

LWCA Annual General Meeting

Saturday August 9, 2025

Four Loons Marina

Directors Present: Paul Armstrong, Kelly Beale, Carol Bell, Marty Blake, Paul Bottos, Shawna Hiley, Steve Latto, Janice Mackenzie, Diane Morden, Alison Myles, Jason Preston, Mike Swartz, Melissa Tervit, Alan Thomas

Regrets: Jared Bell, Elaine Hardy, JP Murray, Alida Stevenson, Susie Mitchell, Patty Milne

1. Welcome and President's Message at 9:30 am (Janice Mackenzie)

Living Land Acknowledgement (Janice Mackenzie for Alida Stevenson)

Our beautiful Lake and surrounding lands are located in the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg Peoples covered by Treaty 27. As a community we share the responsibility to follow the principles of the Dish with One Spoon. As citizens we have the obligation to honour, care for, and respect the land, water, air, fire, animals, plants and our ancestors.

We are grateful for the opportunity to enjoy Weslemkoon Lake and recognize the contributions and historical importance of the Anishnaabeg Peoples, and are committed to acknowledging their direct descendants, the Algonquins of Ontario, as the rightful caretakers of the land upon which we live, work, play and enjoy.

As the LWCA, we are responsible for the stewardship of the community and the lands surrounding Lake Weslemkoon. We want to acknowledge that the land and water on which we play and enjoy sustains us, and is a gift from Mother Earth.

Thank you to Noreen from the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin First Nation office in Bancroft for advising us in the creation of our living land acknowledgement. We hope that you take the time to visit the First Nation Office next time you are in town to learn more.

Welcome Address (Janice Mackenzie)

Welcome everyone to the 2025 AGM! I am happy to be leading this AGM for the second year, proud to be adding my name on this mallet, and thrilled to be handing it over to my friend, Marty, at the end of this AGM!

Thank you so much for coming today and for being not only stewards of the lake, but for participating in the organization itself. We as a Board appreciate your involvement through such things as working on trails, bulletin board building, loon sightings, rescue of wandering courtesy markers, emails, and replies to our Facebook posts. Your actions and voices are important. Not only your questions but also your advice to us. We are stronger together.

Working with 19 Directors – a full Board – has been a fabulous experience. We manage to get a lot done and communicated but we have a couple of important areas that need some expertise. Specifically, we are looking for someone who would volunteer to communicate information about emergency preparedness (fire pump list, posting FireSmart info) and perhaps actions such as looking for deals on fire pumps. This person could join the Board or be an active volunteer on a committee. We are also looking for someone who has young children and who would like to organize outings and invite other Junior Loons. This approach seems to be the best in terms of creating a vibrant Junior Loons program.

Finally, I'd like to leave you with some thoughts from my dad based on a note from my dad that we found under a bed. He was LWCA President in 1971, 54 years ago. Some things have changed on the lake since then, but many things remain very much the same. He referred to the "controllable destiny of our lake" and the importance of realizing this as a lake community and working towards preservation.

Dad left the role of President to Jack Dempsey, and continued to be involved in map making. I leave the role to Marty Blake, and I will continue on with the Communications portfolio.

Housekeeping:

Suffering is optional – please move into a shadier spot at any point
There is 1 vote per membership. Hold your name badge up with the number showing.

During Q/A portions, please use the mic to ask your questions. Please start by clearly stating your name and cottage number.

Statement on Quorum:

"We have over 70 members attending. We need 10% of our membership to be present to have quorum as is stated in Bylaw 4. *A quorum for the transaction of business at a Members' Meeting is 10% (ten percent) of the Members entitled to vote at the meeting, whether present in person or by proxy.* Therefore we have a quorum."

2. Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes (Janice Mackenzie)

Motion to accept 2024 Minutes: Karen Charles (#697), seconded by Marcia Scrimgeour (#710)

New Business arising from 2024 Minutes (Janice Mackenzie, Paul Bottos)

At last year's AGM we approved Bylaw #4. At that time, we had a lengthy discussion about changing quorum for Board meetings from 40% in a previous Bylaw to 51%. During this discussion, we expressed concerns that we may have

challenges meeting 51% and this is exactly what has happened during this past year.

