

# OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 22, 2017

### INTRODUCTION

Upon confirming that a quorum of Members was present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Kerry Mueller, at 9:00 a.m.

Introductory comments were made by the Chairperson and welcomed Members and guests to the Annual General Meeting and introduced the guest speakers.

### PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the May 22, 2016 Annual General Meeting were presented to the Members. Moved by Brad Chittick and seconded by Marilyn Campbell that the minutes be approved as presented. Passed by the Members.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Daryle Moffatt reported that the number of Families Represented in 2016 was 189 and the Additional Family Members totaled 204 for a total of 393 Members.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Daryle Moffatt presented the financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016. The cash on hand on January 1, 2016 was \$5,537.73. The income for the year was \$9,660.69 and included, among other income items, membership dues for 2016 in the amount of \$6,585.00 and barbecue sales in the amount of \$1,925.00. The total expenses for the year were \$9,079.11 with the largest expenditures consisting of:

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|---|------------|
| • insurance                               | \$1,966.68 |
| • mailings for spring newsletter/renewals | \$2,897.79 |
| • barbecue expense                        | \$2,294.20 |

The Operating Fund Balance as of December 31, 2016 was \$6,119.31.

The contributions to the Reserve Fund for 2016 were \$1,015.00 leaving a Reserve Fund Balance as at December 31, 2016 of \$35,952.48. The contributions to the Environmental Fund for 2016 were \$970.00 leaving an Environmental Fund balance as at December 31, 2016 of \$15,513.18.

The OLRA Final Balance, being Operating Fund minus Reserve Fund minus Environmental Fund, was \$57,584.97. As a result of some adjustments such as additional membership renewals, the Adjusted OLRA Final Balance was \$57,839.97.

Moved and Seconded that the Financial Statements be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

## **CHANGE OF CORPORATE OBJECTS OF OLRA**

Kerry Mueller reviewed with the Members the Survey results from the 2016 Membership survey undertaken by OLRA. The survey indicated that the top priorities of the Members were as follows:

- lake water quality;
- ecology of Otter Lake and the ways to protect and sustain it;
- the maintenance of property values; and
- boating and swimming safety.

Following a discussion by the Members concerning the objectives and the proposed updated objectives as set out in the Spring Newsletter of OLRA, a motion was made by AJ Mueller and seconded by Jane Whitman that the Letters Patent of Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association be amended by deleting the current objects as set out in the existing Letters Patent and such objects be replaced by the following:

1. to promote and preserve water quality and water levels through monitoring and by taking appropriate actions to maintain the ecological integrity of the Otter Lake watershed;
2. to inform and educate Otter Lake residents, and where possible, their guests and transient users of the Lake, about the ecology of the area and ways to protect and sustain it;
3. to advocate on behalf of Otter Lake residents and inform them of issues that concern them. The Corporation shall do this by working with the relevant levels of government and non-government agencies wherever possible to voice the concerns of Otter Lake residents on issues affecting them and the Lake environment; and
4. promote a friendly, social and considerate Otter Lake community.

The above motion was unanimously passed by all Members in attendance.

## **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT**

Kerry Mueller shared the following information with the Members:

- mailing the newsletter to the Members is the largest single expense of OLRA. In an effort to reduce this expenditure, it has been decided that the newsletter will be emailed to all Members who have provided their email addresses to OLRA. Printed copies of the newsletter will still be available to those Members who do not have email addresses or who otherwise indicate they wish printed copies to be provided to them. Members were requested to provide their email addresses to the Board;
- effort will be made to provide current notices on the OLRA website of activities within the Otter Lake area which may be of interest to Otter Lake residents.

## **LAKE STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Brian Nelson advised the Members that there are 157 km of shoreline on Otter Lake and, in comparison to other rate payer associations, OLRA is not conducting significant testing with respect to water quality. In the fall of 2016, an algae toxin was detected in Otter Lake but it was an isolated and short lived problem. However, in order to monitor the health of Otter Lake, it was determined that a specialist was needed to give direction to the OLRA as to the type of testing and frequency necessary to establish a baseline against which water quality can be assessed in the future. To assist the Members in understanding the many issues affecting water quality

testing, Bev Clark and David Bywater were asked to address the Members on both water and other environmental issues.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKERS**

Brian Nelson introduced the two guest speakers to the Members. The first speaker, David Bywater, is an Environmental Specialist with Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve. The second speaker, Bev Clark, is an Aquatic Science Consultant and has expertise in advising on all issues with respect to water quality.

In his presentation, David Bywater advised that algae is changing because of climate change. He advised that a publication entitled “A Stewardship Guide for Eastern Georgian Bay” provides direction on how individuals can conduct a self-assessment as to their own environmental actions. He recommended to the Members a binder entitled “Life on the Bay” which contains 10 chapters on environmental stewardship and gives direction to cottage/home owners as to what they can do to improve environmental stewardship. He discussed the importance of maintaining appropriate natural features along shorelines; remediating leaking household plumbing (the biggest cause for septic tank failures); inappropriate use of fertilizers which cause excessive phosphorus levels in lakes and streams; the importance of pumping out septic tanks every 5 to 8 years; utilization of composting toilets; appropriate gardening and landscaping for cottage country; the use of native plants which can tolerate the variable conditions found in cottage areas and the need to avoid using periwinkle as plant material.

He also commented on the devastating effect that cats are having on the local bird population, the loss of local beech trees because of Beech Bark Disease and the greater frequency of bear contact with humans within cottage country.

