

Lac Notre Dame - Usher Lake Association
Annual General Meeting
July 11, 2009

Board Members Present: Jacqueline Lambert-Madore (President); Robert Boucher; Carole Dore; Bryan Watkinson, Yvon Fleurant (Treasurer)

Regrets: Brian Castledine (Vice-President); Nick Strachan (Secretary)

Note: at the opening of the meeting there were insufficient members present for quorum. Part way through the meeting, quorum was attained.

1. Constitution of meeting

- Jacqueline Lambert welcomed members to the meeting and moved to accept the Agenda with the following additions: civic numbers, municipal elections and high-speed Internet.

Moved: Robert
Seconded: Lise

2. Approval of 2008 AGM minutes

- Move to accept the minutes of last year's AGM

Moved: Lisa
Seconded: Joy

3. Treasurer's Report & Membership

- Jacqueline explained that not all municipal funds received last year for water testing were spent as the Canadian Museum of Nature did some of the work for free. The Association will therefore not be seeking further grants this year.
- There was a question with respect to how many members the lake association has. At present, there are 52 members; some residents contribute to water testing only and are not considered members.

Move to accept Financial Report

Moved: Morag Hutcheson
Seconded: Ken

4. Report on Activities 2008/09

i) Water Testing

- Carol reviewed last year's water testing results pointing out that this year has been the best year ever. Further testing around location #2 (stream tributary) where E-coli results are higher than elsewhere indicate that the higher levels are likely the result of

animal (beaver) activity and not a faulty septic system. Phosphate levels are all good - well below 20 - the threshold for concern.

ii) Milfoil Harvesting

- Jacqueline reported that last year there was much less milfoil and that the barge had not been used for cutting. There is no definitive explanation for the decline, but Paul Hamilton from the Canadian Museum of Nature indicated that it is likely cyclical, although it is difficult to isolate all the factors that may contribute to milfoil growth (e.g. weather, lake levels)

iii) Boat Cleaning

- Signs encouraging boat cleaning were posted two years ago and members were reminded of the importance of cleaning their boats - and those of their guests - prior to launching in the lake and after they have been removed from the lake.
- The number of signs encouraging boat cleaning may be increased this year.
- Discussion ensued around the current boat launch located beside the road by bishop's manor. The land is owned by the municipality but the launch is NOT public - it is intended for use by property owners. Ian/Mr. Cox drafted a letter to the municipality seeking permission to put up a barrier to restrict public access but it was never approved by the sub-committee and hence has not been sent to the municipality. Although there is concern around vandalism, Ian will pursue restricting access with the municipality.

iv) Assembly of Lake Associations

- There have been no meetings of the Assembly for two years.
- There had been a meeting following outbreaks of blue-green algae in Lac Bernard, Lac Gauvreau and Lac des Loups.
- Primary concerns of the Assembly are information sharing and lobbying the municipality to increase the resources allocated for septic system inspection.

v) Newsletter

- Jacqueline explained that the Association did not proceed with the publication of a newsletter. Due to the number of good resources already available, it was decided that a better approach would be to gather existing resources and share them via meetings and the web site.
- Numerous pamphlets on water quality issues, blue-green algae etc. were available at the meeting.

Move to accept the report on activities:

Moved: Lisa

Seconded: Robert

5. Activities for 2009/10

i) Water Testing

- Water testing will continue in August, and late September/early October and will be ongoing into the future. This summer, sediment and water clarity testing will also be done.
- Jacqueline explained that she has received calls from real estate agents about the water quality of the lake and that water quality and testing are critical to maintaining property values.

ii) Monitoring New Aquatic plants

- Jacqueline encouraged everyone to be vigilant about looking for any new plants and taking samples so that they can be taken to the Canadian Museum of Nature for identification.

iii) Website

- Reminder of website address: www.lacnotredame.org
- Currently it is difficult to update the web site due to the connection speed; high-speed connection for the lake is being explored (see High-speed Internet below)

iv) Milfoil Harvesting

- This year the carpet is not yet visible and the Eurasian milfoil does not appear to be as strong; however, the native milfoil, which does not form a carpet at the surface, is present.
- There was a discussion around what to do with the barge as it is deteriorating and is currently being stored in Kalalla Bay near the camp. Ian volunteered to participate in cutting - Jacqueline suggested he get in touch with Bob Scott (not present) to ask him if he is planning any cutting.
- Ms. Cleary from Camp Kalalla would like the barge docked somewhere else as it may be in the way of young campers. Jacqueline will follow up with Bob Scott and Brian C regarding alternative docking options.

v) Assembly of Lake Associations

- There will be a meeting of the Assembly in September.

vi) Elections - Board Members

- Next year (AGM) there will be elections for new board members.
- Next year's AGM will be held on July 10th, 2010.

6. Lac Superior Milfoil Project

- Jacqueline reported on the results of the pilot project that released weevils to control milfoil. The results were inconclusive and the study may be extended. The report is available (in French only).
- Jacqueline responded to a question regarding the use of windmills to control milfoil. The windmills were only effective in reducing milfoil in the area immediately around

the windmill. At a cost of \$3,000-\$4,000 each, windmills are not seen as a viable option for controlling milfoil.

Move to accept program of activities for 2009/10

Moved: Carol

Seconded: Joy

7. Municipal Septic Tank Inspections - PAPA program

- Subsidy of \$102,000 was provided to the MRC to undertake septic inspections in several municipalities; in La Pêche, the focused area is around Lac Bernard and Lac des Loups.
- The municipality won't be inspecting septic systems around Lac Notre Dame and Usher Lake this year.
- Lisa indicated that the Federal tax rebate announced for this year applies to upgrading septics.
- Jacqueline will provide L. Samson with information with respect to what is considered an old septic system.

Other Questions/Concerns

Francine Routille (?) noted that the municipality appears to have been using the sandpit (it had previously been closed) and that anyone can now dump in it as there is no barrier. Jacqueline will look into it.

Ms. Cleary reported on the vandalism that has taken place at Camp Kalalla this winter and spring and asked residents to please keep watch for possible vandals.

Move to adjourn meeting

Moved: Ken

Seconded: Mr. Cox

The following items were discussed after the meeting was officially adjourned

i) Civic Numbers

- Jacqueline reported that the municipality is installing civic numbers. Work should be complete by fall.

ii) Municipal Elections

- Jacqueline explained that non-residents are now able to register and vote by mail. To vote by mail, you need to submit a letter of request to the municipality.
- Jacqueline explained that the size of the ward and the number of residents effects the budget for public work in the ward, thus it is important to register.
- The next municipal election is November 1st, 2009

iii) High-speed Internet

- Several residents have been working with John Kingsley who operates Wakenet to explore the possibility of getting high-speed Internet for the lake. It looks promising. We are currently awaiting authorization from landowners to erect a tower.