

Town Hall Wrap-Up

by Anne Rawson, January 25, 2022

The January 19th, 2022 Kosh Community Town Hall was a first for the LKRA and feedback to date indicates it was a success and well-received by those who participated. 93% of those (26) who completed the quick survey at the end of the event rated it a great event and they enjoyed attending.

Number Of Participants:

Twelve members of the Executive, 2 members of FOCA and 44 residents registered online for a total of 58 participants. We can expect that most people connecting were streaming with other family members so our actual reach was probably over 100 residents. Alex Vanags, Plant Manager at COVIA was also online for the event to answer questions.

Format:

Both the tech overview at the beginning, by Michelle Lewin (FOCA), followed by a brief presentation by Terry Rees (FOCA ED) were informative and set an appropriate tone. Executive Committee introductions were warm and engaging. The format provided residents with an opportunity to ask questions by using either the raised hand or chat functions. All chose to use the chat. There was a healthy, steady dialogue throughout with nineteen people asking questions. The event ended on schedule at 8:15 p.m. with a short survey of participants. (See Appendix)

Summary of Questions Raised by Residents:

- Improving the dock at the public boat launch... how to do it
- How to best deal with squatters camping on the lake
- Interest in forming a snowmobile club on the lake for adhoc meet ups and riding
- Is the fanwort problem stabilized?
- How can we get more markers around the lake?
- Will the closing of the Nephton Covia site have an impact on our taxes?
- What is the current the current status of the Blue Mountain site move?
- What if any plans are there for the Nephton site following the move?
- Any chance the Covia haul road will be opened to public travel?
- Does the LKRA support efforts to eliminate the gypsy moth caterpillars?
- What is the environmental impact of spraying for *Lymantria dispar*? Is spraying planned again this year?
- What can be done about excessive fireworks?
- Has the organization considered a restriction on boat size and horsepower on the lake?
- How can we discourage boat speeding?
- How can we discourage trespassers on our property or too close to our shoreline?
- Can the LKRA do anything to help restore gas service to the lake?
- Can we have another Town Hall like this and invite the MNR?

Key Poll Highlights:

Residents questions were punctuated with a series of five polls to maximize engagement. 73% of participants indicated they had been on the lake for 20 or more years with 51% of people living in MacDonald Bay and the big lake. There were few participants from Portage and Stoney Lake Bays. Markers were considered the most important safety equipment followed by Fire Pump Equipment.

Responses to the question on the best way to build community were interesting: 68% would enjoy more annual events to meet other cottagers, 73% wanted us to use vehicles like the website and newsletter to share cottager stories, 66% were keen to hold more events online to increase reach and cottager involvement.

The newsletter was identified as the most important source of cottage information followed by the Kasshabog'er. (Same conclusion as the Communication Audit last summer.)

Post-Event Survey Highlights:

