

**Lake Talon Conservation Association (LTCA)  
2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
Sunday, August 4th, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.**

**Talon Lake Campground and Marina  
Hosted by Nancy & David Humphries**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome from President Brian Baker**

- Brian Baker welcomed the group. 39 people attended the meeting. An Attendance List was circulated to gather names and email addresses.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting of August 5th, 2018**

- It was moved by Charlie Kerr and seconded by Mark Hurst that: *“The Minutes of August 5, 2018 be approved.”* The motion was **CARRIED**.

**Business Arising from Minutes of Previous AGM**

**1. Algonquin Land Claim & New Bonfield Sawmill Status – Report by Brian Baker**

- Algonquin Land Claim – There were not any updates.
- Bonfield Sawmill Status – Construction may be starting this fall. This project is still moving forward.

**2. Financial Report for January 1 to December 31, 2018 – Mike Marrs’ Report was shared by Brian Baker**

- LTCA Finance Reviewer, Michael Marrs submitted the *Statement of Revenue and Expense* for the year ending December 31, 2018. Cash on hand – End of December 31st Periods for 2018: \$8,806.32; for 2017: \$5,699.67; for 2016: \$4,716.14 (see the LTCA Facebook post on August 3, 2019, where the report was posted in its entirety)
- The LTCA Directors have successfully corrected the Association’s financial situation over the past few years.
- Thank you to Mike Marrs for compiling the unaudited Statement of Revenue & Expenses for the LTCA.

**3. 2018 Membership Report and 2019 To Date – Report by Nancy Humphries**

- As of July 27, 96 memberships had been sold. The Summer Students have almost finished visiting all cottages/homes for the first time. They will then begin revisiting people who weren’t home during their first visit. Our goal is to get to a minimum of 130 members.
- Electronic transfers to collect membership fees have been helpful, although only a small number of people have paid using this method.
- Final numbers of memberships for previous years were 131 (2018), 136 (2017), 156 (2016), 130 (2015), 137 (2014), and 141 (2013). There are approximately 240 cottages/homes on the waterway.
- Members are encouraged to 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:
  - James Bay – 30 homes, 28 pay membership
  - McCool Bay – 20 homes, 10 pay
  - Rice Bay – 18-20 homes, 3 pay (they have their own Cottager’s Association)
  - Kaibuskong – 50 homes, 25 pay
  - Shields & Greens Bay – 30 homes, 20 pay

#### 4. **Ontario Parks Summer Student Grant and Alternate Funding – Report by Brian Baker**

- Every year Brian applies for provincial and federal grants with no success. We will continue to apply for funding.
- Brian is going to contact Vic Fedeli about increasing funding for the Summer Students hired by the LTCA
- Mark Hurst offered to assist Brian with the Ontario Parks grants
- Mattawa River Provincial Park is a “non-operating park”; therefore there is no budget. Last year they had moved to a “Warden system” and potentially may replace the LTCA Summer Students but there has been no final decision made.

#### 5. **2019 Summer Student Report – Supervisor Clint Wilson and Students Reilly Wilson & Noelle Corazza**

- Reilly and Noelle provided a verbal and written Interim Report which was posted on Facebook on August 1, 2019.
- After reviewing the amount of work that was expected to be completed each week in the Park and considering our favourable Financial Report there was a consensus of the members present that the students each work an extra 4 hours/week until the end of August at LTCA cost.
- It was suggested at the meeting that the LTCA needs to report all of the tires that are being taken out of the North Creek

#### 6. **Blanchard’s Landing Dock & Boat Ramp Status – Report by Brian Baker**

The following information was posted on Facebook on July 16, 2019:

