

OTTER LAKE RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION ("OLRA")

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 19, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Because of Covid – 19, the annual meeting was a virtual meeting. It was noted that 69% of those in attendance at the AGM logged onto the meeting from their cottages, 4% logged on from locations within Seguin Township other than their cottages and 27% logged on from other locations.

Upon confirming that a quorum of members was present, the meeting was called to order by the chairperson, Kerry Mueller, at 9 AM.

The Chairperson made introductory comments and introduced the following guests:

- Ann MacDiarmid, Mayor of Seguin Township
- Daryle Moffatt, Ward 1 Councillor
- Art Coles, Ward 2 Councillor
- Ben John, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

The Board Members were then introduced to the membership.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

The minutes from the May 19, 2019 Annual General Meeting as posted on the OLRA website were approved by the members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

AJ Mueller, the Treasurer, then presented the 2019 Financial Statements. He highlighted the following information:

- the total membership fees for the year were \$6345
- the donations to the reserve fund for the year were \$778 leaving a year-end balance of \$38,479.95

- the donations to the environment fund were \$1227 leaving a year-end balance of \$12,780.18

(It was noted that the above amounts received were similar to those received in the previous year.)

- The newsletter advertising revenue in 2019 was \$1600 compared to \$1350 in 2018
- the benthos monitoring program cost was \$2750
- insurance for the year was \$2018.52
- barbecue expenses were \$1825.43 with ticket sales being \$1605. This left a net barbecue expense of \$220.43
- the Association membership for FOCA was \$741
- the costs for the newsletter were \$417.38
- the cost for the photo contest for \$254.19
- donations of \$200 were made to each of Safe Quiet Lakes and Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary
- the net income for 2019 was \$3182.17
- the balance as of December 31, 2019 in the Operating Account with TD Bank was \$45,989.20. In addition, there was \$18,000 in the TD Direct Investing account.

It was also noted that the membership in 2019 was 409 consisting of 172 families and 237 additional family members.

It was moved and seconded that the Financial Statements be approved by the Members as presented. Passed by the Members.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT/LAKE WATER TESTING

Brad Chittick gave a slide presentation which addressed the following:

1. 2019 Lake Partnership Program results - Brad advised that the test results for phosphorus levels in the lake indicated there was no reason for concern. He indicated that in the fall there is typically an upward trend in such levels and this was evidenced in the tests for both 2018 and 2019. This year's Secchi

Visibility tests, which checks water clarity, indicated that over the past three years the annual test results have not changed year-over-year. He advised that the water clarity in Little Otter Lake is slightly darker than that of Otter Lake.

2. OLRA Dissolved Oxygen test results - Brad advised the dissolved oxygen level test results for the lakes for years 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been consistently good and there are no concerns.
3. 2019 Benthos Observation report highlights - Brad explained what benthos testing is and why testing the “bugs in the mud” is a good indicator as to the health of the lake. Brad indicated there are two test sites on Big Otter Lake and one site on Little Otter Lake. Sampling was conducted over 3 days in July. He explained that at least three years of sampling is required in order to accurately characterize the benthic community trends on a year-over-year basis. Such testing will be continued for the next number of years. Please see comments below as to cost sharing with the Township.
4. 2020 LLP program suspension - the Lake Partnership Program with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks was suspended for 2020 due to the Covid – 19 pandemic.
5. OLRA Water Quality testing for 2020 - Brad informed the members that OLRA will continue to do the Secchi visibility testing and the Dissolved Oxygen Testing. Brad informed the members that Seguin Township will continue to conduct benthos sampling on the lakes. Seguin Township will assume responsibility for the testing costs of the Little Otter Lake site and one of the Big Otter Lake sites. OLRA paid the expenses associated with the second site on Big Otter Lake.
6. Seguin Township Benthos observation program - Seguin Township has contracted with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (“GBBR”) to perform Benthos observation sampling on six lakes, two of which are Big Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake. OLRA will sponsor an additional site on Big Otter Lake. Such sites will be monitored for at least three years. GBBR will then compare the three year’s data with the results from lakes in other regions in Ontario and provide the Township and OLRA with the results of such analysis.

Ben John, a Climate Change and Energy Specialist with the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve was introduced by Darrell Moffat to discuss the Green House Gas calculator (“GGH Calculator”). He referred to the GGH Calculator as a tool which includes a short survey to allow for the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions caused by individuals and businesses. The purpose of the exercise is to educate and to assist individuals and businesses as to what steps can be taken for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

He advised that there are three main sources of emissions being buildings, transportation and waste. The survey asks questions as to these various sources of emissions including information as to seasonal usage of recreational vehicles, usage of building/cottages, geographical areas in which such uses occur and information pertaining to the type and amount of waste/garbage created by the individuals completing the survey. He also indicated that a media campaign will take place to provide the public with more information with respect to the program and survey.

LOON REPORT

Kerry Mueller advised that there were only two loon chicks on Big Otter Lake and no chicks on Little Otter Lake this spring. This is the first time in thirteen years that there have been no chicks on Little Otter Lake.

GUESTS

Daryle Moffatt - Ward 1 Councillor

Darrell advised the members of the following:

- a new Burn bylaw has been introduced by the Township and it addresses the use of fireworks;
- a “waste reduction community calendar” has been produced. The three “large waste” days have been cancelled for this year. A composting program has also been started by the Township;
- Council is addressing issues with respect to cottage rentals and how such rentals are governed by the Official Plan;

- the accounting firm of KPMG has been retained by Council to do a service review of the activities of Township;
- the Township will be posting on its website details of a program with respect to the eradication of the gypsy moth. He advised that there will continue to be concerns with respect to gypsy moths in 2021;
- the ICECAP program, being a joint effort of the various municipalities within the region to address climate change. The purpose of the program is to collect data about greenhouse gas emissions to allow for the development of a strategy to reduce such harmful emissions.

