

Shawano Ratepayers Incorporated

Annual General Meeting

Ridge Road United Church

10:00 A.M.

August 3, 2024

Minutes

1. **Acceptance of Agenda and Recognition of Meeting Quorum:** Motion made by June Wells, seconded by Rhonda Miller, and approved by all.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes from August 5, 2023:** Motion to accept the August 5, 2023 Minutes was made by Randy Lowe, seconded by Susan Wood, and approved by all.
3. **Membership Report and Financial Report:** Patti noted that we now have 156 members, which is our average, and that more members will likely be found at the Music Event in the upcoming weeks. Joan McLean asked if memberships were steady, and Patti replied that indeed they are.

Our bank balance shows \$8,705.52, and we have \$10,000.00 in GIC's. Expenses do show a bit of an increase due to last year's Music Event, but we expect less of an expense this coming year.

Please see Financial Report (Statement of Revenue and Expenditures).

4. **Motion to consent for exemption from auditor** was made by Joan McLean, seconded by Bill Thompson, and approved by all.

5. Municipal Report by Mike Stevens:

There is lots going on this spring and summer. The brush was cut back along our roads and ditching was done which has not been done in several years. The ditching is necessary to get water off the road surface, as that is the one element that does more damage than anything else to roads. With the amount of rock, we have here it is futile in some areas but we try our best.

Skene road will be paved shortly and sections of Jennison will be done too. With the escalation in prices our budget did not have sufficient funds to do all of Jennison, but the worst was completed and the balance of the road patched.

There is one bridge shared with Peterborough County being rehabilitated for roughly \$600,000; just our share and we have approx. \$7 million in bridges to repair or replace in the next 3 years; which will not happen unless the province opens up more funding.

Snow plowing will be again by tender, no decision at the time of the development of this report has been made regarding the provider of the plowing services.

Two major developments have occurred in the municipality this year. One is our Roads and Parks department have been unionized and we are working on the first contract.

Two our Clerk/CAO has resigned for personal reasons and we are in the midst of obtaining a new person to fill that role. With 17 years of experience at our municipality, she will be greatly missed.

Quinte Waste your blue box recycling firm will no longer operate after July of 2025. This consortium of 7 municipalities has run the blue box and hazardous waste for over 20 years.

A new firm will be picking up your blue box and they have assured us service will remain the same. This is a product of the provinces "Circular Economy" whereby the corporations who create the packaging and products are held responsible for recycling them at the end of their lives. This has been in the works for the past 7 years; to finally reach this stage.

If you need information on the municipality please go to "www.marmoraandlake.ca"

Mike also added that the purchase of trucks for the Municipality is extremely expensive, running up to \$500,000.00. Mike also asked that anyone who is interested in becoming a new representative on Council, to let him know, as it would be advantageous to have two councillors from SRI.

Randy Lowe inquired when the Municipality sees Jennison Road being redone. Mike replied that with the escalations in cost associated with this year's work, estimating is a difficult thing. He is hoping that Jennison will see its resurfacing next year.

Bill Klintworth mentioned concerns regarding trucks using chains, particularly in the spring, and the resultant damage to the roads that chain usage causes.

Diane Warden wondered if the hill on Jade Court and Waite would be repaired in the near future as it is in bad shape.

6. Volunteer Recognition: Tim Matthewman publicly thanked all the volunteers whose work makes the SRI such an incredible association.

7. Loon's Call Report by Rob Sztuka and relayed by Tim M:

The Loon's Call continues to be published twice yearly. The goal is to have it delivered on the Victoria Day long weekend in May and on the Thanksgiving long week in October. There are also digital copies emailed to those who request that during membership renewal and it's also available on Shawano.ca

The printing process has improved with timely printing and good print quality. For various reasons there were some challenges 2 - 4 years ago. The cost of paper has gone up year over year. Hopefully that will stabilize once inflation normalizes.

