

SDLCA Annual General Meeting – Saturday August 5, 2017 at the Irondale Community Centre

Margaret Clayton welcomed approximately 42 members to the meeting.

A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the previous AGM on July 30, 2016 as were made available to read on the website as read if there were no questions by Rob Stimers and seconded by Vivien Black. All were in favour.....Carried.

SDLCA Update

Margaret explained that the SDLCA was still searching for a new President as Kevin Mansfield was stepping down from his role with Doug Rodger and Jacqueline Proud as part of the triumvirate that had been running things for the past two years. If anyone was interested both Doug and Sydney Clark as past Presidents could provide insight into the role.

Jacqueline Proud was giving one year's notice of stepping down as Web designer and Secretary. Kevin Mansfield was also stepping down as Treasurer but would continue until a replacement was found.

Margaret also noted that she would likely step down within two to three years.

Doug said that FOCA has found that it is not unusual to have a shortage of people to run Lake Associations. With lifestyle changes, two income families and increased job pressures younger members just are not available and so older people end up running them. He suggested breaking down roles into separate tasks would allow more opportunity for others to be involved. Jacqueline created a new website and has kept it up to date, fresh and relevant. Younger people are needed to take on some of these roles. He noted that Jen Binnie who had stepped down from running the Children's Games due to business had told him that the Lake Kashagawigamog Lake Association with 2500 cottages gets only 80 out for their AGM. He felt Salerno Lake had a very good base and interest in comparison and that the Lake Plan was an important document for the future of the lake. He urged those at the meeting to reach out to others and work at getting them involved. Kay Armatage asked if we should move to split the Membership Secretary role into two. Margaret explained that the Executive can do that on their own. Kay and Margaret then offered to take over the Communication role with Jacqueline assisting for the first year. Jacqueline would then take on a more static role doing less administration on the web site.

Nomination and Election of Officers

Margaret called for nominations for the election of officers.

Name	Roles
* Margaret Clayton	Vice-President & SDLCA's CHA representative (also the CHA Secretary), and in charge of the Lake Plan Study and CHA Shoreline Re-Naturalization Initiative.
* Bill Holding	Secretary
* Rob Brown	Lake Steward and Environmental Director
* Jacqueline Proud	Membership Secretary
* Rob Stimers	Web and Technology Chair

* Rob Stuart	Canoe Race & BBQ
* Doug Rodger	Past President
* Sydney Clark	Past President
* Kay Armatage	Director-at-large
*Kevin Mansfield	Acting Treasurer / Book keeper

Sydney Clark made a motion to accept the current slate of officers for election seconded by Rob Stuart. All were in favour.....carried.

Financial Report Update

Kevin delivered his financial report for the year ending December 31, 2016. He noted that membership revenues may look higher but is in line with the two year renewal cycle. Also apparel sales actually made money when factoring in mixed timing of invoices between fiscal periods. Membership costs are up due to third party printing of the Dock Packages. Concert by the Lake lost \$510 in 2016 but has made money this year (2017). Net income was positive or \$1,396 and an ending cash balance of \$6,555 was recorded for year end.

Motion to accept the Financial Report made by Doug Rodger and seconded by Kay Armatage. All were in favour.....carried.

Membership Report and Website

Jacqueline Proud reported 126 members this year and that the trend is up with new cottagers joining which she attributes to the Dock Package getting their attention. With 61 per cent renewing on line there is less administration. 50 per cent of renewals coming due in 2016 were renewed for 2 years. The new Web Page was created in May 2014 and every January it has been updated for dates, documents, events and new material to make it more useful. January 2017 saw a new look. The site has had a total of 40,574 hits over four years. 12 local businesses are advertising with us now. 280 people are on the e-mailing list with 52 per cent opening the messages. In Industry 14 per cent is considered good.

Rob Stuart noted that the lake dynamics were changing. In earlier days some of those joining the Executive did so because their parents may have served. But with the turnover and many new cottagers to the lake it is more difficult to get them involved. He makes a point approaching new neighbours around campfires, BBQs and Children's Games who possibly might take on roles in the future.

Rob Brown suggested that when you meet other cottagers ask them if they are members and if so are they paid up? Have an open conversation about the lake with them.

Doug mentioned that 2017 & 2018 stickers are available at Jacqueline's dock this afternoon and at the BBQ. Membership signs and stickers need to be visible.

One member said she visits new owners on her road and talks them up about joining the SDLCA. Frank, a new member said the web site is great and asked if we could include names of good Trades People.

Jacqueline suggested he go on Facebook and see if there were conversations there that would help.

