

MARY LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

PORT SYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
JULY 11, 2015 9:00 a.m.

1. Meeting called to order.

- John Hogg called the meeting to order at 9:10AM.
- John reviewed the agenda which had been passed out.

2. Approval of Minutes from last AGM.

- Minutes of July 12, 2014 AGM were provided for review.
- Doug Golding moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Laura Hogg.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

3. Dignitaries and guests were introduced & addressed the Membership:

- **Honorable Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board, Government of Canada:**
 - Tony offered the services of his constituency office. The main office is in Huntsville, but there are others in Bracebridge and Parry Sound.
 - Tony commended the Mary Lake Association as advocates for the lake, preserving what we have.
 - If there is a Federal issue which comes up, please contact Tony.
 - There is an election October 19th of this year.
- **Jason Fitzgerald, Councillor:**
 - Jason was recently appointed to town council to fill the position left by Chris Zanetti.
 - Jason is very interested in working with the Mary Lake Association and Council.
 - If you have questions for Jason, please contact him at Jason.fitz@hotmail.com

4. External Reports:

- **Hospital Update – Charlie Forret, Chair of the Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare:**
 - Since 2012, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare has been exploring the type of services which will be required in 2030 and beyond for our area.
 - The investigation involved 250 people in various positions.
 - Nine options were explored, with full analysis carried out on the top 3, including public consultation.
 - On May 27th, 2015, the steering committee recommended the one site model; this was unanimously approved by the board.
 - This is an exciting time for healthcare in Muskoka.
 - The foundation needs your continued support to bring us forward.

- **Water Levels – Paul Johnson:**
 - Good news story...this year water levels are largely in keeping with the current plan put in place in 2006.
 - This plan was a 10 year plan, which is now up for review. The review should have started in March 2014, but has not started as of yet.
 - We need to pay attention to these discussions, as last time it cost us considerable money and time to adjust the plan.
 - Mary Lake has a great amount of soft shoreline which needs to be protected.
 - A new act is in place “The Lakes and Rivers Improvement Plan” which is focussed on Dams.
 - We need to be mindful of other micro-generation operators trying to do what GreenBug attempted in the spring at the Port Sydney rapids.
- **Bugs in the Mud – Jane Earthy:**
 - We've run for seven years, and generally have seen good things.
 - The Bugs in the Mud program will not continue this year as Jane is stepping back for health reasons.
 - We need someone to volunteer to work with the Bio-Technician and a bunch of kids (since kids have better eyes than adults).
 - There is a plot still running tests on Rocky Island.
 - Clarity readings by Crown Island are still being taken, and being input into the Provincial Database.
- John asked for a round of applause for all Jane has done for the lake and the Mary Lake Association. Members showed their appreciation with a hearty round of applause for Jane.
- John Hogg pointed out “It's important to have the facts, to see where the lake is going in the long haul, and to make right decisions based on this information.”

5. Upcoming Events:

- The Fireman's Breakfast is taking place tomorrow at the Port Sydney Community Hall.
- In Baysville on August 8th from 10AM-12PM, there will be a seminar co-hosted by the Lake of Bays Association and FOCA on Cottage Succession Planning. It will be \$10 at the door, but this is free for MLA members. Please contact FOCA for more details and to register. info@FOCA.ca
- The Muskoka Watershed Counsel will be holding a workshop at the Huntsville Public Library from 4-5PM on August 11, 2015. The topic is Community Expectations...what we expect Muskoka to be like in 2050.

6. President's Report – John Hogg:

- A lake association is like a fire department; it is a great year when we don't need to do anything.
- When issues arise, we spring into action to represent the people around the lake.
- This biggest issue this year was the proposal for the micro-electric plant.
- Taking the water away from the rapids would not be good.

- MLA attended the meeting, as well as having an opinion circulated to all of Council prior to the meeting.
- MLA now needs to pay attention to what is happening at Brunel Locks, which is now the new focus of the micro-electric plant.
- John is optimistic that with this dam may come a better ability to control the water.
- Shoreline road allowance was another item from last year. This item has not yet passed through council.
- The main activity for the MLA is reviewing requests for minor variances which are forwarded by the town.
- We use the official lake plan as our yardstick; it is our measure for what is compatible and not compatible for the lake.
- We have 2 standard statements which we use to reply to these minor variances, which help to clarify and re-enforce our position in reference to the lake plan.
- Sometimes the MLA needs to go back to the town for clarification.
- Council does listen to us, and is taking notice of us.
- We have other ongoing programs.
 - The Lake water sampling program will be going on again. This program collects long term data to plot trends, allowing us to act when problems are identified over time. John Woodcroft will continue to assist with this program.
 - If you are interested in taking over the “Bugs in the Mud” program, please speak to Jane.
 - MLA will be active making sure the next lake level plan makes sense.
- We had 2 directors retire this year.
 - Mary Ann Hand has been our secretary for the last 3 years. Thanks go out to Mary Ann for her hard work.
 - John Woodcroft has been President for the last 3 years. John is a tough act to follow. John visited the town on a regular basis to get clarification on various items. He also worked on the regatta. He was an unsung hero, and will be missed.
- Denise Sequeira moved to accept the Presidents Report, seconded by Charlie Forret.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

7. Membership Report – Elizabeth Hughes:

- We have not been asked to find a single boat or dock this year.
- We had 117 members last year.
- We have 46 members who have not yet paid; 28 have not yet paid as of this morning, and 88 have paid.
- Please approach your neighbors to become a member of the Mary Lake Association.
- If you’re not sure what to tell them about our Association, reach out to Liz who will send you a list of reasons to join.
- Please renew your membership when you first get the letter from Liz.
- We are looking at an electronic way of collecting membership money for next year.
- However, we still need to keep our records current, so we will need to electronically collect money and verify your contact information for those who decide to use this method to pay.
- John Hogg encouraged all members to look up and down the shoreline for members.
- We want a strong voice, and we also need funds to support the next major issue.

