

White Trout Road Association AGM

May 16, 2015

Lions' Camp Dorset

Members Present: Lee Armstrong, Trudy Baker, Clarke, Gary & Sara Coulson, Robert Devries, Greg & Trish Douglas, Don & Roxann Early, Kira Gurovskaya, Sergey Gurovskiy, Jackie Hilchuk, Tom & Karla Hogan, Frank Jasek, Grant Knowlton, Gary Lewis, Joan Meleskie, Keith Morden, Jim Read, Shirley Sumsion, Cathy Thompson, Peter Tschan, Norm Webb, Paul Coulson, David Zechel, Julie Thompson, Sebastian Meneses, Dave Busch (President), Fergus Gamble (Past-President), Corina Zechel (secretary-treasurer)
Regrets: John Fauquier (Vice-President)

President Dave Busch called the meeting to order at 10:04.

Secretary's Report: Corina Zechel thanked all for coming and asked that if those present had not had a chance to sign in, that they do so at the end of the meeting. On the sign-in sheet, in an effort to gather direction from the members on how to set up our new website, there were two extra columns to indicate whether members are in favour of having names and cottage addresses visible to all members on our new website.

Corina thanked all of those members who keep her up to date with contact detail changes. If your contact info has changed, please let Corina know. Corina also reminded road users that if they want to be considered members of WTRA, they need to fill out and sign a membership form. Please contact Corina if you have not yet done so.

Last year a few cottages changed ownership and Corina welcomed the new cottagers on behalf of WTRA. Ida Ulbinas sold her Meeting Trail cottage to Greg and Trish Douglas. Larry and Bev Brooks sold their Summit Drive cottage to Jackie and Steve Hilchuk. Paul and Marj Coulson sold their Tradewinds cottage to son, Gary and daughter in-law Sara Coulson. Chester Weinhold sold his Summit Drive cottage to Alan and Denine Gough.

Road history project update: Corina had offered to do some research and write up a short history of the road for inclusion on our website. After some initial research, the work has stalled but will be continued.

Peter and Ursula Tschan will be the new keepers of the WTRA signs.

Approval of AGM 2014 Minutes: Roxann Early put forward a motion to accept the minutes from last year, seconded by Joan Meleskie, and carried by all.

Treasurer's Report: Corina circulated copies of the financial statements for review by those in attendance. (Attached to the minutes). Corina explained that we had only one road fee from 2014 outstanding at the end of the fiscal year (December 31) which has since been paid. After hiring a paralegal to

pursue a few road users who were in arrears with their road fee payments, we were able to recover the outstanding money. This is the first time in a long time that there are no outstanding road fees. We have a healthy balance in the event that we are faced with an emergency repair situation. Corina went on to explain our expenses. Professional fees reflect the cost of the paralegal. Bank charges have gone up. Administration and other includes cost of paper, stamps and website. The Lion's camp rental is actually a donation we make every year as a thank you for allowing us to use their main room for the AGM.

Lions' Camp Donation: Tom Hogan put forward a motion to donate \$100 to the Lions' Camp of Dorset, seconded by Norm Webb, and carried by all.

Approval of Financial Statement: Grant Knowlton put forward a motion to accept the financial statements as presented, seconded by Roxann Early, and carried by all.

President's Report: David Busch gave members an overview of our road. Created in 1972 after gaining Ministry approval to build it, and incorporated since 2011, WTRA is the largest road association in Ontario. With all of the feeder roads, our road is of significant size and requires a lot of work to maintain, but offers us tremendous convenience and increases the value of our cottages.

Our road fees go towards maintaining the road and paying for insurance which keeps us all protected. The fees have stayed the same for a number of years thanks largely to the maintenance work done by Paul Coulson and others. Without in-house maintenance, we will most likely face increased costs to hire a contractor.

Road Maintenance Report: Dave Busch thanked Paul Coulson, Don Early and Keith Morden for their work on the road. Thanks also to Warren Wilkey for his work on Road B. In 2014 twelve loads of gravel were purchased, with eight loads being distributed over Road A, and four loads over Road B. In total twenty-one metric tonnes were added to our road. Some culverts were reseated and logs and stones removed. Two dangerous gigantic trees were taken down by these men, saving us a lot of money.

Work Bee: Our annual workbee is on Saturday, July 18. Meet at 9:30am at the gravel pit with tools for brushing and ditching.

Paul Coulson: Paul addressed the group. In 1992 he joined the road committee. Prior to this, the work on the road used to be hired out, but he asked why we could not do it ourselves to save some money. Due to his excellent rapport with Fowler, Paul is able to get us a great price on gravel.

For this upcoming season, Paul will continue working on the road, but he is keen to find someone else to take over. Paul's tractor is up for sale and if someone is interested in buying it and continuing the work on the road, please let Paul and/or the WTRA executive know.

There was a question about the cost of contractors. Dave Busch looked into the two contractors in the area but does not have exact figures to compare as the contractors would only give very rough estimates until WTRA was much closer to placing the contract.

Don Early recommended that one way to keep the road in better shape is to slow down. Driving quickly causes the gravel to spread.

Dave Busch recommended that if everyone filled a bucket (located by gravel pile at the top of Clear Lake hill) with some gravel once and a while and added it to a pothole, our road would be in even better shape.

Website: Corina Zechel introduced the website which has been designed and implemented by WTRA vice-president John Fauquier and Karen Thompson. The address is: www.wtra.ca. Take a look! At present the website includes some lovely photos of our road and gives you an idea of the basic information that will be accessible. It will be mainly for communication purposes, where you can go to read newsletters, AGM minutes, by-laws, view maps, etc. It will be a place where we can keep our executive records all in one spot. There will be a sign-in system for all members, and those on the executive will be able to see additional pages/material.

The website will not include a payment option for the foreseeable future as this is very difficult to implement. John and Karen will be working over the summer to finish up the website. Thank you to John and Karen for making this a reality!

Dave Busch retires: Dave Busch is retiring after seven years on the executive, his last three as president and road chair. Past-president Fergus Gamble and Paul Coulson spoke about Dave's tenure in which he accomplished many tasks including writing and implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between WTRA and the Ministry of Natural Resources, facilitating the road association's transition to incorporation, and persisting through our legal challenges. Dave was an excellent road chair, communicating well with the road crew, quick to spot problems and quick to act to resolve them. Dave worked hard in his position because he knew how important the road is to our enjoyment of the cottage, and to its value. Thank you Dave for all of the time and energy you devoted to making WTRA the strong association that it is.

Other Business: Tom Hogan reported that he had marked some trees that have dangerous branches hanging over the road. The road crew will look at

taking these down if it is safe to do so, otherwise we will hire Leonard Lock to remove them.

There was a question about paying road fees via e-transfer. Currently this is not an option, Corina answered, but she will be meeting with a financial advisor to discuss online banking. At present all of our banking is done via cheques/cash and transactions are conducted through a teller.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.