

**Lake Talon Conservation Association (LTCA)
2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

MINUTES

Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting – Use the Following Link Opening at 6:45 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86554563695?pwd=cUJKZUV6Y1kxL1I5Q0NjNisyQUQ4UT09>

Meeting ID: 865 5456 3695

Passcode: 913901

Find your local phone number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kGUip3Xzx>

- **The AGM was conducted virtually using Zoom.**
- **The AGM was recorded and a link will be distributed along with these Minutes.**
- **The meeting began at 7:04pm.**
- **Persons attending at some point during AGM - 27**

1 . Welcome from President Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 0:00)

- *LTCA's Goal "Working Together to Ensure an Enjoyable Tomorrow"*

2. Introduction of Board of Directors: Scott Ross, Vice-President; Lorraine Poisson, Treasurer; Paige Bennett, Secretary; Clinton Wilson, Summer Student Supervisor (Start time on recording - 1:12)

3. LTCA Secretary Paige Bennett reviewed Tips for Using Zoom during the meeting (Start time on recording - 2:04)

4. Approval of Minutes of AGM of August 31, 2022 (at end of Agenda) (Start time on recording - 6:55)

- Moved by Barry Pond
- Seconded by Marcia Pond

Old & New Business

1. Algonquin Land Claim – Report by Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 8:00)

- John Kelsall reported from Chief Bastien that it will be at least 3 years before this moves forward.

2. Financial Report for Jan. 1 to December 31, 2022 – Treasurer Lorraine Poisson (Start time on recording - 9:50)

- *Statement of Revenue and Expense* – Cash on Hand for period ending December 31st, 2022 \$16,981.07 and previous years: 2021: \$14,769.65; for 2020 - \$11,155.18; for 2019 - \$11,044.87; for 2018 - \$8,806.32; for 2017: \$5,699.67; for 2016: \$4,716.14

- 2022 *Net Income*: \$1,795.68, 2021 Net Income: \$3,614.47
- Each June, the LTCA files a T2 Short Return with the CRA. The Notice of Assessment is expected soon.
- The Statement of Review by Mike Marrs will be made available after the AGM.
- This year the membership fee continues at \$35 as it has been since 2016.
- For those that have not yet renewed their LTCA Membership please go to our website at www.laketalonca.com click on “Join” header and access the Membership Form using the link “[form](#)” in the text.
- Every year we don’t know what our funding is going to be so President Baker applies for grants from different sources. This process takes a great deal of time and has mixed results based on the government grants available that calendar year.

3. 2022 Membership Report and 2023 To Date – Report by Treasurer Lorraine Poisson (Start time on recording - 13:14)

- As of August 23rd, 127 LTCA memberships had been sold, compared to 134 last year at this time. The Summer Students have finished visiting all cottages/homes for the first time. Our goal is a minimum of 160 members.
- The emailing of QuickBooks Invoices and use of E-transfers to collect membership is very beneficial.
- Final numbers of memberships for previous years were 160 (2022), 146 (2021), 132 (2020), 142 (2019), 133 (2018), 136 (2017), 156 (2016), 130 (2015), 137 (2014), and 141 (2013). There are approximately 240 cottages/homes on the waterway.
- Question from a Member - Do we know how much money is collected through e-transfer?
 - Answer - Approximately half are paid by e-transfer and half by cash when the students visit. There are a few who pay by cheque.

4. Ontario Parks Summer Student Grant and Canada Summer Jobs Funding – Report by Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 15:48)

- Ontario Parks has agreed to increase the longstanding amount of \$3,000 to \$3,500 for work carried out in designated areas of Mattawa River Provincial Park. Payment for 2023 has been received.
- This season we were successful in obtaining 2 alternate grants, one for 100% wages and the second \$7 per hour. The Students have been working 24-30 hours per week.
- The position for which we had \$7 per hour was provided by YES (Youth Employment Service), and the students are only eligible if it is their first job. This is a challenge for providing experienced continuity for subsequent years.
- Whether the program continues next year depends on what programs and grants are available.
- LTCA applied for 2 Canada Summer Jobs Grants for 2023 but were denied. Canada Summer Jobs approved hiring 2 Summer Students for both 2021 and 2022 at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. This is a very significant financial grant that possibly will not be available again.
- LTCA pays \$17.00 hourly plus 4% Vacation, WSIB, and daily allowance for supplying boat & motor.
- Mattawa River Provincial Park is a “non-operating park”; therefore, there is no budget.
- We are constantly looking for sources of funding. Memberships are key to making up the difference.
- The Summer Student program has been going on for over 35 years.

5. 2023 Summer Student Report – Supervisor Clint Wilson (Start time on recording - 20:25)

- The students started on July 2 this year with 2 days of training and orientation.
- The program finishes for this season on Saturday September 2, 2023.

