

Minutes of 34th Annual Meeting
of the
Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association
August 6, 1997
Oxtongue Lake Community Centre

John Pepin, President, welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence in memory of Sylvia Hubbard and Don Seal, long time cottagers at Oxtongue Lake, who died during the past year.

1. The Agenda, circulated in advance, was approved.
2. Minutes of the 1996 Annual Meeting, distributed at the door, were approved on a motion by Joan Hayden, seconded by Jack Hayden.
3. In reference to the annual Newsletter, John ask that anyone with items for the 1998 edition please send or fax the information to him (fax # 416-538-4444).
4. Algonquin Park Report ---Dan Strickland
 - a) completion of the repaving of a portion of #60 through the Park will probably take most of the summer. Another section of the highway will be redone next year.
 - b)re the 29 moose airlifted to Michigan in 1985 & 1987, by 1996 the number had increased to 200; no report in 1997. Michigan's goal is 1000 moose by the year 2000. The moose population in the Park is very healthy at this time.
 - c)the Algonquin Park Gallery (formerly the Park Museum) is currently displaying an Animal Art Show , works by well-known artists from around the world.
 - d) the Park Visitors Centre currently is hosting a display of photography by Michael Runtz. His newest book, "Howls of August" has just arrived at the Centre's bookstore.
 - e) re bear attacks in the Park, Dan provided details of a recent incident as well as important information about "attack" bears and circumstances under which bear attacks seem to occur. He also offered suggestion for protection in case of an attack.
 - f) the Wolf Howl, scheduled for Thursday evenings during the summer, probably will take place this week.
5. Treasurer's Report: Chris Williams

The report for '96-'97 (June) was presented, showing a balance of \$8744.45 as of June 30, 1997. The report was accepted on a motion by Chris, seconded by John Goodfellow. Chris also reported 90 OLRA members (paid) as of this evening.
6. Township Report: Ross Rabjohn, Reeve
 - a) Highway 60 Parkette- Min. of Transportation Ont.(MTO) has advised the Township that MTO **may** discontinue maintaince of this parkette on the shore of the Oxtongue River, and asked if the Township would assume responsibility in the future. The Township is asking ratepayers to express their views on this issue.

b) Traffic/parking at Algonquin Outfitters—Concern has been expressed for some time regarding potential hazards due to increased traffic and parking on the road opposite the Outfitters. Efforts to resolve this matter, initiated by the TWP in the Fall of '96, are ongoing. The TWP's concern is the potential for an accident /personal injury on Township property, and the related TWP/taxpayer liability. Discussion followed regarding whether a dangerous situation exists or not. Later in the meeting, Bill Swift, owner of the Outfitters, announced that he would be presenting a plan to remedy the situation at the August 11th meeting of the TWP Council.

c) Provincial review of the number of municipalities – The Ontario government is insisting that the 10 municipalities in Haliburton reduce the number of local administrators and officials through restructuring and amalgamation. If local agreements are not reached, a Provincial Commission will impose required changes. While negotiations are ongoing among the municipalities, Sherborne et al has reduced costs through some restructuring and by sharing some positions with an adjacent township. Major frustration was expressed regarding the costs being added to municipal budgets by the downloading of a number of services previously funded by the Province. The total costs of these services will not be made available to the TWP until the Spring of 1998. A recent press release from the Township of Sherborne et al regarding this concern was circulated (attached).

d) Beetle Lake Nature Trail—Deputy Reeve Bob Canning described the new hiking trail around the north bay of Oxtongue Lake, across Oxbow Creek, crossing #60 at Timber Trail to the Tom Parris trail. This is a summer trail only. A map of the trail, including identified points of interest, is being developed for hikers

7. Water-level Report—A report, submitted by Gary Logan, indicated that the Lake level on Aug. 1, 1997 was 363.66M (above sea-level), 5 ½ inches **below** the target level. On average, the Lake has been 4 inches below the target level since June 1st. The dam is in good shape and the low water level is the result of an unusually dry summer.

8. Water Safety Committee---The committee has not met this summer; however, Joe Lindsay reported he is looking into an application to the Coast Guard to erect speed limit signs.

Observations of inappropriate use of Personal Water Crafts were reported; discussion followed regarding potential means to address such problems. It was noted that offensive boaters can be reported to the OPP. The Executive Committee will work with the Water Safety Committee to develop a strategy for minimizing unsafe boating on Oxtongue Lake.

9. Oxtongue Volunteer Fire Dept. Report--- Ted Keown

Thanks were given to all who contributed time and food and who attended the Aug. 2nd barbecue, which was a great success. A special thanks to Sylvia and Sam Archibald for arranging for the Muskoka Jazz Band to entertain throughout the barbecue.

The Dept. has acquired a "new" pumper truck, which is used but in excellent condition. The Rescue Truck is call out more often for first response to accidents than for fires.

Two fire prevention officers are trained and available for inspection of any local residence, cottage or commercial property.

Currently there is a **total fire ban in all areas, including beaches.**

Ted encouraged everyone to buy raffle tickets for the annual firemen's fund-raiser. Hen House Golf Tournaments have raised \$1400 to date. Next tourney date is Oct. 4th. Oxtongue Lake is **not** on the 911 system. We must continue to call local numbers for ambulance (789-9694), police (1-888-310-1122) and fire/rescue (789-6466).

10. Snowmobile Report--- Joe Lindsay

The club is continuing to work with property owners to allow snowmobile trails through their land as necessary. Last winter there were 12 weeks of good snowmobiling conditions in this area.

11. Regatta '97 --- Fran Gower

Thanks to the many supporters , contributors and volunteers, all of whom help make the event a great success. Patrick Rowan won the Men's trophy for the 2nd year . Debby King and Dawn Marvin tied for the Women's trophy. There will be a net profit after all expenses are paid. A request was made for someone or a family to volunteer to take charge of organizing the 1998 regatta.

12. Nomination Committee Report--- Jan Woods, Chm.

The proposed slate of officers for 1997-1999:

President	John Pepin
Vice President	Geoff Holden
Secretary	Judy Clapp
Treasurer	Madeleine Pageot Strickland
Directors:	Fran Gower
	Bruce Keown
	Izaak de Rijke
	Rick Wesolowski

No nominations were made from the floor. A motion was made to accept the slate by John Good fellow, seconded by Fran Gower. Motion carried.

13. Other business.

a) Concern was expressed about the speed of traffic on Harris Road. A request was made to the Reeve that the TWP erect a sign warning motorist of pedestrians.

b) Concern was also raised about trespassers camping at the gravel pit off Harris Road. The Reeve indicated that the TWP would erect barriers to prevent entry into the pit area and that the TWP would clean up the broken glass and remains of campfires

c) A request was made that the TWP invite cottagers on Harris Road to consider an "Adopt a Road" program to clear litter along the road on a regular basis.

d) An observation was made that the Harris Road was in need of "brushing".

14. Sherborne , McClintcock et al Centennial

a)Reeve Rabjohn thanked everyone who put together the Oxtongue Lake historical display. He also invited everyone to attend the centennial celebration activities scheduled for Sat., August 9th in Dorset.

b)Fran Gower noted that the TWP had made \$200- available to the Oxtongue Lake Centennial Committee to prepare the displays of our historical material. She invited everyone to view the displays at the lower level of the Centre after the meeting. Fran also made a motion that the OLRA make \$2000- available for the publication of a book, documenting the history of Oxtongue Lake; seconded by John Goodfellow. In the discussion of the motion it was explained that 1000 copies of the history of Dwight were published at a cost of \$6500-;however, this cost was recovered through the sale of the books @\$10- each. Fran withdrew her motion in favor of a revised motion by Scott Hayden *that the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association authorize the Executive Committee to take appropriate action with regard to the publication of the history of Oxtongue Lake provided that OLRA funds used for this project will re recovered through the sale of the publication and donations*; motion seconded by Wilbur Blackman. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker

John Pepin introduced the guest speaker, Andrew Mitchell, M.P. for Muskoka.

Mr. Mitchell is also Secretary of State for National Parks.

Mr. Mitchell will be holding a "town hall meeting" at Oxtongue Lake on Sat., Sept. 6th.

He indicated his interest in helping anyone with matters related to federal programs or issues. He or his riding staff can be reached at his Gravenhurst office (1-800-265-9565).

He expressed an interest in improving boating safety through boater education and an improved boat registration system. He ask that anyone with ideas about ways to improve water safety write to him.

At the request of John Pepin, Mr. Mitchell agreed to write a short article for the OLRA' s 1998 Spring Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Treasurer's Report Aug 6/97

91 ~~95~~ Members paid to date

Operating Acct balance 1614.08

Water-level Acct balance 734.41

GIC Balance - Aug 30/97 * 6395.96

#8744.45

* This will be renewed automatically for 180 days.

WATER LEVEL REPORT

1997

- THE LAKE LEVEL ON AUG-01 WAS 363.66M. ABOVE SEA LEVEL, 5 1/2" BELOW THE TARGET LEVEL
- THE LAKE LEVEL AVERAGE FROM JUNE 01 TO AUG 01 WAS 363.70M OR 4" BELOW THE TARGET LEVEL.
- THE DAM IS IN GOOD SHAPE AND OUR LOW WATER LEVEL IS THE RESULT OF AN UNUSUALLY DRY SUMMER.
- WE WERE UNABLE TO CONTACT HENRY CHECKO, WHO OPERATES THE CONTROL DAMS IN ALGONQUIN PARK. BUT LAST YEAR THE TUESDAY AFTER LABOUR DAY, MAJOR LOGS WILL BE TAKEN OUT STARTING AT BURNT ISLAND LAKE. AFTER OCTOBER 5TH, LOGS ARE TAKEN OUT AT JOE LAKE AND THEN TEA LAKE DAM