

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
of the  
**Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association**  
August 4, 1999  
Oxtongue Lake Community Centre

**1. Welcome to the 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting** by Geoff Holden, President.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Ruth Williams and Robert Stronach, both long time cottagers at Oxtongue Lake, who passed away during the past year.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> annual meeting:**

Motion to approve by Ted Blackman, seconded by Rick Wesolowski; motion carried.

**3. President's Comments:**

-Geoff reminded members that the Association is now incorporated. Copies of the "Objects of Incorporation" are available at the door for everyone to review. Incorporation protects individuals acting on behalf of the Association (the Executive Committee) from personal liability.

-He also reported that only one family had expressed interest in participating in the Cottage Watch Program. Hence, the program will be dropped.

-Geoff reported that MNR has issued a new study on the northeast portion of Algonquin Park. Generally, the study proposes increased use of that portion of the Park by taking advantage of abandoned railway tracks for additional hiking and cross-country ski trails. These would be separate from existing canoe routes. The Ministry is asking for comments on this study and its proposals. A copy is available for anyone interested in more details; additional copies can be obtained from MNR.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** (detailed report tabled)

Madeleine Pageot, Treasurer, submitted a financial report for 1998. Closing balance of our Operating Account, as of Dec. 31, 1998, was \$2,883.83. Revenue included membership dues from 96 ratepayers.

As of Aug. 3, 1999, 45 members had paid dues. The Operating Account balance was \$1973.79; the GIC will be worth \$6,856.82 at maturity on Aug.30, 1999.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as tabled.

**5. Township Report:**

Reeve Don Shortreed, and Councillor Garry Sanderson, provided comments on the following matters-

-Mr. Shortreed apologized to the Oxtongue Lake Volunteer Firemen for the failure of the TWP road crew to provide timely assistance in preparation for their annual barbecue, due to a mix-up in communication.

-Mr. Shortreed offered a brief explanation of the "Action Plan" which had been developed by a team of Georgian College students, designed to "twin" Dorset and Oxtongue Lake in economic development initiatives. A copy of the "Plan" will be left for review by anyone interested in the details.

-With regard to the Beetle Lake Hiking Trail, Mr. Shortreed reported that the TWP has been asked to participate in the development of a proposed "Park-to-Park" trail, connecting a Prov'l Park near Parry Sound to Algonquin Park. Funding has been made available to investigate this idea further. Whether the Beetle Lake trail might be incorporated in this more ambitious proposal is unclear. Many other details of this proposal still require clarification. A presentation on this proposal will be made to Council in September. The Reeve agreed to notify the OLRA of the date and time of this presentation. In the meantime, no further maintenance is expected on the Beetle Lake Trail

**Motion: that the Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association does not support the use of all-terrain vehicles on the proposed "park-to-park" trail.** Moved by Gord Atlin; seconded by Marilyn Faber. Motion carried with 3 opposing votes.

-Landfill Hours: The Reeve acknowledged a request from OLRA to restore the traditional summer hours of 11AM- 7PM. He indicated the hours would be reconsidered for the summer of 2000. A request was also made to the Reeve to allow the same winter schedule for the Oxtongue landfill as for Dorset.

-Waste Management: Currently there is a critical problem with overuse of sewage lagoons in Dorset and Dwight. Cottages and other facilities using holding tanks which require very frequent emptying, in addition to the servicing of other septic systems during the summer months, are exceeding the capacity of existing lagoons. A consultant has been hired to advise the TWP on how to resolve this problem.

A suggestion was made that the TWP enclose a flyer with its tax bill, advising cottagers to have their septic tanks cleaned early in the spring or late in the fall to reduce the volume of sewage added to the lagoons in summer. Concern was expressed that tax payers with more efficient septic systems will have to bear an additional tax burden to address a problem caused by others who have an outmoded system.

-Inappropriate use of the boat-launching ramp on Harris Road, as described in a letter from J. Goodfellow, was brought to the attention of the Reeve. The TWP was asked to post a sign, prohibiting any use of the area except launching or removing a boat from the lake. The Reeve agreed to look into the matter.

-Mr. Shortreed asked that the TWP office be notified of any "nuisance bears" and where they are observed.

#### **6. Water-level Report:**

Geoff reported that as of Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>, the water-level on the lake was 363.93m., approx. 5" above the target level of 363.8m. The marker on the bridge has been damaged, making reading the water-level difficult. Fran Gower advised that she has placed a call to MNR staff to request the marker be replaced: she's had no reply to date.

