



Before stepping down, Dalton thanked Diane for all the wonderful work she had done on the Membership Committee. She will be missed. When the elections were completed, John rose to thank Dalton for the great work he has done for the Association during his term as President.

### **Report on the Mission and the Goals of the Association (Dalton Ferris)**

#### Mission:

- To promote the conservation of natural resources
- To protect and improve the natural environment
- To promote and protect property interests

#### Goals:

- To be good stewards of our shores
- To communicate effectively with lake residents
- To maintain strong working relationships with the Municipality and other levels of government
- To maintain a large and growing membership
- To promote social and cultural events
- To be strong leaders on matters involving the natural environment
- To be good financial stewards on behalf of the members

### **Lake Clean-up (John Nelson)**

- to take place August 9 and 10
- volunteers to be at the gov't dock 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning
- much thanks to Ed Bennett and Absolute Peace and Quiet for their help and support
- there will be a general shoreline clean-up as well as a pick up of large, bulky items
- Volunteer Recognition Barbecue – to be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Straub's Beach

### **Fish Enhancement (Don Comrie)**

A good news/bad news report

#### Good News:

- Ken Taylor put in more than 70,000 pickerel fingerlings into the lake this spring at no cost to the Assn. Thanks Ken
- Rubble has been bought for the rehab of the pickerel spawning bed at Gooseneck. Will be trucked in this month. An MNR grant of \$1,000.00 covered all but \$87.00 of the cost. Volunteers needed.

#### Bad News:

During the last 2 years 3 studies have been done by MNR, contract workers & volunteers

- 2001 Victoria Holiday Weekend Volunteer Creel Survey
- WWK Lake 2002 Intensive Creel Survey Report
- WWK Lake Synoptic Trapnet Survey

All surveys indicate a decline in lake trout, pickerel, and both small and large mouth bass. They also indicate a significant increase in pike and black crappie populations

The 2002 Creel Survey also indicates that 90% of pike caught are being released back into the lake. The Fish Committee strongly recommends that all pike caught NOT be released. Copies of the surveys were available for reading at the meeting. Labatts Breweries donated two kegs of draft beer again this year. Proceeds from the \$4.00 per glass go to the Fish Committee.

Ross Willett asked if anything could be done about the cormorants, as it seemed to him the cormorants were doing more harm to the fish populations than were the pike. Don Comrie replied that nothing "official" can be recommended.

### **Lake Partner (Dalton Ferris)**

Water samples have been taken for water clarity and for phosphorous between May and September at 4 different locations on the north end of the lake

- Graves Point
- Deadman's
- Morton's Point takes samples at 2 sites further down the lake

The 2002 results:

- Secchi Disc came in Mesotrophic (mid-range) at 3-4.9
- Dissolved phosphorous came in Oligotrophic showing < 10mg which is very good

We have improved the phosphorous levels over the years. We need to find someone or some persons on the Big Lake who will do the same thing.

#### **Whitestone Official Plan (Dalton Ferris)**

The Official Plan is supposed to be approved by Council at the August 20 meeting. The Association had a lot of input, much of which was incorporated into it. We had hired Planscape to review the plan and to make suggestions and recommendations. It was good to see them taken. We should feel positive about the plan as it is now. The next step will be to develop the comprehensive zoning by-laws once the plan is approved. We expect to have input on these by-laws, and will probably engage Planscape again in this phase of the work.

#### **Docks (Ted Heggart)**

- By June 30, 100 stickers have been sold so far. (106 sold in 2002)
- The reserve fund is now about \$8,000.00
- Money collected from the boxes \$58.00
- Current year was relatively expense free, but there were repairs done to the hinges and the municipality did do some minor road access improvements
- The 5 year agreement with MNR is up next year, and we hope to renew it
- Andy Vurma will be taking over the dock committee
- A big thank you to the members of the committee – Rod Anderson, Ken Hayward, Rod Bennett, Ross Willett and especially John Kormos “who is always ready, willing and able”.

#### **Dam (Andy Vurma)**

Andy outlined the history of the project, which began in 1997 and has taken 5 years to complete. The dam was finished in September of 2002. The expenses doubled due to the lack of bedrock close to the surface at the site. This necessitated a redesign, further excavation and twice the amount of concrete had to be poured. The total expenses have come to about \$625,000, with the break down as follows:

- FedNor 33%
- MNR 57%
- WWK 7%
- Hydro One 6%

What is left to do:

- Receive the final funds from MNR
- Pay the remaining bills, including Azimuth Environmental who has been commissioned by the Association to prepare a Monitoring Report for the DFO.
- Make the final payment in 2004 to the contractor at the end of the 2-year warranty.

A big thank you is due to all the members of this committee – Kirby Brock, George Comrie, Eric Disley, Ted Heggart, and Andy Vurma.

The dam is leaking but it has been looked at, and MNR says that this amount of leakage is acceptable. There would be no concern with ice cracking it, as the water doesn't freeze here with the water moving as quickly as it does. Then came a discussion of the water level. There are positive and negative reactions to the level being as high as it is. It was noted that the dam is there to maintain a minimum level, and it has little to do with the present high level. This year we saw an exceptional amount of rain in July – over 4” as opposed to about 1” last year. But because the dam is no longer leaking like a sieve, it does mean that the water will flow out more slowly. Discussion then moved on to the Magnetewan Flow regulations -- how these regulations will affect us and how the operations of the dams upstream of us will be regulated in the future.

