

Canada Lakes Conservation Association

Annual Meeting – July 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7 P.M. by President Dave Graves. A quorum was determined and the meeting continued.

President's Remarks

Dave welcomed everyone and acknowledged that there were several “elephants in the room” re: the flooding with the second being addressed at the appropriate time during the meeting. Dave first focused on the Organization's accomplishments over the past year. Our Organization is in good shape with membership inline with our expectations. There were three things that we have been working on the past year. The first being Nick Stoner Island, the second was invasive species and the third item is our water quality and water testing. The spiny water flea has been found in Indian Lake and Peck Lake so a one time testing was conducted by Jim Hays and a sample has been sent to the Darien Lake Fresh Water Institute. We have for many years participated in the CSLAP program and will continue to do so. The Directors also voted to join another program, the Adirondack Lake Association program which focuses on Adirondack lakes and that testing will be done by James Long. Dave pointed out that these reports can be viewed on our website. The report showed that of eighty lakes tested, our lakes were the second most acidic of those tested.

Secretary's Report

Deb asked if there were any corrections in the minutes that had been emailed to members. There were no changes and a motion to accept the minutes as emailed was made by Mike Durkee and seconded by Henry Eifert.

Treasurer's Report

Paul handed out the balance sheets and the Profit and Loss statement. He indicated that the Organization is in good shape and our membership is growing with members being generous in contributing to their areas of interest. Paul pointed out that at the end of 2016 we had \$43,278.29 in the bank. There are restricted funds, those earmarked for specific areas totaling \$12,934.95 and unrestricted funds totaling \$30,343.34.

Paul then discussed the Profit & Loss page. This sheet represented cash in and cash out of our account. Filings with NYS and the US Treasury were done in May and have been received by the State.

The balance sheet that Paul presented is current as of today. Our restricted funds are \$16,949.95 with total cash in the bank of \$52,440.07. The Profit and Loss sheets dated January 1 through July 8, 2017 represents what has come in and gone out to date. There is more coming in and when receipts come back those will be paid. Paul reviewed the 2017 budget, which was approved by the membership last year and indicated that there were slight changes, which will appear in the 2018 projected budget. Regarding the insurance we jumped through hoops as liability is a major concern. Diana Leaf and Dick Marder have been working on rather extensive waiver

that should solve the liability concern. Since there were no questions regarding the approved 2017 budget and the purposed budget for 2018, Paul asked for a motion to accept the budgets as discussed. The motion was made by Shawna Thompson and seconded by Mary Jablonski with all approving.

Dave then asked Rick Fink to give an update on the status of the Island. After consulting with DEC and agreeing that our purpose was to “do no harm”, a group of volunteers spread a thin layer of compost and covered it with hay in hopes to give the surface a boost. In addition, over the past four years saplings, native to the Island’ have been transplanted by volunteers. At last check half have done well and the other half have either been pulled up or used for kindling. Rick and his group will continue to transplant. Dave indicated that he would like to get our contact at DEC out there again and hopefully by August we will know if anything else can be done. Rick wanted everyone to realize that our Organization no longer owns the Island and we don’t want to over step our bounds.

The meeting was then turned over to Mike Durkee for his update on invasive species. Mike thanked all the volunteers for their help throughout the season and put a shout out to anyone who might be interested in joining the committee as either a lake steward or lake inspector. Due to our fluctuating weather the numbers are down from last summer at both the launch and boat wash station. In particular Mike is disappointed in the number of boats that pass by the boat wash station. The wash station is open about 80 hours a week. We have a limited budget from the Town for the stewards working at the launch site and Mike is still working on grant money to pay for the boat wash station stewards. Mike is experimenting with coverage based on the weather. The stewards make the call to shut down if it looks likely boaters will not be out due to the weather. That way we are not paying folks to sit during inclement weather. Mike reported the new shed, located at the boat launch, was purchased by the Association and the paint was supplied by DEC. DEC has also offered hand held radios. Mike hopes this can be accomplished by the end of the month. The question of mandatory boat washing was raised and Mike reported that at the fall meeting of the ALA there was a resounding “NO” when the subject was brought up. There was also a question as to the cost of having your boat washed at the station. There is no charge for this service! Mike is considering offering some small token (floating key chain) for those who do stop at the station.

