

Minutes
2010 Annual General Meeting
Bay Lake Property Owners Association
August 8, 2010

Attendance: 43 members and 5 guests attended the meeting.

Opening Remarks

Glen Vey

Glen welcomed all for attending and advised that this is the 29th AGM of our association. Glen thanked the current executive members and thanked all the volunteers who worked on behalf of the association in the past year for their contributions of time.

Glen reminded the group in attendance of our upcoming corn roast. This event will be held on Sunday Sept 5th at the Clear Lake Bay Lake Hall.

He then reviewed the agenda for the meeting with the group.

Glen also mentioned that the Clear Lake Bay Lake hall is still looking for support and membership. He encouraged all to participate by contacting a member of the executive.

Glen then encouraged the people present to volunteer with our association.

Glen then introduced our key note speaker.

Guest Speaker

Brad Steinberg, Management Biologist, Ministry of Natural Resources, Algonquin Park

Brad explained his role with Algonquin Park and his background in our area. He advised his presentation would address Lake Ecology, fish biology and best practices.

Lake Ecology

Brad spoke to the history of our lake advising that Bay Lake was covered by glaciers and now is termed as a cold water lake. Brad explained how water temperature affects the lake and its oxygen content. He described the process of turn-over of water which occurs in cold water lakes and provides for oxygenation of the lower lake level. This process occurs twice a year and is necessary to introduce oxygen into all levels of the lake. He explained how different fish species use the different temperature levels in the lake Only cold water fish will survive in a cold water lake.

Fish Biology

Brad advised that we are very fortunate to have a lake that supports lake trout. He displayed a chart of Bay Lake that shows we have only a limited area in our lake that provides the correct water depth for lake trout and suggested that continued stocking of lake trout would be beneficial to continue to provide angling opportunities. He advised that stocking of Lake Trout in Bay lake is necessary due to the lack of spawning beds in the lake.

Brad explained the specific environment requirements of various fish and the background on how these various fish behave and develop in the lake. He advised that we may occasionally see a few Brook Trout in our lake as they may move up from the Little East River. But because of their very low metabolisms they would not be able to compete with the other fish species in our lake.

Brad talked about the original stocking of small mouth bass by the government in many northern lakes and the negative affect on native species in the affected lakes. He also talked about the effect of introduced species on low nutrient lakes like ours.

Best Practices for Healthy Lake

Brad explained the benefits of having shrubs and trees down to the shoreline of the lake. The practice of maintaining a healthy shoreline by planting plants and trees prevents run-off of fertilizers and other chemicals caused by unnaturally occurring additions by property owners and results in a healthy lake, reduces shoreline erosion and keeping spawning beds healthy. He provided contacts for cottagers who would be interested in restoring or reclaiming the natural shoreline buffer for the lake on properties where the shoreline has been altered and recommended visiting the following website for information:
www.muskokaheritage.org/watershed.

He explained the benefit of maintaining fallen logs and branches on the bottom of the lake. These logs and branches are an important part of the food chain and the health of the lake. They provide additional nutrients and fish habitat

Invading Species

Brad then turned to invading species and how people intentionally introduced species in the hopes that fishing will improved. He explained that introduction of new species lead to competition that can ruin the trout and other fish populations in the lake.

He advised that Rock Bass along with Rainbow Smelt and other harmful species were introduced by the dumping of bait buckets into northern lakes. Brad talked specifically about the risk of the introduction of Rainbow Smelt on the young fish of other species. This fish eats the fry of all other fish and can quickly devastate native fish populations in a lake. Brad explained the benefit of stocking trout will help ensure the continuation of the trout because the fish introduced would be too big for rainbow smelt to eat.

Brad cautioned the dumping of minnows from bate buckets into lakes not only results in the

introduction of harmful species from the great lakes into our lakes but this practice can also spread fish diseases that are now present in the Great Lakes. He talked about invasive zooplankton and algae such as Didymo or "Rock Snot" algae that spreads rapidly and can reach our waters through contamination from angler's hip waders. This type of algae needs to be reported immediately to the MNR if identified in our lake. He also spoke about an algae described as Elephant snot which does occur in Bay Lake but which is currently at safe levels.