Art Coles – Ward 2 Councillor

Art advised the members of the following:

- problems associated with gypsy moths and possible methods to control same (example: use in the spring of dormant oil spray on eggs);
- the landfill site will be open on Sundays to prevent inappropriate disposal at transfer stations;
- possible reduction of speed limits on area roads;
- two positive test results of Covid 19 at Belvedere Heights Long Term Care Facility;
- present management of the Belvedere facility by West Area Sound Health Centre;
- closure of part of Rose Point Trail to allow for road maintenance;
- construction of ditches and road winding to allow for the conversion of some seasonal roads to year-round roads;
- issues before Council with respect to short-term cottage rentals;
- Council presently waiting for results from the public input concerning support for a regional pool;
- the need for upgrading broadband service in rural areas.

Ann MacDiarmid – Mayor of Seguin Township

The Mayor or advised the members of the following:

- the difficulty in enforcing the bylaw with respect to fireworks. She had recommended that the members take pictures of any offenders and provide

the address to the Township. This will result in a visit to the offenders by the appropriate authorities;

- Seguin Township was one of few townships that was not closed during Covid – 19. Some programs have been discontinued during Covid – 19 (example: swim programs);
- Covid – 19 has caused a doubling of the volume of waste within the Township;
- she encouraged members to shop locally;
- Covid – 19 has focused the need for improved broadband services within rural areas. The various townships are meeting together to address this concern and are looking at competitive bids from local and national broadband providers;
- Township is seeking public input with respect to the issue of Short-Term Cottage Rentals. She advised members to go to the Township website for further information. A public Zoom meeting will be held on July 24, 2020 with respect to the Official Plan;
- the search for a new Chief Administrator Officer is ongoing.

BARBECUE

The OLRA barbecue has been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 concerns.

PHOTO CONTEST

Denise Exler advised the members that the photo contest will continue to be held. Photos are to be emailed to otterlakepix@gmail.com The entries will be posted on the OLRA website for voting. The deadline for photo submissions is Thanksgiving (October 12, 2020).

NEW BUSINESS

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW – Gerry McDole

The members were advised that the Board has undertaken a review of several official plans of other Ontario townships. One of the recommendations OLRA made was that Seguin should address climate change in its Official Plan. The members are also advised that the Board supports the Official Plan's "Environment First" vision and needs to show environmental leadership.

The topic of lake development was also discussed. It was suggested that a water quality scientist should be retained to review and give greater definition to the policy. All lakes, irrespective of size, should be subject to recreational carrying capacity criteria that applies to all lakes and not just those under 40 hectares in size.

It was also recommended that resort facilities not be allowed to convert to residential zoning or fractional ownership.

Policies must also take into consideration the impact of potential development on fish habitat.

SHORT TERM COTTAGE RENTALS

The issue of Short-Term Cottage Rentals (“STCR”) was discussed by the members. The results of a survey conducted by OLRA of its members with respect to such rental arrangements revealed significant concerns by the members of such rentals at all levels. Of particular concern is when a STCR arrangement is undertaken as a commercial venture. A letter had been forwarded to council in February requesting that it monitor such rental arrangements and enforce the provisions in the bylaws which currently do not permit such short-term rentals. The Township indicated that it is difficult to monitor such arrangements. It was recommended to the Township that it should send an information letter to residents setting out the bylaw provisions with respect to STCR.

Council has proposed an amendment to the bylaw which would permit short-term rentals of 28 days or more but anything less than that period of time would not be accepted. Certain exceptions to the 28-day period may be considered (eg. rental to family members). It was suggested that there is need for public input on this matter. OLRA will prepare a form letter that can be used by its members to provide their input to the Township on STCR arrangements.

PHRAGMITES

Kerry Mueller discussed the negative impact that Phragmites is having in cottage country. She explained that such plants are an aggressive invasive species that spreads quickly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. She indicated that it is important that these plants be cut down year after year in late July or early August before they seed to control and eventually exhaust them.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Kerry also addressed the issue of Japanese Knotweed, another highly invasive plant which has appeared in cottage country. This plant has appeared on Otter Lake Road and the Township is trying to eradicate such plants or otherwise manage their reproduction. The roots have the ability to penetrate almost anything and should any part of a plant not be destroyed, it will reproduce. Simply cutting down such plants and leaving any portion of it behind is not effective. All remnants of the plant must be destroyed.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

As Brad Chittick's term of office was to expire at the end of this Annual General Meeting, a motion was made that his term be extended for one additional year. This motion was passed by the members.

A motion was made that Brian Hindley be nominated as a director. The members were advised that Brian has a Masters degree in aquatic biology. He is an expert in watershed studies and has served on numerous boards including the board of an environmental consulting firm.

It was moved and passed by the members that Brian be elected to the board of directors of OLRA.

The members were also advised that the terms of Kerry Mueller and AJ Mueller were also expiring at the end of the Annual General Meeting. It was moved and passed by the members that both Kerry and AJ be elected as directors to each serve for another full term.

There were no further nominations by the members.

COMMUNITY NOTES

A request was made for volunteers to remove debris from the Narrows between Otter Lake and Little Otter Lake.

The members were advised of a canoe having been swamped by a large boat wake near Tappattoo Resort. Members discussed what could be done to educate boaters with respect to appropriate boating etiquette and safety. There was some discussion with respect to the organization, Safe Quiet Lakes, which has as its

purpose the promotion of safer and quieter lakes. Information as to boating safety and reference to Safe Quiet Lakes could be included in OLRA's newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair of the meeting called the meeting closed.

DRAFT