#### **Membership (Diane Ovenden)**

The number of memberships has been maintained. We have 313 this year, against 309 last year.

The brochure is finished. They can be found at Bennetts and at Haywards. Once again a big thank you, as Diane has done a wonderful job.

**Nursing Station (Dalton Ferris)**

A registered nurse practitioner is working out of Magnetewan at least 4 days a week. When the facility is finished in Dunchurch, she will move there. The septic and well systems are in place, and the site location is finalised. Plans are being drawn up, and the tendering process is underway. Construction will begin in the near future. Fundraising for this project is on going.

**Chris Armstrong (who became a councillor after Don Carter stepped down as Reeve) was asked to speak and he addressed the following topics:**

- 911 – the program is implemented and all the signs are ready for pick up at the municipal office in Dunchurch. Everyone is urged to get the signs up as soon as possible and find a place where they are as visible as possible.
- Whitestone Fire and Rescue. Description of the structure and the staff after amalgamation. There are 2 stations, one in Dunchurch and one in Ardbeg. Permits are required for open air burning.

Questions raised from the floor:

- Real problems with the dump on Auld's road. It is a mess and the bears continue to be a serious problem.
- Recycling – what happened to the recycling of plastic and glass. Answer was that the municipality never in fact recycled these items. It simply sent them to yet another landfill site. More dissatisfaction. Various suggestions were made as to how to run the dump more satisfactorily i.e. keep it open at all times, put a dumpster in near the gate. All in all the feeling was that although our taxes had increased dramatically, little benefit was reaped in the way of services. The dump remains a big issue.
- There was a fire this spring just west of Look Out Point on the north shore. People from the lake were fighting it before the Fire Department could get there. A question was raised as to whether the liability insurance covers volunteers, not part of the Fire Department, who are on the scene before the department. The answer was no, unless they have been asked specifically to volunteer their services.
- A cheque for \$250.00 was given to the Fire Department as a small thank you for its prompt arrival on the scene of the fire last fall as well as the one this past May.

**Memorial Fund (Dalton)**

This is a fund created for people who wish to give money in memory of someone. The question arises as to how to use the money. It seemed that the best thing was to use the money to enhance the living of all lake residents. Ideas are being floated – maybe navigational lights etc.

**Recognition (Dalton)**

This year the Association is honouring the people who were crucial to the successful completion of the dam. This was an enormous undertaking and we owe this committee a great deal. The project has taken 6 to 7 years and untold time and effort. There were 6 plaques given out – 4 to members of the Dock Committee which included Ted Heggart, George Comrie, Kirby Brock and Eric Disley. Two other plaques were created, one for FedNor and one for the MNR. Representatives of these respective bodies could not be present today; the plaques will be given to them later. It was also important that Andy Vurma be singled out for particular thanks, for without his dogged determination and commitment, the dam would never have happened. His leadership in this enterprise was outstanding. The Association was the proponent, but the Dam Committee was responsible for the organisation and control of the operation. In recognition of Andy's outstanding contribution and in recognition of Linda's generosity of spirit in putting up with all of this, the Association presented them with an oil painting by the well-known artist Jean McKeown. The Association also wished to thank Lesley Hugill for her wonderful work on the newsletter, Bert Ellingham for acting as Auditor, Bernie Duchers who co-ordinates the advertising in the newsletter, and Ed Bennett for providing the venue for our meeting.

**Don Carter addressed the meeting regarding the Nursing Station.**

It will be a one-story structure. Thirty thousand dollars has been raised in equipment and furniture. It will be operative 5 days a week. In order to keep the nurse practitioner we must have a facility for her. The municipality has to raise another \$40,000. So far the total money raised is about \$110,000.00.

Motion that the Association give a donation to the Nursing Station in an amount to be decided on by the Directors

Moved: Connie Anderson

Seconded: Mike Symansky

*Motion carried.*

**New Business**

- 1) Question was raised whether it would be possible for the new directors to see if the old dump behind Bennetts could be reconfigured and used for more parking.
- 2) Andy is looking for input for a new cottage directory
- 3) There is a problem with landing a the government dock in Bennett's Bay at night. There is so much light around the dock, yet none at the dock. Perhaps we could rent some sort of light from Hydro One.
- 4) Betty Corneil spoke about needing to educate kids not to use the CB as a toy. Perhaps this is something that should go in the newsletter.
- 5) Once again the dump was the subject of debate. There are about 15 bears down there now. It is getting more and more dangerous. We need to go to the MNR with the bear stories. It might lead to some kind of action being taken.
- 6) Lynn Lennox is working with Sandy McCullough on the Cottage Tour for 2004 – the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association.
- 7) Announcement of the Fireworks display off Skram Point tonight

Norman Locke moved to adjourn

Joe Zahody seconded

*Motion carried*

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Tweed,

Secretary