



COTTAGERS' ASSOC.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING WEST OXBOW LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1978, 10:00 A.M. AT OXBOW LODGE

President Bob Fenwick chaired the meeting and welcomed members, guests from the East Arm and Councillor Aage Petersen. He expressed the sympathy of the association to the family of the late Stan McBride who had been president of the association for many years. Flowers were sent by Jim Evenden for the association. Sympathy was expressed at the death last night of Mr. Benninghof, and prayers were asked for Jane, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Forrest, who is very ill. Congratulations were extended to Ann and Sid Brookson who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at the lake on August 1st and were entertained at a delightful wine and cheese party and dinner at OxBow Lodge hosted by Veronica and Brian Dittmar.

Council Report:: Mayor Malcolm Scott could not be present because of attending a cottagers' meeting at Baysville. Aage Petersen, representative to Lake of Bays Council for the area including OxBow, expressed his pleasure at being invited to the meeting, and he covered the following items in his report:

Limberlost Development: Council had a number of meetings with a very good engineer in sewage treatment and made a study. They have now come up with changes in the proposed sewage disposal system, resulting in practically no pollution in Rebecca Lake. A mechanical sewage plant would be installed and this would eventually be turned over to the District for operating. Muskoka Road 8 will have to be upgraded if the proposed development goes ahead as some 340 townhouse-style homes are planned for the development. In answer to a question about further development in the area, Mr. Petersen said that the Muskoka Official Plan designated a rate of growth for a period of years. The Limberlost development will exceed the rate by quite a bit, so there should not be anything more along that line for some years.

Kiwanis Boys' Camp: In view of the Limberlost development, concern was expressed about the camp property and its future. Opinion was expressed that the property can only be sold to a non-profit organization.

Lakeshore Allowance: Mr. Petersen said that recently the Provincial Government gave permission for purchase of the lakeshore road allowance in front of property. The township has put a price of \$1.50 a foot on lake shore allowance property. Information in regard to the possible road allowance is available at the Township Office. The OxBow Association will try to get the necessary information from the Township Office.

Muskoka Road 8: Mr. Petersen said that about half a mile will be re-aligned and \$20,000 is in the budget for the road this year. Sid Davis asked why the section repaired this year had been made so high, and Irene Davis thought white lines should be used to define the edge of the road and reflectors should be placed on the guard posts. The District Engineer laid out the changes. Gerry Dodds asked Councillor Petersen to take back our opinion that, for the money put into this year's changes, the road was not too well engineered.

School Taxes: Mr. Petersen said that Council has complained to the School Board about the continual increases in school taxes and has asked that some

effort be made to lower the tax. He said that the School Board has done nothing along these lines and has not even replied to the Council's representations. The Board is apparently considering closing the elementary school at Dorset because of dropping enrolment and taking the 60 students by bus to two other schools, which Mr. Petersen saw as just as costly an undertaking. Mr. Petersen urged cottagers to take some action themselves to try to get some action on school taxes by writing to the School Board and to their Members of Parliament (MPP's).

Gerry Dodds asked Councillor Petersen to give the association a list of the ongoing problems with our elected school board trustees - with their phone numbers - so we can take some action. The advance poll for voting in the election to be held this year is early in November.

Mr. Petersen was asked to have Council take action on the following items raised by cottagers:

