
Annual General Meeting

Crane Lake Association

July 14, 2019

Attendees

Darlene Cade, Ross Fraser, Monica Gemeinhardt Bruce Sanderson, Carolyn Ferreira, Fred Nagy, Gary Mueller, Oliver Woodburn, Steve Neugebauer, Steve Ridout, Brian Harris

Other members - 55 members present

Special Guests - Gary Joyce, By law Enforcement Officer for TOA and Tianna Burke, Conservation Biologist, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Agenda

Call to order - D. Cade

- Called to order at 9:40 am and confirms that quorum is met.

Chair's Remarks - D. Cade

- Darlene thanked Ned and Georgina for their generosity in allowing the Crane Lake Association to use their hall for the AGM
 - Darlene introduced each board member and their role on the board
 - Darlene noted that there would be two guest speakers to educate members re fire safety and invasive species
-



Minutes of the July 2018 AGM - C. Ferreira

- Bob Ferguson moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Ken Grant
- Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report - S. Neugebauer

- The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 were compiled by Marilyn Cade from the records of the association. The statements were received by the board and approved.
- Steve reported that the Operating Fund finished the year with a balance of \$8,039 and with a Capital Fund balance of \$36,104
- Kate Munday moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bob Neugebauer
- Approved unanimously
- Question re the primary source of CLA's income. Steve confirmed that to be membership fees
- Question re insurance expenses. Ross explained that the CLA has two types of insurance - liability covers the members for example if someone is injured at the regatta. Property insurance covers the fire boat, AEDs etc.
- Fred noted that insurance premiums are less than they were in the past
- Steve also shared a chart which identified all of the expenses of the CLA
- Bob F. asked about membership numbers
- Steve reported that to date, 87 members have paid their fees and that generally there are 140 members by the end of the year
- Bob F. asked why more cottagers don't join
- Darlene identified that the CLA actually has a high percentage of members compared to other lake associations and that there will always be people who do not join
- She noted that there will be a campaign to boost membership. Letters will be sent to individuals who have not paid membership fees for the last three years

Fire Safety Committee Report - B. Sanderson

- Bruce noted that in 2019 to date there were 233 forest fires. Eight of these fires were in the Parry Sound area with five in the past week. There are two major causes of forest fires - lightning and human activity
- The Fire rating is currently 'high' with fires only allowed for cooking and warmth.
- There are six fire pumps in total around the lake - one pump is located on the fire boat and the remaining five are in fire boxes around the lake. The map of Crane Lake in the guide shows the location of each fire box. There are reflective signs on the boxes so they are visible at night. There are AEDs also housed in the fire boxes.
- Bruce reminded members to check fire and smoke detectors annually and to keep a minimum of two fire extinguishers per cottage, plus one in each of your outbuildings, including sheds, bunnies etc.
- He asked for new volunteers
- Bob Ferguson identified that fireworks are being set off in the narrows approximately six times in the last year. Bruce advised to approach the individual if comfortable to remind them of the regulations regarding fireworks. Or to call Gary Joyce, our by law enforcement officer.

Life and Property Preservation - Gary Joyce

- Gary emphasized the importance of using smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- He reinforced the importance of creating and practicing an escape plan in case of fire. He also suggested that an escape kit is important for those with medical issues.
- In addition, Gary noted that we should 'practice' using a fire extinguisher. Be prepared! Think of the 'what ifs'.
- Report fireworks if they are used on days when they are not allowed. Ensure that everyone is aware of current fire ratings.
- Check the location of campfires carefully and keep the fire low. Make sure that eavestroughs are clear as a spark could cause a fire if it reaches dry leaves. Cut back limbs of trees that are nearby. Fire prevention is key.
- He identified that fire extinguishers generally last ten years
- Darlene thanked Gary for his presentation.

Go Fund Me Campaign - D. Cade

- Darlene reported that the campaign was very successful and that the goal was exceeded. Work at the marina was delayed as there was a lot of rain during the Spring and it was colder than usual. The pumps are now working.
- There are plans to build a launching dock and a temporary store at the marina.
- Darlene also noted that the redevelopment of the resort awaits TOA approval. In the interim, we have approval to use the resort's beach for the 2019 regatta.

