

LWCA Annual General Meeting

Saturday August 3, 2019

Weslemkoon Marina

1. **Welcome and President's Comments (Ken Senter) at 10:00 a.m.**

- Ken thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged that we are meeting on Aboriginal land, particularly the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people
- asked for cordial interactions amongst everyone associated with our lakes

2. **Approval of 2018 AGM Minutes**

Motion to accept 2018 Minutes: Glenn Thompson (#213), seconded by Chris Bell (#233)

3. **Remembrances (Stuart Inglis):**

- a moment of silence was held in remembrance of the following people:

Gregory Forbes
Neil Coulman
Jean Austin
Paul Lavelle
Mary Bould
Dennis Bush

4. **Director's Reports**

4.1 **Treasurer's Report (Diane Morden):**

- LWCA Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for year ended December 31, 2018 was presented
- current lake maps will become irrelevant because of new cottage numbering system; we will write them down at a cost of \$975

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Terry Beettam (#27), seconded by Anita Olney (#425)

4.2. **Municipal Affairs Report (Paul Bottos):**

a) Water Bubblers

- cottagers using bubblers during the winter season have legal obligation to post signage

b) Canoes and Kayaks as Vessels:

- legally, canoes and kayaks are now considered vessels and as such you can be charged if operating them when over the legal blood alcohol concentration of 0.08.

c) Spotting

-legally, you must have another person acting as a spotter on board a boat when towing a person for water skiing etc.

d) Cottage Numbering

-Township will be renumbering cottages on both Lake Weslemkoon and Otter Lake, starting at the south end and going clockwise around the lakes; this is as a result of EMS inquiries, in order to ensure prompt response time

-looking for input from people who live on islands regarding official names of islands; 2 options being considered (continue consecutive numbering around lake including islands or the cottage number on each island starts at 1 (ie, Island A cottage # 1, Island B cottage #1); Township provided handouts for input

e) David Miles

-Councillor from Ward 2

-acknowledged the importance of lake associations

-reinforced the importance of consistency with cottage numbering system for safety reasons, and stated that water access properties will display the cottage # at the shoreline and road access properties will display the # at the road

-Re construction to join Hartsmere Rd to Old Snow Rd: surveys have been completed and approved but no construction is happening now

-Re Municipal Taxes: the minutes from Council meetings are available for perusal on Township website; pie chart is included in tax bills specifying how tax money is allocated

-Re garbage disposal: dumps are open Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons to accommodate as many people as possible

4.3 Communications Report (Janice Mackenzie):

a) Communiqués

-sent by email to LWCA members only to communicate information from Directors regarding relevant issues (water levels, cottage inspections, Municipal elections, fire ban etc.)

-latest communique on July 25 re Junior Loons Beach Day

-contact Janice if you are not receiving these

b) Website and Blog

-weslemkoon.com communicates info to general public regarding LWCA initiatives, with the goal of providing up to date content that is pertinent to members

-Stuart, Conrad and Janice working on this together

-started pushing out new blog posts to members as they are written, which then stay on the website for future reference (recent additions include posts on camping, foam, cleaning products and trails)

-request for additional voices on the blog; send content and photos to Janice

c) Facebook

- closed LWCA Facebook page, with membership approved by Janice by answering questions around association with Weslemkoon/Otter Lake
- currently 141 members
- posts include general reminders about upcoming events and answers to members' questions
- anyone interested in joining can contact Janice

d) Instagram

- lwca_ontario, added last fall
- anyone is able to follow this account
- currently 59 followers
- photos of the lake with a focus on LWCA issues such as wildlife, conservation, weather
- contact Janice to share photos or for additional information

4.4 Membership Report (Carolyn Calhoun):

- as of today our total is 230 members: 214 full members, 16 Friends of the Lake
- year- end total for 2018 was 252 members, for 2017 it was 243
- three membership campaigns to date with one more campaign to be emailed late September
- LWCA membership includes membership with FOCA, which provides information on relevant issues such as Hydro rates, invasive species, succession planning, member discounts
- membership fee discount available to people who encourage a new member to sign up

