

Kennebec Lake Association 2019 Annual Meeting Report from the Executive

Introduction

Members of the KLA Board of Directors are elected annually at the AGM and the Board is accountable to the Association. This report is presented to the membership as a summary of the activities undertaken on your behalf over the course of the past year.

This group of dedicated volunteers has met regularly over the year and worked to represent your interests and those of the Lake itself. Through this report we hope that you can be satisfied that you are continuing to receive the levels of service that you expect.

Purpose/Mission/Values

Our Constitution defines the mission of the KLA as:

- 1) to provide property owners and other interested parties with the opportunity to unite in pursuit of common interests and concerns relating to the Lake, its watershed and the wider environment, and
- 2) to foster an environmental awareness which will encourage and enable residents, both permanent and seasonal, to safeguard the Lake, its watershed and the land to ensure their enjoyment, now and in the future.

Over fifteen years ago now, the KLA membership developed and adopted a set of five core values that continue to serve as directional guidelines for our actions and decisions taken over the year.

These are:

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Peace and Tranquility
- Nature and Wildlife
- Lifestyle.

These core values are consistently mentioned as the reasons why people chose to visit, cottage or move to Kennebec Lake, and are often cited as 'must haves' for future enjoyment.

Partnerships

Like any similar representative organization, the Kennebec Lake Association does not have regulatory powers. In order to achieve many of our goals, we need to work both with, and through others. The prime decision-making body with whom we work is our local municipality, the Township of Central Frontenac. We are fortunate to have the supportive leadership of Mayor Frances Smith, in conjunction with the encouragement and advice of our two local Councillors from Kennebec District, Tom Dewey and Cindy Kelsey. We have appreciated Councillor Kelsey's attendance when possible at Executive meetings, delivering updates from the Council perspective and inviting our ideas and views.

Other parties with whom we have enjoyed cooperative and productive relationships include:

Friends of Arden	Kennebec and District Historical Society
Friends of Salmon River	Quinte Conservation Authority
Local Artisans	Arden Firefighters
Lake Networking Group	Other local Lake Associations
Federation of Ontario Cottager Associations (FOCA)	

Initiatives

Executive initiatives and activities are organized into three areas of focus:

Environmental/Ecological; Social/Communications; and Administration/External Relations.

Our Executive meetings follow this format and the activities are being reported today in the same fashion.

a) Environment/Ecology

The Stewardship Working Group continued its efforts on behalf of the lake and its environment during the past year, while looking for a new Lake Steward. In June, Charmaine Chartier and Terry Kennedy agreed to share the responsibilities as Lake Steward for the time being. A big thank you is owed again to our two highly qualified resources persons, Aileen and Gray Merriam, for their ongoing work and support of our lake.

The KLA has been monitoring, and where appropriate, provided input to Central Frontenac as the Township has introduced its mandatory 'Septic Re-Inspection Program' in the township. Your Executive has vigorously supported such a program and is keenly watching as it begins with five trout-sensitive lakes elsewhere in Central Frontenac. At an estimated 300 inspections per year, it is feared that it could be several years before the inspections begin on other lakes, such as ours.

Love Your Lake - The KLA made an agreement with Watersheds Canada to take part in the Love Your Lake program in 2018, and shoreline assessments of Kennebec Lake's 295 waterfront properties was completed last summer. You should all have now received your personalized and confidential assessment report for your property. Implementing any recommendations is voluntary but will contribute to the overall health of our beautiful lake. A Lake Summary report which provides an overall picture of our lake is available for review on the KLA website.

b) Social/Communication

Newsletters – Published, distributed/mailed three editions of recognized high calibre newsletter

Website – Maintained website, good resource, currently undergoing updates

Facebook- Maintained page, very popular and well-used, currently 225 members (+100%)

Winter Activity Day – Organized 8th annual day; 80 attendees

Canada/US Day – Organized 8th annual day; about 30 boats and 90 people

Calendars – Increased member submissions, printed and sold 100 copies

Clothing – Supplied clothing as requested

Welcome Packages – Provided to all new residents as we are made aware of arrival

****Keeping track of members and potential members continues to present difficulties as property owners move and don't let us know. Often advising the KLA of a change of an urban residence is not top of mind, with the result that we may receive a returned newsletter but we have no idea what may have happened. So please, let us know of any changes!**

c) Administration/External Relations

- Arden Revitalization – Continued to work closely with Friends of Arden in seeking to move forward with revitalization of local hamlet and surrounding area
- FOCA – Continued to support and provide leadership to the Federation of Cottagers Associations (FOCA) as the provincial umbrella body for cottage associations
- Lake Networking Group – Participated in sharing/exchange of information with other associations in eastern Ontario
- Lake Links – Representation at ongoing meetings for eastern Ontario lake associations
 - Cottage Succession seminar
 - Meeting with OPP re: lake issues
- Kennebec Wilderness Trails - Opened in October 2018, continued work with Central Frontenac and the Kennebec Recreation Committee on the 7 km of beautiful hiking trails, including installation of numerous bridges and benches.
- Central Frontenac Official Plan- The Township is currently hosting its' second set of public open houses for the updated official plan which will lay out the direction of the township, development and environmental protection in the coming 10-20 years. The KLA has provided input and will continue to closely monitor this important issue.

Anticipated Activities Next Year

- Emphasize Stewardship activities in general
- Seek new volunteers to the KLA for the Executive and assistance with specific events as some members begin to turn over the reins
- Continue with updating the KLA Website
- Continue with education efforts in Boating & cottage safety
- Continue pushing for development of Township Septic Maintenance and Assessment Program
- Workshops/Seminars: Lake Links/ Lake Networking Group
FOCA AGM

Appreciation

- Gloria & Peter Smiley for their many years of hard work & dedication
- Central Frontenac Council and Staff for their support, advice and assistance
- AGM Committee for organizing this day
- Exhibitors for taking time to be with us and sharing thoughts and messages with us
- Nature Clean for donating gift basket as draw prize
- Deb Hartwick for the refreshments we have enjoyed today
- KLA Executive – Personal thanks for the support and hard work
- Others – Charlotte DuChene, Aileen Merriam, Gray Merriam

On behalf of the Executive,
Kevin LaPorte
Chair