

## TSLRA Annual General Meeting

**Saturday, August 14, 2004**  
**Pomeroy Cottage Between the Lakes**

1. President, Jack Watkins welcomed all attendees at the meeting and introduced executive members as well as guests Frank Mills, Terry Clemens , Larry Bertrand, Ken Phillips, and Irwin Earl.

2. **AGM minutes for 2003** were read by Secretary, Barb Craig. A motion to accept the minutes as read was put forth by Charlie O'Neill, seconded by Tim Agnew and carried.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jack Watkins read the **Treasurer's report** on behalf of Treasurer, Kirk Johnson, who was unable to attend the meeting. At the beginning of the fiscal year:

Assets were \$3,263.62 (\$1,788.83 in bank account and \$1,474.79 in Term Deposit.)

Donations throughout the year: \$78.35

Interest earned: \$ 29.81

Membership Fees: \$300.00 received.

Total Revenue: 408.16

At the end of the year:

Assets \$3,311.84 (Increase in assets of \$48.22)

The nominal increase is largely due to the cost of lake water testing conducted during the year.

It also reflects a decrease in membership fee receipts.

It is vital that all members do their best to remit their yearly fees each year.

Please inform new neighbours or existing neighbours unaware of the association of the benefits of the association and perhaps bring them to the next Annual General Meeting. It would be appreciated if cottagers could pay for any years dues that are missed.

Cat Heaven moved to accept the report, seconded by Debbie Agnew and carried.

**New Website:** The domain name cost \$25.17 for two years registration. One year of inexpensive hosting cost \$32.92. These costs will not be reflected in the statements until next year. The rest of the website was constructed free of charge. (Thank you Kirk!!)

Log on at [www.tslra.org](http://www.tslra.org)

4. Charlie McKinnon moved to appoint **Liz Davies as auditor**. Seconded by Tim Agnew and carried.

5. Jack Watkins stated the executive for the coming year was unchanged with no vacancies. Eldon Kaye moved the Executive for the coming year be approved. Seconded by Debbie Agnew. Carried.

President: Jack Watkins  
Past President: Ray Ash  
Treasurer: Kirk Johnson  
Secretary: Barb Craig  
Directors: Hans Knoll  
Bonnie Dane  
Charlie O'Neill

#### **6. Water Testing:**

Water testing is done at the same time each year. The highest coliform count was 20. We are not concerned unless the count is more than 100. Increased coliform bacteria can be caused by boats, septic tanks, natural decay or animals. Lakefield Research states that over all, our lake is very good and safe for swimming. Currently we test the water every two years at a cost of \$250.00.

Discussion took place concerning the frequency of testing. Janet Watkins pointed out that the dues collected are only around \$300.00 which would barely cover the cost of testing. Charlie O'Neill moved that we do another test in August 2004 and report at the 2005 AGM and see how it compares to last years test. If they do not vary much then we will move to test the waters every two years if not we should do it every year. Jack Watkins indicated that if we do testing annually that it will require a dues increase to cover the additional costs. Kirk Johnson will conduct the testing again in 2004 and continue to do the testing every two years (with the next testing being in 2005). If levels increase on the next test, then we must decide if we do the testing annually.

\*Please see this summer's newsletter for further details of water testing on both lakes.

#### **7. Discussion on seasonal taxation issues and WRAFT movement: (Waterfront Ratepayers After Fair Taxation)**

WRAFT was started to include a broad cross section of associations to lobby for meaningful property tax reforms. Rising values of cottage properties are creating a substantial shift of taxation onto waterfront properties across the province. To keep track of ongoing developments, consult the WRAFT website at [www.wraft.com](http://www.wraft.com).

Discussion took place:

- While Current Value Assessment of properties for tax purposes is not really fair, education taxes may be. As cottagers, we do want to support education in our surrounding community.

- Larger cottages being built on many lakes are causing a rise in taxes for all cottagers. While this is an ongoing problem in the Muskoka area, it is not yet a problem for the Twin Sister Lakes.
- Jack suggested we meet with local council in April or May and educate ourselves around tax issues in the community. Other Lake Associations in the Township will be invited to join this meeting as well as the representatives from the Ontario Municipal Property Assessment Commission (OMPAC).
- Cost to join WRAFT would be \$250.00 (a one-time fee)

Charlie O'Neill moved we support WRAFT by paying the one-time \$250.00 fee to join. Seconded by Candy. Carried

Motion #2 by Charlie O'Neill, is that we get together annually with the municipal government and other lake associations as proposed by Jack Watkins. Seconded by Bonnie Dane. Carried

(Please note: we are not FOCA members)

**8. Greetings from Marmora and Lake council Deputy Reeve, Terry Clemens:**

- Terry stated he supports our joining WRAFT, as problems cannot be solved alone. We could gain strength by belonging to a bigger group.
- One issue in the municipality is recycling. Terry will meet soon with the Board of Directors for Quinte Waste Solutions to look at a better way for collecting recycling in our area. There has been problems in the past with the pick-up vehicle not coming as far as the Tindle house at the junction of the East and West Lake Roads. The recycling truck is now beginning to pick up the waste at that junction.

