

**OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MAY 20, 2018**

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.

BY-LAWS

Regrets were received from Patrick Shoebottom, Seguin Fire Prevention Officer/By-Law Enforcement Officer. Kerry made a short presentation to the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Members on the telephone numbers, depending on the time of day, to contact Seguin Township (Seguin) with respect to by-law questions or infractions. There are By-law Officers on call on weekends and after office hours by calling 705-751-0050. This information will be posted on the OLRA website.

TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Dale Graves, Councillor for Ward 1 noted regrets from Mayor Bruce Gibbon. Dale advised the OLRA Members on numerous matters, including:

1. various road resurfacing work within Seguin and specifically Ward 1;
2. septic re-inspection and lake quality testing that was ongoing in Ward 1; and
3. the Humphrey transfer station would be getting the transtor bins installed and that engineering work on the Ferris Road hill would be completed, which were both included in the 2018 Seguin budget.

Dale noted that he voted for a municipal tax increase because of a reduction in both federal and provincial funding and to ensure that Seguin does not have to borrow to support its activities. Lastly, Dale noted that he was running again in Ward 1.

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

- the retaining wall work around the Otter Lake Marina but noted that this work would not be completed during summer 2018;
- various road resurfacing work within Ward 2 (Salmon Lake Road); and
- an update on the financial matters associated with the Henvey Inlet project, including the financial agreements that Seguin would be receiving \$50,000 from the sale of the land off Garden Court to build the stepdown station and an annual \$50,000 payment for 20 years.

Mario noted that he would like to see this money allocated to the Humphrey arena to offset any future capital expenditures associated with work needed on the arena. Mario also noted that he

is working to try and improve the roads within Seguin as part of his campaign to be Seguin Mayor.

As noted regrets were received from Bruce so Kerry read Bruce's comments about the 2018 Seguin budget, provincial changes impacting Seguin's total mill rate, and the net effect to Seguin's mill rate, an overall increase of 0.52% but each property owner's situation will be different due to their MPAC property assessment. The Seguin budget was approved by Council on April 3, 2018.

APPROVAL OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The May 22, 2017 minutes were provided to the Members in advance of the 2018 Annual General Meeting. There being no further discussion on these minutes, it was moved by Brad Chittick and seconded by Jane Whitman that the minutes be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Prior to the presentation of the treasurer's report, Kerry noted the changes to the OLRA website with respect to the removal of the log-in feature that existed prior to the 2017 OLRA website being redone and launched in January 2018. With the removal of the log-in feature, the Board of Directors agreed that it would remove the financial information from the public view. Financial statements were available (paper or email) to any member who requested a copy.

It was noted by Daryle Moffatt that the December 31, 2017 financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors prior to the Annual General Meeting.

The December 31, 2017 financial statements were presented by Daryle. The cash on hand on January 1, 2017 was \$8,359.31. The loss for the year was \$1,209.06. Membership dues for 2017 were \$6,055.00, advertising sales were \$1,675.00 and barbecue ticket sales were \$1,585.00. The total expenses for the year were \$13,372.68 with the largest expenditures consisting of:

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| • Water testing | \$4,500.00. |
| • Barbecue expense | \$2,231.80. |
| • Insurance | \$2,006.64. |
| • Website (and related costs) | \$1,601.04. |

The Operating Fund Balance at December 31, 2017 was \$10,857.30.

The contributions to the Reserve Fund for 2017 were \$545.00 and interest earned of guaranteed investment certificates, it leaves a Reserve Fund Balance at December 31, 2017 of \$36,685.48. The contributions to the Environmental Fund for 2017 were \$1,040.00 and after deducting the water testing costs and loon bed platforms costs, it leaves the Environmental Fund balance at December 31, 2017 of \$10,513.18.

The OLRA Final Balance at December 31, 2017, being Operating Fund plus Reserve Fund plus Environmental Fund, was \$58,055.96. It was noted that the reserve and environment funds were invested in bank guaranteed investment certificates.

There being no further discussions on the December 31, 2017 financial statements, it was moved by Sharon Link and seconded by John Elton that the financial statement be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Daryle reported that the number of Families Represented in 2017 was 169 and the Additional Family Members were 199 for a total of 368 Members. Daryle also noted that the first Members were lower as compared to prior years but second, third, etc. Members were up generally because of Members adding their child and/or grand children.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Kerry went through the new OLRA website noting some of its features, benefits and links to such as the water levels, weather, Seguin Township, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and Safe Quiet Lakes. Kerry also noted that OLRA has a Facebook page.

LAKE PLAN

Kerry introduced the idea of creating a Lake Plan, some of the benefits and noted that this would be community effort that would require Members and non-members input if it was decided to move forward with the creation of a Lake Plan. A Lake Plan would be a long-term project that would build on and consolidate the recent work completed by OLRA, i.e. member survey of OLRA goals, 2017/2018 water testing and the survey on short-term cottage rentals. It was noted that there is no lake within Seguin that has created a Lake Plan yet. Seguin Township is in favour of Otter Lake having a Lake Plan and would distribute copies of it to prospective new buyers on the lake and those property owners who come in for building permits. Kerry referenced other Lake Plans, i.e. Crane Lake's and information obtained from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA).

Kerry introduced Mario in his capacity as an environmental planner to speak about what Seguin has in place with respect to items that connect to a Lake Plan, including the Living Sustainably in Seguin publication and the recent Waterfront Design Guidelines. Mario noted various possible goals, i.e. benchmarking the lake in 2018/2019, history of the lake, etc. and benefits, i.e. guiding good stewardship behaviour and sustainable development by residents (current and new), etc. that could go into a Lake Plan.

After the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions, including next steps, financial implications. It was noted that a steering committee would need to be created and that an outside consultant may be hired to assist in the kick-off, mid-point of the plan and near the end. There being no further discussions, Brad brought forward a motion to appoint a steering committee to investigate developing a "Lake Plan" for the Otter Lakes (Otter and Little Otter) and to bring a recommended proposal, with estimated costs, to the membership at the 2019 Annual General Meeting. It was moved by Art Coles and seconded by Mary Ellen Richardson that the motion be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

WATER LEVEL AND SMART BOATING BROCHURE

Martin Chepesiuk spoke about the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR&F) website that monitors the dam/water levels on Otter Lake, which is located near Come by Chance Road in Little Otter Lake where it flows into the Boyne River and then Oastler Lake. The link to this website can be found on OLRA's website. Martin explained the process for the inserting and removal of the log into the dam to control the water level and the level of detail that is gathered/monitored by the MNR&F. A discussion ensued on water levels and Martin noted that there is no "one-sized" fits all water level.

Martin also spoke about the smart boating brochure that he has installed at the Otter Lake Marina and the narrows' boat launches to educate boaters about speed, wakes and the related impacts. A discussion ensued on excess speeds in certain areas on the lake, about installing speed limits and reminding boaters of the "rules of the lake". It was noted that OLRA is a member of Safe Quiet Lakes (SQL) and it is starting a program called "slow down, bow down" and information is available to Members on this program.

LAKE STEWARDSHIP REPORT AND OLRA WATER TESTING PROGRAM

Brad provided an introduction of OLRA's stewardship program and introduced Bev Clark, Aquatic Science Consultant. Bev went through the highlights of the OLRA 2017 water testing program, particularly for the 6 embayments of Otter Lake which he tested in 2017 in addition to the deep spot on Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake. Bev noted that the water quality of the Otter Lakes is good and within the provincial standards.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and it was noted that Bev's full report was available on the OLRA website.

Brad explained the 2018 water testing program, which would be a continuation of the stepped up 2017 program including testing in both Big and Little Otter Lakes and continued participation in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change's Lake Partner Program. Brad is working with Bev to find a laboratory that could complete reasonably priced, accurate testing of phosphorus levels given that OLRA would like to expand its water testing beyond the samples completed through the Lake Partner Plan. Brad has partnered with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve to measure lake oxygen levels during the September 2018 water testing. It is estimated that the additional embayment and O2 testing could cost between \$750 and \$1,100.

LOON REPORT

Kerry noted that the loons are back in Little Otter Lake and some have been seen near the new platform that was installed in Big Otter in 2017 as well as Loons have been seen in center Otter Lake. There are now three loon nesting platforms as well as the natural shore nesting spots for the loons to choose from. Hopefully we will have multiple Loon chicks hatching in June and July. It was noted that folks should be respectful of the loons on the lake and give them a lot of space to nest and raise their young.

2018 KABOB-OLICIOUS BARBECUE

The barbecue will be held at Grand Tappattoo Resort (Tappattoo) on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Member tickets purchased before July 29, 2018 are available for a discounted price of \$15.00

each. Tickets purchased after July 29, 2018 and by non-members are \$20.00 each. The July 29th cut-off allows OLRA to confirm numbers to Tappattoo for its food ordering purposes. Tickets can be purchased from either Brad or Daryle. Daryle noted that the barbecue always runs at a loss because of HST and some subsidization of the meal cost not covered by the ticket prices.

Brad went through the menu and the fact that ticket prices have gone up in 2018 due to the increase in the Ontario minimum wage and the fact that OLRA would be paying a tip to Tappattoo staff for their time and efforts on and at the barbecue. The local artists from Otter Lake will be invited to display and sell their artwork. Depending on weather, there will be lawn games that can be played. Martin has been charged with creating an ice breaker game(s) to get attendees talking to folks from all around the lake.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Sharon Link spoke about the Photo Competition which will culminate at the 2018 barbecue, including the rules are set out on page 6 of the Spring Newsletter. All entries must be in by July 31st and sent to Sharon. The winners will be determined by popular vote of the Members in attendance at the barbecue on August 11, 2018 at Tappattoo.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES

1. Kerry went through the recent short-term rental survey and possible next steps at Seguin with respect to this matter. It is expected that more information will become available at Seguin Council in June.
2. In addition to the information presented by Mario regarding the Henvey Inlet project, Daryle noted that he has reached out to Jody Law from Pattern Energy to get an update on the project and has spoken to and asked Hydro One Networks Inc. (HONI) to consider installing fake trees in front of the existing transmission towers behind the Foley Matheson Park. HONI noted that it was only involved in this aspect of the project because of the stepdown station being in Seguin and therefore, Daryle has also asked Henvey Inlet, i.e. Jody whether it would consider installing fake trees in front of the HONI transmission towers to improve the visual pollution that currently exists.
3. Kerry went through the two 2017 Seguin Lake Associations meetings that occurred.
4. Kerry also spoke about the ongoing invasive phragmites eradication efforts that exists in Seguin. It was noted that there is now a designated disposal site in the sand pit behind the Christie Landfill Site, Orrville where Seguin staff can safely burn it in the fall. Information was available for Members to assist in trying to control this invasive plant.
5. Kerry mentioned that there are now drop off bins for cans and glass bottles to benefit Belvedere Heights at Brooks Transfer Station.
6. Daryle discussed the fact that SQL had already been mentioned so nothing further was presented.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The terms of David Amy, who was unable to attend due a family emergency, Martin Chepesiuk and Brad Chittick expire at the end of the Annual General Meeting. All three individuals have consented to stand for re-election. Gerry McDole was presented as a new Director to the Board. Gerry provided information on his work and personal history and connection to Otter Lake and reasons for wanting to join the Board.

Moved by Daryle and seconded by Marilyn Campbell that these four Members be elected to the Board for a 3-year term be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

NEW BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

Sonja Cigler said a few words regarding the fact that the Otter Lake Marina was up for sale, but it could take anywhere from 3 to 5 years to sell and that Joe and she would continue to be around to service its customers as they have done in the past.

Cathy Ballantyne completed the draws for the Festival of the Sound prizes that were available to OLRA Members.

There was no further business. Kerry thanked the Members for attending the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am