

MINUTES

OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (OLLA)

19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

JULY 24, 2010

1. WELCOME:

President Marcia Maxwell welcomed all to the 19th annual general meeting.

2. CURRENT EXECUTIVE:

Marcia introduced the current directors.

Marcia Maxwell	President
Carol Schaefer	Secretary
Phil Mayhew	Director
Lisa Baker	Director
Doug Franks (regrets)	Web Master and Lake Steward
Mike Carson (regrets)	Editor of the Newsletter and Acting Treasurer
Frank Soural (regrets)	Past President

3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:

I want to thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting. I would like to introduce to you the current executive of OLLA. Carol Schaefer – Secretary; Doug Franks - Lake Steward; Mike Carson – Editor who is also filling in as our Treasurer; Frank Soural – Past President; Phil Mayhew; and Lisa Baker – Directors at Large and myself Marcia Maxwell. As in the past, I will aim to adjourn the meeting at noon, and your welcome to get refills of the coffee, and goodies, I know many of you are familiar with the facility, but in case it is needed the washrooms are to my left here at the front of the hall.

Again this year we have provided a table with a range of FOCA product for you to purchase, if you wish, and this helps to support FOCA initiatives across the province, along with some information pamphlets provided by FOCA and the Health Unit.

I also want to take a few minutes here to fill you in on some news of a personal nature. I know many of you have purchased your cottage properties through my sister Sharon Hurst, I am sorry to say that she passed away very quickly this past September and I

know many of you have not been aware of this as it happened at the end of cottage season.

On a happier note my husband Ken and I have sold our house in Oakville this spring and have moved here to the lake permanently and have set up our business Eastern Ontario Docks & Marine and Maxwell Enterprises at Crosby corners.

Now once again, we have a full agenda this morning so I will now turn the chair over to Carol to review and approve last year's minutes, and I trust that many of you have had a chance to review the minutes to speed the process of having to review them now.

4. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2009:

The minutes for 2009 are posted on our current web site www.otterlake.cyberus.ca As well, copies were sent with the notice for the meeting and copies were available for review as members arrived at the meeting.

No errors or omissions were noted.

MOVED by Bernard Ulyett **SECONDED** by Greg Maloney that the AGM minutes for 2009 be approved as printed. **CARRIED**

5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Our past treasurer, Cam McKay, has resigned from the committee. Our acting treasurer, Mike Carson, is not able to attend today's meeting. In his absence, Marcia Presented the report.

The current bank balance as of June 26, 2010 was \$ 2,657.49
Debenture Value as of June 12, 2010 was \$ 5,215.07

Under expenses, Caduceon is the lab where the water collected by our lake steward is tested. Some of the sites tested by Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) are different than those tested by our lake steward. RVCA may not test the water in Otter Lake every year.

MOVED by Frank Croft, **SECONDED** by Don Hillis that the report be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

Water collection is carried out for OLLA by volunteers in order to catch early any problems that could be brewing. Any suspicious areas can then be reported to property owners in that area. RVCA carries out tests that OLLA volunteers do not, for example invasive species, deep-water samples, etc. Their testing takes about 4 hours to complete. OLLA's tests takes about 2 hours. RVCA has equipment that OLLA does not.

6. SUCCESSION PLANNING – CALL and APPROVAL FOR DIRECTORS:

Marcia noted there are 3 vacancies on the board this year. We are happy to advise Jim Noble and Ed Wilton have agreed to join the board (if approved) leaving 1 place to fill.

Marcia asked if anyone present was interested in becoming a director. No one came forward. However, if anyone should decide they would like to participate, please contact Marcia.

The 3-year terms of three current members of the executive are up this year – Marcia Maxwell, Carol Schaefer and Mike Carson. All 3 have agreed to remain on the board, if members approve.

7. NEW EXECUTIVE APPROVAL:

Members (by a show of hands) voted to renew the terms of all 3 whose terms are up.

Members voted to approve Jim and Ed.

The new executive was approved.

8. ROAD NUMBERING:

The purpose of road renumbering is to enable our police department, fire department and ambulance services to react to emergency situations.

Marcia reviewed the problems associated with duplicate road numbering on the lake. This is a huge issue in the township. She has been advised the present township council has agreed to set up a committee to put together a plan to address this problem. They will present this plan, after elections, to the new council. The new council may or may not decide to go ahead with the proposal, alter the proposal or do nothing with the proposal.

If individual road associations agree on a name they should submit 3 choices to the township. The council might accept one of their choices. There cannot be duplicate names in the township. Township roads will still be named roads, but private roadways will be called lanes.

Doug is attempting to obtain a current list of road names to provide to road associations but so far without success.

If this project goes ahead. It will be necessary for permanent residents to change their current address with all their contacts just as if they had moved.

9. LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT:

Karl Fiander, our previous lake steward, presented Doug Franks' report in his absence.

The report is on OLLA's web site and was mailed out with the latest newsletter.

Karl advised that, overall, the lake is in good shape.

Doug Walker, a property owner on Otter Creek, asked to speak. The first beaver dam in the creek is on his property, and RVCA has advised him it is now creek owners' responsibility to monitor any dams on their property. Doug traps beavers on his property. His choices are to continue to breach the dam or to completely remove it. Doug advised there is no activity in the dam at this time.

RVCA has advised that under the Walker dam site, there is a natural ridge. Therefore, the water will only go down to a certain level and no lower.

MOVED by Herb Whittick, **SECONDED** by John *(?) that a vote of thanks be offered to the lake steward (Doug) for his excellent work. **CARRIED**

*Secretary's note: I apologize for not recording John's last name, but I was unable to hear properly.