New Business

Fireworks rescheduling-Dave reported that Friday, July 14 is set. We realize this is short notice but the company schedules a year in advance and has many dates already scheduled. On the plus side if we get rained out, we will still have time to reschedule one more date. If something happens on the third try we will loose our money. Dave asked Allen to get this information out to our membership and also thanked Mike and Kathy Manning for their work in trying to find an acceptable date for the show.

The issue of flooding was next on the agenda. Over the 4th of July we experienced torrential rain. As a result, the Lake level was raised about 22 inches. A key focus of this Organization is to communicate effectively and get more information out in a timely fashion to our members. We have done two things in particular: the weekly newsletter and keeping our website up-to-date (both thanks to Allen Farber). What we need to understand is that DEC controls the dam. Bill Fielding's information was shared with DEC. The question becomes what can we do so that this doesn't happen again. Chris, Bill and Allen worked hard to get information out to everyone. Three newsletter bulletins were sent out and Allen posted Bill's data that had been sent to DEC. Despite having Bill's detailed information and his strong recommendations DEC decides what to do in terms of reacting. Ultimately DEC did what Bill recommended but it took them two and one-half days to react. Once those steps were taken the situation was abated.

In order to address the second "elephant", Dave shared some information that will come from the State that will impact how we move forward. There is going to be a three -phase reconstruction of the dam. The plan is to draw down the water starting October 2, 2017 to what is considered Leap year level. They are then going to go in and make some significant changes to the dam, which will be done in late and early spring. On May 15, 2018 the plan is to bring the water level at the dam back to the normal level. Phase three entails reseeding, painting, etc. and really doesn't affect us. Contracts for this work are due to the State by August 2, 2017. A contract will be awarded by the second week of September and the draw down will begin on October 2nd.

The program is going to cost just under a million dollars and roughly \$200,000 will be for a control system. The system will monitor water levels within a range at the pool by the dam and that will control the opening and closing of the gate. The second point is that in the event of an anticipated storm there will be a manual override so that control can be made to begin to lower the water level. Once Dave receives this letter from the State he will request to sit down with the State and discuss how we can become involved.

Bill indicated that we still need to be proactive as this is not an end all solution. A question was raised about some control at Irving Pond. We were "asleep at the switch" when Niagara Mohawk took out that dam. That being said our treasury is not big enough to absorb the cost of constructing anything. However if someone is willing to work with the Town to take over that land Bill wishes them good luck. With today's regulations the dam that was at Irving Pond would not be acceptable today. Another question asked if it would be possible to build something that would serve as a buffer to the flow. Bill and Dave encouraged Bob and Margaret Lawrence to continue researching the possibility of building some type of buffer at the site. It was also brought up we need to be cautious not to create unnecessary wakes when the water is so high. These wakes cause additional damage to docks and our shoreline. There were many good suggestions as to how to deal with this problem. Dave reiterated that the State is committed to making these upgrades but we must remain proactive and keep the lines of communication open.

Committee Reports

Lake Management-VP Mary Jablonski

Environment and Ecology-Dave Graves

Dave informed everyone that the reconfiguration of the West Lake boat launch is on hold. We have made our concerns known to both DEC and the APA. We as an Organization need to keep an eye out for any movement concerning the launch. Dave reported that there is an emerging environmental issue. Another invasive species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, is moving north at approximately 10 miles per year. It has been spotted in Schoharie and Schenectady counties. This "beast" totally wipes out hemlock stands. Jim Hays is working with a group from Cornell on a way to help with this situation. Nancy Myers has given several posters that she will post to help folks identify this invasive species.

Fire Safety-Bill Fielding

The fire pumps have all been tested and are in working order. Pumps have been replaced and Bill has four older pumps if anyone is interested in having one. A motion was made to give these away as they were considered CLCA property. All agreed this was acceptable.

