



# Pike Lake Community Association

[www.pikelake.ca](http://www.pikelake.ca)

## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Videoconference

**Board Members in Attendance:** Naomi Fowlie, John Murphy, Jen Sinclair, Adrienne Fowlie, Marty van Gaal, Kathy Noxon, Alexandra Hincke

Meeting hosted by moderator Michelle Compton (Assisted by Bonnie Myers)

### 1. Call to Order and Establish Quorum - Naomi Fowlie

Quorum for the AGM is 20% of the membership. Given that our membership as of June 19, 2021 was 112 and we have more than 22 members attending by Zoom we therefore have quorum to proceed with the meeting.

Moved by Nancy Johnson that we accept that we have quorum

Seconded by Marty van Gaal

Poll confirms none opposed (96% in favour, 4% abstain).

Motion carried.

### 2. Approval of Agenda of the 2021 AGM - Naomi Fowlie

Moved by Terry Kimmel to accept the agenda for the 2021 AGM

Seconded by Adrienne Fowlie.

Poll confirms none opposed (100% in favour).

Motion carried.

### 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM - Naomi Fowlie

Moved by Kathy Noxon to accept the minutes of the 2019 AGM

Seconded by Nancy Johnson.

No omissions or changes.

Poll confirms none opposed (96% in favour, 4% abstain).

Motion carried.

### 4. President's Report - Naomi Fowlie

Naomi gave the following address:

Cellular phone and internet update –

“Thanks to all those who participated in the PLCA survey conducted in 2019 the information was then passed to stakeholders such as municipalities, politicians, and the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN). Lakers had stated their frustration with lack of service and how it impacted on them. We are starting to see positive movement with proposals submitted by telecommunications companies such as the giants of Bell and Rogers as well as small local companies such as WTC Communications (known to many as the former Westport Telephone Company). \$300 million has been committed by stakeholders to increase service in Eastern Ontario. Additionally, as a result of the PLCA survey, members were asked and readily submitted letters of support of WTC’s proposal this spring for funding from the federal government’s Universal Broadband Fund. 17 Pike Lakers got involved. I am optimistic that by 2024 we will have improved services.

#### LLD Moth (aka Gypsy Moth) Update -

“They hatched and started munching this year, mid May. John Murphy and had started an aggressive communications campaign in 2020 to raise awareness to this impending deforestation. Thank you to everyone who got involved by taking on levels of intervention from scraping to spraying.”

#### Hydro Rate Increase Update –

“Not everyone at Pike Lake will be affected directly by the change to low, medium and high-density Hydro One classifications however I suspect with prices rising all round, we too may be having this shocked reaction. The Federation of Cottagers’ Association (FOCA) has been representing cottage owners and associations in the discussions on the move to eliminate the seasonal rate and move to a three-tier system. This was a concern for many cottagers. The issue, I quickly discovered, was convoluted. Reading Hydro One documents, one of which was of over 320 pages, was onerous and definitely beyond my level of understanding. It turned out I was not the only one challenged. The Ontario Energy Board submitted a list of questions for Hydro One to address and answer in plain language. The process is still ongoing. For those of you who are impacted by the changes, I encourage you to access the FOCA website.”

#### Ongoing Services and Projects

“The PLCA Facebook page is a success with nearly 90 regular participants sharing photos, announcing activities and using to sell, purchase or give away times.

To generate additional funding for the PLCA, in 2020 we started selling advertising space on the back of the Pike Lake Post. All businesses returned this year. I encourage you to support these companies. Additionally, members have generously added donations to their membership payments.

Walleye spawning to which MNR&F will present the final report today.

The yellow hazard buoy program continues to be a success.”