Consequently, I would like to make a motion that we amend Bylaw #4 to read “at least 40% of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Directors.”

Motion to amend Bylaw 4 as outlined above: Janice Mackenzie (#920), seconded by Paul Bottos (#381)

No members in disagreement. Motion passed.

3. **Approval of 2024 Financial Statements** (Diane Morden)

Please refer to the details of the Financial Report on file.

Financially, it has been another good year and we are in good shape. Are there any questions arising from the report? No questions.

Motion to accept 2024 Financial Statements: Barry Evans (#926), seconded by Ian Mackenzie (#200). Motion passed.

4. **Remembrances** (Melissa Tervit)

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the following people: Marion Bellamy, David Hardy, Bob Sutherland, Terry Taylor, George Archibald, Ernst Pegutter, Glenn Ross, Beverly Greer, Reese Stanzel

5. **Introduction of Directors and Highlights from Directors' Reports**

a) **Paul Armstrong (Membership)**

Please refer to the details of the Membership Report on file.

There is an increase in the number of members this year.

Please submit any changes to your membership before February so that we can update these in our registration.

Membership numbers as of July 18, 2025

203 members (197 returning + 6 new)

20 Friends of the Lake

24 members and 3 Friends of the Lake not renewed as of July 18, 2025

b) **Melissa Tervit and Janice Mackenzie (Communications)**

Please refer to the details of the Communications Report on file.

Melissa asked members to raise their hands if they are familiar with, and have used, our communications via Facebook, Instagram, Mail Chimp, LWCA

website and our S'more newsletter. Many people raised their hands indicating that they use these forms of communication to receive their LWCA updates.

c) Melissa Tervit (Climate Change)

Please refer to the details of the Climate Change Report on file.

Melissa posed 2 questions: "What is one thing that you love the most about the cottage and the lake?" "Could this be affected by climate change?"

She reminded us of the current threats to our lake ecosystem including wildfires, air quality and water quality as well as the positive changes that are happening locally and globally to try to combat climate change. She reinforced that within our membership we have over 200 chances to make a positive difference here at the lake.

Questions and Comments:

- 1) Terry Muller (#940): If anyone is renovating or building a new structure, please look into Passive House International Standards for guidance.

d) Alison Myles (Loon Call)

Alison thanked Pat Bothwell for her amazing contributions to the Loon Call publication and encouraged all members to contribute content (interesting nuggets, stories, celebrations, etc.). Alison was thanked for all of her hard work publishing an amazing keepsake.

e) Marty Blake (Water Quality, for Jared Bell)

Please refer to the details of the Water Quality Report on file.

Two testings have occurred this spring/summer and the numbers look similar to the past years. The final results will be analyzed and published later this year.

Marty Blake (Lake Levels)

Please refer to the details of the Lake Levels Report on file.

The lake levels are low this year but still within the range set by the MNR (down approximately 10cm). This is due to the lack of rain and the heat/evaporation. The MNR continues to monitor the level and their reports will be posted on our website. The monitoring gauge has been broken but will be repaired. Please report your concerns, but we must remember that we can only let out what comes in.

Questions and Comments:

- 1) Barry Evans (#926): What is the official level of the lake? My understanding is that this level was set many years ago, and that with

climate change and increased evaporation would it make sense to adjust that level? Can we investigate this?

Paul Bottos: We looked into that a number of years ago and we sent letters to the MNR asking them to review the lake level. The level is based on a Master Lake Level Plan. Marty will post this to the LWCA site. When we asked the MNR to undertake a review of the Master Plan they stated that they are not able to do that because of the cost.

Paul and Marty will again connect with MNR and investigate this possibility.

- 2) Terry Beetam (#27): Weslemkoon is part of a large watershed so the MNR can't modify levels/plans in isolation.
- 3) Karen Charles (#697): In Ottawa, we have had years with flooding and then drought and these both impact our water levels.
- 4) Ian Mackenzie (#200): We may also have an excess of rain and we need to be aware of that possibility too as we consider any adjustments.

f) Steve Latto (Custodial Visits)

Please refer to the details of the Custodial Visits Report on file.