- About 3-4 years ago, the LTCA tried to spearhead an improvement to the Blanchard’s Landing Boat Ramp and Floating Dock.
- There were several meetings with Ontario Parks as the dock and ramp fall within the legal boundaries of the Mattawa River Provincial Park and this location is one of several official entry points to the Mattawa River Provincial Park as set out in their Planning documents.
- In addition to Ontario Parks, there was a representative of the Mattawa Bonfield Economic Development Corporation which includes representation from the two Townships involved, Bonfield and Calvin, both of whom share responsibility for Talon Lake Road and whose residents are likely the major users of the dock and launching ramp.
- The intention was to seek Federal and Provincial grants as well as funds or donated labour and equipment from the 2 Townships. The LTCA did offer to make a minor financial contribution to the project over several years.
- There were about 6 meetings over several years and both Township Reeves visited the location and everybody agreed improvements needed to be done. Unfortunately, no one stepped up and eventually the MBEDC advised that the project was not a priority for them and nothing was done. One Township did subsequently do some ditching and minor removal of material in the water at the ramp
- The LTCA advised Ontario Parks that it was the LTCA’s assessment that the floating dock was unsafe at certain times because the dock flotation was inadequate to support several persons at the outer corner. Ontario Parks sent someone to inspect the dock and subsequently advised that the dock was judged to be ‘safe’.
- LTCA’s position is that the dock and boat ramp is the responsibility of Ontario Parks and we are not getting involved whatsoever given the disappointing and failed initiative of several years ago.
- Anyone unsatisfied with the maintenance of the dock and ramp is advised to contact the Parks Superintendent located at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park.
- Noelle and Reilly have trimmed back the alders; they will follow-up with the Bonfield fire department re-the hydrants
- Mark Hurst offered to assist getting help from the Crown with Blanchard’s Landing

#### 7. **Water Quality Testing – Report by Clint Wilson**

- The Summer Students under the supervision of Clint Wilson have been sampling in July and August 2019. They sample two sites – Kaibuskong Bay and by Grasswells.
- Water Clarity – there’s a bit of reduction in clarity of the water from last year (we are “mesotrophic” based on clarity and phosphorous); temperatures are going up due to climate change
- Phosphorous – Grasswells - it is “aligatrophic (the lowest level)”, Kaibuskong (2-3x more phosphorous than the rest of the lake)

- There was a blue-green algae bloom in McCool Bay this year. It was reported in The North Bay Nugget. It didn't stay long, but it was there. It was confirmed last year on Kaibuskong Bay.
- The Federation of Cottagers Associations of Ontario's (FOCA) website ([www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)) has information about the [Lake Partner Program](#) (water clarity (secchi disc), phosphorous (encourages algae growth)). 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.

## 8. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) 2019 Report – Report by Ken Davies

### 1. New Publication from FOCA:

- A Guide to Municipal Engagement - <https://foca.on.ca/municipal-engagement-guide/>
- Also Home Owners Fire Smart manual - <https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/.../firesmart-begins-at-home-.../>
- Weather Extremes and Emergency Preparedness Overview – <https://foca.on.ca/weather-extremes-and-emergency-preparedness/>

### 2. Boating Issues: Noise, Wake, Speed, not ceding Right of Way, hull cleaning

### 3. Top Concerns of Cottagers Associations:

- a. Water Quality (algal blooms, farm runoff)
- b. Septic Systems (cesspools, lack of inspections)
- c. Land Use planning, Zoning, Bylaw enforcement (big development)
- d. Invasive Species – Asian Carp, Zebra mussels, Invasive Phragmites
- e. Boating Issues (see #2)
- f. Short Term rentals – Air BnB, Homeaway, etc. (party central)
- g. Lack of High Speed Internet (taking work to the cottage)
- h. Shoreline erosion
- i. Flooding (climate related)
- j. Forest Fires (climate related)
- k. Government cutbacks (MNR, Conservation associations, environmental protections)

### 4. Lake Partner Program

- Currently 600 volunteers monitoring water quality in 550 lakes.
- Government assessments have found an increase in chloride levels due to increase in road salt, a decrease in calcium due to acid rain and timber harvesting but no change in phosphorous levels.

### 5. Cottage Succession planning, good articles here:

- a. Cottage Life Website - “How to Hand Down Your Cottage While Keeping the Peace and Saving Money” <https://cottagelife.com/realestate/how-to-hand-down-your-cottage-while-keeping-the-peace-and-saving-money/>
- b. Lawyers' Lilloco, Bazuk, Galloway, Halka Website – “Leaving a Cottage to Your Children” [www.lbqhlaw.com/cottages.php](http://www.lbqhlaw.com/cottages.php)
- c. Cottage Life Website – “4 Different Ways Families Approached Cottage Succession” <https://cottagelife.com/.../4-different-ways-families-approa.../>

## 9. Update on Land Use & Logging Report – Researched and Prepared by Marcia Pond

- The following people were contacted and the information was sent re: land use, around Lake Talon.

