

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OXTONGUE LAKE RATEPAYERS
ASSOCIATION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1988, AT 7:00 P.M.
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE.

President, Ian Matthews opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the 26th annual meeting of the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association. He introduced the Executive.

Ian Matthews then apologized to the membership for the newsletter mix-up. Some of our members did not receive a copy of the letter because the Ratepayers list was used. Rentors and some family members did not get the letter. This problem will be remedied this year. This year 197 letters were sent out.

MEMOIRS- NED BLACKMAN

Ned Blackman shared some of the history of Lewis Camp with us. Ned's grandfather, Mr. Edwin Lewis first came to the Dwight area in the 1890's and purchased the Lewis property in 1898 in a Crown Sale. In 1900 they moved an old log cabin to the present site from across the lake over the ice. Ned was eleven years old when he first came to Oxtongue Lake and has been coming up for 60 years ! He described the conditions at that time : the wagon trip from Dwight; the carrying of water from the lake; the old windmill used for power. Ned also mentioned his family's long association with Tom Parris and his wife Pearl. It was a charming and witty presentation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ian Matthews explained that the minutes from last year's annual meeting were available at the door for each member to read. Gale Siegfried moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Wilbur Blackman seconded the motion.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ken McLarty reported that our fiscal year is now the calendar year.
1987- 110 paid members at \$10 with \$3 going to the water level fund.
\$770.00 plus interest. Total \$812.00
Expenses were \$141.00
Total Revenue \$681.00
Water Level Account \$758.00 Dec. 31, 1987
Tom Parris Fund \$503.00 Dec. 31, 1987

January 1988 to today- 65 paid members to date.
Operating Account- \$1088.00
Water Level Account- \$944.00
Tom Parris Fund- \$515.00

Ken McLarty moved that the report be adopted.
Chris Woods seconded the motion.

WATER LEVEL

Ken McLarty gave an update on the water level monitoring being carried out by Biz Guardhouse and himself. The water level is 4" below last years low, and this low was reached one month earlier than last year. The level now is 363.48 m. This is 20-25 cm. below the ideal.

Ian Matthews described the letter he has written to Vince Kerrio Ministry of Natural Resources. He stated that our position is that if the M.N.R. controls the water coming into the lake, they should also control what goes out. He read from a 1984 study by the M.N.R. that suggested "refurbishing the boulder dam at the river site". He further told Mr. Kerrio that we are concerned about the reproduction of our fish and the drying of the wet lands around the lake. He requested a reply letter in 60 days. He has received a letter of acknowledgement, but no specific reply.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ted Keown thanked everyone for their support and help at the Firemen's Barbeque. They made \$2400.00 profit.

Ted stated that the fire department has good equipment now over all, but that the fire truck is now 33 years old and not completely dependable. The department has asked Council for some financial aid, and letters from the ratepayers could be of help.

The Fire Department is holding the canoe raffle again this year with proceeds going towards partial payment for a truck. Chris Woods gave a special vote of confidence to the Oxtongue Lake Fire Department stating that his insurance went down because of the O.L.F.D. He urged us all to support the department in any way we can.

Ted described the new Beeper System which is a paging system. An answering system will put a call on a pager immediatley and will repeat it until a response is gotten. This will cut down on response time. Hopefully the system will be operating by mid-fall.

ACTIVITIES

There was no Craft Sale this year, and there was very little interest in the Flea Market idea. There was no Splash held this year.

REGATTA

The young people took over running the Regatta this year and Bob Stronach reported that it was very successful. What with business donations and donation boxes on the beach, and hot dog and pop sales (donated by Algonquin Outfitters) there was a profit of \$170.00.

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REGATTA CONT.

Bob gave a special thanks to Algonquin Outfitters and the Stronach family. Also to Blue Spruce for the use of the barbeque, and the Carters for the use of their beach. Bob thanked Jan Helsel for being so helpful throughout.

MEMORIAL

Ian Matthews reported that Dr. William Keith had died in December of 1987, and we all felt the loss. He stated that a memorial from the Oxtongue Lake Association would be appropriate.

Fran Gower has approached the Huntsville Hospital concerning a donation to the Children's Wing. A radio/tapedeck was suggested to play lullabies etc. to the children. Fran asked if this was a good idea, if there were other ideas, and if there could be a financial ceiling placed on the purchase.