Doug noted we don't recommend Trades People for liability reasons.

Environmental Report

Rob Brown reported that tests are done every year on samples sent to the Ministry and the Lake is in good shape. We are fortunate as water flows both in and out of the Lake and it has a limestone base. He noted that he had other topics to discuss but they were later in the agenda.

Cecil Ryall then talked about the Provincial Govt.'s plans to download Septic Inspections down to the Municipal level of which there are four in Haliburton County. Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands are looking to investigate and wait until 2018-19. Highlands East and Dysart have strong Lake Associations and have decided to implement a partial program but not a full Inspection. They would employ two Civil Engineering students to determine if septic systems were in compliance and the condition of Grey water and septic fields. There would be four levels of risk low, moderate, high and very high. Little Glamour, Glamour, Billings, Stormy and Trooper Lakes have been done. Koshlong Lake is in progress with Contau, Gooderham, Minicock and Salerno Lakes still to be done. Of the 666 systems inspected 485 or 73% were low risk, 86 or 13% moderate risk, 58 or 9% high risk and 24 or 4% were very high risk with 13 or 2% no access. A non-functioning system not in compliance could end up being a \$15,000 problem for an owner. So the Municipality is looking to develop a relationship between the Building Inspector and landowner to work on solutions. It is estimated that over 12 million litres of sludge and fluid will be pumped to remain compliant. Over 2,000 inspections will be completed by 2018/19 by the time the other two Municipalities start to implement their plans. By 2019 the Lakes will be finished and Inspections of other properties not mandated by the Province will start as this is the direction Highlands East is taking due to their relationship with the Lake Associations.

He also talked about the Highlands East Road Grant initiative which was set up to encourage upgrades in private roads reducing steep hills and sharp curves allowing easier access for emergency vehicles. Road Associations would have to apply before the September 30th deadline and were eligible for \$53.25 per kilometer and \$4.75 per property with \$25,000 allocated total for the Municipality.

Loon Report – Kevin Pepper

Kevin reported that it was a good year on the Lake for the loons spotting two pairs and a single early on with another pair coming to the lake at some later point. Unfortunately, no chicks survived this year but it is not unusual to have years where chicks don't hatch. He noted that the migration is currently in progress. Loons are a sign of a healthy lake so respect them while boating. He also welcomes others to join him on the lake to see the loons.

Concert on the Lake

Doug said this year's concert was very successful making money to offset some losses in previous years. Kiyomi Valentine grew up on the lake and was well received with 18 boats in the water and many people on the shore. The on line sales were new this year and helped a lot boosting sales. Doug thanked Rob & Rosalie Brown the hosts of the venue and assisting with the set up. He finished by saying how gratifying it was to have a successful concert and would be happy to keep doing it.

Youth Lake Race

Rob Stimers said the race for the under 12 year's old group would start at Wendy's dock and end at the Island. Registration would start at 10:30 am and the race at 11 am. Fees would be \$5 per craft and prizes would be a ribbon but not paddles. A record would be kept for all entrant names and times. To find Eldanori Lane he suggested people check the web site for directions.

50th Annual Canoe Race Preparations Report & Barbeque

1967 – 2017

The Thompson family helped start this long lived Association event. Rob was aided in this history by Sue Thompson's records. 1967 was the first unofficial event down the river and its' success led to the establishment of the race with its' first official recorded one in 1968. Rob Stuart remembers first starting to work with Mr. Thompson on the race. 1971 was the first year he ordered crests of which his daughter now keeps the records. Prizes in the early years ranged from shot glasses to ash trays. Gradually the event grew into a family event with games set up to keep the kids busy and the BBQ added. Contributing to the success over the years were the numerous volunteers. The Community Centre played an important role as did the local Irondale Community which both participated and assisted. Leo McCarthy was the one who persuaded Rob to join the Executive. Among early participants were the Simmons, Hancocks, Clarks, Thompsons and Wheelers. There was one canoe race category, men and women raced down the river and had a lot of fun doing it. Rob remembers fun stuff such as Ron MacDonald parachuting from a small plane down to Furnace Falls to open up the BBQ one year. The Race which used to start on the east side by the Hancock house added the Senior category in 1977. For 1987 the 20th anniversary John Leonard designed a new crest with two men in a canoe. 1989 saw the addition of a women's category and the painting of the paddles for first place finishes by John. By 1994 pressure by Rob's daughter resulted in the crest being changed to a man and woman. John merely modified one male paddler into a female, colour was added and at some point John Leonard started signing the paddles as well. 2000 saw a large crest to celebrate the Millennium and buttons were made. In 2006 the Kayak category was added and with more pressure from his daughter pink was added to the crest for that year. In 2007 the women's Kayak category was added. Now 17 paddles are painted and signed by John every year. 2014 saw the race on the lake and not on the River due to downed tree blockages from spring flooding. The River Rats, Ken Clark, Rob Stuart, Doug Rodger and others had managed in years past to clear blockages but this year's proved too much. In the old days you went around some of the blockages but with Kayaks and Juniors it was considered too dangerous. So the Race has been held on the Lake every year since 2014. The Community Centre is a great facility for the BBQ and if we returned to the River we would lose that advantage.

