

**MCGREGOR LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2020 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Peter Barton Chaired the meeting.

Acknowledged those attending who were not yet members and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the agenda was adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Barton noted that Stephane Grenier has developed a proposal for better accommodating Wakesurfing on the Lake, this will be discussed in new business.

\$5000-\$6000 will be spent on milfoil project this year. Waiting for marker buoys which are on back order, and will also be installing information buoys to educate about milfoil. Will be needing volunteers to help with installation and will put a call out when we are ready to go.

Federation des Lacs de Vals-des-Monts (FDLVDM or the Federation) which has been the leader on water quality issues for the watershed has had their funding discontinued by the Municipality. Consequently, FDLVDM is expected to wind down their current operations which were linked to the municipality's service agreement and replace the Federation with a new entity and charter.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Deborah Morrison presented the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020.

Overall there have been increases in most of our expenses. She noted we recognize revenues and expenses as they are incurred therefore there is a gap between costs and revenues earned from t-shirt and other merchandise sales.

The association is anticipating significant increases in milfoil project expenses GICs in our reserves will cover these expenses for the installation and short term, however we will need to raise revenues to maintain these installations in future years.

Due to the rising operating costs for the Association and the lack of any membership increase since 2014, she is recommending an increase in membership fees to \$50 in 2021.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, the financial report was accepted.

Mary Carman asked if we could have a motion from members to specifically approve the fee increase for 2021.

Member discussion included :

Have other revenue streams been considered? Peter Barton responded that directors are looking at grants, but they are uncertain and it takes a lot of time and effort.

Bob Kerr said that expanding our membership base would be really helpful – encouraging everyone to talk to their own neighbors about becoming members. Another suggestion was to ask for the municipality's help perhaps a levy for association in the boat launch fees or on taxes.

Question was asked about total members vs total residents. Mary Carman responded that we typically have around 149 members, 430 residents are listed on the municipal roll.

Suggestion to consider fundraising on Facebook page, pinning a stronger membership ask. Also consider a Fundraising Drive at grocery store?

Another suggestion was raising money for special drives (Milfoil for example) since some residents may not respond to the idea of a general annual fee but may be motivated to support specific priorities.

Association hasn't always been responsive to emails, may be part of the issue.

On a motion duly made and seconded, Motion to raise membership fees to \$50 for 2021 was voted on by a show of hands with the majority of members present in favour.

FDLVDM

Bob LaFleur reported that Federation was originally formed with a specific mandate to undertake a comprehensive scientific study of the health of all lakes in the municipality. Founding charter and funding model included funding from the Municipality and Lake Associations, and was the basis of operations for many years. Agreement was up for renewal last year, and was informed by the municipality that they would not be renewing the partnership. This is recent news and the Federation's AGM has been delayed to provide the board of directors with time to develop options for the role of the Federation going forward to be presented to members. The people who will vote on the proposed options for the future of the Federation will be participating members of the lake associations in the federation. Will keep MLA informed of developments

Member discussion included:

Mayor indicated he would be addressing this issue in his remarks.

Question about formal position of MLA – Peter Barton responded that association view is that current federation should be wound up, establish a new federation with a different mandate. It would not do all the studies it used to since the municipality is planning to undertake these, however, the new federation would continue to advocate on behalf of the lakes.

Question about why MLA didn't pay FDLVDM fee in 2019 – Deborah Morrison said not intentional, she didn't get an invoice and didn't notice that it was never paid until

preparing the financial statements. Bob LaFleur added that an invoice wasn't sent since Federation decided last year to make membership free. Some of the larger lakes were asked to continue to pay voluntarily, if McGregor would like to provide financial support voluntarily this would be welcome.

What will happen to En Bref – the Municipality's publication which includes very useful information from the Federation. Implored the Mayor to continue to include information from the Federation in the publication.

WATER QUALITY

Peter Barton reported that Ecoli testing was completed this year in mid-July. Website shows map where there were two areas with exceptionally high levels (over 100 counts) where you wouldn't want to swim and three other levels that were also high relative to historic results. Most of the lake is under 2 counts (not able to read any level of Ecoli). Drinking water quality is 0-.2 counts.

