

**MINUTES OF THE 44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE OXTONGUE LAKE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
AUGUST 6TH, 2007, 10:00AM
OXTONGUE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

DRAFT

Copies of the agenda and the 2006 AGM minutes were available at the door.

1. Call to order – Rick Wesolowski

1. Approval of minutes. Motion to approve – Tom Witter. Seconded by Judy Clapp. Motion carried.

1. Opening remarks: Rick Wesolowski. Due to the lengthy agenda Rick abbreviated his remarks, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Rick introduced the directors and personally thanked Jim Elliott for his efforts in increasing the membership and John Lawrence for his outstanding work on the newsletter. Rick also stressed the importance of an active membership. Gary Schultz introduced three guests in attendance: Reeve Eleanor Harrison, Councillor Diane Griffin and Paul Cameron, a representative from the Maple Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association.

1. Treasurer's and Membership Report: Jim Elliott presented the treasurer's report and budget for 2006. Motion to approve – Barb Rennie. Seconded by Richard Copeland. Motion carried.

1. Regatta. Rick thanked the Parrott family and volunteers for organizing the Regatta. Tracie thanked all those who attended and thanked her son Korby for his work organizing the regatta this year. Tracie estimates between \$1,400 and \$1,600 was raised this year. This will be donated to the OLRA and volunteer fire department.

1. Volunteer Fire Department: Ted Keown thanked all the volunteer firefighters for their dedication and hard work this year. He estimates 120 hours per year are devoted to training and fire calls by these volunteer firefighters. Last year there was a total of 37 emergency calls. Overall there was a greater percentage of medical calls. He stressed the importance of having working smoke alarms. Ted asked everyone to remove old yellow property identification numbers and to ensure the blue and white signs are clearly visible. He reported there will be no canoe raffle this year due to the delay in receiving the lottery licence from Council. The license was applied for on April 7th and not received until June 13th. Ted confirmed the fire hazard is currently at the low end of extreme. He stressed that fires should only be built for cooking and warmth in the hours from 7pm to 7am. Daylight burning is not permitted except for cooking and fires

should be no more than 2 meters in diameter and less than 2 meters high. Ted recommends not starting fires unless necessary. He stressed there is a \$350 fee per hour to fight a fire started by a homeowner and that the homeowner will be charged. Liz Lindsay publicly thanked the fire department and its volunteer firefighters for their dedication and hard work. Tom Whitter asked how the community could make donations to the fire department: Helsel's will accept and forward the donations to the fire department. It was suggested that a request for donations to the fire department in general, and as a bequest should be included as an item in the newsletter. Diane Griffin responded to Ted's comment regarding the delay in receiving the lottery license. She suggested to call her directly if the community experiences a problem with staff and that she would be happy to intervene on our behalf.

- 1. Snowmobile Club:** Scott Hayden described the poor weather conditions at the beginning of the season and suggested the season did not really begin until the 20th of January. He reviewed the strong commitment of the Algonquin Snowmobile Club to organizing a social function every other week during the season. Such social events include the chili cook-off at the McCann hunt camp and the fish derby on the lake in March. He thanked everyone for their generous donations for the fish derby prizes. He noted the AGM of the OFSC (Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs) with 235 member clubs - will be held at Deerhurst in September.
- 1. Business Association:** Gary Schultz reported the majority of members are involved in the tourism industry. He described how the association and its members are committed to improving the community and protecting the environment. He also stressed the cooperative attitude of the members and how they were all working with and not competing against each other. He described various initiatives organized by the association such as the highway 60 garbage cleanup; the association's efforts to cleanup derelict properties; the welcome to Oxtongue Lake sign and the marketing strategy to brand our community as the 'Gateway to Algonquin Park'. He also described the website created by the business association www.oxtonguelake.com and its useful applications for the community in general. Scott Hayden raised the dark sky issue – specifically regarding sentinel lights in the community and asked if this might be something the association was interested in investigating. Gary confirmed that the business association would be pursuing this issue. Diane Griffin also confirmed she will bring this issue to Council. A member asked if the business association was committed to recycling. Gary confirmed the association was committed and he as an owner of a local inn reconfirmed his commitment to recycling issues and the importance of diverting as much waste from local landfills as possible. General discussion regarding hazardous waste days and the possibility of arranging two per season. Diane Griffin confirmed the issue was cost and that it was approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 to hold one hazardous waste day. She confirmed that Oxtongue Lake most likely will only be able to have one per year. A member suggested that we advertise the hazardous waste date in the

newsletter so that the community is aware of the date. There is a permanent hazardous waste site in Bracebridge.

1. Update on the status of the Dam. Tracie reported that we as an association have verbal confirmation by the property owners of access to the dam in order to maintain it. There was a question from the floor regarding water access by cottagers from the road. Tracie confirmed this is a private road with deeded access only. It is private property.