## **5. Treasurer’s Report – Marty van Gaal**

Marty gave the following address:

“Thanks to Dick Murphy for reviewing our numbers and suggesting format for presenting budget. With the \$30.00 annual membership fee (set in 2018, previous \$20.00) and 116 paid members our membership revenue increased to \$3,480 (2019 - \$2,850, 2018 - \$2,670, 2017 - \$1,660, 2016 - \$1,960, 2015 - \$2,380). 68% of members paid via e-transfer in 2020 compared to 27% in 2019. For the first time ever we allocated the back page of the Pike Lake Post for advertising. We were very successful and sold out the 10 allocated spots in only a few days collecting \$500 in advertising revenue. We were also very fortunate to have received \$315.00 in donations. With our cash surplus (generated substantially from previous years Pike Lake Book sale and T-shirts), \$10,000 was re-invested on October 25, 2019 in a 18 month GIC paying annual interest of 2.8% and maturing on April 26, 2021.

As for our 2020 expenditures, we had the following items that warrant mentioning:

Spent \$454 to renew our membership to the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association (FOCA). FOCA membership provides the PLCA and its member's access to valuable written and online resources, workshops and conferences, and access to the FOCA Association Insurance program.

Renewed (Required by the Constitution) the Commercial General Liability Insurance, and Directors and Officers Liability Insurance (\$3,000,000 coverage) at a total cost of about \$1013.04 (no increase from 2019). The insurance protects the Association, its members, volunteers and directors. Eighty percent of FOCA's member associations have this type of insurance protection. The insurance was also required for the PLCA to deploy the marker buoys.

Additional marker buoys were deployed and 1 was replaced at a cost of \$522.06.

With our new Web site, we incurred an annual web hosting fee of \$87.81CAN.

To help with the membership program, signs were printed and installed at key locations around the lake at a cost of \$408.65.

As in previous years, we donated \$100 to the Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue.

With fewer printed copies from the previous year, the printing cost of the Pike Lake Post was reduced to \$214.25 from the previous year's cost of \$305.10.

Our Scotia Bank Small Business Advisor was kind enough to reduce the regular bank fees from \$76.85 to \$34.75 (a credit of \$42.10).

COVID limitations have been a challenge for us all. Restrictions on face-to-face events resulted in a number of usual events in 2020 and 2021 being cancelled/modified, which also affect related expenditures. With higher 2020 revenue than planned and lower expenses, we had a net profit in 2020 of \$1,435.72.

With the proposed 2021 budget for approval at the 2020 AGM - excluding the onetime interest revenue in 2021, the plan is to have a balanced budget in 2021 (budgeting for 100 - 2021 members).”

Moved by Nancy Johnson to accept the 2021 Budget

Seconded by Cathy Cameron.

Poll confirms none opposed (96% in favour, 1 abstain).

Motion carried.

## **6. Communications Report – Kathy Noxon**

Kathy gave the following address:

“The past 3 years has seen many changes in communications. Three years ago there was a Communications Coordinator whose main role was that of webmaster and the editor of the Pike Lake Post. The role of Communications Coordinator has evolved into one that includes acting as a liaison between the PLCA Board and the editor of the e-newsletter produced by Suzanne Forget, the Facebook page administered by Jen Sinclair, the website updated and administered by Lois Johnson and the Pike Lake Post whose editor is Kay Rogers. The e-newsletter was added last fall. Facebook has been added and the website redesigned by Lois Johnson in the past 3 years – a lot of changes and more to come!”

## **7. Membership Committee – John Murphy**

John gave the following address:

“During our AGM of 2019, some members inquired about why we didn’t have more members and suggested that the Board should look at ways to increase our memberships. Following the meeting, the Board discussed the situation and decided that it should be looked into further. It was determined that most of our members usually renewed their membership at the AGM or just after it. In comparing our annual members to the previous year, we saw a slight drop off. It was then decided to create a Membership Committee which was made up of John Duguid, Membership Coordinator; Marty van Gaal, Treasurer; Naomi Fowlie, President; and myself, who also chaired the committee.

The committee determined that some members from 2018 hadn’t renewed their membership which was concerning. The committee then proposed to contact all 2018 members who didn’t renew and prepared a personally addressed letter that was hand delivered to their cottage/home. It was somewhat successful as we were able to sign up 3 more members but weren’t able to resign all of them, giving us a total of 89 members in 2019 which was down from the 99 members we had in 2018.

