

OTTER LAKE RATE PAYER'S ASSOCIATION (OLRA)

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

February 20, 2016

Location: Home of Art Coles.

Present: Todd Backman, Tony Buszynski (by conference call), Sonja Ciglar, Art Coles, Sharon Link, Daryle Moffatt, Kerry Mueller, and Brian Nelson

Absent: Dave Amy

Meeting was brought to order by Art Coles, President of OLRA

The minutes of the fall meeting held at the home of Art on October 3, 2015 will be reviewed and approved at the May 2016 Board meeting.

Financial Report:

Daryle Moffatt reported that at December 31, 2015 OLRA had cash totaling \$54,923.39 made up of:

- Cash on Hand \$ 5,452.73
- Reserve Fund \$34,927.48 (\$730 contributed in 2015)
- Environment Fund \$14,543.18 (\$800 contributed in 2015)

Daryle reported that the money held in the bank was as follows:

- TD Bank Account \$10,455.33
- 100 day GIC \$44,468.06
- **Total** **\$54,923.39**

After investigating other banking options such as Tangerine and BMO, Daryle recommended moving the OLRA's Reserve and Environment funds from the TD Canada Trust (in Parry Sound) to TD Bank Direct Investing. Daryle sent all board members a resolution to sign, drawn up in early 2016 by Dave Amy, permitting the movement of the funds and opening of a brokerage account (see attached resolution) with TD Direct Investing. The goals of the movement of the funds are to have better investment options and greater convenience of banking activities through on-line access.

Daryle explained that currently the two systems (OLRA website and Quicken) are in place to track OLRA finances, which Daryle has continued to use since becoming Treasurer. To some extent the two systems provide a double check or back-up for each other but in Daryle's opinion as an accountant, neither produces a great audit trail on which we would have to rely if we were to be audited.

As well, Daryle has determined that using the two systems has produced some inconsistencies over time with regards to the cash in the Operating fund and the respective GICs at TD Canada Trust vs what is noted in the Statement of Income & Expense produced by the OLRA website. Daryle recommends that in order to balance the Reserve and Environment funds to the amounts noted in the Statement of Income & Expenses (i.e. OLRA website financial information), money would need to be re-distributed, i.e. an accounting entry, from the cash in the Operating fund to the Reserve and Environment Funds. The movement of this cash from the Operating fund will be based on the reported balances in these two reserve accounts at the fiscal year-end, i.e. December 31st. The movement during the year in the Reserve and Environment fund is based on the money received during that year from the members which was designated for the Reserve and Environment funds. This adjustment would occur around December 31st of each year. Currently, OLRA's cash is all accounted for but it is split and reported in different amounts as compared to the OLRA website financial information. Daryle will re-distribute the total cash

and split it based on the December 31, 2015 balances reported in the OLRA website financial information once the TD Direct Investing brokerage account is open (likely March 2016), such that the Reserve and Environment funds will agree and be reconciled to the underlying GICs.

Art suggested that Daryle will continue to use the website and Quicken during 2016 as before but will also investigate other accounting package options so he can report back to the Board of Directors in the fall as to what options we have. Daryle noted that any changes in OLRA's accounting system would start on January 1, 2017. The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to this.

Membership Report:

Brian Nelson reported that in 2015 OLRA had 183 member families representing a total of 350 members; 46 members fewer than in 2014. Three new members were gained from the 2015 OLRA BBQ at Grand Tappattoo Resort.

Brian found that some people need reminding to renew their memberships. For such folks a personal call helps a lot. Others who were new to Otter Lake were often unaware that OLRA exists and the benefits in supporting OLRA.

Still others mistakenly have thought they were automatically members because they have traditionally received OLRA's spring newsletter mailed to them. To remove such confusion, as of this spring, only the first and last page of the newsletter will be mailed to non-members with a friendly reminder to renew their membership and to receive the full newsletter on-line.

It was noted that OLRA total members have been falling over the last few years from its high in 2006 when there were significant issues that could impact Otter Lake that resulted in an increase in membership.

Todd Backman suggested that possibly everyone owning property on Otter Lake could be considered an OLRA member by default with perhaps the membership fee being charged through Seguin Township's property tax charges.

Art moved that a committee be formed to examine the options. Committee volunteers are:

- Art Coles
- Todd Backman
- Daryle Moffatt
- Kerry Mueller

The establishment of this committee was unanimously agreed to by the Board of Directors.

Brian announced that due to time constraints he would move to the lake stewardship role in 2016. Art will take over the Membership Director role from Brian in 2016.

Water Quality Testing

Brian described the water quality testing and noted that only one spot on Otter Lake has been traditionally tested for water clarity (secchi testing) and temperature; none on Little Otter. Brian suggested that we investigate doing more extensive water quality testing in more locations and possibly for more indicators such as Giardia (beaver fever) and e-coli. Some lake associations near us, including the Muskoka Lake Association, do more extensive testing. As well, Seguin Township has a separate water testing program.

Tony said that dependent upon where the samples testing for e-coli are taken results can differ. If there is a concern the best place to sample may be from your kitchen tap or swimming area.

Daryle noted that Seguin Township, under the supervision of Dominique O'Brien, is mandated with the water issues by the Township. At a recent Seguin Township council meeting, Dominique was asked to coordinate Seguin Township's water quality testing with the local lake associations. Brian will do more investigation including speaking to Dominique to try to find the most useful and cost effective way to potentially expand water testing on Otter and Little Otter.

