

## LAKE ST. PETER PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (LSPPOA)

### **2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes**

#### General Update (Geoff Aldworth, President LSPPOA)

The 2018 AGM was held on Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. at the Lake St. Peter Community Centre, 5 Boulter Lake Road.

Geoff Aldworth welcomed everyone to the AGM; close to 40 people were in attendance. Geoff welcomed special guests including: Bob Craftchick, local resident, member of the Algonquins of Ontario and negotiator for the Algonquin Land Claim, as well as Mayor Vivian Bloom, Councillors Tracy Hagar and Dorothy Gerrow.

Geoff introduced the LSPPOA executive, recognized the tireless efforts of Larry Jones, Tom and Bonny Scanlan, John Severinac and the road captains. Geoff also asked those in attendance to consider becoming a member of the LSPPOA executive, since elections will be held at next year's AGM.

Geoff provided a general update on the role of the LSPPOA and stated that the association is built upon the membership and encouraged continued active participation and noted the need for feedback from members and continued support from volunteers within the association.

Geoff reviewed the LSPPOA Mission Statement:

#### Mission Statement

The Lake St. Peter Property Owners' Association (LSPPOA) is a non-profit, community-based and volunteer-driven organization dedicated to the support of, and advocacy for, conservation of Lake St. Peter and Boulter Lake, their waterways and surrounding lands for present and future generations through responsible environmental stewardship.

Geoff made special note of the thrust or focus of the LSPPOA is heavy on the environment. He specifically highlighted the:

- recent acquisition of a boat wash station within the Lake St. Peter Provincial Park
- efforts on invasive species, including special seminars on septic health and invasive species, new signage, turtle seminars and signs
- road clean-up and thank you BBQ for volunteers
- annual charity yard sale, where proceeds go to the Maynooth Food Bank

Geoff highlighted the significant value of being a member in the association, encouraging property owners to be responsible stewards of the land. A key associated benefit of membership in the LSPPOA, is automatic membership in the Federation of

Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA). FOCA provides a wealth of educational information, conducts spring and fall seminars and sends out regular email communication.

Geoff highlighted that there is a municipal election this fall and there is a new electoral system. Property owners can vote here as well as their principle residence.

The 2017 AGM minutes were approved.

## Bob Craftchick (Algonquin Land Claim)

Bob, Algonquin Negotiation Representative, member of the Algonquins of Ontario and Lake St. Peter resident, made a presentation to those in attendance at the AGM regarding the Algonquin Land Claim and the Agreement in Principle (AIP). A copy of his presentation has been forwarded to LSPPOA members.

Bob suggested that anyone interested in more information on the AIP, including interactive maps detailing the land claim area, or about the Algonquins of Ontario should consult the Algonquins of Ontario Website <http://www.tanakiwin.com/>.

Bob provided a synopsis of the history of the area and made specific note of the shared objectives of the Algonquins of Ontario and local property owners. He specifically highlighted the Lake Trout stocking efforts that were done in Lake St. Peter over a number of years which were greatly aided by his aboriginal participation in the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC).

Bob spoke to three main points:

1. Access - Algonquins of Ontario agree that private property is private property. He stated that they will not block access to any private land.
2. Natural Resources – Committed to maintaining existing natural resources, for example ensuring the viability of fishing continues now and for the next 50 years.
3. Socio/Economic Development – The Algonquins of Ontario take pride in the stewardship of the land. Bob encourages respect for local businesses, suggesting property owners to buy local. He stated the Algonquins have no interest in developing land in and around Lake St. Peter for the foreseeable future.

Bob noted that the current AIP which was signed October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, has an aggressive 5 year work plan that may take longer for the Agreement to become official. At which point an Implementation period will begin, followed by compensation by government to the Algonquins of Ontario.

## Mayor Bloom

Mayor Bloom was asked in advance to speak about two primary topics: Fire Services, Policing and a topic of her choice.

Mayor Bloom reminded all those in attendance that we are all stewards of the environment. Hastings Highlands (HH) encompasses 949 km<sup>2</sup>.

### Fire Services

Due to new provincial legislation, all fire fighters whether they are permanent staff or work as volunteers for local fire departments must be trained to the same standards. Mayor Bloom stated that this is not a viable option for many volunteer based fire departments as volunteers due to response time focus on fire containment and controlling spread to nearby buildings and land. The cost of training volunteers would have an adverse effect on the municipality and would likely put pressure on increasing taxes.