Mike Watson continues to do custodial visits of all members' properties once during the winter season when the ice conditions allow him to do this safely.

Steve Latto (Courtesy Markers)

Please refer to the details of the Courtesy Markers Report on file.

Please remember that the LWCA provides courtesy markers not navigational beacons. We have replaced six markers. The flashing lights cost \$400 each and we replace two each year. Thank you for letting us know when markers are damaged or missing and need attention.

Questions and Comments:

- 1) Marcia Scrimgeour (#710): There was an accident around the large marker in the narrows near Weslemkoon Marina. I've noticed that the light is too high to be effective and that the blinking rate is very slow.
Steve Latto: We will investigate this light. I believe that the blinking rate is set by the manufacturer.

g) Paul Bottos (Municipal Affairs)

Please refer to the details of the Municipal Affairs Report on file.

A total fire ban has been issued and there's a lot of information available on our website about this. Please respect this direction.

There has not been any more movement on the renumbering of lake cottages/homes.

The Township is still working on the Official Plan Review and Paul continues to discuss this with them. Please check the Township website or our LWCA website for updates.

We continue to monitor development applications of interest and it has been quiet in this regard.

h) Shawna Hiley (Trails, for Elaine Hardy)

Please refer to the details of the Trails Report on file.

The trails to Mink Lake and Canoe Lake have been fully cleared. We will remove the broken canoe that is currently on the shore in Mink Lake.

Shawna Hiley (Forestry, for JP Murray)

Please refer to the details of the Forestry Report on file.

Lake Weslemkoon and the surrounding lakes and rivers sit within the Little Mississippi River Watershed. There is a 10 year Forestry Management Plan (2021-2031) and LWCA continues to advocate for the protection of our lakes and surrounding area. We also keep abreast of invasive species (both plant and insect) that threaten our ecosystems. Please check our website for additional information and reporting tools.

Questions and Comments:

1) Peter Thompson (#213): Cormorants are a concern on the lake.

Melissa: There is a recent article in Cottage Life magazine saying that they're native to this area and that they eat invasive fish, so they play an important role in our ecosystem.

Jennifer Snider: They are destroying many areas, including some islands near Kingston.

Beans Snider: Cormorants are the only game bird that you can hunt from a motorized boat as long as you're not in forward motion. The hunting season opens on September 15th and there is a bag limit of 15 per day.

i) Janice Mackenzie (Indigenous Liaison, for Alida Stevenson)

Please refer to the details of the Indigenous Liaison Report on file.

Last year we told you that we would conduct a survey of members to better understand their current knowledge of Indigenous history, culture, communities with a connection to our lakes and the AOO Agreement. The thought was that we would also be able to identify questions and goals for the LWCA in this area, including ideas for activities that will promote learning

and build relationships. The survey will happen once Alida is back from a medical leave.

6 Election of 2024-25 Board of Directors (Janice Mackenzie)

Thank Directors who are leaving:

Diane Morden has been our Treasurer for 17 years. She has doggedly protected the LWCA's finances through gruelling cross examination at meetings and the relentless pursuit of receipts and 2nd signatures. She has found small errors and grieved over them, like all conscientious accountants do. She has gone great distances to be sure that we thoroughly understand the ins and outs of each financial conundrum or decision. All of this with her quick wit, that's kept us laughing. Diane is going to be sorely missed. Thanks Diane for everything.

Patricia Milne is also stepping down after 15 years. Patty has been an active and important member of our board since 2014, running Jr Loons programs, promoting septic best practice awareness, sending our Baby Loon Tally to Birds Canada, and writing our Lake Handbook (available to download on the website). Of course she also has taken on the role of VP, President and Past President. Thanks Patty for everything you've done for the LWCA.

Susie Mitchell has been on the Board as a Director - at - Large for the past 2 years. She has enjoyed being on the Board and seeing what we do to support conservation efforts and community building. Susie is faced with a very busy schedule and has to step back from the Board.

