

Wolfe Lake (Westport) Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, August 13, 2016, Lion's Club Beach, Westport

Opening: Paul Thompson, our president, opened the meeting at 10:30 AM by welcoming the approximately 40 members present. Paul outlined the work done by our association this past year, which will be detailed later by the directors responsible. The late Marilyn Crawford, a Green Lake representative, had enthusiastically worked on lake environmental, mining, and other issues. In co-operation with the Bedford Mining Association, Mining Watch and Friends of Foley Mountain, a park bench overlooking Upper Rideau Lake in Foley Mountain Park has been purchased to honour her work.

In reviewing past newsletters, consistent themes since the establishment of our lake association have been evident: water quality (septic leakage, zebra mussels, and milfoil), mining encroachment, low water levels, and the need for increased membership to carry on the work of maintaining the appeal of our lakes to all cottage owners and lake users.

Paul urged current members to speak to their non-member neighbours of the work done by our association and encourage them to join to support the work being done on their behalf. He also recommended members go to our website and in particular read the latest information from FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) regarding fire bans and insurance concerns due to the recent drought conditions.

No guest speakers other than our municipal representatives have been scheduled this year. This will shorten our meeting to give us more time for fellowship and meeting fellow Wolfe and Green Lake cottagers while we enjoy our potluck lunch.

South Frontenac: Mayor Ron Vandewal spoke on the 30 m setback rule changes, which have caused some controversy but actually are now more flexible than the original regulations while maintaining our environmental concerns. He also stated that Westport Road at the west end of Wolfe Lake would be closed for up to two days to replace two road culverts with one large one. Advance notice of the closure this will be posted this fall.

Rideau Lakes: Councillors Ron Pollard and Bob Lavoie spoke on the planned joint 27/28 Aug meeting with the municipality and the public, including an invitation to lake association representatives to discuss and possibly plan changes regarding council size, municipal regulations, ward boundaries, building and property plans, economic development, etc. A consultant has already been hired to assist in these planning changes. He also stated municipal costs will be posted online.

Also discussed was the Parks Canada plan for free lockage on the Rideau Canal in 2017 to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary. If this plan is carried out, considerably more water may be drained from feeder lakes to maintain adequate canal water levels and offset much increased canal lock usage. Water levels in these lakes, including Wolfe Lake, are currently at near-historic lows and causing much concern among lake users, particularly with respect to the environment, including fish stocks. The Rideau Lakes municipality is working to protest the free lockage plan. Help from the affected lake associations in backing up this protest would greatly reinforce the municipal objection.

Rideau Canal Free Lockage Protest Motion: It was moved by Kevin Strank and seconded by Adriana Gambarotta that the Wolfe Lake Association, in coordination with the Rideau Lakes and SF municipalities, strongly protest the planned 2017 Rideau Canal free lockage plan and seek FOCA assistance as well. In addition, we would also seek to have Wolfe Lake levels maintained in a similar manner as is done with Sand Lake, where water can only be drained when it exceeds a set level. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Vice-President's Report: Paul Thompson and Bill Garland attended three SF municipality/Lake Association/residents' meetings this spring regarding bylaw amendments concerning building setbacks from the lake front, the repair or reconstruction of old buildings built before setback bylaws were passed, etc. Although some SF lake associations and residents still have concerns on the amendments, our Wolfe Lake executive is in agreement with SF Major Ron Vandewal that the latest changes give more flexibility than the previous bylaw (section 5.11) and foresee no concerns for Wolfe and Green Lake cottagers.

Membership/Financial: Gord Moore stated that our membership is 85 as of today. A few members often join after the AGM date. The 2015 finances are detailed in the 2016 newsletter, with a balance of \$4,939.19. Revenues for 2015 were: membership dues: \$2295, donations: \$220; and map sales: \$8. Our current bank balance is \$5675.83 or \$6,335.83 after 2016 membership fees are deposited.

Water Quality: Daniel Spitzer, our Water Quality Director, has had considerable scientific training and experience in environmental monitoring. As a result, Wolfe Lake water quality monitoring has undergone significant improvements. Water sampling for 2016 is well in progress. To date, sampling in cooperation with RVCA and the Ontario Department of the Environment has indicated Wolfe Lake water is in good condition. One isolated short-term contamination was due to livestock refuse running into the lake. This year satellite imagery will again be utilized to map and follow changes in weed growth, inflow of contaminants from creeks, algae growth, underwater chemical changes, etc. Low Wolfe Lake water levels due to drought and Rideau Canal water level requirements are a more serious problem this year. The 2016 water quality report will be published in the 2017 newsletter and on the website.

