

**Minutes of the 38th Annual Meeting
of the
OXTONGUE LAKE RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
August 6th, 2001, 6:45 P.M.
Oxtongue Lake Community Centre**

The Co - Presidents Sandy & Gord Atlin chaired the meeting with 48 in attendance. Copies of the agenda plus 2000 AGM minutes were available at the door.

1. Opening Remarks: Sandy Atlin opened the meeting, introducing herself and Gord as the Co Presidents and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sandy advised that the agenda for the meeting was available and requested that everyone sign the attendance list.
2. 2000 Minutes Review:
 - 2.1. Motion by Rick Wesolowski, 2nd Judy Clapp, that the minutes of the 37th AGM be accepted as circulated. Carried.
3. Additions to the Agenda: Sandy questioned the members for a review of the agenda and requested any additions to the agenda. Bill Kennedy advised that he had one addition, he would like to speak about BS26 – regarding the use / care & control of PWC's. Sandy advised that this would be added to the agenda under the Special Reports section – item # 10. No further additions were requested.
4. President's Update: Gord Atlin provided the members with a report on the past years activities.
 - 4.1. Gord thanked Sandy for her work with the association over the past year.
 - 4.2. Gord suggested due to the amalgamation of the Township that the next executive should consider organizing a separate meeting with the local council and the OLRA members. Local Council representatives were unavailable for the OLRA AGM.
 - 4.3. Gord advised that the sales of the "Facts & Fables of Oxtongue Lake" were going strong and only 135 books remained available. Gord offered a special thanks to all those who worked on this committee. With the strong book sales, all debts will be covered and it is expected that there will be a profit, with the profits directed to the local fire department.
 - 4.4. Gord offered his congratulations to Fran Gower for her receipt of the Bob Palmer award. This award recognizes those who offer outstanding participation and commitment to their community.
 - 4.5. Gord advised that it remains the responsibility of the members and this community to ensure the state and quality of our lake and community.

- 4.6. He spoke briefly about the Bill S26, which Bill Kennedy would give, us further details on. He advised that there were two petitions for the members to review and sign if appropriate.
- 4.7. Gord offered a special thanks to the 2000 executive for their participation and work thru out the year. To Geoff Holden for his continual follow up and reports on the dam, to Marlene Kyle for her work on the newsletter, to Rick Wesolowski for assuming his role as interim treasurer, to Shelly Wagar Cousintine, Ted Keown & Fran Gower for their continued support. A special thanks to Madeleine Pagot and Barb Woodfield for their work as treasurer thru out the 2000 & 2001 term.
- 4.8. Gord briefly reviewed the purpose and success of the July 1st party. The main purpose was to re introduce the OLRA to the community and to solicit new membership.
- 4.9. A special thanks to Jody Lowndes and her team for organizing the very successful 2001 regatta.
5. Treasurers Report: Rick Wesoloski presented the Treasurers report as follows:
 - 5.1. Account # 1 \$5238.41 (\$1070.89 allocated for general expenses & \$4167.75 allocated for water fund)
 - 5.2. Account # 2 \$1526.42
 - 5.3. Cash & Cheques - \$230.00
 - 5.4. Additional receipts generated today at this meeting for new memberships
 - 5.5. Debts due – 1) FOCA \$249.31, 2) \$donation to FOCA 3) 11.93 misc mailing expenses
 - 5.6. Geoff proposed a motion to accept this report – accepted by all
6. Community Safety Issues: Presentation by Judy Clapp
 - 6.1. Judy Clapp reviewed material relating to the “911” service – more information from the public is required, Judy recommended that we take the time to review the material available at this meeting. A question was raised about the use of a rotary dial phone when 911 service is installed. Bill Kennedy advised that we can use rotary dial telephones, no changes required. There will be an open house for the community on Aug 26/01 in Dorset to present additional information on the 911 service.
 - 6.2. Judy Clapp presented information on the “water testing” procedure. Water test kits can be picked up from the Public Health Service building in Huntsville. Judy advised to review the instructions very carefully and complete everything as requested. Be aware of the time restrictions around submitting a water sample and the \$2.00 charge for the testing.
7. Water Level / Dam Update: Presentation by Geoff Holden
 - 7.1. On a side note – Geoff did advise that although after the fact, he had just received confirmation from the township that they would supply insurance coverage to for the Regatta. Which was held the day prior.
 - 7.2. Geoff advised that he had been receiving email from concern residents regarding the water level of Oxtongue Lake. Geoff advised that the water levels in Algonquin Park were very low and did have effect on Oxtongue Lake. However, the current level of the

