

WAH-WASH-KESH CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
August 3, 2002

Directors Present: Dalton Ferris – President
Wayne Lennox – Past President
Andy Vurma – Vice-President
Duncan Robinson – Treasurer
Terry Tweed – Secretary
Diane Ovenden
Ted Heggart
Ken Taylor

Guests Don Carter – Reeve of Municipality of Whitestone
Muriel Junck – Tax Collector for Municipality
Chris Armstrong + Louise Woods – Ardbeg First Response Unit
Dawn Cooper – West Parry Sound Health Centre

Meeting called to order 9:35 AM

Moment of Silence to remember those of us who are no longer with us, except in spirit:
Don Pettigrew.

Motion to accept the Minutes of 2001
Moved by Don Comrie
Seconded by Stu Price
Motion Carried

Motion to accept the actions of the Executive
Moved by Nancy Lou Farrell
Seconded by Clair Ovenden

Motion to accept the Treasurers Report given by Duncan Robertson
Moved by Joe Zahody
Seconded by Doug Hand
(Statement on a separate sheet)

Election of Officers

1. Dalton Ferris, Duncan Robertson, Terry Tweed were all up for re-election
All 3 were nominated by Ross Willett, and seconded by Betty Corneil
2. Ken Taylor did not wish to stand again. His presence will be missed.
John Nelson was nominated by Ray Corneil and seconded by Andy Vurma
3. Lew Morgan moved that the nominations be closed.
4. All 4 were unanimously elected.

President's Remarks – Dalton Ferris

The Association has been in business since 1954, with a mandate to protect and

to conserve the environment. Our membership has now reached 300 and there are 8 Directors. We have very definitely grown. We can be pleased with what we have accomplished recently:

- building a new dam
- renewal of the fish enhancement project
- participating in a seminar in July on Land Use and Planning
- starting a new initiative – Lake Clean Up
- upgrading and maintenance of the government docks
- working with the MNR on the Magnetewan Flow Study
- newsletter now pays for itself thanks to the advertising
- our bank balance is a healthy \$22,000.00 as of July 31, 2002
- our website is being upgraded

Linger Long and New Golf Course

We have some new neighbours. Herb and Shirley Schmidt have bought the 41 acres at Linger Long and plan to open a new operation – Absolute Peace and Quiet, which will include a 9 hole golf course along with cottage rentals. They have all the permits that are required, and work will begin after Labour Day. Herb got up and spoke. He wanted to address two major concerns have been expressed and by doing so, to allay any worries anyone might have.

1. What about clear cutting?

The goal is to save every mature tree and as many smaller trees as possible

2. What about the use of fertiliser and fungicides?

You reduce risk by reducing use. This means that you design a course, which will allow for reduced risk. A 9 hole course uses half as much as does an 18 hole course. This particular course will be a shorter and more compact 9 hole course. Therefore there is even less use. 2/3 of the holes will have no real fairways, and 3/4 of the holes will have half rough fairways. Also you can reduce dangers by using 5-7 smaller applications of fertilisers and fungicides, and a judicious use of spot spraying as opposed to 1 or 2 big ones. Being aware of the weather is important, so that you don't spray when it is going to rain.

3. The golf course is for their cottagers, but will be open to everyone on the lake Dalton encouraged people to go over and visit the Schmidts, if they have any other questions or concerns. He also suggested that perhaps there should be a committee

struck

which could act as a kind of liaison between the Schmidts and the Association. He also suggested that we might take water samples over there in order to have a comparison in the years ahead.

Dam Status – Andy Vurma

Recap of what we have done to date. Work had to be halted last fall because of the high water, but everything was now going ahead. The funding is in place and work has begun. The lake level has been lowered, and the old dam is in the process of being closed to allow construction. Once the site is prepared and the forms are built, they can begin to pour the concrete. Once that is done, rock rubble has to be placed on the

downstream side of the dam, the site has to be cleaned up, and the old dam opened. At the moment the completion date is sometime in September.

The Association has agreed to monitor the construction and functioning of the new Dam for one year to ensure that the environmental aspects are followed through on. We will be taking the photographs ourselves. Everyone is cautioned about entering the work area without the proper safety equipment since the Association is liable for accidents.

Membership – Diane Ovenden

Diane has spent the last several months gathering information from all kinds of sources, looking for ideas on how to increase our membership and to better serve the members we have. She reported on some of the ideas that she and the Executive are working on, although nothing has been formally adopted as yet

- Establish a single sheet membership form which would be available at
- Bennetts and Haywards, and on the web site.
- Creation of associate members for short term renters
- Revise and update the master list of members
- Review membership fees, maybe creating something like a Family membership and a U.S. Rate.
- Create a welcome package which has information about the lake and the Assn.
- Establish a neighbourhood watch system
- Design and distribute a lake brochure
- Create of WWK Association merchandise

Dock Report – Ted Heggart

Ted thanked the whole committee – John Kormos, Doug Hand, Ross Willett, and Rod Anderson for all their work. We have already sold 123 stickers this year. Last year we raised about \$2600.00 from the sale of the stickers with an additional \$65.00 taken from the Donation Box. Didn't have to do a lot of work last year, but this year there will need to be more done. Any help would be appreciated as the work is heavy.

Fish Enhancement – Don Comrie

Don reported on behalf of the committee that includes Ken Taylor and Ed Bennett. There is an infestation of the Spiny Water Flea – a crustacean native to Europe. It is now in 50 inland lakes and in all the Great Lakes. Naturalists are concerned for the fish populations, as the fleas compete with the small fish for food. These fleas have been in WWK since 2001. They tend to live in the middle of the lake about 15 feet down. They don't carry disease nor do they bite. But it is important to wash all equipment and boats that leave the lake. It was suggested that we set up an information poster at the docks to increase awareness.