Ron Hahn, the president of Road 09's road association, noted that RVCA's mandate to look after trapping beavers in Otter Creek and to maintain the dams at a level acceptable to lake owners is now over. RVCA advises this task is too expensive for them to continue. Ron asked them, if property owners provided the funds to cover this work, would they continue to look after the dams. They advised they would consider doing so.

A cost of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a year was mentioned.

Ron's question to the audience, would there be support from individual road associations to cover this cost? There are about 15 road associations, which would mean a charge of \$100 to \$200 each per year. The majority of audience members indicated they would be in favour. This is not an official vote.

It is noted that some roads are not unhappy with fluctuating lake levels since it does not affect their properties.

Water levels are the responsibility of the township, but they deferred that responsibility to RVCA.

QUESTION: Does OLLA provide suggestions to residents on how to improve the health of the lake?

This topic could be raised in the lake plan.

QUESTION: Does the lake steward measure weed growth?

Karl responded he doesn't actually measure weed growth, but it has become obvious there is an increase, due to the zebra mussels. Addressing this issue could be part of the lake plan.

QUESTION: Are beavers tracked anywhere other than the creek?

No. There are many beaver dams all around the lake. They cannot all be controlled.

QUESTION: Why is the e-coli count so high at Barker's Creek (boat launch)?

Although the levels were higher here than elsewhere on the lake, they are still not high enough to present a problem. Some e-coli may come from the waters flowing into Barkers Creek and then into Otter Lake.

QUESTION: What is the soapy looking foam that washes ashore from time to time?

This is a natural phenomenon and nothing to worry about. This too is probably a result of the zebra mussels.

QUESTION: Could the financing for RVCA to look after the beaver situation be an OLLA activity or must individual road committees cover it?

It is not in our mandate to directly deal with water levels. As noted earlier, some road associations will want to contribute, and probably, some will not.

An audience member noted we already pay big taxes. Should we be expected to pay more?

Phil Mayhew advised that if the dams in Otter Creek were completely removed today, the lake level would drop 21"!! We need to work together on this problem.

10. RON HOLMAN:

Ron offered greetings from all members of his council.

He noted cottage associations and the lake plans they create are very important to the council, especially when they are working on a 5-year plan for the township. It's important for landowners to be part of the planning process. Meetings will be held. The dates are noted on the calendar delivered to all property owners. If you don't have one, you may obtain it from either of the township offices.

Ron talked about some accomplishments of his council.

Door to door pick up of garbage and recycling materials has been successfully implemented.

Hazardous waste days are held on various dates (see the calendar) and have been successful.

The council set out to ensure all county roads have a durable surface. When they started 70% of roads were gravel and 30% hard surface. The goal was to reverse those statistics. There is 10% left to achieve their goal.

There are now 3 community halls in the township. This particular hall was recently beautifully renovated. The halls serve many purposes, one being to house residents in an emergency situation.

Delta now has a new fire hall and the relevant equipment.

Recreation facilities are now available for 2200 township teens under 16 years of age. The next project will involve new soccer fields and soccer programs. A large number of participants are expected.

There are 7 solar power projects underway. They will generate more power than the township requires. However, the township does not have control of where these projects are located. This is the responsibility of the province.

Elgin applied for and received \$1.4 million funding for affordable housing for seniors. The project will be self-sufficient.

This is an election year and mail in ballots will be used once again. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO VOTE.**

QUESTION: What about fire coverage for private roads?

The township has provided guidelines to be followed by private road owners but they are not mandatory. Equipment is not getting smaller! There will be no attempt by the township to ensure the guidelines are met. However, if road owners ask for advice, help will be offered.

QUESTION: Are there any plans to repair the boat launch off Highway 15? The water is too shallow.

Ron offered to bring this point to the attention of the works department.

He is aware other lake roads are in need of improvement.

QUESTION: How many township landowners are permanent residents?

There are approximately 11,000 permanent residents and 15,000 seasonal residents.

QUESTION: Does the township ensure the people in charge of roads have the proper training?

Dollars are set aside for professional development, and staff are well qualified. Ron displayed a map showing those roads already treated and those yet to be done. Road crews are continually upgrading their skills.

QUESTION: Could a parking fee be implemented at the boat launch for non-lake residents?

If property owners wanted this, they would either have to petition the township themselves or seek assistance from OLLA to submit a request to the township.

QUESTION: What about the road numbering issue?

Basically, Ron gave the same response as advised earlier by Marcia. There is no quick fix!

QUESTION: Is there a chance of a fire hall in Lombardy?

There are no plans for one on the books at present. Initiating one would be a great expense to tax payers. However, there are tanker trucks in both Smiths Fall and Portland. Regarding insurance, some companies charge extra and some do not.

Marcia thanked Ron for taking time from his busy schedule to meet with us.

11. LAKE PLAN REPORT:

Marcia announced that Trish Carson has offered to co-ordinate the lake plan. However, **she must have help.**

One meeting has already been held. If you are willing to offer some time and expertise to this project, please email Trish at ppaulcarson@rogers.com

Marcia noted other lake plans that have been submitted to the township have had a great influence on township planning, so it's very important we participate.

2. NEW BUSINESS:

Ed reported 38 members signed up for OLLA today. Please encourage your neighbours to become members. Membership fees provide OLLA with the dollars needed for various projects.

Septic inspections are still voluntary.

Be aware of activity in your area, which may not be legitimate. One person reported the theft of his entire Fendock and a water pump late last fall. Perhaps a cottage watch project should be considered

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Schaefer.