

Acton Island Association

P.O. Box # 271
Bala, ON POC 1A0
Email: contact@ActonIsland.com
Web: www.ActonIsland.com



Report to Members Fall, 2006

Items in this Issue

Report on the AGM
Innisfree Public Dock – Closed to Large Contractors
Municipal Election – Our Recommendations
Your Taxes – Where they Go
Your Mayor and Ward C Councillors – names and contact information
Your Board of Directors - names and contact information

Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held on Sunday, June 25. Highlights of the meeting included:

Mayor Susan Pryke – Speaker

Mayor Pryke addressed the meeting on the significant accomplishments of the past few council terms and the various projects still to be undertaken. Her speech was well thought out, well delivered and well received.

High Speed Internet Provider Forum

Indignet and Candlelight had information tables at the AGM and attendees were able to ask all of their questions.

Acton Island Map

Maps of Acton Island were passed out at the meeting. If you did not attend the meeting a map should have been delivered to your cottage. If you did not receive one please call Leslie McCann at 1-888-707-0883. If you would like more copies, we still have some available. A \$5 nominal fee will be charged to help defray our production costs.

2006 Membership Roster

The second edition of our Members' Roster was passed out at the meeting. If you did not attend the meeting or receive a copy via mail, please contact Leslie McCann at 1-888-707-0883.

Next Year's AGM

After some discussion, next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday July 15, 1PM at the Bala Community Centre. We have moved the date into July to try to make it more convenient for our members.

Innisfree Road Landing

Your Board continued to respond to the issue of contractors expanding the use of the small public dock on Innisfree road into a landing ramp. Board members met with all three local councilors at the sight where they could clearly see the unauthorized expansion of this public dock. They all agreed that the expansion should be stopped. At the subsequent public meeting in June, the council meeting room was jammed with association members. Presentations to council were made by me, John Hurlburt and a representative of the contractors. After discussion, council voted to reaffirm their decision of last fall to maintain the use of this small public dock as an access point for the public but to remove the illegal landing ramp and discourage large barging contractors from using it. Council also established a Task Force to review the use of all township docks and ramps.

Since Council's Innisfree ramp decision, the ramp has been removed and the surrounding area has been replanted with local shoreline vegetation. There have been no reported incidents of contractors using this site for large barging. Our efforts have proven successful.

November 13, 2006 – Election Day

We are located in Ward C of the Township of Muskoka Lakes and Monday, November 13 is Election Day. For the first time, elected representatives will serve a four year term rather than three.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes is conducting the 2006 municipal election using a vote by mail. Every person who qualifies as an elector will receive a Voter Kit by mail and it will be mailed between October 16 and 20 to your address on the Voters' List.

Full time residents and children over 18 may vote. Seasonal Canadian residents who own property and their spouses may also vote here as well as at their permanent home.

If you don't receive a Voter Kit or want to check to see if you are on the Voters' List, please call the Township Office at 705-765-3156.

This is your opportunity to help decide who will be your Mayor, your two Township Councillors and your District Representative. Your District Representative also sits on Township Council.

Your current Mayor is Susan Pryke, your District Councillor is Stewart Martin and your Township Councillors are Karen Ellis and Brian Hare. The Board of The Acton Island Association urges you to re elect all these people. They have supported your Board on

a number of significant issues and have been successful in striking a reasonable balance between the needs of Muskoka's diverse communities.

More information on how our local political process works and who does what is included in "Your taxes – Where they go".

Please vote. It is important that our recommended slate is elected.

Your Taxes – Where they Go

Your realty tax dollars are divided into three parts. Approximately 13% goes to the Township of Muskoka Lakes, 48% to the District of Muskoka and 39% goes to education. Property assessments have been frozen for the next two years.

The Township of Muskoka Lakes Council is composed of the Mayor – currently Susan Pryke and nine councilors, three from each ward. We are in Ward C. The Township Council has a variety of responsibilities including township roads, garbage collection, emergency services such as fire and emergency response, community centres, parks, arenas, libraries, by laws and their enforcement and septic inspections. The largest budget items are for Township roads and emergency services. These two represent about 30% of the budget. The Township offices are located in Port Carling.

The District Council has 27 Councillors. They include the Mayors of the Townships of Georgian Bay, Lake of Bays, and Muskoka Lakes, the Mayors of the Towns of Huntsville, Bracebridge and Gravenhurst and directly elected Councillors from all of these areas. The District Council also has a variety of responsibilities including District roads, O.P.P. welfare, long term care facilities and ambulance service. The District offices are located in Bracebridge.

Education is a provincial responsibility and while a large portion of your taxes goes to education, no control rests with either the Township or District.

The most interesting thing about your taxes is that the Township of Muskoka Lakes contributes 38% of the District's total revenue but is allocated only 15% or 4 of the 27 representatives/votes on District Council. This is because contributions to the District budget are based on the total taxes received in the entire District from all landowners whereas representation on council is based on the number of permanent residents in each area of the District, not by the voting population. Our township has only 6500 permanent residents but approximately 45,000 voters. Not quite representation by population, at least in my books.

Other Matters

Bear Sightings

While there have been a number of sightings of bears this summer and fall, the frequency of sightings seems to be less than last year. I believe that there are two

significant reasons for this. The first is the increase in the number of metal garbage containers that are at the road side. These discourage the bears but they are still attracted to them if garbage is left to build up. The second is that I believe that more members are taking garbage to the local transfer station on Eveleigh Road rather than leaving it in their bins.

Winter hours are now in effect at Eveleigh Road - 8:30am to 4pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm on Saturday and Noon to 4pm on Sunday.

Please continue to help reduce the bear sightings by taking your garbage to the Transfer Station when ever you are going to town or before you leave for the city.

Your Township Mayor and Ward C Councillors

Mayor – Susan Pryke, spryke@township.muskokalakes.on.ca or 705-765-3156
Dist/Township Councillor - Stewart Martin ,smartin@muskoka.com or 705-765-3370.
Township Councillors - Karen Ellis (705-765-6337), Brian Hare, brabbit@muskoka.com. (705-765-5527)

Your Acton Island Association Board of Directors

President: Gord Richards, 1153 Acton Island Rd., 705-762-5394 or 416-486-0507, grichards@sympatico.ca
Past President: Jim Lewis, 1043 Innisfree Rd, 705-762-1799, eleanor.lewis@sympatico.ca
Secretary: Brian Atkinson, 1153 Acton Island Rd, 705-762-5394 or 416-486-7404, brianratkinson@sympatico.ca
Director at Large: Malcolm Foulkes, 1054 Kemp Rd., 762-3664, r.d@bellnet.ca
Director of Membership: Leslie McCann, 1133 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-5784, leslie@summitmortgage.ca
Director at Large: John McMechan, 1314 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-3748, kmcmechan@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Bruce Patterson, 1250 Acton Island Rd., 705-762-5270, oldpeakroad@yahoo.com
Director at Large: Larry Scott, 1173 Innisfree Rd., 705-762-2548, easyzzfriend@gmail.com
Director at Large: Bill Tannahill, 1022 Guys Rd., 705-762-0938, tannahill@encode.com

Your Board is here to serve the needs of its members. If you have ideas or would like to become involved please contact me or one of the other board members.

Gordon Richards,
President