

SLCA 2023 AGM
Tudor Cashel Community Centre
August 6, 2023 10am – 12 pm

Social meet and mingle for first post-COVID in-person meeting.

Current Executive

Pat Stallaert, President
Chris Bridger-Todkill, Secretary (absent)
Dave McDonald, Treasurer
Selena Bruni, Social Chair
Suzanne Parker, Lake Steward
Melanie Donin, Merchandise Chair (absent)
Anthony Genovese, Internet. (absent)
Lorie Butkus-Hill, Membership Chair
Frank Pinder, Municipal Affairs Chair (absent)
Lannie Johansen, Acting Newsletter Editor

Call to order by President, Pat Stallaert at 10:09 am with introductory welcoming remarks and thanks to the Jackie Rudd, Anita Waddell, Wendy Rudd and Anita Wadell's friend for their preparation of refreshments and treats.

Confirmation of quorum by Membership Chair, Lorie Butkus-Hill. There were 28 member properties represented, more than 20% of current registered membership.

Review and Acceptance of 2022 AGM MINUTES. Motion from Mike Duggan; seconded by Chris Langman. Minutes were accepted unanimously without revision.

Presidents Remarks

This meeting signifies our first in person annual meeting since 2019. We are all so delighted that you could all join us here this morning on such a beautiful, sunny day. We have a great deal of information and business to cover so let's get right to it so we can get everyone back to the lake to enjoy the rest of this marvelous long weekend.

Pat Introduced each member of the Board present at the head table, as well as identified those unable to attend. Pat also thanked those past members of the board who for various personal reasons will be unable to carryout a second term, namely Mel Donin who had done such an amazing job as our Merchandise Chair bringing us so many new items and establishing our first-ever eStore where members could order online specific items in their choice of colour and size. Also recognised was Chris Bridger-Todkill our past Secretary who was unable to attend the meeting due to travel abroad. Both Mel and Chris contributed so much to this association and the Board, and we thank them both for their time and commitment.

Executive Reports

Social – Selena Bruni introduced herself as now in her 2nd year in this position reported on the successful “returned” **Regatta** in July; expressing thanks to all volunteers who assisted in the event and particularly organizers David & Chris Langman.

Bingo was quite a successful event and was attended by a by-law officer who had no issues with the way the event was being run (\$.25/game). **Trivia** evening has been shifted from an evening to afternoon event (see website).

Canada Day boat parade was also a great success and the **Steenburg Lake Artisans’ Show**, organised by Lynn Rusaw, was also well attended. The **Annual Dock Sale** is a voluntary participation event and will be held either Aug,12th or 19th (see website)

5km Fun Run re-introduced by Chris Langman to take place Sunday August 20th/23. Bring your water bottle. Chris also addressed the **Name the Baby Loons** contest which resulted in the names Splish & Splash being selected. Chris also acknowledged Jimmy Nevins for his role as loon “eggs caregiver”.

Selena offered that this year’s music concert, the **Have-a-Dock Jamboree**, hosted and organized by Fred Cotie, is “open playing” for anyone to participate. She closed reminding that tickets for this years **Pig Roast** Sept.2/23 are available for \$5/adult at the boat launch & online at website with NO RAIN DATE.

Newsletter - Lannie Johansen introduced herself as acting Newsletter Editor and acknowledged assistance of brother David Langman in the production of the 2023 Spring Newsletter sent to all members and our website. Lannie also acknowledged the support of all the sponsors also included in the newsletter. She encouraged everyone to submit their stories for future newsletters. Pat Stallaert encouraged everyone to go digital to access the online newsletters whose printing/ mailing costs are becoming more costly.

Municipal Affairs – Frank Pinder’s report was presented by Pat Stallaert

1. Short Term Rentals – License and Regulation

News stories and reports from Ontario municipalities and local residents (particularly in “cottage country”) have described negative impacts associated with increasing numbers of short-term rentals; Limerick and Tudor and Cashel have been considering the need for new regulations for short term rental properties;

For now, Limerick Township has put the introduction of a new By-Law (2022-22) on hold;

Tudor and Cashel have been considering the benefits and costs of the practice of a short-term rental accommodation.