1. Winter ploughing: John Bowman asked that the parking lot just off the cottage road used for winter parking be enlarged when the road is being ploughed. Mr. Petersen mentioned that the township cannot afford to go very far with winter ploughing for one family. Bill Wylie commented that he had been told in Toronto that any road that is built on Crown Land becomes a public road.
2. Sign at entrance to Muskoka Road 8: John Lilly asked that the sign at the start of road 8 be changed for one showing a lower speed, especially in view of the condition of the road.
3. Muskoka Road 8: Irene Davis asked
 - that reflectors be put on the guard posts and a white line painted at the edge of the road that has been repaired this summer;
 - if parking could be provided for the cemetery and also a foot path to the cemetery. Reconstruction of the road this summer caused the loss of a spot to park.
 - Council to see if the Township would clean up and improve the cemetery.
4. Muskoka Road 8 and Highway 60: Several cottagers were concerned about the hazard at this location when trying to make a left-hand turn to Road 8. John Cowan moved, seconded by Gerry Dodds, that we re-affirm our resolution and draw to the attention of Council that a flashing light and/or a left-hand turn lane for eastbound traffic be put in at the intersection of Highway 60 and Muskoka Road 8. Carried.
5. Britannia Hotel: Mrs. Davis mentioned the problem caused by the religious group who have taken over the hotel and who have stated that they will not pay the taxes of approximately \$14,000 to \$16,000 a year since they are an educational group. Mr. Petersen said the Council will fight this case very strenuously.

Irene Davis moved, seconded by Aileen Cowan, that the OxBow Association object to Britannia Hotel's present owners being classified as an educational group for tax exemption, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Council. Carried.

- 6. Culvert at Lot 31: On behalf of Vic House, Bob Fenwick asked that this culvert be relocated or else a larger culvert be installed. All this section of the cottage road needs to be ditched.
- 7. Intersection of Lodge road and cottage road: Bob Fenwick asked that poplar trees and shrubs at this intersection be cleared by the Township to improve visibility.
- 8. Lot 56: John Lilly asked about rerouting of the cottage road around the large rock as this was brought up last year. The whole cottage road is gradually being improved, and Mr. Petersen assured the meeting that this large rock would be taken care of eventually.

Bill Wylie moved an expression of appreciation from the OxBow Cottagers' Association to the Lake of Bays Township for their co-operation and the many things they have done for the area, seconded by Gerry Dodds. Carried.

Bob Fenwick thanked Aage Petersen for coming to the meeting and bringing us up to date on some of the problems in the area.

After a brief break for coffee and doughnuts the meeting continued.

Minutes of Last Annual Meeting: Moved by Gerry Dodds, seconded by John Lilly, that the minutes be accepted as printed. Carried. In the absence of Vic House, Evelyn Fenwick acted as secretary for this year's meeting. Doug Alford moved, seconded by Jim Coulter, that a hearty vote of thanks be extended to Vic House for his excellent efforts as secretary. Carried.

Bob Fenwick mentioned that Edgar Brook had died during the year, calling it the "passing of an era", in view of the fact that "Brookie" had built many of the cottages on Oxbow and had been a long-time resident at Brook's Mills.

Business Arising from the Minutes: The renaming of the cottage road to "OxBow Trail" will come before Council.

New sign: Would be in place this weekend except that Vic House was not able to come to the lake and the sign is in his garage! The sign will contain names and lot numbers and is done on routered wood and should require no maintenance.

Social get-togethers: Bob Fenwick reported that the social committee had met several times to plan a dinner or social evening at the lodge, but it was difficult to get a satisfactory date because of bookings at the lodge and staffing problems. The committee, therefore, decided that we should cancel plans for a social this season. John Rolls offered his cottage for a party site. After general discussion it was decided that this should be held on Saturday evening, August 26, from 8:00 to 11:00. The cottagers will bring the sandwiches and the association will look after other refreshments. Irene Davis moved a hearty vote of thanks to John and Marietta Rolls, seconded by Bill Wylie. Motion carried. John lives at Lot No. 27.

Escape of water into Oxbow Creek: The Department of Natural Resources take no interest in water levels on lakes where the hydro is not concerned.

Joint meeting with other cottagers' associations: Aage Petersen is compiling a list for the use of the association, and Doug Alford agreed to contact these other associations.

Treasurer's Report: John Cowan's report, copy attached, showed the bank balance at July 31, 1978, as \$212.02. On motion by John Cowan, seconded by Audrey Cambray, this report was accepted.

