

## **LWCA Annual General Meeting**

Sunday August 13, 2023 (Rescheduled from Saturday August 12 due to inclement weather)

**Directors Present:** Carol Bell, Marty Blake, Elaine Hardy, Shawna Hiley, Janice Mackenzie, Melissa Tervit

**Regrets:** Paul Bottos, Steve Latto, Patty Milne, Diane Morden, JP Murray, Claire Vandervoort

### **1.0 Welcome and President's Message at 9:30 am (Melissa Tervit)**

- Living Land Acknowledgement (Alida Stevenson)
- thank you to members and volunteers and a reminder to consider how our actions impact our environment and how small changes can make a big difference; suggestion that we "think like scientists" and read articles posted on LWCA Facebook page regarding environmental issues
- year in review: Maker's Market, Docktails, Teen Meetups, Goose Chase, Loon Call publication, LWCA involvement in Addington Highlands Official Plan Review, set up of boat wash station at Weslemkoon Marina, involvement with FOCA and encouraging members to sign up for FOCA emails
- looking ahead: By Law updates must be completed by October 18, 2024, continuation of community events, continuing discussions around impacts of/adaptations to climate change and request for interested members to help us stay current with conservation issues
- request for new Committee Members and Directors of Community Outreach and Junior Loons
- Housekeeping reminder that there will be one vote allowed per membership

### **2.0 Approval of AGM 2022 minutes (Melissa Tervit)**

Motion to accept 2022 Minutes: Bruce Magee (#345), seconded by Marcia Scrimgeour (#711)

No new business arising from 2022 minutes.

### **3.0 Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2022 Financial Statements (Melissa Tervit for Diane Morden):**

Your board continues to be very active in spite of the challenges of the past few years. Actual expenditures, which reflect the varied nature of your board's activities, are in line with approved budgeted amounts for the year. Surplus funds are invested in bank GICs as follows:

- \$25,000 earning 4.65% compounded annually and maturing October 2025
- \$20,000 earning 5.1% compounded annually and maturing November 2024

Interest is lower this year because we forfeited 1 years' worth of interest at .65% to move to the higher rates. Interest is recognized on an accrual basis in these statements. The GIC interest is shared on a weighted average basis between the general fund and the Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund. The Catherine Rathbun Environmental fund grew by individual contributions of \$425 (\$745 in 2021) and allocated interest of \$109 (\$154 in 2021). Expenditures from this fund were for water quality testing in the amount of \$1,305 (\$1,305 in 2021) and was approved at the 2018 annual general meeting as required.

The remaining unrestricted surplus of \$40,520 is available for the general purposes of the association.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Terry Beetam (#27), seconded by Gillian Lavelle (#640)

#### **4.0 Remembrances (Shawna Hiley):**

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the following people: Eli Palfreyman, George Murray, Lee Johnson, David Kim Fitzpatrick, Joanne Cope, Mitch Watson

#### **5.0 Introduction of Directors & Highlights from Director's Reports**

*Note: Members were directed to review the Director's reports prior to the meeting. The reports were posted on the website and remained in place for the year.*

##### **a) Shawna Hiley (Membership)**

###### **Membership numbers as of Aug 2, 2023**

Members **200** (3 new)

Friends **19** (1 new)

Total = **219** (compared to 232 on July 25, 2022)

38 memberships unrenewed to date (were members in 2022 and have not renewed for 2023); will follow up with all via email in September before finalizing cottage checklist.

Deadline for 2024 Directory and Loon Call mailing will remain the same (March 1st)

##### **b) Janice Mackenzie (Communications)**

We continue to communicate to members and friends of lake through various channels.

These are:

Website (via GoDaddy)

- contains archival material as well as informs about upcoming events
- Visit weslemkoon.com

Newsletters (LWCA Quarterly)

- On track to have our 5th go out September 15 (cycle is mid Sept, Dec, Mar, June)
- Open rate varies from 240 - 356 for each newsletter
- If any member has an idea for content, let Janice know via email [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com)
- All newsletters are now linked to the website (thanks to Melissa!)

Facebook

- Melissa has been keeping this platform hopping - short, appropriate articles, updates about the Goosechase challenge

#### Instagram

- 184 followers
- Irregular posts - any help would be appreciated ... several people can have the login and post to the gram!

#### Communiqués

- So far in 2023, we've sent 9: AGM/community events, fire ban, membership x2, Underused Housing Tax, LWCA Quarterly, Official Plan, Lakebook
- Approx 70% click rate

#### c) Alison Myles for Anne Coulter (Loon Call)

We need your stories, photos, memories, poems and ideas. Please make sure to share notes of passings, births and big birthdays or anniversaries too!

