



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Haliburton Forest Conference Centre**

John Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and welcomed the members to the RLCA Annual General Meeting.

John introduced the RLCA directors to the membership and described their roles on the board. He thanked the retiring directors Bob Reid, John Sinclair and Stu Cannon and asked the membership to show their appreciation for the service of these people for their long service on the board.

John then described some of the activities of the board over the past year and mentioned especially:

- The change in the web site, asking that everyone visit the site and provide comments.
- Our ongoing support of WRAFT
- Our participation in the Trent Severn Waterway review through the Coalition of Cottage owners Associations.

John read an email message from our new Dysart Ward 4 Councilor, Janis Parker, expressing her regret at not being able to attend our meeting.

John then noted that RLCA has traditionally supported the Haliburton Health Services with a donation of \$250 per year and asked for a motion to provide the same level of support in 2007. A motion was made seconded and passed unanimously to provide a donation of \$250 to Haliburton Health Services.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT BY SUE ARMSTRONG**

Sue Armstrong reported on the financial status of the association. She presented a slide showing the revenue and expenses for the year April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007. She reported that our current funds available are summarized as follows:

April 1, 2006 Opening Balance:	\$2,021.61
Revenue through March 31, 2007:	\$5,932.00
Expenses through March 31, 2007:	<u>\$2,914.83</u>
Closing Balance March 31, 2007:	<u>\$5,038.78</u>

A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **MEMBERSHIP BY SUE ARMSTRONG:**

Sue reported that the RCLA membership is now 283 and could peak to 400. There were 4 new members added at this AGM.

Sue reported that as soon as the minutes of the AGM are posted on the web site, she will send reminders to members whose 2007 dues are still outstanding and will tell them they can review the minutes on the website. She also explained that, as decided by the board, after members have not paid their dues for 2 years, they will become inactive.

#### **LAKE STEWARD'S REPORT BY TERRY O'LOANE:**

Lake Steward Terry O'Loane, reported that RLCA continues to participate in the MOE Lake Partnership program. This program focuses on the levels of total phosphorous in the lake, explaining that if the total phosphorous is up, then algae will grow. He has been sampling for the total phosphorous annually, and with the Secchi Dish Depth Test, measuring the lake water clarity on a monthly basis. The results are as shown below.

	2003	2006	
Pelaw	5.7/6	5.1/5	Total Phosphorous Test
Little Red	4.15	5.1/4	
Redstone	4.1/3	3.7/8	
Pelaw	3.3	4.0 m	Secci depth Test
Little Red	4.7	5.1 m	
Redstone	5.7	5.7 m	

Terry reported that neither the Spiny Water Flea nor Zebra Mussel is present in our lake at this time according to a report by the Anglers and Hunters Association. RLCA has participated in their sampling program for the past two years, testing for these invasive species. Terry warned that we should clean our boats and fishing lines and any bailed water in the boats to guard against transfer of this hazard from lake to lake. Terry reported that Kennisis Lake has Spiny Water Flea. Terry reported that overall, the health of the lake is good.

#### **COALITION FOR EQUITABLE WATER FLOW BY TERRY O'LOANE:**

Terry reported that this coalition was initiated as a result of a review of the operations of the Trent Severn Water System. (TSW) The maintenance budget for TSW presently is \$2 Million per year – not sufficient to do the job to take care of all the dams etc involved in the TSW. The TSW was originally set up for transportation. It has now become a recreational focus and Parks Canada is now in charge, rather than the Ministry of

Transportation. Boating activity on the TSW has decreased 50% in the last 20 years. The operation and purpose of the TSW is being studied by the government.

The Coalition is made up of 41 Cottager Associations. They have produced objectives re their concerns and have sent them to the government study group known as Eco Plans. This is available at [www.tswpanel.ca](http://www.tswpanel.ca). There are public presentations planned, Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. at the Dysart Center and Tuesday, August 14, 2007 in Minden (time to be announced). The decision will be coming in December on this important issue that affects all of us. There was much discussion and Terry made it clear that we are mainly trying to get a voice in this and future decisions.

Questions from the audience: Summary – apparently Lori Scott, MPP for this area says it is not a Provincial issue, it is Federal. However, the coalition has hired Lorraine Land as their representative. She is a Lawyer specializing in Eco-logical issues, and she takes issue with Lori's statement and says the province is very involved. Municipally, the Board is very supportive and has given a \$2,000 grant to the coalition from the HCDC, asking only for a report on how the money is spent.

