

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OXTONGUE LAKE RATE-PAYERS ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1987, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

President, Fran Gower opened the meeting and was pleased to welcome the increased numbers in attendance. Fran noted that this was the 25th meeting of the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers, and that the first meeting on August 27, 1962, was held to discuss "stabilizing the water level at a level satisfactory to all". Obviously a concern on Oxtongue Lake for many years now.

Fran Gower then introduced a new feature to start the meeting: the first of hopefully a series of memories of the area offered by senior members of the community. Dr. Bill Keith presented a moving memorial to Tom Parris. Dr Keith also remembered first coming to Oxtongue Lake in 1946, because he had heard that it was a good spot for Speckled Trout. Fran Gower thanked Dr. Keith and said she hoped that next year someone else would share with us some Oxtongue memories.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on August 7, 1986 were read by the Secretary. It was moved by Joan Hayden and seconded by Jan Brown that the minutes be adopted.

#### Coming from the Minutes of the meeting:

Dr. Keith moved that we request the Ministry of Natural Resources to stock an equal number of Rainbow Trout and Speckled Trout as well as Lake Trout. The motion was seconded by Jane Copeland, and was carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Ken McLarty, Treasurer, reported that our fiscal year now coincides with the calendar year rather than ending April 30. All bank account balances are as of August 6, 1987.

Operating Account Balance	\$575.
Water Level Fund	\$669.
Tom Parris Memorial Account	\$491.

The number of paid members is 85 at \$10 each with \$3 going to the Water Level account. With interest, our total revenue from January 1, 1987 to August 6, 1987 is \$601. Last year we had 48 paid members at this time.

It was moved by Ken McLarty and seconded by Jan Helsel that the financial statement be adopted. Motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Lena Pavanel reported for the Association that the new promotional brochure for Oxtongue Lake is completed and in circulation. Also the sign for the Oxtongue Lake Tourist Area is constructed and in place on the East side of Whitney. There are no other new developments to report at this time.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ted Keown thanked everyone for their support of the Firemens Barbeque, and for all the contributions of food and time. The event was very successful and made about \$2,000. The raffle is being held again as last year. Ted also said that anyone interested in learning C.P.R. should contact him. There must be at least six or seven people to make a course possible, with a cost of about \$20 per person. Fran Gower gave Ted a special thanks for all help and cooperation in the Fire Department and the Community Centre throughout the year.

## COMMUNITY CENTRE ACTIVITY GROUP

Jan Brown explained that the Activity Group is a loose knit volunteer auxiliary committee whose job is to raise funds for various activities and to receive suggestions from the community for possible improvements. Jan outlined the many successful projects that the group has helped organize through the year such as the Christmas party and bazaar and the trip to Santa's Village. She also thanked the Shepherds for doing such a fine job cleaning the Community Centre.

All suggestions for improvement of the Community Centre are welcome. Some already received are:

- The installation of screen doors- the question of fire safety is being considered.
- More tables and chairs.
- A light over the back door.
- More lights in the front yard.(Ed Vallence stated that there is a streetlight fund for Oxtongue Lake.)

Jan concluded by stating that she is now writing the Oxtongue News for the Hunstville Forester about every two weeks, and would appreciate any help. All news must be reported before 5pm on Mondays to make publication.

## SNOWMOBILE CLUB

Scott Hayden reported that last year's raffle of a boat and motor was won by the Longeways on Oxtongue Lake. Thanks to a working grant last December through March there are 20 miles of new trails and all old trails have been upgraded for a total of 90 miles.

With a government grant of \$26,000 to buy new equipment and to repair old equipment, this year promises to be better than ever. Scott also stated that there will be a new trail map out in December 1987, available in all stores in the area.

#### WATER LEVEL

Ken McLarty showed us a 2½ year comparative graph reporting the lake level. The lake is now about 5" lower than last year's low, and is currently at 363.58m. above sea level.

Fran Gower stated that she has spoken with Jim Bryant from the M.N.R. about how to raise the lake level at the lower Oxtongue River "dam" site. This would not mean building a dam, per se, but perhaps replacing the rocks that have been moved out through the years. Since the M.N.R. is responsible when the water level is too high, they should likewise be responsible when the water is too low. Fran stated that we must work with the cooperation of the M.N.R. since there is the possibility of litigation if we try to work on our own. This would be a good year to get some action started since the water is at an all time low.

Fran suggested a separate meeting with an attending M.N.R. representative and an engineer, with an on site inspection of the existing situation. Sylvia Hubbard made a motion that such a meeting be called, and Ned Blackman seconded. Motion carried.

#### ACTIVITY REPORTS

##### THE CRAFT SHOW AND SALE

Wendy Swift reported that the show was not well attended this year and that perhaps a date later in August would be better. Betsy Siegfried suggested that the show be cancelled for 1988 in hopes of some new ideas and enthusiasm. After a brief discussion this was decided.

##### THE REGATTA

Bill Swift reported that the Regatta went very well although there were fewer younger participants. This year more events were included to encourage group involvement, such as relay races and war canoe races. The Regatta did well financially also with \$170 coming in from business donations and donation boxes, and \$140 from food sales on the beach.

Bill thanked the Blakelocks and Carters for the use of their beach; Blue Spruce for the barbeque; The Fire Department for the sound system; and Algonquin Outfitters for donating the hot-dogs and buns and the first place awards. A special thank-you to Jan Helsel who collected donations and gave alot of her time.

Bill said that he would be willing to organize the Regatta again next year, but would prefer if others got involved, particularly some of the younger children. This might encourage more younger participants. If someone else would take over, Bill stated that he would be glad to help out and coach them in what he termed "a good learning experience".