4.5 Water Quality Report (Ian Mackenzie):

- Lisa Thompson (PhD Limnologist), cottager) analyzed the data and assisted Ian
- refer to "Lake Weslemkoon Water Quality 2019" report for additional details
- purpose of portfolio is to monitor water quality and look for trends
- LWCA monitoring program includes 2 types of tests: 1) Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen, now includes 5 locations (Elmardon, Lighthouse, Squaw Point, Bevis/Black Duck, Otter Lake) 2) Chemistry and Bacteria, includes 21 locations around the lake and frequency has been increased from once every three years to once every two years
- Results: deep water test results have been relatively stable from year to year, water chemistry tests show generally worsening water quality trend (nitrogen and total coliforms above target level at all locations, e coli at significant levels at south end locations)
- suggestions provided for how we can help maintain/improve water quality:
 - *keep septic system in good working order
 - *minimize water use to minimize wastewater
 - *use environmentally friendly soaps

*avoid use of fertilizers and pesticides

*reduce the effects of erosion by maintaining trees, shrubs, ground cover in the Riparian Zone at the edge of creeks and the lakes

4.6 Custodial Visits and Markers (Steve Latto):

a) Lake Levels and Markers

-unusually high water level and resulting damage to docks/boathouses this spring due to melting ice and snow and run off from heavy rains; logs removed from dams to accommodate this but MNR needs to consider the effects on bridges and roads downstream

-LWCA has sent a letter to the MNR requesting that they re-examine the water management plan for our lake

- markers damaged and repaired/replaced this spring due to high water levels include those at Osborne, Jenkins and Gibraltar Islands and on the rocks out from Sundry Cove

-new concrete base poured to repair light near Spraketts Island in the south end

-two more lights to be replaced

-experimenting with different types of markers to determine what is best

-“No Wake” signs to be installed at either end of the Northwest Passage

b) Custodial Visits

-all custodial visits were completed and no issues were reported

Questions:

1) Sean Taylor (#469): Can LWCA post “No Wake” or speed limit signs to reduce boat speed on the lake, particularly in the south end? Can marina owners post these signs?

Answer: “No Wake” signs have been made for the Northwest Passage and LWCA will post these.

Motion to have LWCA (Janice) send out communique to all members regarding the speed of boats on the lakes, with members being invited to respond. Further discussion around next steps will occur at the next Director’s meeting.

Motion by Sean Taylor (#469), seconded by Wayne Todosey (#635)

Motion carried.

2) Glenn Thompson (#213): Thank you to Steve and the LWCA for their efforts. Have we ever approached the Township to raise the height of the bridges and/or install larger culverts.

Answer: No, we haven’t but that’s an interesting possibility.

3) Syd Howes (#456): Expressed concerns about possible flooding in the future and that the County needs to address these issues.

Answer: Steve Latto responded and re-iterated our actions to date to address these concerns.

4.7 Septic and Waste Water Report (Patty Milne):

- sign up with KUC now for next year if you want to be pumped
- we encourage septic reviews first from Citadel Home Inspections.
- LWCA has posted link to get information on how to check your system.

4.8 Forestry and Trails Report (Bruce Magee):

-see Forestry Trails and Director Report, August 3 2019, for additional details

a) Trail Maintenance

-trails to be maintained this summer include Mackenzie Lake (Steve L. and Paul N.), Canoe Lake Trail (Ian M., Paul N., Perry M.), Green Lake Trail (Paul B., Bruce M.), Mink Lake Trail (Paul B., Bruce M.), Little Long (Patty M., Bob S.)