To ensure continued viability of local fire departments, HH hired a consultant to review and assess all current volunteer firefighters (85). Mayor Bloom stated that this review is nearing completion and is confident that they will all meet standards. Other area volunteer fire departments may not be so lucky.

### Policing

Mayor Bloom stated they have had some success over the past year reducing the ever increasing policing costs for HH, but she stated that this issue will continue to be ongoing battle. The Mayor participates in a rural mayors group, dedicated to addressing this contentious issue. Policing costs for HH have amounted to \$100,000 a month.

### Hastings-Highlands Updates

Mayor Bloom was very pleased to report that for the first year in a long time, the auditor stated that HH has done a fantastic job on reducing the number of properties with unpaid taxes from over 30 to 4. She credits help and support of HH staff in achieving this.

Over the past year, permits were issued for 18 new homes, 7 of which are at various stages of building, amounting to \$6000 in new permit fees. This helps reduce outstanding tax arrears and shows the community is growing.

## Fireworks /Noise By-Law

Councillors Dorothy Gerrow and Tracy Hagar spoke to attempts to implement a Fireworks By-Law. Due to a conflict in interest, an initial attempt at implementing a By-Law failed to pass. MNRF data on lake contamination due to fireworks was deemed inconclusive.

Within the last year, another attempt was made to get a simpler By-Law passed, yet unfortunately it contained some items already covered within existing By-Laws and was deemed to be unenforceable, so the By-Law failed to pass again. One of the issues was a requirement for Fireworks to be set off 100 m back from the shoreline, yet this was too close to the forest so not viable, especially with the current Fire Ban.

Revisions to the existing noise By-Law of midnight to 6 a.m. is still in effect. An attempt to have this revised to 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. did not pass.

## Break (20 Minutes)

### Membership Update (Ann Judson)

Your voice and ongoing support contribute greatly towards the achievement of the Association's goals. Together we are stronger! In recognition of your support, we have introduced this year "Member – LSPPOA" signs for placement at the entrance to your property.

Thank you to all members for your continued support, as without you there would be no association. As always, a special thank you to our road captains who make multiple efforts to visit all property owners, distribute educational literature, listen to your concerns and communicate back to the executive. Ann asked all road captains in attendance today to stand and be recognized. She encouraged each and every one to speak to your neighbours and ask that they consider joining our association. As a reminder, membership in LSPPOA brings with it automatic membership in the FOCA.

### Membership Report (Ann Judson)

We ended the year with 57 members, up from 47 the past year. This year, your president, vice-president, and past president are blitz canvassing on roads currently without a road captain. Road captains make frequent call backs, but many owners are still missed due to varied vacation schedules. Remember that the option to pay your membership using your bank's Interac e-Transfer facility makes joining that much easier.

The "welcome wagon" kit has been well received since its introduction. Please notify Ann, or your road captain if you become aware of a new property owner.

The educational handouts given to each property owner this year cover plant and aquatic invasive species (phragmites and Eurasian milfoil) and an updated "Help Maintain the Health of Lake St. Peter - Be a Lake Steward" letter.

## Interlake Update (Ann Judson)

The Interlake association is comprised of representatives from each of 7 lake-based associations within HH. These include Baptiste, Diamond, Kaminiskeg, Mink, Papineau, Salmon-Trout, and Lake St. Peter/Boulter. This year's meeting was hosted June 2<sup>nd</sup> on Papineau Lake with Salmon-Trout providing the refreshments and luncheon.

Mayor Bloom attended briefly to bring us updates from Council. Issues presented were the upcoming municipal elections and the change to voting at large; Ontario seeking large dump sites in cottage country for Toronto waste; and proposed provincial legislation to require all volunteer fire fighters be trained to a standard established for permanent firefighters. The Interlake continues to work cooperatively with HH Council to bring forward concerns with a shared voice and seek resolution of issues.

The past chair of the Interlake, now president of FOCA (Marlin Horst) reported the 2 major concerns of all lake-based organizations in Ontario are water quality and land use planning. Marlin stated the Interlake speaks as one voice in your municipality, and in turn FOCA speaks to provincial agencies on behalf of all lake-based municipalities.

