

## **SDLCA Annual General Meeting – Saturday August 2, 2014 at the Irondale Community Centre**

### **Salerno Lake – Lake Plan Public Meeting 10 AM – 10:20 AM**

Marg Clayton explained that the Lake Plan Study was a two year process: Defining Boundary, Study of shoreline Quality, a Community wide Survey conducted in the Spring of 2013 to identify areas and issues of concern to the Lake Community, 2 Open Houses/ Workshops - designed to engage the Salerno Lake / Irondale Community in “identifying the natural and social characteristics of the lake environment that are important to the lake community, and developing stewardship initiatives and action plans “.

Marg followed by noting a number of volunteers who worked on the Plan putting in much of their time and energy into the project.

To move forward with the Lake Plan and its proposals and recommendations Marg asked that the Salerno Lake Community Members present adopt the Plan.

Move to Adopt the Lake Plan proposed by Rob Stuart and seconded by Barbara Gordon .....carried.

Marg explained that printed copies of the Lake Plan were available to order on the website for \$10 and could be downloaded as well.

Doug Rodger reminded all present that Shoreline Assessments for individual lots would be available to cottage lake members on request but only to the Lot owner. Marg confirmed that all assessments would remain confidential.

Cecil Ryall, Ward 3 Councillor mentioned the importance of Lake Plans as the Municipality often adopts common elements from the areas Lake Plans for inclusion in its' Official Plan.

Marg called on those present that were interested in becoming involved with working on the Next Steps – Recommendations to contact her through the SDLCA website – citing their area of interest.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

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Doug Rodger welcomed approximately 40 members to the meeting and Ward 3 Councillor Cecil Ryall who had been invited to the Lake Plan meeting.

The minutes of the previous AGM on Aug. 3, 2013 were read and reviewed. Rob Stuart moved that the minutes be accepted as read, Mary Ann Cassidy seconded the motion. All were in favour. Carried.

### **Nomination and Election of Officers**

Doug called for nominations for the election of officers. In the absence of additional candidates coming forward that Kevin Mansfield would work with Doug to take ownership of certain Presidential duties on an interim basis and would stand for election as President at next years' AGM.

**Financial Report :** Kevin reported that the SDLCA was in a good financial state. Membership dues were being paid on line through the web site with many paying for two year memberships. The new apparel initiative was very successful providing a net profit of approximately \$ 700. Major costs were Insurance, investing in the new website and the Lake Plan. Assets totaled about \$7000 in fixed and short term investments.

Paul Grovin moved to Adopt the Financial Report and Ester Atkins seconded it. All were in favour. Carried.

### **Membership Report - Jacqueline**

Current memberships sold totaling 80 so far with 10 new members. The canoe Race is still ahead which generates a sizeable number of membership signups. Membership penetration is about 50% as of the 220 lots on the lake, a number are owned by the same owners bringing down the potential number of member lots to 200 or so. The goal is to expand membership to 120 as a number of previous members have lapsed and might likely sign up with some encouragement. The membership period has changed to a calendar year Jan. – Dec. and a two year payment option has been added along with the ease of paying on line. All designed to take the pressure off the Summer period so the focus can be on membership events rather than recruitment. Jacqueline has planned "a visit to the dock" of non members to talk about the benefits of belonging and find out why they have not considered membership up to now.

### **E Blast and Web Site Report - Jacqueline**

A number of signs have been put up in the Salerno Lake area communicating the web site address to make the local community aware of this communication forum. As a result the website has experienced close to 6,500 hits to date since its inception earlier this year. A membership page only with password protection enhances the aspect of being an up to date member. Such benefits include the recently updated local road map of Salerno Lake.

17 - E Blasts have been sent out so far on different topics as reminders of current events and changes such as this year's Canoe Race venue change. We have reached out by encouraging family members to "join our community" on the web site and are now talking with up to 700 of them.

#### **Water quality testing Report - Wendy**

Wendy Kidd ( Environmental Officer) reported that the water quality tests had come back with good results. Calcium levels were high which is good for microorganisms and fish. Phosphorus and mercury levels are likely the result of decaying log remnants from logging operations in the last century. A natural shoreline and tree buffer around the lake will slow soil erosion. A well functioning septic system is designed to breakdown materials through bacterial action but can be compromised by antibacterial soaps, medicines and chlorine containing substances. Such systems then emit pollution ie. materials not broken down by bacterial action and can find their way into the lake system.

Doug Rodger commented that even though the Lake scored 75 in the Lake Survey overall it was not good enough. So far there was no evidence of invasive species in the Lake such as Spiny Water Flea or Zebra Muscles. Eurasian Milfoil has been in the lake for a number of years.

Kevin Pepper would take over as the "Loon Tracker" and be given a web link.  
Emily and Jim Raeburn would assist Wendy as Lake Stewards in the coming year.