## THE SPLASH

The Splash did not take place this year. Sylvia Hubbard was unable to get here in time to organize it. Sylvia still feels it is important to involve the younger children in this event, and said she would try to get here earlier next year, but that there should be some back-up volunteers to take over in case she can't make it.

At this time Fran Gower noted that our insurance covers all liability including the Splash, the Regatta, and any meeting that is held.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Fran Gower asked for ideas on the best time for the next Annual General Meeting- a Thursday night again or changed back to the weekend. After some discussion, including the observation that this was the best attendance so far, over 50 people, Ron Campbell made a motion that we continue with Thursday meetings but starting at 7pm. Mrs Farber seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ted Keown suggested that the Committee and Activity Reports be printed up and passed out instead of being given orally. Fran Gower said that having oral reports was a good way for the Ratepayers to meet the people who are doing the work in the community, but that the suggestion could be considered.

## THE GARBAGE DUMP

Fran Gower reported that Alec Cousintine is picking up garbage on Sunday nights after Bruce Keown's retirement. All people on a year round maintained road are eligible for garbage pick-up. Garbage must be put out between 4 and 6pm. on Sundays only, even if there is a Holiday Monday.

Fran also stated that the Oxtongue Dump is gated and locked on certain days to prolong its life and control the users. Mr Peter Shepherd is the new Dump Overseer, and has been doing a very conscientious job and is to be commended.

Jan Helsel said that many people have complained about the new hours and didn't understand why the dump was agted. Jane Copeland mentioned the problem of people leaving garbage outside the gate during the locked times.

Fran said that the problems may disappear when people get used to the hours but that if there is an ongoing complaint, one should go to Council with their concerns.

## THE OXTONGUE RAPIDS RAILWAY

Fran Gower called the Railway Society to request a representative come and speak to us but they said it was not necessary since we have a copy of their latest brochure. Their Annual Meeting is on Sunday, August 16 at 2pm. and is open to all interested parties.

## THE MOOSE LIFT

The second Moose Lift took place in February 1987, and 29 moose were lifted into Upper Penninsula Michigan. After three years there is now a population of 98 moose in Michigan, so the program has been very worthwhile. Our moose population here is unaffected as there are 4,000 moose still in Algonquin Park.

## REPORT ON SHORELINE/ROAD ALLOWANCE CLOSURES

Mr. Dave McDonald, our Bylaw & Building Inspector, gave a timely and informative talk on the Shoreline/Road Allowance Closures. He explained that the Crown first made the Marine Allowances on all lakes for logging purposes and to ensure public access to lakes via Crownland.

The advantages of buying the 66' shoreline allowances are:

- To get all rights to the buildings sitting on the allowance.
- To add on to those buildings on the allowance
- To sell the property- property is more desireable if the allowance is owned by the vendor.
- To keep people off the land if necessary.

The cost of closing the allowance can be \$15-1600, the most expensive part of which is the required survey of the land.

If several landowners, or even an entire lake. hire the survey together the cost can be considerably lowered.

The time required to complete a closure is 12-14 months, and if an individual plans to buy his allowance, both adjacent neighbors must agree to the purchase.

## NEW BUSINESS

### NEW EXECUTIVE FOR 1988

President, Fran Gower, tendered her resignation as president as she has held the position for two terms.

Fran introduced the list of Proposed Nominations which are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Ian Matthews  
 VICE PRESIDENT: Jan Helsel  
 TREASURER: Ken McLarty  
 SECRETARY: Gale & Betsy Siegfried  
 DIRECTORS: Norm Schell  
             Lena Pavenal  
             Judy Clapp  
 PAST PRESIDENT: Fran Gower

After a brief discussion from the floor, Ron Campbell moved that the proposed nominations be accepted as presented. Dr. Bill Keith seconded. Motion carried.

MR. GREG DEYNE, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RECOURCES

Mr. Deyne began his presentation with a slide show and overview of the Bracebridge District- its major characteristics and the fisheries management. The main problems are:

- Mercury contamination
- Water level fluctuations
- Over-harvesting
- Acidification

Specifically to Oxtongue Lake, on which he had a file beginning in 1949, Mr. Deyne stated that we have characteristics of both cold and warm water lakes, and have always had water level fluctuation problems. Oxtongue Lake has good buffering action because of the high flushing rate, so our pH level should not change appreciably in the next 20 years. The pH level is now 6.15.

With regard to stocking Oxtongue, Mr. Deyne said that there has generally been a poor return of only 18% with the rest being natural growth. Mr. Deyne explained the factors involved in successful lake stocking which is a delicate balance. Some of these are:

- The qualities of the lake itself.
- The levels of chemical contamination.
- The existing fish populations.
- The rate of return.

After an animated discussion, Mr. Deyne gave his proposed plan for Oxtongue Lake. Given our natural population of Smallmouth Bass and Lake Trout, he suggested supplemental stocking of Lake Trout with maybe some Brook Trout in the rivers. If other stocking is desired, the procedure is:

- Get a concensus of people on the lake (not 100%)
- Apply to the M.N.R.
- An environmental assessment must be done, which takes about 4 months.

The last stocking was in April, 1986- of 500 Lake Trout. To encourage our natural fishery production Mr. Deyne stressed the importance of maintaining the natural integrity of our shoreline.

Ron Campbell thanked Mr. Deyne for coming to speak to us.

The meeting was adjourned at 10pm. by Fran Gower.

Gale Siegfried

Secretary