Both municipalities decided (for now) to rely on existing by-laws and education to control any negative impacts and inform property owners and their guests. If there are any concerns, bring them to the attention of the property owner or your respective township clerk

2. Limerick Township – Economic Development

Owner of property at corner of Hwy. 62 and St. Ola Rd. working on County and ministry conditions to develop property, including a gas station. Limerick Township will review required rezoning when an application is received.

3. Winter Maintenance for Steenburg Lake South (Class 6B) Road:

Tudor and Cashel have approximately 10 kms of Class 6B roads; Class 6B roads do not presently receive winter maintenance by T&C. The T&C portion of Steenburg Lake South Rd. and East Bay Rd. are in this category;

An ad-hoc committee chaired by Mayor Hederson has been reviewing the no winter maintenance policy for 6B roads;

Following public consultation and discussions (at their June 21 meeting) the committee decided recommendations would be presented to Council that T&C begin winter maintenance on these roads; The new roadway reclassifications were presented to Twp. Council at their Aug 1 meeting. Council approved by-law 2023-39 which is an amendment to reclassify all 6B roads in the township as 6A roads which will mean that municipal roads like Steenburg Lake South Road will now receive winter maintenance.

In support of the township's new policy to provide year-round maintenance of these former 6B roads, Council appears prepared to purchase the required/appropriate equipment to plow and sand these roads, and if all goes well, the equipment will be procured prior to ploughing season this year.

4. Council approved a contract with Danford Construction of Madoc for \$51,700 to extend a culvert and widen Steenburg Lake South Road, on both sides over said culvert. Location is 4.4km west of Highway 62. Construction is scheduled to begin in late September and be complete by October 31.
5. There was a presentation of a cheque for \$10,000 from T&C Township to the North Hasting Hospital in Bancroft for the Back the CAT campaign.

An update from organizers of that initiative advised that construction/renovations to accommodate the new CAT scan equipment have already begun and they are within a couple of hundred thousand of their goal to cover the cost of the equipment and supporting renovations.

A spokesperson for the hospital explained that this equipment is no longer considered a specialty or luxury, but a standard part of a modern emergency department, and that in addition to saving lives, it is expected to help encourage the recruitment of emergency room physicians that are so badly needed at the hospital.

Membership – Lorie Butkus-Hill

Lorie reported that as of this meeting there are 119 paid members of the SLCA with an awareness of at least 9 new or returning members from recent property transitions. Part of today's survey information and others received will hopefully result in explanation of rise in Non-member rate. (Last fall, there were 166 members and 40 non-members.) Lorie also acknowledged the help of all the canvassing volunteers: Margot Withey, John Harnett, Wendy Butler, Pat Stallaert, Amy Fletcher, Lorie Butkus-Hill, Christina Candy, Janet Vander Ploeg, Wendy Rudd, Dave McDonald, Diane Burke, Sandra Knox, Chris Langman, Cathy Wilson, Eileen Walsh and Pat Simmons).

Lorie also suggested all members should go online to read FOCA newsletters, a reliable source of information as this is part of what the SLCA membership in FOCA provides our members. (Link – www.FOCA.on.ca).

Treasurer- Dave McDonald

There was an overall expected loss this past year mainly do to SLCA sponsored social events including the pig roast last Sept. and this year's summer activities in the amount of approximately \$2600. This will change shortly however as currently not in possession of the June annual investment schedules from the bank and there will be additional income and expenses.

This predicted loss is not of concern as we have been profitable most other years and we had savings due to little or no social activities during the pandemic), as well as lower insurance costs that help offset this loss. Currently SLCA has \$36,266 in investments, cashable GIC's at Scotiabank and current higher interest rates will also benefit us.

