
SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

*** JUNE 1987 NEWSLETTER ***

Dear Members:

This newsletter will bring you up to date on many of the activities of your Association since last summer.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, July 9th (raindate Sunday, July 10th) at 1:00 p.m. at the usual place on the property above Trails End. We are very pleased to have two guest speakers at this meeting. One is a representative from the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society who will fill us in on the "Madawaska Highlands Regional Trust" which is being proposed for our area. Our other guest speaker is Mr. Bill Hagborg, Forrest Management Supervisor, MNR, Tweed and Napanee District. Mr. Hagborg will also discuss the Madawaska Trust with us as well as many other questions we may have regarding our forrests and the environment.

Membership

I am very pleased to report that our Association's paid membership has now grown to 158. This represents just over 60% of all cottages on the lake and is the highest our membership has ever been. THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT and let's keep our ranks growing for the benefit of all of us. The more people the Association represents, the better we can further the interests of all residents on our lake.

Like this newsletter, two of the last three newsletters have been sent to all residents (members and non-members alike) on our lake. Due to the high cost of mailing, future newsletters will only be sent to members, or on occasion, also to residents who for some reason have not paid their current years dues. So, if you haven't been a paid member for the past two years, this is the last newsletter you may get!

Treasurers Report

At last report we had \$324.13 in our chequing account and \$2,571.00 in our savings account. Please note that we will have higher maintenance costs this year due to the aquisition of the land adjacent to Trails End.

Elections

This year there are four positions needing to be filled. These are: Vice-President, Treasurer, and two directorships. I encourage any interested parties to run for office and become more involved in the Association. Please contact me prior to the annual meeting if possible, so that we can be sure we have a full slate of candidates.

Constitution

At last years annual meeting, direction was given to establish a committee to examine our constitution with a view to making proposals for updating. A committee was formed last fall consisting of: Bruce Schwenger, Tim Manser, and Doug Jones. Enclosed you will find commentary of these proposed amendments along with an amended copy of the constitution with amendments underlined. These amendments will be discussed and voted upon at the upcoming annual meeting.

66 Foot Road Allowance

The Municipality tells me that they will again be accepting applications to purchase your lake frontage. By waiving the survey requirements and batching the applications together, it is possible to obtain full title of this land at a very reasonable cost. Last year's applicants were able to purchase for \$500.00 plus \$130.00 in legal fees and the cost should be about the same this year. To obtain application instructions, please contact:

Mr. Carl Hasler
Municipal Offices
Flinton, Ontario K0H 1P0
(613) 336-2286

Taxation

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (F.O.C.A.), the umbrella group of which our Association is a member, has brought to our attention a serious threat to fair cottage taxation that is now an issue in the Muskoka and Haliburton areas and may affect us in years to come. This has to do with market value re-assessment where in the areas affected, average cottage taxes have increased by 33%, with many individual cases of property taxes doubling. Also of issue is the large proportion of our property taxes which go toward funding education costs in the area. This is a service that a cottager is forced to pay twice (at home and cottage) but is only permitted to use once.

A full report on this subject and details of what we can do about it will be available at the annual meeting.

Activities

The first annual "Skootamatta Snowfest" was held on January 16th complete with five classes of skidoo races, haywagon rides for the kids and hot chile and garlic bread served on the lake. This was a joint event between our Association and the Northern Lights Snowmobile Club and by all accounts was a great success. Special thanks to Ruth Tate for making and serving that delicious chile and all others that helped out.

The annual "Sailing Regatta" will be held on July 30 (wind/raindate Sunday then Monday) beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the usual place by Osborne's point. This is a chance for all you windsurfers and sailors to show your stuff! Later that evening, we will have a baseball game at the Cloyne ball diamond. First pitch at 8:30 p.m. and bring a glove if you have one. All are welcome for a fun game of slow pitch.

Land adjacent to Trails End

As per our agreement with the Municipality last year, in order to acquire this land the Association is responsible for maintenance. Litter containers are being placed in the parking lot and at the dock and will be emptied regularly by Tim Manser of Trails End. As far as the grass cutting is concerned, it was felt by the Executive that an organization such as ours should be able to come up with 4 or 5 people to spend an hour or so this summer cutting grass. If you have access to a lawnmower and are willing to take on one cutting, please contact me - "Thanks".

Fishing Contest

A fishing contest will be held this summer in conjunction with Trails End store. This contest will be open to all cottagers on the lake. Valuable prizes will be awarded in the fall. All fish entered in the contest must be weighed immediately after catching at Trails End store for recording. For further details of prizes and rules, contact Trails End.

Miscellaneous

Last April, the Association applied to the Municipality for a grant to assist us financially with items like: dock repairs, repurchase of emergency first-aid equipment, etc. This request was denied. The reason given was the budget would not allow it this year since other major capital expenditures are being made (a new road grader has been purchased). We will try again next year.

Miscellaneous (Continued)

It is our intention this summer to erect permanent sign boards at the Sheldrake Lake road and another one on our property near Trails End. These will be used to notify members of upcoming events, advise how to contact executive members, and also to notify the public of the existence of our Association.