**Frank Mills, CAO:**

- Handout distributed re: taxation problems
- Taxes are low compared with other jurisdictions
- Provincial downloading caused many problems
- Not enough money can be raised from the municipality alone to pay expenses
- The bulk of tax money is spent on roads

Frank wants the Provincial Government to rescind the download to help get the financial load off property taxes.

Larry Bertrand (Deputy Reeve) stated he is available for questions re: roads. Janet Watkins commented the roads are great this year.

### **Irwin Earle, Bylaw Enforcement:**

- Commented that bylaws allow for only one trailer on a property and it must be for storage only.
- Working on unsightly properties in Marmora area.
- He can be reached at 613-472-1598 on Tues, Wed or Thursday, by leaving a message. You can also email (See website for Marmora)

### **9. Ken Phillips, Manager of Crowe Valley Conservation Authority:**

**10.**

- Recommends we do water testing annually. Water can be affected by a number of factors, including weather.
- Ken's office is across from the Information Centre
- Handouts distributed including Watershed Calendars and "Well Aware" booklet
- To test Well water, you can go to the Health Department in Marmora or Madoc for Sample bottles. Return the bottles to the Health department in Madoc. It is recommended you test your well-water three times each year. Testing is free. Bacteria can get into water pipes
- The Crowe Valley Watershed is huge, equaling 2000 square km. It includes four conservation areas, 15 dams and 10 ground water stations. Many of the lakes are monitored by dams. However, Twin Sister Lakes are at natural levels and not monitored.
- The Toronto budget for Conservation is 1000 times greater than Crowe Valley's. Problems started with the Ray Government. We used to receive and divide \$40,000,000 annually in the province. It was suddenly reduced in one day to \$7 million dollars with the Harris Government.
- The area of Twin Sister Lakes is blessed with great quality water.
- **An important message: you must have a permit for anything you do around water. For instance, no sand is allowed near the shore. Sand is not a natural substance around Twin Sister Lakes. It washes into the water and can kill the fish. Permits are free and they are available at the Conservation Authority. If you have a project in the mind Ken Phillips would be glad to review it with you to ensure you comply with the MNR guides on doing works on and near waterways.**
- Re: Purple Loosestrife...very dangerous plant as it sucks wetlands dry. Should be removed, placed in a garbage bag and BURNED to prevent seeds from scattering. (NOTE: cat tails by contrast are good and filter water.)
- Other dangers: watch out for Roughie Fish, Gobie Fish, Millfoil. These can destroy the ecosystem Use "stop the invasion" signs. Eg. Lower Crowe Lake and Belmont have zebra mussels. Must be removed from the water.
- As cottage properties increase in value, more and more cottagers are making their cottages into permanent homes, which has an impact on Ecosystems.

- **Note:** rain in July was 132 mm. Average July rainfall is normally 50 mm. In August we had 88 mm of rain in the first week. Normally 40 mm falls. On a hot day, evaporation will reduce the lake levels by one or two inches. An average household uses 350 Litres per day of water in Canada, 450 Litres of water in the U.S.A. and 120 Litres a day in Europe. A shower takes 85 L, a bath uses 100 L and Washing uses 50 gallons of water. This use cannot be sustained in this area. In 2001 we had a severe drought. Suggest let grass go dormant (do not water). This is a natural process. In other words, lets educate ourselves and conserve water where-ever we can do so.

10. Other Business: it has been reported that a cottager on West Twin Sister Lake had a 6 horse power Johnson Motor stolen last week.

**Photo Contest Winners:**

Fun at the Lake	Lois Tomc
Pets	Christine Wojahn
Scenic View	Lois Tomc
Best Overall Photo 2004 (Pets & Wildlife)	Christine Wojahn

Tim Agnew moved the meeting be adjourned.  
Seconded by Ray Hewgill.  
Meeting adjourned for Bar B Q lunch.