While presenting his financial report, a discussion on the floor resulted with the suggestion that perhaps the SLCA should raise its annual membership fees which have remained at \$30 for over 17 years. Pat Stallaert responded by saying that the SLCA Board frequently revisits the issue of our membership fees at our Board meetings. In comparison, our fees are considerably lower than neighbouring lake associations (LWRA, Shawano, Baptiste...), but we have a far higher participation rate on our lake. Many of the larger costs we incur on an ongoing basis, like our website and newsletter, are greatly subsidized by ad revenue from our many sponsors.

Mike Duggan suggested that rather than to raise our fees, our priority should be in maintaining or even increasing our participation among property owners on Steenburg Lake. There was general consensus from the membership and Pat Stallaert advised that the matter will be further discussed at our upcoming Board meetings.

Lake Steward- Suzanne Parker

Suzanne introduced herself as Lake Steward as of Fall virtual AGM Sept./22 but in actual practice as of this spring; including her presence on Steenburg as part of the SLCA cottagers (nee Moffatt) 1966-1979 South Road cottage to 1980 Wesley & Peggy Moffatt residents and active SLCA members to her current residence full time since 2016 on the North Road. She gratefully acknowledged the assistance of the current Lake Level Committee (David Langman, Rick Burke, Gordon Schad and Anthony Genovese) as well as Pat Stallaert for their help in educating her in the lake steward role. This help also included taking spring samples to test for invasive species presence by Chris & David Langman as our Lake Steward currently has no boat.

Current invasive species report included in the Spring Newsletter (link provides information) indicates no presence of either zebra mussels or spiny water flea but also indicates the current level of calcium in the water is ideal to support such species if introduced. The strong message also in the newsletter; signage at the boat launch & public beach (where small boat launching continues despite the barriers present to keep this a swimming only location between June 15th and September 15th); and in the newsletter posted online is to educate and practice the CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY steps every time a boat exists one body of water and enters a different body of water. It is now the law, and fines for not adhering to the regulations can be very significant.

Question from Jimmy Nevins inquiring about placing a wash station at the boat launch was discussed.

The executive will discuss this further at their next meeting. Pat Stallaert offered that this practice is being observed at Limerick Lake and an approved wash agent is used; which raised comments regarding chemical seepage from wash station and location of wash station; As well as funding and observation/policing. Patrice raised the issue of educating the boat rental companies that service the cottage rental industry and visitors renting boats.

Pat also raised the current plight of nearby Wollaston Lake combatting both zebra mussels and more importantly an invasive plant species known as Eurasian milfoil problem. All Steenburg Lake residents and visitors need awareness and consistent lake stewardship practices to avoid this happening here.

Suzanne asked David Langman to report on the **Lake Level Committee** efforts to establish a stable lake level in partnership with CVCA representatives on Steenburg Lake. David reported their successful installation of a gauge to record lake level currently a 500mm target level. CVCA uses 2 & 3 log levels as a measure. Recent past 2 years' levels were remarkably high due to beaver dam construction which in practice when demolished only appear very quickly rebuilt. Weather pattern changes and events also contribute. Currently the lake level has stabilized. David also explained his "swine-nometer" dock device calibrated to the gauge level for ease of ability to read levels more frequently. He also described the ability to kayak through the culverts, under the North Road and up the creek beyond the gauge.

Suzanne also thanked Rick Burke, Gord Schad & Jimmy Nevins for their efforts in constructing the loon platforms and for the successful nesting and hatching of loons again on Steenburg Lake, but as it turns out, the one pair of loons who successfully mated and raised two young loons this summer, did so on the shore of Walsh Island, without the aid of floating platforms; to which all those present applauded.

Brent Taylor inquired about our current invasive plant species status, to which Suzanne replied that was her next avenue of education and exploration as lake steward.

Merchandise – current vacancy

Pat Stallaert once again thanked Mel Donin for all her past efforts in this role for 3+ years; especially her establishment of an Steenburg Lake "**e-Store**" where specific items can be ordered directly online in the size and colour desired. Bulk merchandise was on discount sale at the meeting and was available at both the Beach Regatta and the Artisan Show thanks to Heather Stallaert, though these items are limited in selection and tend to be generally smaller sizes and include some of the drinkware. Pat also reiterated our current need for someone to take over this role.

