

Ox-Bow Lake Cottagers Association Meeting

Date: Sunday, August 2, 1998

Location: Ox-Bow Lodge

Meeting was called to order by President, Bruce Cameron

Bruce welcomed and introduced guests Councillor Ben Bovin, Councillor Henri Bertrand. Mayor Tom Pinkard will be arriving later. Bruce also introduced the Executive seated at the front table, Vice-President Bill Wylie, Treasurer Howard Cambray, Secretary Chris Rolls-Cambray.

Recognition was made for those cottagers who have passed away over the past year: Bob Garth, Connie Wittenberg, and Vic House. Our condolences to their families.

(Please note that since the meeting on August 2, Mrs. Alfred also passed away. We would like to extend our condolences to the family.)

Unfortunately, there are a number of people who have not been well over the past year: Mrs. Garth fell and broke 3 vertebrae in her neck and is recovering. Ed McRobbie has suffered from heart problems but is on the mend. Mr. and Mrs. Forrest were involved in a car accident. Mrs. Bowman suffered both a heart attack and a stroke this past winter and is currently in hospital in Ottawa undergoing rehabilitation. We do not have an update on her condition. Mr. Barsevich has not been well. Our thoughts and best wishes are with them all.

Interlaken Fire Hall

There was an emergency meeting held recently with representatives from Toad, Penn, Bella and Rebecca lakes. There was a good chance that the Interlaken Fire Hall would be closed. Association Presidents attended to express their concern. The three key issues cited, and the basis for closing the fire hall, were a shortage of volunteers, a building that no longer meets standards, and a pumper fire truck that is obsolete. The truck did not pass a recent inspection.

In order to be a volunteer firefighter, one must be a full time resident. The training is quite intensive and on-going. Relatively few candidates, coupled with a significant demand on personal time, fuel the manpower shortage concern. There are no washroom facilities or running water in the building. Without an operational fire hall at Interlaken, area cottagers' fire insurance premiums would increase and reportedly triple. Obviously, It is in our best interests to keep this facility open. The Township of Lake of Bays and the Town of Huntsville asked for a study to be done by the Ontario Fire Marshall of all the fire halls in the area with the intent of possibly amalgamating some services and saving some costs. We were also made aware that Council did not have to follow any such recommendations. At the emergency meeting, several presidents from various cottagers associations in the area spoke and displayed displeasure and concern over the potential closure. As a result of significant objection by the cottagers

associations and from cottagers at large, Councillors voted against closing the fire hall. It is noted that this particular Council is actively seeking the opinions of cottagers and asking for our input.

Council has approved \$30,000 for the building of a new structure with an additional \$10,000 to come. The proposed approximate dimensions will be 40' x 18-24' wide. The Fire Marshall wants the structure to be 18' wide but we think it should be 24'. The current building is really an old narrow garage that is no longer structurally sound. It will be removed.

We are planning to use the \$30,000 for materials and are hoping for local residents to lend a hand and donate their time and talents to assist in erecting the building. John Marshall from Tasso Lake recommended that an organized group of volunteers could work over a weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A sheet was passed around to sign-up volunteers, and if you have time to donate please sign up and let us know when you will be available.

We also suggest that if anyone is interested in making a private donation to the fire hall it would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to the Township of Lake of Bays and a tax receipt will be issued for all donations received. We would like to increase the Association dues for this year only and use the additional \$5.00 to donate to the fire hall and to incorporate the Association. We will discuss this issue later on in the meeting.

Mr. Pinkard has called and advised us that will be unable to attend the meeting today as he is busy at the Fire hall sale.

Hillside Emergency Response Vehicle

Call from Bruce Steimers from Penn Lake. The next battle we will fight is over the Hillside emergency vehicle. At the present time the emergency response vehicle will be taken out of service on September 1. Kelly Searson wants to equip the pumpers as emergency response vehicles. The closest back up one will be Port Cunnington. There have been several serious emergencies on this lake over the years. We do not feel that the pumpers will be able to get down the laneways. Bruce would like to see this saved. Hillside saved \$9,000 that they want to put into it.

Kelly Searson was an ambulance man before becoming Fire Chief. He is confident that the pumper can do both. However this involves significant additional training for the volunteers. Also not everyone is interested in this additional training and involvement.

Question from Clay Brown, what is the camps procedure as it related to emergencies?

Bruce Cameron, who works at the camp one week each summer responded, they ring the bell and everyone meets. The camp does not have a response vehicle. They have proposed putting a pumper in to meet needs. Dave Grace sent a letter. It will not happen. They do have a doctor , nurse and physiotherapist every day.

It is unknown as to whether we can tap into the medical resources at the camp.

First response, we are talking about volunteer people. Volunteer people at Interlaken do not want to get involved with first response. Their resources are already stretched and there would be additional training involved. Hillside would love to get involved.