Brad talked also about zebra and quagga mussels and Rusty Crayfish. He felt our lake would be too cold for mussels.

He then talked about the risk of the spread of silver carp into the Great Lakes. This species of fish was intentionally introduced into the Mississippi River and has spread all up the watershed. Silver carp have wiped out 95% of all other native species in the Mississippi system.

Best Practices for Fish Management

Brad encouraged residents on northern lakes :

- not clear foliage, shrubs etc from creeks and streams on lakeside properties that feed the lake -these provide important habitat for small fish fry and buffer to the lake.
- to report catches of fish, size and type, to the MNR -this helps the MNR manage lake information.
- Create and maintain a strong lake association.
- Where possible, control public access to lake
- manage our lake health carefully given the projected increase in population for southern Ontario which will increase the number people who will come to northern lakes.

Question from the Floor

Brad then fielded questions from the floor.

Question: Can we control access?

No, not on our lake.

Question: Can we control boat motor size?

Only if 100% of all property owners came to an agreement on motor size restrictions. If this occurs, then we could ask the township to pass a bi-law for our lake.

Question: Is there Elephant Snot in Bay Lake?

There is some naturally occurring but will bloom in the right conditions. It is the breakdown of the algae that cause depletion of oxygen in the lake.

Question: What is Blue Green Algae?

He spoke to causes of Blue Green algae which results from various water conditions – temperature, phosphorous build up etc. This algae is naturally occurring in all lakes but when it builds up, it becomes poisonous and kills fish and zooplankton which are part of the fish food chain. There have been cases of dogs dying from drinking water containing high amounts of Blue Green Algae. Algae blooms usually occur in conditions of hot weather, high phosphates levels and very calm wind conditions causing algae to multiply. He again recommended maintenance to the riparian border to prevent phosphates from human activity leaching into the lake.

Question: A Comment was made about MNR Stock procedures and survival rates.

Brad spoke to the stocking of lake trout and the percentage of survival rate from stocking. He explained that putting more stock in doesn't necessarily mean that more will survive. He advised again that Lake Trout stocking is best for Bay Lake due to the lack of spawning grounds in Bay Lake.

Question: With regard to the invasive species Rainbow Smelt – Is it possible to remove the smelt from an infected lake by poisoning the lake?

He said that this was considered and tried on lakes in Algonquin but has been unsuccessful for many reasons. It first is not publicly popular and cannot guarantee that all the fish can be eliminated.

Glen presented Brad with a cheque in the amount of \$75.00 as a donation for the Friends of Algonquin gratitude for his time as well as a framed photograph of a Pine Martin by Janice Paterson.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Glen Vey

MOTION: To accept minutes Janice Paterson

Seconded Lee Davidson

Carried

Treasurer's Report

Curtiss MacDonald

Curtiss presented a review of our financial activities of the past year. He highlighted the areas of expenditure activities.

A question came from the floor regarding designating a portion of the membership fee towards

the fish fund. A discussion followed regarding how to use the fish fund and how funds are being collected. He advised that any decisions on how to use the fund which alter the way the fund has been set up will require a motion to be made at next year's meeting.

Curtiss addressed the solicitation of donations at our events. He suggested that we rescind the procedure because of improved financial status.

A discussion followed regarding donations for visitors and guests.