Fishing-Doug Smith

This spring 250 pounds of rainbow trout were stocked and the committee has money to do another stocking in the fall. Doug thanked all on his committee and for the donations to the stocking program. Doug has spoken to local fishermen and has been assured that the rainbow trout are migrating between the lakes. Paul Corr indicated that there is several hundred dollars extra in the budget that would be put toward the fall stocking. Mary Jablonski reported that the State stocked 2000 brown trout off Rocky Point a week after the ice went out.

Lake Safety-Tony Sturchio

No report

Lake Assessment-Linda Clark

No report

Stewardship Committees

Highway-Shawna Thompson

There will be four scheduled pickups this summer. The dates and times will be posted on our website/weekly newsletter.

Shoreline-Deb Hoffman

Deb urged caution to boaters as there are still floating boards and dock section in the lake as the result of the high waters. Deb also advised folks to be careful on walking the shores from the Dolgeville Boathouse and the entrance to Sawdust

Creek. Last fall, Eric, Kathy and Mike Manning, Holly Parker, and Dave and Deb Hoffman spent three days picking up broken glass, rebar, cushions, etc. around the shores of our lakes. The purpose of this committee is to be a steward for the State lands surrounding our lakes not personal property. Residents have done a wonderful job policing their own property and the committee appreciates their diligence.

Campsites-Betsy Cannon

Betsy expressed concern over two trees that are leaning precariously over the site on West Lake. Betsy mention the Eagle Scout project at which time Phillip Leverett spoke about his project that will include six campsites. All will receive a new picnic table, work done to the fire pits, garbage removal and general maintenance. Phillip has worked with our Organization, the scouts, and the State to get approval for his project. Everyone is on board. Phillip received a round of applause for his project.

Fire Tower-Tim Mitchell

Tim reported that the Green Lake trail is in good shape. The State has officially closed the trail off of Schoolhouse Rd. due to erosion.

Water Level-Bill Fielding

Though previously discussed in the meeting Bill wanted to recognize Henry Eifert for his part in reporting on the water level at the Stewart's Landing dam. Henry gives Bill the second reading that is then reported to DEC. It is important that we have that contact down near the dam, so thanks to Henry for his reporting.

Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes

Merryn reported that sampling for the CSLAP report began a month ago. Eight samples are collected throughout the season (four have been collected). These samples are sent in and the results are posted on our website. CLCA is now funding another water quality program that resident James Long has been funding and that data is collected and available. Thanks to James for continued testing through the ALA program. As far as the Ecoli sampling this will continue throughout the season. Approximately 50 samples are collected and Merryn is looking for volunteers to assist with this program.

Lake Organization-VP Allen Farber

Adirondack Committee-Jim Hays

Allen referred everyone to Jim's report in this year's Echo.

Bylaws-Dick Marder

Nothing new to report

Legal-Dick Maider

Dick Maider and Diana Leaf are working on a waiver that must be signed by those participating in the Ski Clinic. This is required by our insurance company in order to receive coverage for this event.

Directory-Dick Arthur

Nothing to report at this time

Fire Department-Alan Peck

Nothing to report

Lake Publication (Echo)-Mark Moritz

Mark encouraged members to consider writing and submitting articles to the Echo. Mark also asked if anyone would like to become a member of this committee to please contact him. This year's Echo speaks for itself so special thanks to Mark and Christine for all their hard work. Job well done!

Website-Allen Farber

Allen will continue to put out the newsletter on the website and would like all information of upcoming activities by Wednesday evening. It will be posted on Thursday thus making all upcoming events available to all before the weekend. Allen encouraged everyone to check the website for current information. It really is our best form of communication.

Welcoming Committee-Lois Miller

It was reported that all welcome packets had been delivered. New members were asked to stand and were recognized by a round of applause.

