

60 at annual meeting

Ray Black heads Crowe Lake Assoc.

Ray Black was elected president of the Crowe Lake Property Owners Association at the annual meeting held Saturday at Marmora Town Hall.

The other officers will be: Eldon Killian and Don Ross as 1st and 2nd vice-presidents, Jeanette Campbell as treasurer and Amy Thomson as secretary. A working committee representative of different areas of the lake will be named by the executive later.

T.R. Moore, senior environmental officer for the southern region, was on hand to answer any questions the members had. He heard complaints from retiring president Mrs. Kathleen Engs that the executive had been unable to get action from the Hastings-Prince Edward Counties Health Unit when they reported illegal septic tanks.

Mr. Moore assured the members of the new executive that if they have any problems he would do everything in his power to straighten things out.

"The most important thing an association like this can do is to pursue any problems through all possible channels," Mr. Moore told the audience of some 60 members.

The ministry is trying to catch up on a back log of requests for studies on many different lakes, Mr. Moore said, adding that no new jobs are being undertaken this year. He noted that the Crowe Lake Association had requested a study, but could give no information when that might take place. He commended the members for continuing to fight pollution.

When the subject of fluctuating water levels was brought up Ralph Neal, Marmora Village's representative on the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority, explained that up till now the Authority has not had control of all the dams in the system, but hopefully that would soon be changed and the water level of the whole system will be under the control of the Authority's engineer.

Mr. Neal reported that the government had recommended an engineering firm to carry out a feasibility study of the Marmora dam at a cost of \$23,235, 75 per cent of which will be paid by the government. "It is important that this

study be done this year," he commented, "in case there is a change in government at the next election." The Marmora dam is the critical point in the system, he pointed out, adding that the shale limestone on the west bank of the Crowe River presents a problem in the building of a new dam.

Marmora Village would be expected to pay \$2,295, Marmora and Lake Townships \$2,243 and Belmont Township \$564, with the remaining municipalities in the Authority picking up the balance of \$1,452.

Gordon Bennett reported that the number of trailer sites at Booster Park had been reduced by ten this year and hoped it would be reduced even further next year.

Otto Lingertat said he was tired of hearing complaints about trailer parks. He pointed out that in order to instal four new units at Bayview he had had to meet very rigid standards. He urged the members to be responsible for their own waste disposal until a government study can be done. "It's everyone's responsibility to keep the lake clean," Mr. Lingertat asserted.

There was some disagreement on the amount of fish in Crowe Lake. Doug Greentree volunteered the information that he has dived in a great many lakes and Crowe Lake has a good stock of bass, pickerel and small muskie. Carl Irick commented, "The fish are there - you just have to find them."

"Crowe Lake is stocked with 17,000 muskie fingerlings every year by the Ministry of Natural Resources," Ralph Neal reported, adding that if people who catch small muskies would only throw them back and give them a chance to grow, there would be some big ones to catch later. Mr. Neal was asked why the ministry doesn't stock the lake with pickerel as most people prefer it. He answered that it was his understanding there is natural restocking by the pickerel.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Engs the outgoing president, and her executive for the fine job they did in taking water samples and the actions they took on suspected areas of pollution.

Mr. Black indicated that he would be calling another meeting of the Association before fall.

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Cottagers pack meeting to press township for by-law

About thirty members of the Crowe Lake Property Owner's Association showed up on Monday night to ask council to delay the Crowe Hill Parks Development but council refrained from any action on the grounds that it had no power to interfere in the matter.

In a turbulent hour long confrontation the cottagers presented a petition to council asking council to take "immediate action" to prevent further development on the lake and to bring to a halt any existing development until an environmental study is carried out on the lake. They also asked that the Hastings County Land-Use By-Law be used to prevent any changes of recreation zoning.

The cottagers are specifically concerned about a development- Crowe Hill Park Estates- on the north shore of Crowe Lake which may eventually have 250-500 trailer sites. They feel that this represents a danger to the quality of the water in the lake.

The Park is in contradiction of the County Plan; however the plan is not a law and the Park is not an infection. In a statement that accompanied the petition, E.L. Killian President of the Property Owners argued that the quality of the water in the lake had already deteriorated seriously and any further development would result in creating "a trailer city surrounding a lake rancid."

