

2017 Lake Vernon AGM
June 10, 2017

Welcome - Tracey Rast

Tracey welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked John Jorgenson and Camp Tawingo for hosting our event.

Guest Speaker: Sgt Steven Mihills, OPP Central Region SAVE

- SAVE is an acronym that stands for Snowmobile, ATV and Vessel Enforcement.
- Sgt Steven Mihills explained that his unit members work year round to keep Ontario's trails and waterways a safe place. The SAVE Unit's goal is to educate the public about new and relevant guidelines and legislation to reduce injuries and deaths on the province's waterways and trails.
- He encouraged the use of proper safety equipment while boating.
- Many deaths on the waterways last year involved alcohol and he pointed out that your driver's licence will be suspended if you drive your boat while intoxicated.

Guest Speaker: Howard Smith, MD of Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

- Howard gave a slide presentation, explained the work that Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary does, to rescue and rehabilitate injured and orphaned native wildlife.
- They release animals into the wild if possible and provide a permanent home for native species unable to survive in the wild due to human interference.

President's Report - Tracey Rast

Approval of 2016 AGM Minutes

- Minutes were approved by Ian Hastie and Chas Clark

Great participation from our Board members

- Fall & Spring board meetings are well attended
- LVA continues to look for a youth rep

The LVA has been communicating on all fronts

- There were over 100 posts on Facebook over the past year, and we are approaching 250 followers.
- LVA receives many web inquiries & emails
 - queries focus on water levels, shoreline, wildlife, home purchases, noise, etc.

An LVA Mandate has been developed and will be posted on our website.

The LVA brings buoys in & out of the lake Spring and Fall

- Lost one buoy last year & the Town has not re-purchased
- It has been decided that we will eliminate Gallagher Island navigation buoys due to the shifting channel

Minor variance & zoning change applications have kept us busy

- We reviewed 12 variance and zoning applications.
- There were issues involving inadequate notice to neighbours regarding zoning applications and multiple "minor" variations, resulting in non-minor changes.
- Tracey and Rick Keevil had meetings with the planning department to discuss communication challenges. They follow the process specified in the Planning Act so cannot vary from this, but agreed that the LVA can post on fb and send via email to relevant members.

Tracey attended relevant stakeholder meetings

- FOCA Meeting, Lake of Bays AGM, Safe Quiet Lakes (policy survey: Your Lakes, Your Views)
- MWC climate change public input sessions
- Town of Huntsville Official Plan review – will resume this August

We have a lot of activity happening on the lake this summer

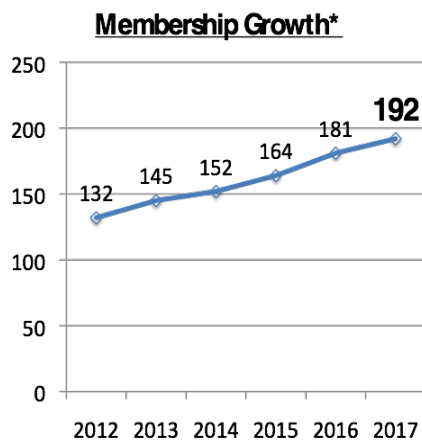
- AGM @ Tawingo – June 10th
- Lake Lemonade Dock– July 1st or 2nd (depending on weather)
 - This will be an outreach opportunity
 - We will give away lemonade and info
 - The floating Lemonade stand will be in the Gallagher Island area
- Family Fun Day @ Hutcheson Beach – July 15th
 - Water-themed activities, crafts + "Float Your Boat"
- President's BBQ – August 19th
 - Deb & Warren Jestin's cottage, 105 Butler Lane
 - BBQ, salads, & BYOB
- LVA Golf Tournament – September 16th
 - North Granite Ridge

Executive Reports

Membership - Chas Clark

- We welcome 12 new families to our Lake Association!
 - Deborah Yeo
 - Ray and Gwen Norkus
 - Norm Goodfellow
 - Meghan Pomeroy
 - Marg Bennett
 - John and Beth Dinsmore
 - Brent Stapleton
 - Anne Lindsay
 - Dennis and Stephanie Huron
 - Reay and Herb Richter

- Cindy and Matthew Williams
- Greg and Trish Harding
- We are increasing members organically at ~ 9% per year but there is great potential for growth
 - There are 192 members families of 421 possible (46% of potential)
 - 41% of paid members opt for Moore Propane discount
 - unpaid members do not receive discount
 - Members are paying late (57% unpaid for 2017)
 - Membership can be paid on the website
 - 78% paying electronically



- We are taking steps to reach out to new families
 - Creating a large generic sign for use at events
 - It helps to associate event with LVA
 - it is retractable for easy mobility
 - We are testing the LVA Lemonade Stand
 - refreshments and information about our LVA
 - Dock-to-dock outreach
 - Board members to approach neighbours about the LVA
 - You can help in your area
 - We are open to ideas and suggestions!