Director, Marty Carson has been appointed "Buoy Boy" this year. He will have the duty of placing buoys at the locations listed below. If there are any areas that we have missed, please let us know.

Sheldrake Bay Exit
Jacques Bay Exit
Stewarts Rock
Oberne's Point
Teed's Rock
Dacuk's Channel
Ledge at Van Loan's Rock

It is our understanding that the MNR will not be spraying for gypsy moths this year. This is not to say that the problem has been eliminated, only that it is temporarily under control. The executive encourages you to continue with your private spraying programs as there has been a noticeable improvement in the foliage of our forests.

Earlier this spring "Cottage Life Magazine" asked us to supply them with our membership list so they could send each of us a complimentary copy of their premier issue. We agreed with this only on the condition that the list not be used for any other purpose or solicitation. I think you will agree it is a quality publication dealing with the cottage lifestyle.

Vice President, Ross Cooper, has written a letter to the MNR indicating our support for the improvement of the Pickerel spawning beds on Skootamatta. This work will be carried out this year and involves spreading rock rubble along the bottom on which the Pickerel can lay their eggs. Ross has also indicated our desire that the MNR remove a smaller proportion of these Pickerel to stock other lakes, thereby increasing at a faster pace the fish population in Skootamatta. Further details will be available at the meeting.



MARGARET PERKINS

Sales Representative

Cottage: 613-336-8252

4 Main Street North
Markham, Ontario L3P 1X2

Office: 416-294-1372
Residence: 416-477-3929

For the first time after 8 successful years of listings and sales on the lake, the supply of properties is almost non existent. Word is out that recreational properties are at a premium and the demand and prices paid are now exceptional. If you know of anyone or are contemplating selling yourself, I would appreciate hearing from you.

The executive wishes to thank Marg Perkins for paying for the postage of this newsletter in return for the above announcement.

Please note the coupon at the bottom of this letter which we ask you to tear off and return with your annual \$10.00 dues.

I look forward to seeing you all in July.

Doug Jones
President
Cottage 336-2337
Toronto 586-3785 (days)

Please remit your annual membership dues for 1988-89 by completing the following and returning to:

Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association Inc.
P.O. Box 160
Cloyne, Ontario
KOH 1K0

OR: In person at the annual meeting, \$10.00 per family.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

COMMENTARY OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

- 1) Where reference made to "Shelldrake, Skootamatta and Pringle Lakes" changed to "Skootamatta Lake and area."
- 2) Article 4, Section 1 c)
 - listing the alternative name for past president as chairman and noting that this is an appointed, not an elected position.
- 3) Article 4, Section 1 f)
 - present constitution calls for three directors from Skootamatta, one director from Shelldrake and one director from Pringle. Proposed change calls for a maximum of five directors from Skootamatta Lake and area.
- 4) Article 5, Section 1
 - including immediate family of property owners or permanent residents as was noted on and passed at the 1987 general meeting.
- 5) Article 5, Section 2
 - adjusting the annual dues to \$10.00 as was voted on and passed at the 1987 general meeting.
- 6) Article 5, Section 3 c)
 - adding "immediate family" in keeping with Article 5 Section 1.
- 7) Article 5, Section 5
 - adjusting the associate member fee to \$5.00 per year from \$2.00 per year.
- 8) Article 8, Section 1
 - allowing notice of meetings to be directly distributed to each member instead of being posted.
- 9) Article 8, Section 5
 - making clear under Section 8 that each unit is entitled to only one vote.

CONSTITUTION OF SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

ARTICLE 1

Name

Section 1 - The name of the association shall be the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association Inc.

ARTICLE 2

Objects - The object of the Association shall be:

Section 1 - To advance the interests of the residents on, and adjacent to Skootamatta Lake and area.

Section 2 - To advance the interests of persons mentioned in Article 2, Section 1; which interests shall include the following:

- a) to actively fight pollution and further eutrophication of the Lakes near which we live.
- b) to see that the tax dollars provided by the area residents are well and truly spent in the area.
- c) to provide funds for safety measures and other needed facilities not normally provided by the various levels of Government.
- d) to provide information to the residents on the various activities in the area.
- e) co-operation in such matters as maintaining each resident's privacy and that his rights are not infringed upon by his neighbour or governmental agencies.

ARTICLE 3

Headquarters

Section 1 - The headquarters shall be located in the residence of President, or other officer as designated by the executive.

