

**Lake Talon Conservation Association (LTCA)
2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Sunday,
August 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Camp Conewango Hosted by Wendy Morley
& Chris Winterburn**

MINUTES

1. Welcome from Acting President Brian Baker

- Brian Baker welcomed the group. 41 people attended the meeting. An Attendance List was circulated to gather names and email addresses.

2. Resignation of President John Kelsall Sr. – Report from Brian Baker

- Brian shared that he has worked closely with John Kelsall Sr., who was a founding member of the LTCA along with the Wallace, Laframboise and Pond families. In the spring John decided to step down as President and asked Brian to serve as the Acting President until the election of LTCA Officers occurred at this year's AGM. John Kelsall Sr. had Family and Sunday School commitments this morning and sent his regrets for being unable to attend.
- Brian thanked John for the great work he did throughout his years as President of the LTCA. Those attending applauded John's past service to the LTCA.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of August 6, 2017

- It was moved by Charlie Kerr and seconded by Don Wallace that: ***“The Minutes of August 6, 2017 be approved.”*** The motion was **CARRIED**.

Business Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM

1. Algonquin Land Claim – Report by Brian Baker

- Last year Don Paquette, Senior Elder for Mattawa-North Bay Algonquin First Nations, attended the meeting and spoke about the Land Claim and other matters as well. There are no updates on the Algonquin Land Claim.

2. Status of the New Bonfield Sawmill – Report by Brian Baker

- The Developer is apparently awaiting for one final permit so they aren't able to move forward yet. It's good news for the area – jobs, resources to build the plant and service it.
- Clint Wilson asked what would be happening with wastewater from the sawmill and

expressed concern about the potential impact on Lake Talon. Brian answered that they were told that there are going to be wastewater ponds on site and that they will be up to the appropriate environmental standards as determined by the Ministry of the Environment.

3. LTCA Newsletter – Report by Jeff Allen

- Jeff advised that the Newsletter will be out in the next couple weeks and there will be hard copies placed at Camp Conewango and Talon Lake Campground and Marina. It will also be posted on the LTCA website and Facebook.
- If you want to submit historical photos or articles, please send them to Jeff's email address - talon@allendw.com.

4. Illegal Net Fishing - Report by Brian Baker on behalf of Dave Humphries / Roger Laframboise

- This is the third year with no illegal activity. At the last two LTCA AGMs Don Paquette shared that Mattawa-North Bay Algonquin First Nations do not support any type of illegal net fishing by any First Nations individuals or groups.

5. Financial Report for January 1 to December 30, 2017 – Report by Mike Marrs

- LTCA Auditor Michael Marrs submitted the Audited *Statement of Revenue and Expense* for the year ending December 31, 2017. Cash on hand at the end of 2016 was \$4,716.14 (we had come down about \$1500 from the previous year), and at the end of 2017 was \$5,699.67. This Report was posted on our Facebook page and will also be posted on the LTCA website.
- The YES (Youth Employment Service) grant is only \$300 (we only receive money for a student who is being employed for the first time). Some years we may get \$0 if we don't have a new employee.
- Donations from members are up slightly this year to approximately \$1,000.
- To help with finances, the LTCA reduced the summer students' hours by 10 each and number of weeks worked by one.
- We are starting to put ourselves in a better financial position by limiting donations and reducing expenditures.
- There was a motion moved by Andre Berube and seconded by Charlie Kerr that, "***The Audited Statement of Revenue and Expense for the year ending December 31, 2017 be approved.***" The motion was **CARRIED**.

6. 2017 Membership Report and 2018 To Date – Report by Brian Baker for Nancy Humphries

- To date 89 memberships have been sold which is the same as last year at this point. The Students have almost finished visiting all cottages/homes for the first time. They will then begin on revisiting people who weren't home during their first visit.
- Nancy Humphries has said that using electronic transfers to collect membership fees has been helpful, although only a small number of people have paid using this method.
- Final numbers of memberships for previous years were 136 (2017), 156 (2016), 130 (2015),

137 (2014), and 141 (2013). There are approximately 240 cottages/homes on the waterway.