People ask are we in the fire business or medical business. This is the key issue. As far as having a vehicle at Interlaken it may be pie in the sky. We feel we do need one at Hillside.

Henri Bertrand suggests maybe we should have an ambulance service. Why do we not have one in this area? Right now timing is the key issue. We need a interim solution. It will take time to get clearance for an ambulance hall. If the truck is out doing emergency response and is called for a fire. It will have to leave the health problem and go to fire. This is a clear conflict.

Ben Bovin - Ambulance service is District responsibility. He suggests we meet with Jim Green and voice ideas and opinions. Currently ambulance service is contracted out to a private individual. Why not have someone trained and supplement with one or two people with an interest in this field.

North end of Muskoka does not have service but south end does.

After some discussion it was agreed that we should support ambulance service. We should lobby to Jim Green. Ben will speak to him. We want the service that is in the south end of Muskoka.

We need to get to the facts, how many are there, over what area and the number of people and what is the response time.

Tax Update

Ben Bovin - you will not calculate taxes on the Mill rate. It has been eliminated. Tax is now on 7 different ratios based on the property you have. Education rate has been lowered dramatically for all of the Muskokas. Dropped to 38%. It is 50% across the province that the province has assumed. We are a wealthy group. Next tax bill should be out by the end of August. At that time 2 bills in one. One effective for end of August mid September and one for mid November. In terms of tax increase assessment should have dropped on average 8%. This does not mean that you will get money back. Taxes have been increased, District 6.5% increase. Municipality has been increased 8%. With the changes to education they are hoping for the same taxes or a slight decrease in taxes once everything has worked out. If your assessment is 20-30% higher than last year you might consider an appeal. Ratios are across the province so everyone is paying the same.

People who appealed their taxes will go to a meeting on August 12. Some people that appealed did not get a notice. If you appealed and did not get a notice you should attend anyway. August 12th at the community centre at 9:30. Suggest you bring your lunch. It is first come first

serve. Suggest you be there early.

Treasurers Report presented by Howard Cambray.

Balance Forward		\$413.50
1997 Report (Adjustment)		<u>20.08</u>
New Balance Forward		\$433.58
Income:		
Membership Dues	\$350.00	
Interest	<u>.55</u>	
	\$350.55	784.13
Expenses:		
FOCA - 1997	\$ 50.00	
Clearwater	60.00	
Regatta - 1997	12.00	
Fire hall Meetings	45.00	
Ox-Bow Lodge	50.00	
FOCA - 1998	<u>42.00</u>	
	\$259.00	
Balance August 2, 1998		<u>\$525.13</u>

Motion to approve the treasurers report - Ed McRobbie
Seconded by - Clay Brown
Motion Passed

Bruce asked for a motion to pass minutes from last year.

Shirley Cambray motioned that minutes from last year be passed.
Bill Wylie seconded
1997 Minutes passed.

Foca Report - Bill Wylie

In the last 1.5 years FOCA has got their act together.

They are holding meetings at the Police building in North York - reduced budget. They are still faced with large operating costs because of inflation.

Proposed increase in fees of \$.75 per person. Bill would vote in favour of increase. Would mean

\$2.00 per person. They have negotiated big savings in Hydro costs and continue to look at issues like the Indian Land claims. This issue affects us and we should be interested.

At the November meeting they said they had disbanded the tax committee. They were not getting a lot of support from FOCA. However it is now back. They had a lot of input and influence to get the education based changed.

Unless there is any objection to the increase we want to vote for the increase.

Incorporation - Bill Wylie

At last years meeting you gave the Executive permission to spend \$500 on incorporating the association. After more investigation I have found that it will probably cost between \$900. - \$1,200. There are no associations that I am aware of that are not incorporated. Glenn Smith, a lawyer in town that I have used in the past estimates it would cost \$1,000. Because we only had \$500 approved we could not move forward. For \$250 in costs, mainly to the Province for searches, I would be prepared to do it. However I am not a lawyer and we would want to ensure that it is done properly and that we are properly protected. At Tasso they are proposing a lawyer. It is a basic incorporation. The Executive is looking for some guidance. We feel we should do it as we could be held liable if someone got into an accident on the road because we have asked them to fix it.

Bill Wylie proposes that we spend \$1,000 to incorporate with a lawyer. Insurance costs are optional. There is some association insurance available through FOCA at a cost of \$160 per year. We can get a rider on insurance for regatta. There are a lot of advantages to incorporating.

Question: Would Foca have a set of bylaws?

They have given guidelines. Incorporation does not do more without liability insurance. \$160 is the price for all associations guaranteed as a member of FOCA. They have \$100 million liability insurance.

We are limited as to what we can do.

Bruce Cameron asked for a motion to spend additional \$500 on incorporation.

Greg Gibson - motion that we empower the Executive to spend what is necessary to incorporate
John Cowan - seconded.
Motion passed.