The group was in favour by a show of hands.

Linda Lounds asked for other suggestions such as rocking chairs etc. and some discussion followed. A radio was chosen since the nurses suggested it as a needed item.

Ian Matthews suggested a \$200.00 ceiling.

Fran Gower moved that a memorial to Dr Keith be given to the hospital, with a ceiling of \$200.00.

Gary Nelson seconded the motion.

DORSET COMMUNITY CENTRE DONATION

Fran Gower said that since Dorset is the district seat of our area that we might want to give a donation to the new community centre which has just been completed. Fran explained that there will be Squash courts, meeting rooms, and facilities that we could use for receptions and parties of over 100 people.

Some discussion followed. Gord Atlin asked how we define our community, and whom do we support? Since we may need others' support, should we isolate ourselves?

Lena Pavenal said that Dorset does contribute money to our Snowmobile Club for trails : \$600 / year.

It was decided to leave the decision up to the executive. Ken McLarty stated that we should be careful with the amount that we give since our bank balance is limited.

OXTONGUE RIVER RAILWAY

The site has been quiet for awhile, since the government did not accept the feasibility study which was done by students. The government has given the Society \$30,000 for a new study to be done by professionals. It was reported that the Annual Meeting of the Huntsville & Lake of Bays Railway Society will be held on Saturday, August 20, at 7 p.m. at the Fairgrounds in Huntsville. Wilbur Blackman asked how so much damage could have been done without a feasibility study. Fran stated that the M.N.R. gave them permission.

Sylvia Hubbard suggested that we have a representative on their committee to present our views.

RAILWAY CONT.

Angela Keyes asked if the Association has ever made a formal complaint. Ian answered that the O.L.R.A. is split on the issue. The Keyes' made a motion that a vote be taken, pro or con, in the present group. Ted Keown seconded the motion.

Gord Atlin said that since the cottagers and the businesses are split on the Railway issue, we should maybe have another meeting to fully discuss the problem. He continued that if we pass a motion all should be able to express their views and that we don't want to split the membership.

Ken McLarty said that we should have someone from the Railway Society to come to such a meeting so that we can get more information.

Ian Matthews said that someone from the executive will attend the Society meeting in Huntsville, and a special meeting will be called if needed. There would be phone notice of such a meeting if it were called.

THE GARBAGE DUMP

Ian Matthews reported that the dump is in good order and that Peter Shepherd is doing a fine job.

Chris Woods questioned the hours: has there been any consideration of extending them.

Fran Gower stated that the hours are set by the Council in Dorset and that we must contact them to ask.

Gord Atlin mentioned the piles of garbage left outside the gate after hours.

Ted Keown said that alot of that is from Lake of Bays since they have passed a bylaw to search all garbage left outside their gate and then to fine the owner. Hence they leave their garbage outside our gate.

Bruce Keown suggested stickers on the cars to identify Oxtongue residents.

Angela Keyes suggested a card for i.d.

Chris Woods suggested extending the hours from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Starting a card system fo identification; placing the gate closer to the highway to discourage dumping outside; and placing signs that if you are caught leaving garbage there will be a \$200 fine. Fran Gower said a letter should be written to Council.

THE CONSTITUTION

Ian Matthews stated that our present constitution was written in 1963, and that we need a new one. The first draft of a revised constitution has been written by Fran Gower and Judy Clapp. The executive will look at this and a final draft may be ready to include in the fall newsletter. A vote will be taken at the next annual meeting.

ELECTION

Ian Matthews pointed out the names of the nominees written on the board. They had all been polled and had agreed to stay on for another term.

Chris Woods moved that the nominations be accepted as an election. Joan Hayden seconded the motion.

ELECTION CONT.

The Executive for 1988-89 are:

President- Ian Matthews
Vice President- Jan Helsel
Treasurer- Ken McLarty
Secretary- Gale Siegfried
Directors- Judy Clapp
 Lena Pavenal
 Norm Schell
Past President- Fran Gower

BREAK

GUEST SPEAKER- MR. RON TOZER

Fran Gower introduced Mr. Tozer, a biologist in Algonquin Park since 1972. Mr. Tozer and his family have lived in the Dwight area for ten years. The subject of the presentation was loons, and an update on the moose lift program.