1. Rick Hansel, Nipissing Forest Management - He advised that the closest Logging Operation is going on now north of the power line near Songis Road in a maple stand. The hauling is being done on Olrig Road to Hwy 63. This logging operation will be going on until September.

2. Kurtis Romanchuk, Water Resource Engineer, North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority - He reported that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks recently completed a Lake Capacity Assessment for Talon Lake. As a result of that study it was determined that Turtle Lake, Lake Talon and Kaibuskong Bay were all “at capacity” for new lot creation. Therefore new lot creation should be minimalized.

Joel Harrison, Water Resource Scientist, from the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority reported that the Hypolimnion was already hypoxic in the Kaibuskong Bay as of a few days ago and possibly earlier in July. Dissolved oxygen is already relatively high in other parts of the Lake. They also reported a few Algae blooms recently. (Note re-Hypolimnion: means as water becomes too warm and still, the water near the

bottom of lake has too little oxygen and affects the fish life and the health of the lake. Epilimnion refers to the water level near the surface of a lake.)

3. Contacted MNR Guylaine Thauvette, Manager, left message. There has been no response. Ed. Note: Received August 14<sup>th</sup>. Nothing of concern for 2019 Posted on Facebook..

4. Tracey Snarr, Park Superintendent, Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. She reports that the Park Warden Stewardship Crews have been quite active in Mattawa Provincial Park. There have been 10 site visits conducted this season for various purposes including maintenance, inventory and management of lands and property issues.

She has received the signed agreement from the LTCA for the maintenance and monitoring partnership. She appreciates the assistance in helping to maintain the higher use camping and day use areas around Talon Lake.

- Input at the AGM from LTCA Member Rick Miller (Ontario Land Surveyor & Development Planner) – there is limited development left on Lake Talon; there are no restrictions on the lake and none are proposed; the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority can't make any recommendations or rules – those come from the Ministry of the Environment and not the NBMCA. It's a comprehensive and expensive study. The District of Muskoka has done the most extensive study on development. The results show that development on the lake actually helps to improve water quality. Mr. Miller was going to investigate this matter further.
10. **Communications Update (Facebook, Website and MailChimp emails) - 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 method used to communicate is Facebook. Reports are put on Facebook as well (e.g., the Student Report).
  - Suggestion about the website from Lorraine Poisson – She suggested to add a "Search" bar.
  - Brian Baker advised that several portions of the website are not current as there was a problem updating. Scott Ross whose firm donated the website said he would look at it.
11. **Septic Pump Out – Report by Brian Baker**
- Brian organized for Muskoka Septic Services from Parry Sound to pump out septic tanks of water access cottages. In the fall of 2018 they pumped out 18 septic tanks. Brian reported that they did a very good job.
  - It will need to be organized for them to come back in 7-8 years.
  - Dayle Chadbourne thanked Brian for organizing this.
12. **Fish Stocking - Dave Humphries & Brian Baker**
- The Ministry hadn't been stocking our lake until last year. Last year they stocked 2,000 lake trout in Lake Talon. LTCA member Rob Poisson informed the AGM that they did stock lake trout again this year but it is unknown how many.
  - Brian Baker reported that 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.
13. **LTCA Newsletter - Report by Jeff Allen**
- Jeff created another informative LTCA Newsletter which he shared at the meeting. It has been posted on Facebook and there will be hard copies available at both Talon Lake Campground and Marina and Camp Conewango.
  - If you would like to submit historical photos or articles, please send them to Jeff at [talon@allendw.com](mailto:talon@allendw.com).