Milfoil Project: There had been no applications by the deadline date of 15 July 2016 for qualified members to participate in a draw to test a new Eurasian Milfoil eradication program. This new program uses a continuous laminar flow reverse oxygenation system designed by WEEDSBEGONE, who, along with our association, would help the winner of the draw reduce the cost of this weed control system. A Wolfe Lake Association member has approached Paul to ask for an extension for applications for this project.

MOTION: As there are still qualified members who might be interested in entering this draw for weed control, it was moved by Cathy Thompson and seconded by Bruce Maynard that a new deadline date of 15 Sept 2016 be set for qualified members (see page 14 of the 2016 newsletter and the website for details). Interested members are to submit their names by mail to the secretary, Glen Ewen. This motion is dependent on WEEDSBEGONE agreeing to extend the original discount fee for this service. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Secretarial note: Effective 17 Aug, WEEDSBEGONE agreed to extend their discount offer. Applications from qualified members meeting the qualifications now reposted on the website will now be received. The draw will be held at the next directors' meeting, scheduled for 17 Sep 2016.

FISHING: Margie Manthey gave a comprehensive report on 2016 fishing. George McCulloch and Roy Chisamore, who both operate cottage rental businesses, have compiled 2016 fishing results by their renters, which they have forwarded to Margie and will continue to do so. During an 11 week period from 3 May to 31 July, the total catch for Pickerel was 497, Small- and Largemouth Bass 372, Northern Pike 90, and Panfish of various types 272. Generally fishing has been very good, possibly due in part to the cancellation of the Wolfe Lake Howl because of unsafe ice condition this past winter. Reported catches of Pike, however, are lower than normal. Margie requested that all anglers consider releasing larger fish, as they have been proven to be the most prolific spawners. They also lay larger eggs, which produce young with higher survival rates.

Algonquin Land Claim Wolfe Lake: Roy Sunstrum reported on the latest results of negotiations with the Algonquins of Ontario (comprising 10 Algonquin communities) on their proposed Agreement-in-Principal (AIP) with the Governments of Ontario and Canada. Results of the vote were mixed, depending on the individual Algonquin community voting. As a result, negotiations between the Algonquins and Government officials will continue. These negotiations, when completed, may involve far more than land claims and include Indian self-government, ending existing reserves and the Indian tax exemption. The Algonquin communities are working together on these issues, based on a Protocol signed in 2004 which provides for a unified approach to reach a settlement of the Algonquin land claims. The proposed AIP is not a legally binding document, but represents a statement of the main elements of a settlement of the

Algonquin Land Claim. It also provides the framework for future negotiations towards a final agreement that will have the status of a modern-day treaty. For more information, go online to: www.tanakiwin.com. It would appear any land claim at Wolfe Lake will not become an issue any time soon.

Proposed New Members of the Wolfe Lake Executive Committee: Paul stated that all current members of the executive committee have agreed to continue to serve out their current mandate with the exception of Green Lake representative Manjit Kerr-Upal. She has moved to B.C. Paul expressed the Association's gratitude for Manjit's contributions to the Association. He also presented the names of other members who have expressed an interest in serving as executive members. These are: Peter Anderson, as Green Lake Director; Anna Spitzer, as Director of Communications; Les Kom, as Membership Director; and Adriana Gambarotta, as Director-at-large.

MOTION: It was moved by Sharon Carr and seconded by Diane Shafer that the above-named Directors be approved for the indicated director positions. **MOTION CARRIED.**

SF Fermoy Hall Usage: Cathy Thompson spoke on the SF municipal committee that was recently formed to study possible uses for the Fermoy Hall located at the junction of Westport Road and Lee Road. If area residents and cottagers show a high interest in using this facility on a regular basis, the township has set aside \$30,000 in 2016 to upgrade the hall. It currently has no washroom or kitchen facilities. It is, however, a historic site which the township is motivated to preserve. It could be used for our Wolfe Lake meetings as well as private functions. Interested members were urged to attend a planning meeting at the hall on 17 Aug at 7:00 PM.

Presentation: In recognition of their service to the Association, Paul presented past presidents Glen Ewen (2000-2003 and 2007-2010) and Roy Sunstrum (2010-2015) with attractive plaques featuring pictures of Wolfe Lake Bald Eagles.

Adjournment: Paul invited all meeting attendees to remain and enjoy the pot luck lunch and fellowship with fellow cottagers. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Paul Thompson

President

Glen Ewen

Secretary