

Orenda Canoe Club

Annual General Meeting

October 17, 2010



36 present: Donna Upham, Phil Gower, Derek Burnett, Les Mayo, Karen Cooke, Ian Firth, Debbie Mayo, Trinity Frizzell, Janet Forsyth, Patrick Konning, Jennifer Riddle, Sonya Hudgins, Lindy Bellefontaine, Terry Bellefontaine, Michele MacKnight, Cherie Stredder, Andrea Landry, Dave Stredder, Julien Comeau, Shaun Kent, Eric Tait, Nicole Peterson, Paula Veinotte, Jane Orton, Ralph Orton, Gerald Williams, Shauna Baker, Susan Abboud, Wendy Hartlin, Wanda Firth, Erin LeMarquand, David Hendsbee, Debbie Smiley, Cory Firth, Doug Miles and Genny Orton
Regrets: Katheleen Dalley

Meeting called to order by Vice Commodore, Derek Burnett At 3:00 pm

Review of Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting

Copies were distributed and attendees were given time to read through minutes.

Old Business

Entertainment Books: Only 10 were purchased this year to sell. There are still a few of these left. If anyone wishes to purchase one of these please contact Donna Upham or email the secretary.

Dragon Boat: Andrea Landry promoted and organized this event successfully this year. She was thanked for her hard work and commitment with this fundraiser.

A committee has been formed to run this fundraiser next year. The committee is comprised of: Susan Abboud, Eric Tait, Janet Forsyth, Donna Upham, Andrea Landry and Phil Gower.

This event is a major fundraiser for Orenda and is the only fundraiser we have where tax receipts are available. It is held the first weekend after the long weekend in July.

Dock Removal: Dock removal this year will be on Saturday, November 6th at 8:30 am. A total club clean up will take place at the same time. An email will be sent out letting the membership know that all available manpower will be needed to accomplish these tasks.

Drop off of Paddlers: Les Mayo is in the process of getting quotes for a circular driveway for the drop off area of Orenda. There is a complicating factor of a large wet area in the vicinity of the proposed area. Grant applications will need to be discussed in order to obtain the funds to proceed with this project.

Motion: Julian Comeau

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting October 18m 2009 to be adopted as presented in writing.

Second: Janet Forsyth

All in Favour, motion passed.

Annual Reports

Commodore: Les Mayo

Les thanked all attendees at the AGM for their participation. He voiced his pride at being the Commodore of Orenda Canoe Club.

This past year has been an exceptional year for our head coach, Corey Firth and the incredible group of athletes that have chosen this club to call their own. Our exploits at the Canadian Canoe/Kayak National Championships in Regina this year have been well publicized. Les took the opportunity to congratulate all those that participated and all the parents that made the trip possible. The winning of the Midget Men's Burgee is of particular significance as this feat has not been accomplished by Orenda Canoe Club since 1988.

Les also thanked the executive for all the time and hard work they put into both the running of the Club and the many fundraising events that were held this year. Phil and Tracey Gower, our Fundraising Chairpersons, were thanked for all the events they brought forward this year.

Our Commodore also expressed his sincere thanks to Donna Upham who will step down as our Treasurer this year. Donna has held the purse strings of the Club very tightly and has kept the good ship Orenda afloat.

Thanks were extended to David Hendsbee, our Municipal Councilor and Keith Colwell, our MLA once again this year for the direction and financial contributions they continue to make to both the community and the Club. We could not continue without them.

Vice Commodore: Derek Burnett

Derek voiced appreciation for the task of helping direct the operations of Orenda Canoe Club. As he has become more involved with Orenda he has become increasingly aware of the multitude of tasks that need to be undertaken by members in order to keep the club operating. He stressed the need for all members to be willing to come forward to volunteer to make Orenda the best club it can be. He understands that often families do not know what they can do to help out the Club as he has been in this situation himself. More effort will be made to ensure members are aware of how to become involved.

A lot of Derek's role this year surrounded attempts to secure money for the club especially in the form of grants. He would like to see more individuals from the club involved in this process. Orenda needs a person who is able to do research into grants and write up grant applications.

Membership was down some this past summer but our fall paddling program is nearly twice the participation level of previous years. An Assistant Coach, Doug Miles, was hired to cope with the 40 paddlers registered in the program.

Les Mayo, Commodore, organized the 2 Atom regattas held at Orenda this year but Derek intends to take one of them on next year.

This year has proven a valuable learning experience and Derek hopes to use this experience to further benefit Orenda Canoe Club.

