

# OX-BOW LAKE COTTAGES ASSOCIATION MEETING

DATE: SUNDAY JULY 31, 1994

LOCATION: OX-BOW LODGE

Meeting was called to order by President Ed McRobbie at 10:20.

Ed introduced the Head Table:

Vice President	Kerry Judges
Treasurer	Lynn Jackson
Secretary	Chris Herz-Cambray
Roads Commissioner	Al Barsevich

Ed McRobbie introduced guests Councilor Bill McNaughton, District Councilor Ernie Martin, Firefighter Don Bozwick and Tom Herbert from Tasso Camp, Toad, and Blue Cottager's Association.

The 1993 Minutes were mailed and delivered during the fall of 1993. Those that were hand delivered were also given an environmental reminder sheet "*Ox-Bow Lake is our Responsibility*". Every cottage should display this card. If you did not receive either the minutes or environmental sheet there are several left over, so contact Ed McRobbie.

John Cowan motioned that the 1993 minutes be approved, Steve Coates seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Lynn Jackson presented the financial report.

Balance (July 1993)		457.63
Expenses		
	refreshments (Aug. '93)	35.00
	miscellaneous	91.14
	Kitchener Printing	77.73
	FOCA	128.40
	stamps	69.79
	service charge	<u>.50</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>402.56</b>
Income		
	membership dues	225.00
	interest	<u>.73</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>225.73</b>
Balance (July '94)		280.80

Lou Hinton motioned that the financial report be approved, seconded by John Rolls. Report was approved.

## Report on Outstanding Issues

1. Highway 460 proposal has been shelved by M.O.T.
2. Highway 60/Muskoka Road 8 intersection has been completed to M.O.T. satisfaction.

Miscellaneous Items

DRINKING WATER: Safe drinking water is available at these locations:

- Huntsville water plant on Highway 60
- Fire station at Highway 60/#8
- Town offices in Dwight

Please note: the water at the Fire Station is tested weekly.

CAPITAL GAINS EXEMPTION

1994 is the last year to take advantage of the \$100,000. Capital Gains exemption provision. Each case is different with special requirements and must be looked at individually. Some information is available on the front table to be picked up after the meeting.

Chuck Adams of Kitchen and Adams, is a local appraiser. He charges approximately \$400. per appraisal.

COTTAGERS DINNER

The Lodge is not available for a Cottager's dinner this weekend. Ed McRobbie asked the Association if there was any interest in having a dinner in August or September. Not enough interest was shown. The annual dinner is canceled this year.

ADDRESS AND PHONE INFORMATION

A number of minutes were returned because of incorrect address information. If there have been any changes in cottage ownership, or your home information, please see either Chris Cambray, Lynn Jackson, Kerry Judges or Ed McRobbie.

FOCA

Lynn Brown volunteered to attend FOCA meetings this year and will receive mailings.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental issues should be forwarded to Chris Cambray.

REPORT FROM DON BOSWICK- Interlaken Fire Department

Mr. Boswick addressed the Association. He encouraged all Cottager's to do the following:

1. Install smoke detectors in all cottages.
2. Purchase fire extinguishers. Fire extinguishers can be recharged on highway 60 between Muskoka Road 8 and Dwight.
3. Educate family and children.

These steps will save lives and buildings:

In case of fire call fire number dispatch. The closest hall to Ox-Bow Lake is Interlaken. Calling the wrong hall costs unnecessary time.

The Fire Department is available for all emergencies, including medical.

Stickers with correct phone information will be available and mailed out with the minutes. Stickers will also be available at the store.

Al Barsevich informed the Association that insurance does not cover cottages where there is not building accessibility year round. Don informed us that fire prevention is available year round.

Ed McRobbie thanked Don for coming and for the information.

#### ROAD REPORT - Al Barsevich

Al thanked Bill McNaughton for his excellent response to date but that there were a number of issues we would still like addressed.