The committee then recommended conducting an independent, confidential research survey with all of its members to hopefully give us more insight as to why we weren’t more

successful. The survey was conducted by Survey Monkey in the fall of 2019 which many of you may remember. We sent the survey to all of our members and, since a few of our current members didn't have internet access, we sent them the survey by mail. It gave us excellent feedback on how the current Board of Directors was serving its members. The survey also provided us with information regarding priorities on our objectives as an association; current and ongoing projects; social events; fees and how we communicate with our members. It also showed us that our priorities were in line with our members' expectations.

Our survey was successful as we had an extremely high rate of return of 68% which was very pleasing and even more gratifying the members seemed very pleased with the direction the board had been taking. Further to this, we also decided to send the survey to members who hadn't renewed their memberships. We had a much lower rate of return on this survey, but still good at 26%. We also gave all individuals, in both surveys, the opportunity to offer any suggestions that they felt should be addressed. By doing so, it provided the Board of Directors with much needed information to help us in our day to day challenges and provided us with insight on how to win over the members who hadn't resigned and it also helped us in our planning for the future.

Following the research, the committee recommended creating a marketing campaign. The objective, of course, was to grow our membership but how had to be determined. We decided to create outdoor signage and a direct mail campaign. Our outdoor signage boards were posted at key locations around the lake based upon populations of the various routes. We also identified the areas where we had the greatest potential to gain members. This is the outdoor board that we created "It's Your Lake"

We produced 5 colour boards and we posted them at the following locations: the Recycling Center in Stanleyville, better known as "The Dump"; on Route # 1 before the split to Grants Creek; on Route 17 right at the split to 17A; on Route 16 just as you entered Paul McShane's property. We had another sign that was rotated between Routes 11, 12 and 13.

We then created a letter which would be hand delivered to all non-members in and around Pike Lake and Grants Creek listing what we had achieved for our members over time and what we currently do for them.

Following the campaign, we were able to not only bring our membership back to our previous level reached in 2018 of 99 members, we surpassed that and grew our membership by 23 % over 2019 to reach a new high of 115 members in 2020."

## **8. Lake Steward Report – Alexandra Hincke**

Alex gave the following address:

"I'm pleased to be your Interim Lake Steward. To speak briefly to my background, I have a PhD in palaeoecology, which is the study of - as you may guess - *really old* plants, and this came with training in ecology and limnology. I'll speak briefly to the health of the lake - which is really good news.

The RVCA conducted water quality testing in 2020 at 9 sites on Pike Lake. Water quality indicators, such as nutrient counts, were comparable to data collected between 2001 and the present. *E. coli* counts were low at all sites, and depth measurements indicated generally clear water.

So - let's keep it this way! As cottagers, actions to keep the lake healthy include ensuring septic systems are well-maintained, not using fertilizers or pesticides, minimizing disturbance to the shoreline, and keeping the shoreline natural.

Thank you, and happy to take any questions from members, time permitting at the end of the meeting. Of course you can always send questions to [info@pikelake.ca](mailto:info@pikelake.ca)

## 9. Buoy Project Update – John Murphy

John gave the following address:

"Two teams of volunteers headed up by Peter Noonan and Hubert MacInnes have continued to install and remove our buoys in the spring and fall through the pandemic. Originally we installed 18 buoys, but have now increased that to 22 based upon members' requests. We also left a few buoys in over the winter as a test to see how they weathered in various locations. All of these buoys have been placed in hazardous areas to help prevent boating accidents and ensure safe boating."