## **New Business**

1. **Election of 2019 LTCA Officers (Bold indicates Directors) – No Current Vacancies**  
**At the 2015 AGM a Motion Approved: No Annual Term & Board Directors as noted in Bold)**
- **President** – Brian Baker
  - **Vice President** – Scott Ross

- **Treasurer** – Nancy Humphries
- **Secretary** – Paige & Jane Bennett
- **Communications Officer** – Brian Baker
- Financial Review – Mike Marrs
- Lake Stewards – Dave Humphries, Chris James, Rick Miller, **\*\*We need another lake steward\*\***
- Newsletter Editor – Jeff Allen
- FOCA Representative – Ken Davies
- Student Manager – Clint Wilson
- Land Use Committee – Marcia Pond
- Water Quality Testing – Clinton Wilson

## 2. **LTCA Membership Fee**

- This year the membership has remained status quo at \$35. We are trying to promote additional donations instead of increasing the membership fee.
- The fee will remain at \$35 for 2020.
- In the past the LTCA has tried to get support from commercial businesses (\$35) but were unsuccessful. Scott Ross will pursue this.

## 3. **Talon Chutes Floating Dock**

- Three years ago a floating dock was donated to the LTCA and installed upstream from the Chutes to replace an old dock that was previously there.
- Ontario Parks Superintendent advised that we needed to have a Legal Agreement and insurance for the dock. As a result the dock was not installed in 2018.
- This year it was going to be \$1250/year for insurance for 60 days of use. Part of the terms of the insurance were that the LTCA would have to inspect the dock regularly and keep documentation.
- The issue isn't the dock itself. It is the cost of the required insurance. Ontario Parks gave permission for the dock. Now it's a money and value issue and the Directors decided not to proceed. There was also the issue of liability for the Directors.
- Suggestion during the meeting - There could be a GoFundMe campaign to raise money each year, or we could tack on \$10 to the yearly membership to pay for the insurance.

## 4. **Shore Erosion by Boat Wakes and Lake Water Levels**

- The MNRF has a target level for water level. Middle range is 10.00m - Low is 9.85m and upper is 10.15 m – it is a 30 centimetre- 12” range that they target.
- MNRF installed a solar panel and monitor to record the lake level every day. The water level has been running 3-6” above the mid-level most of this summer. This is available to anyone to review on the internet and a screenshot is frequently posted on the LTCA Facebook page.
- Todd Wilson has had lengthy conversations with MNRF about water levels. They have a “new normal” which is running higher than the 10.00 m. He made the suggestion to put a survey again on Facebook.
- Scott Ross – Talks to the MNRF regularly. They seem to be targeting 10.08 m (middle of the top half). The second part is they had an understanding it was endorsed by LTCA.
- The LTCA hasn't taken a position because of the survey from a couple years ago (1/3 want higher levels, 1/3 want lower levels, 1/3 like it mid-level). The MNRF tend to be operating on a complaint basis. We are getting consistent erosion around Grasswells.
- High water impacts turtle and loon populations because they wash out the nests.
- Right now we're 3.5” above normal.
- Dayle Chadbourne - Suggested a motion to do another survey.
- It was moved by Scott Ross and seconded by Ken Davies that: **“The mid-point water level needs to be the target for the MNRF.”** The motion was **CARRIED**.

## 5. **Internet Service Options**

- LTCA members used a variety of methods to access the internet. The following were shared:
  - Rogers' Rocket Stick - \$40/month, it works but too costly for big downloads like Netflix
  - Bell Internet – Through landline, very slow for \$75 per month.
  - NetSpectrum is better for people on a municipal roadway but they have substantial extra fees for

- Xplornet – they just announced an upgrade in the last couple weeks – Google them and look at options
- Bonfield residents – can go to the library and use it for free
- There is a post on Facebook on July 13, 2019 about NetSpectrum.

**6. Fire Pump Contact Info Sharing**

- LTCA members were asked to contact Brian Baker if they have fire equipment. The LTCA Executive are compiling a master list.

**7. Other New Items from LTCA Members for Discussion**

- Boat Wakes – The LTCA recently posted on our Facebook page requesting boaters reduce speed near the shorelines as the boat wakes were causing shoreline erosion. It was determined that that is an OPP issue.

**8. Thank You to Talon Lake Campground & Marina Hosts Nancy and David Humphries**

- Brian thanked Dave and Nancy very much for hosting this year's AGM. We appreciated their hospitality.

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

- The meeting adjourned at 11:25am.