- In response to concerns with the LTCA's finances last year, at the 2017 AGM a motion was made and carried to increase the membership fee from \$35 to \$50 for 2018. After reviewing the LTCA's financial position in the spring, the decision was made to defer the membership fee increase as the expenditures were curtailed sufficiently to enable a satisfactory bank balance. A decision was made to maintain the membership fee at \$35 for 2019 as well.

- Question – What would you attribute to the slippage in the number of memberships purchased (between 2016 and 2017)? Answer – There are certain areas of the lake which have more representation than others. It could be helpful to know where the paying members are located on the lake. Everyone should talk to their neighbours about joining the LTCA and direct them to the [LTCA website](#) and/or Facebook page.

- Information from the Summer Students about collection of membership fees:

- Kaibuskong Bay – It is the toughest area to get into because the docks don't have enough parking spots.

- Shields Point – They are going to be parking their boat and walking Shields Point Rd. to talk to home/cottage owners.

- The least support is from Rice Bay as they have their own Association. They didn't sell any memberships in the Bay.

- They did get about 10 memberships in McCool Bay.

7. 2018 Summer Student Report – Supervisor Clint Wilson and Nicholas Gadomski & Reilly Wilson

- Supervisor Clint Wilson, Students Nicholas Gadomski and Reilly Wilson submitted both a written Interim Report which was posted on Facebook and and emailed to members. They presented a verbal report at the AGM.

- The work of the Summer Students:

- The students perform public relations work on Saturdays and Sundays (including renewing and soliciting memberships) and maintenance clean-up work on Mondays. Clint gave the summer students 4 key points to share when they visit cottages/homes about why people should become members of the LTCA.

- Every Monday they go to the Chutes, Grasswell's Point and the Blanchard's Landing Dock & Boat Launch. If they have sufficient time they also go to Blueberry Island and Madora Island and the boat launch in Black Bay. They also do a shoreline cruise to look for deadheads.

- Funding for the Summer Students:

- As an austerity measure their hours have been reduced by 10 hours/week. In the past students worked 40 hours/week and this year they are working 30 hours/week (they no longer work on Fridays).

- The LTCA was reluctant to make this cut but didn't have the funds to maintain the same number of hours as in the past.

- The LTCA has been receiving \$3000/year from Ontario Parks. This is for salaries,

supplies, waste disposal, etc. This amount of funding has remained the same for over 10 years. Brian Baker contacted Ontario Parks again about increasing the funding this year but they replied negatively. The Mattawa River Provincial Park is a non-operating park and has a minimal budget.

- LTCA is not spending our funds on Parks cleanup, the \$3,000 received from Ontario Parks funds 100% of the Parks cleanup operation.
- YES (Youth Employment Service) gave us \$300 as Reilly is a new employee.
- Brian made Application for Federal Summer Student funding but our Application was not successful.
- The new Ontario Parks Wardens briefly met with our students. The Wardens seemed to be focusing mainly on enforcement and control.
- The LTCA has asked the students to keep specific data about their work (e.g., how many bags of garbage have needed to be removed, maintenance needed at campsites) to present to Ontario Parks to potentially increase their funding.
- To help highlight the work the Summer Students do, Clint Wilson is going to put together a handout with photos of their work for them to give out when they visit people (e.g., a campsite before and after they clean-up).
- They reported that compared to last year there is less garbage.
- Daytrippers – They leave far less garbage than people who stay at the campsites.
- This year some people are still having fires on Grasswell. Any issues should be forwarded to Ontario Parks c/o Tracey Snarr, Parks Superintendent.
- Clint had the boys track likes/dislikes/issues on the lake.
 - The main issue is the water level (too low, too high, or too much fluctuation). The biggest concern was the amount of fluctuation.
- It was suggested that the students work to regain Members that we've had in the past.