There are pickerel spawning beds to be set up at the Gooseneck Inlet. Rubble will be bought locally and trucked in to the dumpsite near the spawning bed on August 17. Volunteers are needed to move the rubble from the site to the boat. But the water is so low, that we might have to postpone this work until next year. Ed Bennett put in 120,000 pickerel eggs and 20,000 pickerel fry in the Inlet in June. A lot of eggs were eaten, but we hope that some will survive. Don will send a letter of thanks to Almaguin Fish Improvement Association. Cage surveys will be done this summer on both the North and

South ends of the lake. Also J.J. Environmental will be doing creel surveys for the MNR this summer.

Official Plan

John Jackson is the planner for the Municipality of Whitestone and is in the process of getting feed back from the draft of the Official Plan which is now in circulation. There will be a public meeting on August 24, at the Community Centre in Dunchurch. There are certain parts of the plan which do not seem to be in WWK's best interests, so all who can, should attend this meeting. The idea is that the plan will be approved this fall, and if approved it will provide comprehensive zoning by-laws. There are many competing interests in the Municipality ranging from the extreme of wanting no development to those who would like to see a great deal. The Association has to balance all those interests, while working to protect and conserve what we all know is important to the health and wellbeing of our beautiful lake. The Executive is involved in all the discussion regarding the plan, and will continue to monitor the progress.

Magnetwan Flow Study – Ray Corneil

Ray is the Chair of the Magnetwan Flow Study and a long time resident of WWK. This study was initiated by the MNR and part of its process was to establish a public advisory committee. Ed Bennett and Ray volunteered their services. The MNR was looking into the better regulation of the water flow of the Mag downstream from Ahmic Lake throughout the summer. Also, as a result of the freak spring flooding in 1998, the MNR wanted to establish an official flood plain for WWK. Because the water rose in '98 to 228.30 metres above sea level, it was necessary to set the safety level higher than that, to make sure that cottages were safe. After much discussion, the MNR has decided that the flood plain is to be calculated at 230.57 metres. This will have a significant impact on WWK, as any new buildings would have to be above that level and there could be no modification to existing buildings without approval. This will also have an impact on the Official Plan as the proposed plan uses 228.30 as its benchmark. The MNR is holding a public meeting regarding these issues in Magnetwan on August 10, at 1:30 pm at the Community Centre. Again, all those who can should be there.

911 Addressing – Chris Armstrong

Chris is part of the First Response Team. He explained the characteristics of the 911 system. The 911 system is planned for the 2nd quarter of 2003. Until then we are to continue to use 389-2413 for emergencies. It is important to provide a summary of directions to your place for visitors to give to the emergency response team. For those with water access, if possible bring the person to the dock (the emergency team will come to your place if necessary). At night have someone with a light on the dock or at the end of your driveway. New 911 addresses are being prepared. The signs on water access properties must be above the 1998 flood level. On road access, the sign must be on your driveway and visible from both directions, at a height of 5ft to 7ft. Volunteers are needed to put them up.

Newsletter – Dalton Ferris

A round of applause for Lesley and Bernie for their work on the newsletter. It is now a paying proposition. We should make a point of supporting and patronising our advertisers

Web Site – Andy and Wes Vurma

The idea for the web site is to improve communication between the Association and its members who have access to the Internet. Included would be some history of the Association, the Directors, a map of the lake, the various committees and social events, as well as membership information, and dock registration. There would also be links to other site, perhaps a Question and Answer forum. We want to implement this by October 2002. As for maintenance there were two issues to be resolved: 1) Who is the Host Server? 2) Who is the web master? Pat Ferris and others volunteered to get it up and running. As for the on-going costs – so far so good, and if costs come up later, we'll deal with them then.

Recognition

Ross Willett and Doug Elliott were given the Association awards in recognition of their long time and most valuable contribution to the WWK Community. Dalton Ferris presented the award to Doug Elliott, and Terry Tweed presented the award to Ross Willett.

Lake Clean Up – John Nelson

John presented his idea which had been approved by the Board at the June 29 meeting. He asked for a motion to approve it, so that he could apply for funding for the project. Moved by Doug Marks and seconded by Norm Locke. Motion carried. John then asked for volunteers to join his committee.

Telephone Service – John Nelson

As of now there are about 80 landline phones on the south end of WWK, several radio phones on the north end and some cell phones. There are roughly 165 cottagers without any service. In 1999 the CRTC instructed the telephone companies to provide service to remote areas. It was up to the companies to find a way to do it. After much to-ing and fro-ing, in 2002 Bell came up with a plan, which would provide service between now, and 2005. The cost would be roughly \$1,000.00 per customer with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit. Bell will be mailing a service application form. It would be great if that could get into the fall newsletter.

Fireworks

Last year it was cancelled due to the fire ban. This year it will be off Skram Point, and there will be no charge or need for donations as we will be using what was bought last year.

New Business

1. Lew and Jacquie Morgan have said that this will be the last year they will host the Rock and Dock. (Thank you both very much for your generosity for hosting as many as you did. Volunteers are needed for the Saturday before as well as after it is over to

help clean up. There will also be a silent auction, the proceeds of which will be shared with the Assn.

2. The Executive voted to pledge \$1,000.00 a year for the next 3 years in support of the West Parry Sound Health Centre. Dawn Cooper from the West Parry Sound Foundation, who spoke eloquently about their efforts to raise \$6,000,000.000 for the 20,000 permanent residents in the area and for the 100,000 of us summer people. Moved by Ross Willett and seconded by Connie Anderson. Motion Carried.

A vote of thanks for given to Ed Bennett for the generous use of his Barn for our meeting and also many many thanks to all the volunteers on all the Committees.

Meeting was adjourned about 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted
Terry Tweed, Secretary