



## **Minutes of the Redstone Lake Cottage Owners Association Annual General Meeting, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

9:15 AM. John Anderson, President, called the meeting to order. He introduced the agenda and the speaker.

John recognized the retiring Directors. Doug Armstrong was the Newspaper Editor for 5 years, and has contributed greatly over the years. Terry O'Loane was the past President for 7 years and a Director for many more years. John thanked him for his input, guidance and leadership in the past.

### **Membership and Treasury Report:**

**Sue Armstrong** – Sue asked for any email or address updates and thanked the membership for the use of email for the distribution of the newsletters. This has greatly reduced our costs.

In 2006 we had 213 paid members.  
In 2007 we had 210 paid members.  
In 2008 to date have 119 paid members.

We have 217 email addresses, which is 84% of the membership. Sue advised that last year the board instituted a policy that any members that have not paid for 2 years will not receive any communication.

### **Financial:**

Sue presented the financial statistics of the 2007–2008 fiscal year as follows:

Opening balance:	\$5,038.78
Revenue	<u>6,195.52</u>
Total	11,234.30
Expenses	<u>4,481.41</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$6,752.89</u>

## **Lake Steward Report:**

**John Jackson** - RLCA continues to participate in the MOE Lake Partner Program. We test for phosphorus and do Secci Disc testing. There are 3 levels that define the nutrient status of a lake. Redstone Lake System is oligotrophic, which means that we are within the lowest nutrient level on the scale. This means the lake is very healthy, and algae blooms resulting from high phosphorus levels should be infrequent. The Secci Disc measures clarity, as water clarity can be affected by other mechanisms other than algae. For example, invasive species such as zebra mussels can also have an impact. John reported that we have used the same 3 sites for sampling for many years. This is important so that trending can be monitored.

Questions from the audience:

1. Do we track the population on Redstone? Answer: No
2. Does the water temperature affect the testing? Answer: The Secci Disc testing is done 3 times a year and the water temperature is checked at the same time.

John stated that we don't want algae blooms, which indicate that the lake is very unhealthy.

Suggestions for things we all can do:

1. Keep the shoreline natural – don't cut the trees at the shoreline – prevent erosion that increases phosphorus.
2. Use non-phosphorous detergents
3. Clean your septic tank every 3 years

RLCA has cooperated with the Association of Anglers and Hunters in their survey of lakes throughout Ontario for invasive species. The testing focuses on zebra mussels and spiny water fleas. John Anderson said that this testing has not found spiny water fleas or zebra mussels; however he noted that the York University research program has found spiny water fleas in Redstone.

One member noted that Redstone Lake has low calcium, non-conducive to the existence of zebra mussels. Another member in the audience reported that last fall he had several incidents of spiny water fleas on his fishing lines. The audience was asked to report any new sightings. Someone from the audience suggested we should be testing for acid rain.

## **The Lake Plan:**

**Aline Huelva** - reported good news. The lake is in great shape, probably by accident. We must be proactive in keep the lake healthy. We need to buy into the fact that whatever we do affects the lake and make a personal commitment to wildlife.

This is the reason why we started lake planning. RLCA is participating in the Haliburton Highlands Partnership Pilot Project to share ideas about lake planning and to develop a tool for lake planning. This project is funded from a grant to the Haliburton Highlands Stewardship Council and FOCA from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. There are councilors and environmentalists like Mr. French who assisted the Kennisis Lake Association develop their lake plan.

They have developed a table of contents, which lays out different areas of concern that should cover all involved parties. A time frame of 18 months has been established for this pilot project to develop this Lake planning tool. RLCA's first effort was a survey, which was undertaken through our web site. Keith Beard advised new members to request the survey by email and we will add their input to the database.

Aline emphasized that to be effective, we need a large percentage of the lake involved and to buy into the plan when established.

## **WRAFT:**

**John Anderson for Shal Gewurtz** - WRAFT is the Waterfront Rate Payers Association for Fair Taxation. Shal Gewurtz has been diligent in sending emails for various petitions concerning this important issue. WRAFT is working with CAPTR which is a rate-payers and seniors group also looking for fair taxation. All parties want fair tax reform. The committee memos have given information regarding insight into market value assessment, commentary on unfairness and the lifting this year of the 2 year freeze. Some of the studies have compared sales from 2004 and 2007 in both Toronto and Haliburton and Muskoka and see that the tax shifts to waterfront properties due to increased assessments on waterfront properties. (The waterfront properties gained faster than the Toronto Properties)

There was also a study done of inner city and outer city sales and the tax shift in that case was to the inner city, where there was a larger sale increase.