- lake is above the minimum target level. Geoff advised the members to review the water level history charts posted around the room. These charts indicate the past six years of water level history. Geoff restated that the target for Oxtongue Lake is 363.80 meters above sea level, the reading as of Sunday Aug 5/ 01 was 363.85.
- 7.3. Geoff reviewed the work recently completed on the Dam – the work had to be performed to bring the dam back up to the specifications issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources. John Campbell repaired the dam on July 19/01. However, it is important to note that we did incur costs due to an interruption of work by Mr. Gary Dickinson. Mr. Dickinson delayed the contractor until he could verify the validity of the work permit.
 - 7.4. The OLRA was recently advised that the dam has again been tampered with and may again be out of specifications to the MNR Permit. Anyone tampering with the dam is subject to legal action by the MNR. Joan Hayden advised, if anyone individual reports that someone is tampering with the dam, they would be requested to sign an affidavit to this effect to allow the MNR to pursue legal action.
 - 7.5. Geoff presented some history on the dam – the original dam was removed in preparation for building Hwy 60, no further funds were allocated for a dam on Oxtongue Lake. Due to low water levels, Oxtongue Lake needed to rebuild the dam to raise the water levels by 12in. The OLRA funded this project. This has left questions regarding the ownership of the dam. Judy Clapp confirmed the history presented by Geoff.
 - 7.6. Sandy Atlin recommended that the new executive form a committee to clarify the ownership and maintenance issue. \$3000.00 has been set aside by the OLRA to fund dam maintenance and insurance.
8. Newsletter Update: Presentation by Marlene Kyle
- 8.1. Marlene reviewed the need for improving communication of community events & issues. The OLRA issued three newsletters over the past year and will continue to do so over the next year.
 - 8.2. Marlene announced the winner of the “Name the Newsletter” contest and thanked everyone for his or her submission. The new name is “ Echos of the Oxtongue” presented by Dolly McCormack. Dolly received two tickets (donated by the Fire Department) and a free one year membership to the OLRA.
 - 8.3. Some concerns were received from the members that the newsletter was not received by all and limited information was available about the OLRA. Marlene recommended that the next executive place a strong emphasis on reviewing the membership lists, mailing lists and content of the newsletter.
 - 8.4. Marlene invited the membership to participate in the development of the newsletters by supplying information or concerns.
9. Dues Proposal: Presentation by Sandy Atlin
- 9.1. Sandy reviewed the history of the current dues. The \$10 fee has been in place since the inception of the OLRA.
 - 9.2. Due to increasing costs associated with an association – Sandy recommended an increase in the dues. Dues for 2002 to increase from \$10 to \$20. Rich Swift proposed a MOTION to accept this increase, Geoff Holden seconded the MOTION. All in favor, no opposed. MOTION CARRIED.

9.3. Several concerns from the members noted – the OLRA should to focus on increasing the membership, currently less than 30% of ratepayers are OLRA members. It was recommended that a cottage association sign be created and area chair people be solicited to communicate the purpose of the OLRA in their area. Some people will not be interested at all but others may not be aware of the OLRA. These recommendations to be reviewed by the new executive committee. 83 current members – 115 people attended the July 1st party.

10. Snowmobile Report: Presentation by Scott Hayden

10.1. Scott advised that last year was the best year for snow sports in over twenty year. The snowmobile club started grooming trails in mid Dec and ended in late March. A typical year is mid January to mid March. The permit sales for the snowmobile club were between \$700 & \$800.

10.2. The snowmobile club is now connected with the MSR, which provides an extensive trail system.

10.3. Scott reminded everyone that Algonquin Park has cross-country ski trails and have recently purchased new grooming equipment to ensure good trails.

10.4. Geoff Holden questions the use of ATV's on the snowmobile trails, concerned that the ATV's would ruin the trails. Scott advised that yes, there is a possibility that the ATV's will abuse the trail, however, most ATV owners also own snowmobiles, therefore should respect the trail system.

11. July 1st Report: Presentation by Marilyn Farber

11.1. Marilyn thanked everyone involved in supporting the success of the July 1st party. Special notes to the fact that the majority of the costs associated with the party were covered / donated by the community. Marilyn advised that she received donations of materials from FOCA and Heritage Canada.

12. Regatta Report: Presentation by Jody Lowndes

12.1. Jody presented the Regatta Report – with exceptional weather the turn out was very good - expenses incurred - \$620.00 total Revenue generated - \$990. With a profit of \$370

12.2. Jody has created a Regatta Checklist – to assist next years organizers - recommending that the organizers branch out to Huntsville and Dwight when looking for funding.

12.3. Jody offered special thanks to Scott Hayden for his assistance in organizing and participation throughout the day, to Jim Rowan & Oxtongue Lake Cottages for moving the trampoline and the Lowndes family for all of their support..

12.4. A special thanks to Jody from the membership for organizing the regatta.

13. Bill Kennedy – General Information Update – Presented by Bill Kennedy

13.1. Bill presented both concerns and information regarding excessive noise and the noise by laws around the lake. Bill sent a request to Don Shortreed in July requesting information on the noise by laws. He was advised by Gerald Bain that due to the amalgamation and the differences between the township, a noise level by law has not been established for the new amalgamated township. It will be reviewed by council in the fall of 2001.