8. Control of Dam/Operation & Safety – Report by Brian Baker

- Last year a floating dock was donated to the LTCA and installed at upstream side of the Chutes to replace an old dock that was previously there.
- Ontario Parks Superintendent advised in early May that we can't install the dock in 2018 and that we would need to apply for a Work Permit. Brian started the process in mid-May (descriptions, GPS points, how it is built, legal description of the property). He has been told that it was looking "favourable" but won't happen this year.
- John Kelsall and Brian Baker met with the Ministry about the water level on Lake Talon. Last September they put in an automatic gauge to monitor water levels (it was \$8,000-10,000). We asked that the info be made public and Brian has posted the link to the information on Facebook. The site maintains 45 days of data at a time.
 - Currently, the water is right at the top of the normal range. Their target in dry times is 10.05 (this is their "normal"). Last year the Ministry visited the dam 33 times.
- Last year the LTCA requested from the Ministry the long-term data for water levels on Lake Talon but they haven't provided it.

- At the request of the LTCA the Ministry put up signs where the lake narrows to the river to warn boaters that there can be strong currents in that part of the waterway.

9. Blanchard's Landing Dock & Boat Ramp Status – Report by Brian Baker

- Several meetings were held in previous years which involved representatives from the Mattawa-North Bay Algonquin First Nations representatives, John Kelsall and Brian Baker from the LTCA, Mattawa-Bonfield Economic Development Corporation, Bonfield Township, Calvin Township and the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. The discussion centred around who would be responsible for the dock and who will contribute money or services to get it replaced. Unfortunately this initiative was completely unsuccessful.
- It is our view that Ontario Parks are responsible for the dock and not the LTCA. We have an interest but most of the use is by non-cottage owners. Our current position is that we would consider contributing \$500/year if the Ontario Parks committed to regular upkeep of the dock. If the dock were to be replaced it would likely be a \$35,000-40,000 project with dredging, etc.
- Last year we said we considered it to be unsafe and sent a letter to Ontario Parks. They sent someone to inspect it and that person said it was safe. At this point we won't be doing anything else.

10. Water Quality Testing – Report by Clint Wilson

- Clint Wilson took over from Roger Laframboise in the fall of 2017. The summer crew has been sampling in July and August 2018.
- The Federation of Cottagers Associations of Ontario's (FOCA) website (foca.on.ca) has information about the [Lake Partner Program](#). It includes information about [Sampling Results & Assistance](#). The map on the website allows you to view the Secchi Disk depth and total phosphorus data from sampling sites as far back as 1990.
- Specific data for Talon is from May 2015 – one reading is from Kaibuskong and one is from off Grasswell. The total phosphorus and calcium in Kaibuskong measured 16.2 while Grasswell was 11. (If the reading is over 20 the lake tends to be eutrophic. If it is under 10 the lake tends to be barren.)
- Over the years the data from Lake Talon has remained pretty much the same
- Question – Can we independently test the acidity level in the lake (because Lake Talon is downwind from Sudbury)? There are concerns that certain fish species won't survive if the acidity level is high? Answer - Clint will look into it.
- Last year it was discussed to take 3 readings in Kaibuskong – one where the water comes in, one partway down the bay and one through the weedbed. They're trying to determine where the problem comes from. The thought is that it is from Nosbonsing but there is no evidence to support this.

11. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) – Report by Ken Davies

- Ken Davies highlighted the following FOCA items in his report which is posted on the

website and the LTCA Facebook page:

- New publication – *A Guide to Citizen Sciences at the Lake*;
- Septic Systems - Clean Water Act - if you think there is something wrong with your septic you can contact Dave Humphries as he is a Certified Installer.
- Lake Trout Lake Study - a couple of people attending the meeting indicated they have caught lake trout this summer;
- Emergency Preparedness and AED (Automated External Defibrillators) – they cost approximately \$1,500 and batteries are about \$200 to replace every (4?) years. People may want one at their cottage;
- Renting Responsibly;
- Antibacterial Products and their negative impacts on aquatic life - Antibacterial soaps should not be used at the cottage as they are devastating to fish species;
- Cottage Succession - Look in Cottage Life magazine's Summer 2018 "Love Issue" as there is an excellent article about cottage succession.
- FOCA represents approximately 50,000 Ontario cottagers

12. Update on Land Use & Logging Issues – Report by Marcia Pond

- Marcia contacted Nipissing Forest Management – They reported there is no harvesting of logs within 10km of Lake Talon this year. There are no other land use issues either.
- Once Algonquin First Nations has control over their land across from Grasswell's it may be developed.

13. Provincial Park Matters – Report by Barry Pond

- There was no new information to share.

