

## **Annual General Meeting 2008 *Minutes***

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**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF COTTAGE OWNERS INC.  
P.O. Box 281, Station Main, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2G9**

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**Date: Saturday, October 25th, 2008**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Location: Place Louis Riel, 190 Smith Street, Winnipeg**

**Present: List Attached**

Morning Session

**Dave Crabb, President welcomed everyone and thanked the Place Louis Riel and the Directors for their help.**

### **Guest Speakers:**

#### **Dr. Alex Salki, Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC)**

Dr. Salki provided extremely interesting talk. He advised that in 2006 Environment Canada seriously joined the LWRC in taking the challenge forward. There are 3 measurements – physical, biological and chemical.

At this time there has been no improvement and not sufficient science as yet. Within the next year or so it will be moving forward. They will be publishing in scientific journal (Journal of Great Lakes Research) and once published will form strategy.

October 27/28 The RED ZONE: Currents, Chemicals and Change symposium is being held at the University of Winnipeg. Dr. Salki spoke of the North end treatment plant and changes of red phosphorus, lake and restoration and climate warming. Too many nutrients and no water are the biggest problems facing humans. SLOW DOWN, USE LESS, TREAD SOFTLY.

A shortage of phosphorus in the world accounts for massive tariff. Phosphorus is needed for agriculture and fish.

Can we recover phosphorus? It is more cost effective to keep it out.

Can algae be used for fuel? Would be a big boon.

Dr. Gordon Goldsborough at the Delta Research Station has students expanding their study. There is interest in expanding to other lakes.

Dr. Salki emphasized the importance of restoring the water cycle/global eco system. Some scientists believe that it is important to use water and keep water in our land rather than having it run or drain off. The water would go from the ground into plants or trees to help cool the atmosphere.

Wendy Bulloch of Manitoba Conservation Districts Association and  
**Stephen Carlyle of the East Interlake Conservation District**

There are 18 conservation districts in the province. They do storm water monitoring (that is testing storm water drain). There are presently 186 potential rehab sites.

The East Interlake Conservation District, along with the majority of Conservation Districts in the Province, has a program to permanently seal abandoned wells. Abandoned wells can act as a potential contamination point by allowing surface pollutants direct access to the local aquifer. Once an aquifer is contaminated it is virtually impossible to clean and serious measures are needed to control the spread of pollutants within the groundwater. Perhaps the most infamous contamination that may occur through abandoned wells or well pits is *E. coli*, which we all know as a results of the Walkerton tragedy, can be fatal. Often old wells, dug well in particular, were used as dumping spots for refuse. These wells can also be hazardous to people and/or animals that may fall into wells that are not properly covered or marked. For these reasons the EICD will pay 100% of the cost to hire a contractor to properly seal these wells. All a landowner needs to do is contact our office, their local municipal office or visit the EICD website ([www.eicd.ca](http://www.eicd.ca)) for an application form. Once the form is completed and submitted to us, one of our staff members will visit the site and determine if the well can be sealed. The EICD hires the contractors directly and gets billed directly; the land-owner never has to deal with money. In some other Districts the land-owner is responsible for a portion of the cost (for example 25%).

In order to properly seal the well, layers of gravel and bentonite (a highly expanding type of clay) are dropped down the well. When the bentonite comes in contact with water it rapidly expands to the diameter of the borehole, thereby sealing the pipe. A layer of gravel is then put into the hole prior to another layer of bentonite. This process is repeated until the pipe is full of clay and gravel. The well pipe will be excavated to a depth of four to six feet where it will be cut off. Material is backfilled into the hole and well is no longer a threat.

Stephen spoke about future plans about expanding water monitoring. About a rebate program for installing water efficient fixture, rain barrels, composting and increase in education.

Holding tanks v septic systems? – depends on the area, depending upon soil.

Rick Borotsik, MLA Brandon West and Finance Critic

Rick advised that Manitoba and Saskatchewan depend on school tax on property. He advised that Manitoba has the lowest personal exemption of \$8167, Saskatchewan of \$12,500 and Alberta of \$15,000. Manitoba is the only province in western Canada with a payroll tax. The House will begin sitting November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Rick spoke of the proposed Bill 46 and a tax incremental fund.