Please send along to [info@weslemkoon.com](mailto:info@weslemkoon.com) or get in touch through the website or social posts and it will make its way to me. Items need to be submitted by the end of December to give us time to put it all together.

Please encourage your children to send in their stories and photos from the summer.

The Loon Call is only as good as the content within it - let's continue to make it fun, relevant and all about our Weslemkoon.

#### d) Melissa Tervit for Claire Vandervoort (Water Quality)

*This report remains on the website and can be reviewed there.*

<https://weslemkoon.com/agm-%26-directors-reports>

-Barrie Evans (#926) reminded members that Kawartha Utilities Services will be pumping septic systems on the lakes this fall

#### e) Marty Blake (Water Levels)

Generally speaking, 2023 has been another relatively easy year for water levels and ice out.

A lack of water in the early spring caused the levels to drop abnormally and a subsequent week of excessive rain caused a rapid increase. This combined with a malfunction of the water gauge at the dam looked to cause excessive swings in the water levels. The good news is that all calls into the Ministry of Natural Resources were met with an update on what had already been done to resolve issues. They proved to be proactive and responsive, as indicated by satisfactory water level results.

#### f) Marty Blake for Steve Latto (Custodial Checks and Markers)

##### **Courtesy Markers**

We continue to battle the weather when it comes to these markers. Numerous storms and ice floes have caused damage to them but fortunately we have the right person on board who is quick to make repairs and replace lights that need replacing. We have also been

methodically replacing the old-style floating markers with the newer white models which are bolted into the granite. We have a new contract with our flashy light tech up to and including the fall of 2027. Please keep in mind that these are not shoal markers nor aids to navigation, they are simply courtesy markers. Always use caution and be aware of your surroundings as there are still many rocks, stumps and deadheads that are not marked. As always, if someone notices a problem with a marker or if they notice one missing or floating loose, please contact us and we will do our best to make repairs as soon as possible.

### **Custodial Visits**

This past year there were no major reports of damage up to and including the spring cottage check. The last few years have posed problems for us. Weather has been an issue, changing ice patterns have affected us, and of course the health issues that we are all aware of. We have been fortunate that there has not been any major damage or vandalism in the area over the past couple of years, although I don't know that fortunate is the correct phrase as we should all be expecting safety at our Lake.

#### **g) Melissa Tervit for Paul Bottos (Municipal Affairs)**

- The Township is in the process of their Official Plan Review. The working group attended the March 2023 Addington Highlands Official Plan meeting. IBI presented the background working papers to the public and the Council. The LWCA working group presented their comments on the working papers and are working to ensure that our needs are recognized.
- new cottage numbering and naming of islands by Township are both continuing but happening slowly. The most recent communication from Tanya Rosenblath, Senior Admin Assistant at Addington Highlands: "I have received information back from the MNRF indicating that they are still working on this and will provide us with an update shortly. They are consulting with local Indigenous communities about potential names for 9 islands that did not meet Board principles. Once we have more information I will update the LWCA."
- LWCA continues to receive and monitor development proposals
- the last Municipal election was this past October, 2022; we reached out to the candidates to seek input from them and circulated the responses to all. The results of the election were circulated to the Members last year. Please feel free to contact the Township or the LWCA

#### **h) Elaine Hardy (Trails)**

Work to clear trails on the lake is progressing. The many trees that had fallen on the **Canoe Lake** trail have now been cleared and a team of volunteers will be visiting later in August to cut vegetation back from the trail. Many of the trees on the **Mink Lake** trail have been cleared – the trail is walkable and the remainder of the trees will be cleared this summer. Work is required to re-clear the **High Dam Lake** trail and the trail to **Shiner Lake**. Recreating the trail to **Buck Lake** (the one at the north end of the lake, accessed off Hartsmere Road) is still a work in progress. More volunteers are required to ensure that trails are kept clear for us all to enjoy.

This summer a new thunderbox (built by Glen Thompson) was installed at Canoe Lake. Thunderboxes have now been installed at Mink Lake, Canoe Lake, Green Lake, Channel Island (near the dam at the north end) and Picnic Island (west of Rockwell Island). Another

thunderbox, built by Ian Sine, will be installed at Little Long Lake. Volunteers to install the thunderbox at Little Long Lake, or to build more thunderboxes, are welcome.