The statement presented a number of arguments. Primarily it suggested that the deterioration of water quality would both hurt sportsfishing (certain varieties of fish - pickerel and to a lesser extent muskie and bass are susceptible to over-enrichment of the water caused by nutrients in human waste) and cause the water to smell and look bad. This would eventually lead to a down-turn in Marmora's tourist industry which, Mr. Killian argued, was the area's main source of income.

The statement suggested that other lakes in the area which are less accessible

might be more suitable for development. It then went on to call for better control of development through a land-use by-law and attack the Crowe Lake Estates as a development which was using long-term leasing as a method of avoiding Provincial legislation for controlling subdividing (The implication being that if it is difficult to subdivide a developer can simply offer leases on parts of a plot of land for a long-term period. Mr. Starr insists that his development is a private park and that no member leases any part of it - simply the use of the whole). It also pointed out that the taxation on trailer parks is much less than on private cottages.

In the discussion that followed the two issues of environmental control and the need for a land-use by-law were often linked sometimes confused. At one point a member of the association, Mr. I.H. Campbell asked that council enact a by-law then and there or pass a motion putting all development in the township in abeyance until such time as a by-law was enacted. Reeve Bell indicated that he would entertain such a motion from council but there was no motion forthcoming. Another association member, Mr. Alex Fraser requested that development on Crowe Lake be frozen; it is questionable that council had the power to pass any of the motions requested.

Mr. Killian and the members of the delegation pressed council to obtain a study of the quality of the water in Crowe Lake from the Ministry of Natural Resources in Tweed. Deputy-Reeve John Wilkes (who, as chairman of the Crowe

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Cottagers want end to Crowe ice fishing

The Crowe Lake Property Owners' Association has asked the Ministry of Natural Resources to ban ice fishing on Crowe Lake, but local ministry officials say that it isn't likely any action will be taken.

The association sent a letter to Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Minister James Auld, complaining that the ice fishing should be stopped because: 1) it damages summer fishing by depleting stock; and 2) it is accompanied by a lot of garbage and pollution.

However John Williamson, an Outdoor Recreation Supervisor with the Tweed District Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, says that, while there are problems with ice fishing, they are not as serious as the CLPOA indicates.

Unfortunately there are some ice fishermen who are not respectful of other people's property; they normally have a fire and they'll sometimes cut down trees from private property.

They sometimes leave garbage on the ice. It's unfortunate there are such slobs, but I don't think that the solution is to ban it."

Mr. Williamson also said that, while fish taking during the winter might reduce the number available in the summer, he didn't think that the overall fish population of the lake was declining. "There are seasons and limits and we

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feel that the total harvest doesn't affect the fish population." He said that fish population studies had been done, although not recently and that random checks were being carried out on the lake.

"Ice fishing has become a target of a lot of people. It's a question of who has the priority; the ice fisherman or the guy in his big boat. I think ice fishing is a valid outdoor sport," Mr. Williamson said.

CLPOA President Jasper Moore who wrote the letter on behalf of the association's executive, said the main problem is in Blairton Bay on the west end of the lake.

"People there complain that the ice fishermen leave a lot of garbage, that they even leave the ice fishing huts, and that it's up to the residents to clean it up in the spring," Mr. Moore said. "They also think that there's a lot of fishing out of season."

Mr. Moore said that it had not yet been decided whether the association would continue to press the MNR on the subject. "We'll see what kind of letter we get back, see what the feeling of the organization is, and go from there."

In other CLPOA business:

The association has sent a letter to the Ministry of the

Environment requesting a lake capacity study on Crowe Lake, particularly noting "excessive offshore development" including the Crowe Hill Park Estates Development on the north shore and its 1,000 trailer sites.

Mr. Moore said that although the study, which might give statistical evidence as to whether the fish population on the lake is declining as most fishermen seem to think, was needed, he was not optimistic about the results of the request.

"The Ontario treasury seems to be at rock bottom right now. But they do do it for other lakes, so they might do it for us."

Mr. Moore will be presenting a brief on their proposal making a presentation on having more advance polls for municipal elections at the annual Federation of Cottage Associations of Ontario at the group's upcoming general meeting. The CLPOA is looking for more support in approaching the government for the change which, they feel, would allow for greater participation by the cottagers in municipal elections. At the moment rural municipalities are required to hold only one advance poll, on a Saturday before the election.

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