ARTICLE 4

Officers

- Section 1 - The directors and officers of the association shall constitute the executive and shall consist of:
- a) President
 - b) Vice-President
 - c) Past President (Chairman - an appointed position)
 - d) Secretary
 - e) Treasurer
 - f) A maximum of five directors elected from amongst persons normally associated with Skootamatta Lake and area.
- Section 2 - Not less than two weeks before each general meeting the President shall ensure that a slate of officers shall be prepared by a Nominating Chairman previously appointed by the President. The names of the candidates shall be made available by the Secretary to all interested parties by posting in a conspicuous place prior to the Annual Meeting, at which the new officers will be elected by majority vote of the members of the Association.
- Section 3 - Additional candidates for the various offices may be submitted at the Annual General Meeting. Each candidate so nominated must be proposed and seconded by a member in good standing.
- Section 4 - The president shall normally preside at all meetings of the Association. During his absence the Vice-President shall preside.
- Section 5 - The Secretary or designated alternative, shall attend all meetings of the Association and shall act as clerk thereafter and record all notes and minutes of the proceedings in the books to be kept for that purpose. He or she shall give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the Association.
- Section 6 - The treasurer shall have the custody of the funds and any securities of the Association and shall keep full and accurate records of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Association. He shall manage funds of the Association as directed by the Officers.

ARTICLE 5

Membership and Dues

- Section 1 - All property owners and permanent residents or immediate family thereof on and adjacent to Skootamatta Lake and area are eligible for full membership.
- Section 2 - The full membership fee is \$10.00 per unit annually and can be amended by majority vote of members present at general meeting.
- Section 3 - A unit is defined as follows:
- a) a husband and/or wife of voting age who own property or permanently reside in the defined area.
 - b) a single person of voting age owning property or permanently residing in the defined area.
 - c) a single person of voting age who is an immediate family member of (a) or (b) above.
- Section 4 - Associate membership shall be available to any summer resident of any age in the defined area.
- Section 5 - The Associate membership fee shall consist of \$5.00 per person. He or she shall have full rights except as hereinafter defined.
- Section 6 - Associate members shall not have any voting privileges in the Association nor may they hold executive office.
- Section 7 - Dues are due and payable at the Annual Meeting of the Association each year and may be paid to any officer of the Association.

ARTICLE 6

Admission, resignation, expulsion

- Section 1 - Any property owner or permanent resident of the defined area may apply for full membership by submitting his name and a declaration of his area of habitation. Immediately upon payment of the dues he or she is automatically a full member.
- Section 2 - Resignation of any member shall become valid upon written notice to the Secretary.
- Section 3 - Expulsion of a member shall take place automatically when annual dues are not paid by the 1st of the month following the annual meeting. Reinstatement may be made by the normal application for membership.

ARTICLE 7

Committees

- Section 1 - The President, in consultation with the executive shall appoint from the members such committees as deemed necessary for the conduct of the business of the Association.
- Section 2 - The terms of reference of each committee shall be established by a quorum of the executive.
- Section 3 - The terms of office of members of each committee shall expire at the adjournment of the next Annual Meeting following their appointment.

ARTICLE 8

Meeting and Voting

- Section 1 - The Annual General Meeting shall be held on a Saturday during July. Notice of the location and time of the meeting must be posted or distributed at least seven days prior to the meeting date.
- Section 2 - A special meeting may be called by the President or failing him any two members of the executive or failing them any five members in good standing providing twenty-eight days notice is given by the posting in a conspicuous place or notification of the members by mail.
- Section 3 - Ordinary meetings of the Association shall be called by the President for the purpose of furthering the Objectives of the Association.
- Section 4 - At any meeting of the Association or of a Committee, a resolution put to the vote shall be decided on by the simple majority of the votes cast.
- Section 5 - Each unit as defined in Article 5, Section 3 may cast one vote in response to any given motion.
- Section 6 - No single expenditure of funds by an officer of the Association may exceed \$100.00 unless passed by a majority vote of the elected executive.
- Section 7 - A quorum will be considered to be in effect where twenty full members are present in person or by proxy. Proxy votes will only be considered when in writing and signed and given to a full member in good standing.

ARTICLE 9

Contracts

- Section 1 - Contracts, documents or any instruments in writing requiring execution by the Association shall be attested by two of the officers of the Association and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so executed shall be binding upon the Association without any further formality.
- Section 2 - No member of the Association shall have power to enter into any contract, obligation or expense on behalf of the Association and any member so doing shall be personally liable therefore.

ARTICLE 10

Annual Report

- Section 1 - The officers shall present a report to the Annual General Meeting on the conduct of the affairs of the Association together with a statement showing the financial transactions of the previous year and the state of the finances of the Association at the close of the fiscal year.
- Section 2 - The fiscal year of the Association shall extend from the 1st day of July to the 30th day of June.

ARTICLE 11

Amendments

- Section 1 - Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by a petition signed by at least five full members of the Association.
- Section 2 - Such proposed amendments shall be submitted to all voting members of the Association in writing at least seven days prior to a meeting to vote on the proposed amendments.
- Section 3 - The officers shall promptly announce the results of such voting and, if adopted the amendments shall become effective immediately.
- Section 4 - The word "Amendments" as used herein shall include additions to, deletions from, and alterations of the existing constitution.

ARTICLE 12

Dissolution

Section 1 - Upon the dissolution of the Association any assets remaining after payment of the debts and liabilities shall be transferred at the discretion of the officers to an organization having similar objects. If no such organization exists at that time, then the officers may distribute any remaining assets to a recognized charity or charities.