The Coalition was initially funded through private donations from participating Cottagers Associations of \$0.25 per member. They are now asking for \$5.00 per RLCA member and all other cottage owner association memberships to cover study costs and appeal, if needed. Any money left over will be returned.

There was a concern expressed about the dams being in bad shape and will that become our expense. The response was that Parks Canada will have to step up to the plate and take care of those issues.

There was a discussion about a new dam on the TSW, but that will be put on hold until the decisions have been made in December. Also there was discussion about the asphalt plant in Gooderham where 5,400,000 litres of water are used daily for washing asphalt aggregates. The MNR will make the final decision and it is on hold until the coalition issues are settled.

A motion was moved and seconded to give \$5.00 per member to the coalition. The motion passed unanimously.

### **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Peter Schleifienbaum was the guest speaker. He discussed HFWL as the Head of the headwaters of the Water Shed for all of central Ontario and remarked that their stewardship and care of forest reserve has consequences for many lakes.

Peter talked about the history of the area, and remarked that early options were offered by the logging company for \$1.00 per foot on Redstone & Kennisis Lakes. In the mid 80's, when he took over the business HFWL had 4 employees. HFWL is certified as a sustainable forest under the stringent guidelines of the International Forest Stewardship Council. It was the first forest in Canada to attain this difficult certification.

HFWL has been certified since 1997.

Peter talked about forestry as the only renewable resource that Canada has. All other resources are being used up over time. In response to questions about water flow, he stated he doesn't want a "Conservation Authority" to be the answer for water management in Haliburton or in Haliburton Forest. He explained why that would not be a satisfactory result.

Asked about forestry and re-planting, Peter explained there are 27 species of trees harvested in Haliburton Forest, and they essentially do no replanting, but rely on natural regeneration. Their method of forestry management assures continued sustainable growth.

Some of the activities of the neighboring business involve outdoor education. At the present time Hocking College in partnership with the Eco System based on the U of T Forestry department are working at Stocking Lake, setting up a new Fisheries Management.

#### **WRAFT BY SHAL GEWURTZ:**

Shal Gewurtz discussed Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation (WRAFT). RLCA has been a member since 2004. There is a nice summary in the June Cottage Life Magazine. This is an election year and the Conservatives are proposing a 5% Annual Cap on assessments and that is supported by CAPR and WRAFT. The NDP want a freeze until the property is sold, and the liberals want to phase in the increases. This is an October election issue.

#### **LAKE PLAN BY ALIINE HULEVA:**

Aline Huleva has spoken with the Municipality and they are open to any suggestions. RLCA is looking at the Kennisis Lake, Mary Lake and Penninsula Lake Plans. It was suggested that Kennisis Lake was a good lead. A lake plan offers a vision for the lake that is developed by the Lake residents. It encourages the Municipality to make changes to the official plan to allow this vision. Methods involve, member surveys, creating educational packages, using a web site for communication, and sending the document to the Municipality.

During discussion, there was strong support expressed for the development of a Lake plan for RLCA.

#### **ELECTION OF BOARD:**

There was a vote to acclaim the returning directors and a vote to accept the nominations of 3 new directors, Sue Armstrong, for Membership and Finance, John Jackson & Theresa Kim. The vote passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

John Jackson asked about 80 – 100 lots being planned for Driftwood Bay, Eagle Lake and Haliburton Lake. Aline Huleva says she would investigate this through the municipality.

Dave Nichols introduced the idea of a Directory. Member listing in the directory would be on a volunteer basis. The purpose of the directory would be to assist in communication, lobbying, advertising, participation. There were suggestions about privacy, possibly using our webpage with password entry to prevent public access. Dave Nichols stated that his previous lake had a directory and it encouraged people to pay their dues, it helped them to know who to call for different activities, and participation was voluntary. The RLCA Directors agreed to look into this for next year.

There was discussion about the desire for speed signs on the Pelaw River, and trees down on the River. The MNR needs to be involved in any decision to move trees on the water. The directors agreed to post some signs re speeding. Some of the new residents on the river were concerned about children swimming there and being injured.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon and a barbeque lunch (with hot dogs supplied by Bill Burdon's West Guilford Shopping Centre) was enjoyed by all.