14. Donations from Tripping Groups - Report by Bill Mountain

- Brian has asked the Von Doeler's Ranch and Gagne's Red and White store to support the LTCA as our Members patronize both. Clint Wilson will talk to Gerry and Craig at Gagne's. Both Camp Conewango and Talon Lake Campground and Marina support the LTCA.
- Bill Mountain advised that he has contacted the various Tripping Groups asking for Donations but no responses received to date although some previously donated.

15. GPS Coordinates of Cottages & Dock Numbers – Report by Brian Baker

- We tried to setup a database in case there is an emergency. This was very time consuming and Brian asked for a volunteer to do this work. No one came forward.
- We encourage people to take and record their own coordinates using their phone or tablet or GPS in case they need an emergency response. The GPS coordinate is key information for police and fire to be able to respond.

16. Joint Funding Application of Various Projects – Report by Brian Baker

- The main project the LTCA had been working on was Blanchard's Landing Dock. See #9 above for information.
- There are no other joint funding projects at this time.

17. Communications Update - Report by Brian Baker

- Currently the [LTCA Facebook page](#), the [LTCA website](#), and emails sent via "MailChimp" are being used to communicate information about the LTCA.
- The primary vehicle used to communicate is Facebook. Reports are put on Facebook as well (Student Report). Facebook allows for input and comments by anyone choosing to do so.
- The second vehicle is emails. Brian uses "MailChimp" when he sends out information. 55-60% of people open the emails that he sends out. Incorrect email addresses are a problem.
- The third vehicle is the LTCA website laketalonca.com. Scott Ross had this website developed several years ago.
- When the Summer Students visit cottagers a fair number of people don't want to give their email address. A suggestion is that the summer students tell people that there will be about 10 emails a year, although there may be a few more if there is an important issue that the LTCA is addressing on behalf of the membership.

18. Septic Pump Out – Report by Brian Baker

- 8 years ago Muskoka Septic Services from Parry Sound were contacted to pump out septic tanks of water access cottages. At that time they pumped out 13 septic tanks. Brian reported that they did a very good job.
- The company is coming back in September. The cost is \$1200 + HST for 14 people or less. They are now at 15 so it will be \$100 less. If you have a smaller septic tank the cost is \$70 cheaper. The service is for water access cottages only.
- If you are hiring this company you need to make your tank accessible before they come (e.g., clear off both covers).
- Please email Brian at acedubl@gmail.com if you are interested. This will be the last opportunity to do this for 8-10 years.

19. Energy East Pipeline Conversion Project – Report by Diane Wallace

- The federal government has decided not to move forward with this project at this time. Thank you to Don and Diane Wallace who were very active with this issue and attended many meetings. The Mattawa-North Bay Algonquin First Nations was also very opposed to the project unless the latest and best pipes were used.
- The main concern of the LTCA was an oil spill.
- Question – Natural gas is currently being pushed through the pipes and is under much higher pressure than oil. The pipe is very old. Wouldn't there be a concern about Lake Talon being

polluted if there was a leak? Answer – If there were to be a natural gas leak it would create air pollution and not water pollution. Natural gas pipelines are very regulated.

20. Mattawa First Nations Fish Hatchery - Report by Brian Baker (not Roger Laframboise)

- The Ministry hasn't been stocking our lake, until last year. Last year they stocked 2,000 lake trout in Lake Talon.
- The Mattawa First Nations Fish Hatchery hasn't stocked Lake Talon yet. We will start to contribute to the hatchery again once they start to stock our lake.

New Business

1. Election of LTCA Officers (Bold indicates Directors)

At the 2018 AGM the following Board Officers and Directors (noted in **bold**) were approved:

- **President** – Brian Baker
- **Vice President** – Scott Ross (with assistance from Cliff Davies)
- **Treasurer** – Nancy Humphries
- **Communications Officer** – Brian Baker
- **Secretary** – Paige & Jane Bennett
- Water Quality Testing – Clint Wilson
- Financial Audits – Mike Marrs
- Lake Stewards – Dave Humphries, Chris James, Rick Miller, Bob Davies
- Newsletter Editor – Jeff Allen
- FOCA Representative – Ken Davies
- Summer Student Manager – Clint Wilson
- Land Use Committee – Marcia Pond A Motion moved by George Davies and seconded by Mary Marrs that, ***'The Officers and Directors noted above undertake the indicated role for the next year.'*** The motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