50th Canoe Race & BBQ/ Games – Sunday

Registration takes place at the boat launch at 12 noon and the Race starts at 1 pm sharp. Marshalls will be on the Lake wearing yellow shirts and Kevin Pepper would be taking photographs of all the participants. The BBQ will be from 3:30 to 6:30pm at the Irondale Community Centre with the children's games starting at 4:30. He reminded everyone that no private alcohol is permitted as the facility could lose its licence. Last year's Race saw 31 boats and 51 participants and he hoped this one would be an even better turnout.

Other Business:

Canada Day Fireworks

The traditional Fireworks on Canada day might see 30 plus boats on the Lake and many people on their docks watching a 10 minute display. Rob Brown raised the question is there Environmental harm being done? Should we discontinue? They were meant to minimize individual firework displays and there is a good turnout. He was looking for feedback today and from the whole community. Rob felt that the Event was not minimizing the individual displays and in fact there is a huge marketing machine driving increased demand with more people doing them every year. As the Lake Steward he does not condone the pollution in the lake. The old practice of washing in the lake has changed over the years and is not done anymore. Should the Association continue to fund the fireworks if they pollute? Minden Hills has Firework by laws allowing them only on certain days but Highlands East does not. Any comments asked for were not meant to be complaining about neighbours.

Rob Stuart said that some research has been done by knowledgeable people. His daughter an Environmental Scientist told him that a 10 minute fireworks display would have a minimal impact on the lake and an insignificant effect on fish. He said Frank Bartley was still catching fish off his dock.

Rob Brown invited Rob Stuart to read his notes on the talk as there was evidence of a negative effect over the last 20-30 years. R. Stuart then asked what the specific environmental impact was. Every year some gas and oil for boats gets into the lake, but is it serious?

One of the Bartley sons who host the event described it as a Marquee event for the Lake and the Association along with the Race and the Concert. The membership gets to see where their money goes. Doug Rodger noted that even "Green Fireworks" were not much less polluting than regular ones. He said as we get older we don't care so much (enthusiasm for fireworks). Do people recognize how much the Association is paying for the fireworks? The cost works out to 20 memberships at \$30 each for 10 minutes. George Simmons said West Guilford has moved their fireworks to Haliburton for Liability reasons. Margaret Clayton noted that we have insurance and is not an issue for us. Sydney Clark said we recognize we can't make a decision today more research is needed and a survey done before we abide by a vote. Young Bartley said regardless of air or water pollution other individual fireworks will continue with or without the main event. It is a Community Event and likely has greater appeal among the younger portion of the Association. Margaret made note that the SDLCA portion would return to the \$600 norm from the \$750 for Canada's 150th anniversary.

CHA Shoreline re-naturalization Contest

Margaret said that there were 43 Cottage Associations under the CHA representing 77 Lakes and 17,000 Property Owners. Their main focus is to speak on their behalf to all levels of Government on the necessity of healthy Septics and Lakes. Originally the CHA tried to get funding for 100 properties for the Shore Line Re-Naturalization Project but only received funding for 14 at \$2,250 each. A contest was devised where by each purchase of an Eco Ethic product would qualify for a ballot. In addition there would be five prizes of dinner at local restaurants plus a Haliburton experience, with the Draw taking place on September 21st.

If the SDLCA wins any funding the priority would be the revitalization of the Island shoreline.

The standard set for a healthy lake is 75% natural shoreline but with Salerno Lake at 74% we need to keep working on improvements. She asked everyone to take home a Ribbon of Life bag with them. They contained materials and local newspapers from CHA's partners encouraging members to support them. There also were several copies of the Lake Plan available for sale for anyone interested.

Local Roads

One Cottager complained about the poor quality of some Cell Phone or Auto GPS systems that provided inaccurate directions resulting in lost vehicles on narrow roads causing damage to signs etc.(backing into them?).

Motion to adjourn at 12 noon by Rob Stuart and seconded by Sydney Clark.