

SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC.

SPRING NEWSLETTER

JUNE 9, 1986

Annual Meeting - 1986

Notice is hereby given of the Annual and General Meeting of the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association Inc. to be held at 1:00 PM on Saturday, July 12, 1986 (Sunday, July 13, 1986 - rain date) at Trail's End.

Guest Speaker - The principle guest speaker this year will be Tom Thompson, our new Reeve. This will be a good opportunity for us to hear his views on some of the lake issues such as transfer of frontages and the establishment of by-laws and a building code as well as those related issues. Also, the new owner of Trail's End, Len Mansen, and his son Tim, have offered to speak. They are anxious to clarify their intentions for development of their property and to explain the expanded services they are, and will be offering, to the community on and around our lakes.

Election of Officers

Terms of six of the ten officers of our association come to an end in July and nominees are sought to fill their places on the board. Positions to be filled are:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Two Directors	

The needs and concerns of many cottagers in our area have evolved over recent months. Issues involving a strong political orientation have come to the forefront. We ask members who are willing and determined to contribute the time, talent and energy toward this new direction, to stand for nominations.

Anyone who is interested in having his/her name placed in nomination, please contact Gord Kissman at 416-683-1547 during June or at his cottage from June 28th onward.

Membership Drive

This issue of our newsletter is being distributed to all cottagers (over 300 members and non-members) on Pringle, Sheldrake and Skootamatta Lakes in an effort to disseminate broader knowledge of the events and issues relating to our community and to stimulate membership in our Association. Your interest, views and participation are very important and can be expressed by joining the Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association. Please sign up at the Annual Meeting in July or fill in the attached coupon and return it along with a cheque for dues for \$6.00 to:

The Treasurer
Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association
6 Bracken Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4E 1N2

Trail's End

The Ministry of Natural Resources, in its own wisdom, has determined that it will no longer service three access points on Skootamatta Lake. They intend only one location which will be on Sheldrake Bay near Hughes' and will access both Skootamatta and Sheldrake Lakes. The Landing property will be turned over to the Municipality to maintain or dispose of as the Council sees fit.

Attached is a copy of a letter from Bob Little detailing his proposal to the municipal council relating to this property. He suggests that, subject to certain conditions, our Association could assume ownership for a nominal fee. This would give the ratepayers control over the property and therefore enable us to curtail any development in exchange for assuming responsibility for servicing the property. We must also assume responsibility for any potential liability resulting from any mishap or legal action. For no additional cost our current insurance policy will cover this property for up to a limit of \$1,000,000 of comprehensive general liability but no property damage. Our premium this year will be going to \$250 from the \$100 we have been paying. This is the result of general increases of minimum premiums charged throughout the insurance industry.

This is an important development for our association. Your comments on the issue should be directed in writing to the President of the Association or in discussion at our General Meeting on July 12, 1986.

Upper Lake Land Exchange - is nearing final closing. Tom Thompson, our Reeve, advises us that Township Council has received the same assurances given to us last year by the MNR on behalf of the proposed owners. That is, three cottage buildings will be built in the near future and a maximum of twelve in total over time. This, hopefully, may allay concerns over "resort" development.

Gypsy Moth Spray Program

The government spraying in our area is now substantially complete. Most members will agree that the program was far from successful from our point of view. We have been in contact with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the County to express our views and to determine the reasons. Between the lines of jargon and bureaucratic double-speak (we have heard them all from "filed too late" -notwithstanding "property owner received application too late" -to "spray block too small") the underlying problem seems to be funding. Applications that were filed far exceeded the financial resources available to meet demand. The program co-ordinators decided to spray on a priority basis among the "hot spots" as they saw them. This has left many of us with only two alternatives - private spraying or do nothing. The nearest private spray contractor is in Cloyne. David Wellman's service was detailed in our last newsletter. He has ground-up spraying equipment that will apply SEVIN or BT. He can be reached at 613-336-8073.

Environmental Reports

Members may be interested to receive copies of these reports from the sources listed:

- (i) Self-Help, Water Quality Analysis
Ministry of Environment
Information Services
Dalton Street
Kingston, Ontario

- (ii) Fish Studies - success ratios, species
and stocking information
Ministry of Natural Resources
Tweed, Ontario

- (iii) Gypsy Moth Control - Egg Mass Survey
Ministry of Natural Resources
Tweed, Ontario

Up-Coming Events

Annual Meeting - Trail's End - 1:30 PM Saturday, July 12, 1986
rain date - Sunday, July 13, 1986

Sailing Race - Lower Lake Course
- 1:30 PM Sunday, August 2, 1986

Special Thanks - to everyone who put out markers over rocks and stumps this spring. Even though we have had historically high water levels the markers are necessary and helpful navigation aides.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to wish you a pleasant and safe summer of cottaging.

See you up north.

Bruce Schwenger
President
Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association Inc.

Robert A. Little,
Councillor,
Municipal Council of Kaladar,
Anglesea & Effingham,
P.O. Box 233,
Cloyne, Ont.
K0H 1K0

May 28, 1986

Mr. Bruce Schwenger,
President,
Skootamatta Lake Ratepayers
Association Inc.,
Cloyne, Ont.

Dear Bruce;

SUBJECT: Trailer Park Land Transfer.

As you know, the Municipal Council have successfully lobbied the Ministry of Natural Resources and that area of public land which was to be transferred to the new owner's of Trails End store is now going to be dedicated to the Municipality. This small piece of land which includes the boat ramp and car parking lots as well as a small piece of park land and public washrooms will come under the control of the Municipality, Jan. 1, 1987. Municipal Council have met and discussed this issue on 2 occasions. It has been decided that should the Skootamatta Lake Ratepayers Assoc. Inc. wish to own or control this piece of property, that Municipal Council will do every thing possible to assure a transfer of that land either in control or ownership to the Ratepayers Assoc.

I have suggested to Council that an agreement be drawn up which will turn over control including maintenance and liability of this small tract of land to the Ratepayers Assoc. for a test period of not less than one year. If all parties are satisfied at the end of the test period, that the Ratepayers Assoc. can handle this responsibility and indeed wants ownership or long term control of this particular parcel, that arrangements can be made in the future for this transaction. The land would be transferred for a nominal fee, possibly \$10.00 to \$100.00. The only stipulation which I require, is that in the transfer documents it must be very clear that this land is to be held IN TRUST for public use for a period of not less than 99 years. Further, that the land can never be sold or disposed of in any manner except to the municipality.

Kindest Regards,



Robert Little.