

OXTONGUE LAKE RATEPAYER ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Meeting of August 31st, 1975
Time - 1:35 P.M.
Place - Oxtongue Lake Community Hall

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. D. Siegfried.

It was moved by Mr. A. Williams that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as published. The motion was carried unanimously.

The treasurer read his report. The bank balance as of August 28th/75 was \$393.62. The Tom Paris Memorial Fund bank balance is \$240.74 as of August 28th/75.

The president, Mr. Siegfried, brought forward for discussion water pollution. He praised the work of the Elliots in the past and Mrs. Keyes for the last two years in the collection of water samples.

Mrs. Keyes read her report stating that 24 samples were taken on July 1st and another 24 on August 1st of this year.

The coliform bacteria are the main bacterial indicators of polluted water. In the 24 samples the Oxtongue River consistently showed the highest contamination as high as 140. The danger level is 1,000. The fecal coliform indicates pollution from human or animal waste. In the July sampling it was present solely in the Oxtongue River but in August it showed up in the lake as well in location 10, 11, 12, 21, 22 & 23 of the map presented. The fecal streptococcus showed a reading of 1,016 at the base of Ragged Falls on July 1, 1975. But this not significant because it fell off to 50 in the August 1st sampling.

The president thanked Mrs. Keyes for her report and mentioned that Steve Pinckard had found pollution in Dwight Bay off his dock in August. He referred the matter to the executive for further consideration.

The next item brought forward for discussion was the Tom Paris Memorial Trophy. The president stated that Dr. Keith and Ruth Horn who were looking after the memorial were in agreement with the recommendation that a memorial trophy be set up. He then referred the matter to the executive for further consideration.

The president then introduced discussion of the water level. He said that he had heard that several wells were running dry this summer and it seemed to be a matter of concern for some people. He indicated that the feeling was that it was unwise to get the government involved to replace the dam because then we might lose control of the level. Some suggestion had been entertained of getting a committee to throw rocks in the river and he wondered if any were opposed to the idea. Mrs. Pollard indicated she was happy with the present level because she didn't have to wade in the water to get to her boat. Mr. Hayden was happy with the excellent beach this year in front of his place and stated that he felt the spring ice had little to do with removal of rocks at site of the old dam but that the level was more indicative of the dry weather. The president brought the discussion to a close by indicating the executive would get a price at a suggested limit of \$100 from a bulldozer operator on putting some rock back in the exit of the lake. The secretary suggested that \$100 is perhaps a low figure considering a bulldozer working in the water would need a grease and lubrication service.

The president then introduced another problem for this year, namely the location of the dump. The secretary had learned from discussions with the Reeve that the Ministry of the Environment had given notice to the municipality that the local dump must be closed because of contamination of the Oxtongue River. They were looking for a new site and had in mind the township gravel quarry on the Harris Bay Road unless the Association had another suitable spot where there is enough covering material to replace this location. Mrs. Pollard indicated that this location had been cleaned up after use as a dump by individuals at a previous time.

Mrs. Gower indicated she would like to get a direct report from the Ministry of Environment. She moved that the Association deal further with the Environment in regard to the alleged pollution of the River. Mrs. G. K. R. Boyd seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The president suggested that individual letters be sent to the Reeve expressing disapproval of the suitability of this site. The secretary inquired whether a motion should be proposed requesting the secretary to send a letter from the association to that effect. The president thought this unnecessary.

The secretary, Peter Baldwin, reminded the president that the status of the community centre was also an item on the agenda for discussion. The president outlined the problem of the taxation of the property because of changes in the law. The municipality has sent letters to the three trustees of the Community Centre, Art Asbury, Don Elstone and Jean Sproule asking them to sign the property over to them. Art Asbury has signed but as yet the other two have not. He felt that the matter should be postponed until Mr. Pitman and he have an informal meeting with the Reeve to find out what the wishes of the Reeve are on the matter.

Miss Boyd asked if sufficient guarantees could be arranged if the community centre was turned over the municipality to ensure that it continue to operate as community centre. The president said he felt that such guarantees could be arranged.

The secretary, Peter Baldwin, asked to say something on the matter. He stated that on the President's approval he had done research on documents connected with the community centre. He had obtained a copy of the deed dated 1966 by which the former school section was vested in the three trustees mentioned above for the purpose of a community centre. He also obtained copies of the Ontario Statutes governing the transfer and regulations of the community centre. He indicated that the act gives power to the trustees to hold the property as a Community Centre and therefore apparently non-taxable and also to act as a board of management. He also indicated that the act refers to this board as defined in "the School's Administration Act". Under this Act the trustees cannot sign over to other individual but can only resign upon new trustees being elected by the ratepayers of that former school section.

He also indicated that in discussion with the Reeve as a private ratepayer and not representing the association in reference to a problem concerning his property there had been mention of the community centre. The Reeve indicated that he was in agreement with any settlement of the problem as the ratepayer saw fit, whether that was assuming control of the hall as previous representation had seemed to indicate or retention of management of the property by elected trustees of the former school section. Mr. Hayden asked if the trustees who are no longer ratepayers in the district can still be considered trustees. The president brought the discussion to a close indicating that he had the file of the documents and felt that further action should follow from a meeting with the Reeve.

The president then turned the meeting over to Mr. Ellison Patterson, the vice president, to conduct the nomination and election of officers. Mr. Patterson expressed appreciation for the work of Mr. Siegfried as president, Mr. A. Pittman as treasurer and Peter Baldwin as secretary. He then indicated as a member of a nominating committee after much consideration they had come up with the following nominations for the new term. He nominated Mr. Siegfried as President, Mr. Jim Elliot, Vice President, Mr. A. Pittman, Treasurer, Miss Berna White, Secretary. Margaret Kennedy seconded the nominations. He asked if there were any other proposed nominations from the floor and then declared the slate of nominated officers duly elected by acclamation. No board of director was appointed.

Mrs. Gower asked the president, Mr. Siegfried if funds could be made available for the planning of the water events for next year at an earlier time. The president indicated that Jan Woods would be the director of Recreation for next year and would be in charge of these events for which she could submit a budget. He also indicated that Mrs. Pittman would continue to be in charge of publicity.

The president complimented the people responsible for the success of the excellent arts and crafts show namely E.D. Pittman, coordinator, Isabel Pollard, in charge of the children's displays and Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Siegfried and others who helped.

They then proceeded to the draw for the million dollar lottery tickets from the people who had paid the two dollar membership fee. Mrs. Pollard drew two numbers from a hat which corresponded to numbers on a list. The two winners were Bill Hayden and the Rev. Tipple.

Mr. A. William expressed appreciation for the work of Peter Baldwin for the two dances and five movie nights. He said that they felt a real sense of a community spirit because of these events. He hoped that Mr. Baldwin would continue the program next year. The president indicated that Mr. Baldwin was not sure but he hopes to be in Europe next year. Mr. Baldwin expressed his willingness to contribute toward these events if possible.

The meeting was then adjourned. The next meeting will be on Sunday, October 13th at 1:30P.M.

Mr. Keown informed me that Mr. D. Gower, Mr. Ray Smith and Mr. Howard Beigman will be looking after roof shovelling contracts again this winter.

I wish to thank those who gave me the opportunity of serving as secretary last year. I tried to procure and give as much information as possible. I met some very fine people and gained a real insight into the Oxtongue Lake Community which has been my second home all my life. I will endeavour to continue contributing in an active way in so far as I receive support.

Peter Baldwin
Retiring Secretary