

**Minutes of the Otter Lake Association
2008 Annual General Meeting**

Date: August 16, 2008

Place: Boon's residence, 136 Otter Lake Cottage Rd.

Present: Marilyn & Stephen Fountain, Philomena & Tony Sandaluk, Charlene Neill, Chad Schoppel, Pat & Craig Boon, Jan Aylsworth (guest)

Call to Order: by Craig Boon at 9:50 a.m.

1) Opening Remarks – welcome everyone to OLA AGM

- Verification of addresses, e-mails and phone numbers
- Reviewed agenda for today
- The main emphasis for the directors this year was to prepare a draft constitution for this year's AGM. The draft is completed and ready for ratification at this AGM.
- Water samples and secchi readings are still being taken by the District and results are on the OLA website. Also, last month a benthos monitoring study was conducted for one area of Otter Lake. This acts as a base line for future testing and another means of collecting information to monitor lake quality. Our guest speaker who has the results for the 2008 testing will discuss this further.

2) Approval of 2007 AGM minutes – Pat Boon

- Copies of the minutes were distributed and reviewed for errors and omissions and one spelling error was noted and corrected
- Motion to accept as amended – Tony Sandaluk
- Seconded by Chad Schoppel
- Carried

3) Treasurer's Report by Chad Schoppel

- Chad presented a financial statement for the past year and explained
- Motion to accept financial statement – Charlene
- Seconded by Tony Sandaluk
- Carried

4) Website information and update by Chad Schoppel

- Chad explained and discussed how the website is set up and what information has been installed.
- All members were informed of the links available on the website to keep updated on relevant matters of interest in the area

5) HLC update by Craig Boon

- The Huntsville Lakes Council (HLC) has submitted articles in the local newspapers dealing with water and environmental issues to keep its readers informed
- HLC has been involved in looking after the navigation buoys for the lakes around Huntsville. They had them made and installed in the proper locations. This was all completed under the auspices of the Town of Huntsville.
- HLC members also sit on the Environmental Committee of Council and help the Town in dealing with issues brought to their attention.
- One member of the HLC – Mary McCulley, won the Town of Huntsville’s Environmental Award for her dedication and hard work. This was well deserved.
- The HLC has also been monitoring the District regarding the water and sewer levy being proposed on all properties. The HLC has written a letter to the District on behalf of their members and will be attending a special meeting organized by the District. It was mentioned that all OLA members should go to the HLC website and read over the information regarding the District levy.
- The HLC has also been monitoring the draft proposal for the updated bylaws. These bylaws have since been passed and are now law.
- One note to the members regarding property taxes was to go to the HLC website and link to the CAPTR & WRAFT sites to become informed on the movement to have a fair taxation system in Ontario for waterfront properties.

6) Constitution and Bylaws

- The draft Constitution and bylaws were presented to the OLA members for discussion. Each member had a copy of the draft bylaws. Explanations of various paragraphs and why they were written in such a manner, was given. A few grammatical errors were noted and recorded. After the discussion, a motion to accept this constitution and bylaws, as printed and amended, was requested.
- Motion to accept – Philomena Sandaluk
- Seconded - Chad Schoppel
- Carried

7) Election of Directors

- The current directorship will continue for one more year but will ask for volunteers from the membership to take part in a nominating committee to help elect a new directorship for the OLA. The nominating committee will bring forth the representatives at the 2009 AGM where a vote can be held.
- No volunteers at this time came forward; therefore the present directors will proceed with the nominating committee.

8) Question period

- A question was raised concerning the three lots at the corner of West Browns Rd. and Otter Lake Rd. These lots have been surveyed and no other details are known at this time

- The issue of duck feeding was discussed because of the amount of ducks that congregate in areas around the lake. The concern was “swimmers’ itch” that persons can pick up from duck waste.
- The last issue was the Canada geese that are returning to Otter Lake. Again the best way to control them is to have a buffer zone on your property at the lakefront. The geese will not go through the vegetation at the water’s edge to gain access to the land. A grassy area is an invitation to them. Geese will return to the same areas to breed and will increase in numbers.

9) Closing of business meeting

- motion to adjourn – Stephen Fountain
- seconded – Marilyn Fountain
- carried
- meeting segment adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Break – coffee and snacks

11:10 a.m. – Presentation portion of AGM

Guest Speaker – Rebecca Willison (Watershed Planning Technician) – Muskoka Watershed Council

Introduction of Guest Speaker – Craig Boon

Summary of Presentation by Rebecca Willison

- discussed development of “Best Practices” pamphlets produced by the Muskoka Watershed Council that were Muskoka specific as well as versions for Haliburton
- topics included: protecting your waterfront investment, septic systems, stormwater pollution, caring for wetlands on your property and healthy lawns and gardens (Muskoka Heritage Foundation promotes the use of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and groundcover to attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies)
- handout on “Tips & Techniques” to “Go Natural!” distributed
- promoted the publication “On the Living Edge” as a good resource for those living on waterfront
- suggested a “tips” sheet for renters concerning septic system use
- discussed site alteration bylaws (cut and fill) adapted by some municipalities and the need for Huntsville to move forward in this area
- Otter Lake Info Pkg suggested for realtors
- Benthos Monitoring Results - handout distributed and explained
- answered questions from the group

Thank You – Rebecca was thanked by Pat Boon and was presented with a plant.

Social – A potluck lunch followed the presentation.