

**MINUTES**

**OTTER LAKE LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
(OLLA)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**JULY 25, 2009**

**1. WELCOME:**

President Marcia Maxwell welcomed all to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting.

**2. CURRENT EXECUTIVE:**

Marcia introduced the current directors.

Marcia Maxwell	President
Carol Schaefer	Secretary
Cam McKay	Treasurer
Frank Soral	Past-President
Karl Fiander	Lake Steward
Mike Carson	Editor of the OLLA newsletter
Douglas Franks	Web Master
Phil Mayhew	Director
Lisa Baker	Director

**3. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS:**

Welcome to our 18<sup>th</sup> AGM for Otter Lake. I want to thank you all for taking the time to attend this meeting. As in the past, I will aim to adjourn the meeting at noon, and again this year we have provided coffee, tea and some goodies that hopefully will make this whole process more enjoyable. Feel free to help yourselves.

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. One item in particular that you may find useful is the wet/dry pack. This pouch is useful for cameras or cell phones in canoes, kayaks etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our road reps that pitched in and assisted in distributing our recent newsletter which included the Healthy Shoreline booklet. We certainly appreciate your time and effort in getting the newsletters delivered to the property owners on your roads.

With the final stage of the new boating licence coming into effect September 15, 2009 everyone operating a motorized boat will be required to have the following information on his or her boat(s):

- Photo ID
- Boat licence
- Operator's licence.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF AGM MINUTES FOR 2008:**

The secretary read the minutes for the 2008 AGM.

No errors or omissions were noted. These minutes are also available on OLLA's web site: [www.otterlake.cyberus.ca](http://www.otterlake.cyberus.ca)

**MOVED** by Lisa Baker, **SECONDED** by Jerry Kerr that the AGM minutes for 2008 be approved as printed. **CARRIED**

#### **5. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Cam McKay reviewed the financial statement of operations for 2008- 09. A copy of this document is attached to the file minutes.

The current bank balance as of June 29, 2009 is \$ 1,506.95  
Debenture Value as of March 31, 2009 is \$ 5,172.61

Current paid members are 120 – down 14 from 2008. This number represents approximately 35% of lake landowners.

**MOVED** by Ed Wilton, **SECONDED** by Lisa Baker that the report be accepted as printed. **CARRIED**

#### **6. SUCCESSION PLANNING – CALL and APPROVAL FOR DIRECTORS:**

Marcia noted there are 2 vacancies on the board this year. Dorothy Goubault has stepped aside due to personal commitments. Karl Fiander has found his role as president of FOCA takes most of his spare time, and so he is also resigning. However, Karl has indicated when his term with FOCA is up he may return to OLLA's board.

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.

Doug Franks 3 year term is up, and he has indicated a willingness to continue for another term. Approval was given by a show of hands.

#### **7. NEW EXECUTIVE APPROVAL:**

The new executive was approved.

## **8. ROAD NUMBERING:**

Last year, it was agreed a letter (over Marcia's signature) would be sent to the township regarding a correction to the current road numbering system around the lake.

This letter was recently sent to the township, and Marcia has met with Sheldon Laidman, the manager of the Development services Department. He indicated the township has a 5-year plan, but no action has yet been taken.

The following email was received from Sheldon Laidman in response to our letter.

“Mayor Holman provided me with a copy of your Association's letter to rename the duplicated road names around Otter Lake. The Township recognizes the issue of duplicate road names and inconsistent 911 numbering around Otter Lake. Township staff will be formulating a comprehensive approach that will be presented to Council in the fall which will allow for changes to be implemented in 2010. This staff recommended comprehensive approach to Council will include options to resolve duplicated road names, proper identification of private roads, when renumbering will be required to ensure suitable emergency response, and standards on issuance of new 911 numbers. In the meantime, it would be helpful to have a formally adopted approach from the Otter Lake Association as to how the Association would like the duplicate road name issue resolved. Comments from your Association and other private road and lake associations will be taken into consideration during Council's review of the new comprehensive approach.”

It was noted that this is a widespread problem throughout the township and elsewhere as well.

Discussion of possible solutions followed:

- Change all numbered roads to names. Names followed by the word 'lane' indicate a private road e.g. Ironwood Lane. This would prevent emergency vehicles from missing a number or mishearing the number.
- Roads to be renumbered in a logical sequence. This would mean almost all roads would have new numbers, but there are really only 6 roads in need of a name change.
- Regardless of which of the above solutions was adopted, it would mean all residents of all roads (if they use their lake address as a permanent address) would have to change all their personal documents to reflect the new address.
- If a committee were formed to study the possibility of renaming all roads, they would need a complete listing of all existing roads in the township to avoid name duplication.
- There would no longer be names such as Road 11A and 11B. Each road would need its very own name.