- The job consists of “Walk and Talks” on Saturdays and Sundays which has the students going to each cottage on the lake to promote the LTCA and solicit memberships. They are asked to get both praise and complaints from cottagers. Common topics are water levels, boat traffic, and short-term rentals.
- On Fridays and Mondays they clean-up the campsites (e.g., Grasswells, Talon Chutes, Medora Island, Blueberry Island) and do work at Blanchard’s Landing, the Black Bay Boat Access and Pine Lake portage.
- The Summer Students’ Year-End Report will be shared on the LTCA website page, LTCA September Newsletter and LTCA Facebook page.

6. Blanchard’s Landing Dock & Boat Ramp Status – Report by Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 27:20)

- LTCA’s position is that the dock and boat ramp are the responsibility of Ontario Parks. It is a major piece of Lake Talon’s infrastructure, and it is the official entrance to the Mattawa River Provincial Park. The dock and boat ramp are located on Crown Land within the official Park boundaries.
- Anyone unsatisfied with the maintenance of the dock and ramp is advised to contact the Parks Superintendent located at Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park.
- The Mattawa/North Bay Algonquin First Nations and their Madadjiwan Economic Development Corporation are presently seeking financial support from both the Federal and Provincial Governments. The initiative is operating as the Kaibuskong Bay Renewal Project (KBRP) and the LTCA has partnered in this endeavour. Don Paquette is the Chairperson of KBRP.
- The initiative is strongly supported by political representatives in the area - Vic Fedeli (MPP and Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade of Ontario), Anthony Rota (MP and Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada), Richard Gould (Mayor of Calvin Township) and Narry Paquette (Mayor of Bonfield Township).
- The LTCA has previously indicated we can supply limited financial support depending upon the proposed improvement details and satisfactory funding by other parties including both Townships.
- On August 21, 2023 there was a newspaper article on BayToday.ca entitled, [“Repairs Still Needed for Lake Talon Dock - Lake Talon Conservation Association concerned about ‘dangerous’ public dock at Blanchard’s Landing”](https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/repairs-still-needed-for-lake-talon-dock-7435079). This is the link to the article - <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/repairs-still-needed-for-lake-talon-dock-7435079>.
- Many of our members use the dock not just to launch a boat but to pick up visitors, get groceries, etc.
- We are advocating for the dock to be longer, and dredged on both sides, so it is available for more boat launching and parking.

7. Water Level Management – Report by Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 38:17)

- The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNDMNR) continues to manage the water levels using their historical management practices with a completely new staff than previous years. If you have complaints about the water levels, contact the MNDMNR.
- Nothing to report on possible transfer of Talon Chutes Dam operation to Ontario Parks.
- This Spring the water runoff was extremely high. Since then (maybe because of lack of rainfall), the water level has been approximately 10.01 right now, and has been for the last 7 days.
- One of the common complaints from cottagers is the regular fluctuation of levels.
- Suggested Action Item from a Member:
 - We lost a beloved member of our community this past year partly due to water level management. We need to look at how boaters can be notified when the MNDMNR has taken timbers from the dam and water is being withdrawn from the lake. This is especially important when there is an excessive withdrawal that creates unsafe situations.

- President Baker's Response - At the request of the LTCA, Signage was previously put up by the MNDMNRF at the entrance to the "Narrows" (where the lake narrows and leads toward the dam) a number of years ago, but it isn't effective. There needs to be something more significant installed at the Narrows, and maybe a more prominent flashing sign powered by solar cells could be used. The LTCA will undertake this initiative to have the MNDMNRF put better signage in place. We had the loss of Dave Dedels, and others have been scared to go to the dam and not be able to get back up. Having better signage is critical to our safety.

8. Water Quality Testing – Report by Clint Wilson (Start time on recording - 45:25)

- The Summer Students under the supervision of Clint Wilson have been sampling Kaibuskong Bay (for phosphorus) and another agency samples the main water body of Lake Talon. The data is submitted to the Provincial database.
- The phosphorus growth in Kaisbuskong Bay has been slightly elevated, which is consistent with past results.
- The Federation of Cottagers Associations of Ontario's (FOCA) website (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.
- FOCA has a new initiative to look for invasive species (mainly plant species). Clint Wilson took a sample off the government dock last week and sent in the sample. We are waiting for the results and they will be shared through the LTCA Facebook page.

9. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA) 2022 Report – Report by Ken Davies (Start time on recording - 47:55)

- Ken Davies gave us a 3 page report that was posted on the LTCA Facebook page, and it will be added to the Minutes as well.
- Question from Barry Pond - Our tax on our cottage property (they aren't in Bonfield Township and their tax is for unregulated communities, and Ontario tax. It hasn't changed in the last couple of years. It may have been due to COVID? Does anyone have further information?
 - Ken Davies' response - Over a five year period it was going up annually. The Ontario government froze property assessment values for 2022.

10. Update on Land Use & Logging Report – Report by Marcia Pond - None (Start time on recording - 51:56)

- Marcia Pond reported that there wasn't any new information. She will follow-up again next year and report any information at the AGM 2024.

11. Communications Update (Facebook, Website and MailChimp emails) - Report by Brian Baker (Start time on recording - 52:34)

- Currently the LTCA Facebook page, the LTCA website, and Newsletters sent via "MailChimp" are being used to communicate information about the LTCA. Use of both email and Facebook has been initiated based on the recent Member Survey. Facebook is used on a daily/weekly basis as appropriate.
- The LTCA strives for regular, consistent, and transparent communication.
- President Baker was praised and thanked by two Members for his excellent work with communication.