8. Treasurer's Report – Susan Bobyk:

- There are 3 types of revenue; Membership Dues, Advertising (Spring and Fall), and Interest on GICs.
- Our main operating expense is meeting rental expenses.
- We also have web site fees, and money going to the Waterloo Testing Initiative.
- The Administrative fee is Butler Books who reviews our books.
- Donations are normally the hospital and the turkey dinner.
- FOCA and the Chamber of Commerce are the dues we pay.
- Ryan Kidd moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Paul Johnson.
- All approved. Motion carried.

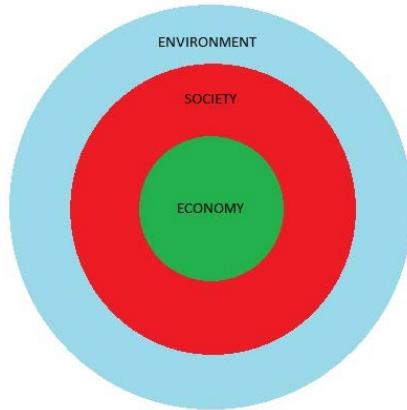
9. Coffee Break – 10 minutes

10. Introduction of Dr. Brad Dibble – John Hogg:

- Brad just returned last night from a climate seminar in Toronto.
- He is the author of the book on Understanding Climate Change.
- He deeply understands Mary Lake, he has a cottage on our lake, and spends week-ends sailing on the lake.

11. Keynote Speaker – Dr. Brad Dibble on “Climate Change and Mary Lake”:

- Brad started out not understanding as much about climate change as he wanted.
- In an effort to understand more, he researched the subject.
- He also trained with Al Gore in San Francisco.
- Most of the sun's rays get reflected off our atmosphere...but some get through.
- Some of the rays that get through get converted to Infra-red (IR) radiation. IR is a longer wavelength, and some of these rays bounce back to heat the planet.
- If we thicken the layer, we keep more heat in the atmosphere.
- Since the industrial revolution, we've added to greenhouse gasses.
- 100 million tonnes of CO₂ every day are produced.
- 2014 was the hottest year on record globally.
- With heat comes moisture, and with moisture comes flooding.
- Most of the planet lives on coasts close to water.
- Hurricanes get their energy from heat in the water.
- Droughts are also an issue with global warming.
- How does climate change affect our lake?
 - Earlier snow melts occur with global warming.
 - More rain than snow with global warming.
 - Fish are affected, as the warmer layers of water on top will not transmit oxygen to the lower layers. Lake Trout are one species affected by this issue.
 - Algae blooms can also cause dead zones. Lake Erie is an example.
- Climate issues are global, so we need to think big.
- The components are Environment, Society and Economy.
- We need to look at the issue in this way:



- Thinks about efficiency (recycling, etc), sources of energy, and conservation.
- What can we do to help?
 - Light bulbs, composting, recycling, insulation.
 - Transportation to cottage (hybrids or electric cars).
 - Purchase Carbon offsets.
 - Solar power, Geoexchange, Bullfrog Power
 - Reduce meat consumption
 - Planting trees and not cutting down forests helps.
 - Make consumer choices which reduce energy use.
 - Consider the environmental impact of the items you buy.
 - Changing laws is even more important than changing light bulbs.
 - Tell your leaders the climate crisis is an issue that matters to you.
 - Let them know you will support or strongly oppose them based on what they say and do about solving the climate crisis.
 - Learn more about the subject.
- Brad's book is named "Comprehending the Climate Crisis" by Dr. Bradley Dibble
- b.dibble@rogers.com
- Paul Johnson asked how to deal with people who do not believe there is a crisis, as some say this is just a natural cycle.
 - Science completely agrees that this is not a cycle.
 - We should be moving toward an ice age.
 - The sun is cooler.
 - We know the greenhouse gasses keep the heat in...not oxygen or nitrogen.
 - People who are closed minded will not believe.

12. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John asked for people to put their names forward to join the Board of Directors for the 2015-2016 year.
- John Friesen from MBC has put his name forward.
- The slate of current directors was read.

Officers and Directors for 2015-2016

President

John Hogg

Vice-President	Ryan Kidd
Secretary	Dave Lawson
Treasurer	Susan Bobyk

Remaining Directors Returning for 2015-2016

Elizabeth Hughes
Dave Scott
Wayne Kurtz
Judy Kurtz
Monique Heemskerk

New Board Members

John Friesen

- Laura Hogg moved to close nominations and accept this slate of directors, seconded by Charlie Forret.
- All approved. Motion carried.
- *Please see the "After Meeting Notes" note at the end of these minutes for additional Board Member Information*

13. Other Business

- Jane Earthy reported that two individuals have stepped forward to take over Bugs in the Mud.
- No other business was highlighted.

14. Motion to Adjourn

- Ryan Kidd moved to close the meeting, seconded by Monique Heemskerk.

After Meeting Notes:

On July 29, 2015, John Hogg moved that Ted Johnson and Brad Dibble be appointed Directors of the Mary Lake Association as Members at Large, seconded by Dave Lawson. All approved. Motion Carried. Welcome Ted and Brad!