2015 Otter Lake Water Testing Data for Temp and Clarity (obtained from Brian post meeting):

Lake Partner Secchi Data
North End-Otter Lake
Station 4193- Site ID: 1
Site Depth: 40 (m)

First and Last Sample: (of total 6 samples over the summer)

July 02/2015 Time : 2:45 PM
Secchi Depth- with Clarity: 4.0 (m)
Temp: 22.5 Deg C

Sept 03/2015 Time: 10:45 AM
Secchi Depth-with Clarity: 5.2 (m)
Temp: 25.0 Deg C

Newsletters:

The fall newsletter was largely emailed keeping OLRA's mailing costs low. Kerry Mueller called the 14 or so email bounce backs and was able to get current email addresses for most of those members.

For the spring newsletter Kerry will mail just the first and last pages of the newsletter to non-members with a friendly reminder to please join OLRA (or renew their membership if they had not been members for a number of years). Members will be emailed the full newsletter and will also be able to access the newsletter on the OLRA website as before. Those who have specifically requested a mailed version will still get one. Art volunteered to update OLRA's 3 year old mailing list from Seguin Township's records with Sonja Cigler's help to make any mailing efforts as effective as possible.

Photo Competition:

In 2016 Sharon Link stated that there will only be one "Child" category as was announced in the fall newsletter. The rest of the contest categories will stay the same.

2016 BBQ:

Daryle confirmed the deposit of \$500 was given to Grand Tappattoo Resort in order to hold the August 13, 2016 date for the OLRA BBQ.

Brian will confirm the following:

- time (5-8pm?),
- menu (chicken and/or ribs),
- costs, and
- a tent being set up outside for our use.

OLRA would like to sell tickets in advance at the May Annual General Meeting ("AGM") so ticket pricing would be needed for the spring newsletter. Members will pay less than non-members and alcohol will be available at a cash bar.

Annual General Meeting:

To be held Sunday May 22, 2016 at the Foley Community Centre between 10am-12 noon. This will be announced in the spring newsletter. A speaker has yet to be arranged.

Ontario Municipal Board hearings to be held at the Seguin Township Offices:

March 1, 2016 at 10am the Ontario Municipal Board hearing regarding the proposed chain link fence between the Otter Lake Marina property and the neighboring property will be heard. OLRA has written a letter with recommendations on solving the impasse. Art will attend on behalf of OLRA.

On July 13, 2016 at 10am the Ontario Municipal Board hearing regarding the proposed land severance on Oastler Lake will be heard. OLRA has written a letter opposing the severance.

Lake Trout in Otter Lake:

Kerry contacted Stephen Scholten, Management Biologist at the Ministry of National Resources & Forestry (MNR&F) in Bracebridge to check on Otter Lake's lake trout status. Stephen forwarded 4 reports:

- 1971 fact sheets on Otter and Little Otter Lake (soon to be updated according to Stephen),
- Results of a Summer Profundal Index Netting (SPIN) Survey (2013), and
- Spring Littoral Index Netting Report for Otter Lake (1999).

The 2013 survey showed Otter Lake to have a moderate to low Lake Trout population. Half the population is from naturally spawned fish and half from stocked fish. Lake Trout stocking for Otter Lake was discontinued in 1998. The main contaminate in Otter Lake lake trout is from naturally occurring mercury in the water.

Below is an excerpt from the SPIN Survey (2013)

"Otter Lake is currently classified for management of a natural lake trout population. Based on this assessment, this designation should remain. Natural reproduction is occurring and there is some indication that the population is growing as stocked fish decline in abundance. The current management approach should be continued until stocked fish are essentially gone from the population and the natural population has reached its full potential."

Ice fishing for lake trout is banned by the MNR&F on Otter Lake due to the low lake trout population levels. OLRA will remind property owners about this fact in the spring newsletter and mention it at the AGM to help educate OLRA's members and protect the lake trout population.

Mission Statement and Purpose of OLRA:

A committee (as noted above) will consist of Todd Bachman, Tony Buszynski, Daryle Moffatt and Kerry Mueller to review OLRA's mission statement, purpose and name of OLRA as stated in the constitution. The committee will ask for input from OLRA members in the newsletter and at the AGM in May. The goal of the committee will be to report back to the Board of Directors with recommendations at its fall meeting.

Advertising Process:

Art reported that the two advertisers from the fall newsletter will continue advertising in the spring newsletter. Art will be approaching more local businesses. Daryle will send the invoices to those who sign up.

Website Updates:

Daryle suggested that the Board of Director's biographies be published on OLRA's website.

Kerry suggested a live webcam feed to allow people to view Otter Lake on OLRA's website. Art mentioned that Salmon Lake has a webcam, which a member hosts. Kerry will talk to Mike about what it would take to set up such new features and report back.

OLRA Membership Card:

The value of an OLRA membership card will be left to the mission statement and purpose committee to include in their discussions.

Uploading Minutes to the OLRA Website:

Cathy Morrison, the prior Treasurer, reminded Daryle to raise the fact that the minutes need to be uploaded to the website in pdf format. We will do this.

With no new business the meeting was adjourned.

Thanks go to Art for hosting on short notice due to bad weather and also to Sharon who brought the nibbles on a toboggan while getting a ride on Daryle's snowmobile.