

MARY LAKE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

Rev. A

PORT SYDNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
JULY 9, 2016 9:00 a.m.

1. Meeting called to order:

- John Hogg called the meeting to order at 9:07AM.
- As our dignitaries have other engagements to attend, they will be asked to speak first.

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

- **Tony Clement, MP, Government of Canada**
 - Port Sydney and Mary Lake are a refuge; a place to dial down the blood pressure.
 - Tony commended the Mary Lake Association for the work it does highlighting issues. The custodial relationship with our surroundings is taken seriously.
 - Please keep doing what you are doing; passion is important to ensure we do the right thing.
 - Although Tony is seeking leadership of his party, he will still take local issues seriously. You cannot be a good national representative without a good understanding of local issues.
 - His local office is here for you.
- **Scott Aitchison, Mayor of Huntsville**
 - The work carried out by the Mary Lake Association is important for the lake and the Town.
 - A review of the official town plan is underway. This is a document which protects environmental issues.
 - Paul Johnson was consulted to ensure key issues are captured in the plan.
 - We want to protect the lake and vistas around the lake. Everyone is encouraged to be part of this process.
 - The Mary Lake Association will be commenting on this plan during the engagement process.
 - Lots of work is going on in the town this year.
 - Councillor FitzGerald has been representing the Village of Port Sydney very well.
- **Jason FitzGerald, Councillor**
 - Jason is a member of 2 Associations, and did not realize until he joined Council the importance of Lake Associations.
 - Feedback from these Associations assist the Planning Committee to make better informed decisions in lake related matters.

3. Approval of Minutes from last AGM.

- Minutes of the July 11, 2015 AGM were provided via email for review.
- Paul Johnson moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Tony Lawson.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

4. External Reports:

- **Water Levels – Ted Johnson:**

- The dam was built around 1870. Water level compromises were worked out in the early days.
- In 1940, the Hackner-Holden plan was put in place.
- This plan regulated the whole watershed, including hydro, cottager interests, etc. for 60+ years.
- Many docks were built around this plan, and for the most part it worked well.
- In 2006, this plan was replaced with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.
- The driver of this plan is to turn cottage country into a power reservoir, which is what we have been seeing over the past 10 years.
- When this plan was put in place, it was supposed to be re-visited in 10 years.
- The Primary lake observation today is significantly higher spring water levels, with a much longer duration for the draw-down.
- One third of Mary Lake is soft shoreline susceptible to damage by high water levels.
- In 2009, the Mary Lake Association worked with the MNR to hammer out the Hatch Agreement. This cost about 10K of Association money. New target levels and compromises were set. However, the water levels are still being brought up too high.
- We had a close call this year...the rundown ended, and the lake was allowed to accumulate water. The lake almost exceeded its upper limit, and came close to flood conditions.
- However, the bigger lakes (Joe, Muskoka, Rosseau) were not so lucky; water level control was lost, causing many millions of dollars of damage.
- Although the Muskoka River Water Management Plan was supposed to be up for review in 10 years (about now), there is no indication that this review is starting.
- The Mary Lake Association has been working with Muskoka Lakes Association to use their added clout to encourage re-instatement of the 10 year plan review.
- Question: What impact does the water level on Mary Lake have downstream?
- Answer: A 10cm rise or fall on Mary Lake results in a 1cm rise or fall on Lake Muskoka. We are viewed as a widening in the Muskoka River, and SHOULD NOT be used as a reservoir.
- Question: Why is the government not taking action?
- Answer: We believe Mary Lake is considered a Hydro reservoir.
- John Hogg asked if there is a call to action?
- Ted mentioned there will be a call to action once we get a concrete direction from the Muskoka Lakes Association.
- For reference, the Muskoka Lakes Association has approximately 2400 members, compared to the 100 members in the Mary Lake Association.

- We need to awaken government and overcome the inertia to change focus from power generation.
- John thanked Ted and Paul for their work in past and present concerning lake levels.
- **President's Report – John Hogg:**
 - We have gone through the early feedback stage of the Official Town Plan update.
 - The plan in place today does not require any major changes due to the hard work put in by Paul Johnson and Rick Wardell in the past. The Mary Lake Plan was put, verbatim, into the Official Town Plan last time around.
 - We may want to add wording to provide more protection around the falls.
 - Mary Lake Association reviews all variances in relation to the Mary Lake Plan. Our responses to these variances always refer back to the Mary Lake Plan.
 - When a variance is raised which is contrary to the Mary Lake Plan, we push back, and our feedback is heard!
 - Another area where we are active is Lake Stewardship.
 - Our Association monitors water quality every year. In past years, this was done with the assistance of the University of Waterloo (UW).
 - Last year we were informed this program was closing. The Association reviewed the data UW collected, and compared it to the data currently being collected by government agencies. Although we investigated carrying out our own testing following the University of Waterloo process, at present we're not going to go down this path.
 - Long term trends are what is important for us to monitor and act upon.
 - We are confident from what we know that we have a long term dataset in place.
 - One other area we are looking into is excessive noise from the recycling plant in Port Sydney.
 - There is an infraction currently in place with this facility, and we'll be monitoring this issue to see if technology could be used to help in this area.
 - John moved to accept the President's Report, seconded by Ryan Kidd.
 - All approved. Motion Carried.
- **Treasurer's Report – Susan Bobyk:**
 - We have \$3164 in cash.
 - Our Advertising revenue is outstanding.
 - The GICs just rolled over.
 - We have a reserve fund to set aside money for Professional Services which we may need one day.
 - We made payments to our web site provider, and we also renewed our memberships to FOCA and the Chamber of Commerce.
 - Susan moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ted Johnson.
 - All approved. Motion Carried.
- **Membership Report – Elizabeth Hughes**
 - We have 113 members which is poor considering how many people are around the lake.
 - Please invite your neighbors to join. You are the best resource for people to join.