David Langman suggested asking if the local businesses might be approached to carry lake merchandise. I.e. The Old Hastings Mercantile Gallery; Coe Hill Mart; new St. Ola Station; Rustic Restaurant.

Internet- Anthony Genovese's report was presented by Pat Stallaert

Regarding Internet status, not much has changed since my (Anthony's) Newsletter report in the spring.

At this time, StarLink is the fastest option for those who have an unobstructed sky, but is a bit pricy. The summer sale on the equipment had pricing of \$199, and the service costs \$140/month.

The Rogers Cellular/Internet tower near our lake, part of the EORN government assisted program, is

scheduled to be completed soon, but we have no visibility of the timing. It must be completed by 2025, but we were told this tower is part of their first phase. So hopefully it will be available for next summer. NRN launched its first tower to a limited audience, and is looking for places to deploy additional towers around the lake. The SLCA member discount of free installation, and a \$50 credit expired on July 31st. The further expansion and support of this service will be led by a new partner, Rural-Link.

Old Business – reported by Pat Stallaert

Mining update - to the best of our knowledge, nothing is taking place with respect to mining exploration is taking place currently but we are keeping in close contact with other area lake associations and the townships on this topic.

Land 'escapes – significant logging has been noted on both North and South Roads of the lake. A large part of the land further south and in smaller parcels is currently being donated to a Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited thus resulting in a 75% tax reduction and loss of revenue for the townships involved.

AED – Thanks is expressed to the Prowse family for the new AED now located at 456 the South Road (the Hills home). New AED fridge magnets were distributed during the canvassing campaign, but a printing error was discovered in the address of the South AED (should read South Road, not North Road...). New corrected magnets were distributed at the meeting and all members are asked to check their magnets and arrange to exchange the errant magnets with either Lorie Butkus-Hill or Pat Stallaert to get the incorrect ones recycled responsibly and out of circulation. There are now 2 AED units available, one on each of the North and South roads. Signage is provided at the driveway and at the shoreline of the host properties.

ONCA Compliance – The new Not for Profit Corporations Act was passed approximately 2 years ago and we will be required to be in compliance by November 2024. Dave McDonald and Pat Stallaert, with the expert volunteered assistance of Tom Little have since reworked our 2 ½ pages of existing by-laws to comply with the legislation. SLCA predates FOCA and has been in existence for 65 years. As an example of the kinds of changes now drafted into our by-laws, is a clause for wind up has been added to the reworked version which is almost completed, to designate the distribution of assets to be assigned to various charities at the time of termination. A virtual meeting is planned for late September to present the new draft bylaws and receive feedback from the membership. A draft copy will also be made available through our website.

New Business

Pickle ball petition – Patrice Simmons and Mike Duggan updated us on the status of the petition being submitted to Limerick Council by Clerk Victoria Tisdale on behalf of the request for this needed amenity at the Limerick Township Community Centre for use by all.

FireSmart Program – A PowerPoint presentation of the FireSmart program was delivered. Pat Stallaert explained that the goal of the program is not to eliminate wildland fires, but to reduce the loss of homes and structures by making them more resilient to the spread of fires. Printed material was handed out including a simple self assessment form. Pat stressed the importance of completing the homeowner's assessment. This helps the local fire department better address fire calls. Pamphlets were distributed at the meeting. The self assessment tool is for private use and will not affect your insurance rates.

Link www.firesmartcanada.ca

Election of Officers and Directors

A motion to confirm the position of Newsletter Editor was made by Sharon Langman and seconded by Christiane Langman passed, officially making Lannie Johansen our new Newsletter Editor.

No volunteers for the positions of Vice President, Merchandise or Secretary were received so these positions remain vacant at this time.

President Pat Stallaert also expresses his willingness to mentor a VP this year after his past 8 years as President of the SLCA and indicates that this will be his final year.

Survey – prize basket of Steenburg merchandise draw was won by Lannie Johansen.

Adjournment – Mike Duggan moved to adjourn and seconded by Lannie Johansen approx. 12:20pm