

Minutes of The Maple, Beech & Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association- Annual General Meeting

May 17, 2009

Secretary: Paul Irwin

President Paul MacInnes' general remarks in summary form.

Initiatives:

- New speed limit: 50 kph
- Dump hours, again with consultation, have been changed
- High Speed Internet: from a standing start, successful in getting high speed, will be up and running by end of September.
- No referendum on airport as requested, but achieving three out of four initiatives is a good record of achievement.

Lake Planning Tool Kit:

Progress made in developing a tool kit for sustaining the lakes' environment. Tool kit will simplify the plan development process. Don Benson initiated this idea. Stewardship Council and FOCA led this development.

Airport Expansion: the President wished aloud that this issue would go away. The truth of our position can be counted on to spread. The Association worked with Building Canada to stop funding, but new budget with plethora of money induced failure in this campaign. We went forward in our ongoing efforts to stop this foolish expansion. Our need now is for full environmental assessment. Meetings with politicians have been held. Three out of four municipalities have disassociated themselves from the runway expansion. Newest initiative is to hire top enviro. lawyer with threat of construction contracts pending.

The Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA):

Special mention made of Napier's work with associations of property owners. This new organization is now up and running and will meet soon in this building.

Email Newsletters and our new Newsletter in hard copy:

Email letters get a good response, and special mention made of the excellent job done by Kim on our beautiful new *Newsletter*. Feedback would be appreciated.

Assessments: facing an automatic 26% increase over next four years even with the Municipality holding the line on rate increases for this past year.

Our President and his partner Susan took three training courses in the past year

Clothing: Canadian made, enviro. friendly, durable, good looking logo. Hats organic cotton, Canadian made!

Introduced new shorter website address.

Introduced new signs for stopping invasive species at Maple and Beech Lakes boat launches.

Presented our mandate.

Presented our Executive.

Called for volunteers, social events, two hours per year. Fun in the offing.

Proposed changes to Executive: a) Asking Andy Muirhead to be Second Vice President. as well as continuing as Research Director. B) spoke of Sally Howson's expertise in environmental issues and of her many skills. Moved by Rick Armstrong seconded by Bob Mackay that she be elected a Director. Unanimous!

VIP Guests

1. Norma Goodger - President – Kushog Lake POA

2. George Legate - President – Halls & Hawk Lake POA
3. John & Sally Wismer - President – Livingstone Lake Association
4. Gary Acker - President – Otter Lake Cottager’s Association
5. Don & Ruth Benson – President- Mountain Lake POA & Representative - Coalition of Haliburton Associations
6. Gary Schultz – President - Oxtongue Lake Ratepayers Association
7. Heather Reid – Director -U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research
8. Carolyn Coburn -Treasurer – Environment Haliburton
9. Sheila Ziman – Chair - Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
10. Nicole Tuyten – Coordinator - Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council
11. Susanne Lauten - Founder – Cottagers Against Uranium Mining and Exploration

Spoke of volunteer richness in Haliburton and his work with other associations introducing guests. Especially the other POA's opposing the airport expansion. Gave credit to U-links on Lake Area Property Owners Manual, and the continuing participation of Ryan Starnaman from Trent U.

Minutes of our AGM held on August 9, 2008 moved, Andy Muirhead, seconded by Rick Armstrong. Approved.

Vice President Napier Simpson’s report:

Thanks expressed to Paul and Susan MacInnes. Reviewed property tax: the *average* assessment increase in the county was 39% (although our lakes were affected by an average of 64%). Your full assessment increase will be applied over four years.

Gave credit to the municipality in reducing tax rate by an amount equal to average assessment increase so if your assessment went up by the average amount (39% or 9.75% for *each* of the next 4 years), the taxes you will pay to the Township and the county THIS YEAR should not change as the lower tax *rate* offsets the higher assessment. Since the average assessment increase in the province is lower, the increase in the Education component of your taxes will average \$18 more per \$1000 of property taxes paid.

Increases in assessment will accumulate over next three years.

Working through an example will demonstrate how you are affected based on the avg township *assessment* increase of 38.6% (divided by 4 = 9.66% *per year*, 2009 tax rate change -10.4%), avg county increase of 39.5 (9.87% *per year* , 2009 tax rate -10.4%), avg education increase 20% (5% *per year*, 2009 tax rate -5%).

Use the chart below to get an idea of the impact on your taxes per **\$1000 of taxes paid** in 2008 dollars based on the amount your assessment increased.

Year	Assessment change from 2005 (per MPAC)
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2008	Assess Inc 40%	Assess Inc 50%	Assess Inc 60%
\$1000	\$1018	\$1041	\$1068

Coalition of Property Owners' Association: Our Association has instigated getting 23 associations communicating and sharing resources in this new Coalition whose first project is the Lake Area Property Owners Manual. Each affiliated Association will get a manual binder, and each cottager member will receive a copy, paid for by advertising revenue. New owners will receive a copy and thus get lake smarts immediately

Doug Palmer, Membership Director's report:

Spoke of clothing and its quality. Reported on Coalition for Equitable Water flow and its efforts to obtain a voice for us on use of the water flow in our lakes, particularly those part of the Trent-Severn system. Fifty Lake Associations belong to the CEWF currently active in the political work of giving us a voice. Grants will go to putting new logs in dams. Interactive websites mentioned. Thanks to his hard work and phoning the number of members has more than tripled since 2005. He asked for members to inform him of email address change as email is the most efficient means of communicating. We were enjoined to be active in promoting membership in the Association.

Financial Statement

Presented by Doug Fraser who observed that as this is the year we changed to using a calendar year there are only five months being reported. Report moved by Carol Hussul, seconded by Marg. Armstrong. Approved.

Lake Partner Water testing Program:

In place for Beech and Maple. Phosphorous readings now being taken, more significant than Secchi Disk readings alone.

Goose Proofing:

A presentation by Gerry Moraal of the MNR. He distributed handouts on alleviating goose problems. Migratory birds are under federal jurisdiction: Canadian Wildlife Service. Naturalizing shorelines recommended as the premier control method.

Septic Smarts:

An informative and engaging presentation from Rob Davis of EcoEthics products. Hand-outs available.

Address of Reeve Eleanor Harrison: Dianne Griffin, Oxtongue ward also present. Overall tax hold, an identical tax as last year.(members will still face increases due to increased assessments) Sympathetic with our problems. CAO retiring effectively end October. Waste Management: expanding Maple Lake site; enhanced diversion program, hopefully by end of this year. Application in process with EA. Septage still a problem. Suggests Lake Associations pressure MOE to stop field disposal, regain tax dollars as proper septage system more expensive. Minden Hills awaiting MOE before proceeding. An interim facility being used. Interest in Geotube system, at MacClintock's lagoon. Recycling: thanks for excellent job. Clear bags enhance our diversion

rate. Big red successful. Continue to use it. Landfill hour change Open burning ban Apr. – Oct 0700h to 2100h. Water trails day at Frost Centre.

No announcement on airport except that Building Canada allowing half million for rehabilitation of Stanhope. Spoke of possibility, that if Building Canada money pulled, our tax dollars will have to be used to perform necessary rehab.

Challenged the loss of money of 100,000 p.a. Stated this is simply not true. It costs \$76,000 Listed three projects applied for to Building Canada.

We have reserve funds for our share of these expenses.

Q. Bob, why with overwhelming opposition are politicians moving ahead? Reminded that until two years ago other Councils seemed to be in favour although without financial commitment.

Quotes Murray Fearrey.

Q. How many people are in favour, what percentage of electorate? Says one third are supportive, she believes.

Q, repeat of first, emphasized wind shear as a safety issue. Do we wait until an accident occurs? What do we do?

Q. Fraser asks about septage. Waiting for MOE.

Q. Why are they pushing ahead with airport expansion without EA? A. still believes that a full EA only required for a 15000 m. runway.

Executive of the Year Award presentation to Andy Muirhead, Research Director.

Andy Muirhead's Report:

Stated that on EA side, Reeve is right that Ontario has no involvement at moment.

But at noon on Friday press release....point? EA legislation essential to address the cumulative impacts. We continue to work, with Industry Canada for due process.

Member Motions and Questions: Have we talked to Muskoka Airport at Bracebridge and their opinion: A. Yes, Yes we have. They consider it “a lunatic plan”.

Question about finances: we'll fight this legally and donations will be requested.

Mentioned meeting with Rick Johnson and his supportive letter requesting a full EA on runway.

Meeting adjourned without a motion.