

**CLEAR LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CHALETS LAC CLAIR
SUNDAY JULY 31, 2011
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

1. Call to order at 1:12 pm

West Nipissing councilor Guilles Tessier had been invited but was unfortunately unable to attend. He did however request that he be provided with a list of pertinent issues raised by those in attendance to enable him to represent our interests with the municipality.

Bertha Green, Field Postmaster, had indicated a desire to discuss some postal issues at the AGM but was unfortunately unable to attend. President Stewart agreed to bring these issues to the floor during the new business portion of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda. Moved by Pat Sayer, seconded by Hector Mayotte. Approved by All.
3. Correspondence – Bob Jolley reports letters of condolence were directed to Jennie Zwarych re death of husband Peter , the Morrisons re death of Garfield and Suzanne Theoret in relation to their cottage fire. Numerous additional letters were mailed out in relation to the Denmar Quarry Application. (See President's Report)
4. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 01 August 2010. Moved by Len Tighe, seconded by Monique McGrath. Approved by All.
5. Treasurer's Report. Moved by Louise Stewart, seconded by Len Tighe that that the report outlining a bank balance of \$1,444.60 be accepted. Approved by All.
6. President's Report – Derek welcomed all members, thanked volunteers for their work throughout the year and commended participants on the great turnout. He reported that that CLCA had joined the Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations as planned, but explained FOCA had been less helpful than originally expected. Involvement with that group provided little of any support to local advocacy efforts. As a result, the Executive felt it was in the best interests of CLCA members that no further financial commitment be made to FOCA. The membership was terminated.
President Stewart outlined the steps that had been taken to voice official objection to the Denmar Quarry application. These included written objection to the Ministry of Natural Resources and council, an on-line objection on the Ontario Environmental Registry, letters to council and councilor Finley, a formal

presentation to West Nipissing Council, and meetings with local stakeholders including First Nations representatives. The MNR confirm that 19 formal objections have been submitted. Denmark reportedly has 2 years to address these concerns before jeopardizing the application process. Should the MNR approve the application, the only option available to CLCA is an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board. This process can be extremely taxing and would be too expensive for a volunteer group such as CLCA to take on alone. Members inquired if it would be possible to make the process viable by partnering with other objectors. President Stewart reported that CLCA was not aware of the identity of the other objectors, but suggested the majority were individuals not organizations. At the members' request, a letter will be submitted to MNR requesting disclosure of the list of objectors. Recognizing the fact that the OMB appeal process is not viable at this point, the Executive will continue to monitor the situation and report back on any response to inquiries. Members reported that Denmark appears to be expanding operations by cutting a new road into the property off of Clear Lake Rd. President Stewart reported that this roadway appears to be related to removal of peat vs. aggregate. Claude McGrath reported hearing there had been some Federal Ministry involvement in clearing beaver dams to prevent flooding. Carole Anne Friedrich also reported that protected species of turtles have been spotted in the area.

7. **Membership-** Jenny Navid reported that 73% of the members have paid membership fees. This represents a great improvement over previous years. In addition 2011 AGM attendance (34) was very encouraging.
8. **Lake Partner Program** – Len Tighe reported testing was complicated by weather this year, but there is no indication of problems with the lake. Final results will be forthcoming from the Ministry, but Clear Lake residents should remain proud of the local situation and continue their efforts to protect water quality. He also repeated previous warnings that our Lake was originally used for logging and some of the numerous “deadheads” submerged in the lake surface each year. Boating and watercraft enthusiasts must remain aware of the potential dangers involved in striking a deadhead. Len encouraged people to suitably mark any deadheads that are located and report findings to the Executive.
9. **Marker Buoys** – Derek Stewart thanked volunteers for assisting with buoys. Claude reported that 5 new deadheads were located last year and additional buoys and rope are now required. Moved by Dr. Roberge, seconded by Joyce Jolley that new buoys and rope be purchased as required. Approved by All.
10. **Neighborhood watch.** Howie Longfellow expanded on his Newsletter comments in relation to neighborhood watch. He encouraged residents to keep their eyes opened for suspicious activity and report incidents to police. He has met with Chief Sequin, who confirms that police will be responsible for investigative follow—up, but CLCA could fulfill a role to keep members informed. Any related

reports to the Executive may be made by contacting Howe at 758-1205. No break-ins were reported over the past winter.

