

DRAFT VERSION for adoption by the 2022 AGM

**NSOL Association
Minutes, AGM 2021**

August 8, 2021, 10AM

Location: Outdoors at the Trail Centre Picnic area, Frontenac Provincial Park

In Attendance:

Mary Ferrar, Anne and Barry Robertson, David Crane, Paul Pageau and Laura Hodgson, Denise Harrington and John Fraser, Ian Burghan, Simon Smith, Liz and Mike Evans, Cameron and Wilma Kenny, Brian Roche and Frances Wright, Louise Gwyn, Mike Kramer, Pam and Don Stuart, Anita and Keith Dunn, Edith Costello and Piper Huggins, Oriana Muzzin, Judy Tetlow and Dale Midwood, Fred and Judy Tudiver

1. Introduction – President's Message (Anita)

- Anita welcomes members; thanks Frontenac Park for loan on Picnic Area (providing us with a meeting space that is compliant with Public Health's covid related regulations).
- The members of the NSOL Association's Executive are introduced.

1.1 Proposed Agenda

- Two points are added: 10. Report from Ben Chabot, Frontenac Park Superintendent, 11. Report by Simon from The Friends of Frontenac Park
- One precision is made: Agenda item #7 "Wildlife" comprises 7.1 Loons and 7.2 Beaver.

2. Adoption of the 2020 AGM minutes

- Adopted with no changes; Proposed by Keith Dunn, Seconded by Mary Farrar

3. Business arising from the minutes

- None

4. Treasurer's Report (Oriana)

- Our finances are healthy with a current balance of \$1411.97. Dues collected this year totaled \$321, and interest earned amounted to 27 cents. There was no other activity in the association's account. The following chart was provided by the treasurer:

Opening Balance- July 1, 2020		\$1,090.70
Dues collected	\$321.00	
Interest	\$0.27	
Service charges	\$0.00	
Closing balance - June 30, 2021		\$1,411.97

5. Change to Property / Owner's (Mike Kramer)

- Lot #6 Sold by Mike Kramer (new owner details to follow)
- Lot#7 Mike Kramer (will build next year)
- Lot#12a Laurel purchased from Dennis Graham (new owner details to follow)
- Lot#30 Mike and Monica Hebert sold to Peter and Linda (new owner details to follow)
- Lot#32 Donna McKee sold to Laurie and Derek ((new owner details to follow)

Action: Mike will update official list and send to the Executive.

- It was suggested by Mike that personal details should not be published on public website but instead only be made available to other members. There was general agreement and no objections were made.

Action: Keith will not publish list on NSOL Association website, (and will continue to be shared with members directly via email).

6. Water Testing and Web Page (Keith)

- North Otter Lake is one of 800 Lakes participating in an Ontario Ministry of the Environment program that monitors lake health, tracking phosphorous & calcium levels, as well water clarity.
- North Otter lake's P & Ca levels, clarity, temperature and water levels have remained practically unchanged for several years.
- Keith asks that members alert him to any observed changes in lake health they might observe.
- Keith noted that comprehensive information regarding testing results for all participating lakes is available on the ministry website ontario.ca/page/water-quality-local-lakes

Action: Keith will add relevant links to detailed information on the Association's website and encourages members to use the Facebook page for discussion and use the website for consultation of documents and information/reports.

7. Wildlife (Loon Raft, Beaver Population)

7.1 Loons (Judy, v-p)

- A pair of loons nested on the loon raft for the first time this spring, after much adjustment to its buoyancy and vegetation since being deployed.
- An egg was observed and then was gone two days later.
- A confrontation between the loons and an eagle was observed, leading to the conclusion that the egg was likely stolen by an eagle; other possible predators seen in the area were: ravens, osprey, and owls.
- Judy suggests it would be advisable to add a cover to the raft before next spring now that the loons have nested there on ce. There is general agreement to this idea and no objections.

Action: Dale, Aaron and Judy will add a canopy to the loon raft.

7.2 Beaver (Judy, v-p)

- Problems that were identified: several new lodges; a activity of digging up shorelines thereby increasing erosion; increased chances of being exposed to Giardia (aka. beaver-fever); damage to trees (people have taken initiatives to protect some trees on their properties/lanes); and, the damming of the culverts impeding boat access.
- Members corroborated that damage to trees on their properties reflect a serious increase in beaver activity that might warrant intervention. No consensus was reached.
- David Crane suggested that individual property owners deal with the beaver issue on their property as they see fit. Members were in agreement with this approach

Action: Local trapper's info to be added to the nsola.org website: B.J. Hogan, text/call 613-214-2663

8. Ice fishing (Ian)

What appears to be an illegal commercial fishing operation has targeted North Otter Lake:

- This past winter, from late December into March, a team of 6 to 7 trucks parked at the Kingston Field Naturalists' parking spaces at the Bedford Road Culvert, and descended onto the lake.
- 10-12 men with considerable equipment would drill and putt down several lines in each hole.
- From 8AM to 4PM, 7 days a week, for aprox. 90 days, they removed the fish in crates pushed across the ice and loaded on the trucks.
- Police confirmed the trucks' license plates are from the Aurora-Unionville-Markham area.
- Legality: The estimated removal of 300 fish per day is not considered illegal since the individual limit is 30 fish/day/person, and there were at least 10 men. It is thought that they are likely selling the fish to restaurants illegally, but that would be difficult to prove and it's not a case that the RCMP is likely to take on, despite complaints or damage to the lake's ecosystem.
- Wilma Kenny added that this is a problem throughout the township, and has been particularly bad at Devils' Lake. It has been spoken about at Township Council meetings.

Action: Contact Kingston Field Naturalists to inform them their parking area is being used by these fishermen who access the lake via their property (Anne)

Action: Contact Township regarding the possible use of concrete barriers to block access (Wilma)

Action: Contact FOCA to make them aware that this was happening at North Otter.

9. Light Pollution (Frances)

Frances asks that members do the following to reduce light pollution:

- Put lights on timers so they don't stay on all night; and,
 - Refrain from using solar dock lights; and,
 - Shade downwards any outdoor lighting.
- There is general agreement and no objections.
 - It is mentioned that Sydenham is embarking on just such a policy.

Action: Message to be sent out to members asking them to comply with said efforts.

10. Park Updates

- Anita reads highlights for Ben Chabot's Park Report (attached)

11. Friends of Frontenac Park, FFP (Simon)

- The Friends of Frontenac are involved with two Trent University studies.
- One study looks at the genetic mix of the area's Coyote/Wolf/Coydog population. Preliminary findings of the analysis of scat shows that the species in this area are a genetic mix of wolf, coyote and some dog.
- The second study is of 2 species of moss whose chemical analysis will help us understand air quality. More information can be found at BriarMonitoring.ca
- The FFP has a fundraiser underway to build an Outdoor Classroom on the edge of the picnic area where we were meeting, for use by the Park and local school boards.

12. Election of New Officers

- No new candidates have put their names forward. Oriana (treasurer), Cam and Aaron (directors), agree to carry on in their current positions for another term.

13. Other Business

- Louise Gwyn is concerned about the increasing number, frequency and duration of firework usage on and around the lake. Wilma informs us that due to excessive use and an increasing number of complaints, the Township Council will be enacting new legislation that requires permits for outdoor fires (and fireworks). A new Fire Chief is very keen on cracking down on people who defy fire bans. Judy noted several sets of fireworks deployed during [level 1 fire ban](#).

Action: Wilma will bring the issue up with Councillor Russ Sutherland on behalf of our Lake Association, and Judy will follow-up with the new fire chief.

14. Gypsy Moths (aka. Lymantria Dispar)

- A detailed presentation was made by Judy: Some of what was covered explained the species' life cycle with its multiple instars, and individual efforts that were undertaken to counter the damage this voracious invasive species has inflicted these past two years. Concern was expressed about tree die-off and the weakening of the canopy that would result from a third year of infestation.
- Due to the limitations of the DIY approach of individual efforts, the effectiveness of BTK spraying is put forward as an option. It is possible to spray locally; the township of North Frontenac sprayed this past year, but South Frontenac did not.
- Though the serious damage to the canopy caused by the infestation of the past two years was corroborated, there was no consensus reached on collective action to be taken, such as an aerial spraying of the general area, (Anne spoke about the potential impact on the West Virginia moth: Unlike Monarch butterflies, it shares the same development period as Gypsy Moths).
- A cold enough winter could help reduce the damage of a third year of infestation.
- The virus that was killing off some caterpillars toward the end of the cycle appeared to some to

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have had an impact on the density of moths compared to last year.

- Some of the DIY approaches that were suggested include: taping trees early in the cycle, burlap wrapping, plastic wrap & spray, and the use of pheromone strips in traps for the male moths.
- Local businesses were named as resources for individual efforts, such as: Urban Nature, (645 Gardiners Road, Kingston), and Sun Harvest greenhouse, (in Glenburnie), who sold pheromone strips for making traps. Verona Hardware suggested making traps that did not require the hard-to-find pheromone strips by attaching a female moth to a fly strip. Zimmer Air Services Inc. was recommended for targeted aerial spraying.

Action: Judy will prepare detailed written information to be uploaded to nsloa.org website.

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 11:40AM