1. Election of Directors for the new term. Jim Elliott introduced a motion to change an OLRA bylaw noting that formal notice of this proposed change had been given at the previous AGM. The current bylaw reads:
“Each director shall hold office until the first annual meeting after he shall have been elected or until his successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. The whole Board shall be retired at each annual meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election if otherwise qualified.”

The following motion is put before this year’s Annual General Meeting as a replacement for the above noted bylaw:

“Each director shall hold office until the second annual meeting following their election or until a successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. Any director shall be eligible for re-election if otherwise qualified.”

Motion moved by Jim Elliott, seconded by John Lawrence. Motion carried. Jim E. noted that the proposed slate of officers for the coming two years, reflecting this motion are:

For one year term:

Tracie Parrott

Jim Elliott

Rick Wesolowski – as Past President

For two year term:

Ted Keown

Gary Schultz

John Lawrence

Two positions are currently available on the board – one is for a one-year term, the other is a two year term. Elizabeth Siegfried and Jim Grant were nominated to the board. Judy Clapp recommended closing the nominations, seconded by Joan Hayden.

11. Update of Stanhope Airport expansion. Several handouts were made available to the meeting concerning the issue to date. See attached including letters to Council and response back. See also article from **The Minden Times**.

Gary Schultz presented a motion to the membership:

Whereas Council, in response to our letter requesting a public information meeting regarding the proposed Stanhope Airport expansion, replied that they are 'not interested in hosting a second special meeting'; and whereas the executive was not satisfied with the information provided with the final property tax bills, the executive recommends supporting local lake and ratepayers' associations impacted by the Stanhope airport expansion in an effort to make Council accountable to ratepayers of Algonquin Highlands by providing full dialogue and consultation on this issue.

Paul McInnes, a guest from Cameron Lake and Maple Beach ratepayers association reviewed the issues surrounding the airport expansion and called for support from other local ratepayers in requesting open dialogue with Council regarding this issue.

Reeve Eleanor Harrison gave her comments regarding the expansion. She discussed expropriation issues and described reasons for expanding the airport at this time such as MNR firefighting demands, hydro, police and medical requirements. She also confirmed with the membership that no further action will be taken by Council until it is confirmed that the expropriated Middleton lands have been acquired. Reeve Harrison stated that any group could approach Council to make a presentation.

Gary presented the motion: proposed by Tom Witter, seconded by Joan Hayden. Motion carried.

12. Update from Town Council_– Diane Griffin.

Issues reviewed:

- Maple Lake landfill site will be expanded
- Dorset landfill site will close within the next few years. Garbage will go to Maple Lake landfill not Oxtongue Lake
- Clear plastic bags will be mandatory by 2008 to increase recycling rates
- Hauled sewage – field application no longer allowed in Algonquin Highlands. Currently negotiating with Minden to accept our hauled sewage
- 911 signs must be visible and well-maintained
- Road maintenance issues: call 705 754 5450
- Property behind the community centre acquired by Council for non-payment of taxes. Council was highest bidder

Diane thanked those who helped with the renovations to the community centre. She congratulated the membership on the increased use and function of the community centre by the Oxtongue Lake community. Tracie Parrott noted that the tap water was strongly discoloured and clearly not fit to drink. Jim Elliott asked Diane to meet with the executive regarding the process of acquiring the key to the community centre.

Rick thanked Diane for her comments.

13. Other Business

- Website – Presented by Gary Schultz. Discussed the possibility of building an OLRA website. Development and maintenance: \$1,200 to \$1,500. Jim Elliott canvassed the audience to see if this was a priority and there was a majority show of hands. Gary advised the membership to go to the Penn Lake website to see what topics and issues could be covered.
- The Community Information Boards – Echoes of Oxtongue Lake – Agreed that these will be repaired and brought back into use as a means of communication
- Tom Whitter reported a study in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment and students from Queen’s University was being conducted regarding the presence of spiny water fleas in Oxtongue Lake. Currently there is no evidence of the spiny water flea. They will forward a report to the executive.
- Richard Copeland raised a point regarding a lot adjacent to his on Hwy. 60 that was being used to dump old autos, appliances etc. Diane Griffin replied that she will forward the matter to the local by-law officer and that she will keep the executive updated on this matter.
- Fran Gower brought to the membership’s attention the recent loss of three community members: Gwen South, Dorothy Moore and Bill Elliott.
- Rick announced the presentation of historical film footage from Oxtongue Lake by Elizabeth Siegfried after the meeting.

14. Date of 2008 Annual General Meeting: After discussion of alternative dates, it was agreed that the next AGM would be on Monday, August 4th, 2008 at 10:00am in the community centre.

15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned.