

North and South Otter Lake Cottagers Association
Annual General Meeting
July 19, 2009

List of attendees:

Liz & Mike Evans, Sue Nelson, Harry Windeler, Jean Hodgson, Vicki Schmolka, David Crane, Mary & Ed Farrar, Laura Hodgson, Paul Pageau, Rudy & Joyce Duncan, John Vincett, Barry & Anne Robertson, Peter Dawson, Gail & Mike Beausoleil, Cam Kenny, Steven Blostein, Mike Kramer, Brigitte Roussel, Peter Neumann, Simon & Alison Smith and Hilary & Walter Abicht & children.

Liz Evans made executive introductions: Jean Hodgson as vice president, Barry Robertson as member at large and Edith Costello interim treasurer. Member introductions were made around the table.

Minutes of July 19, 2009 Annual general meeting

Minutes were approved after making correction – Peter Neumann was not present

2009 Treasurers report

The report was given by Edith Costello from information provided by the past treasurer Michelle Roos. The bank balance as of July 1, 2009 was \$658.02

Election of new officers

Edith Costello was elected as the new treasurer and Steve Blostein was elected as a new member at large.

Constitution changes

The constitution states that there is 1 vote per property not per owner. There was a discussion about 1 vote per property or whether it should be 1 vote per member. No decision was reached. FOCA guidelines were also discussed. A motion was made to reduce cheque signing authority to one signature – motion by David Crane, seconded by Mike Evans. Carried with one dissenting vote

Reports

Beaver – presented by Barry Robertson. Barry reported that the beavers have downed 22 trees down from peak activity in 2000 when 55 trees were down. It was suggested that property owners place chicken wire around the trees to protect them. Simon Smith is wiring trees and commented that probably 100 of them needed to be wired higher.

Water quality. We never received the report back from the ministry – apparently the sample was contaminated. A new sample was taken and mailed yesterday and David Crane will get back to this group with the report. There is no difference in water optical clarity from last year to this year on North Otter Lake. David Crane will loan the water quality kit to Cam Kenny to check on the water quality on South Otter.

Reptiles at risk on road. Turtles lay eggs in June with them hatching in late September. All turtles are now endangered except for the painted turtle. Someone reported finding eggs in a compost heap – possibly turtles or snakes. There appear to be fewer turtles on South Otter this year.

Membership list/Map Barry Robertson has produced a wonderful map and list of property owners. If you know of anyone who isn't on either the list and or the map please mention this group to them and encourage them to make contact with us.

Trespassing etc There was a rash of campers on South Otter Lake on the big island complete with a big fire pit. Cam Kenny will put up signage with 'no fires – no camping'. Liz Evans received an email about tree damage. Paddles have been stolen from North Otter, a ladder was taken off a dock and there has been some vandalism on South Otter – all in the last month. Otter Point Lane has a boat launch on it which is intended for Lake property owners only. The beaver dam in the culvert has been removed by the roads department who are responsible for the culvert's maintenance. There is a property currently for sale which doesn't have access – the real estate agent was announcing that the access is through another property.

Water-ski course. The water-ski course was installed July 19, 2009. To date it has been used for a total of 20.1 hours. Discussion concerned course specifications. It must be 100 metres from the Park property. Mike Kramer is following up on a permit under the Navigable Waters Act. This permit must be applied for and a plan must be filed with notice given to the public at large. Mike will also notify the water-ski organization about the need for a permit. Mike's general rule is that if anyone is canoeing or kayaking in the vicinity, water skiing doesn't happen.

Frontenac Park meeting location. Frontenac Park offered their facility for the annual meeting although the precedent has been set for the use of the scout camp and certainly the park can't match the character of the scout camp. The park would offer courtesy passes for meeting times. A decision was made to hold the next Annual General Meeting in Frontenac Park on the third Sunday of July and to combine the meeting with a lunch. The Cottagers Association will have to provide the barbeque for the lunch.

South Frontenac Fire Department Presentation

Fire Chief Rick Cheeseborough and Bill Jones gave a wonderfully informative presentation on fire safety for cottage owners.

Civic signage and access They encouraged all owners to make sure that the civic sign was highly visible and that they needed clarity on the signs. To ensure that fire and ambulance vehicles can get access to a property all roadways need to be minimally 15 feet wide with a 15 foot height clearance and support a weight of 35,000 lbs. If these parameters aren't met the vehicles will stop at the road which could delay response time immensely. If multiple addresses are located down one lane, put an address number on each location. You may request additional signs from the township.

Burning season The South Frontenac Township by-law defines a “Fire Season” as extending from April 1 to October 31. In this period an “Approved Brush Pile Fire “ (maximum fuel area 3m x 3m) requires approval from the Fire Department prior to burning. To seek approval, notify the Township office Fire Department at 613-376-3027 ext 2234. If no approval has been obtained for a fire and an alarm has been called in, the fire can be chargeable. There is a response fee of \$75 and fire vehicle dispatch fee of \$350/vehicle/hour. The response could be as much as 3 trucks per station with 2 stations responding.

Camp fires and cooking fires are permitted. A maximum area 2 foot x 2 foot may be used with clean brush or wood only. The fire should be located 20 feet away from structures, shouldn't occur if it is windy, and there should be a water supply nearby.

Fire Ban There are two levels of Fire Ban:

A Level One Ban allows campfires and cooking fires but no brush pile fires.

A Total Fire Ban means absolutely no open air burning allowed, including campfires, cooking fires or charcoal barbecues, but does not include propane or naphtha gas cooking equipment which is equipped with a shutoff mechanism.

For more details people should refer to By-law No. 2004-107.

Smoke detectors It is mandatory for smoke detectors to be in all cottages. Carbon monoxide detectors are not yet law but each cottage should have one located at head height by the pillow. As of March 6, 2003 there is a \$235 fine for no smoke detector on every level of a dwelling. Criminal charges can be laid if a smoke detector is not present and a fire occurs. Don't leave ashes in the cottage or in a garage. They should be placed in a pail with a lid, and during the winter buried in the snow. Smoke detectors and CO detectors do use batteries which should be replaced on a regular basis.

911 calls Be very complete when giving the address to the 911 operators. Cell phones presently do not give complete addresses – be very specific with detailed directions. 911 enhanced service is not yet available with cell phones. Land lines are 98% in compliance with 911 enhanced service. Make sure that your civic address including township is located by your phone so that anyone needing to use your phone in an emergency can accurately identify your address.

Miscellaneous All candles should be on a base 3x wider than the width of the candle. There should be a fire extinguisher on the wall of the kitchen. Disposable fire extinguishers are good for 12 years. If your fire extinguisher has been used the fire department will exchange it for another one. Fire extinguisher ratings are as follows: a - wood; b - flammable liquid; c – electrical. An extinguisher classed as 2A 10BC covers everything.

Other business

Butternut trees. Barry Robertson reported that it is no longer legal (2009) to cut down any butternut trees because of its endangered status.

Our thanks to Mike and Gail Beausoleil and the Boy Scouts for the use of their facility over many years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am