### **7. Oxtongue Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. Report:**

Ted Keown reported a profit of \$1200.00 from the annual barbecue, about \$600 less than in previous years. He thanked all who attended, and those who donated food. Cash donations are gratefully accepted; receipts are provided for all donations of \$25 or more. He reported that the Dept. currently has 18 volunteers. He reminded the members that **Oxtongue Lake is NOT a 911 AREA.** To report a fire, call **789-6466**; for an ambulance, call **789-9694**.

### **8. Snowmobile Report:**

Garry Sanderson reported that the local snowmobile club had a very successful year. The Algonquin and Dwight clubs have merged with other local clubs to form the Muskoka Snowmobile Region (MSR). Permit sales were \$1 million this past winter. The local club has acquired a rescue sled.

### **9. Regatta Report: (full report attached to the Minutes)**

Taylor Hill reported that the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Oxtongue Lake Regatta was great fun.. Thanks to Vicki Sillick for canvassing local businesses for prizes or donations for the raffle, and to the many businesses and families that made generous contributions, and to the many volunteers who made the event very successful. Korby Parrot was awarded the men's trophy; Shannon Rowan and Mary Nimptsch tied for the women's trophy. Net profit was \$652.17.

**Motion: that 50% of the regatta profit be donated to the Oxtongue Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. in appreciation for the time and support the fire department gives to the community, moved by Taylor Hill, seconded by Scott Hayden; motion carried.**

### **10. New Boating Regulations: Guest presenter, O.P.P. Cadet Kim Gabura**

Cadet Gabura noted that the OLRA had been proactive in enclosing a summary of the new boating regulation with the 1999 Newsletter sent to all ratepayers. She encouraged everyone to pick up and read the 1999 Canadian Coast Guard Safe Boating Guide (available at the door) which provides details of all current boating regulations. She emphasized the basic equipment now required in all boats, including canoes. For information on boating certification requirements and training, call 1-800-267-6687. To report dangerous operation of a boat, speeding near shore, or near swimmers, call the O.P.P. at 1-888-310-1122 and provide a general description of the offending boat. O.P.P. Sgt. Ben Van Beek indicated that a plan to have the O.P.P. boat on Oxtongue Lake had been delayed but would be on the Lake in the near future.

Rick Wesolowski announced that marine speed limit signs are available for any resort or cottager on the Lake. The MNR has given an "OK" for posting a 10 KM speed limit sign at the Tom Parris cairn point on the river.

### **11. Oxtongue Lake History Project- update:**

Fran Gower reported that work on the Oxtongue Lake History is delayed, awaiting a response to an application for a Federal Gov't Millennium Project grant. If successful, this grant will provide up to 1/3 of the projected cost of the publication. To comply with

the grant's requirement of "proof of community partnership", the Executive Committee of the OLRA has indicated \$2500.00 is available for this project (in keeping with the Motion passed at the 1997 AGM) and the Township has committed \$500.00 for the project. Once funds are available equipment will be purchased to record and compile information to proceed with the publication of the history.

## 12. Other Business:

Reeve Shortreed invited the Oxtongue Lake community to the official opening of the kiosk recently built at the Dorset Scenic Tower which will take place on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. The Echo Log building was donated by the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Association.

## 13. Nominating Committee Report:

Gord Atlin, Chairman of the Committee, presented the following slate for the 1999-2001 Executive Committee:

Officers:	Geoff Holden, President-	635-3275 or (905)845-6197
	Rick Wesolowski, Vice-president-	635-2049 or (905)843-1085
	Fran Gower, Secretary-	635-1229
	Madeline Pageot, Treasurer-	635-2761
Directors:	Shelly Cousintine-	635-2507
	Izaak de Rijcke-	635-9423 or (519)837-2551
	Marnie Hill-	635-3478 or (705)787-0503
	Ted Keown-	635-2667

No additional nominations were made from the floor.

The Chairman declared the slate elected by acclamation.

## 14. Date of the next meeting:

The 37th annual meeting will be held Wednesday, August 9, 2000.

After a brief recess for refreshments, Geoff introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Gus Janca, member of the Environmental Committee of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA).

Mr. Janca outlined the advantages of membership in FOCA. He listed the many programs sponsored by FOCA, the various study committees it supports, and the organizations with which it liaises. He also explained the quarterly information package sent to members, which includes a Report to Members, on a wide range of issues being followed by FOCA, and "Issues Alert", a call to action for FOCA members.

Mr. Janca described in some detail the Phosphorus testing program supported by FOCA's Environmental Comm. As the V-P of the Canning Lake Assoc. and Lake Steward, he oversees the P-testing project at Canning Lake.

A question was raised as to whether Oxtongue Lake needed a "lake steward". The Executive Committee will explore the role and need for a lake steward here.

Geoff thanked Mr. Janca for his informative presentation. Meeting adjourned.