Armatage for the Canoe Race BBQ. Ed MacDonald will transport the equipment.

Master chefs at the BBQ will be Jim Rayburn, Norm Wheeler and Ken Clark.

Margaret Clayton and Judy will help with the cleanup.

Games will be run by Emily Rayburn, Marianne Cassin and Kay Armatage's daughter.

Andrea Weatherall informed the members that all children under the age of 16 need to be licensed to drive a boat. In 2002 all individuals running a boat under 12' will be required to have a licence. Andrea is available to administer the approved test at 447-2889.

Executive 2001/2002

Philip Woodard, nominated by Shari Akow and seconded by Emily Rayburn, agreed to join the executive. Florence Landry, nominated by Marilyn Horton and seconded by Bob Clark, also agreed to stand. Both nominees were acclaimed. Heather Stuart declined her nomination as it was felt that she could better serve us in the capacity of a consultant. The present executive of Sydney Clark, Shari Akow, Margaret Clayton, Dan Pappas, Leo McCarthy, Don Horton, Emily Rayburn, Nikki Wilson, Rob Stuart and Susan Thompson will serve another term. Bill Witham moved and Bette Witham seconded that the proposed slate of candidates be accepted and all were in favour.

Any Other Business

Information concerning the legislation of PWC can be obtained through the FOCA website.

Douglas Rodger will look into the 'catch and release' program with the fisheries.

Norm Wheeler suggested that the association post a fire hazard sign. Executive to follow up.

A reminder to cottagers concerning feeding of wild animals, i.e. raccoons, will be put in the newsletter.

Dump cards are needed when visiting the local dumps. There is a reciprocal agreement between municipalities and all garbage should be accepted except large items and brush, which must be taken to the Tory Hill dump site.

The Irondale Community Centre is looking for monetary contributions to support community endeavours.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Clark, seconded by Bill Witham and all were in favour. (11:55 a.m.)