In his presentation, Bev Clark explained the testing he will undertake on behalf of OLRA to establish a baseline as to the lake water quality. He advised that there has been frequent testing for phosphorus and, from that standpoint, the water quality in both Little Otter Lake and Otter Lake is good. Phosphorus readings indicate low levels but he advised that such testing has been done in the deepest parts of Otter Lake. The problem with deep locations is that they fail to reflect the condition of the back bays of the lakes. In the past 15 years, there have been only slight increases in the levels of phosphorus in Otter Lake. There is no information with respect to such levels for the years prior to such testing.

He advised that there is not a lot of water flow into Otter Lake and as a result there may not be a lot of water to “flush” the lake. For this reason, it may be necessary to do some testing in the back bays. He made the following recommendations:

- continue the Lake Partner phosphorus testing in the deep holes;
- find a Lake Partner for Little Otter Lake;
- explore spatial and temporal variation for embayment and prepare for testing next year;
- look at existing data to get oxygen data and general water quality data about the lakes; and
- establish a long-term monitoring program.

If there is a problem, it will be necessary to educate people on “best management practices”.

The Directors and Members were advised as to the cost for doing monthly monitoring and testing for May to October inclusive. This would include taking two samples from six sites located on the lakes, all necessary lab tests with respect to the samples, travelling costs from Bracebridge (including use of Bev Clark's boat, motor and test equipment) and reporting to the Directors. The total cost would be \$4,146.00 plus applicable HST. The Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the water testing proposal for 2017 for Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake presented by Bev Clark at a cost of \$4,146.00 plus applicable HST be approved."

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by the Board of Directors this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of May 2017.

The following motion was then presented to the Members for their consideration with respect to water testing for 2018. The following motion was passed by the Members:

"Based on Bev Clark's water testing analysis and report to be provided to the Board of Directors in the fall of 2017, the OLRA Board of Directors is hereby authorized by the Members to decide on the next steps for Otter Lake/Little Otter Lake water testing in 2018 without requiring the approval of the Members provided such testing shall not exceed \$2,500."

### **PHOTO COMPETITION**

Kerry advised the Members that the rules for the Photo Contest are set out on page 13 of the Spring Newsletter. All entries must be in by July 30th. The winners will be determined by popular vote of the Members in attendance at the Annual barbecue on August 12, 2017 at Grand Tappattoo Resort.

### **WATER LEVELS**

Tony Buszynski, by way of an email that was read by Kerry Mueller to the Members, advised that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is trying to keep the lake variance at 9 inches. This variance was exceeded in both March and May but for short periods only. He advised that the ministry has done a better job this past year than had been the case in 2015/2016.

### **BARBECUE**

The barbecue will be held at Grand Tappattoo Resort on Saturday, August 12, 2017. Tickets purchased that qualify for the early discount will be \$10 per Member. Tickets purchased after July 31, 2017 will be \$15 per Member. The menu will include chicken and pork tenderloin. There will be live entertainment and various artists on Otter Lake will be invited to display and sell their artwork. Depending on weather, there will be lawn games that can be played.

### **OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES**

1. On December 22, 2016, the Ontario Municipal Board upheld Seguin's Official Plan and the carrying capacity for both Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake.
2. The Clean Safe Property Bylaw that had been supported by OLRA was not passed by Seguin Council by a vote of four opposed and three in favour. The Council intends to

start an education program to address the issues that gave rise to the apparent need for the bylaw.

3. In 2016, no loon chicks survived the summer on Otter Lake. A loon chick did survive on Little Otter Lake. The new nesting platform that was put on Otter Lake was probably placed on the lake too late in the spring for this year's nesting.

### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The terms of Brian Nelson and Daryle Moffatt expire at the end of the Annual General Meeting. Both individuals have consented to stand for re-election. It was unanimously passed by the Members that these individuals be re-elected to the Board. The Members also elected Brad Chittick and Martin Chepesiuk to serve as directors.

### **TOWNSHIP UPDATE**

Dale Graves, Councillor for Ward 1 attended the meeting, with regrets from Mayor Bruce Gibbon. He advised that Clear Lake Road to Sandy Lake Road would be resurfaced, the Township would be carrying on septic bed re-inspections during the summer and the free dump weekends would be July 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mario Buszynski, Councillor for Ward 2, then addressed the meeting and commented on numerous matters including:

- there had been an error in an article published in the North Star newspaper. He wanted to confirm that the reserve fund for the Township was strong. The aim of Council is to keep taxes as low as possible;
- Otter Lake Road will receive a slurry seal road treatment later this year;
- road construction on Salmon Lake Road has been deferred for one year. This has been impacted by the 14-lot subdivision on Clear Lake Road;
- tower visibility and the transmission line right of way with respect to the Henvey Inlet Wind Farm transmission lines has been an issue of concern, particularly for residents on Little Otter Lake. Council is working with the company to set the tie-in lines to the main transmission lines as far from Little Otter Lake as possible;
- the Clean Safe Property Bylaw was not passed by Council. Efforts need to be made to determine how council can deal with six properties that are of concern with respect to cleanliness and safety;
- Council is trying to stimulate jobs within the Township and in this regards he referenced the expansion of Crofter's Organic at Brooks Road and Oastler Park Drive.

### **NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT**

There was no additional business. Kerry Mueller thanked the Members for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned.