



Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association

Spring Meeting

May 17, 2014

Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Chair, President Tony Lepine, called the meeting to order at 9 am.

2. Agenda Review

Motion to accept the agenda as proposed

M: Terry O'Connor

S: Chris Riddle

All in Favour

3. Approval of Minutes of Fall 2013 Annual General Meeting

Motion to accept the Minutes as proposed and posted on the website

M: Janis Parker

S: Cam Douglas

All in Favour

4. President's Remarks - Tony Lepine

The President introduced the Directors elected at the Fall AGM and noted that Past President Bill Wiggins had resigned his voting role to allow David Austin who had been elected as a (non-voting) Associate Director to become a voting director and be eligible to serve as Treasurer. The President introduced Vice-Presidents Jim Prince and Chris Riddle and Secretary Tayce Wakefield.

The President thanked Janis Parker for printing the KLCOA calendar and spring newsletter.

The President noted that a key issue that the association had worked on over the winter months was the proposed cell tower near Little Kennisis Lake. Of the 47 members who had written to Dysart et al on the issue, 43 were against; 33 were for an alternative approach; 3 were for the proposal and 4 opposed any tower. KLCOA took the position that we welcome enhanced cell coverage in the area, but consistent with the Lake Plan would prefer a less intrusive approach which might be a smaller monopine type tower or another (more remote) location. We understand that Summit Telecommunications is considering alternatives. When a new alternative is proposed, we will again engage and communicate with the members.

5. Tribute to Bruce Carruthers - Janis Parker

Janis Parker paid tribute to Bruce Carruthers, who had passed away on March 4, 2014 at the age of 86. Mr. Carruthers donated Norah's Island to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust in 2007 in honour of his wife.



Ms. Parker noted that the Norah's Island Fund which originally had a fundraising goal of \$50,000 now stands at \$58,000. She noted that there have been no disturbances on Norah's Island over the past 8 months and thanked the dedicated group of volunteers who help with the island.

6. Remarks by Reeve Murray Fearrey

Reeve Fearrey commented on the role of Associations with respect to minor variance applications, Committee of Adjustment items and by-law infractions. He noted that most Associations monitor minor variance applications but do not respond. Dysart et al would like to hear from Associations regarding extraordinary issues such as clear-cutting but prefers to be notified by individual complaint of minor bylaw infractions such as shoreline sheds and other structures - and/or their inspectors will find these in due time. These issues create friction on the lake which the community doesn't need. Normally it is the Association President that makes contact with the municipality on these issues.

The municipality recognizes that substantial shoreline modifications and septic system quality are important issues. The municipality is looking at taking on the septic system issues and hoping to put in place a requirement for mandatory inspections. At this point they have not determined exactly how this will occur. Mr. Fearrey noted that the problems on Kennisis Lake are not as bad as some other lakes.

Reeve Fearrey explained that the missing numbers from the 911 signs are because blue jays are stripping the numbers off. The county is intending to replace them at no cost. Members can purchase a plastic cover for \$7 which will protect the numbers.

The proposed OPP Billing Model is taking a lot of the municipality's time. The Reeve has met with Conservative and Liberal candidates on the issue. He noted that the issue began when some mayors got together and noted that they were paying more for OPP services than others. The charges were based on population and other factors, and resulted from the 1998 download of provincial responsibilities. These mayors lobbied the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to recommend a change. At the same time, the Auditor General had made 7 recommendations for changes to the OPP. The mayors cherry-picked the one recommendation with respect to the billing model. They proposed the new model in part because it is easy to do with available data. Seasonal residences count the same as full-time. This approach adds \$5 million to Dysart's budget. He noted that residences don't generally make calls to the OPP - places with lots of bars do. But Haliburton doesn't have a lot of them. With this proposal, 119 municipalities in PC ridings will see their charges going up, but only 18 in Liberal ridings will see increases. Dysart, the Muskoka Lakes and others are saying that seasonal residents shouldn't count as much as full-time households. After the provincial election, Dysart will be pushing to get this funding model taken back and a complete review done. Reeve Fearrey complimented the KLCOA and its members on writing to the Premier and other provincial officials to express our concerns on this issue.



Another issue is that of a possible pool and recreation center. Reeve Fearrey is not taking a position on this. It would cost \$8-10 million and taxes would have to go up to pay for it. Associations should talk about this issue and let the Reeve know where they stand. Reeve Fearrey noted that hydro rates are expected to go up by 40%. Many Dysart residents struggled over the past winter with higher heating costs.

Mr. Fearrey noted that 80% of Dysart taxes come from waterfront properties.

Mr. Fearrey noted that 2014 is a municipal election year.

7. Remarks by Councillor Susan Norcross

Ms. Norcross noted that the municipal tax bills have been sent out. Council worked hard to be the only township in the County to deliver only a very small increase at \$1.71 per \$100k of value.

On the proposed cell tower issue, Ms. Norcross said that she understands that Summit/Rogers is looking at a monopine structure, but this is not confirmed. She noted that KLCOA Board Member Terry O'Connor represented KLCOA at the municipality and that Council supported our position.

On roads, Ms. Norcross noted that last year a 5 year study had been done by an independent engineer. Major work is planned for the remainder of Watts Rd and Redkenn with a slurry seal for Wilkinson Rd. It is anticipated that a further study using the Pavement Condition Index will be done in the Fall of 2014 to tie into the municipality's obligations under the provincially mandated Asset Management Plan.

Ms. Norcross said that lake shoreline and lake quality and septic issues were important. She noted that the KLCOA Lake Steward did not attend the CHA meeting the prior weekend. She encouraged everyone to learn about how to live responsibly with respect to the lake.

She was asked if the municipality now has more of an arsenal with respect to clear-cutting and shoreline issues. She noted that the Property Standards by-laws have been updated to be more consistent with other municipalities.

8. Remarks by Haliburton Forest Owner Peter Schleifenbaum

In introducing Mr. Schleifenbaum, KLCOA President Tony Lepine thanked him for allowing the KLCOA to use his facilities for our meeting.

Mr. Schleifenbaum said that he is not just the owner of the Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve but also our neighbour. He said that he would have preferred it if the KLCOA would have communicated directly with him about its concerns regarding the proposed cellphone tower. He believes that the cellphone tower would enhance safety on his property.



He said that the municipality did not maintain the roads to the standard required for his log trucks so the Forest supplemented the sanding. He expressed concern that when one of the trucks dropped logs, one Kennisis Lake resident called the OPP. Another resident called him which he preferred.

He emphasized his desire to work together. Anyone with comments should email Mr. Schleifenbaum at info@haliburtonforest.com

Mr. Schleifenbaum expressed his views on the upcoming municipal election.

Next year, wolf pups are going to Thompson, MN which is creating a Wolf Centre.

A participant commented that the Forest Festival, David Alexander Risk and the Haliburton Forest store in Haliburton are all positive initiatives.

Following Mr. Schleifenbaum's remarks, KLCOA Vice President Chris Riddle stated that the association had received information from several members regarding a consultation by Industry Canada on the cellphone issue and had a tight timeframe of less than 21 days to provide our input to Dysart as requested. KLCOA did not oppose the tower but expressed concern that the location appeared to be the most convenient for the proponents but it was intrusive for KLCOA members. No information was shared by the proponents as to why this location was selected.

9. Remarks by Kennisis Lake Marina Owner Doug Mahood

Mr. Mahood said that the Marina is open and very busy. The marina store is well-stocked and operating and the gas pumps are running. There is damage to the large dock which is being repaired. They are increasing the ramp charge with the proceeds going towards the fireworks in August. The Marina will again host the Regatta and swimming lessons.

10. Treasurer's Report - David Austin

Mr. Austin said that the Association had a cash balance of \$13,479.43 as at April 30th, of which \$1679.76 is in the segregated Lake Plan fund and \$3258 is in the segregated Lands fund. The 2014 Budget shows projected revenue of \$22100 with projected program expenses of \$8735 and projected general expenses of \$12359, resulting in a projected surplus of \$1006. This compares to a surplus of \$2657 in 2013 and a deficit of \$2308 in 2012. Mr. Austin provided further detail on projected income and expenses as indicated in the charts posted on the website. Mr. Austin welcomed the willingness of Kennisis Lake Marina to split the cost of the porta-potty which will be on the marina site for July/August.

11. Membership - Deb Wratschko

Ms. Wratschko said that we are slightly ahead this year in terms of people paying their memberships. Although the budget is based on 550 members, she is targeting 600 members.



She encouraged participants to pay on-line to avoid a big line-up when they get to the Spring meeting.

She introduced the new membership card which was handed out as participants registered. This card will be used for Buy Local initiatives, to facilitate Regatta registration and other purposes. She thanked Janis Parker for printing the card and other KLCOA materials.

Stickers/membership cards will be available at the Kennisis Lake store as soon as fully staffed and certainly by the July 1 weekend. If your KLCOA sign is damaged or missing, please contact Ms. Wratschko.

She said that KLCOA sends out about 3 eblasts per month in spring/summer and generally fewer in winter months. About 40 bounce back as undeliverable. If members are not receiving eblasts, please contact her at klcoamembership@gmail.com to verify that she has your proper email.

She noted that some insurance companies give discounts for KLCOA members - you should check with your insurer and use your new membership card. Tony Lepine also mentioned that FOCA has a new insurance program, with details available on the FOCA website.

12. Water Levels, Kennisis Dam, CEWF and the TSW - Chris Riddle

Mr. Riddle showed charts indicating how much more snow we had this winter than last and how quickly it disappeared. The ice-out date this year (May 4) is the latest since 1964. Ice out dates have varied widely and the trend is that the ice is going out sooner. Kennisis Lake water levels are currently 4" higher than average. This information on our website is updated weekly.

When the Kennisis Lake dam was last repaired in the 1950's, the lake was essentially drained to accomplish the work. KLCOA has written to Parks Canada and Mr. Riddle has met with Parks Canada to express our interest in participating in consultations regarding the remediation work to be done on the dam. (On March 14th, Dr. Colin Carrie, MP for Oshawa announced \$3.5 million to rebuild/rehabilitate the dam.) Parks Canada is willing to work with us and assured Mr. Riddle that a different approach will be taken this time to remediate the dam and as a result, Parks Canada anticipates that there will be minimal disruption to the lake.

A question was asked as to whether there would be improvements associated with the dam work, such as improvements to the ingress/egress to the Kennisis River on the other side of the dam. Mr. Riddle said that the plan is to replace like with like. Others commented that the dock at the dam had been repaired/replaced this spring and that the roller system could be improved. Mr. Riddle said many of these dimensions are within the responsibility of the municipality. Mr. Riddle suggested that interested parties email any suggestions to Mr. Riddle for discussion at the Board and input to the Trent-Severn Waterway.

13. Focus on Stewardship - Jim Prince



Mr. Prince said that the Board had struck a Lake Steward Committee to review and recommend how the various activities under the Lake Steward could be restructured as there is too much work for any one individual. Key projects for 2014 will be: Water Quality Testing/Lake Partners Program; Loon Inventory and Loon Nesting Program; Navigational Hazard Marking; Kennisis Fishery Project; Lake Levels and CEWF Involvement; and Continued Involvement with CHA.

In 2013, 4 residents participated in the loon survey. One nesting pair and one nest with a single egg was reported. Anyone wishing to participate in the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey should contact marieroy@sympatico.ca

Mr. Prince expressed appreciation to the volunteers who work on the navigational hazard marking program.

The proposed Save our Ash Trees 50/50 Project with Haliburton Forest will not go ahead as there were insufficient numbers of people who were interested in participating.

11 names were submitted in the Island C Naming Contest which closed in January. Community voting will occur in May/June with details sent through e-blast. Name selection will be announced at the Regatta and Fall 2014 AGM. KLCOA will apply to the Geographical Names Board of Canada in 2014 for formal recognition of the final name.

The Fire Department has installed a new Fire Danger Meter sign on Kennisis Lake Road before West Shore Dr. The President thanked Keith Rodd for making this suggestion. The KLCOA is installing a new sign in this same area in the coming month to advise residents of upcoming KLCOA events.

14. Sailing Program - Jim Prince

OSA Boom sailing lessons will take place again this year from July 28 - Aug 1 at Windermere Lodge Beach for 16 participants, aged 8 - 14 years. The program is already full. Adult sailing lessons are planned for 4:30 to 7:30 pm, Tues-Thurs of that week.