With those results, association redid the 5 high areas, with substantially lower results. The two highest levels were 0 the second time, assumption is that the first result was likely due to animal feces present during testing – from deer, dog, or most probably aquatic life.

Creek from Lac Brossard, and opening of Mud Bay remained the same. Typically have higher levels. We've been doing this testing for 50 years, usually counts are highest at mouths of creeks and rivers. We will continue to monitor areas with elevated test results.

Member discussion included:

Question: Can you kill EColi by boiling water? WHO website says you can destroy it by boiling water for 1 minute. (3 minutes at elevations about 650ft)

Question about when results/how are reported to Municipality. Association publishes results regularly, only contacts the municipality if there is persistent evidence of a problem (ie leaking septic tank) but so far have only seen consistent results at two points where natural runoff causes elevated levels of Ecoli. Municipality's efforts to inspect septic systems has contributed to continued good results for water quality.

Phosphorous Testing has also been done over past years by FDLVDM within a week of ice out. This test is to measure water quality deterioration due to fertilizers and other lawn chemicals. Determines if the lake becoming more susceptible to weeds and algae ie BlueGreen Algae. Hoping that may be part of the work that Federation continues. Not completed this year, because we were in lockdown when the ice went out.

MILFOIL PRESENTATION

Sue Featherstone has been leading the Milfoil project on behalf of the Association. Report is also available on the website. Last year, distributed infographic to all members so people could assist in identifying milfoil presence in their areas. Commissioned a study from AVB7 to update mapping conducted in 2021 and 2015 of problem areas where Milfoil

present. New report gives us a guide to where trouble spots are. Buoys will be placed to reduce traffic in densest weed beds to try to prevent/reduce further spreading.

5-6 areas with highest concentrations of Milfoil being prioritised: 2 in Baie Cornue, 2 in Mud Bay, and 2 near Baie Mouton. The areas will be marked with yellow buoys once we receive them.

Association met last November with Mayor to brief about the report and get full support to continue with marking and education program. Bigger challenge is continuing to raise awareness, particularly among visitors to the lake who may not know what the yellow buoys mean. Talking with the Municipality about signage and education materials at the boat launch, as well municipality is planning to install a boat wash that will be a significant help in reducing the introduction of more milfoil and other invasive species into the lake.

Association is researching possibility of installing jute (burlap) in the most problematic area which is the only way to remediate and remove Milfoil. But it is cost prohibitive and would require support from municipality or province.

Members were reminded not to attempt to remove milfoil on their own. Once its installed very hard to get rid of... because pulling it out yourself only enables the weed to propagate faster thus increasing the spread – which is why its called a “zombie plant.”

Another big factor that encourages Milfoil spread is development at the shoreline – how we manage development activity within 5 feet of shoreline is directly correlated to propagation of Milfoil.

Peter Barton mentioned that he will be calling on volunteers from water testing to assist with buoy installation. Was remiss earlier in not acknowledging the tremendous response to our call for volunteers for water testing – wants to extend thanks for your support and assistance.

MEMBERSHIP

Mary Carman reported that 134 members this year, a reduction from last year, but likely due to COVID and reduced number of in person activities where people usually sign up. Number of members paying by cash or cheque was much less this year than by electronic means – 24 cash/cheque; 51 etransfer, 58 paypal. Appreciate the help of volunteers to deliver plaques and stickers to registered members. Anyone who needs a replacement plaque for their dock or boathouse should just let us know. It’s an expense but one of the easiest ways to promote the association among other lake residents.

Member question: is the list public? Mary Carman responded it is not public, best to look for plaques and stickers. But you can contact association to inquire about specific members. We also do campaigns door to door in usual years (not this year) We know from the tax roll who the potential members are.

Comparatively, Grand Lake has 100% membership whereas we have one third. Wondering how they do it? Another member explained that Grand residents are on a private road, therefore member fee is embedded in annual levy each resident pays for road maintenance.