Winter Committee-Tony Sturchio

Nothing to report

Membership-Merryn Byrnes

Merryn reported that as of July 8, 2017 there were 263 paid members though she had received mail today, which could contain 12 more members bringing our total membership to 275. To date we have collected \$7,525.00 in addition to the \$30.00 membership fee. The breakdown is as follows: Environment/Ecology - \$20.00, Fish Stocking - \$315.00, Fourth of July Celebration - \$2,320.00, General Fund - \$2,550.00, Invasive Species prevention - \$2,095.00, Island Restoration - \$25.00 and Youth Activities - \$135.00. Merryn has some 2015 Directories that have not been claimed. If you would like an additional copy they are available. Merryn also has a few Echoes available. The updated Directory sheets will be sent out via email in the next few days.

Nominating Committee-John Saunders

John reported that of the Directors whose term ends in 2017 (Merryn Byrnes, Paul Corr, Henry Eifert, Bill Fielding, Rick Fink, Jim Hays, and Shawna Thompson) all have indicated they would like to continue to serve for another three-year term. Officers for the 2017 term are: Chris Rohrs-President, Deborah Hoffman-Secretary Paul Corr-Treasurer. John wanted everyone to know that the Organization is always looking for those wishing to become a Director or officer and reminded them that to become an officer you must have served as a Director. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in serving please let John or anyone on his committee know. The Association is compiling a list of interested parties and all will be given consideration.

John then turned the meeting back to Dave who reminded all that his term as President had come to an end. Chris Rohrs will be at the helm and we are now in need of a candidate for President- Elect. Dave and Chris had brought John Saunders' name to the Board and they unanimously agreed that John would be an excellent candidate for the position. The proposed slate of officers is Chris Rohrs-President, John Saunders-President-Elect, Deborah Hoffman-Secretary and Paul Corr-Treasurer. A motion to accept the slate was made by Linda Smith and seconded by Allen Fiedler. The slate was accepted unanimously.

Lake Activities-VP Lois Miller

Nina McCormack reported on Lois' behalf that the Boat Parade would be held on July 23rd beginning at the McCormack/Newell dock at 1:00p.m. There will a reception for all participants following the parade at the Brian Franz camp. Nina also reported the Ice Cream Extravaganza would be hosted by the Alexander family on Green Lake on August 5th beginning at 2:00p.m.

Rosemary Lee reported that the 2017 Loon census would take place Saturday, July 15th. Rosemary also shared some informational posters that had been provided by the Adirondack Center of Loon Conservation.

Youth Activities-Ward Halverson

Committee member Shawna Thompson listed the follow activities that have been planned for this season. Some of these activities are: Stories on the Lake will be held July 19th. Meet at the Pt. Breeze boathouse at 10 a.m., snacks will be provided. On July 22nd there will be a Beach Party for the 9 - 12 year olds rain or shine. The Amazing Race will take place at the Halverson camp from 11 to 1. This event is for all ages. On August 19th there will be a kayak trip to Lily Lake. Pirate activities are being worked out and details will be announced once finalized. Shawna is looking for volunteers for the Story Times.

Mike Cannon reminded everyone that the CLCA Annual Picnic would be held at their place on July 29th with the same format as last year. Mike indicated that they are also looking for volunteers.

Ladies Luncheon-Cat Graves

Cat reported that this year's luncheon would be held at the Pine Lake Lodge. We had a wonderful turnout last year. The CAC musicians will entertain us again and we hope that many of you will join us on Wednesday, July 19th at 11:30. Tickets will be presale only and available tonight or contact any committee member. You can also purchase them at the Canada Lake Store.

In closing Chris spoke on behalf of all the Directors for all the work that Dave has done in the last two years importantly in the formation of this Organization and getting it off to a strong start. Dave has had a real focus on the conservation aspect of our Organization including water quality and invasive species. Chris thanked Dave for his effective leadership during the past two years. Everyone acknowledged Dave's dedication with a round of applause. Several gifts were presented as well as a gift certificate to the Nick Stoner golf course. Dave expressed his thanks to all in the Organization for their support during his term.

There was a request for a motion to adjourn made by Paul Corr and seconded by Chris Rohrs. The motion was unanimously passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Hoffman-Secretary