

Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association Members
July 7, 2007

Board Members Present: Jacqueline Lambert-Madore (President); Robert Boucher; Carole Dore; Bryan Watkinson; Nick Strachan (Secretary)

Regrets: Brian Castledine (Vice-President); Yvon Fleurant (Treasurer)

1. Constitution of Meeting

A quorum was declared with 40 members-in-good-standing being in attendance. Jacqueline called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

2. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

The minutes of the July 8, 2006 meeting were reviewed and adopted. The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed and adopted – Morag Hutcheson (moved), Lisa Fast (seconded); carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

In Yvon's absence, Carole outlined the financial status of the Association (balance of approximately \$2,280). Details of the Treasurer's Report are attached. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the membership – Joy Richardson (moved), Robert Boucher (seconded); carried.

4. Executive Board Report

4.1 Water Testing. Carole reported that tests for *e-coli*, phosphates and chemicals show that the water quality of Lac Notre-Dame and Usher Lake is excellent. In response to advice from biologist Paul Hamilton, she will discontinue testing for chemicals and begin salt and sediment testing.

4.2 Milfoil Harvesting. The Board admitted that the milfoil problem cannot be solved quickly, and that it is crucial not to implement any procedure that might jeopardize the excellent water quality of our lakes.

Bryan reported that the west channel between the island and the shore was cut several times last year using the electric cutter, and that the results were encouraging. He urged members to form cutting teams and contact him to arrange use of the electric cutter. Jacqueline reported that she has had excellent results at her shore line using the manual cutter, and she encouraged people to buy or borrow a manual cutter for use at their shorelines.

Bryan reported that the biggest challenge is recruiting volunteers. While the Board will continue to provide equipment and training, members need to take the initiative to form cutting teams.

The Board is continuing to do research on other techniques and monitor the pilot project on the use of the weevil [Lac Superieur at Mont-Tremblant] as a potential method for controlling the milfoil.

4.3 Ice Fishing/ Boat Cleaning. Jacqueline reported that a moratorium on ice fishing on Lac Notre-Dame is not possible without an expert study that establishes that over fishing is actually occurring. Such a study is beyond our financial resources, and grant money is not available for private lakes such as ours. If one suspects over fishing, he/she must call the provincial warden.

She also reported that the Municipal Council has approved a budget for the posting of "Boat Cleaning" signs at 4 entrance points of the municipality. No official date for their installation

4.4 MRC Police. Following an issue which was raised at the last AGM, Robert reported a list of property owners had been made available to the MRC. The MRC now has a complete database of names, addresses and phone numbers of members of our association.

As for the neighborhood watch sign, the police no longer provide them free of charge.

4.5 Assembly of Lake Associations. This item was tabled until later in the meeting. See item 5.5 (below).

The Executive Board Report was accepted by the membership – Lisa Fast (moved); Bryan Watkinson (seconded); carried.

5. Proposed 2007-8 Program

5.1 Water Testing. See item 4.1 (above).

5.2 Monitoring New Aquatic Plants. Jacqueline reported that incidents of blue-green algae had been discovered in Ontario and Quebec lakes including Lac Gauvreau in our municipality and asked members to report sightings of any unusual plant species.

5.3 Website/ Newsletter. Jacqueline reported that the website continues to be maintained but that it is currently available only in English. She further reported that non-profit organizations in Québec are not legally compelled to publish website-related materials in both official languages. For logistical reasons, the website will continue to be published in English, but Jacqueline stressed that the Association is committed to provide French translations whenever feasible.

There was discussion about whether it is cost effective to continue to produce and mail paper copies of the Association's newsletter to the membership, or whether email and the Association's website can serve to distribute newsletter information. ACTION – The newsletter will be produced and mailed only to those members who do not have access to email or the Internet. A final newsletter will be mailed to the entire membership explaining this decision and outlining the main details discussed at today's AGM – Lisa Fast (moved); Jane Haywood (seconded); carried.

5.4 Milfoil Harvesting. See item 4.2 (above).

5.5 Assembly of Lake Associations. Jacqueline reported that the Lake Associations meet twice each year and that the last meeting focused primarily on the issue of uranium exploration in the region. During Jacqueline's report, the issue of boat access to the Lac Notre-Dame arose, especially the access of unauthorized boats. ACTION – The Association will study the feasibility of creating and implementing a boat identification system (suggested by Nicole Latreille); of publicizing the private status of Lac Notre-Dame; and of erecting a gate to block access to the lake near Bishops Manor – Jane Haywood (moved); Bryan Watkinson (seconded); carried. It was also suggested that an information campaign was needed to raise awareness about the infiltration of non-residents boats owners of both lakes(s) – Carole Perras (moved); Lyle Paulett (seconded); carried.

The proposed 2007-8 Program was accepted by the membership – Robert Boucher (moved); Morag Hutcherson (seconded); carried.

6. Uranium Exploration

Jacqueline reported that there are about 90 uranium claim sites to date, located in four sectors of the municipality, and she identified them on a map of the area. She also briefly explained the law regarding mineral rights and outlined the dangers to property owners. She urged members to check out www.no-uranium.blogspot.com to learn more about the issue, the property owners' rights; to sign the petition (provided at the meeting and online); and to write letters of concern to their municipal and provincial politicians.

7. Logging and Municipal Bylaws

Bryan reported on the logging issue at Usher Lake. He explained that the expert hired by the Association had not discovered any major breaches of the Municipal Bylaws, but that the Bylaw requires clarification, especially on the issue of what constitutes road maintenance and what constitutes road construction. Jacqueline reported that the municipality is revising the current by-laws and the expert's recommendations were provided to the urbanism department

8. Municipal Septic Tank Inspections

Jacqueline reported that septic systems on Lac Notre-Dame properties are scheduled for inspection this year, according to the letter sent last year by the municipality. The Association as asked the municipality to monitor the Brown site (near Usher Lake), where septic waste was dumped years ago and the beaver dams. The main concern is bringing old systems up-to-date where necessary. She also briefly explained the future challenges of disposing of septic waste as the municipal population continues to grow and that the provincial government will force the closure of the current sites. A municipal sub-committee is currently studying the issue. Jacqueline advised members to contact the municipality for more information and updates.

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. – Lisa Fast (moved); Richard Routhier (seconded); carried.