

MINUTES
Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake Association
Annual General Meeting – Rupert Community Hall
July 5, 2008

Note – The original minutes of the 2008 AGM were lost when the secretary’s computer crashed. This version of the minutes was reconstructed nearly one year after the 2008 AGM.

1. Constitution of Meeting

Quorum having been established, the meeting was called to order at about 12:30 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Jacqueline Lambert-Madore, the President of the Association.

2. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

The minutes of the 2007 AGM were distributed to the membership, reviewed and adopted.

3. Treasurer’s Report

2007/08 Membership: \$1300
Municipal subsidy (water testing): \$483
Operating expenses: \$853
Net earning: \$930

4. Executive Board Report

4.1 Water Testing. Carole reported that the lakes had been tested for e-coli and phosphates and that the water quality of the lakes is generally very high. She made the results available to the membership on a spreadsheet. She also explained that the lake had been tested for salt at areas where roads come close to the water.

4.2 Milfoil Harvesting. Jacqueline reported that the milfoil problem did not seem to be quite as bad this year, but that a rainy summer and/or natural plant cycles might account for this. She also explained that the mandate of the Association is limited to researching and providing information and tools (such as the barge and weed cutters) to the membership to help manage the spread of the milfoil – it is not the task or responsibility of the volunteer Directors to provide cutting services.

The use of the manual cutter has proven quite successful and should be encouraged provided that the segments are collected and disposed of at some distance from the lake shore.

4.3 Ice Fishing/ Boat Cleaning. Jacqueline discussed the importance of limiting the spread of invasive plants – such as the milfoil and blue-green algae – by cleaning boats before/ after moving them from lake to lake. Jacqueline has contacted the Ministry of Sustainable Development and it is not possible to obtain a moratorium on ice fishing unless an extensive scientific study is conducted supporting the request [fish population depleting...].

If there are situations that require some intervention then we must call the warden in charge of this area.

4.4 Environmental inspector. Municipal technician Philippe Vlasu gave a presentation on septic systems. Maintaining proper septic standards is important to maintaining healthy lakes. Although the municipality will not likely manage to inspect the septic systems on Lac Notre Dame this year, as it had planned to do, septic inspections are forth-coming, possibly as soon as next year.

4.5 Forestry Bylaw. Jacqueline made a brief presentation on the state of the revision of the current Forestry Bylaw and the public consultations that took place since last year. Based on the feedback received from the public including the loggers and the woodlot owners, the municipality will seek further advice from experts and complete a second version. This document will then be deposited at a Council meeting and be subject to another public consultation which is part of the procedure leading to the adoption of a new bylaw.

These new, stronger laws will help limit the problems associated with current clear-cutting practices.

5. Proposed 2008-09 Program

Jacqueline proposed that the Association would focus on the following core items for 2008-9 program. This program was discussed and accepted by the membership.

5.1 Water Testing. The Association will continue to monitor of the water quality of the lakes for *e-coli* and phosphates.

5.2 Monitoring New Aquatic Plants. Jacqueline asked all the members to watch for any new or unusual plants in our lake since early detection is crucial to preventing the spread of invasion plants. Members are asked to bring samples and photographs of new or unusual plants to the Association so we can have them professionally identified.

5.3 Website/ Newsletter. The Association will continue to provide information on-line (in both official languages whenever possible) and to email newsletters to members (emailing newsletter saves mailing costs). Newsletters will continue to be printed and mailed to members who do not have easy access to email.

5.4 Milfoil Harvesting. Jacqueline reported on the successful use of cutters to limit the spread of the milfoil near docks and private lake front areas. She reminded the membership cutting and collecting the milfoil is everyone's responsibility and not just the responsibility of the Directors.

5.5 Assembly of Lake Associations.

6. Uranium Exploration

There has not been further development as far as uranium exploration is concerned.

7. Logging and Municipal Bylaws

See item **4.5 Forestry Bylaw** above.

8. Municipal Septic Tank Inspections

See item **4.4 Environmental inspector** above.

9. Elections

The membership proposed reinstating the current Board of Directors *en mass* for another term, namely Jacqueline Lambert-Madore; Carole Doré; Robert Boucher; Brian Castledine; Yvon Fleurant; Bryan Watkinson; and Nick Strachan.

This motion as voted on and carried.

Additions to Agenda

Association member Mr. Harvey Cox expressed concern about the lake access points. Briefly, he and other members are concerned that non-authorized boats are entering the lake at various access points increasing the danger of infecting the lake with non-indigenous plants and marine life. The barriers erected by the municipality, which are designed to prevent this, are being removed. Asking the municipality to install more substantial barriers would prevent legitimate residents from accessing the lake. ACTION – Mr. Cox will organize a subcommittee to research the problem of lake access and propose solutions.