- Although emergency vehicles use a GPS system, there are many other instances, such as delivery vehicles, which do not use GPS.
- Concern was expressed that when OLLA makes a recommendation to the township that OLLA represents less than half of property owners.

Eventually, a motion was made:

**MOVED** by Dolly Smith, **SECONDED** by Ed Wilton that OLLA send a letter to the township recommending the current road numbering system be discarded and replace each numbered road with a word name. **CARRIED (34 for and 3 against)**

Each road association should come up with 3 possible names for their own road. It was suggested they be given 30 days to do so.

## **9. FOCA, MPAC – PROPERTY TAXES:**

Karl noted FOCA is now 40 years old. They have a new web site: [www.foca.ca.on](http://www.foca.ca.on)

Karl reviewed the current tax system highlighting how this system is so very unfair to lake property owners. He used a series of overheads to explain the situation. These overheads will be provided on OLLA's web site: [www.otterlake.cyberus.ca](http://www.otterlake.cyberus.ca)

As well, Karl reviewed the 2008 Otter Lake Water Quality Report that was included in everyone's newsletter. It is also available on the OLLA website.

An audience member asked about the suds like foam appearing along her shoreline. Apparently, this is a natural occurrence. Her site was noted and the next time water samples are taken, they will check it out for her.

## **10. WATER LEVELS:**

Doug Franks has indicated he would be willing to take over the lake steward's responsibilities from Karl. Thank you Doug.

In his new capacity, Doug reviewed the history of water levels on the lake. This review was thorough and the content can be found on OLLA's website.

He noted the ecoli readings at Barker Creek are not so significant as to cause concern. However, they do contribute to algae growth.

## **11. LAKE PLAN REPORT:**

Although the lake plan is very important to lake residents, there has been very little action. Participating in the plan is time consuming and more volunteers are needed. You may recall that last year Samantha Brown the Lake Planning Program Coordinator was our guest speaker and we have just received the Lake Planning Handbook for

Community Groups prepared by FOCA this week. Hopefully with this extensive guideline and volunteers in the community we will be able to get this initiative back on track. Grant Bellringer has recently put his name forward to be involved on the Fish population committee and I am hoping that I can still count on all of you that have volunteered in the last couple of years to continue working on this project. If there are any of you have not already put your name forward and would like to now, you are more than welcome to join us at any time.

Marcia noted the township is currently involved in updating their official plan. Information was sent to all taxpayers recently. Advisory meetings are being planned and it is important land owners attend because changes made will affect your property. If you wish more information, please contact the township. There will be 2 public open houses to take comments on revisions to be made to the official plan, review of the plan with township officials and review provincially recommended changes to the official plan schedules (maps) will be held as follows:

Monday, August 10, 2009 6 – 8 p.m. South Elmsley Municipal Complex  
Tuesday, August 18, 2009 6 – 8 p.m. North Crosby Community Hall

The Planning Advisory Committee will hold 2 public meetings to take comments upon the need to undertake revisions to the official plan as follows:

Saturday, August 22, 2009 at 6 p.m. Elgin Municipal Complex  
Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6 p.m. Portland Hall

Marcia advised that Bill 173, Amending the Mining Act, is now going through its second reading. Some outstanding issues include surface and mineral rights. There has been a group working very hard on this project and they are once again asking our help in contacting our local representatives to voice our opinions before a final decision is made in early September. The two key points of concern now is that although they have allowed the surface rights owners to also have the mineral rights they do have the option of changing that back. The second concern is that the Mining Act can still overrule the municipalities official planning guidelines. We have been provided with templates to use in contacting members of parliament and we can provide these letters for you to access on our website. If any of you have a strong interest in this area I can provide you with the submission made by the committee on behalf of the networking lake group of which Otter Lake is a part of.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS:**

- An audience member noted the township is changing the requirements regarding set backs for any new building structure. Contact the township if this affects you.
- Voluntary septic inspections are to be offered again in 2010.
- Ripnet is planning to erect additional towers in the area to better provide high-speed access for computer users.
- Ed Wilton advised relative high speed internet is available using a USB cellular modem that is available from both Rogers and Bell. The device can be

purchased for around \$50 and the service cost is about \$30 per month. More specific information can be obtained by calling Rogers or Bell or by visiting their respective websites.

Before the meeting closed, Ken Maxwell offered a sincere thank you to Karl for his efforts on OLLA's behalf during the past several years. Those in attendance showed their appreciation by their applause.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carol Schaefer

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- When the next water samples are taken, the situation where the sudsy water was noted should be checked out.