2. LTCA Membership Fee

- Refer to agenda item #6 for information

3. Ontario Parks Matters – Talon Chutes Floating Dock, Park Wardens, Summer Student Future

- Refer to agenda items #8, #7 respectively

4. MNRF Matters – Water Levels & Installation of Automatic Gauge, Blanchard's Landing Dock/Ramp

- Refer to agenda item #8 and #9 respectively

5. Septic Tank Pump-out – September 2018

- Refer to agenda item #18

6. Other New Items from LTCA Members for Discussion

- Fire situation – Item introduced by Brian Baker
 - There have been 2 fires this summer. One was as a result of a downed power line in James Bay. The cottagers organized an immediate response, containing the fire from the outside edge. Within 40 minutes it was doused by the cottagers. The MNR then came in with a fire pump and doused it again. The second fire was a result of the downed ultralight plane. See notes below for more information.
 - A number of years ago the Shield's Bay and Green's Bay Cottagers did a major fundraiser for fire pumps – They have 2 sets of pumps, helmets, shovels, fire jackets, etc. This equipment is located in Shields Bay on the properties Brian Baker/Roger Laframboise and Warren McGill/John Kelsall. Many residents also have a 45-gallon barrel of water which they ensure is full at all times. They strongly suggest you and your neighbours do this too. Portable Fire Sprayers are also recommended.
 - If you would like to order your own fire equipment you can contact Trans Canada Safety. You can also contact Hamelin's Outdoor Power Equipment as they have a fire pump and hose kit mounted on a cart for approximately \$1000. The same Kits are also for sale at Princess Auto.
- Downed Ultralight Plane–July 30, 2018 - Item introduced by Brian Baker
 - On Monday July 30 an ultralight plane crashed on the shore of Lake Talon. Sadly, the pilot passed away. For more information, refer to [this article in the North Bay Nugget](#) or BayToday.ca
 - The response to the resultant fire was spearheaded by cottagers on the lake who set-up a bucket line and put out the fire. Much later the Bonfield Fire Department showed up with a couple of water pump backpacks to hose it down. The cottagers are being lauded for their quick response.
 - Andre Berube thanked everyone for their response as three cottages were saved as a result of the efforts of the cottagers who put out the fire.
 - Important Learning - The 911 numbers aren't always effective as the Fire Department didn't have the numbers and the corresponding GPS coordinates. Someone had to go out to the road to flag down the fire department as they couldn't find the crash site. OPP also had difficulty finding the emergency location.
 - We need a better system to respond such as phone numbers to call for assistance from people in various areas of the lake.
 - Jeff Allen will be creating a map for the Fire Pump locations and Contacts.
- The Need for Respectful Boating and Sea-Doos Practices on the Lake - Item introduced by BJ Johansen
 - In James Bay some cottagers have almost been hit by sea-doods a number of times.
 - She requested that people be respectful of their neighbours and drive their sea-doods

and boats, slowly up to Grasswell and then accelerate to drive around the large lake.

- Another attendee said that the same problem occurs (high speeds, people circling their boats and causing large wakes) at the end of the lake where it narrows to the river.
- Someone suggested that as a first step it is usually best to politely ask people change their practice.
- George Davies indicated that the law requires a boater to be at least 75m away from the shoreline if they are moving quickly. If someone is closer than 75m they need to be travelling no faster than 15mph.
- Brian responded that it would be a matter for the OPP as they patrol the lake. He said that he will pursue it with the OPP Marine Unit. He will also put a note on Facebook that there have been some near misses, and that people need to slow down and be respectful.
- Someone also brought up people who fish right at the end of your dock – they come far too close. It was mentioned that it is about respect in general.

7. Thank You to Camp Conewango Owners Wendy Morley and Chris Winterburn

- Brian thanked Wendy and Chris very much for hosting this year's AGM. We appreciated their hospitality.
- Brian also encouraged people to use their restaurant as the food is excellent! The restaurant remains open until August 25 this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41am.