

SALERNO DEVIL'S LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 30, 2005

Douglas Rodger, President of the SDLCA, welcomed approximately sixty members to the annual general meeting held at St. John's Church, Irondale starting at 10:05 a.m.

Previous AGM minutes

The minutes of the AGM held July 31, 2004 were circulated. Shari Akow moved, Florence Morris seconded and all were in favour that the minutes be approved.

Financial Report – Phil Woodard

The treasurer's report was distributed and reviewed. Ester Atkins moved, Norm Wheeler seconded that the report be accepted and all were in favour. During the past 5 years our membership fees have not increased and yet the Association's disbursements have increased i.e. substantial increase in insurance premiums, increased in FOCA membership and support of WRAFT etc. Phil Woodard moved and Susan Thompson seconded that **our annual membership dues increase from \$20 / membership to \$30 effective in 2006**. All were in favour

Membership – Susan Thompson

During 2004-2005 membership numbers were 105. All members are encouraged to promote the association to new cottagers and to former members who have not renewed. Information is available for road people and members to pass along.

President Report – Douglas Rodger

A Salerno Lake website, www.salernolake.ca, is up and running thanks to Eric Brown. At the present time it is available to anyone on line however in the future, members will be the only ones able to access the newsletter at this site. Real Estate agents will be encourage to direct new owners to this site which will hopefully promote us to potential new members. The website will include environmental information, canoe race and game results, current concerns i.e. asphalt plant etc.

Doug has contacted executive members of Fortescu, Salmon and Black Lakes with the hopes that with our common interests we will have better lobbying power.

As of Thanksgiving this year the boat launch will be closed. Andy Van Hoof, the developer and owner has ceded 400' of lakeshore (west of the present launch) to the Township of Minden Hills for construction of a new boat launch. A gravel lane to the site may be constructed by fall but a new launch will not be available until mid summer 2006, at the earliest. Environmental assessments may be required and Doug has written to both the Townships of Minden Hills and Highlands East to hopefully expedite the process. Over half the members present at the AGM will be affected by the closure. The new boat launch will be a place for us to advertise the Association information and programs i.e. Catch and Release Fishing Program, current bear sightings, Zebra mussels etc.

Royal Paving has applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources for a "temporary asphalt plant" (lifespan of 21 years). The Irondale is divided on its support of this issue unlike two years ago. Highlands East Council does not support this application and Doug did write a letter opposing the application. Further information on this issue will be available at our website.

There is a private members bill presently in the Senate which will enable Townships to set motor boat limits on lakes.

Township of Galway, Cavendish has increased police presence as the community has initiated an office manned by volunteers. We will investigate ways to make our lake safer. For more information on thefts and alarm information please visit the website.

A Garden Tour is planned for August 13th. To arrange your spot on the tour use the sign up sheet.

Bears are becoming an increasing presence in the cottager's life as over half of the present members have entertained the omnivores. Remember to store garbage inside and avoid using composts and birdfeeders. Air bombs can be an effective deterrent and remember to report your encounter to the MNR hotline. (866-514-BEAR)

Cottagers are reminded that September 1st is the start of the bear hunting season and small game season begins on September 25th.

ELECTIONS

The present executive has all agreed to stand another term – with unfortunately no new recruits. Bill Witham moved and Norm Wheeler seconded that the present executive stand for another term. All were in favour.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – Heather Stuart

The third annual SDLCA environmental report was delivered to lake docks during the first week of July. Large boat wakes continue to be an issue as it erodes the shoreline. August marks increasing phosphorus in the lake from septic systems, which cause an increase in algae and weed growth. Cottagers are reminded to use natural products, take a shower instead of a bath and not to bathe in the lake. Burning of paper garbage is legal but plastics are to be dumped at landfill sites. Please approach your neighbours nicely when reinforcing these “good cottage practices”.

A brighter and bigger environmental booth will be present at the canoe race. Donations of a tube from Walsten's, cleaning products from Nature Clean and a water bottle from FOCA will be drawn at the canoe race with donation tickets being available after the AGM and at the canoe race. Lake levels are of concern and Heather will endeavour to contact the regulating agencies.

WATERFRONT RATEPAYERS AFTER FAIR TAXATION REPORT

Bill Procter, SDLCA's representative on FOCA'S WRAFT was not available to report. Doug explained that this body was formed after Muskoka ratepayers objected to the higher taxation for waterfront properties.

CANOE RACE REPORT – Rob Stuart

Registration will begin tomorrow noon at the Irondale bridge, with the race beginning at 1 p.m. Kilometre signs are still posted at the 5, 7 & 8 marks along the 10 Kilometre route. The river is passable thanks to Rob Stuart and crew's river sweep yesterday.

BBQ & GAMES

McDs of Gooderham will be running the BBQ with a few members' help. Marianne Cassin will be in charge of the games.

ROAD REPORT – Norm Wheeler

Highlands East has graded their road portion while Minden Hills has done some work since the last rainstorm. Signage for danger and slower spots on the road is still an issue.

NEW BUSINESS

- Be aware that when making noise complaints you may be required to come as a witness to court if charges are laid.
- Ester Atkins noted the passing last January of Steve Ferns, a long-time lake resident.
- Cottages are encouraged to support the local businesses: McDs, Hancock's Store, Georgia's, Summerhill Organic Farm & Kinmount Farmer's Market
- Code of Conduct for lake residents – to be developed?
- Margaret Clayton encouraged the executive to develop a lake plan that could be adopted by Highlands East and Minden Hills Townships.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Joan Pappas, seconded by Bette Witham and ALL WERE IN FAVOUR (11:55 a.m.)