



# Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association

P O Box 146 Cloyne Ontario K0H 1K0

## 2023 SDRA Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday July 8th, 2023  
Meet & Greet: 9:30 am  
Formal Meeting: 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Barrie Community Hall  
14225 Hwy 41, Cloyne

**Or**

Online via Zoom (Meeting link to be sent out before the meeting)

**The Formal Meeting started at 10:02 a.m.**

### Land Acknowledgement

**Welcome and Introduction of SDRA Board Members** Joel Arthurs 5 mins

- Joel introduced the board members.

**Approval of July 2022 AGM Minutes** Joel Arthurs 5 mins

- Minutes have been sent out to members and were posted to the website.
- Motion to Approve the AGM Minutes: Wayne Arthurs
- Seconded: Eric Meikle
- Motion Carried

**Approval of Slate of Directors** Joel Arthurs 5 mins


Christie Arthurs and Bill Blake have stepped down from board. They were both thanked for their long years of service.

A call for New Directors was made 3 times in accordance with the rules.  
Ben Koehler nominated Bruce Schwenger. Bruce Schwenger accepted the offer.  
There were no other offers at this time.

Please contact SDRA by email or at the website if you are interested.

### Proposed Slate of Officers

President: Joel Arthurs  
Vice President: Marianne Plumb  
Treasurer: John Coombs  
Secretary: Carla Baetz  
Lake Steward: Martha Warriner



Webmaster: Ben Koehler  
Director: Jim Chinnick  
Director: Bruce Schwenger  
Director: vacant

Approval of Slate of Directors:

- Motion to approve the board slate: Bill Blake
- Seconded: Ross Cooper
- Motion Carried

**Approval of 2023 Treasurer's Report**                      John Coombs                      10 mins

The Treasurer's report is available from the newsletter and was reviewed in depth. No questions were raised regarding the Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Eric Meikle
- Seconded: Bruce Schwenger
- Motion carried

**Auditing of Financial Statements**                      John Coombs                      5 mins

The Ontario Government has recently enacted a new law, where one of provisions is a requirement to engage an independent auditor. However, because we are a small non-profit corporation, we can vote, on an annual basis, to waive this requirement.


Question: Do we have any indication of what other Lake Associations are doing?  
Response: As we are in the early stages of complying with this new law, we believe that other lake associations are likewise moving in the same direction.

- Motion to propose that the SDRA waive the necessity of a financial audit this year: Karen Stacey
- Seconded: Eric Meikle
- Motion carried

**Lake Health Update**    Martha Warriner                      10 mins

Martha Warriner presented an in-depth review of the lake assessments that have been carried out for the past few years. These results are also in the newsletter. Killer Creek has been added to our water sampling process. We can compare across other lakes in the area and across the province.

In general, our results are good: Wolf Creek and Henniger Road have been a little high in the past so we are continuing to monitor. Phosphorus levels increased last year, possibly as a result of the storm in May 2022.



We can look forward to MNR results who are doing broad scale monitoring every few years: 2016, 2020, and then again last year. This monitoring includes fish counts, including the size and species of various fish, and screening of invasive species.

Question: Can we post the websites on SDRA website? Answer: Yes. Martha will speak to Ben to ensure that links are posted on our website.

Invasive species:

FOCA is monitoring two invasive water plants that are currently present south of Highway 7: European Water Chestnut and Water Soldier. They are looking at local lakes to prevent spread.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Quinte Conservation Authority**

Robert Ormston

20 mins

Robert Ormston presented on Shoreline Naturalization and the importance of protecting and conserving the environmental quality of lakes, rivers and streams in our watershed. Water quality upstream can affect water quality of entire watershed region. In particular, the Riparian Zone, which consists of the 30 meter area along rivers, lakes, streams, is vital to lake health. This area helps to maintain and stabilize water temperature, filter out contaminants, and support wildlife, including waterfowl, deer, and loons who are particularly vulnerable.


The vegetation that naturally occurs along the bank is essential in helping to stabilize and filter out contaminants. Members are encouraged to leave the natural vegetation or augment it with natural/native species. Plants with deep roots are particularly helpful including, for example, Chokeberry, Wild Roses, Button Bush, Dogwood, St. John's Wort, Meadowsweet, Blue Lobelia, March Marigold, Cardinal Flower, Blue Flag Iris, Black Willow, Serviceberry, Tamarack, and Silver Maple. Members were encouraged to visit the free web site: [forestontario.ca](http://forestontario.ca).