Recommendations:

1. Look for alternative approaches
2. Everyone is encouraged to sign the petitions

**15 Minute Break**

## **Coalition for Equitable Water Flow: Guest Speaker**

**Bonnie Fleischaker** – John Anderson introduced our guest speaker Bonnie Fleischaker. Bonnie is the Chair of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow and a long time Haliburton resident on Horseshoe Lake.

The Coalition was formed to provide input to the Trent Severn Waterway Authority Review. Its focus is to make the review panel aware that the waterfront residents are here and are involved and want an ecosystem approach to watershed management.

Bonnie gave us some history. She said it will take 10–15 years at \$21,000,000 (million) per year to change the operation of the system fully. She pointed out a map she had put on the wall, that showed the size of the entire system including the Gull River, Burnt River and Jack Lake watersheds. The Coalition represents 39 of 41 lake associations. The Review Panel has produced 26 recommendations to the Parks Canada Panel in a report called “It’s All About the Water” which discusses the Trent River and Severn River Watersheds. The biggest recommendation that the Coalition wants is for a Federally Funded Independent Water Management Agency. The Coalition feels that the Agency has to be in place in order for the report’s recommendation to work. This Agency would be non-partisan and there should be 4 federal and 4 provincial representatives in the Agency along with some Coalition representation. The Coalition wants our participation to make this happen, and asked that everyone write to our MPs urging their support.

The panel’s web site is [www.tswpanel.ca](http://www.tswpanel.ca) . The full report is available for viewing and downloading from this web site. We were all encouraged to write a letter to support the creation of an Independent Water Management Agency.

Page 71 of the report shows the proposed terms of reference. (The Coalition takes issue with one part of page 71 concerning power generation.)

Bonnie said there are 108 stakeholders including residents, hydro, fisheries etc. The Trent Canal legislation dates from 1905, and that is when the last act concerning it was put in place. Barry Devolin, our local MP, started efforts a few years ago to untangle the mess. Barry is a resident of the Drag River. His webpage is [www.barrydevolin.ca](http://www.barrydevolin.ca) and if you look for Barry’s column, there should be information concerning water shed issues. At present, there is \$63,000,000 to run the Trent Canal System infrastructure, personnel and education and \$19,000,000 for Haliburton for the repair of dams and education. These grants come from the federal and provincial government. The province gets the most benefit, so they have to carry the biggest expense.

Parks Canada has never prioritized needs:

1. Flood Control
2. Fisheries and Environment
3. Navigation
4. Power Generation

The Coalition found out that there was a Parliamentary Committee Meeting regarding the Navigation Act. Once the Coalition was able to get some input, it turned out that the committee was only recommending that the Navigation Act be revised. It is a federal responsibility to mark hazards and to allow travel from lake to lake.

Bonnie says there are 117 lake communities that “keep the engine running” and they are not mentioned anywhere in the Navigation Act. The Coalition submitted a request to recognize Sustainable Lake Communities.

The panel talks about the entire issue of water management. The boats and locks are only the “tip of the iceberg” and the lake associations are very important. Bonnie refers to this as CPR Education (Conservation, Preservation & Restoration). The Trails and Tours Network is important also. The Coalition wants to do four things but most important is the Independent Water Management Agency.

Bonnie suggested that we put aside \$5.00 per member in the RLCA for any environmental eventuality, or in case the Coalition ever needs more funds.

One member of the audience asked if the repairs on dams will slow down the water flow this year. Bonnie replied that it will have some minimal effect. There was also a discussion about golf courses taking up a lot of water. Bonnie explained that while the golf courses must get a permit to take the water, they also recycle the water back into the ground.