1. 4 potholes between lots 26-32 that need gravel and grading. It also needs a cold patch on each side.
2. Repair to asphalt hill behind MacRae cottage, Lot 50.
3. Grade out the pot-holes from the bottom of big hill to past the Tembec logging road; ditching needed at the Tembec road entrance. Should this be at their expense?
4. Remove the turnips and apply additional gravel from lot #62 to #65 as was done in 1993 from lot #57 to lot #62.
5. Repair the stretch of road from Muskoka Road #8 into Ox-Bow Lodge.
6. Grade out the washboard on East Ox-Bow Road from Muskoka Road #8 in past Olympia Sports Camp and take out the 2-3 trees which are about to fall across the road.
7. Weed and brush trimming needed on the East and West Ox-Bow Roads.
8. At this time the following Cottager's have expressed interest in year round access to the West Ox-Bow Road:

Al Barsevich  
Gord Jackson  
Ken Cheney  
Ed McRobbie  
Steve Gaida  
Gerry Dodds  
Kerry Judges  
Bill Arbuthnot  
Bruce Cameron

Al gave Councilor McNaughton a copy of the list of issues. Ed McRobbie thanked Al for all his efforts over the past year. The Association was assured that he would do his best to address our concerns. He will continue to work with Mr. Barsevich on road issues.

### REPORT FROM COUNCILOR BILL MCNAUGHTON

Councilor McNaughton stated that this is an election year and that he would be seeking re-election and that he would like the support of the Association. He asked members to vote by proxy if they would not be here to vote personally.

Ed McRobbie thanked Bill for coming.

### REPORT FROM COUNCILOR ERNIE MARTIN

Mr. Martin brought a book of businesses in the Lake of Bays area if anyone is interested.

Mr. Martin announced that he will be running for mayor and would like the support of the Association. He encouraged the Cottager's to vote by proxy if they will not be here. Proxy forms are available from the Township Office.

John Cowan asked when Muskoka Road 8 paving will be completed. Mr. Martin told the Association that 3.8 km of Muskoka Road 8 will be paved with permanent asphalt this fall or next year.

Limberlost project is on hold. They have all the approvals but there is currently no market.

Darlene Dodds was at the meeting representing her father. She raised concerns about the bypass not being built therefore not allowing winter access.

Cottagers are not allowed to park on the hill at the road by Lot 27 in the winter because the plow cannot turn around. Mr. Martin asked cottagers not to park on the road in the winter.

Mr. Martin concluded by promising to work with Bill McNaughton on our road concerns.

Al Barsevich asked the Councilor to use Tembec money to get gravel to repair the road. He was told that all money had been refunded to Tembec.

Ed McRobbie thanked Ernie and Bill and asked the Association to direct further road concerns to Al Barsevich.

### 1993 UPDATES AND NEW BUSINESS

1. **Moose Country Enduro Race** - Clay Brown, Lot 40, raised concerns about speed of vehicles during the race. Ed said he would call or send a note about our concerns and that future events will be posted on the bulletin board to notify cottagers.
2. **Stop & Shop**- The new owner is Peter Voll. He sells propane, gas and also has video rentals.
3. **Canoe & Fun Trek** - This is the 13th year for the race. It starts at the Public dock at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to join in the fun. If you have any prizes for the race or need information, please see Keith McRobbie.
4. **Tembec Lumber** - There have been a number of questions and concerns about future logging in the area by Tembec. Councilor McNaughton said he would look into this and his findings will be reported with the minutes.

5. **Lake Trout Stocking** - Ed McRobbie reported that a study done by the Ministry concluded that lake trout in Tasso, Bella, Rebecca and Ox-Bow lakes are naturally reproducing. They will no longer be stocking these lakes.
6. **Key Phone Number List** - A list of current phone numbers for local services i.e.. police, fire, ambulance etc. will be sent out with the minutes.
7. **Water Quality Issues** - Chris Herz-Cambray drafted a letter to be sent to the Minister of the Environment addressing concerns about water quality in Ox-Bow Lake. She is hoping that 50 people will send letters so that we can get our concerns addressed. Draft letters were made available for people to pick up after the meeting.
8. **Cottage Security** - There was some concerns raised about cottage security in the winter. A discussion followed. Cottagers were encouraged to have neighbors home phone numbers and to check neighbors cottages if they are up during the winter and to report any problems.
9. **Camp Garbage** - The camp continues to put garbage in plastic bags that are not clear. There does not appear to be any attempt to separate recyclables. The association feels that the camp should have its own dumpster and bear the costs. Bill McNaughton will look into and report back to the Association.
10. **Dues** - Ed McRobbie suggested that we keep the dues at \$5.00. Dick Scott motioned that dues be kept at \$5.00. John Cowan seconded. Motion passed.
11. **Other Matters :**
  - (a) **Municipal Dock:** The dock does not have any mooring rings. It was suggested that the Association purchase new rings.
  - (b) Mr. Lily told the Association about the problems he was having with neighbors. Cottagers with similar problems should call the police to ensure everyone's safety.
  - (c) Lynn Jackson motioned that \$100. be donated to the Interlaken Fire Department. Bruce Cameron seconded. Motioned passed.
  - (d) Concern raised about people parking overnight at the municipal dock and blocking the ramp. Councilor Martin said the municipality will look after posting signs.
  - (e) Al Barsevich expressed condolences to Bill McNaughton who lost his home in a fire over the winter. It was noted that the Fire Dept. responded in 4 1/2 minutes.