- Notices are going out this week to remind people to renew. Another warning will go out in August.
- If members have not renewed by Turkey Dinner week-end, letters will go out stating they are no longer a member.
- This is Elizabeth's last summer doing membership. Next year, someone else will be carrying out this role.
- Elizabeth moved to accept the Membership Report, seconded by Paul Johnson.
- All approved. Motion Carried.

- John Hogg gave Liz a heartfelt thanks for all her hard work in the Membership role. She had put in a tremendous amount of work over the years.

5. Environmental Monitoring:

- **Bugs in the Mud**
 - Jen McLellan has taken on "Bugs in the Mud" testing this year.
 - Monday, August 9th is the day for this testing.
 - Volunteers of all ages are welcome....young sharp eyes are the best.
 - We want as many volunteers as possible.
 - Any one year is not as informative as the accumulated history. What will the lake be like for our children and grandchildren?

6. Guest Speakers:

- **Muskoka Community Foundation – Daniel Bradbury**
 - The Foundation represents people from all walks of life supporting the community.
 - The Foundation takes time to rally around issues that matter...Invest for impact.
 - Lives improve when we can improve the lives around us.
 - The website is "muskokacomunityfoundation.ca"
 - Donor directed funds and charity funds.
 - One example of an area that was locally supported is funds to a local animal society.
 - Funds have been given in past to Big brothers, Big sisters, Alzheimers Society, etc.
 - Question: Why would the donor give to your foundation instead of others?
 - Answer: Often donors are managing an endowment, and it's easier to give the endowment funds to the Muskoka Community Foundation to manage.
 - Currently managing a \$750,000 portfolio; in the next 5 years the Foundation is hoping to exceed \$2,000,000.
 - The Foundation has donors throughout Muskoka, and other areas of Ontario and Canada.
 - Got started in 2007 when Gord Durnan had a vision to create a chapter in Muskoka under "Community Foundations of Canada".
- **Doppler – Hugh Mackenzie & Elizabeth Rice**
 - **Hugh:**
 - Over the past 10 years, many community newspapers have been purchased by large chains, so the content has changed.

- There are feelings that the priorities of the smaller communities are being ignored due to the corporate reality of large chains and their reality.
- Wanted to develop a community on line news source which was, to a large extent, locally owned. 15K – 30K communities are the target.
- Communities grouped together in a network with local advertisers and links to national advertisers.
- **Elizabeth:**
 - The web site is: <https://doppleronline.ca/huntsville/>
 - If there was ever a group which an on-line news source was developed for, the Mary Lake Association is the one. Environmental topics are showing up as top hits on Doppler.
 - An easy to navigate site, with topics across the top of the site, and opportunities to publish news 24-7.
 - Please subscribe to the weekly newsletter...it's free.
 - If there is anything going on in the community, let us know...we'll be there!
 - Please share our link with your friends.
 - If you're on the site, please click on the ads...it will help with the analytics.

7. Propane Buyers Group – John Hogg:

- The Woodland Heights Community Association has organized group purchasing of propane for almost fifteen years.
- The Mary Lake Association has been asked if our members would like to participate in propane buying for the coming year.
- Last year they negotiated a price (\$0.40/litre) that was 27% below the going market rate, the lowest in Muskoka. There are no additional costs: no tank rental, no delivery charges and no setup fees for tank installation or propane pump-over from an existing tank provided the current installation meets code. (Your existing supplier could charge you to take their tank away.)
- Rates negotiated have been the lowest ones, but they will lean toward the larger providers when rates are similar to ensure supply.
- If enough interest is shown from our members, we will assign a director to represent our members in this group.
- Please let us know if you are interested in having our Association participate in a program like this.
- We will send out more information on this to our members.

8. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- John asked for people to put their names forward to join the Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 year. We are always interested in bringing on new board members with new ideas.
- No members put their names forward.
- The slate of current directors was read.

Officers and Directors for 2016-2017:

President	John Hogg
Vice-President	Ryan Kidd
Secretary	Dave Lawson
Treasurer	Susan Bobyk

Remaining Directors Returning for 2016-2017:

Elizabeth Hughes
Dave Scott
Wayne Kurtz
Judy Kurtz
Monique Heemskerk
John Friesen
Ted Johnson
Bradley Dibble

- Paul Johnson moved to close nominations and accept this slate of directors, seconded by Tony Lawson.
- All approved. Motion carried.
- John declared the directors acclaimed. Clapping was heard.

9. Other Business

- Everyone was reminded about the Fireman's breakfast tomorrow.
- The next Mary Lake Association AGM will be Saturday, July 8th 2017 at the Community Hall.
- No other business was highlighted.

10. Motion to Adjourn

- Ryan Kidd moved to close the meeting, seconded by Ron Dimmock.