As part of its mandate the Interlake continues to promote best practices regarding invasive species, including arranging signage "Clean+Drain+Dry" at 9 municipal boat launch sites. The remaining boat launches, both private and MNRF, are being surveyed by BASC in cooperation with HH Operations Manager for the placement of more signs. Following a successful application for a grant from FOCA, a power washer has been obtained and installed at the Lake St. Peter Provincial Park for the use of all registered campers who come to the park with watercraft.

Interlake partners worked with HH to host the "Poop Talk & Aliens Event" on June 23<sup>rd</sup> with emphasis by 3 speakers on septic systems, lake health, and invasive species. A video of this successful event will be available shortly.

An All Candidates Meeting committee was formed to provide an apolitical community service for all property owners to better know who is running for office in the upcoming October 2018 municipal elections. A website [www.hastingshighlandsallcandidates.ca](http://www.hastingshighlandsallcandidates.ca) has been established for candidates to post their profiles, including contact information to allow taxpayers to have direct communication with them. Newspaper ads and posters are being used to advertise the September 8<sup>th</sup> All Candidates Meeting at HH

Centre. Links to learn about the new “at large” voting process are to be included in the website. As of July 27<sup>th</sup> (the cut-off date for registration) there are 3 mayoral candidates; 2 deputy mayors; 10 councillors; 2 French separate school board trustees; and 1 school trustee for each of English public board, English separate board, and French public board.

The Interlake has initiated a wild fire evacuation planning session in September with HH staff, mayor, CAO, fire chief, MNRF, OPP, county and provincial emergency planning reps plus Interlake volunteers. With this collective expertise and leadership we hope to learn, set goals, help educate all property owners to be better prepared in the event of a wild fire, and invite other community organizations to join us in this effort.

## Environment Report

### Water Quality

Water Quality continues to be the biggest concern of most people. Tom Scanlan gave a brief overview on the trending of Lake St. Peter, which participates in an Ontario based Lake Partner Program. Active and ongoing testing results indicate similar water quality readings over the past few years. The testing results measure Total Phosphorus, Calcium Concentrations and Water Clarity using a variety of methods including the use of a Secchi Disk.

A detailed report was posted at that back of the room, as part of an extensive array of Environmental information for all those in attendance. A digital copy of this report was sent to the membership, via an earlier email and is also posted on the web [www.lakestpeterassoc.com](http://www.lakestpeterassoc.com).

To better understand the Lake Partner Program data visit the FOCA webpage. <http://FOCA.on.ca/lake-partner-program-sampling-assistance/>.

Boulter Lake has not been participating on the Lake Partner Program since 2007. If anyone would like to start testing again, please see Tom and he can explain the process.

As a follow up from this meeting John Severinac contacted a potential interested member from Boulter Lake that Tom will be meeting with in the near future.

To register with the Lake Partner Program toll-free at 1-800-470-8322 or by email at [lakepartner@ontario.ca](mailto:lakepartner@ontario.ca) or you can visit [www.desc.ca/program/lpp](http://www.desc.ca/program/lpp).

## Ice In / Ice Out

Charlie Foster, a lifelong resident of Lake St. Peter, has recorded the annual Ice In/ Ice Out days for Lake St. Peter since 1980. A summary of this information including charts was posted at the back of the room and is also available on the web [www.lakestpeterassoc.com](http://www.lakestpeterassoc.com).

## Invasive Species

The LSSPOA continues to network with other associations across Ontario to help in the education of Invasive Species. It is strongly supported by FOCA's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program. To find out more about Invasive Species, including detailed resources, visit <https://foca.on.ca/invasive-species>.

This initiative was made possible through funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). FOCA's work supported the Ontario Government's commitments to implement the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan, and the Invasive Species Act resulting in a campaign reminding boaters to Clean + Drain + Dry YOUR BOAT before moving between lakes. FOCA then partnered with The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters to create a new Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention sign that is being put up across the province. Bonny showed a sample of this sign at the AGM.

Official Clean You Boat signs and brochures have been posted at local area businesses to help raise awareness to the concerns of Invasive Species.

In a co-operative effort between the Bancroft Area Stewardship Council (BASC), HH and LSPPOA (Ann Judson) funds were granted from FOCA to proceed with the installation of signs at 9 allocated municipal boat launches.

