

**Raven Lake Cottagers Association (RLCA)
2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Date: Thursday August 25, 7 pm

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Sean Hungerford, Ross Lawrence, Scott Lewis, Karl Mehisto, Ian Hungerford, Cathy Sequin, Graham Donald, Katie Van Pelt, Danielle Wood, Howard Rowilson, Joanne Julien, Geoff Gooderham

Unable to Attend: Mike Wlodek

- **Welcome – Sean Hungerford**
- Sean welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 56 participants including board members.

- **Motion to Adopt minutes from previous meeting –**
- Motion to adopt 2021 AGM and the 2022 AGM agenda meeting minutes. Kathy Hungerford motioned, and Peter Hungerford seconded. Board motioned to accept. Passed.
- Sean thanked all those on the Board for their service and hard work.

- **Membership recap – Cathy Sequin**
- 109 members to date. 175 with communal memberships, fairly consistent even through COVID, strong support for the association.

- **Financial update –Ross Lawrence**
- RLCA bank balance \$16,651
- Motion to accept the financial report, Elizabeth Miller & John McLeod as a 1st and Susan Cadman as a 2nd.
- Motion accepted from the board to accept.

- **Lake report – Jo Ann Julien**
- Most recent published water data, phosphorous levels up from 2010-2013, low calcium due to the result of acid rain combined with granite rock. Low calcium will start to affect the food source for fish and is the reason the lake has no crayfish or snails; shells cannot develop below the level of 5.0 our level on Raven is 1.5.
- The friends of Muskoka watershed started an initiative to collect ash from clean fires (no pressure treated wood, no paint, no stain, no garbage). Ash is collected and stored in metal garbage can with a lid to keep it dry. This is 20% calcium. Then in the spring it is scattered in the forested areas and gardens (no live embers please). The trees are also low in calcium, so what they don't absorb will make its way to the water benefiting both. Good results have been seen with this approach.

- I have also asked about visitors/cottagers bathing in the lake with soap. No soap is safe for use in the lake even the biodegradable. Never, ever wash your boat, your toys your dog, or your body with soap please, Do this at least 30 meters from the lake or other water source.
 - Secchi depth means a disc you lower into the water to give us a reading for water clarity. We do this every two week.
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- **Communication Report – Katie Van Pelt**
 - RLCA email list has grown from 170 in 2021 to 187 recipients in 2022. RLCA emails are opened on average by 88% of recipients.
 - RLCA FB page has 619 followers, this is an increase of 63 followers since last year’s AGM.
 - The posts with the highest reach since last year’s AGM are the notice of stick dock removal in the fall, Winter arriving on Raven in January, the annual ice out contest in March and news of our new public docks being installed.
 - A few fun facts about RLCA FB page followers are: 514 in Canada, 32 in the US, 3 in the UK, the rest are random countries like India, Norway, Sweden and Portugal, the top three cities in Canada are Toronto, Haliburton and Barrie. No change in the top cities that our followers are in this year.
 - Side Note: feel free to use the visitor/community part of the Facebook page if you are looking for lost items, selling items, or just want to post general fun things they see around the lake. Or send us a message on Facebook about something you would like to share, and we can chat about how it should be posted.
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- **Newsletter Report – Danielle Wood**
 - 2022 newsletter was shared on April 5th, the newsletter was published to the RLCA website and the RLCA Facebook Page shared over email with the RLCA email contact list. The 2022 newsletter was sent to 185 RLCA contacts and opened 194 times.
 - Bigger than ever, 37 pages, thanks you to all the contributors. We learned about the history of the lake, Robinson’s hot new gelato spot, and received an offer to stargaze. If you haven’t read it yet, be sure to check it out.
 - Please check your photos from the summer and be sure to share the best ones for a change to be featured in next Spring’s newsletter.
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- **Landing Committee Report – Sean Hungerford**
 - On behalf of the RLCA Board and all the Raven Lake residents I would like to extend a thank you to the RLCA Landing Committee volunteers (Craig Stoyles, George Kenins, Graham Donald, Mike Wlodek, Peter Hungerford, Ross Lawrence, Scott Lewis, Sean Hungerford, Tom Wilson) for many months and in some cases years of work that went into the establishment and implementation of the docking project.
 - I would like to extend a special thank you to : Scott Lewis who led the landing project starting in ~2010, working with the MNR, both Townships and our lawyers to secure official support for the docking project... Mike Wlodek who managed the Landing

Cleanup project, created and (managed the RFP and vendor selection processes and worked through the initial project schedule with the vendor.....Bill Mooney, Harry Wilson and Karl Mehisto for their work on the landing project starting in 2007, working with MNRF and the Townships to lay the groundwork for the new RLDA docks.

- This spring the RLCA Board of Directors voted to separate the Raven Landing Project from the RLCA. The RLCA landing committee completed its mandate of securing a Land Use Permit with the MNRF, securing rezoning approval from the Township of Lake of Bays, securing a Vendor for the projects and completing the installation of phase 1 and part of phase 2 of the docking project.
- Management of the docking project has now been handed over to the water access residents (owners) who purchased a slip in the project, and who have now elected a new Raven Lake Docking Association (RLDA) Board of Directors from their membership.
- **Raven Lake Dock Association (RLDA) Update- Graham Donald**
- Graham gave a huge thanks to Sean Hungerford for his time spent on the new docks as well as Mike Wlodek.
- Thank you to all the RLDA members, neighbours, and others in the Raven Lake community who have been patient through the installation of the new docks this year.
- Completion of construction is anticipated in the next several days.
- The RLDA currently has 76 members with each assigned one boat slip.
- The RLDA has elected a Board of Directors with 13 members with broad representation around the lake and a great depth of relevant experience.
- There are 3 board members on the RLDA and RLCA board to ensure good communication and collaboration between the organizations.
- The directors are sharing numerous responsibilities including accounting, legal, membership, communications, and maintenance.
- We have legal representation, Chris Holmes, based in Huntsville, who is guiding us on the development of by-laws and rules that will be presented to the membership in the coming months.
- We hired Owen Bache, an accountant based in Bracebridge, to oversee the RLDA's finances and annual filings.
- After all members have had time with their own slips (after completion of Dock D), we will facilitate some "slip swapping" where feasible.
- We have received one or two additional enquiries from water-access property owners to join the RLDA; we have not determined the process or costs for adding additional members, but we are committed to fitting as many water access property owners as required.
- We will host an RLDA members meeting in the near future to provide updates and discuss other matters of interest to members.