Federation of Cottagers' Association: Gerry Dodds reported that our group has been a member of the association for four years. This past year the Federation has gone to a full-time staff, and now has a permanent staff of three, including the president. Association H.Q. is now at 215 Moores (sp?) Road, Scarborough, Ontario, and the building, facilities and files are open to any member to use. Membership is \$25.00 a year, and this year an additional 50¢ a member is being requested to cover the cost of their move to the new premises. Gerry asked for a larger representation of cottagers at the Annual Meeting, usually held in February. Betty Alford moved, seconded by Gerry Dodds, that our association pay the regular Federation dues of \$25.00 plus the 50¢ per member special assessment to cover their one-time levy towards the cost of opening the new office. Carried. Bill Wylie suggested that we ask the Federation to inquire into the greatly increased hydro rates. Jim Coulter said he had reviewed the material available from the Federation and that we should support them. Some items, such as smoke detectors, can be obtained at a lower cost; a cottage magazine is available through them, and they also publish a newsletter.

East Arm Group: Eleven cottagers from the East Arm were present and expressed a desire to join with the West Arm cottagers in an association. At present they have no organization at all. Moved by Aileen Cowan, seconded by Jim Coulter, that we invite the East Arm cottagers to join our association and that our association be known in future as the Oxbow Cottagers' Association. Motion was carried unanimously, and a hearty welcome was accorded the new members. There are some thirty cottages on the East Arm, and Doug Slatter and Rob Jenkins volunteered as their representatives on the executive. The name chosen by the East Arm people for their road will be included with the Oxbow Trail name being submitted to Council.

Irene Davis reported that a Dr. Morrison has bought the Boyd cottage.

Muskoka Tourist Promotion: As a Director of the Muskoka Association Brian Dittmar spoke briefly about their activities and stated that some 1400 contestants are expected in the big ski race on the first Sunday in January.

Next Year's Activities: The Social Committee will look into trying to arrange some kind of party for the 1st of July weekend, possibly a half day get-together. Suggestions included: a barbecue, water safety demonstrations. Aileen Cowan said she knew a doctor who could give instruction and demonstrations of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Helen MacRae volunteered to give a group of children instructions in water safety.

Water Safety: Irene Davis expressed her concern at good water safety rules not being followed on the lake. Instances given by Irene and others included two small girls wearing no life jackets but out in a canoe, a young boy taking a motor boat out and not knowing how to operate it, and the operator of a motor boat clowning around while pulling a rider on a small surf board. The general opinion reached was that parents should keep an eye on their children and be more aware of their activities on the water.

Testing of Lake Water: Near the Lodge water tested O/O. Water taken from the lake opposite John Rolls' cottage tested as needing to be boiled.

Speed Limit through the Narrows: Suggestions for signs asking for common sense, courtesy and caution were made in an effort to improve water safety through the narrows at the Lodge. The Association will look into having some signs made.

Road Signs: Aileen Cowan asked for signs on the cottage road to make the road safer. Construction and road trucks roar along at a high speed. The Township will be asked if signs are available that will warn of children playing, etc., and will be asked to install some warning signs.

Dues: On motion duly moved and seconded, dues will continue to be \$2.00 for the coming year.

Irene Davis expressed a vote of thanks to the executive for their work during the year.

Adjournment: Came at 12:45 P.M.

ef
August 15, 1978

Evelyn Fenwick, A/Secretary

WEST ARM OX BOW COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT - JULY 31, 1978

Bank Balance July 31, 1977 - \$153.07

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Aileen Forrest - Re Dinner | 4.81 |
| Ox Bow Lodge - Meeting & Coffee | <u>35.00</u> |
| | \$39.81 |

Receipts

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Dues collected and deposited | 87.00 |
| Interest (bank) | 1.72 |
| | <u>3.04</u> |
| | \$91.76 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Current Bank Balance | 205.02 |
| Cash on hand | <u>7.00</u> |
| | 212.02 |

July 31, 1978 Present Balance \$212.02

J.J. Cowan
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