

LWCA Annual General Meeting

Saturday August 10, 2024

Weslemkoon Marina

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

Regrets: Kelly Beale, Patty Milne, Susie Mitchell, JP Murray, Claire Vandervoort

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

Living Land Acknowledgement (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 2024 AGM! I'm proud to be heading up the LWCA for a couple of years, to see my dad's name on this mallet, to work with 19 directors - a full board, and to be speaking in front of what seems like a record number of attending members. We had 97 registered and I think we're all here. Thank you so much for coming 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 work on the trails, thunder box building, emails and posts on our Facebook page. Your actions and voices are important. Not only your questions but also your advice to us. We are stronger together. We appreciate you.

As you know, this is the 100th year of the cockeyed loons. My dad played a role in reinstating this great tradition after it was dormant for many years. I myself would love to help to reinstate the Junior Loon program. This year we have 3 Junior Loons at the meeting (introduce Tessa, Kyrie, Kennedy) So far they've been greeters, nametag organizers and collectors of quizzes. I believe that it is important to involve our youth in not only outdoor adventuring and learning about conservation and the ecosystem, but also learning the value and feelings of pride that come from volunteerism, no matter the age. I found a box of Junior Loons certificates. Think on this, think about who in your extended family might want to be a Junior Loon, and who in your family might want to help to organize opportunities for Junior Loons to meet. Let's work on this. And next year, let's plan to hand out some Junior Loons certificates - not old for current Junior Loons, but for those who have been junior loons in the past decade, who should be celebrated. You can email me info@weslemkoon.com

Housekeeping

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 Q's. Please start by clearly stating your name and cottage number.

Statement on Quorum

We have 90+ members attending. Therefore we have a quorum.

2.0 Approval of AGM 2023 minutes (Janice Mackenzie)

Motion to accept 2023 Minutes: Carol Howes (#29), seconded by Gillian Stoker-Lavalle (#640)

New Business arising from 2023 Minutes (Stuart Inglis)

Last year Stuart Inglis and Melissa Tervit announced that they were working on reprinting the Lake Book and required 250 orders to be able to complete this. There was a general call to email LWCA if interested in purchasing a Lake Book. There wasn't enough interest to justify reprinting the book. There was interest for approximately 100 copies and the minimum quantity given from the printer was 250 books (minimum printing cost was \$28.5K whether we ordered 100 or 250 books). For 250 books the retail price was \$150 each (printing cost=\$115 per), but for 100 books the cost would be \$285. Given inflation, this cost would likely be more this year.

Stuart asked how many people would be interested in buying a book at the higher price and no one indicated (by show of hands) that they would do so.

3.0 Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2023 Financial Statements (Diane Morden):

Financially, it has been a good year and we are in good shape. The interest rates have been better in the last couple of years. In the preparation of the 2023 financial statements, there was no accrual for the fall marker lift out. This was an error which has been corrected retroactively with restatement. As a result of the correction, the general fund has been reduced by \$1,122, the Catherine Rathbun Environmental Fund has been increased by \$22 and accounts payable has been increased by \$1,100. These revised statements replace the financial statements presented in the 2024 Loon Call. The detailed financial statement for December 2023 is available on the LWCA website

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

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Terry Beetam (#27), seconded by Mike DeFrietas (#277)

4.0 Remembrances (Melissa Tervit)

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of the following people: Neil Hogg, Hugh Westren, Carol Inglis, Joan Inglis, Mike Hardy, Patrick Montgomery, Adriana Montgomery, Bernadette Robinson, Colette Taylor, Agnus Griffith

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.

a) Paul Armstrong (Membership)

Membership numbers as of Aug 2, 2024

Members 194 (2 new)

Friends 13 (2 new)

Total = 207 (compared to 219 on August 2, 2023)

There has been a decrease in membership so please nudge your neighbors. Please email with any corrections. 33 full members and 13 friend memberships unrenewed to date (were members in 2023 and have not renewed for 2024). Paul will follow up with all via email in September before finalizing the cottage checklist.

Questions:

1) Carol Howes (#29): Last year I mailed my cheque but somehow it was missed and I didn't make it into the directory. Is there a way that we can remedy this?

Answer (Paul): Yes, we have discussed this and we will do it moving forward.

b) Janice Mackenzie and Melissa Tervit (Communications)

We continue to communicate to members and friends of lake through various channels, including:

FB

Posts have been made highlighting "What We Do" on the LWCA Facebook and cross posted to the Weslemkoon Lake FB group.

Please send any content that you wish us to share.