Returning Directors:

- Janice Mackenzie - taking on Past President, continuing as Communications co-Director
- Marty Blake - leaving Vice President role to become President, continuing as Water Levels Director
- Shawna Hiley - was Director at Large, taking on Vice President role
- Melissa Tervit - leaving Past President role, continuing as Communications co-Director, taking on new portfolio, *Climate Change Director*
- Alan Thomas - was Director at Large, now becoming Treasurer
- Carol Bell - Secretary
- Paul Armstrong - Membership
- Steve Latto - Markers and Custodial
- Paul Bottos - Municipal
- Sending regrets, Elaine Hardy - Trails
- Alison Myles - Loon Call
- Sending regrets, Jared Bell - Water Quality
- Sending regrets, Alida Stevenson - Indigenous Liaison
- Mike Swartz - Director at Large
- Kelly Beale - Director at Large
- Jason Preston - Director at Large

- Sending regrets, JP Murray - stepping back from Forestry Director, remaining as a Director at Large

Nomination and introduction of New Directors:

- Wesley Magee, Forestry

Call for Volunteers from the floor:

Are there any members who would like to work on the Junior Loons or Emergency Preparedness committees, or as Director of these portfolios?
No volunteers stepped forward.

Motion to approve the future Board: Marcia Scrimgeour (#710), seconded by Terry Beetam (#27). Motion passed.

As outgoing President, Janice welcomed Marty to the role and passed him the gavel.

7 **New Business** (Marty Blake, Melissa Tervit and Janice Mackenzie)

Marty:

We have 3 things to tell you about in this portion of the meeting. Janice will tell you about our new Bulletin Board and Lending Library, Melissa will share a new initiative called Protecting our Weslemkoon, and finally I'll share some thoughts about Building Relationships.

Janice:

Bulletin Board and Lending Library

Years ago each marina provided an area for the LWCA to have a bulletin board. In those days, bulletin boards were an important communication tool. Over the years, however, those bulletin boards have either fallen into disrepair, been unused, or have been taken over by other unrelated information. With many people travelling to the store at Weslemkoon Marina, we've tried to take advantage of this by giving LWCA flyers etc to Steve to display on their board. Steve and Paul Derumaux have kindly agreed to let us install our own board at the marina, near the door to the store. There will be a designated LWCA bulletin board to display reminders and information about upcoming events, as well as a space for brochures and bookshelves. We are setting up a lending library for books related to conservation, trees, water, insects, animals etc. We are asking you for donations to this library, of both adult and children's books. The books will be stamped so that people remember to please return them. Thank you to Ian Sine and Chris Bell for their work on this project. It will be in place by Thanksgiving.

Melissa:

Protecting our Weslemkoon (POW)

As we think about how to best boost the resilience of our lake and community to deal with shocks from climate change, invasive species and other stressors I think that everyone might benefit from a guide on how to best protect our lakes. We all do things to help with this, and now we're going to be able to track these activities with a checklist. There are many different activities under a number of headings. At the end of the year we will send you a survey to complete and return to us, recording your "lake friendly" activities. We have a certificate for each participant that you can pick up here today. Each year that you participate you will receive a sticker to add to your certificate. Thank you for everything each and every one of you do to protect Weslemkoon. I really look forward to seeing how well we are doing collectively.

Building Relationships - Marty

Cottagers and year round residents have lived side by side at the lake for decades. While many of us have great friendships with local residents, others do not know many local people at all. Sometimes the lack of relationships can lead to assumptions being made about each other, which can be unhelpful and sometimes hurtful when comments are posted on social media, for example.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Shawna Hiley (#201), seconded by Joanne Cleyn (#558A) at 10:55 am. Motion passed.

Community Connections portion of the meeting

Note: The planned breakout session around the topic of building relationships between members and local residents was cancelled due to the heat.

Guest Speaker: Beans Snider

Beans spoke to us about living alongside the lake and shared his knowledge and experience around hunting and trapping in the area.

Cockeyed Loons Ceremony:

Grand Loon Frances Chiddy welcomed Karen Magee to the Order of the Cockeyed Loons

Junior Loons:

25 Junior Loons from previous years who had not yet received their certificates were given them today (most by proxy). Two members came forward afterwards and asked for certificates for their children who were not on the list.