Ed McRobbie thanked the 1994/95 Executive for their assistance over the past year.

Nominations for the 1994/95 Executive were opened.

Al Barsevich moved that nominations be closed. Motion was seconded by John Cowan. Motion passed.

Ed McRobbie thanked Jamie and Jill for offering us the lawn for our meeting and for arranging the coffee and doughnuts.

Meeting adjourned 11:40.

Ed McRobbie  
Oxbow Lake Cottagers Association  
RR #4, Box 366,  
Huntsville, Ontario  
POA 1KO

October 9, 1994

### **Oxbow Lake Cottagers Association - Fall 1994 Update**

Well, our summer of 1994 is now behind us and wasn't it a beauty. The autumn colours have been spectacular as usual and have now been with us for a few weeks. We have been quite fortunate this year to have the fall colours last right into our Thanksgiving Day weekend. Can you believe " Oxbow Lake Saturday Oct 8th, sunny and 75 degrees, what a day ".

At our cottagers meeting on July 31st, I was asked to mail out the minutes and financial report of the meeting when they were completed. The minutes and financial report are attached for your reading.

Many road concerns were voiced at our meeting. In the following weeks including last week many of our requests were addressed. The township has put an improved surface on one side of the big hill, graded out the pot-holes from the bottom of the big hill to the Tembec cut, ditched the area of the Tembec cut, graded and put pit run from lot #62 to lot #65, graded out the washboard on the East Oxbow Road as it passes the back of Olympia sports camp as well as taking out a couple of overhanging trees on the same road. Thanks go to Al Barsevich and Bill McNaughton for their assistance in getting many of our road concerns addressed. Our on-going road needs will continue to be coordinated through Al Barsevich our roads commissioner via discussions with Bill McNaughton. Thanks Al for your on-going assistance in this area.

Regarding our water quality concerns, additional brochures "Oxbow Lake is Our Responsibility" are still available if anyone has not received one for their cottage. The water quality letter of concern which was discussed and made available at our meeting was sent in by a number of concerned cottagers and is presently being responded to by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Oxbow Lake was sampled in 1994 and we are awaiting the results of that sampling.

There were a couple of other items which came up at the meeting which I will update you on. Tembec was contacted and they clarified that they would not be back into Oxbow for cutting for another 15 years. The canoe race was a tremendous success and the weather cooperated, thanks Keith for coordinating this. A KEY PHONE NUMBER LIST has been put together and is attached. You may find it useful at your cottage.

At this time I would like to pass on a big thank you to our 1993/94 executive. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.

In closing I wish all of you a happy and healthy fall 94 & spring 95. See you all next year.

Yours Truly



Ed McRobbie

- c.c Lynn Jackson
- c.c Kerry Judges
- c.c Chris Herz-Cambray
- c.c Al Barsevich

MEMO TO: Oxbow Lake Cottagers

FROM: Lynn Brown (Lot # 40) F.O.C.A. Representative

DATE: November 26, 1994

RE: The Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Meeting

On Saturday, November 26, 1994 I attended the FOCA Fall Seminar at the Sheraton Toronto East Hotel in Scarborough, to represent Oxbow Lake Cottagers' Association.