Instagram

More followers now (194)

Trying to post more often - if you're on Instagram and come across a post that would be interesting to our members, send it to @lwca_ontario.

Mail Chimp (communiques)

We found out that 47 members were not getting any email since their profiles were "cleaned" - Paul Armstrong had to laboriously reinstate them - we will be keeping an eye on the profiles now, looking for "cleaned" accounts (this happens when email bounces)

Website

Keeping it up to date is a lot of work - please help out by sending us email when you see incorrect / outdated information info@weslemkoon.com

Newsletter

This September will mark 2 years of the Newsletter. Haven't heard a lot of feedback on it, so we will be asking for some in a quick survey in September. Send ideas and requests for content via info@weslemkoon.com

Question:

- 1) Karen Magee (#345): Can you use MailChimp more to communicate, rather than FaceBook?

Answer (Melissa): That's a good idea but unfortunately there's too much information to share effectively via MailChimp. The LWCA website is frequently updated with relevant information, including pop-ups.

c) Alison Myles (Loon Call)

Thank you very much to Pat Bothwell who continues to contribute her talents to the layout and design of the Loon Call. A reminder that our magazine is only as good as the stories and photos that you share for us to print. Our break-out activity in a few minutes will give you the opportunity to share your favourite cottage memories. If you have something to share please reach out through LWCA.

Please make sure that your membership, mailing address and chosen Directory information is up to date and submitted by March 1st in order to receive your Loon Call in the spring.

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d) Janice Mackenzie for Claire Vandervoort (Water Quality)

Data collection has continued on the same schedule in established locations. To date, Claire has seen no anomalies in the data. There will be a full report posted on our website in the fall. If you have any questions for Claire, you can direct them to her via the LWCA's email address, info@weslemkoon.com

e) Melissa Tervit (Invasive Species Committee)

Invasive species are increasingly impacting our environment due to climate change and human activity. These species undermine the resilience of our ecosystems by altering their structure and function, which is especially concerning as our ecosystems already face the challenges of climate change.

Currently, there are several invasive species we need to watch for in our forests: Emerald Ash Borer, Oak Wilt, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Spongy Moth, Spotted Lanternfly, Garlic Mustard, and, as of yesterday, Dodder. In our water bodies, we should be vigilant for Starry Stonewort, Water Soldier, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and, of course, Zebra Mussels. Additionally, EDDMapS has confirmed the presence of Banded Mystery Snails in our lake. Like Zebra Mussels, these snails multiply quickly, potentially clogging water intake pipes, outcompeting native mollusks, and increasing water clarity, which can lead to algae blooms. They are also intermediate hosts for parasitic worms that can kill waterfowl and prey on fish embryos.

For more information on these and other invasive species, please visit our website. To report any sightings, use the EDDMapS website or app. There's also a new Fish Health Tracker Tool available to report aquatic invasives as well as any unusual or abnormal fish.

Prevention remains our most effective strategy. Once invasive species become established, they are extremely difficult to eradicate. Please take precautions to Clean, Drain, and Dry any watercraft, including canoes and kayaks, before moving them between water bodies. The LWCA has a power washer available at Weslemkoon Marina for cleaning boats that are transported overland. Ensure your guests and renters also clean their boats before bringing them to our lakes. Additionally, clean your shoes and pets' feet before coming to the lake from other urban or rural areas, and thoroughly check your car and equipment if you have traveled to regions where invasives are present.

August is Tree Check Month—use this time to familiarize yourself with the trees on your property and assess their health to spot any issues early. Thank you for your vigilance and commitment to protecting our lake.

f) Marty Blake (Water Levels)

In general, the water levels have been good this year. The large volume of rain that we've received has helped keep the levels up. The MNR continues to do a great job of monitoring our water levels and adjusting the dam accordingly. Updated information is available on the website.

g) Steve Latto (Courtesy/Shoal Markers and Custodial Check)

Custodial Visits

There were no problems reported this winter. Some custodial tags were missing and Mike was able to verify that he had been there using his time and date stamped photos of properties. Custodial visits are becoming more difficult to complete due to climate change and unsafe ice conditions. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a custodial visit because of this.

Courtesy Markers

This is a reminder that the markers are not navigational beacons, just shoal markers. LWCA markers are not compliant with Ministry of Transport standards because we do not have contact information on each marker (address and phone number, cost to create plaques with this info is approximately \$100 per marker). Some markers are very old and need to be replaced (near Tanglewood, in passage behind Reid's Island in Squally Bay, near Gibraltar Island in Squally Bay, near Weslemkoon Marina). These will be rebuilt this winter at a cost of approximately \$300 each.