The Kennisis Lake Sailing Regatta will start at 1 pm on Sunday, Aug 3, 2014 with the start at Bullfrog Bay. Interested participants should contact Jim Prince at jimprince@sympatico.ca

15. Buy Local Initiative - Tayce Wakefield

The Buy Local initiative is new this year, adding economic issues to the social/recreational and environmental issues that KLCOA has traditionally worked on. Each \$1 spent in the county circulates 7 times, adding jobs and economic growth, more choice for consumers and lower prices. Buy Local is working with local business leaders to share information with members on what and who is available and to leverage economies of scale for group purchase opportunities.

Initiatives which emerged as important from the survey of members and which the Buy Local Committee is exploring include: posting information on cultural and community events on the



website, establishing a members-only section of the website with information on local businesses; a local trade fair at the lake where members could meet local businesses; a group purchasing program for home heating fuels.

KLCOA is working with Heather Reid at Abbey Gardens to establish a "Shop 118 Day" on Sat. July 12. KLCOA members can show their membership cards to get special offers and enter to win a basket of items from merchants in West Guilford and along Highway 118. More information will be made available via eblast.

16. Fish & Road Report - Gary Benson

David Austin, Jim Reive, Blair Johnston and Gary Johnston searched for fish concentrations at spawning time for Lake Trout. 3 large concentrations of large fish were found and will be looked at in the future with the help of Ray Martin (Wildlife Biologist). We will seek the help of Ray Martin & Dave Flowers of MNR to evaluate the impact (if any) of the dam project. Further confirmation of lake trout spawning areas will be made this Fall.

Winter road issues were a problem across the municipality. Concerns were provided to Brian Nicholson (Director of Public Works) and Councillor Norcross. This year a final application of pavement will be applied to Wilkinson Road and the Watts Road paving is to be completed. Repair work needs to be done from Paddy's Bay to the Dam and West Shore Road needs to be addressed.

17. Regatta - Susan Nixon

Compliments to Stephanie Clarke who has organized the Regatta in past years (and will continue to do so) and all the volunteers and participants. The Regatta creates special memories for kids. This year it will be held on Sat. Aug 2. We need volunteers to help with registration, set-up, take-down and activities. Ribbons will be given out again this year as the participants value them. The trophies will be engraved every year and cleaned. Any suggestions for other activities can be sent to klcoasecretary@yahoo.ca

18. Fireworks - Graham Beach

Fireworks are a long tradition on the lake, with Steve Ashfield and Mark Burley leading it for over 20 years (and will continue to do so this year). This year, fireworks will start about 9:45 pm on Sat. June 28. It is anticipated that there will also be privately sponsored fireworks on Sat Aug 2nd, starting as it gets dark.

19. Input from Members - Canoe FM - Bonnie Roe

Canoe FM is looking at how to improve its services to cottagers. Anyone with suggestions can contact them at canoeradio@gmail.com Canoe FM is at 100.9 FM, call letters are CKHA. They are holding a fundraising radiothon on July 4 & 5th with a painting donated by David Alexander Risk. Other auction packages can be viewed on madeinhaliburton.ca Programming includes Fri night rock and roll show; jazz show on Sat at 4; classical on Sun at 6.



Haliburton Forest Tennis Camp - Tony Saunders

Sue Johnston from Redstone runs the tennis club at Haliburton Forest. It has 30-40 members with membership at about \$300 per family. Courts can be booked on-line. A tennis camp for 5-12 year olds is planned, starting July 28 for 4 weeks. For further information, see www.haliburtonforesttennis.ca

Social Committee - Gary Bouwmeister said the Social Committee is working on a golf tournament, concerts at both Janis Parker's and Gary Bouwmeister's, a scavenger hunt for kids and other ideas. Anyone with suggestions or who wishes to help should email klcoasecretary@yahoo.ca

Keith Rodd talked about the risk of propane fires and asked the KLCOA to reconsider their position on the cellphone tower.

On the proposed cell tower, Tony Lepine said that next time we will talk directly to Peter as well as to Industry Canada and Summit Telecommunications with a copy to Dysart as required by the formal consultation.

A participant suggested that KLCOA look to Twitter and Facebook to communicate more.

20. Motion to Adjourn

M: K. Rodd