- 11 **Clean-up.** President Derek thanked Carole Anne Friedrich for organizing this year's event. She commented that people actually started cleaning over the week prior to the official clean-up day...which is the first Saturday in May each year. Despite reports to the municipality and police, two illegal dumping sites on Clear Lake Rd. remain unchanged. There was however considerable improvements ongoing at the landfill site on Clear Lake Rd. Carole Anne has previously cleaned camping areas on Party Island, but Howe reports a need for further action. President Derek suggested he would look at removing some of the flammable debris on the island over the winter. The Executive will contact the MNR to inquire if suitable free signage can be obtained and erected on Party Island and the Beach Kiosk warning users of the dangers of fires and littering. In addition, the Executive will send a letter to West Nipissing requesting that signage aimed at reducing littering and illegal dumping be posted in the vicinity of the landfill and the two illegal dumping sites located on Clear Lake Rd.

12. **Call for nominations to the Board.**

Derek Stewart, Bob Jolley, , Len & Pat who are completing two year terms in 2011 have agreed to stay on.

Derek Stewart nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Claude McGrath - Carried
Bob Jolley nominated by Derek Stewart seconded by Len Tighe - Carried
Len Tighe nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Derek Stewart - Carried
Pat Sayer nominated by Bob Jolley, seconded by Derek Stewart - Carried
Claude McGrath nominated by Len Tighe seconded by Derek Stewart - Carried
Jenny Navid elected to 2 year term in 2010
Howie Longfellow elected to 2 year term in 2010
Lois Dobson remains the current Past President.

13. **New Business**

Canada Post Mail Delivery – Rural Boxes vs. Post Office pickup. Derek Stewart reported that he had been approached by Postmaster Bertha Green to discuss the ramifications of changing postal delivery services. Mrs. Green reports some residents have requested to have group mailboxes installed nearer to their residence to avoid driving to town to pick up mail. Mrs. Green reports Canada Post has moved to that model in many other jurisdictions. She warns that removal of postal boxes from the local post may cause Canada Post to close down operations and service Clear Lake from Sturgeon Falls. In such a case, residents would be required to travel to Sturgeon, for other services such as parcel pick up etc. Members discussed the ramifications of such a change. Despite some support

for change, the majority of the members present expressed support for leaving things “status quo” in support of a local post office. The Executive will forward a letter to Mrs. Green to advise her that 32 of the 34 members present are against installation of rural mailboxes.

Fire on Party Island – Howie Longfellow reports he along with other residents and the Fire Department recently responded to Party Island to extinguish a fire. No one was present when the fire erupted, but Fire Department personnel indicated an improperly extinguished campfire could smolder and reignite some time later. Thanks to the quick response, the Island vegetation was saved, however Howie mentioned that there is considerable dried bush remaining from downed trees and litter that provide great fuel for a future fire. The Executive will address this issue by looking into signage and cleaning the debris. (See 11. above)

MNR Bearwise Program – President Stewart presented members with pamphlets provided by the MNR. Members are encouraged to reduce unwarranted bear activity near residences by following the tips outlined therein.

Fish Stocking – Clear Lake – Members discussed the benefits and downside of stocking the lake with fish. Members reported that some stocking was completed in the past. Also there was considerable opposition to this practice, as it drew unwarranted numbers of anglers from other areas. Without making a commitment one way or other, the Executive agreed to contact the MNR to inquire into the steps that are required to be taken. This information will be reviewed and the results reported back to the membership for more discussion.

Problems with seadoos / personal watercraft – Members report that some persons using personal watercraft on the lake are travelling at excessive speeds and are operating vessels in a fashion that disrupts local wildlife and others trying to enjoy the lake. The Executive will consult with police to see what restrictions are placed on such watercraft and what policing can be employed to reduce reported problems.

Loon Watch - Howie Longfellow reported on Canada’s Canadian Lakes Look Survey operate by Bird Studies Canada. This program entails collecting data to track the reproduction of loons, which is reportedly a good way of determining the health of a lake – specifically problems with acidity. Moved by Howie Longfellow seconded by Bob Jolley that the \$35.00 membership fee be paid to enable Howie to take on this survey on behalf of CLCA. Carried.

Issues to be reported to Councilor Tessier by Executive

- Objection to Denmar Quarry – Clear Lake Rd
- Illegal Dumping on Clear Lake Rd
- Installation of appropriate garbage containers at Clear Lake Beach
- Signage (littering- fines) near landfill entrance and illegal dumping sites
- Signage (littering – fires) Party Island and Clear Lake Beach Kiosk
- Seadoo problems on Clear Lake
- Regular loss of hydro service

14. Attendance Draw – Hector Mayotte and Denise Duroches each won a \$25.00 CTC card.
15. Next Meeting Date: Sunday, 05 August, 2012.
16. Meeting Adjourned at 2:25 pm.