We now order paper ahead of time so we are making the issue 44 pages. In the past the issue ranged from 40 - 48 pages. We also scaled back the number of copies printed. We print 200 and before we printed 230 copies which resulted in many extras. The number will adjust according to membership and advertisers.

Due to some timing conflicts, we will ask for content earlier this year. Please send your summer stories and photos ASAP to shawanoloonscall@gmail.com.

Mike and Cynia Clarkson have taken over the delivery prep and organization. Thanks to the whole delivery team which will get your next issue to you this Thanksgiving.

Our wonderful *Loon's Call* is a twice-yearly publication. Rob works very hard to ensure that we have clean digital photos included, that we keep the page number to 44 pages (optimal cost-effective number), that we create an online edition, and that we publish 200 copies. With June Well's help, advertisers are solicited to keep publication costs in line.

Al Kay queried if we should consider online editions only, as a cost saver, however the majority of cottagers prefer a physical copy.

Joan McLean queried if we should consider black and white photos as a cost saver? June Wells replied that the difference in price is marginal.

Dawn Purchase queried if we should consider one copy per year, which is something that the SRI has discussed in the past. However, our advertisers like to put their advertisements in on a particular seasonal basis.

We decided that we would bring this issue to our September SRI Board of Directors Meeting.

8. Website Report by Rob Sztuka and relayed by Tim Matthewman:

Shawano.ca continues to be the go-to spot for SRI news, events and valuable healthy lake info on the Lake Stewardship page.

A new addition this year is the SRI member only page, accessed by a password. This password has been emailed out to all members. You can view AGM meeting minutes here and other info that should only be accessible to SRI members only.

The website gains a healthy amount of traffic and has a number of advertisers. SRI runs and manages the site and has an affordable hosting provider which we pay yearly for. The other small yearly charge is the domain registration for Shawano.ca and dickeylake.ca.

The website has been “down” only three times this past year. The down time has been less than 24 hours. One time was a payment issue (expired credit card) and the other times were issues with our hosting provider.

There is security software installed which blocks many unauthorized login attempts. These have grown more frequent over the years with the use of bots. Our security is in good shape. There is no personal information stored with the SRI on the website. Any information submitted for membership or the store is sent to us and stored on Google. The only risks we have would be that our site wouldn’t work properly or we wouldn’t have access to the site. Although that risk is very low.

Members are asked to remember that the Facebook page is administered by a private person, and is thus, not managed by SRI. Our SRI website is where members can go to get valid information on a number of items, i.e. embedded links to the Municipality of Marmora and Lake services. Our advertisers also publish their information on our website.

June Wells mentioned that anyone who knows a tech savvy member, to please ask them if they would consider helping Rob.

9. Community Clean Up by Mike Stevens:

May 11 was the annual clean up day. The day was bright and sunny with few bugs. We had a great turn out of approx. 24 people with ATVs, pick ups; trailers, vans, you name it. Good number of new people participated and we want to thank them as well as the always dependable group that shows up.

We had enough people to assign two groups to most roads and we were done by 11:00. This year had something unusual in our ditches, the front end of a compact car cut up and strewn in the ditch. Why we do not know as you can get rid of metal for free almost anywhere. We cleaned North Steenburg lake road from Nicholsons bridge to Murphys corner; the Old Hasting to Shawano trail; all the roads around Dickey Lake and Lake of Isles. Prizes were awarded for most junk, biggest car parts; most persistent picker (some people described him as mountain goat by the places he got in to) and most reliable to always show up. We had BBQ hot dogs for snacks and Tims smile cookies for dessert. Special thanks to Terry Nash for the use of his trailer; between him and I we got all the trash in the two trailers and to the dump that day. Thank you every one for caring for your community. It was a fun and great social day for every one.

10. Summer Events:

Dickey Day by Mike Noble: As usual...an outstanding day of family fun, friendly competition, connecting with old friends and making new ones!!! The excitement, laughter and enthusiasm were evident from beginning to end.