Question: A member asked about Quinte Conservation's role in providing enforcement of Crown Land destruction by Campers who are changing the natural shoreline by cutting trees and vegetation, and building docks on Crown Land.

Response: this is believed to be an area that is not specifically enforced by Quinte Conservation. The member was encouraged to call the regulations team at Quinte Conservation.

Question: Climate Change is having an impact on the health of our lake. Is there anything we can do to offset this? Response: Naturalizing shorelines is one way to help maintain the resiliency of the shoreline to offset events brought on by Climate Change.

Question: How many staff are at Quinte Conservation Authority? Answer: there are approximately 2 dozen permanent staff and additional seasonal staff are hired each summer.



If members believe that Quinte Conservation needs to provide more support in protecting our lakes, they are encouraged to write to local provincial and municipal elected members.

### **Special Business**

#### **Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA)      Marianne Plumb 10 mins**

Marianne reviewed the new requirements of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act “ONCA”. The SDRA is moving forward early in the process, reviewing the 87 page document that outlines the Act, to see what changes are required. According to ONCA, our Constitution will now be called our Bylaws and our Letters Patent will now be Articles. In going through all of the governing documents, it appears that we are in very good shape, thanks in part to the excellent governance of past and present Executive and Board members. The changes that are required are minor and fairly insignificant. A summary of the key Bylaw changes was presented. The Board of Directors has approved the amended Bylaws. The members were asked to vote on the Bylaw amendments that were sent out by email.

Motion: to accept the amendments of the Bylaws - Eric Meikle  
Seconded: Karen Stacey  
Carried (none opposed)

A summary of key changes to the Articles was presented. The Board of Directors has approved the proposed changes to the Articles. The members were asked to vote on the proposed Article amendments that were sent out by email. Once approved, the document will then be filed with the Government. While we can propose changes, only the Government can accept the changes and publish the amended Articles.

Motion: to accept the amendments to the Articles - Bill Blake  
Seconded: Ross Cooper  
Carried (none opposed)


#### **Other SDRA Activities:**

#### **Great Skootamatta Ice Contest Winners      Marianne Plumb      5 mins**

Marianne noted how awesome it is that so many vote for the ice-out contest. This year, there were 113 guesses and 5 members who guessed the correct date, April 14. Their names were put into a computerized random spinner. Mike Longo was the grand prize winner, who won the Gift Certificate donated by Finnegan’s General Store.

#### **Other Issues:      Joel Arthurs      5 mins**

#### **Recent Rise in water**



Joel has been actively involved in addressing the rise in water levels on the lake. Apparently a beaver dam broke on Wolf Creek, resulting in a water surge. As a result, two more logs were pulled from the dam resulting in 2-inch drop in water level. Our water is no longer rising. The culvert did not get washed out. Flood levels are continually monitored, and have been for the past 5 years or so.

### **Shoreline Camping**

The township is aware of our concerns and the board has been working hard to attempt to address the concerns of the membership. There are challenges because the Province oversees the Boat Launches.

Question: Thank you to the advocacy from board. Has the Provincial MPP been approached? Response: Yes, but there has been no satisfactory response from the ministry. They recommend contacting the TIPS line. Members are encouraged to take photos that include licence plates to assist with follow up when campers have left. As members, we are all affected, and therefore, we can all call.

### **Responses to Township Official Plan Update**

Joel reviewed the board's involvement in the Township Official Plan including the following issues: 1. the Province's interest in increasing the housing stock; 2. short-term rentals, and how these can be regulated, especially in respect to septic systems; 3. Floating Dwellings, which the province has just put forth legislation to restrict access to lakes; and 4., removal of the Seasonal Designation Act regarding which the board has requested more information.

Question: Reeve Henry Hogg was asked to provide a timeframe within which he expected the Official Plan to be implemented. Answer: While Henry Hogg was uncertain of the exact time of implementation, he estimated it would not be implemented for two years.

**Member Questions to the SDRA Board** All 10 mins

Question: Can the board send out an anonymous questionnaire to members regarding their septic systems as a way to educate and increase awareness? For example, ask members the Age of their Septic system. Response: We will do this.

Question: Can we have an ambient light article in next year's Newsletter? Lights have become an increasingly greater problem on the lake at night. Response: Yes.

**Raffle Draw** Marianne Plumb 10 mins

Several members won the raffle draws. Individuals had to be physically present at the AGM to win their prize.



**Formal Meeting Adjourned      12:06 p.m.**

**Join us for a BBQ lunch, provided by Foodland,  
and visit the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives.**

**Special thanks to Foodland for supporting the annual SDRA  
AGM!**