It was mentioned that David Flowers from the MNR is a great source of information and he indicated that the water should not go down after September each year, as that affects the fish habitat, due to the fact that they spawn in the fall. There was a discussion about the ineffectiveness of having men move logs in the dams, rather than having it all automated. This is extremely dangerous work and very unreliable as sometimes the logs are moved in one lake and not in the next lake, causing weekend flooding. To upgrade will take many years and many dollars.

The audience gave Bonnie a vote of thanks for her very informative talk and for her contributions through the coalition.

**Election of Officers:**

John Anderson presented a slate of Directors to the membership for nomination. The slate included the following:

- President Shal Gewurtz
- Treasurer & Membership Sue Armstrong
- Secretary Cathy Lancia
- Lake Steward John Jackson
- Advertising & Merchandising Judy Cole

- Municipal Liaison
  - Newsletter Editor
  - Directors at Large
- Aline Huleva  
Theresa Kim  
Larry Cousins  
Keith Beard  
Al Cole  
John Anderson

Larry Cousins has agreed to stand for Vice President.

Two additional members offered to serve as Directors-at-large including:

Fred Saunders – from Big Redstone Lake  
Debbie Wright – from Pelaw Lake

John Anderson introduced Shal Gewurtz as the nominee for president.

He advised that Shal was absent today due to a Baltic Cruise he was enjoying with his wife in celebration of their 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Shal has been on Pelaw since 2001 and on the board since 2004 and as our WRAFT liaison. He is an engineer and worked most of his career with the Ontario government, through the Ministries of Environment and Labor. His goals are to increase the membership, work on the Lake Plan, as a key initiative and explore ways to work with other lake associations for common initiatives.

A motion nominating the slate as put forward and also include the two additional members was made by Harvey Bates and seconded by Ted Mercer and passed unanimously.

### **Other Business:**

#### **(1) Fire Pumps:**

John and Keith explained to the audience that the fire pumps are to be auctioned off due to the decision of the RCLA Directors to no longer be responsible for the fire pumps. John said the details will be available on the website. Al Cole was asked to explain a little bit about the fire pumps. Each one comes with 3 lengths of hose – approximately 100' in total, 2 gas jugs and a plastic shed. Three pumps are in good shape – worth about \$1,200. Al suggested that the bidding should start between \$600 & \$800 each. There are 2 smaller pumps, one for grass fires only and another older pump that may or may not be available for sale. The board will make a decision at a later date as to the disposition of these older pumps.

Details of the auction will be posted on the web site and members will be notified by email.

## **(2) Lake Map:**

The Directors have been looking into providing a Lake Map to the members. Shal spoke to the county and they will provide a map with whatever input we want free of charge. We can have contours, roads, boat access locations and portage routes or any other suggestions. The County will provide 2 hard copies only and it will be available on our web site in PDF format for downloading and printing by the membership.

## **(3) Haliburton Health Services:**

John explained that the RLCA has always supported the local hospital, as many of our members use it, and asked for a motion for a \$250.00 donation for the Haliburton Health Services. A motion was made and seconded to approve the donation and carried unanimously.

## **(4) 2009 RLCA General Meeting:**

John asked everyone to keep July 11, 2009 open for our meeting. David Flowers from the MNR will be here to speak to us regarding the fisheries in our lake.

## **(5) Open Floor discussion:**

Chris Beggs from the east side of Big Redstone is the owner of the property also known as the "Jumping Rock" on Big Red. He explained that he is getting 6 boatloads at a time, with 5-6 people per boat on a regular basis. He has had to clean up garbage, has had his trees cut and puts up with partying at night. He has now put up signs and is kicking people off his property. Most of them are teenagers and he asked the membership to please support him in his efforts to stop the use of his property before there is a serious incident. He is concerned about liability and nuisance issues. Someone from the audience mentioned that locals often come onto the lake at the dam at Big Redstone and head for the Jumping Rock. It was suggested that the RLCA mention property rights on the website and that the owners should get the word out to the locals as well. Aline Huleva stated the Lake Plan can make statements about people's property rights.

Another member asked for the support of the RLCA in getting better road maintenance service on Boice Bradley Rd. earlier in the year and for fewer potholes. Keith Beard said that RLCA has no power over this issue as this is a private road.

## **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by John Anderson at 11:45 AM. An invitation was extended for all to join for lunch with hot dogs provided by Bill Burdon of the West Guilford Shopping Centre.