Greg and Lorie Walton have been providing the venue for over 20 years. It's the perfect place... and we continue to be grateful for their gracious hospitality.

Such a day can't happen without an exceptional team of volunteers...and our lake community has a wealth of those willing to step up. Kudos to each and everyone.

Marathon Swim by Diane Warden: \$700.00 raised for Quinte Health Care, North Hastings thus far, but Diane continues to fund raise throughout the summer. Phylis Till mentioned that the new CTSCAN has been very beneficial to our local hospital and over 2000 scans have been done to date.

Golf Tournament by Patti Norton: to occur Saturday August 10th this year and Patti is looking for members to pay up. Dinner is at 5:00 P.M. at Joan McLean's cottage.

Music Event by Gail Davie: Thanks to the wonderful effort of Al Kay, we have the following acts joining us on Saturday, August 17th:

- Mike Shea – 12:30 pm to 12:55 pm.
- Jeff LaRochelle and Luan Phung – 1:00 pm to 1:50 pm.
- Becky Elliot and Dean Austin – 1:55 pm to 2:50 pm.
- Lloyd Till and Rob Warden – 2:55 pm to 3:50 pm.
- The Wicked – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

There will also be a food donation table at the event where you can either donate money or dry goods. Please remember to bring your chairs, umbrellas, snacks, water, sunscreen, etc.

Sailing Event by Patti Norton: to take place on Saturday, August 24th at Dan Gordon's.

11. CVCA Presentation by Beth Lowe: Beth is a Regulations Officer and she came to discuss Shoreline Health with us.

On April 1st of this year, the Provincial Government enacted legislation that created consistency in all regulations across Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities in monitoring the 30 metres of shore from the edge of a person's shoreline moving forward into the water. This is to safeguard natural flood plains.

Beth detailed 2 changes that have transpired recently: Change 1 is that if you are building a non-habitable structure of under 160 sq ft upon the existing foundations of an old structure, you are not required to have a permit. Bunkies that are under 160 sq ft and do not have plumbing, septic, etc., but can have hydro also do not require a permit. However, they must not be built on the water or on a wetland.

Change 2 applies to garages and states that if you are doing a tear down or a renovation on an existing building on your property, you can rebuild without a permit from CVCA. However, regular construction setbacks, etc., must be observed. It is prudent to contact Marmora and Lake and Crowe Valley to ask questions to ensure that your construction plan is acceptable.

Joan queried sand dumping by cottage owners on shorelines. Beth replied that you contact the Conservation Authority if the problem involves the shore and upwards on the property, and you contact the MNRF if the problem exists on the shoreline into the water.

Randy Lowe mentioned that shoreline erosion, or tampering, is in fact, a Federal Fisheries Act violation. Beth agreed and added that the CVCA uses a number of graduated strategies to deal with people who are causing shoreline damage, but that CVCA is the smallest of the Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

Beth said that we should call 613-472-3137 to speak to a person at CVCA to discuss shoreline problems that we note.

Beth brought a number of applicable publications and materials for us to peruse. She added that when in doubt re: building permits, it is prudent to fill one out. She also encouraged us to plan any construction, that might change our shoreline, well in advance and to fill out the Property Inquiry Form to ensure CVCA approval.

12. Lake Stewardship Report, Review of Love Your Lake Survey, and Invasive Species Grant

Application by Anne Cowan:

I would like to begin by thanking the members of the Lake Stewardship Committee; Tim and Jo Matthewman, Burce Curwood, Heather Lawrie, Stephen Byberg and Michael Gertler.

Watersheds Canada – Love Your Lake Assessment

In July 2023, we had an assessment conducted of our lakes by Watershed Canada through their Love Your Lake program. This spring the results of the assessment were made available to property owners in an individual Shoreline Property Report. The Board has also received summary reports for all 4 lakes; Dickey Lake, Lake of Islands, Lost Lake and Perch Lake. The summary lake reports can be found on the Lake Stewardship page of the SRI website. Overall, the reports are positive. Our lakes appear to have mostly naturalized shorelines. However, the presence of Eurasian Milfoil was confirmed in Dickey Lake. Eurasian Milfoil is a highly invasive aquatic plant. The Lake Stewardship Committee has been educating ourselves about Eurasian Milfoil and have posted some materials and links to additional information on our site.