## 10. Walleye Project – Joffre Côté, Management Biologist with MNR

Presentation of results of "Pike Lake Angler Diary Program" run over the 2019 season

### Pike Lake's Historical Fishery

- Former native lake trout fishery
- Subsequently stocked with LT (1922-1936)
- Then stocked with bass and walleye
- Last stocking event 1979 (walleye – eyed eggs)
- Healthy walleye population reported in the 1970s - early 1980s
- Potential population crash in late 1980s and 90s – potential causes include eutrophication, predation/competition, habitat changes (spawning and vegetation growth), overfishing, water levels

### Fisheries Management Objectives (FMZ 18)

- Increase walleye abundance and the number sustainable populations
- Reduce harvest – implement harvestable slot limit (40-50 cm)
- Develop public/partner opportunities to measure fishing pressure and harvest rates (eg volunteer angler diary program)
- Increase natural walleye population recruitment

- Encourage angler harvest of predator/competitor species (eg bass, panfish)
- Work with partners to conduct spawning surveys, identify new spawning locations

### Angler Diary Details

- Recreational fishing efforts and catches reported on forms – date, fishing start/stop times, individual species captured, est total length of individual fish species captured, fate (kept or released) of the fish captured
- Program objectives – assess status of walleye population, relative to entire fish community, determine recruitment rates

### Assumption (Data Analysis)

- Walleye is always to main targeted species
- Zero “0” catches are always reported
- Other fish species captured are also reported
- Significantly higher walleye catch rates are expected in the spring, and in late evening (the latter time period which is often not fished)
- Reported fish sizes relatively accurate

### Diary Program Results – Total Catch

- 599 fish captured (8 species), carried out from May 11 to October 18, 2019
- Overall catch rate – 1.31 fish (all species) per hour
- Angling effort – 23 anglers, 463 angler hours (avg 20.1 hours per participant)

### Diary Program Results – Walleye

- Walleye catch rate – 0.28 fish per hour (vs 0.23 fish per hour, Creel surveys 1970-1997 range, 0.10-0.42)
- Potentially smaller size class overall at mean TL of 349mm

### Conclusions and Recommendations

- a wide range of anglers participated and provided for a great cross-representation for this type of program (“random” sampling)
- majority of angling effort took place in July and August
- the walleye catch rates are likely underestimated – only 2 hrs of fishing reported in May, only 1 angler fished throughout the entire month of June, the local avid Walleye anglers were not likely represented
- clear evidence of very good to excellent walleye population recruitment occurring (ie likely at least 7-8 age classes of fish captured, including many young, back to back year classes), provided by a considerable brood stock successfully spawning
- the proportion of larger sized walleye is likely under-represented (angling vs netting)

- some of the factors that contributed to decline of the walleye population in the 1980s -1990s are still a concern: eutrophication (in combination with climate change=challenge), predation/competition by other species
- the size of the many rock bass reported was likely grossly overestimated
- in summary, Pike Lake likely has a relatively healthy walleye population and should be well sustained by the current size limit regulation: harvestable slot size of 40-50cm
- walleye (and to some extent, northern pike) already is or potentially will be the top predator in Pike Lake and keeping other populations in check, bearing in mind that all the other species combined, still represented about 70% of the total catch
- first and foremost, anglers need to significantly increase the harvest of rock bass, and maintain/increase the harvest of smallmouth bass, black crappie, and to a lesser extent increase the harvest of largemouth bass and sunfish
- walleye spawning habitat:
  - known and potential suitable spawning sites should be surveyed to determine which ones are being highly utilized by spawning fish
  - determine if the latter utilized sites (ie shoal/rocky shorelines) need to be rehabilitated (cleaned of silt/vegetation and/or be further expanded)
- nutrient enrichment from all previously documented pathways (causing excessive eutrophication):
  - potentially leading to increased abundance of aquatic vegetation and fish habitat modification
  - significant impact on the structure of the fish community and existing sport fish population
- conduct another angler diary program in 5 yrs, include local angler participants targeting walleye in May-June
- the results of this angler diary program do not indicate a need to rehabilitate the lake's walleye population (ie stock fish), especially now that more restrictive slot limit regulations have been in place since 2013
- "IF YOU STOCK IT, THEY WILL COME"