Further investigation needs to be done on the large marker in the south end channel.

At the Directors meeting in July, \$2K was approved for the 2024 budget so that we can become compliant. A portion of this budget will be paid to Mike Watson for his work on these tasks.

Questions:

- 1) Marcia Scrimgeour (#711): There is a deadhead between the boathouses near Weslemkoon Marina that is not clearly marked. Can the marker for this be moved?

Answer (Steve): We will investigate this. You can let us know via email of any other concerns.

- 2) Glenn Thompson (#210): Thanks for all of your work!

h) Paul Bottos (Municipal Affairs)

The Township is in the process of updating their Official Plan Review. The LWCA working group attended and presented their comments at the Addington Highlands Official Plan meeting in March 2023. We continue to work with the Township to ensure that our needs are recognized.

The new cottage numbering and naming of islands by Township are both continuing very slowly. Our most recent communication was with Tanya Rosenblath (Senior Admin Assistant) on July 19, 2024 who stated that she reached out to MNRF who agreed to provide an update soon.

LWCA continues to receive and monitor development proposals.

A member let us know of her concern about light pollution on the lake and its effect on navigation. Currently, our Township doesn't have a By-Law addressing light pollution. The only township that has a "Dark Sky" By-law in Ontario is Muskoka Lakes. It's been in place since 2014 and will be updated this year. We will include some information on light pollution, and some suggestions for ways to light your property without affecting navigation in our September newsletter.

We are still waiting for the Municipality to choose a location for the Emergency site at the south end.

If you would like additional information on municipal matters please feel free to contact the Township or the LWCA. Contact information for our municipal representatives can be found on the LWCA website.

Questions/Comments:

- 1) Jon Keeble (#890): Rogers is continuing the installation of 2 new cell towers near our lakes, and adding their antenna to the existing Bell tower at the south end. They are working with the government to improve cell service in rural areas. Also, the Feds have been bringing coils of fibre optic cable to lake properties to improve internet connection.

i) Elaine Hardy (Trails)

The most popular trails around our lakes are in good shape. Trail work since the last AGM by LWCA members includes High Dam (a big project because it hadn't been cleared for a few years), Canoe Lake, Little Long Lake (cleared and a thunderbox constructed by Ian Sine was installed), Mink Lake. Work is still required to clear the trail to Shiner Lake.

Thunderboxes have now been installed at Mink Lake, Canoe Lake, Green Lake, Little Long Lake as well as on Weslemkoon at Channel Island and Picnic Island.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for clearing trails and building/installing thunderboxes. If you would like to help with trail clearing please talk to Elaine after the meeting or reach out to us via email.

A reminder to everyone 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.

j) Elaine Hardy for JP Murray (Forestry)

Currently (as of August 1, 2024) the Weslemkoon area is considered a moderate to high fire danger risk, according to the Ontario Forest Fire Info Map. The link to this information is provided on the LWCA website.

Update from the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Annual Report (November 2023:

*noted decrease in defoliation from Spongy Moth/LDD this year, as compared to high in 2021

*no new forest pathogens or disease reported on Crown Land, although Beech Bark Disease continues to spread

*no prescribed burning has occurred in the MLF this year, due to both cost and lack of social acceptability

*MNRF does not have a plan for pesticide or herbicide programs for the MLF

Members have shared concerns about potential invasive plants and insects in our area. Please see the LWCA website for links to the Invasive Species Centre and other resources associated with invasive species, including a “report a sighting” link.

k) Alida Stevenson (Indigenous Liaison)

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, LWCA is seeking to improve knowledge, understanding and build meaningful relationships between our members, lake residents and members of the Indigenous communities with connections to Lake Weslemkoon. This is very important in advance of the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) Settlement Agreement with the Crown. Our first step will be to 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. We will also be working 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 be shared with members via a Communiqué in the fall.

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

Thank Director who is leaving

Claire Vandervoort will be stepping down as Director of Water Quality. She has graciously agreed to train the incoming Director in this role. Jared Bell will be taking on this portfolio next year and will be working with Claire through the transition. We thank Claire very much for her expertise and her dedication to the LWCA.

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
- *Paul Bottos – Municipal Affairs
- *Elaine Hardy – Trails
- *JP Murray – Forestry
- *Alida Stevenson – Indigenous Relations
- *Paul Armstrong – Membership
- *Alison Myles – Loon Call
- *Shawna Hiley – Director at Large
- *Alan Thomas – Director at Large
- *Mike Swartz – Director at Large
- *Jason Preston – Director at Large
- *Kelly Beale – Director at Large
- *Patty Milne – Director at Large
- *Susie Mitchell – Director at Large

Motion to approve the future Board: Karen Charles (#697), seconded by Ian Sine (#255)

Nomination and introduction of New Directors:

We currently have 20 Directors and as such we are not seeking nominations for new directors this year.

