

Lake Kasshabog Residents Association

Annual General Meeting, July 6, 2019

Minutes

President Mike Delsey welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with the singing of O Canada. Fifty-six cottagers were in attendance.

Introduction of Executive and Invited Guests

President: Mike Delsey

Past President: Lori Bailey

Vice President: Stacy Dedlow (Absent)

Secretary and Advertising: Maggie Brickell

Communications Officer: Stuart Day

Treasurer: Hazel Higley

Membership Officer: Jennifer Cummings

Environment Officer: Cathy Ward-Griffin

Regatta Officer: Thomas Brickell

Members at Large: Greg Kruk (Absent) and Adam Auckland (Absent)

LKRA Community Hall- Library: Cathy Cameron. ***** the library needs more volunteers! The same three people have been staffing it for years!

Art Show: Heather Ramsey

Covia (Unimin) PLC: Janet Humber, Rick Rye, John Davison, Mike Delsey, Dawn Mitchell

Covia: Shane McShane, Assistant Plant Manager

HBMLA Liaison Committee: Mike Delsey & Rick Rye

FOCA: Terry Rees

HBM: Jim Martin, Mayor, Dave Gerow, Deputy Mayor

19-01 Motion to approve 2018 LKRA AGM minutes by Rick Rye. Seconded by Cindy Nelson. All in favour.

Nomination and Election of New Executive Members

Vice President (President Elect, one year position)

Membership Officer (one nomination to date: Jennifer Cummings)

Environment Officer (one nomination to date: Cathy Ward-Griffin)

Treasurer (One nomination to date: Hazel Higley)

Assistant Secretary

No nominations were received for the first four positions. These incumbents were acclaimed. Caryn Phoenix-Renz volunteered for the position of Assistant Secretary. Paula Lockhart volunteered to provide an audit of our annual financial report. They were both welcomed to the team.

19-02 Motion to accept the current executive team by Dawn Mitchell. Seconded by Rick Rye. All in favour.

Budget: Hazel Higley

Hazel Higley, Treasurer explained that the executive met in April 2019 and decided on an increase for this year's budget primarily to provide for:

- Increased dues to FOCA as we have more members.
- The budget includes \$1,500 for legal fees. Mike explained that we have retained a lawyer to look over changes to our constitution, and also to ensure that any changes to the dam fund is without issue.

Carol MacFarquhar asked about the \$1,500 budgeted for social events. This sum includes money for events, like fireworks, to take place at this end of the lake in addition to the marina events which include the fishing derby and the corn roast.

Hazel requested a volunteer to audit our annual financial report; Paula Lockhart offered to provide that review.

19-03 Motion to accept 2018 financials and 2019 budget by Terry Rees. Seconded by Doug Burgess. All in Favour.

Membership report: Jen Cummings

Jen reported that the number of paid memberships has increased in 2018 to 339. Data shows paid membership as follows: 2014; 249, 2015; 262, 2016; 259, 2017; 227, 2018; 339.

So far there are 189 paid members for 2019. There is a total of 621 addresses on our lake. Some owners own more than one property and it is up to them whether they want to pay for more than one membership.

Heather asked if the content of the newsletter helped with awareness overall with regard to paying membership dues. Hazel Higley reported that it did and hand delivered newsletters helped too. She noted that e-transfers of dues are working well but that some members forget to include the password in a separate email. She would like to remind members to include their contact information in the email so that we can make sure it is current.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing our paid membership. Lori stated that the 2019 member decal will help advertise the association. Lynda Bonneau suggested making more announcements about the dues. Hazel reminded everyone that they cannot speak or vote at the AGM unless they have paid their dues. Paula recommended this rule be stated more clearly. Dawn suggested we request memberships paid by a certain date, such as May 1st as noted on our website (see <https://www.kasshabog.ca/join-the-association/>). Carole MacFarquhar asked if it was possible to pay for more than one year at a time, but Hazel and Jen replied that it is too difficult to track (and people forget what they have paid for). Heather stated that if we keep the "Posh on Kosh" contest going it will continue to help raise awareness and encourage people to pay sooner. Many people pay their dues at the regatta. There will be a membership table set up for that purpose.

Communication Report: Stuart Day

Stuart reported that every cottage has received a hand delivered newsletter. We have a Facebook page. The executive regularly sends out Eblasts; if members are not receiving them please let Stuart know. Our website has been operating for a couple of years now - check it out!

Regatta: Thomas Brickell

The Regatta will follow the same successful format as last year, with a few new additions. There will be a new sign to remind people to pay their membership dues. There will be a food truck. In addition, there will be a tie dye station - bring your own shirts. The programs are on the website and printed copies are at the Marina.

Doug Burgess asked about moving the Sunday event to another location as the wake from the skiing event is quite impactful on cottages on North Connor Bay. Thomas replied that we understand your concerns but for several reasons it has been decided to keep the event as it is for this year.

The Library will once again host the art show and sale.

Environment Report - Cathy Ward-Griffin

The environment committee has been very busy over the past year working specifically on four areas:

1. Wildlife protection
2. Shoreline education and improvement
3. Water quality testing
4. Invasive species education and management

Wildlife protection:

This area focusses on loons and turtles. Cathy advised that Covia has generously provided funds for a two-phase loon project. The first phase involves mapping the territories, identifying the number of breeding pairs, monitoring the nesting and hatching habits, observing the interactions between the breeding loons and intruders, and between parent and chicks and recording the number of births and survival rate of the chicks.

Although loon surveys have been done for a number of years, this year more detailed information of breeding and nesting pairs was required to determine if the building and deploying of artificial nesting platforms on our lake is necessary. Nancy Bidgood is the coordinator of this subcommittee and will provide an update.

Wildlife protection also focusses on turtles. Last year Covia got involved in assisting our local turtles -it helped protect nesting sites from predators and released dozens of hatchlings in nearby waters. Nicole DuFort wrote an excellent article on turtles on Kosh - see page 16 of our newsletter if you'd like to read more about the turtles and how you can become involved.

Shoreline education and improvement:

Many of you will remember that five years ago we participated in the Love Your Lake program. Cathy followed-up to see if we could have a reassessment and what would be involved. In addition, a new program was launched in the city of Kawartha Lakes to provide incentive funding to undertake projects that will improve the quality of surface water. We are still waiting to hear from them - time is of essence because proposals are due July 31 so we need to act quickly if anyone is interested.

Water quality testing:

As you know, Stuart Day has been testing our water for years - he is the coordinator of this subcommittee. In addition, Dr. Paul Frost from Trent University has conducted water testing as part of Kawartha Lakes water testing program - this is the second year we've provided funds so our water can be tested - they come once a year and take water samples such as phosphorus and oxygen concentrations. Our 2018 results are good and Stuart will report on that as well.

Invasive species program:

Cathy reported on the education day last August where we were shown how to remove fanwort safely so it does not spread. We also purchased some equipment for individual landowners to clear it in front of the dock - it is available. Terry Rees leads this subcommittee. He has been working with Dr. Eric Sager for a number of years. We also donated money over the last couple of years so we can be part of his research study. We are waiting for a brief summary of those findings. Terry will be able to tell us more.

Finally, thanks to all of the members that serve on the environment committee - Nancy Bidgood, Stuart Day, Terry Rees, Lori Bailey, Janet Humber, Genevieve Ramsey and Nicole Dufort.

Water Testing - Stuart Day

Stuart has been testing our lake water for the past 11 years for clarity, phosphorus and calcium content. He does spring time water samples which are sent to Dorset as part of the Lake Partner Program. He also tests for water clarity and temperature twice a month from spring to fall using a Secchi Disk in 3 areas of the lake (Big Lake, Connor's Bay and MacDonald Bay). FOCA is now supporting the program and all data can be found on their website. A question was raised as to the water quality in Bass Bay. The water has not been tested there but there is another Secchi disk available. Marguerite Smith volunteered to undertake the water quality testing for Bass Bay. Stuart will contact the program to see if an additional site can be added to their data base.

We have additional researchers from Trent University and Fleming College. Dr. Eric Sager looked after the fanwort program/issues and Paul Frost tests for mineral levels. Our lake is very low in phosphorus which means we are at a very low risk for algae blooms.

Marker program - Stuart Day

Cottagers are asked to contact Stuart if they need markers (mr.mastercraft@gmail.com) – the association supplies solar flashers and buoys for cottagers to mark rocks in their area of the lake.

Invasive Species - Terry Rees

Terry demonstrated the use of a rake which can be thrown out and then dragged along the lake bottom to dislodge fanwort. A pond skimmer is useful to collect the fanwort fragments because if they are not collected, they will take root elsewhere. Fragments can be thrown up on shore to compost. Aerating the water can help. Coconut mats can be used (don't use landscape fabric). Just try to control the area around your dock. This is a very invasive species which rapidly takes over shallow bays.

Loon Monitoring - Nancy Bidgood

Loon monitors have been terrific - we love our loons. Volunteers donate quite a bit of time to this activity and chart their observations weekly. Loon Monitors are: Janet Humber, Cindy Nelson, Jen Cummings, Annamarie Daly, Cynthia Cole, Lori Bailey, Ted Ward-Griffin, Ken Little, Laurie Ewart, Marilyn Davison, Tess Greenwood Anne & Nicole Hunt, Shirley & Andy Bell, Sue Bailey, Vicki Rohn, Laurie Moore, Cliff & Marguerite Smith, Genevieve & Heather Ramsey.

The 4 Loon Survey Volunteers are: Nancy Bidgood, Coordinator, Cathy Ward-Griffin, Lori Bailey and Janet Humber. We need a monitor for Bass Bay (Marguerite Smith volunteered).

Many loon nests are subject to predators; Nancy heard the pair that nest near her cottage in distress one night. Unfortunately the nest had been disturbed and destroyed. Dawn asked if floating, nesting platforms would help, and the answer is no. Our Loon Monitors coordinate with Kathy Jones at Bird Studies Canada and she is not encouraging nesting platforms at this time. We need to determine nest failure for three consecutive years. Carole asked if the platforms would be better where nests are affected by boat wakes, but this is not the case. Platforms are anchored and are still subject to issues due to wakes, high water levels, and predators.

Road Summit - Jen Cummings

A number of volunteers including Steve Martin, Derrick Humber, John Davison, Mike Delsey and Jen Cummings attended the Road Summit held at Round Lake. Jen is developing best practices for private Road Associations. For example, Road Associations should have by-laws outlining their practices. Jen has put together a summary on the website. Jen will continue to work on this and she will share what she has put together.

Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Lakes Association — Terry Rees

Terry discussed the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Lakes Association (HBMLA) and how this multi-lake group coordinates to discuss lake issues with the local Township Council. At a recent meeting of the HBMLA a number of topics were discussed including private road issues, septic systems and re-inspection programs, public docks, tax rates, and communications from the Township Council with waterfront residents. Cottage owners pay 3/4 of the taxes in the Township so we need to be involved to make sure the money is spent in a cost-effective manner that reflects our needs.

The HBMLA has a meeting coming up in July with the Council to formally discuss these and other issues. Water levels are a concern for many, as is abuse of crown land. Lori B asked if HBMLA has any success with septic system monitoring. It is not on the agenda yet but will be added. Many townships have investigated various options. FOCA is working on a report which will be ready soon. Education is key and there is no excuse not to do the right thing. Another member commented that we need well certificates in order to sell our properties; a septic inspection should be required as well. Perhaps this is something which FOCA can push for.

FOCA - Terry Rees

As the senior representative of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA), and on behalf of this provincial group, Terry thanked the LKRA for their ongoing membership. There are a number of member benefits available through the LKRA's membership with FOCA, including discounts on home and cottage insurance through CottageFirst, deals from Coleman for online orders, and entry to the Canadian Canoe Museum and more. Details are available from the LKRA executive or at www.foca.on.ca. You will need a code from FOCA to access these discounts. One specific benefit for the LKRA is the FOCA liability insurance program developed specifically for the association. Membership means the LKRA saves many hundreds of dollars on this important liability protection.

FOCA's priorities in the year ahead include continued work with the provincial government to carry on our water monitoring programs. LKRA takes advantage of this program with the help of Stuart Day. FOCA is also working to ensure there is adequate funding for local municipal government and supports the implementation of better cell and broadband technology in eastern Ontario.

FOCA is watching very carefully the development related to seasonal electricity rates which will dramatically impact customers across the province. A strong lake association gives you a strong local voice with local government, which is important because we already pay more proportionately for electricity than big cities do.

FOCA also conducted a member survey with natural shorelines and boating safety as major concerns. LKRA members are encouraged to direct any questions about their waterfront issues to the FOCA office or access lots of information online at the FOCA website, www.foca.on.ca

Covia Report - Mike Delsey

The PLC made some very minor changes to the Terms of Reference for the Public Liaison Committee reflecting the new ownership, and added some flexibility for the annual number of PLC meetings.

The Modernization Project has been placed on "indefinite hold" by the Covia management. All upgrades have therefore been suspended indefinitely. This decision will be reviewed again in September (quarterly meetings of management). Covia will have more information at their planned Open Houses to be held August 21 and 24 from 9:00am to 11:00 am at the Blue Mountain Plant. Shane McShane, Assistant Plant Manager was present to answer questions.

Survey Report - Jen Cummings

The survey was emailed to 470 out of 621 properties, representing the properties for which we have current email addresses. We received a 40% response. Eighty percent of the responses were seasonal occupants, and 91% were paid up members.

Responses were rated on a five-point scale, and anything rated 4 and above are deemed important. The survey focused on four areas; Environment, Social, Communication and Membership. Three recurring themes/other issues emerged from the comments: Safety, Pollution and Cottage access (road improvement). We all have an advocacy role to work with each other. The summary will be posted on our website.

The survey took 6 minutes to complete and there were lots of great suggestions. The executive will meet in August to address concerns and suggest an action plan. Cathy Ward-Griffin thanked everyone who took the time to participate.

Invited Guests

HBM, Jim Martin, Mayor; David Gerow, Deputy Mayor

*Mayor Jim Martin made note of the upgrades on County Rd 48.

*Rodger Bonneau noted that the town has been very successful with grants and gave the Council their due for the great job they do lobbying the government on our behalf.

*The township maintains a part of Highway 7 through Havelock and was successful acquiring a grant to micro surface the highway. They also were successful in getting a grant for water and sewer work to repair some streets in Havelock.

*There was a 2.26% increase in the tax rate for 2019.

*There has been an increase in cost in regards to our mandated support for Crowe Valley Conservation Authority due to a 48% cut in the Provincial transfer of payments. This will result in a 9% to 10% increase in the CVCA levy.

*The Long-Term Care Home planned for Havelock is moving along, shovels in the ground next spring. There will be a 24-unit affordable senior housing on the same site. Havelock transferred the property to Peterborough Housing, in the City of Peterborough who is building the units.

* HBM took back the management of the transfer stations, which should save approximately \$114,000 over 3 years. Council are planning on doing a survey on waste sites, since they are not a contract anymore, hoping they might be able to make some adjustments to better serve the residents.

*Bottle Lake camping issue- Council had a good meeting with the MNR in March and some changes have been made. It is not perfect - more changes will be ongoing. The parking area there was created to get vehicles off the roadway.

*The Havelock Fire Department had 430 calls for service last year.

*The Townships building inspectors issued 294 permits last year, resulting in 725 inspections. This requires an average of 8 or 9 per visits per permit, due to an increase in the amount of follow-up that is now required.

*Community Improvement Plan-a couple of business took advantage of this incentive to improve their building facades.

*The Strategic Plan will be released shortly and council will be looking for public feedback.

* Communication is very important to the township and we are proud to announce that there is a community newspaper again. Please support the "Havelock Rail".

* Council have added background information to the agenda items for the council meetings to the website, so that the taxpayers can read the information ahead of time and be better informed. The meetings are always open and all are welcome to attend.

* Septic Re-inspection is one of the items HBMLA is requesting. Dawn asked: If when you get your tank pumped, can this company inspect your system at the same time? Answer: Some companies can, some don't want to, but you can certainly use a company that pumps and does inspections. It may be added that if a cottage is sold, the septic needs to be inspected.

*The cell tower had fallen off the radar, but Mayor Jim Martin went to a meeting in Little Britain in which a representative from Bell Canada attended. He encouraged people to contact Bell and check to see what is available in their area, as Bell is upgrading internet in the area.

*Deputy Mayor David Gerow added that it was great to be here, he thought the meeting was a great meeting overall and it was good to see so many concerned citizens take the time to come to the meeting.

Covia - Shane McShane, Assistant Plant Manager

Shane noted there had been a meeting last month and that Rick Rye, Mike Delsey, Dawn Mitchell, Janet Humber and John Davison attended. Minor changes have been made to PLC – re: number of meetings and new ownership. The modernization project has been placed on indefinite hold, and will be reviewed quarterly. Many questions were raised as to why the modernization was delayed. The corporate office decided the finances looked too risky at this time.

As noted above, Covia will be hosting open houses in August.

Carole asked if they were closing down the one end at Nephton to feed Blue Mountain and therefore have a smaller footprint? Dawn asked if more modern equipment was planned? Dawn also brought up the idea of lights and asked if they could be downcast so as to not light up night sky. Shane answered that it was a 24/7 operation and the lights are needed for safety.

Paula requested clarification as to Nephton's continued operation for an indefinite period of time? Linda Knows has noticed grit on her property this spring. Shane asked her to speak to him after the meeting so they could send someone to inspect the property.

Stuart raised the issue with the sign on highway 46 and Shane replied the company would speak to the county.

Crowe Valley Conservation Area - Tim Pidduck

(CVCA) was invited to attend but Tim Pidduck had a previous engagement. He has committed to attend next year.

New Business - Mike Delsey

Constitution Update:

The current Executive has undertaken a thorough review of the 2003 LKRA Constitution with a view to updating the document to make it easier to read for the average person and to better reflect both the current and expected future organization, objectives and operations of the LKRA. The draft changes were reviewed by a law firm from Peterborough and we have incorporated comments received. The updated version will be posted on the website for members' information.

Examples of changes include:

1. Change the number of officers from "8 or more" to "between 4 and 12".
2. Introduced a President Elect position so the Executive is positioned to fill a retiring President's role when his/her term has elapsed.
3. Eliminated much of the verbiage in the indemnities section as it is unnecessary.
4. Updated the notice of meeting methods to make more current with today's ways of communicating.
5. Eliminated positions no longer in use - Zone Reps, Executive Liaison Officer, and added new ones - Communications Officer and Environment Officer
6. Eliminated reference to Corporate Seal as this has not been used in recent memory and according to our legal advisor is no longer necessary.
7. Removed the reference to members' dues amount and made it open to revision as considered necessary by the Executive.

Members were asked whether they felt comfortable enough to vote on the revisions. All members agreed to vote.

19- 04 Motion to approve new Constitution by Cathy Ward-Griffin. Seconded by Mary Kainer. All in favour.

Dam Update

Over many years our lake members raised money to contribute to a dam fund in case of emergencies. The money collected remains locked away and has at times been a controversial topic at our Annual General Meetings. Many members would like to see these funds repurposed for other lake uses, including water quality, loon and fish programs, lower annual dues, etc., while others want it to remain as it is.

Several years ago, the lake Executive contacted MNRF regarding clarifying the responsibilities of MNRF vs CVCA (Crowe Valley Conservation Area) as they relate to the monitoring, operation and maintenance/rehabilitation of our dam. In response MNRF (Suzy Shalla) noted that they contracted the monitoring and operation of the dam to CVCA while MNRF retained the responsibility for periodic engineering inspections, maintenance and rehabilitation of the dam. They also noted that private funding was not required to support these government programs nor were such contributions enabled by any existing legislation. We recently re-contacted MNRF to confirm that the facts as stated some years ago remain in effect today. The Bancroft District Manager (Suzy Shalla) has promised to follow up.

The Executive has also consulted with a Peterborough law firm to provide advice on the matter. We hope to have more information to communicate to the membership well in advance of the 2020 AGM so everyone will have the information we need to make a recommendation and decision at the next AGM.

19-05 Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:01 pm by Jan Prentice. Seconded by Heather Ramsay. All in favour.