Head Coach: Cory Firth

Cory echoed the accolades of our Commodore in thanking the parents and paddlers who worked hard over the past year to paddle so well at Nationals this summer.

Our Head Coach felt that the Bantam and PeeWee paddlers did not do as well as previous years. Part of this might be due to commitment. He understands that possibly summer parents may not recognize the importance of a training commitment in reaching as high a potential as possible. He hoped to have better representation at this level next summer.

Secretary: Karen Cooke

The secretary's role is to keep an accurate record of all special, general and annual meetings of the Club and keep a record of all correspondence.

Karen endeavors to notify all members, parents and guardians of happenings at the Club. Most of this information is relayed via email. Anyone not receiving emails through the Club email list is missing valuable information about the Club. Members are encouraged to give their email addresses to the Secretary. If email is not a member's communication of choice the secretary needs to be aware of how the member wishes to be made aware of Club information.

Treasurer: Donna Upham

A copy of the Orenda Canoe Club financial statement was made available to all in attendance.

Fundraising proceeds were on par with the previous year. We had 2 auctions in the previous year as opposed to one this year but revenue was made up with other fundraising events such as the

Fishing Derby and the hosting fees for Canoe 09. Both the Orenda Canteen and the Triathlon were a financial disappointment this year. Blueberry sales were down some due to a supply issue. The Dragon Boat revenues were up with a final total of \$4700. The Father's Day Brunch did not bring in as much revenue as the previous year. We were honoured to receive a family donation of \$1000.

Two of our full time employees this summer were sponsored by Federal Summer Grants. These two salaried positions were Assistant Head Coach and Club Manager. Coaching costs were kept tight this year in keeping with budget restraints.

Expenses this year included our new docks which were purchases from Senobe Canoe Club for \$8000. 3 new boats: K4, K2 and C2 were purchased from Canoe '09 for \$22,000. These barely used boats were needed by the club and purchased for a fraction of their original cost. It was a

chance to purchased badly needed boats at a cost we may never have encountered again. We are still fundraising and applying for grants to cover the cost of these boats.

Orenda's total expenses were up \$18,000 this year. At present we have a deficit of \$9,000. We continue to have expenses throughout the winter including heat, lights, and coach and assistant

coach salaries. As a non profit organization run by volunteers, it was reiterated that we need to recruit more parents to assist with fundraising for Orenda.

Questions raised from the floor for Secretary:

Susan About questioned whether Orenda received sponsorship directly from businesses.

Other than donations of items for specific events such as our auctions and fishing derby Orenda has had no recent corporate sponsors.

It was noted that our website needs to be updated from 2006 to reflect this. Our website is also looked after by a volunteer.

Suggestion was made to seek out a corporate sponsor who would like to have the name of their business put on possibly our singlets or boats.

A member questioned whether Orenda would be eligible for donations through United Way.

David Hendsbee, Municipal Councilor, mentioned the \$750 grant received from the South East Community Health Board. Because Orenda encompasses the largest geographic area of any club in Nova Scotia we are able to access grants such as this.

Fundraising: Phil Gower

Phil acknowledged that he has been on the Orenda executive for fundraising for just over 9 months and has come to realize a few things. First of all, the amount of money Orenda receives from fundraising is directly proportional to the number of committed volunteers. Secondly, it is the same people volunteering over and over. It seems that 85 percent of the parents who have kids that paddle all year round step up to the plate when asked, but the opposite happens in the summer. Orenda is a non-profit, volunteer run club so as a parent of a paddler it is expected that parents support the club and give some of their time.

Anyone who knows of some successful fundraising events from past experience please let the fundraising chairpersons know. Any new ideas or ideas for improvement of current fundraisers are welcome.

It was noted that Atom/PeeWee parents don't realize what is involved in volunteering at Orenda. Next year with registration we will try to inform these people.

Susan Abboud is heading up an advertising promotion that should reduce the cost for the Nationals this summer. Again, this is a group effort for all parents who are sending their kids to the Nationals.

Ideas from the floor:

Cherie Stredder suggested that a fundraising committee be formed to lessen the load on the fundraising chairpersons. Members volunteered by a show of hand and names were taken by Phil Gower.

Doug Miles offered to sell Orenda clothing to benefit the club. Donna Upham has been looking into this through an internet company called Catalyst in Toronto. Everything will be done on line. She will continue to follow this up.

Other ideas that were mentioned were: mandatory selling of raffle tickets, selling 50/50 tickets at Porters Lake Pub or in the community and Bingos.