Call for new volunteers

Maddy McGrath (#200) has volunteered to help with Junior Loons next year.

7.0 New Business (Paul Bottos and Janice Mackenzie)

As a non-profit, the LWCA is required by ONCA (Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act) to update our By-laws. Paul provided a review of our rationale, mandate and process (including dates sent to membership for review and final reading).

The LWCA committee spent countless hours researching and revising our By-laws before sending them to the membership for input. The updated By-laws have been made available on our website and also in hard copy at today's meeting. As a membership, we need to vote to repeal any and all previously existing By-laws number 1, including those dated October 13, 1996 and July 24, 1959, and to pass the new By-law number 1 dated August 10, 2024. We are also required to amend the letters patent dated May 25, 1959 incorporating Lake

Weslemkoon Conservation Association, as amended, by approving the articles of amendment dated August 10, 2024.

Questions/Comments:

- 1) Barry Evans (#926): Can you highlight any significant changes to the By-laws?

Answer (Paul Bottos): We have done this in a Communique to membership. Our original By-laws are from the 1950's. There is no change of purpose from these documents. We have deleted irrelevant points (such as not operating a gaming house, different range of # of Directors). The updates include more clarity in the By-laws so they're less piecemeal, particularly By-law #4. There are no fundamental changes to how LWCA operates.

- 2) Bruce Magee (#345): This has been a Herculean effort from the committee! By-law #4 is awesome and comprehensive.

- 3) Bruce Magee (#345): The quorum for the Board is now set at 2/5. Should we move this to 51% so that there's more representation?

Answer (Paul Bottos): As a Board, we have discussed this and we have concerns about not being able to meet the 51% at times which will make it harder to get business done.

- 4) Karen Charles (#697): I support Bruce's suggestion to change the quorum to 51%.

- 5) Martha Coleman (#390): Regarding By-law 2.07 which states that there is no remuneration for Directors for services provided. Should it state that there is no reimbursement for Directors?

Answer (Paul Bottos with support from Melissa Tervit who cited specific ONCA wording): The recommendation is not to change the wording since it follows the ONCA regulations.

- 6) Martha Coleman (#390): How accessible are the Board meetings (i.e., can they be accessed virtually to allow Directors to attend)?

Answer (Paul Bottos): Our current LWCA By-laws allow for participation using electronic and telephonic means (virtually).

- 7) Terry Beetam (#27): Once passed, is there a process for keeping copies of the records?

Answer (Paul Bottos): By-laws, if passed, will be kept by the LWCA Directors along with all other LWCA records. Both hard copies and electronic copies will be kept.

- 8) Karen Charles (#697): There is a spelling mistake on the third page of the Articles of Amendment, of the word Lennox- Addington.

Answer (Melissa Tervit): Thank you. We'll make that correction

Motions:

- 1) Motion to approve the Articles of Amendment that were passed by the Board on July 16, 2024: Paul Bottos (#381), seconded by Bruce Magee (#345). No objection, unanimous approval, motion passed.
- 2) Motion to amend section 9.04 of proposed By Law #4 by amending the quorum requirements for Board of Directors meetings from 2/5 to 51%: Bruce Magee (#345), seconded by Terry Beetam (#27)
- 3) Motion to approve By-law #4 that was passed by the Board on July 16, 2024: Donna Bourne (#256), seconded by Robert Howes (#29).

No objections.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Jason Preston (#117B), seconded by Elaine Hardy (#218) at 11:03 am.

Unanimous approval.

Community Connections portion of the meeting

Note: The Fire Smart presentation that was scheduled after the formal portion of the AGM was cancelled because Kenneth Cox was deployed to Alberta to help fight fires. There are many good resources available online regarding fire safety preparedness including links on the LWCA website.

Winners of the Fire Quiz warm-up activity were announced by our Junior Loon representatives (Kennedy Swartz, Tessa Murray, Kyrie Sine). Each of the four winners received a fire blanket.

Break-out Activity: members were divided into 4 groups to discuss their favourite way to enjoy a fire at the lake and also to share memories from the lake that would be good to include in the upcoming Loon Call.

Cockeyed Loon Ceremony (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.

This year's inductees:

1. Melissa Tervit
2. Larry Olney (unable to attend, certificate picked up by friend Larry Shannon)
3. Ian Sine

Fire pump demonstration by Marty Blake.

Community Lunch