MOTION: Curtiss made a motion to rescind the request to donate

Seconded Glen Vey

Carried

Opposed 1

MOTION: Curtis motioned to accept the financial reports

Seconded Sarah Adams

Carried

Membership Report

Sarah Adams

Sarah presented the current stats of memberships

Current memberships 2009-2010 94

Previous years membership 2008-2009 101

56 properties have paid membership for 2010-2011

Lake Report

Jack Podwinski

Jack Reported the following:

- there was a fire at a cottage on the lake which was attended by several Fire Departments.
- many vehicles are travelling at high speed on our roads. Several members in attendance also made comments from the floor about speeders. Glen asked the group to call the police and request the police monitor speeds on our road.
- some property owners are putting or allowing brush to fall into the lake which is then floating down to the outlet and causing blockages that need to be cleared.
- no reports are being received regarding what is being caught on the lake.
- MNR has policed the lake and has laid charges against the same person 3 times in 3

days for catching too many bass.

- One of the warning floats placed by the association to keep people back from the new loon platform is missing.
- Jack is in need of black plastic bags suitable for filling with sand for water control at the outlet.

Environment Report

Bill Paterson

Bill spoke to the water testing for e-coli and comprehensive testing for various items.

Testing has all come back under suggested guidelines. We had a spike in two of 8 sites which had levels that were high but still under provincial guidelines. Both sites on subsequent testing dropped down to previous test levels. Previous results may have been the result of high water temperatures and heavy rain. Comprehensive testing completed which was completed last week came back all well within provincial guidelines.

Bill then spoke to our Adopt a Site program for e-coli testing at a cost of \$42.40 and comprehensive testing for 3 sites at a cost of \$361.62 or 120.54 each in addition to the cost of e-coli testing

Bill advised that Judy and John Dunn are continuing Secchi testing on our lake which is posted on the Muskoka Watershed Council's Water Website.

Bill reviewed our activities at our Pitch-in day activities which was successful and included participation by residents from Perry Lake.

Bill and Judy Dunn attended the Water Summit in Bracebridge. Bill spoke to the government not having a policy to protect our fresh water. He also touched on the provincial policies of water removal from water aquifers.

Bill shared information on the new studies reporting the decline of calcium in our lakes. Logging activities in the past and the continuing removal of trees from around lakes has resulted in the reduction of calcium because the wood no longer remains to decay and release calcium into the soils surrounding the lake. This can result in negative effects on all the life in the lake. Water samples taken by Judy and John Dunn and then sent to Dorset as part of the Lake Partners Program are now being tested for calcium as well as phosphorus.

The environment committee built a loon platform for the lake. It is now in place and has been investigated by the loons. We hope they will use it next season.

The environment committee is considering building wood duck boxes for next year.

He spoke about the benthic testing and how Casey Cook, the technician who worked with us last year, volunteered to work with us on her day off to complete testing. He advised subsequently, we were notified that, because of our commitment to the testing, we will get the support of the Muskoka Watershed Council next year. He then described the benthic testing process for the group.

There was a boat tour with the MNR around our lake to evaluate our shoreline. The MNR provided suggestions as to how we can improve our fish stocks by improving shoreline environment etc. His suggestions will be reviewed and discussed by the Environment Committee.

Bill explained the importance of maintaining our status as a lake trout lake in order to maintain the restrictions on new development around our lake which would have negative impact on the lake. Currently, Bay Lake is designated as “at capacity” for development as a trout lake. Only properties which were registered prior to this designation can obtain a building permit.

Bill suggested that the current membership and executive are an aging group. We need to inspire and encourage the younger generation to get involved in maintaining the environment of the lake by encouraging them to make this a destination that is important to them.

Website

Doug Banwell

Doug explained the reasons behind the change to the new website and then gave an overview and walk through of the new website at www.baylakeontario.ca. He spoke to all the possibilities contained on the site.

Constitution Updates

Cheryl Stamper

Cheryl reviewed the minor changes we are making to correct minor errors to the constitution which were sent out to the members in the recent newsletter.

MOTION: Cheryl motioned to accept the changes to the constitution

Seconded Brent Reuter

Carried

Election of New Executive

Glen Vey

Glen thanked the outgoing members of the executive:

Doug Banwell
Brent Reuter
Cheryl Stamper.