A reminder to all to take out all garbage when hiking or using any of the campsites on the lake, and be sure to completely extinguish any campfires. It is also wise to check for ticks after being out on the trails.

i) Janice Mackenzie for JP Murray (Forestry)

Currently Lake Weslemkoon is in a 'Low-risk' forest fire area as indicated by the Ontario Forest Fire Info website. Summary Highlights from the Independent Forest Audit published December 2022:

1. Lake Weslemkoon is located in the north-western region of the Ontario forest region known as Mazinaw-Lanark and is sustainably managed by a group of 12 independent logging companies that form a partnership known as Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. These companies are responsible for harvest and access and are required to carry out operations in accordance with pertinent legislation and standards.
2. The audit period ranged from April 2016 to March 2022.
3. Important findings from the audit:
  - On balance the silviculture (forest management) was delivered and the area 'renewed' generally balanced with the area being 'harvested'.
  - Harvest levels were "well below planned" meaning future desired forest conditions may not be met. This is due to "severe, repeated, and widespread wildlife browsing (deer and moose) on desirable regeneration (particularly red oak) which has lowered regeneration success rates.
  - "Although outside the scope of the audit...the team cautions that the impacts of a derecho storm in May 2022 will have "far-reaching and long-term consequences on forest structure and stand attributes such as species composition and tree quality..." They continue: "damage from the storm was widespread, affecting a large area of productive forest land with many stands toppled." This obviously affects other forest management functions related to the Forest Management Plan requiring many amendments (e.g. revised annual work schedules, etc).
4. It is clear from the extent and severity of last summer's storm, 'harvesting' has been well below planned levels this summer and likely for the future summers.

Think/Pair/Share activity: members discussed their new learning for 2 minutes and volunteered that they appreciated the information on the septic pumping schedule and suggested that this information be shared in LWCA communications

## **6.0 LWCA Board of Directors for 2023-2024 (Melissa Tervit)**

The returning Directors include:

- \*Janice Mackenzie – President and Communications
- \*Marty Blake – Vice President and Water Levels
- \*Melissa Tervit – Past President and Communications
- \*Carol Bell – Secretary
- \*Diane Morden – Treasurer

- \*Steve Latto – Markers and Custodial
- \*Claire Vandervoort – Water Quality
- \*Paul Bottos – Municipal Affairs
- \*Elaine Hardy – Trails
- \*JP Murray – Forestry
- \*Patty Milne – Director at Large
- \*Shawna Hiley – Director at Large

Nomination and introduction of new Directors:

- \*Alida Stevenson – Indigenous Relations
- \*Paul Armstrong – Membership
- \*Alison Myles – Loon Call
- \*Mike Swartz – Director at Large
- \*Kelly Beale – Director at Large
- \*Alan Thomas – Director at Large
- \*Jason Preston – Director at Large

Motion (Polling of Membership) to approve the future Board as listed above:

Yes – majority of membership

Motion to approve the future Board: Mike Defreitas (#277), seconded by Bruce Magee (#345)

Thank you to Directors who are leaving:

- \*Anne Coulter – Loon Call
- \*Michele Smith – Community Outreach

## **7.0 Transfer of President role from Melissa Tervit to Janice Mackenzie**

### **Janice's Address:**

- she continues to enjoy the role of Communications Director and is honoured to accept the role of President
- shout out to Melissa for all of her efforts as President, particularly related to environmental action around the lakes
- LWCA has been important to her family, with her parents and brother acting as former Directors, so now it's her turn to "step up"
- thank you to everyone who continues to volunteer for LWCA
- she sees her role as encouraging people to care for the lakes/be good stewards of our land and lakes, and to provide effective leadership for the Directors of LWCA

## **8.0 Questions from Directors' Reports**

- 1) Question: "What is the age for Junior Loons?" (Joan Kopp, #632)  
Answer: Approximately 5-12 years old.
- 2) Question: "Where is the illegal logging happening?" (Robert Howes, #29)  
Answer: In the southwest corner of West Bay, between Buck Bay and Canoe Lake; if you have concerns about any illegal logging activities please contact LWCA. (Bruce Magee, #345)

## **9.0 New Business**

-Stuart Inglis and Melissa Tervit are working on reprinting the Lake Book and require 250 orders to be able to complete this; please email LWCA if you are interested in purchasing a Lake Book

Question: "Will this be an updated Lake Book?" (Karen Magee, #345)

Answer: No, it will be identical to the original book but will not contain the DVD. LWCA might be able to post the link to photos from the book on the LWCA website. Melissa will confirm if this is possible. (Melissa Tervit, #342)

## **10.0 Induction of Cockeyed Loons (Stuart Inglis)**

In recognition for all of their hard work building community on our lakes, we are pleased to announce our latest members to be inducted into the Order of the Cockeyed Loons:

- 1) Alison Myles
- 2) Diane Morden (AB)
- 3) Andrew Colbeck (AB)
- 4) Mary Gunter (AB)

## **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Ken Senter (#680), seconded by Carol Howes (#29) at 10:30 am.  
Unanimous approval.

**Note:** *The Fire Smart presentation that was scheduled after the formal portion of the AGM was not possible due to the change in date. There are many good resources available online regarding fire safety preparedness and Melissa will post a link on the LWCA website.*