#### **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Canoe Race Preparations Report & Barbeque**

The "River Rats" Ken Clark, Rob Stuart & Doug Rodger reported that the river is jammed with log debris and combined with high water levels and strong current would not be safely passable for The Race. The decision was made to change the venue to the Lake from the boat launch rounding the Island and back to the boat launch for a total of 8 or 9 KM. The Race T Shirts were priced at \$15 and the Race fee per boat remained at \$20 for members with memberships available for sale. The after Race barbeque and awards ceremony and games has been changed to the Irondale Community Centre area for 2:30 PM. The food for the Barbeque will be provided by "The Perfect Bite" Catering again this year. Raffle tickets can be bought from Wendy Kidd. George Simmons said he would find out what help we could get from the county and Provincial level for clearing the Irondale River of flood debris.

#### **Concert on the Lake**

Doug said that the Concert on the Lake featuring Wendell Ferguson came close to breaking even despite being hampered by poor weather and some light rain in the evening. Doug mentioned that the last two concerts have featured male performers and next year it might be an opportunity to showcase a female performer such as "Sweet Alibi". For future years his goal is to build up a small warchest through successful concerts so that when there is a poor weather year it will not be a burden on the Lake Association.

#### **Apparel Sales**

The apparel sales this year have been successful in generating awareness of the association and some additional revenues. The next order will be planned for the Spring of 2015. New ideas include Dinner Placemats with a Map of Salerno Lake.

### **Reincorporating the Lake Association**

New changes to the Incorporation Law are still pending with a tentative date for passing in 2016.

Marg Clayton suggested a change of name from “Cottage Owners” to “Property Owners” when the final changes are done. The “Devils” in the SDLCA name – will have to determine whether it will be in brackets or not.

### **New Business:**

#### **OPP Billing Model for the County**

Cecil Ryall, Local Councillor explained that the new proposed OPP billing model would raise individual property owners taxes markedly starting as early as 2015. Highlands East would see a 25% increase in taxes or \$1 million higher payment to the OPP increase to the current overall budget of \$4 million. Currently paying for 21 Officers with 29 actually assigned the new model would charge for 54 Officers at \$161,000 per year with no increase from the 29 Assigned. (Note: Tax increases to be confirmed and are in the proposal stages.)

Minden Hills would fair no better with a 20 % increase. This all due to the downloading of costs and obligations from the Provincial Govt. to the Municipal Governments.

All members are encouraged to write a personal letter to their respective Provincial Members of Parliament especially those outside Haliburton County so that the current Government realizes this is affecting many taxpayers and voters across the Province.

#### **Doug Rodger’s Last Meeting as President**

Rob Stuart thanked Doug for his many years of dedicated and caring years of service as “El Presidente.” His years witnessed the transformation of the Lake newsletter going from “snail mail” to “e mail”. For staying on top of all the changes coming forth from FOCA and working closely on local matters with local Councillors. Volunteering for the River Clearing for the Annual Races. Setting up and being the driving force behind the Lake Concerts and chairing countless executive meetings for the Lake Association. Doug thanked Rob for his sentiments of appreciation and said he had enjoyed his years, and that it was a great community and that he would continue to contribute in a different capacity.

#### **Septic Presentation – Mike Rahme (Home Pro Inspections) & Gary Cake ( Cake Septic Pumping)**

Inadequate inspections are done by the Government Agencies to date as they tend to hire University Students to walk through and do a visual inspection. Septic systems need to be balanced with the building being served. If the building has an addition then the Septic may need to be enlarged to service the increase in use but this is not done or regulated properly. Odour and Seepage are usually the first indicators of problems along with “green grass”. Once the system fails it allows untreated waste to flow from the first chamber to the second and into the filter bed plugging it up. The importance of pumping out the Septic Tank’s two chambers is important as it rids the tank of materials emitting corrosive gasses which can rot the concrete baffles in the tank if left too long in critical mass. The empty tank should then be washed down so it can be inspected for cracks, holes, and the condition of the baffle and filter.

Some of the premium filters will last up to five years and all types should be cleaned on a regular basis. Anything that interferes with the normal bacterial action in the tank such as antibacterial soaps, medicines and chlorine bearing products should be eliminated from the system. Some toilet papers breakdown more readily than others such as the Royale brand and should indicate septic friendly on the package. Hazards from septic systems can range from bacteria to viruses such as Hepatitis C and precautions should be taken when working with the system (cleaning filters etc.) The recommendation for maintaining a healthy system is to have it checked every 3 to 5 years so any trouble can be corrected.

**Motion to adjourn proposed by Ester Atkins and seconded by Flo Morris. All were in favour.**

Meeting ended at 12 PM.