

Saturday August 22, 2020

Annual General Meeting Minutes 2020

1. The meeting started at 10:02 am. Attendance was taken for the ability to trace according to Covid standards.
2. There were 49 people at the AGM. The minutes of 2019 were distributed, and a motion was put forward to accept them. The motion was moved Daniel Hynek and seconded by Dianne Dunn.
3. Dick Thomas introduce the new executive members of the Cottage Association.
4. They are:
Jaclyn Boucher will be our communications person
Brian Mellon who will be taking care of the channel clean up, the buoys for the channel and fire ban signs
Gary Lyon will be assisting with the website
Leanne Gray will be assisting with membership
Dan Miller who will be taking over as the President of the Association.

The new executive was introduced to the members. The executive that was present was introduced. A motion was put forward to see if anyone else wanted to come forward for one of these positions and the offer was declined. A motion was accepted for the approval of the new executive.

Dick Thomas thanked Peter Helston for doing the fireworks for 25 years. There is a new person taking them over next year.

Dick Thomas thanked Peter Langer for his 30+ years of volunteer work and for allowing us to have the regatta and corn roast at his place for so many years.

Dick Thomas also acknowledged Bruce Earle who died 2 weeks after last years AGM. Bruce was an active member of the executive for over 30 years as well.

5. Dick Thomas introduced Peter Helston to speak about the Environment. Peter advised that most of the testing could not happen this year due to Covid. Testing would start up a next year if we can. The geese issue also was not dealt with due to Covid but will be back next year. We were supposed to start a "Love Your Lake program" this year but again due to Covid would be delayed until next years. The program would come out to each person's cottage and access the waterfront and suggest improvements if required to help protect the quality of the lake health. Peter also spoke about the land on Pinetree that was cleared and how it was brought to the town's attention. We have been informed the person will be fined and all permits have been taken out now.

6. The Benthic Monitoring Test results were not done this year due to Covid. We are hoping to assume these tests next year.

7. Michael Clarke was introduced to speak about the Water Safety Awareness Committee. He informed everyone the committee was formed in the summer 2017. It consisted of 8 members when it first started. 3 new members were added in 2019. (Anrea Moser, Grant Neal, Joel Kwinter).

The goal of the committee was to develop a strategy to make our community aware of the issues on our lakes and communicate best practices for a safe cottage season. Michael explained how the committee does this each year. The committee meets in person twice a year and develops each year's program over the winter. These programs are communicated by the newsletter, on the website and Facebook. These programs are all based on behavior observed from cottages. The 2020 program included signs which keeps the safety message fresh in everyone's mind. OPP are encouraged to make visits to the lake. Michael asked why everyone notifies each other when the OPP do arrive on the lakes. He suggested just let them do your job. If you are not prepared, then you know the consequences. Jim Burke suggested notifying cottagers was not a bad idea as it was mostly renters causing the issue.

Michael explained the Guest Water Safety Checklist was distributed to rental agencies in town to help with this situation.

The "Do You Know: program what implemented on the website and the banner changes every two weeks with a different question of general water safety knowledge

He advised others that the Safe and Quiet Lakes newsletter is on our website and on our Facebook page and water safety Do's and Don'ts is on the website and Facebook.

Michael Clarke also asked for feedback about the signs and why so much offence was taken towards them this year. The comments where they found them condescending in the wording. Grant Neal also suggested the consequence be removed and just put the message.

8. At the suggestion of Tammy Marcus, a group was formed at last year's AGM to update the Association's "Good Practices" document. The group consisting of Tammy Marcus, Jaclyn Boucher, Gary Lyon, and Michael Clarke worked in the fall and over the winter to complete the update and it was renamed as our "Courtesy Code". This document was included in the Spring Newsletter, is on our website and was posted to Facebook. Quality exterior signs were produced, and the Courtesy Code can now also be viewed at the Turtle, Loon, and channel boat ramps.

9. Leanne Gray spoke on behalf of David Caruana about membership:

We have about 191 paid memberships to date. In 2019 we had 206 paid members and in 2018 we had 207 paid members. In 2018 there were 41 paid by e-transfer. In 2019 74 paid by e-transfer and this year 126 have been paid by e-transfer to date.

Thank you everyone who renewed or joined our membership this year! I think the numerous benefits of our association will come as no surprise when they are posted on the website. The numbers could be down because of new cottagers moving in and not knowing about the membership. Leanne encouraged everyone to go out and speak to a new neighbour if you had one close to you.

10. The Treasurers report was given. We have \$19,318.49 in our bank account. It was mentioned that over the past 2-3 years we have spent more money than what has come in. Money is being spent on things like

the rock markers and channel markers. It was also explained we need liability insurance once we put up the markers. Dick Thomas spoke about increasing cottage membership fees to \$50 per year. A quick calculation tells us we need 440 per cottage to break even so \$50 would allow us to save some money and continue to do things to improve the lakes. This will be discussed further at an executive meeting. A suggestion was made to advise cottage owners what the plans were for the money like a condo corporation. This is a great suggestion and something we should look at doing.

11. An update was given on internet at the cottage. Bell Wireless 25 has moved into the area, but it is very hit and miss right now. Grant Neal was going to forward some information to help others possibly get Bell internet.

12. The fire on the island and the 2 other fires that have occurred this year we have spoken about. A suggestion of having an emergency response set up for the two lakes was suggested. Possibly we buy 2 pumps with hoses to use in case something major was to happen or as a back up until the fire department arrived. A suggestion was also brought forward to have a bell or siren to be used only for emergencies. When the bell or siren went off this would indicate everyone that could help should be ready to assist. This will have to be discussed further at an executive meeting for approval.

13. Dick Thomas thanked Peter again for all his years of doing the fireworks. Dick explained that Jason Clarke will be taking over next year, and the fireworks will be at the opposite end of the lake. The display that Peter did this year was outstanding and some considered the best yet.

14. Dick Thomas addressed the issue of rattle snakes this year. There were many reports of snakes by a show of hands. There is an association that will come out and remove them. The organization called START (Saving Turtles at Risk Today) will come out and speak at an AGM to discuss how to deal with Rattle snakes. They will also come out if phoned to remove them and relocate them as well. The hotline number is 705-955-4284.

15. Dan Miller was asked to come up and say a few words about his new position. Dan thanked Dick Thomas for his years of doing the job and went on to ensure people the executive would continue to grow and get better.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.