12. **Septic Pump Out – Report by Brian Baker** (Start time on recording - 55:30)

- Muskoka Septic Services from Parry Sound will be scheduled to return in the fall of 2026, being a 5 year cycle. Last pump-out was September of 2021.

13. **Dock – Cottage Numbers for Water Access** (Start time on recording - 56:30)

- Brian Baker & George McLellan finalized new dock number signs for delivery within the next 10 days.
- George has put in an order for 30 signs and they should be in next week. They are \$30-40. Brian has talked to some of the Emergency Response Services in the area. Right now they use cell phones and the GPS on that phone to help locate people. George McLellan is going to list all of the dock numbers and provide them to 911 and other Emergency Response Services.
- Dock numbers are also used by Bell, Hydro, Netspectrum, etc.
- The LTCA thanks George for heading up this initiative.

14. **2022 LTCA Officers - At the 2015 AGM a Motion Approved:** (Start time on recording - 58:41)

No Annual Term & Board Directors as noted in **Bold**

- **President** – Brian Baker
- **Vice President** – Scott Ross
- **Treasurer** – Lorraine Poisson
- **Secretary** – Paige & Jane Bennett
- **Summer Student Supervisor** – Clinton Wilson
- Financial Review – Mike Marrs
- FOCA Representative – Ken Davies
- Website Managers – Kelly Wallace & Jason Simard
- Land Use Committee – Marcia Pond
- Water Quality Testing – Clinton Wilson
- Additional Volunteers are needed if LTCA is to continue.
- There are opportunities for people to become involved with the LTCA. Help is needed with membership, the Summer Student Program, Lake Stewards, LTCA Facebook, and so on.
 - The LTCA does everything by email and Zoom.
- We would like to have people to share the load.
- Contact us at laketaloncontact@gmail.com if you're interested.
- A question from a Member - What is the position of Lake Steward?
 - President Baker's Response - A Lake Steward is someone who has interest in the lake's welfare. They are the eyes and ears in their area of the lake. If, for example, there is a hazard, illegal net fishing, deadheads floating on the lake, the status of loon nesting in their area, etc. The Lake Steward will alert us and information will be posted on the LTCA Facebook page, the MNDMNRF will be contacted, and other actions will be taken as appropriate and needed. The FOCA Job Description for Lake Steward will be researched.

15. **ONCA - Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act** (Start time on recording - 1:01:10)

- New provincial legislation requires all Not-for-Profit Corporations, which includes the LTCA, to draft new Corporate Articles and By-Laws, etc. by October 18, 2024.
- Our President and Treasurer have already received online instruction on what is required.
- This is a significant undertaking and will take considerable time.
- We will be starting this work in November.
- We will bring the proposed Bylaws forward to next year's AGM for approval.

16. Hazard, Wake & Speed Markers (Start time on recording - 1:02:56)

- Volunteers have not come forward and this initiative will not proceed.

17. Instagram (Start time on recording - 1:06:03)

- Robert Poisson relaunched the LTCA Instagram App and our Followers are now up to 171. You can follow on the Instagram App at laketalon.c.a
- Share your photos and videos by sending to LTCAMedia5@gmail.com

18. Link to LTCA Newsletter of June 2023 (Start time on recording - 1:06:10)

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ib4OBLm1eTUFCHoW6R03ISpAs6D-IPJS/view?usp=sharing>

19. LTCA's Social Media (Start time on recording - 1:06:19)

- **Email:** laketaloncontact@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.laketalonca.com
- **Facebook:** Lake Talon Conservation Association - LTCA
- **Instagram:** laketalon.c.a
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@laketalonconservationassoc3382>

20. Facebook Page Recommended for Buy & Sell, Lost & Found (Start time on recording - 1:09:01)

- Currently, President Baker is the only person who can post on the LTCA Facebook page. Others can only post by making a comment after he has posted something.
- A proposal is to have a Lake Talon Cottagers Facebook Group (or named something similar) for Lost and Found, Buying and Selling, Giveaways, etc.
 - Are the one or two people who would like to take this on? -
 - *Editor's Note (after the AGM):* Robert Poisson has agreed to look after this initiative.
- It will be promoted on the LTCA Facebook page and Newsletter but it will not be an LTCA-run Facebook Group .

21. Other Business Raised from Members (Start time on recording - 1:12:42)

- No other business was raised.
- Other items that were shared during this section of the meeting:
 - Barry Pond thanked Brian and the Executive for all of their hard work.
 - Nancy Humphries was thanked for continuing to support the LTCA in many ways.
 - Next summer the LTCA, along with Lynn and Art Heeney's family, will organize a Fire Demonstration so cottagers know where fire equipment is kept, and how to use it.

22. Motion to Adjourn (Start time on recording - 1:13:50)

- Mover - Lynne Heeney
- Secunder - Marcia Pond
- Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.