b) Forest Harvest Management Plans

- Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc, (MLFI) and Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC) hold the Sustainable Forest Licences (SFL) issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources for Crown Lands, including those on our lakes
- MLFI and BMFC must prepare and operate in accordance with a 10 year Forest Management Plan that is approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources; this document outlines projected harvest and renewal activities
- the current Forest Management Plan will be complete in 2021, and the process has started to write the next plan which will take approximately 3 years; during this time there will be 5 formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Metis consultation
- we are currently in Stage Two of this process, as the long term management plan is being reviewed
- LWCA is monitoring this process with the General Managers of both forestry companies to determine if either of the next 10 year plans will encroach on Lake Weslemkoon, Otter Lake or any of our surrounding 10 lakes
- the General Manager of MLFI is Matt Mertins, and the General Manager of BMFC is Svetlana Zeran

4.9 Junior/Senior Loons Report (Melissa Tervit):

a) Senior Loons/Lake Volunteers:

- open to anyone grade 6 and up
- participants can earn high school volunteer hours and/or reference letters
- opportunity to meet other kids and work on meaningful activities in a small group
- activities for this summer include: painting trail signs and "No Wake" signs, checking geocaches, reshingling Pikes Peak cabin, helping at the AGM, taking Instagram photos, writing blog posts and Loon Call articles
- sign-up sheet is posted on FB page and LWCA site
- looking for donations of leftover roofing supplies for Pikes Peak cabin; please contact Melissa

b) Junior Loons

-Beach Day is tomorrow from 10:30-12:30

4.10 Loon Call Report (Alison Myles):

-printed 278 copies (24 Pages, Full Colour)

-12 Advertisers

-seeking new editor for 2020 edition and someone to support graphic design

-consideration re conservation and the printing/mailing of The Loon Call - potential to make it more environmentally friendly

-requesting suggestions re themes for our 2020 publication

-please contact Alison at looncalleditor@gmail.com with any thoughts or suggestions

5. Past President Report/Grand Loon (Stuart Inglis):

-Ken Senter, Bill Riffle, Laurie Noble-Riffle and Lisa Thompson were initiated into the Order of the Cock Eyed Loons for their contributions to the lake and LWCA

6. LWCA Board of Directors for 2019-20 (Stuart Inglis):

-the above Directors, including Secretary Carol Bell and incoming President Patricia Milne are willing to remain

-Ken Senter is retiring as President

-no nominations from the floor

Motion to elect the Directors as standing.

Motion by Larry Olney (#425), seconded by Karen Charles (#697)

Motion carried.

7. New Business and Closing Remarks:

7.1 Kate Steer (#401):

-thank you to everyone who helped find docks this spring

-still missing a blue kayak, please call 905-407-7505

7.2 Larry Olney (#425):

-thank you to LWCA

-How many cottages are on the lake? (about 400, but only 230 LWCA members)

-he challenges each member to talk to neighbors about the importance of membership

7.3. Ken's Outgoing President Speech:

-his 50th year at Lake Weslemkoon

-passed it to Patty Milne, as incoming President, to provide Closing Remarks

7.4. Patty's Closing Remarks:

-thank you to Four Loons for providing our litterless lunch

7.5. Bruce Magee:

-shared results from the Healthy Waterfront Quiz, with assistance from the Lake Volunteers

-winners include Molly Henderson (#15), Glen Hogg (#790), Pat Steer (#401) and Paul Norris (#920)

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Joyce Mackenzie (#200), seconded by Joanne Klein (#558A) at 11:58 a.m.. Unanimous approval.

Members Comments from AGM

Sandy Churchill would like to volunteer with Jr Loons cell 905.439.7056, home 905.986.5435, johnsandychurchill@gmail.com, cottage 927 NW passage

Gill Lavelle #640 wanted to thank the members of the board for their remembrance of Paul; their family is grateful.

Wayne #635 thinks we should circulate a sign up sheet for those who wish to help out with trail maintenance

Alan Thomas #133 suggests that maybe the kids could help collect the stranded docks and other debris still left from the flooding

Heather #133 Thinks the idea of naming islands is great and wonders if we could also name some of the narrows and channels

Donna Bourne #256 Black Duck Island thinks we should list the names on the website of cottagers who are not members of LWCA and invite them to join for free for their first year.

Donna Babbs #217 We should consider asking property owners to post speed limit signs in addition to marina owner