He spoke of the importance of transportation, including air, rail and highway to Winnipeg and Manitoba. For inland port we are competing with Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina.

Afternoon Session

Date: Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 1:47 PM

Location: Place Louis Riel, 190 Smith Street, Winnipeg

**1. Call to Order**

President Dave Crabb called the meeting to order at 1:47 pm.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Two items were added to the agenda under New Business (Signs and Park and District Service Fees). Gus Wruck moved adoption of the agenda with additions. Seconded by Lorne Britton. Carried.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting of October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Lorne Britton moved adoption of minutes as presented. Seconded by Rene Comeault. Carried.

**4. Financial Report**

Gary Dunlop moved adoption of the financial report. Seconded by Bill Russell. Carried.

**5. Membership Report**

Rene Comeault advised that 37 associations, down from 39 have paid to date totaling approximately 2700 members.

**6. Correspondence**

The meeting was advised that the correspondence book was available for perusal.

**7. President's Report**

Dave Crabb provided his report.

- Provided information regarding Lake Winnipeg Research Consortium (LWRC). MACO continues to support LWRC by forwarding information by email. Add your email for this information.
- Stressed good stewardship and letting all levels of government know the importance of water issues.
- Concerns with handling of cottage lot draw system.
- School Tax issue was the grounds for forming MACO in 1992. MACO held first tax rally last spring. Petition rejection and re-writing. This Petition is not just for cottagers. An elected member must present the petition in the must be presented by elected and Rick Borotsik offered to do so.
- Invitation to attend a monthly meeting.
- Request for corporate sponsor.

**8. Old Business**

- § Living by Water Project. – Has come to a close. French pamphlets are available.
- § Let's Pay Fair – Is in limbo as per Lorne Weiss. MACO is holding the \$2,000.00 passed last year, payable to them to remain a member of their group.
- § Tembec – Sustainable Forest Management Advisory Committee of which MACO is represented. It is a voluntary group. Radical groups that are outspoken in public will not attend. Gus Wruck spoke of recent tour and presented pictures. He also provided information regarding proposed development of Mustang (a mining company).

**9. New Business**

§ School Tax Report - Larry Baker provided his background and read some letters to the editor and ideas to reduce debt. He compared reduction of debt of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Canada v. Manitoba. Larry spoke of rally last spring and the upcoming one for spring of 2009. He encouraged continuation of the fight against school taxes on property.

§ Signs have been printed and all were encouraged to take a couple. Each sign costs MACO about \$4 and we may have to ask that for future signs. The signs read

We want School Taxes off ALL property.

Sponsored by Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

§ Parks and District Service Fees – MACO has been part of the process. It is a complicated issue. There are various aspects such as expenditures, maintenance and structure. Different views came together. It makes government account for their share and use. There is ability for local adjustment for their particular use. Final outcome is the result of input from all. An observation was made that there had been no direct contact with cottage associations with anything on paper. Contact with individuals regarding number of bedrooms etc. was mid-August with a deadline of September 12<sup>th</sup>. Grindstone has a meeting scheduled with the Assistant Deputy Minister on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

**10. Elections.** Larry Baker presided over elections.

**President** – 2 year term

Nominating Committee nominated Dave Crabb.

Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor.

Nominations closed. Dave Crabb was declared elected.

**Secretary** – 2 year term

Nominating committee nominated Pat Dunlop

Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor.

Nominations closed. Pat Dunlop declared elected.

**Three Directors** - 2 years terms

Nominating committee nominated Marian Jones, Sid Bloomfield, Casey Jones and Rilla Britton. Members were asked three times for nominations. No nominations from the floor. Nominations closed. Marian Jones, Sid Bloomfield, Casey Jones and Rilla Britton were declared elected.

**11. Silent Auction** - Cox Morris donated a silent auction prize.

Prizes were won by Marian Jones, Sid Bloomfield (2), Jake Kwakernaak, Larry Baker, Mo Tipples, Gary Dunlop and Donna Jean Crabb..

**12. Meeting adjourned** at 3:32 pm.