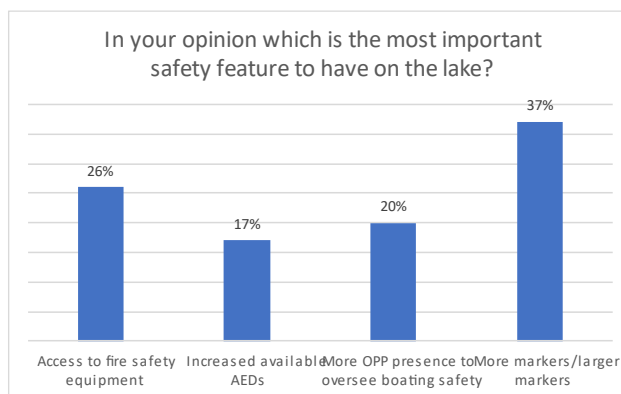
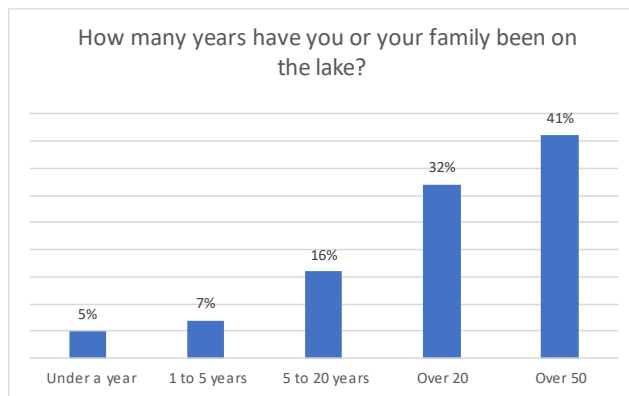
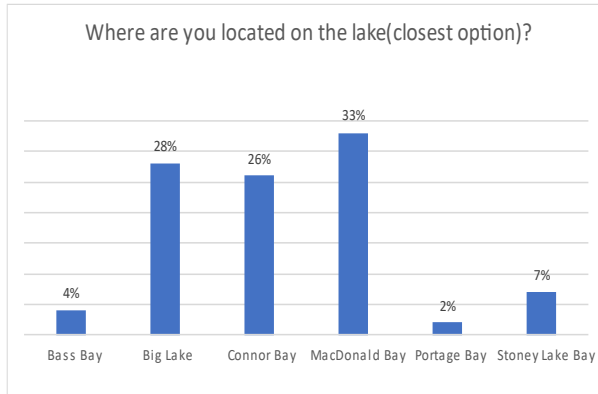
It was good to confirm that people enjoyed the event and most stayed on the connection for the entire Town Hall. When asked specifically what they learned, participants indicated they enjoyed meeting members of the Executive Committee and hearing from other cottagers. They came away with more knowledge about the LKRA, but not about ways they could become more involved as a volunteer. (It would appear that there were technical glitches with the T & F question, which affected responses.) 54% of respondents indicated they would share the post-event link with family and friends. When asked what kind of events they would like to see this year, a number of useful open-ended suggestions were received. When asked if they would like to volunteer, only one person submitted a name.

In Summary... What Have We Learned:

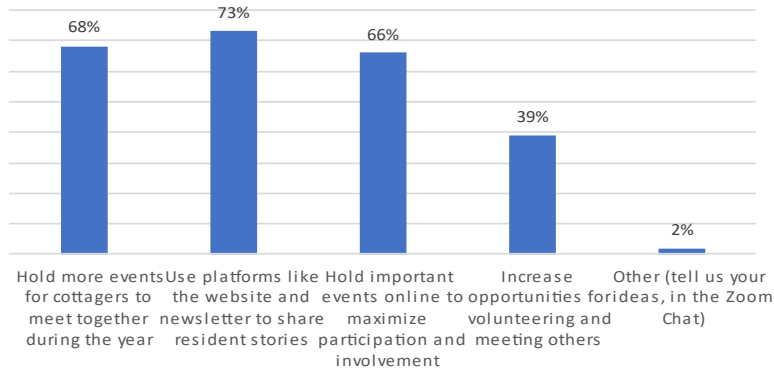
- That residents appreciate the opportunity to connect about lake issues and indicated that an on-line forum is good for important issues and communications (AGM) because it broadens the reach.
- Despite broadband glitches at the beginning of the event, FOCA went above and beyond to provide excellent pre and post support to help ensure our event was a success. For this reason, an additional donation to FOCA was been recommended. (See Appendix for support)
- Pre and post event promotion via Kosh Lake News (E blast), LKRA FB page and the Kasshabog'er proved effective.
- We need to expand our email list by capturing the emails of all family members. This will enable us to communicate and reach a broader, younger demographic (In the works.)
- If we are to meet our volunteer needs, we need to develop an effective Volunteer development and recognition strategy. Agenda April Ex Com meeting?)
- I would like to see the hands-up icon function promoted more in subsequent online Q&A's. This would allow people to ask questions in their own voice and be seen.
- Despite the fact that many of the questions raised were beyond the scope and responsibility of the LKRA, it was worthwhile to hear what's on people's minds. As educators, it's important for us to support residents with helpful information to deal with these issues effectively. (Information pertaining to several issues has already been posted on the LKRA FB page.)
- The Town Hall provided good input with respect to our Website and Newsletter content (eg Sharing stories)
- In hindsight, the Town Hall proved to be a good team-building event for the Executive Committee.