It was a fast paced day, filled with information. The President welcomed the delegates and gave us the semi-annual update on the Federation's business. A lot of the Federation's information is printed in Cottage Life Magazine. Great concern was expressed over Market Value Assessment in Muskoka; we were the only vacation area to be affected. Some vacant properties have had their assessment increase by 700%. Our own property on Oxbow Lake has gone up 400%. I contacted the Assessment Commissioner and it will not be reduced. You could have attended the Open House Information meetings in Dwight or you can call the 1-800- number on your assessment form. All cottagers are encouraged to appeal their assessment locally, and to write letters of protest to the Premier Bob Rae and the Treasurer Floyd Laugheran for fair taxation.

The first seminar in the morning was on "First Nation Land Claims and Their Impact on Cottage Country", given by Chris Brosseau from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters. Chris stated that in 1763 all unceded lands were reserved to the Indians. In 1850 all of southern Ontario was under treaty. In 1982 Canada's Constitution recognized the treaties and aboriginal rights and they are now constitutional law. Under fishing rights:

- 1st. - conservation (has not yet been defined)
- 2nd. - Indian food (can fish year round)
- 3rd. - Indian commercial (can fish year round)
- 4th. - others (sports fishermen - fish only in season)

Land claims are behind closed doors - the public can't know - subsurface, hunting and fishing rights are used as negotiations for land claims. The impact for cottagers is great. The easiest way to determine the status of potential future land claims in our area is to contact the Golden Lake Band, especially before purchasing any property.

The second seminar in the morning session was "Understanding Ontario's Planning Reform, Status, Plans" with Pat Hayes, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. Bill 163 is Planning Reform - under this Bill the public right to O.M.B. appeals is under review; owners have better access to requirements on development (adjoining properties within 120' will be notified of any development); septic tank and systems will not be inspected by the province (lack of funding) - it will be handed over to the municipality to be handled as they wish.

The third seminar in the morning was "An Introduction To The Environmental Bill of Rights" with Ed Gill, Manager, Environmental Bill of Rights Office, Ministry of Environment & Energy. This Bill



was passed to restore and maintain the integrity of the environment and to protect the right of a healthy environment. Eva Ligeti is the Environmental Commissioner, her phone number is 416-325-3377 and she invites public participation. You can also file an application for investigation through her office. There is a 3rd party right to appeal and sue for harm done to public resources (air, water, public land, plant life, animal life and ecosystem). An access bulletin board has been set up for our use. To access the environmental registry system you need a computer with a modem (available at local library). Internet and WEB/NEV centre access number is 1-800-667-9979.

At this point we broke for discussions, draws, visits to exhibitors and lunch. The afternoon session was a Lake Stewardship Seminar, we were welcomed by Shannon McCorquodale, Chair of the Environment Committee. Our first presentation was on the North American Lake Management Society, given by Dr. Neil Hutchinson, Programs Chair of NALMS Conference 1995 to be held in Toronto at the Westin Harbour Castle, November 6 - 11, 1995. Neil is a Limologist (science of water) at the Ministry of the Environment in Dorset. He is an excellent and enthusiastic speaker on his discipline. The bottom line is; if you remove the source of pollution, nature will regenerate itself.

We broke into five discussion groups and then reported our highlights back to the general meeting.

- 1.- Assessment Level - Watershed Report Card
- 2.- NALMS Program
- 3.- Educating on the Environment
- 4.- Lake Stewards Issues
- 5.- Influencing Municipal Council

I attended the Watershed Report Card and expect to receive my Watershed kit in the mail to use next summer. It helps to monitor our bio-region (watershed) and all waters that flow into it. Allison Kelly with the MNR was our facilitator. It is a lake inventory developed by "Fishermen Involved in Saving Habitat" and government agencies. Briefly it maps the waters flowing into Oxbow Lake (inflow Dotty Lake and Little Oxbow, outflow Oxbow Creek to Oxtongue River). From this mapping of the surrounding area, and taking into consideration any development in the area we should be able to define any pollution flowing into our lake. This is the starting point for correcting any water problems (floral bloom, etc.) in Oxbow.

Enclosed please find a ticket for each cottager on Oxbow that will allow a reduced entrance fee to the Cottage Life Show to be held in Toronto this Spring. For each ticket used, FOCA will receive monies for their treasury.

The next FOCA Spring Seminar is Saturday April 22, 1995 at the Sheraton East in Scarborough. The meeting is open to any cottager, feel free to attend, the seminars are really interesting.