

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association (KLCOA)
held at the Seminar Room of the Haliburton Forest in the Haliburton Highlands
on Saturday May 19, 2007 at 9:30am**

1. Welcome

President Duncan McCallum called the meeting to order at 9:30am and welcomed everyone to the Spring 2007 Members' Meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mr. McCallum noted that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on September 6, 2006 were posted on the KLCOA website and mailed to the membership.

Motion: THAT the minutes of the Spring Meeting held on Saturday September 6, 2006 be approved as presented.
Proposed: Ron Butcher
Seconded: Chris Riddle
Carried: Unanimous

3. President's Remarks

Mr. McCallum reported that Hydro One will shut power off for ten hours next Sunday to effect repairs that were postponed last summer due to the severe storms our area endured and suggested that everyone be ready to be without power for most of the day.

Mr. McCallum reported that there is a great deal of concern about the proposed Bark Lake Asphalt Plant by area residents with regard to increased trucking, water draw and odours from the plant. To this end, KLCOA has joined the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow T.S.W. Haliburton Sector (CEWF).

Mr. McCallum noted that "*September Song*", the canvas painted by 22 Elderberries in 22 minutes last summer will be auctioned off in support of Norah's island at the end of the meeting, thus launching the first Artists' Exhibit, to be held until 4pm this afternoon. Mr. McCallum said that 20% of the proceeds of all sales will be donated to Norah's Island fund.

Mr. McCallum introduced Janis Parker (Councillor, Ward 4) & Murray Fearrey (Reeve); Mr. Fearrey thanked Mr. McCallum for the invitation to speak to members and noted that Ontarians are paying \$250 per capita more in taxes, so we should approach our MLA with our concerns. Mr. Fearrey stated that the Walkerton scandal has increased legislation with regard to water. Mr. Fearrey also said that he is working toward improving the low water situation on the Trent/Severn waterway; our lake is already two feet lower than normal. Mr. Fearrey noted that there will be a 5% tax increase this year to help fund road management and environment issues.

Ms. Parker said that she doesn't have the answers to all the questions but she gave out her phone number at 705-754-2500 and invited all cottagers to call her should they have any questions. She said that 62% of the budget goes to road maintenance and said that \$1.3M is being spent on upgrades this year along Highway 7 and Red Stone Lake. Ms. Parker asked all cottagers to reduce, reuse and recycle, and to use the dump appropriately.

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tony Lepine reported that KLCOA received \$2100 in donations last year, but noted that membership renewals were down and we received \$1860 less in 2006 than in 2005 for membership dues. Overall, we had a \$660 increase in revenue. Mr. Lepine spoke to the budget for this calendar

year, which is based in large part on the 2006 one, and noted that he expects an overall shortfall of \$2200. Mr. Lepine cautioned that we appear to be living a bit beyond our means, but also allowed that he is perhaps over conservative in his budgetary outlines.

Motion: THAT the KLCOA continue to support the CEWF with a donation of \$200.
Proposed: Chris Riddle
Seconded: Jim Prince
Carried: Unanimous

5. Membership Report

Membership Director Cathie Heppell reported that all membership stickers will be sent in the next mailing. We have 244 members as of last night, and about 60 people signed up this morning; this is ahead of the numbers at the same date last year. There are about 20 brand new members who have just bought on the lake or are building new places and Ms. Heppell welcomed them.

6. Committee Reports

Fireworks: Steve Ashfield reported that the Fireworks will take place on Sunday July 1st around 9:45pm or when it is dark enough for it and asked once again that cottagers not call his cottage if it rains; the only to know whether the fireworks are going ahead is to go to the Marina. Mr. Ashfield said that the insurance company will no longer cover him for launching fireworks from the dock, so a new launch area will have to be sought. The rain date for fireworks will be the Saturday of the Regatta, August 4th.

Regatta: Cindy Burley outlined the activities of the Regatta, held on the Saturday of the Civic Holiday weekend. She requested that people come forth to volunteer to organize the event, as only three members are on the committee at this time. Ms. Burley reminded cottagers that high school students can obtain volunteer hours by working at the Regatta. Jim Prince noted that the Sailing Regatta is back on again for the Sunday of the long weekend, ie August 5th.

Rock Bass Tournament: Mr. Ashfield reported on behalf of Keith Rodd that last year's Rock Bass Tournament winner pulled out over 48 pounds of rock bass out of the lake. The "family fish free" weekend is Saturday July 7th; Mr. Rodd has left sign-up information at the back of the room for those who are interested.

Swimming: Mr. McCallum noted that this year, swimming lessons are being given on a weekly basis rather than two-week blocks and said that Stephanie Clark is still looking for an assistant.

Roads: Gary Benson reported that Fred Musinka has been ill and unable to participate on the Roads Committee. Mr. Benson reported on the upgrades on Wilkinson Road and said he and his committee members will drive all the lake roads in June to identify areas in need for urgent repairs.

Community Policing: Bob Kruger reported that there were eight break-ins in early March. Of more concern is the fact that a methamphetamine lab was discovered on Drag Lake, and Mr. Kruger reminded cottagers that they must be careful who they rent their cottages to, as this cottage was a rental and had to be torn down, having become a toxic waste dump, and the costs thereof are all placed on the shoulders of the owner. Mr. Kruger reported that the Police Committee is dissolving due to the lack of support from volunteers, as only the three same people have been part of the Committee. Mr. McCallum noted that without the Police Committee, break-ins may go unnoticed or unreported for months during winter, and urged cottagers to volunteer.

FOCA: In Jason Wigmore's absence, Mr. McCallum noted that KLCOA is a member of Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations (www.foca.on.ca), which afford the organization with insurance discounts as well as information on various issues. The Water Ratepayers after Fair Taxation (www.wraft.com) has joined with Coalition after Property Tax Reform (www.captr.org), an organization that wants to put a cap on taxation increases on waterfront property.

7. Lake Steward's Report

Cam Douglas reported that a draft by-law is in the process of being approved by the municipality to limit wind turbines' construction on lakefront property.

Mr. Douglas noted that Chris Riddle represents KLCOA on the CEWF as one of 30 representatives from other feeder lakes. Water flow issues will be addressed in the full lake plan, a draft of which is currently on the KLCOA website. Our lake water is being tested on an annual basis and Mr. Douglas recognized the volunteers who undertake this task each year.

The most recent study pegs the remaining life of our dump to a maximum of 20 years and Mr. Douglas encouraged all cottagers to recycle and to use the dump responsibly.

Mr. Douglas said that the lake plan committee has worked very hard over the last three years and asked all volunteers to stand and be recognized for their support. Mr. Douglas thanked Chris Riddle and Jeff Gardner in particular for all the coordination they have undertaken in reviewing the surveys and tabulating the results.

8. Lake Plan Report

Ron Butcher noted that there isn't a political party that isn't wrapping itself in an eco-policy to ensure they get votes these days and noted that while recycling and composting are important, the lake plan there will be an opportunity for Lake Kennisis cottagers to influence the welfare of our environment. The Plan is reflective of a community working collaboratively to ensure that the lake remains a healthy and thriving area.

Mr. Butcher thanked Cam Douglas for bringing this issue to the forefront of the KLCOA's agenda. The draft plan, a 34-page document, is a synopsis of the 150-page complete plan. Based on cottagers' input with proposed amendments and additions, the full plan will be published in time for approval at the AGM on Saturday September 1, 2007. This is an opportunity for all cottagers on the lake, whether they are members or not, to contribute to the plan. Issues are addressed in order of priority based on the responses to the commercial and residential surveys. Out of the 27 recommendations, 12 are of an education & communications type, 10 are stewardship-based and five are regulatory in nature. Based on the latter, some by-law changes will be recommended to the municipality.

Contributors to the lake plan include numerous volunteers from the KLCOA, but also French Planning Services, the Municipality of Dysart et al, U-Links (Trent University students undertaking research projects) and the Provincial government. Janis Parker donated half of the cost of printing the draft plan.

Mr. Prince said that a view of the future has been outlined, based on all the workshops held over the last two years. Consultation workshops will be held again this summer to invite comment from all cottagers on the lake, whether in person, by email or one-on-one discussions. The workshops will be held in the Seminar Room on June 16th between 10am and 12nn, and July 7th between 2pm and 4pm. The final plan will be presented for approval to the membership, and from there it will be submitted to the municipality. Colour maps are available on the website for people to download and Mr. Prince asked everyone to identify on the map posted in the room what areas of the lake have meaning for them in one way or another.

A member suggested using Facebook or some other dynamic electronic method to reach out to the younger cottagers. One cottager suggested inviting one's neighbours to a quick get-together to discuss the lake plan with them, particularly if some of their neighbours are not at this morning's meeting.