ELECTION OF BOARD DIRECTORS

Bob Kerr reported that current board members willing to stand in nomination this year included:

Gary Anka
Perter Barton (President)
Mary Carman (Membership)
Shawna David
Bob Kerr (past President)
Bob LaFleur

Elisabeth Logue
Deb Morrison (Treasurer)
Deena Ryan
Helene Valin

Board extended thanks to Sue Featherstone for her hard work on Milfoil Project , and to Lindsay Smith who has stepped down due to other demands due to COVID.

Peter Barton is staying on as President until such time as a new President is confirmed possibly at a board meeting before the next AGM.

The floor was opened for futher nominations. It was noted that members may wish to get more information about roles and opportunities with the association after the meeting.

Stephane Grenier offered his name for nomination.

Bob Kerr noted that current bylaws require between 12-18 board members. Proposed a motion to amend the number of board of directors to 10-18.

On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the current number of board members was revised to range between 10-18 members.

The meeting then returned to the motion to elect board of members as presented on the floor

On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the nominations for members to the board of directors were elected.

A member asked about Liability consideration for board of directors, Mary Carman responded that our general liability and directors insurance covers all activities of the association with respect to buoy installation, regatta and other events as well as indemnification of board members.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Jacques Laurin spoke to members. COVID restrictions were a very difficult matter, lobbied provincial representatives to successfully ease restrictions for May but found that time personally stressful, as he received many inappropriate messages and threats to his family.

Given recent safety incidents, Municipality is investing in new emergency equipment needed. There will be a new fire station on St. Joseph and they have purchased a ladder

truck. They also now have in inventory, an emergency boat, an ATV, and 6X6 to better access lakefront terrains.

He was pleased to announce 2.4 million in funding was received last week to fix Sauve and Watson Roads. Work will be done in 2021. Montee Paiment work is completed.

With respect to the Boat wash – the municipality is looking to buy a station next year, however the location for that wash station has not yet been decided.

FDLVDM renewal was coming up, they were looking for more resources, Municipality looked at it and determined that it would be more efficient if they could bring some of tasks in house resulting in year round staffing to support these issues. They want to connect this work on water quality with the broader actions related to the watershed that the Federation cannot do. Hoping there will be a full knowledge transfer by bringing Federation staff to work with municipality team. Since the masterplan is now complete and several actions have been identified – working on getting grants and subsidies to undertake this work.

Some members raised concerns over these changes. Independent role of Federation in prioritising environmental issues may be lost to political priorities of municipality. It was also pointed out that Biologist was helpful in preparing the underlying scientific research for RFPs for federation to get funding from other sources, unclear if this information will be as easily available if its protected by municipality access to information protocols. Mayor said move is intended to enhance efforts of Federation, the biologist work will have the same relationship with the Federation, but they will have office and equipment to support them, and biologist will be able to be involved in broader connected issues.

Due to time limitations for meeting under COVID protocols, Peter Barton suggested discussion with Mayor could continue after the meeting to allow time for two more speakers.

Councillor Claude Bergeron reported that there were other reasons for bringing biologist in house. Government wants more work on climate change, this will be part of their portfolio. Also there was another problem with continuing to have biologist as an independent contractor with Federation, needed resolution to confirm with CRA guidelines, so it was easier to resolve the problem by bringing the position in house.

WAKEBOARD STUDY

Stephane Grenier presented a project to explore the possibility of an education campaign to create designated wakeboard areas on the lake to increase safety and enjoyment for all waterfront users on the lake. As part of this, he is also seeking association endorsement for an amendment to the ban on wakeboards at the boat launch. Currently wakeboards are not allowed any access to the boat launch whether they are resident owned or visiting vessels. He has contacted all wakeboard owners on the lake and they would like to see an exception granted for resident owners who would only have a small window to launch and remove their boats at the beginning and end of the season.

Members raised a number of comments about how this issue needed to be part of a broader strategy for educating residents and visitors on water safety and boating courtesies.

Peter Barton commended Stephane on taking this initiative. Given the time constraints of this meeting, he suggested that a committee be struck to work with Stephane to develop a strategy and come back to the board for consideration. Peter Barton volunteered to be part of this working group, as did Deborah Morrison, and Mary Carman.

There being no other business, and the time allotted for the meeting expired, the meeting was terminated at 12:00 pm.