Through FOCA, Ann Judson submitted a grant request to purchase a power washer for a boat clean installation. Contact was made with the Lake St. Peter Provincial Park who were very interested in the program and have set up an area for the boat clean program. Now guests and those with season passes can use the Power Washer to clean their boats in the Park.

As a follow up, John Severinac from Delmar Cottages offered at the meeting to set up a Boat Clean Power Wash station at his resort for our members. A huge thank you to John for this. Bonny will work with John on signage and installation overview to get out more information for members.

A LSPPOA member highlighted the importance of inspecting boats that travel between lakes. In the offseason, a boat stored at Whippletree was discovered to contain Zebra Mussels.

## Environmental Workshops

Tom and Bonny attended the North Kawartha Lakes Association (NORKLA) Stewards Network meeting Sept 23, 2017.

Dr. Peter Sale, of the Muskoka Watershed Council gave an excellent presentation focusing on climate change and relating how it may affect the lakes within the Kawarthas.

Tom and Bonny were also made aware of an ongoing program at Trent University to record advanced water readings, organic carbon, and phosphorus in an attempt to measure climate change. With a base of 10 partner lakes at present, they will be pursuing this initiative for many years to come. The cost for lakes to join this program is \$175 annually. Further discussion within LSPPOA will occur to assess the cost and benefits of joining.

## Fall FOCA Seminar (John and Liz Doherty)

Environment was the theme of the event. Keynote speakers were the Water Brothers.

Four challenges facing Canadian lakes were identified:

### 1. Climate Change

On average, Canadian lakes have 2 less weeks of ice coverage. As lakes warm, reductions in the size of Lake Trout are occurring.

### 2. Old Infrastructure

Need \$80 billion to improve old infrastructure in Canada.

### 3. Pollution

Theme – reduce the use of single use plastics. Habitat Loss, protecting shorelines or where species live. Example, identify and protect areas where there are hotspots for breeding turtles.

### 4. Invasive Species

Among many species, the advancement of Phragmites in wetlands is a serious concern in Ontario.

John Doherty participated in a Focus Group, aimed at getting the younger generation interested in lake health and the environment.

Some suggestions for LSPPOA to consider included



- Conducting a Canoe or Boating Day with a nature flotilla – have local expertise in fisheries, forestry, wildlife, environment onboard with the kids
- Learn how to better communicate with the younger generation – on average kids spend 6.5 hours a day on ‘screens’ – develop your website with kids in mind, create more kid friendly signage
- Have a beach day at the Provincial Park, involve MNRF

The idea for LSPPOA to conduct a ‘Social Event’ was bantered around again. This would require LSPPOA members to step forward and champion. John suggested the weekend of Sept 14/15 and to keep it simple, Corn and Hot Dogs. Securing a location to host is also needed.

### Spring FOCA Seminar (Tom and Bonny Scanlan)

FOCA and Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) believe that the Building Code is adequate to ensure the sound design, installation and permit of private site sewage systems, it is lacking in its ability to ensure the critical maintenance, ongoing management and accurate record-keeping of these systems after their final inspection.

Invasive Species presentations were given by other lake associations on the issues of Phragmites and the battles of trying to remove them from their lakes.

Invasive Phragmites is an aggressive plant that spreads quickly and out-competes native species for water and nutrients. It releases toxins from its roots into the soil to hinder the growth of and kill surrounding plants. While it prefers areas of standing water, its roots can grow to extreme lengths, allowing it to survive in relatively dry areas.

### Turtles

The association has sent out many email broadcast regarding Turtle Workshops put on in the area. Along with articles in the Bancroft Papers, the Bancroft “yarn bomb” of Turtles around town I’m sure that your Turtle intrigue has been peaked.

Green “Watch 4 Turtles” signs have been posted locally and can be purchased at Home Hardware and Foxfire Gallery.

Fund raising campaign will be in support of “CURE” and “PREVENTION” with OTCC Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre to aid in the treatment and recovery for the turtles admitted and in their care.

The Land Between Charity (Nationally registered) and their valuable partners with the Turtle Guardians Program have teamed up with Think Turtle Conservation Initiative and Scout Canada’s 1<sup>st</sup> Bancroft Beaver & Cubs to further spread the “WATCH 4 TURTLES” message through the nine counties across Central Ontario that make up “Turtle Country” which is home to 1/3 of Ontario’s Turtles.