#### **11. Nomination and Election of 2021-2023 Board of Directors – Adrienne Fowlie (co-chair of elections committee with Christine Martin)**

- Election of 4 positions for 2 year term for which all participating members may vote: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary
- Advance nominees for the PLCA Board:
  - i. President -vacant
  - ii. Vice-President – vacant
  - iii. Secretary – Jen Sinclair
  - iv. Treasurer – Marty van Gaal
  - v. Slate of up to six directors
    1. Alexandra Hincke
    2. Ian Forsyth



### 3. Kathy Noxon

- Call for nominations from the floor:
  - i. Moved by Kay Rogers, that Nancy Johnson be nominated for the position of president, seconded by Christine Martin, Nancy Johnson declines.
  - ii. Kay Rogers moved that Jim Tasker be nominated for the position of vice president, seconded by Cathy Cameron. Jim Tasker accepts.
  - iii. Kathy Noxon moved that Lois Johnson be nominated for one of 6 board positions, seconded by Nancy Johnson. Lois Johnson accepts.
  - iv. Christine Martin moved that Karen Mehmet be nominated for a director position, seconded by Nancy Johnson. Karen Mehmet accepts.
- Nominees introduced themselves (2 min max) in alphabetical order: Ian Forsyth, Alexandra Hincke, Lois Johnson, Karen Mehmet, Kathy Noxon, Jen Sinclair, Jim Tasker, Marty van Gaal
- Second call for nominations from the floor – no additional nominations (John Murphy declines nomination)

Election Process Begins – (including a third and final call for nomination for each)

#### President –

Third and final call for nomination for president. No further nomination.

Moved by Ian Forsyth to close the nomination for president. Seconded by Kay Rogers. None opposed. Motion carried. Position of president remains vacant.

#### Vice- President –

Third and final call for nomination for vice-president. No further nomination.

Moved by Adrienne Fowlie to close the nomination for vice-president. Seconded by Kay Rogers. None opposed. Motion carried.

Jim Tasker is acclaimed as vice-president

#### Secretary –

Third and final call for nomination for secretary. No further nomination.

Moved by Adrienne Fowlie to close nominations for secretary. Seconded by Karen Mehmet. None opposed. Motion carried.

Jen Sinclair is acclaimed as secretary

#### Treasurer –

Third and final call for nomination for treasurer. No further nomination.

Moved by Adrienne Fowlie to close nominations for treasurer. Seconded by Nancy Johnson. None opposed. Motion carried.

Marty van Gaal is acclaimed as treasurer.

Six Directors (en mass voting)

5 candidates – Lois Johnson, Karen Mehmet, Alex Hincke, Kathy Noxon, Ian Forsyth

Third and final call for nomination for directors. No further nomination.

Moved by Adrienne Fowlie to close nominations for director positions. Seconded by Karen Mehmet. None opposed. Motion carried.

All candidates are acclaimed as directors: Lois Johnson, Karen Mehmet, Alex Hincke, Kathy Noxon, Ian Forsyth

**12. Board Recognition and “Thank You”s – Naomi Fowlie**

On behalf of all the PLCA members, Naomi thanked all of the former Board members for their dedication, interest, and hours of volunteer time to the benefit of all:

- Rick Cormier
- Cheryl Fosbery
- Lois Johnson
- Jen Sinclair
- Alexandra Hincke
- Suzanne Forget
- Linden Davidson
- Kathy Noxon
- Marty van Gaal
- John Murphy
- Adrienne Fowlie

**13. Other Business – Naomi Fowlie**

- No questions
- Kay Rogers expressed thanks to board and to Michelle for extremely well run AGM
- Reminder about Fowlie “Boat In” on Saturday of long weekend in August
- John Murphy expressed thanks to Naomi for her work as president these past 3 years.
- Jim Tasker keen to meet board members and keep up the good work

**14. Adjournment – Naomi Fowlie**

Moved to adjourn meeting by Naomi Fowlie. Seconded by Lois Johnson. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

Jen Sinclair

Secretary

DRAFT