An objection to not having a cash limit given to the Executive was raised. After some discussion
An amended motion was suggested by Bruce Cameron that the Executive will not spend over
\$1,200. Greg Gibson agreed to amend his motion to put a spending limit of \$1,200
Motion was seconded by John Cowan
Motion passed.

It was also agreed to raise the annual association dues for this year only to \$15.00 to cover the cost of the incorporation. Any additional amounts will be used to donate to the new fire hall.

New Business

There have been some floating deadheads in the big arm, middle of the lake in the deep sections. You should use caution when boating on that side of the lake.

Executive

No new candidates were put forward to fill any of the existing positions.

Bruce Cameron agreed to continue as President
Bill Wylie will continue as Vice - President
Howard Cambray will stand as Treasurer.

For the secretary position Chris Cambray has agreed to continue to be present at the meetings and record the minutes however she is extremely busy with her job and requires assistance to print and deliver the minutes. Donna Williamson volunteered to assist to deliver and print minutes. We would like to get the minutes out by the end of the summer. While delivering minutes we will encourage people to pay dues.

Ed McRobbie does not feel we have a responsibility to deliver minutes to people who are not active in the association. After a brief discussion it was agreed to deliver the minutes to everyone this year encouraging non-members to join and to collect outstanding dues. Going forward we will decide about the delivery of minutes to non-association members.

Ed McRobbie will deliver minutes to 20 cottages on Peninsula. Howard Cambray will deliver 20 on West Arm. Donna Williamson will deliver to cottagers on the East Arm. Bruce Cameron will assist with the rest.

Foca - Lynn Brown does not want to continue to attend FOCA meetings because of the travel involved. There are 2 meetings per year, spring and fall. We would like to get people from Toronto area to go to meetings. Heydons - Angie and Peter agreed to attend.

Advisory Committee - Ed McRobbie and Don Fowke have been attending over the past year. Ed will continue to attend the meetings. Henri Bertrand has been working with lake association reps. The brushing is getting done and the roads are in good shape. This committee has support from Henri and Tom. Ed wants to continue to attend until he can't.

Ed McRobbie would like to thank the work that Henri and Ben have done on behalf of the association.

Motion to approve slate
Approved

Regatta

We are short of eggs for the egg toss. If anyone has extra eggs please bring them.

Tom McBride will run the canoe race.

Race will start at Barsevich's at 2:00. The race will be to the raft in front of Camerons and then back. There will be lots of events for children. Volleyball and egg toss. It is a good opportunity to meet your neighbours.

Camp Parking

There have been complaints about parking at Camp lake Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Is anyone having a problem on road on Saturday's and Sundays when campers are picked up and dropped off? There are about 300 - 350 campers dropped off and picked up each week. They do have kids out directing traffic but it is still busy. Dave Grace is aware of the issue and is supportive of the Association.

There was a suggestion that there be parking on only one side of the road. The problem is only for a few hours each Saturday and Sunday. Henri will consider the issue.

Noise

New cottager on the lake, Ted Williamson, asked if there are any by-laws about noise. The camp has put an insulated building in for their night programs. The noise is still bad but better than it was. Henri said that the noise by-laws have not been enforced as it relates to the camp. The past enforcement officer lived in Port Sydney and so by the time the complaint was received it would be a non issue by the time he arrived. There is a new enforcement officer who lives closer. Ted Williamson would like more information about it.

To complain about noise at the camp you can contact Henri directly however, your complaint will carry more weight if you write a short note to the Mayor or Council.

By Law is only in effect after 10:30. The camp has lowered the sound on request in the past.

Sign Program

Sign program is completed for our lots. The numbers could go on to be used for mailing addresses. Henri Bertrand said that this will not happen yet. He suggested that you should use this number as an address for deliveries.

It was suggested that you should call 1-800- 667-1961 or 310- 2355 to check that all your information, including your address and number is correct in their records. There have been

some instances where there has been a problem with the sign numbers with incorrect addresses.

Merging Associations.

John Cowan suggested that we consider merging cottagers associations on Muskoka Road 8 to reduce costs and have a bigger voice on issues. Bruce said that this issue was discussed briefly. That where there may be an advantage from a cost perspective it was felt that we can achieve all we want from our current association. Further, where there is a key issue that we need assistance with, associations will lend a hand to one another. Marg Casey from the Lake of Bays came out to assist us with the Interlaken Fire Hall closing issue. Henri Bertrand does not feel it would be valuable and that we would lose our identity.

There has been talk about forming a committee. We need to show unanimity of all the associations. It is growing. Council is paying more attention to cottagers because of the mail in vote.

Roads

Council has decided not to do the road from Limberlost Road to the lodge this year. Henri assures us that this road will be done next year and it is at the top of the list. The road has been patched this year. We reiterated to Henri that we needed this road fixed.

A reminder that Howard Cambray is still collecting dues. Please encourage those not at the meeting to submit their dues.

Motion made by Tom McBride to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Angie Heyden.

Meeting adjourned.