- 13.2. Bill presented information on a new bill introduced to government – Bill S26 which deals with PWC's – safety, pollution's, bans, speed limits and noise level. If passed this bill will provide restrictions around the use of PWCs.
 - 13.3. Bill advised that there were two identical petitions available today for all members to sign (if they feel support this Bill) - one petition for senate and the other for House of Commons.
 - 13.4. Joan Hayden recommended a MOTION for the OLRA to send a letter of endorsement supporting this bill. Bill Kennedy seconded – MOTION Passed.
 - 13.5. Some concerns were raised by members that the OLRA should not support this bill until all the information is available and fully understood.
 - 13.6. Tom Witter posed a question that if this bill is to pass, you actually has control over the lakes. It was recommended that the new executive review this in more detail and prepare a communication for the membership.
14. Fire Department Report: – Presentation by Ted Keown
- 14.1. Ted thanked everyone for their support, donations and hard work, which made the 2001 Firemans BBQ a success. Expenses incurred - \$1889.20 – total revenue generated \$3833.95 with a profit of \$1944.75
 - 14.2. Ted reminded everyone of the “total” fire ban in effect and advised that the OPP & MNR will have a zero tolerance for anyone disobeying this ban.
 - 14.3. Ted updated everyone on the new tanker to arrive for the Oxtongue Lake Fire Department in October and the subsequent renovations to the existing fire hall. The renovations will include room to house a four wheel drive truck, which is in the plans for the future. All of the renovation work will be completed by members of the community as donated time. Many of the materials will be purchased from local stores at cost price.
 - 14.4. Ted suggested that if anyone had suggestion for improving the BBQ to please contact him
 - 14.5. Ted offered a special thanks to Barb Woodfield. Barb in her role as Treasurer for the OLRA incurred cost for the use of her personal computer and supplies. This cost was reimbursed to by the OLRA, Barb very generously donated that money to the Fire Department.
15. Council Updates – Presentation by Sandy Atlin
- 15.1. Sandy advised that all of the OLRA newsletters and meetings minutes will be copied to the local council for their review.
 - 15.2. Although Don Shortreed could not attend the meeting, Sandy advised that Don had indicated that the amalgamation was underway and going smoothly.
 - 15.3. Sandy recommended that the new executive set up a separate meeting with Council to review open issues, new concerns and future plans.
 - 15.4. No change on Landfill hours or locations
 - 15.5. The tax rates for Sherborne will be increasing by 2.24% , the tax rates for Stanhope will be decreasing by 4.93%
 - 15.6. Council meetings are the 1st and the 3rd Thursday of every month. Meetings are held at North Shore Road.
 - 15.7. Planscape Limiting???????

16. Nominations – Presentation by Sandy Atlin

16.1. Sandy thanked the retiring executives for their support in the past year, Fran Gower, Shelley Wagar-Cousintine, Barb Woodfield, Madeleine Pagot, Marlene Kyle.

16.2. Judy Clapp thanked Gord & Sandy for their support in their role as Co President to the OLRA.

16.3. Sandy advised that the challenges for the upcoming year will include – dam responsibility, budgeting & finance and maintaining the integrity of zoning

16.4. Sandy presented the Slate for the new board of directors:

16.4.1. Ted Keown

16.4.2. Rick Wesolowski

16.4.3. Bill Cunnington

16.4.4. Jim Cooke

16.4.5. Scott Hayden

16.4.6. Lynn Logan

16.4.7. Dianne Morgan

16.4.8. Rich Swift

16.5. Ted Keown nominated Marlene Kyle, seconded by Rick Wesolowski for the position of secretary on the Board of Directors. Geoff Holden objected by indicating that Marlene had resigned from the committee and therefore given up her rights to stand on the board. Geoff advised that the constitution for the association permitted only 8 board members. Judy Clapp confirmed. Based on this information, Ted Keown declined his role on the board.

16.6. Mel Harding proposed a MOTION to approve the board, seconded by Ted Blackman. CARRIED.

16.7. Special note: two of the new board members were not present and if they decline their roles, Ted Keown will return to the board. If all members accept their roles, the board should amend the constitution to allow for a minimum of eight members and a maximum to be determined. This would allow for Ted to rejoin the board as the ninth member.

17. Open Discussion & Next Meeting : Members Participation

17.1. Gord opened the floor for comments from the members on the change of the meeting date. This was the first year that the meeting was held on a Monday night of the Civic Holiday weekend. Several members advised that this was the first meeting they have been able to attend. In the past the meetings have been held mid week and therefore many people (non-residents) were not able to attend.

17.2. The new executive to set the date for the next AGM

17.3. Ted Keown reminded everyone to support the Fire Department by purchasing raffle tickets and wished everyone good luck.