

# **SKELETON LAKE COTTAGERS' ORGANIZATION**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Sunday August 13, 2017**

**10:00 A.M.**

### **CAMP RAMAH**

#### **Welcome and Call to Order:**

Sherril Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM and welcomed members and thanked Edit Rosenstein and the Camp Ramah staff for their efforts in providing the attractive space and the refreshments for our meeting.

#### **Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:** Sherril Johnson made a motion to accept the agenda as presented on the screen.

Paul Piper seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Sherril Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Ken Auden seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

#### **President's Report: Scott May**

Scott May welcomed members and thanked Edit Rosenstein and Camp Ramah staff for hosting the SLCO AGM once again. He recounted his introduction to Skeleton Lake 10 years ago and his subsequent involvement with SLCO. He thanked Teddene Long on behalf of SLCO for her support, guidance and efforts over the past 2 years as President.

His first year as president was very eventful. There was a devastating fire at Troy Cove Marina, SLCO was registered for the first time under the Ontario Government Corporations Act, and our membership reached a high of 198 members. There are 243 members registered and 171 paid memberships this year.

Then in early 2017, SLCO received reports from Skelton Brumwell, a Barrie based environmental consulting company, regarding the Lipppa quarry application. Since that time the board has worked diligently on these issues.

**Treasurer's Report: Scott May**

Scott May presented the amended 2016 Financial Statement.

**Motion:** Scott made a motion to accept the amended 2016 Financial Statement.

Gail Todd seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Motion:** Scott May made a motion to waive the requirement of a review engagement of the financial statements. This motion requires a two-thirds majority vote to carry.

Brian Johnson seconded the motion.

The motion carried with one opposed. The motion received the two-thirds support necessary for passing.

**Water Quality: Sandi West**

Sandi West presented the results of the water tests. There were a few high counts for e-coli earlier in the season but the e-coli count returned to an acceptable level in later tests. Sandi indicated she was unsure of when to alert lake residents to dangerous levels of pollutants.

Sandi indicated that the lake is slightly less clear but that might be a result of larger run offs due to heavy rainfalls.

One member requested information regarding disposal of a dead moose at the water's edge on her property. The Ministry of Natural Resources recommends no action. Sandi West indicated that if it is near their water supply they could tow the animal to a shore where it might be disposed of easier.

Jeff Crocker informed members of a program on our web site where one could sign up for a group rate for septic tank pumping.

It was recommended that septic tanks be pumped out every 3-5 years.

Concern was expressed over the large amounts of water from the High Lake Falls. The run-off picks up large amounts of debris that then runs into Skeleton Lake. SLCO will continue to monitor this area.

### **Troy Cove Fire: Tim Lutton**

Tim Lutton reported that the Troy Cove insurer hired Stantec Consulting for the environmental clean up after the Troy Cove fire on August 17, 2016. Nearly all the petroleum products located at the marina were consumed in the fire. A boom contained the remaining products. Their report determined there were no petro products detected at concentrations exceeding Ontario Drinking Water Standards. The Ministry concurred. The remediation was successful and no further procedures were required. SLCO was not able to view the full report because it was paid for by a third party. One member suggested we attempt to request it under the "Freedom of Information" Act.

### **Lippa Appeal: Scott May**

Scott May explained the details of what the proposed Lippa quarry entails, where it is located and how it will affect residents in the area surrounding Skeleton Lake. The quarry needs two Planning Act applications and one Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) License Application. Both of these applications are underway.

On June 16, 2017, Frank Lippa's application to change the zoning and the Official Plan was rejected by the Township of Muskoka Lakes' council. More than 180 people in opposition to the application attended the meeting. The Township of Huntsville also supports the Township of Muskoka Lakes' rejection of the application.

On July 10, 2017, Frank Lippa appealed the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

SLCO has joined forces with surrounding residents ([stopmuskokapit.ca](http://stopmuskokapit.ca)) and cottage owners on Lake Vernon, and North Lake Rosseau. We have consulted First Nations groups and lobbied, and will continue to lobby, local and provincial officials.

SLCO retained renowned environmental law firm, Donnelly Law and a host of technical experts.

We are working to defeat Lippa's ARA application and preparing for a long and costly battle at OMB. We are attempting to legally enshrine our Lake Plan in the District and Township Official Plans. This designation will assist with assessing and preventing future large-scale extractions within Skeleton Lake's watershed.

The SLCO needs our members' support in this long and costly process. The SLCO needs you to contact your local councilors, mayor, and neighbours, and needs your financial support. The SLCO anticipates the final cost of this process could reach \$250,000. To date, SLCO has raised \$25,000.

Suggestions were made by members to use "crowd funding" to raise the funds or explore "pro bono" assistance from members. Townships have limited funds, so we do not expect to receive much assistance from them.

**Motion:** Scott May made a motion to designate the Heritage Fund as a vehicle to accumulate funds that could be used to permanently protect the lake's ecology and cultural heritage against industrial operations.

Paul Piper seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Scott introduced Tom Newman. Tom Newman started a website, SMP (stopmuskokapit.ca) in early June 2017. He indicated the purpose of SMP is to stop the proposed Lippa Pit and Quarry by providing a platform for people who oppose the development to share information and coordinate their efforts. The website is intended to reach out to people beyond the shores of Skeleton Lake who might be impacted by this quarry. He hopes to engage diverse groups of people using social media.

#### **Recreation Report: Bob Smith**

Bob Smith indicated that all the recreational events continued to have good support. He emphasized the importance of these events for our lake.

He thanked Woodland Marina and Mark Thibodeau for their sponsorship of the Fishing Derby.

The Regatta was rescheduled to Sunday August 6 because of inclement weather. Bob thanked Sean and Jennifer Aspden for their years of organization. They will not continue organizing and operating this event. Bob is looking for someone to continue this tradition.

Bob thanked Geoff Ross for his ongoing organization of the annual Sailboat Race.

The results of these events are posted on our website.

## **Election of Directors: Paul Smith**

**Motion:** Paul Smith made a motion to elect the following slate of directors for 2017/2018:

### **One Year Term**

Kelly Andrews  
Ken Auden  
Jeff Crocker  
Mikhele Fiorini  
Sherril Johnson  
Teddene Long

### **Two Year Term**

Derryck Cox  
Jim Dymont  
Tim Lutton  
Kathi Poupard  
Bob Smith

### **Three Year Term**

Jan Hunter  
Scott May  
Betsy Rothwell  
Tony Schevsky  
Paul Smith.

Teddene Long seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **History Project: Ken Reece**

Ken reported that the history project is nearing completion. They have gathered many stories from the early development on Skeleton Lake. They would like to add more recent stories to this project and he encouraged our members to contribute their stories of interest as well as photos in the next three weeks.

Scott May announced that the next SkelEvent will take place at the Family Day event at Ed Olsen's Forest on August 19 at 10:00 AM. The subject will be Pollination and Butterfly and Bee friendly plants.

Also there are tee shirts, hats, \$15.00 boat flags and \$100.00 cottage or boathouse flags for sale.

**Motion:** Scott May made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Alex Shepherd seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Next Meeting: August 12, 2018.