Communications – Deb Jestin

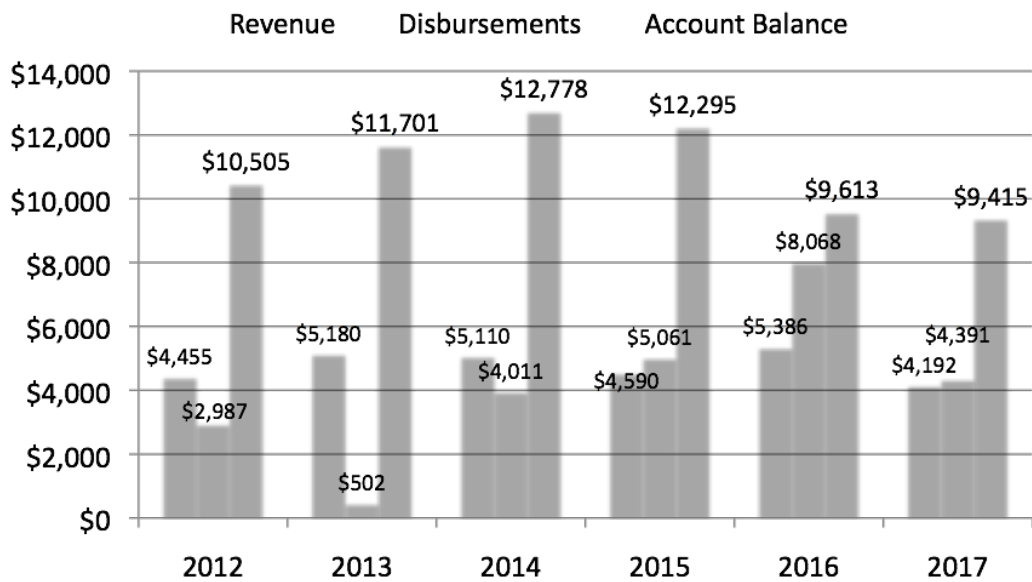
- Newsletter replaced with eNewsletter
 - In April 217 people received the newsletter and 67% opened it
- LVA Website is <http://www.lake-vernon.ca>
- Our Facebook page has 248 followers
- Twitter tag is @ Lake Vernon and has 23 Followers
- LVA email is lva@lake-vernon.ca
- We also communicate using sandwich boards
- Dock to dock outreach
 - Board members to approach neighbours via boat

- Sign up on sheet or contact us via email
- LVA Banner
 - We have created a LVA banner that can be used at our events
- LVA Merchandise
 - Suggestion sheet for merchandise ideas (it is the ballot for the door prize)
 - Hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, key chains, paddles, other ideas?
- Ecottagefilms
 - Your cottage has been filmed and you can view it at <https://ecottagefilms.com/lake/lakevernon>

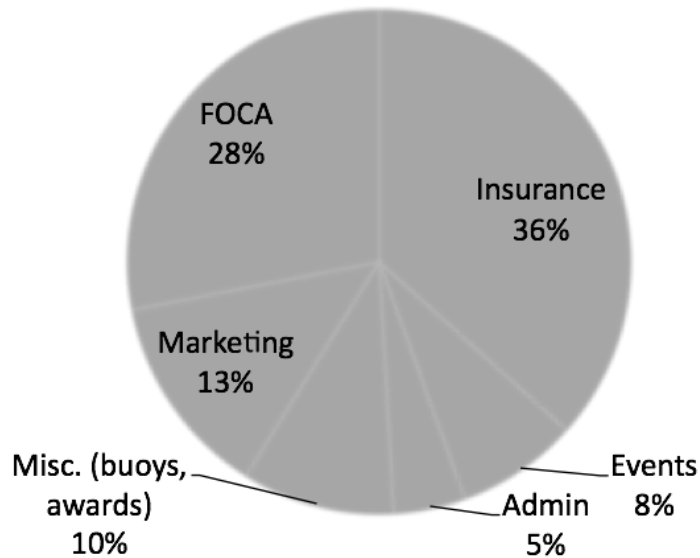
Treasurer - Ken Sharer

- Our revenues and expenses were down last year due to the cancellation of our golf tournament

LVA Revenues & Expenses



Expense Breakdown (June 2016-17)



Environmental Committee – Rick Keevil, John Jorgenson

We have recently received our 2017 benthic monitoring results*

*

						Muskoka Average *
Richness	8	10	16	18	17	14
% EOT	8	5	8	3.6	2	22
% Chironimids	2	12	17	31.7	19	12
% Predators	5	12	6	6.8	7.7	23
% Shredders	3	1	5	2.8	0.3	3
% Collectors/Gatherers	92	80	83	82.6	81.6	70
Hilsenhoff Index	5.96	6.18	6.45	6.68	6.4	6.10

R = Reference Site

26 oligotrophic lakes throughout Muskoka were used.