He welcomed new to the executive:

Gaynor Moore
Steve Morris
Paul Turner

He welcomed the returning executive members:

David Adams
Sarah Adams
Lee Davidson
Curtiss MacDonald
Bill Paterson
Janice Paterson
Glen Vey
Sherry Vey

MOTION to accept new members: Doug Banwell

Seconded: Bill

Carried

New Business from the Floor

Membership

Question: Can the association request the OPP to visit our lake on the weekend rather than in mid week?

Glen responded that it is incumbent on us to place calls to the OPP to request they come to our area. The more calls the police receive, the more attention we will get.

Question: Can the association request the cottage owners who rent request their renters to show restraint and common sense?

Glen also suggested that concerned members speak to their neighbours who rent to share their concerns about inconsiderate and reckless renters.

Draw for Door Prizes

Glen Vey

A draw was made for three door prizes, winners were:

Bill Paterson

Bev Doan

Joan and Dave Hauser

Adjournment

MOTION for adjournment was made by Bill Paterson

Seconded by Randy Webber

Carried

Association Annual General Meeting was Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Glen then requested that those wishing to stay for the information session remain and asked all others to move to the lobby.

Township Information Session

Mayor Bill Core

11:30

Bill Core advised the group that he will not be running again as Mayor.

He introduced John Dunn as a new candidate for the mayoral run.

Bill Core advised that the information center is going to be the new municipal offices and should be on site by the beginning of September.

Bill Core spoke about the official plan for Perry Township. The township submitted the plan and it was reviewed and amended by the province. There are two meetings scheduled to present the revised plan to the public, Wed August 21 at the Novar Community from 2-4 and 6-8 and again on Sat Sept 25 at Emsdale Community center 10 am-12 pm.

Bill advised that Council Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and all are welcome.

Question: If Bay Lake is deemed "at capacity" for building, why were building permits still being issued?

Bill advised that lots where permits have been issued are on lots that existed at the time the "at capacity" designation was determined. A lot cannot be severed and a permit issued.

Question: Why do we pay additional charges for dumping materials at the recycling center when our tax bills include fees for the recycling center?

Bill advised that we no longer ask residents to sort recyclables but there are additional costs to the township for disposal of special items such as propane tanks, old refrigerators etc.

Question: Was the testing of granite gravel on Rochester Lake Road successful and will there will be other roads where this gravel will be used?

Bill confirmed that the road surface has improved. The township is now working to rebuild Deer Lake Road. Roads are being ditched as well as resurfacing. Granite gravel will be the gravel used for all future road resurfacing.

Question: Could Bill please explain the property switch that the township is engaged in with a property owner on Bay Lake?

Bill advised that the reason for the change was so that the township legally owns the property on which the road runs for maintenance purposes. The Township is trading shore allowance for road land so township can have full responsibility of road

Question: When does the current compacting contract at the recycling center expire and does the township plan to return to the old recycling procedure?

Bill advised the contract is due to expire soon and no decision has been made so to how the township will move forward. John advised that while the current system is more costly than the baling system the cost is steady while the sale of recycled material fluctuated without notice.

Question: Could he please explain how the environmental tax benefits the township?

John Dunn advised that the township makes \$0.88 cents from the \$5.00 tax to dispose of a tire. He advised that there are more plans to add additional environment taxes.

Question: Could the township add additional calcium and grading on North Bay Lake Rd?

Bill advised he would check with the crew on Monday as to when the next grading can be done and review whether additional calcium could be applied.

Question: What is the township going to do about the poor quality paving on Bay Lake Road.

Bill commented that the road was done late in the season and that company that did the work was awarded the job because they were the lowest bidder. John Dunn mentioned that Ron Maisonville recently presented a petition to the council to review the paving.

Question: Can the township fix the whole in the lake bottom at the bottom or base of the boat launch that is creating launching problems.

Bill explained the difficulties with working in the lake with heavy equipment and offered to have his crew take another look at the problem.

Information session adjourned at 12.00 pm