If you have not reached out to receive your report, I would encourage people to do so. In addition to information about an individual's property, there is some general resource information. The information on how to access your report can be found on the website.

The committee will be spending time reviewing the summary reports in detail, looking for opportunities for future areas to focus to further promote the health of our lakes.

Invasive Species Action Fund – 2025 Invasive Species Grant Program

The Invasive Species Action Fund is a grant program designed to facilitate management and monitoring of invasive species in Ontario. The Lake Stewardship Committee is planning to submit an application for the 2025 call for proposals with a focus on the management of Eurasian Milfoil. There are three funding streams in the program:

1. Microgrants - \$2,500
2. Accelerated Impact - \$10,000
3. Transformative Action - \$25,00

We will be submitting proposals for all three funding streams. The Crowe Valley Conservation Authority will work with us to provide support and function as a project monitor.

For the past two years, the LSC has been working tirelessly on our behalf to help us maintain optimal lake conditions. Tim encourages us to take a look at our individual survey results and try to enact one of the changes that were mentioned.

On the discussion of invasive Eurasian Milfoil, Michael Gertler noted that he has tried snorkeling to remove small amounts of milfoil before they become larger. However, he notes that you must be careful not to disturb native plants while you do this. Tim notes that we are unknowingly spreading milfoil. This year our water level is high and that has both advantages and disadvantages, i.e., higher water levels discourage rapid growth of milfoil, however higher water also allows motor boats to transport milfoil to other areas of the lake that would be otherwise impassable.

Heathe Lawrie mentioned that there is a lot of good information to be read on our SRI website regarding Eurasian Milfoil.

13. Election of Directors-Directors standing for re-election:

With the exception of Marlene Chapelle, all other Directors will be standing: Tim Matthewman, Michelle Bamford, Patti Norton, Gail Davie, Anne Cowan, Randy Lowe, Rhonda Miller, Mike Noble, Rob Sztuka, June Wells, and Susan Wood.

A motion was made by Mike Noble to re-elect these Directors, it was seconded by Bill Thompson and approved by all.

A query was raised by Joan McLean regarding her difficulties living next door to an active AIRBNB. Her query concerned environmental impacts and cottager neighbour impacts, and bylaw infractions.

Tim noted that cottager associations in Ontario are surveying their members to determine impacts of AIRBNB's on their lakes.

Bill Klintworth wondered if we, as an association, could do the same thing. Karen Tino agreed that this would be a good idea. Paul Murphy noted the difficulty municipalities would have in maintaining enforcement of regulations for AIRBNB's.

Heather Lawrie encouraged members to lodge complaints with the administrators of AIRBNB as record keeping of these complaints would aid in finding solutions. Heather also noted that we can call the police when parties are getting out of hand and drinking and driving is likely to happen.

Virginia Gasior mentioned that whatever rules and regulations we put upon AIRBNB's, we must also put upon ourselves as cottagers.

Karl Henning wondered if it might be prudent for the SRI to create a form letter where cottagers could share their concerns, and then submit these letters to Marmora and Lake.

Many ideas were shared and Tim decided that the best course of action would be for the SRI Directors to discuss these ideas at their September Directors Meeting.

Tim noted that members could share and discuss their concerns during our Social.

Tim also mentioned that we have information from Bell on their 5G fibre installation. Envelopes were available for all.

14. Adjournment: A motion was made by Tony Tino to adjourn. It was seconded by Patti Norton and approved by all.

15. Social, snacks and conversation: A very big thank you goes out to Marilyn Hoard and helpers for the creation of an incredible table of delights.