Completed by Tawingo College students & staff under the direction of a District of Muskoka technician

Observations:

- Some metrics are close to the Muskoka average
 - richness, Hilsenhoff Index (organic pollution)
- Several are out of line with the Muskoka average and require further review
 - possible indications of stress due to human activity
 - EOT% is low (2% vs 22% for Muskoka) and on the decline
 - % chironimids high & increasing
 - % predators are low
 - % of collectors/gathers is higher than Muskoka average
- As always, the Environmental Committee has been busy, advocating on our behalf
 - 2015 Benthic results not good, but insufficient data to draw conclusions
 - Terrestrial plot set up July 2015 will be monitored yearly
 - Continuing with water quality testing, less the UofW Program

- annual Spring sampling for phosphorous & calcium in May
- Invasive species sampling in July
- water clarity throughout the season
- Two “Green Drinks” events have been held with great success
- Great Lake Vernon Paddle Quest will take a break this season because of low participation
- Working with the Town has resulted in the introduction of a new comprehensive Exterior Lighting ByLaw
- The Environment Committee covers an impressive variety of activities
 - Monitoring Activities
 - John Jorgenson presents Benthic monitoring (Tawingo)
 - Invasive species testing (C. Gould)
 - spiny waterflea in 37/129 waterbodies sampled
 - LV has spiny water flea but no zebra mussel
 - Phosphorous & calcium testing
 - Lake Vernon has moderate phosphorous sensitivity
 - Water clarity (D. Jagger)
 - measured in 5 spots, every 2 weeks
 - 2016 water clarity improved
 - analysis of data since 1991 suggests cyclical pattern (~ every 7 years)
 - District of Muskoka Lake System Health
 - Information can be found on Muskoka Water Web
 - 2016 results not yet available
 - We are leading a number of initiatives
 - “Bring Back the Aurora”
 - outdoor lighting bylaw for new construction (now) and existing (2025)
 - will educate members via multi-year communications
 - Green Drinks
 - Popular event held ~ 1-2x/year
 - Great Lake Vernon Paddle Quest
 - 2016 winner: Scott Doyle (cherry paddle) – congrats!
 - participation has not grown after 3 years so is on hold
 - may replace with a sailing/paddling fun event
- Erosion Project
 - areas on the lake have been identified & prioritized
 - working on solutions and costs
 - looking to partner with property owners, possibly the Town
 - investigating a GIS/mapping tool to track environmental data

Lake Vernon Regatta – Elaine Rea

- After 25+ years, we will be trying out a different format to appeal to a wider audience
- Saturday, July 15th, 11am-4pm @ Hutcheson Beach
- Rain date is July 16th

- Water theme to include fun activities and crafts for a broader audience
- Will feature live music by local youth
- Expanding "Float Your Boat" to include sailing (kayaks & SUPs were a success)
- Volunteers needed! Call Elaine Rea for details @ 705 789 7723

LVA Golf Tournament – Evelyn Funston

- The Lake Vernon Golf Tournament resumes, after a one year hiatus, at North Granite Ridge GC
- Date: Saturday, September 16th @ ~ 2:30
- Format: 9 hole scramble, followed by putting contest
- Pricing options:
 - Golfers: \$80 for golf & 3 course meal
 - Non-golfers: \$40 for dinner only
 - Payments can be made by PayPal
- Sign up soon to secure your spot!

Board Nominations – Ian Hastie

- Ken Sharer is moving and is resigning as treasurer
- David McCaw was nominated as new treasurer
- Motioned by Ian Hastie seconded by Chas Clark

Presentation to Ken Sharer

- Tracey thanked Ken Sharer for all of his hard work and dedication on the LVA for over six years
- Ken has been a valued and hard working board member both for the LVA and the LVEA.
- Ken was presented a wooden cheese Board as a thank-you and memento.

Termination & Draw

- A lucky LVA member, George Schnall, won the Muskoka gift basket.