The nine counties include: Parry Sound District, Muskoka District, Algonquin Park, Haliburton County, Victoria County, Peterborough County, Hastings County, Lennox & Addington and Frontenac County.

## Spring Road Cleanup

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that the LSPPOA has volunteered to host a Thank you BBQ for the community volunteers who assisted with the Annual Road Clean up organized by John Severinac.

LSPPOA has submitted a request to Hasting Highlands for a Community Grant and use of the Community Centre that allows us to host the BBQ. Executive members prepare for the event, BBQ and serve at the event.

A local group of musicians of which John and wife Marian are part of called “Shades of Grey” play through the gathering.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers was with the display board. Perhaps at the time of the Spring Cleanup we will ask the membership for further volunteers if needed.

At the meeting, a new term was introduced to the attendees: Plogging.

Plogging is an eco-friendly mashup of jogging and picking up trash. The LSPPOA strongly supports anyone that wants to take up Plogging in our community.

## Single Use Plastics

Today's meeting is a step in the right direction. There were no Styrofoam cups or plastic water bottles.

Toronto City Council are also in the process of reviewing the need to reduce plastics. This is going on throughout the country. Many cities have taken initiatives to reduce single use plastics. Katherine McKenna from the Federal Government also are working towards a Federal Initiative.

Bonny set up an excellent demonstration board at the back of the room.

## Pollinators

Bonny noted that free pollinator friendly plant seeds are available. Members are encouraged to plant flowers and native species to attract pollinators. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and even nighttime pollinators like moths.

## Financial Report (Craig Judson)

For the second consecutive year your association experienced a double digit increase in membership dues. In dollar terms, revenues increased to \$1,425 from \$1,175 in 2017 and \$1,025 in 2016. This is indeed a welcomed result; let's hope the trend continues! As a surprise, and for the very first time, one new member insisted on contributing an additional \$25 as a donation!

On the expenditure side, general liability insurance coverage consumed \$606 of membership dues, while F.O.C.A. membership absorbed another \$278. As you have already seen, membership signs were acquired at a cost of \$275. Craig hopes you will see this expenditure as an investment that will last for many years to come. For example, upon renewal next year members will receive a 2019 sticker to add to their sign. Displaying these signs at the entrance to your property announces to all that you support your local association and may even encourage non-member neighbours to join!!

Other expenses incurred included website maintenance charges, registration of members to attend both spring and fall FOCA seminars, HH Interlake meeting costs, lake quality environmental support, community centre rental, and bank fees. Also, as we did in the prior year, we actively supported the community's road clean-up of Highway 127 and lake roads during May, and hosted a "thank you" BBQ party for the volunteers in June. In summary, although total expenditures of \$1,833 exceeded our income by \$383, we nevertheless ended the fiscal year with just under \$800 in our bank account.

Lastly, Craig encouraged everyone to pay your annual membership dues by using your bank's online Interac e-Transfer facility. Instructions for the use of online payment of dues were included in an email to members earlier this spring and also appear on the annual dues invoice. The use of e-Transfer is free, whereas the bank charges for making over-the-counter deposits of cash and cheques.

## Other Business - Questions /Comments Raised by Attendees

1. Can the current recycling program be expanded to include plastic bags or foam?  
Answer – No, the current recycling facility cannot handle these. HH is looking at a motion to divert these elsewhere.
2. Reminder from member for all property owners to please ensure they tie up their "Toys" on or near the water. Due to recent significant rainfall over a short period, the lake experienced an increase in vertical height of 6 inches.
3. Anyone who may have lost a blue sailboat, it is in the bay on the northwest side
4. Reminder that the Linkie Store has a message board

5. Question asked if anyone knows when the forest marked for thinning on the north side of Lake St. Peter Road between the culverts near N and S Twin Pines Road will be harvested. Answer – The harvest date is unknown at this time.
6. Suggestion to consider bringing kids out to assist in spring clean-up efforts
7. Camp Kawartha (Balsam Lake) runs a well-established program for kids. Suggestion for LSPPOA to consider tapping into this program.
8. Encourage LSPPOA members to talk to their neighbours not yet members of the association to consider joining and ensure they are familiar with education/environment focus of the LSPPOA

## Adjournment

At about 11:45 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

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