Appendix

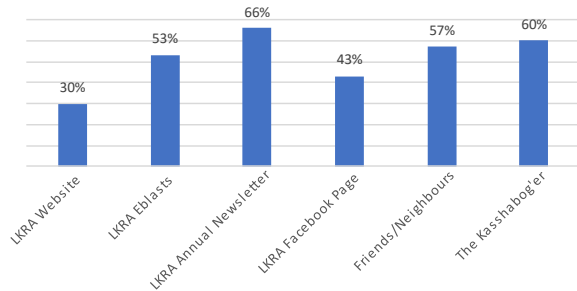
Polling Tables:



The LKRA are dedicated to building a caring, engaged and resourceful community of residents. What do you think are the best ways to do this? Check off as many ways as you want.



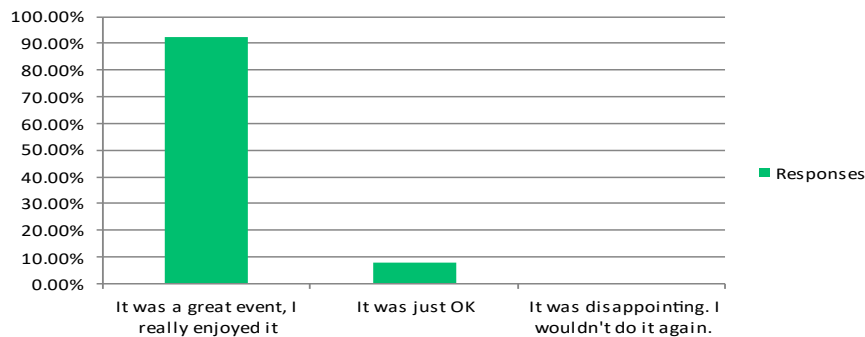
What are your primary sources of lake news?
Check off as many as apply to you.



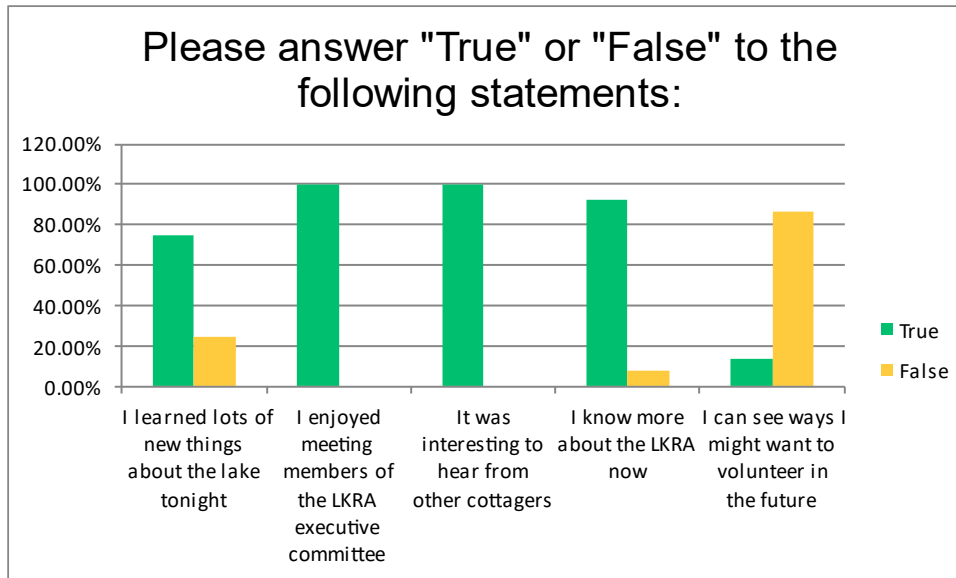
Post Event Survey:

At the conclusion of the Town Hall participants were automatically connected to a short survey. The results are encouraging.