Mr. McCallum noted that with only half of cottagers being members of the KLCOA, members should invite their neighbours to join, and said that if anyone feels they have not been consulted, they should contact the lake plan committee to ensure that every citizen on the watershed has a say in our plan.

9. Haliburton Forest

Peter Schleifenbaum welcomed everyone to the Forest; he noted that some cottagers are not being neighbourly and drop garbage in the Forest. Mr. Schleifenbaum noted that he will take legal action against trespassers who use motorbikes and ATVs on the Forest trails, as the damage perpetrated by these vehicles is almost irreparable. Five wolf pups were born this spring; one died at birth, three were sent to a wolf centre in Indiana and one was retained here. There will be performances again this year, and if someone missed last year's event because of the storms, their ticket will be honoured. The performance will be held in the last week of August up to and including Labour Day Monday; Mr. Schleifenbaum noted that this is an early morning event rather than an evening performance and said that the event will begin at 4am each morning. Day camps are being offered as well as the wolf howl and stargazing. Mr. Schleifenbaum noted he is willing to resurface the old tennis court if there is enough of an interest in using it.

Mr. McCallum recognized Mr. Schleifenbaum for his generous donation of the Seminar Room for our use.

10. New Business

Mr. McCallum noted that the position of Lake Steward may morph into another kind of position based on the outcome of the plan and mentioned that the lake used to have "bay captains" who used to help grow the membership and disseminate information. It was agreed that the next newsletter will outline some of the environmental concerns and issues such as importing damaging species into the lake and so on.

11. KLCOA Lands

Mr. McCallum recognized Jeff Pinkney and his KLCOA Lands Committee for the phenomenal amount of work they have done with regard to Norah's Island; not only is the project written up in the Haliburton Echo and other publications, but it was a semi-finalist this spring for the Green Cottagers' Award at the Cottage Life Show.

Mr. Pinkney noted that the Island Clean-up will take place again this summer, and high school students can also get volunteer hours by participating in the clean-up.

Mr. Pinkney introduced Shirlee Weeks & Andi Rogers and thanked them for their support and noted that the KLCOA Executive has appointed all three of them to sit on the KLCOA Lands Management Committee. The process is underway to have "Norah's Island" recognized formally as the name for the island. The ownership of the island changed on March 23rd, and it is now the first property owned by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Mr. Pinkney reported that most of the funds pledged by cottagers and businesses for the endowment fund to manage the trust have been received but that we still need to raise another \$5,000 to meet our \$50,000 goal. Fundraising is on-going and the committee will continue to seek donors to help manage the Trust. Mr. Pinkney noted that Mr. Bruce Carruthers, who donated the island, is overwhelmed with the wonderful response thus far. On Saturday July 14th, a plaque will be installed to recognize donors in a small ceremony that will take place on Norah's Island around 1pm to officially recognize Mr Carruthers' generous donation to future cottagers on the lake and launch the island's new persona. Volunteers were sought to ferry people to and from the island.

Mr. Pinkney reported that the agreement between KLCOA and HHLT has been reviewed by lawyers and insurance agents on both sides and stated that the proposed agreement has been posted on the website since last Fall.

Mr. Pinkney noted that the intention is to use interest from the \$50,000 to pay for management on Norah's Island and said that additional donations and/or interest will be used to fund KLCOA projects. There was a concern that this intention is not clearly outlined in the management agreement, and that it could become an issue later down the road. It was also noted that insurance and taxes are the largest expenses foreseen at this time, but that it is uncertain yet how much money will be required on an annual basis to manage the Island.

Motion: THAT the KLCOA membership approve the Management Agreement between KLCOA and Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) regarding Norah's Island.
Proposed: Jeff Pinkney
Discussion: It was noted that the questions listed above need to be addressed.
Amendment: THAT the policies be reviewed to address the issues surrounding the use of the funds and THAT the Management Committee be empowered to negotiate these issues with HHLT.
Proposed: Ted Parent
Seconded: Cary O'Connor
Carried: Unanimous

Original Motion Seconded: Cary O'Connor
Carried: Majority in favour, One against; motion passed.

Motion: THAT the membership approve the actions of the KLCOA Executive and hold each Committee member harmless.
Proposed: Ross Campbell
Seconded: Chris Riddell
Carried: Unanimous

12. Adjournment

There being no further business the Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 11:40am. The annual general meeting of the membership will be held at 9:30 am on Saturday September 1, 2007, with coffee being served at 9am.

[NOTE: September Song sold for \$350]