Chaffey's Area Lakes Association (CALA)
Minutes for the 2008 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
July 12, 2008

Call To Order

- The AGM was called to order at 10:08 am by the President, Walter Ebaugh.
- Walt welcomed guest Dr. Bruce Tufts, director of Queens University Biological Station (QUBS).
- Walt noted the passing of member Eric Deavey.
- Walt welcomed two new members, Heather Arnold and Kim Kirmmse Toth.
- Walt identified other current board members: Jim Swartz (Vice-President), Mary Eeg (Treasurer, absent), Dani Ebaugh (Secretary), and Brian Patterson (board member, absent).

Additions To Agenda

None.

Announcements

- Jim Swartz announced that the Chaffeys Lock's annual corn roast will be held on August 2. The boat parade will be at 1:00pm. First, second, third and people's choice prizes will be awarded. The boat race will be held at 4pm. A band will be playing in the evening until 9:00pm.
- Walt noted that Mr. Holman, mayor of Elgin, was at another lake association meeting, and might come by later. (It turned out that he was not able to attend our meeting).

Routine Business

- No errors or omissions in 2007 AGM minutes.
- Approval of 2007 AGM minutes
    - Motion: Pat Brown
    - 2nd: Shannon McCorquodale, carried
- Approval of 2007 Accounts Summary and 2008 Budget
    - Walt summarized the Accounts Summary. There is currently $3800 in the bank account. $487 was spent to print 1000 CALA pamphlets. Walt asked that members distribute the pamphlets to non-members.
    - There was no 2008 budget given.
- Election of Directors
    - John Gordon and Shannon McCorquodale were nominated as new board members. Walt noted that one of Shannon McCorquodale's roles will be to strengthen CALA's ties with QUBS.
    - Changes were approved with no objection.

Director Reports

- Green Algae Bloom in June – Jim Swartz
    - Jim emphasized that this algae is not the dangerous blue-green algae, which, if present in the water, prevents swimming and drinking.
    - The algae bloom is caused by abnormal phosphorus levels in the lakes (too low or too high), or by an increase in sunlight.

- Phosphorus levels are increased by malfunctioning septic tanks, storm water runoff, falling leaves, lawn fertilizer, etc. The phosphorus level in Indian lake is 12 mg per liter, which is considered to be a moderate level. Very low levels are considered to be 0 – 10, moderate levels 10 – 20, and high levels > 20. High levels cause lakes to be choked with vegetation.
- The increase in sunlight is caused when zebra mussels eat the free-floating algae, which makes the lake water clearer. Clarity levels in Indian Lake used to be 12 feet (i.e., visibility down to 12 feet), and now it is 18 – 20 feet.
- The algae is a June phenomenon, and is gone by July. One theory on its' demise is that as the algae consumes carbon dioxide and excretes oxygen, the oxygen levels in the lake become higher. Since a living organ cannot live in it's own excrement, the algae dies.
- A member noted that the township has started to inspect septic tanks. Owners will get notified by mail to contact the inspector and schedule the inspection.
- Jim said he would send out a list of URL's on the algae bloom by email at a later date.

<u>Presentation by Dr. Brian Tufts</u>

- Dr. Brian Tufts, a professor in the Biology Department at Queens University, has been the director of QUBS for the past 3 years.
- General
  - QUBS was started in 1944 on 30 acres of land with one Quonset hut and a mandate to provide research opportunities, education, and conservation. In 2000 the current lodge was built. Currently QUBS has 7,000 acres and 6 to 7 lakes.
  - Researchers and faculty come from all over the world. Most however come from colleges in Ontario.
  - Use at QUBS is at 10,000 user days per year (1 user day = 1 person using the facilities per day), and is at capacity.
  - QUBS used to be small, but now has potential to be one of the best inland research stations in the world.
  - QUBS's current budget is the same as it was when it was created. Dr. Tufts wants to reach outside of the University for new funding. He set up an endowment fund where the interest can be spent, but not the capital. Anyone can contribute – call 359-5269 to do so.
  - The Nature Conservancy was given the Hewlet Packard (HP) retreat, and QUBS will manage it. Queen's University will pay $500,000 for the property.
  - Dr. Tufts wants the public to feel free to contact QUBS with any questions.
  - Dr. Tufts proposed holding lectures/dinners for people in the community. CALA members agreed this is a good idea.
- Education
  - Field courses are offered in the spring and fall after/before classes at Queen's. They are very popular. They are held outdoors for small groups.

    - Workshops are offered for the community, normally on weekends. Mr. Tufts wants to offer more.
    - Studies include basic science on ecosystems, plants, and animals.
    - One idea is to hold a biology summer camp at the former HP retreat.
- Research
    - This is a big part of the QUBS use.
    - Research often gets published, and then works it's way into textbooks.
    - Research is often applied science – what is happening when things are not working right. Examples of such issues are zebra mussels and the green algae blooms. Work on these issues depends on a good foundation in basic science.
- Conservation
    - Currently Paul Martin, the new Bailey Chair (which is funded privately), studies birds in trouble. Many people are working with him. In the process, a great deal of knowledge is being learned about birds – mating, territory, communications, etc.
    - Aquatic work is also being done, such as:
        - Recreational Fishing - How can recreational fishing be done which doesn't stress the environment? Which fish should be released? How can the impact of fishing tournaments be minimized? How should fish sanctuaries be managed? Fish sanctuaries are under government control, yet they cannot be managed and research cannot be done because of inadequate government resources. Fish sanctuaries cannot be managed adequately without research. QUBS can help here.
        - Bass Fishing - Bass population is doing well in Ontario. Ontario is the current northern limit for bass. The climate is getting warmer, which is better for bass. We want numbers and quality fish. A big bass is 15 years old. It is better to release big fish and keep 13 – 15 inch bass. There is a theory that if big fish are culled from a lake, small fish become more common, and don't grow as big as the fish that were culled. Sometimes it is better to help the natural population of fish in a lake than it is to stock new fish into the lake.

<u>Miscellaneous</u>

- Walt stressed that he wants to obtain as many email addresses of people in the area for communication purposes, even if they do not become members of the CALA.
- Walt asked members to send him their neighbors' email addresses. He has 120 email addresses at this time.

<u>Adjourn</u>

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 noon.