- **RLCA Board Elections- Ross Lawrence**
- Nominees for 2022-2023: Returning Board Members: Amanda Hungerford, Cathy Sequin, Danielle Wood, Geoff Gooderham, Ian Hungerford, Karl Mehisto, Katie Van Pelt, Mike Wlodek, Ross Lawrence, Scott Lewis, Sean Hungerford
- New Board Members: Adrian Cammaert, Cathy Stephens, Harrison Gregoire, Harry Wilson.
- Additional Nominees from the floor?
- No nominees from the floor.
- Motion to accept the 2022-2023 nominees, 1st by Jim Stephens, 2nd by Elizabeth Miller and John McLeod.
- Motion passed.
- Thank you by Sean to the new members.

- **New business:**

- **2023 Social Events- Regatta, In Person AGM & Corn Roast- Amanda & Sean Hungerford**
- 2023 Regatta: Amanda and Ian Hungerford, together with a great group of volunteers will be coordinating the 2023 RLCA Regatta. Volunteers are needed to coordinate event support, station leads, bake sale, BBQ, set-up, tear-down, awards, site clean-up, sound.
- Please reach out to Amanda to volunteer.
- 2023 In person AGM & Corn Roast: Heather Lawrence has volunteered to coordinate the Corn Roast in 2023, an in-person AGM and Corn Roast will be dependent on the state of the world and potentially another membership survey to gauge interest and attendance.
- Sean discussed next years in person events based on survey and world health.

- **Ways and Means (Good neighbour) Committee – Harry Wilson**
- Objectives of the committee: to identify, explore, understand and (within the limits of RLCA jurisdiction) act on issues arising from use of the HWY 35 landing, to pursue positive working relationships with the other landing stakeholders such as MNRF, LOB & Algonquin Highlands Townships, snowmobile, and ATV groups, to foster “Good Neighbours, Good Stewards” behaviour at the landing. To be responsive to the needs and concerns of fellow Ravens whose homes are close to this particular hub of lake activity, and to the health of the natural environment and to work in concert with all stakeholders for the betterment of all landing users.
- Initiatives undertaken so far in 2022: defined bothersome landing use issues, such as ambient night light spillage, excessive evening noise, inappropriate recreational vehicle cleaning/servicing practices, garbage and drop-offs, proposed an education program for all landing users including, but not limited to, emails, newsletter and other communication articles, installations of a “gentle reminder” sign at the landing close to the current wooden RLCA sign, contacted environmental experts about providing an assessment of the current landing shorelines, establish contact, through the RLCA

Board, with other landing stakeholders to see council, permissions and assistance in achieving Ways & Means objectives as identified above.

- Good Neighbour email sent to all 187 RLCA email contacts on May 13th and opened by 168 recipients. Good Neighbour content also included in the spring RLDA Member
- Active volunteers in 2022: Many thanks for the insights, suggestions and actions taken by committee members Dion and Betty Sheppard, Karl Mehisto, Jo Anne Julien, Jen Midgely, Scott Hepburn, Sean Hungerford, Graham Donald, Ross Lawrence, Harrison Gregoire, Sarah Rose Woods.
- **RLCA Constitution and By-Laws**
- RLCA will be working with Chris Holmes out of Huntsville to assist in updating the associations Constitution and By-laws to adhere to the new Ontario Not-For-Profit Corporations Act.
- **RLCA Hazard Buoys**
- 8 additional hazard buoys, rope and weights have been purchased and installed around the lake by the RLCA in 2022. The RLCA now has 14 yellow buoys marking hazards around the lake.
- **Raven Lake Landing – Public Boat Ramp and Docks**
- The Township of Algonquin Highlands (AH) installed 2 new docks and ramps at the landing this spring, these docks were paid for from the AH Parks, Recreations and Trails Budget.
- **Raven Lake Landing – Parking Lot**
- The Township of Lake of Bays (LOB) is continuing to grade and plow the parking lot and maintain the overhead lighting. In the future if a motion is brought to council to make changes to this arrangement, LOB will reach out and engage with the RLCA.
- Sean discussed old wooden RLCA wooden sign that has fallen over, Jeremy from the MNRF is looking into providing permission to the RLCA to fix the existing sign and add another sign with the Good Neighbour language. Ron Brown has agreed to organize repairs of the existing RLCA sign.
- Lake of Bays grades the parking lot and ploughs the snow, Algonquin Highlands maintains the public docks and boat ramp.
- Harry Wilson mentioned a long-standing relationship with LOB and AH and MNRF and RLCA. RLCA has been to maintain the cleanliness of the landing. Discussed garbage, dog excrement, vehicles and boats left for extended periods of time. Need to be mindful of the cleanliness of the landing.
- Peter Hungerford discussed putting out no-parking signs with MTO.
- Questions about dog excrement at the landing, dogs must be on leashes

- **Adjournment: 2023 RLCA AGM Dates- Saturday August 12th or virtual: Thursday August 24th**
- Motion to adjourn the meeting: 1st by Sean Lawrence, 2nd by Corey Tkatchuk