2019 Regatta - R. Fraser

- Ross identified that the Regatta is planned for the Saturday of the first weekend in August with registration starting at 9:30.
- He described the variety of races that will be held and noted that the BBQ will start at 11 am. He asked members to bring kayaks, canoes, paddles and PFDs.
- The fire pump relay is very popular, both fun and educational.
- Oliver noted that it takes a lot of work to run the regatta. High school students who assist can fulfill part of the requirement to have 40 hours working as a volunteer as part of the high school curriculum.
- He will send out an eblast to remind members of this opportunity and will need the names of the volunteers prior to the event.
- Bruce announced that hats for children and adults will be available to purchase at the regatta

2019 Sailing Regatta - S. Neugebauer

- Steve noted that the Sailing Regatta is held on the Sunday of the first weekend of August. He encouraged members to participate and requested volunteers to assist with the race.
- Darlene noted that an eblast will be sent out as a reminder and that a junior race could be held if there are enough participants.

Crane Lake Guide, 'Preserving Paradise' - D. Cade

- Darlene identified that work is underway to update the contents of the guide.
- The work should be completed within the year

History of Crane Lake - G. Mueller

- Gary noted that he has shot some footage of the lake during the summer and winter months with the use of a drone.
- Interviews will be scheduled to capture life on Crane Lake from both an historical perspective as well as a more contemporary point of view.
- Darlene requested that members share fishing and wildlife photos as well as stories of the past.
- She made a motion to support the costs associated with the project to a maximum of \$2,800 in the 2019 fiscal year noting that Gary is donating his time. Ken Grant seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- The video will be available on a DVD for each member and will also be available on the CLA website.

Water Quality - G. Mueller

- Gary reported that phosphorus levels increased in 2018 and that the test results in the Spring 2019 were on a par with those of 2018. One of the factors that contributes to an increase of phosphorus levels is the use of fertilizers.
- He noted that boats should be cleaned before being launched in the lake as they can bring invasive species from other lakes
- Gary also identified that 'bubblers' can pose a hazard as they create open water around docks and increase risks of an accident to snowmobilers and others participating in winter sports. There are new systems available that protect docks during the winter and don't create open water.
- Ross also noted that 'bubblers' are a significant liability if not covered by insurance.
- Bob Ferguson asked if it is okay to use soap in the lake. Gary noted that soap can contribute to algae growth and should not be used in the lake.
- Ken Grant added that we should not clear cut down to the lake as a buffer is needed to improve water quality.
- Gary noted that the number of Canada Geese on the lake has increased as there are more lawns on the lake.

Invasive Species in the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve - Tianna Burke

- Tianna is a conservation biologist responsible for the 'Species at Risk' program


- She identified that at present there are 50 species at risk in the GBBR. There are 188 aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes that are spread through a variety of means - seed mixtures, equipment, wildlife, humans, pets etc.
- These invasive species have a higher rate of reproduction, fewer natural predators and the ability to thrive in different environments. They negatively impact biodiversity, can impinge recreational use of waterways and decrease property values.
- She went on to identify actions that can limit invasive species including: cleaning boats, disposing of bait on land, planting native species as shoreline buffers, using local firewood and leaving natural areas natural.

Councillor's Report - Ian Mead

- Ian emphasized the importance of maintaining water quality. He showed a picture of the algae bloom in Sturgeon Bay and noted that Blackstone and Crane Lake are very similar in terms of the depth of water etc.
- He noted that the current setback for cottages on Crane Lake is 25 feet. Ian is proposing changing the setback to 66 feet and wants a shoreline protection bylaw. He requested a letter of support from the CLA to increase the setback and support the proposed new bylaw.
- Ray Fenwick asked if there is any scientific evidence to support the setback. Ian replied that there is a correlation between increased setbacks and water quality and agreed that reference to scientific and evidence based information is needed.
- The process of approving the new bylaw will require public meetings to obtain support. The GBBR can help cottage owners rehabilitate damaged shorelines.
- Darlene asked members to indicate their support for the new bylaw and members provided their unanimous support.

Appointment of the Directors for 2019/2020 Term - D. Cade

- Darlene asked for current board members to signal their agreement to remain on the board.
- Fred asked if anyone was interested in serving on the board as there is a vacancy. No volunteers at present.
- Acclaimed : D. Cade, R. Fraser, M. Gemeinhardt, B. Sanderson, C. Ferreira, F. Nagy, G. Mueller, S. Neugebauer, S. Ridout, O. Woodburn, B. Harris



Adjournment of the Meeting - D. Cade

- Kate Munday moved to adjourn the 2019 CLA AGM, seconded by Ken Grant
- Carried
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am