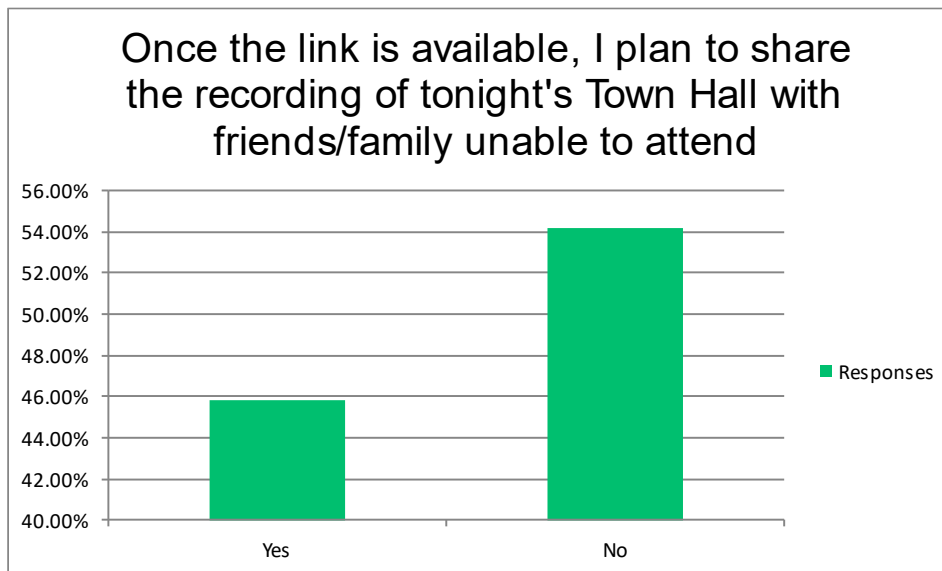
Overall, how would you rate tonight's Town Hall?



(26 Answered)



(26 answered)



(24 answered)

Planning forward, what kinds of events do you recommend the LKRA plan for lake residents this year and still feel safe?

(16 answered)

The concept of zoom calls would be appropriate

Something hands-on for the kids, to learn about the lake and the environment

The AGM at the beach will be nice if covid will allow

Could we get high school students gently blitz cottagers for membership? Maybe leaving flyers at cottages or to go door-to-door to encourage joining the LKRA.

Anything outside.

Maybe a meet and greet at the beach or something for the children.

I enjoyed last year's marketplace.

I don't really want to be overly connected to the lake as a whole. I can interact with friends and neighbours as I wish and don't really need more events.

If in person is not a possibility until some time in the future, then online is an option to keep people connected.

Virtual Events as well as social distanced events. Where we can participate from our own places

Another lake social at Half Moon Bay with vendors from the lake.

Loved the craft sales on the beach

Events like this and social distanced meeting in the summer

Regatta

The LKRA relies on upon the work of great volunteers. Can you see ways that you might get involved?

Only 7 answered. One name. Most already involved or not available at this time.

Recognition of Special Services provided by FOCA for our Town Hall:

As you are all aware, FOCA hosted our Town Hall Meeting on January 19, 2022 under the technical and content direction of Michelle Lewin, Communications & Development Coordinator, and Terry Rees, ED. FOCA offers their regular hosting service for a fee of \$100 but they suggest “that an extra optional donation to FOCA be considered if an Association feels the services received exceed the base price charged. “

Because the Town Hall was a first for LKRA, a considerable amount of extra preplanning was involved over and above a regular AGM. Because Kashaog is also Terry’s home lake, we continue to benefit on an ongoing basis from his value-added presence and involvement in all matters. Pre-event Zoom planning meetings were undertaken and special pop-up questions drafted. A unique participant survey was also created by Michelle using Survey Monkey to capture post-event feedback. The results of which will provide data for LKRA future planning.

I calculate that a minimum of 4 hours of live Zoom time was incurred by FOCA as well as 7 hours of executional technical interface, writing and correspondence over a one-month period. An AGM normally involves half the time.

A letter of appreciation has been sent to Michelle Lewin and a donation of \$75 has been made to FOCA to acknowledge the special time and effort they took to ensure we had a great event.