The possibility of a brochure outlining expectations or a parent representative to pass along information was brought up. This liaison person could explain the club to green parents. It would give parents someone to contact when beginning with Orenda. It was felt that this would be best

handled by a Public Relations position. Although this position has remained open this past year we do have a volunteer willing to fill it when nominations are made.

Genny Orton felt that the athlete's coaches should talk to the parents about fundraising. Coaches should meet with parents at the beginning of the summer and then again part way through the summer for parental feedback.

Janet Forsyth, who has had the position of Public Relations in the past, felt that more effort could be made to get the word out in the media, more promotion should be made at registration and that there should be more promotion of our website.

A Meet and Greet Fun Day could help to bring families together. Maybe involvement in Lake Echo Fiesta Days would accomplish this and give an opportunity to raise some funds.

In the past a few hired summer coaches went into the schools to promote Orenda. Paddle for Free days also give a chance for kids to experience Orenda. Lakeview Elementary School has a Health and Wellness Week where a representative from Orenda could participate.

It was felt that a lot of parents do not realize that the regular school buses can provide transportation to Orenda after school. The French school will adjust their bus route to provide transportation to Orenda as needed. Extended hours for the fall and spring afterschool program could result in more registration.

It was felt that in general more feedback was needed between coaches of Orenda and parents. This feedback should reflect all aspects of the club. The club manager should implement this. If parents felt more informed they may become more involved.

A copy of the 2011 Fundraising Initiative was handed out to the Attendees of the AGM which included a fundraising goals sequence of events. Upcoming events include a November bottle drive, a New Year's Dance, Mother's Day Fundraiser, Fishing Derby, Father's Day Brunch, Dragon Boat – a committee has been formed to make the most of this potentially lucrative fundraiser, 2 Atom Regattas, a fall auction and further spring and fall bottle drives. This total revenue anticipated from these fundraisers is \$25,000.

After looking into other sports clubs, it is not uncommon to have a commitment fee included in the registration fee. Orenda will be looking into this practice and what will best fit our club. The idea of sweat equity in the form of volunteer hours may be considered.

Orenda has an open concept towards fundraising ideas but needs committed people to run with these ideas.

Paddling Representative: Ian Firth

Ian reviewed accomplishments at all our levels of paddling at Orenda:

Atoms: Our atom paddlers won the award for points earned per paddler at the Atom Championships this summer. Orenda has a wonderfully enthusiastic group of Atoms this year. Both the Atom Regattas had great representation from our older paddlers who volunteered and helped to make these Regattas as successful as they were.

PeeWee: PeeWee numbers were low but paddlers in this age group were keen.

Bantam: Numbers of bantam paddlers were also low but again they were a keen bunch of athletes.

Midget and Up: It was the best year at Nationals for Orenda Canoe Club in years. Orenda Canoe Club presented themselves at Nationals as a very united club showing exemplary teamwork and sportsmanship. At Nationals, Orenda was admired by other clubs for our great behaviour. Trading singlets at this event is customary and the singlet to go home with this year was Orendas.

Masters: The Masters Program was down in numbers but there is a desire to recruit more members next year.

Fall Program: We have great participation in our fall program with over 40 paddlers registered.

Orenda is a highly successful club and well recognized in the paddling world.

Walking/Running Program

Ian is starting a Walking/Running Program at Orenda on Sundays 1-3 pm. This is a 10 week program ending with a Celebration Day Social. This program has 3 levels: walking, learn to run and running. Ian has plans to invite guest speakers to talk on subjects of interest to program participants. This program is free for all who are interested. It will begin next Sunday, October 24th. An email will go out to all of Orenda advertising this program.

Registrar: Katherine Dalley

Due to illness, Katherine was unable to present her report.

New Business

Unpaid Fees: We have some issues with unpaid fees. It is not possible to refund registration fees for time an athlete takes off for vacations. It would be appreciated if all membership would pay their fees on time.

Building Expansion: It is the intent of the Orenda Executive to work with David Hendsbee on this. The building has become too small for the number of athletes it services. The change rooms especially are much too cramped. Orenda Canoe Club expansion is necessary. This is a long term goal.

Club Cleanliness: There has been concern over the cleanliness of the Club. It was felt that a lot of the untidiness is due to lack of space especially in the changing rooms. More parental involvement is needed to encourage athletes to remove all their belongings from the club and to assist with club clean-up.

Election of Officers

Genny Orton proposed the position of Athlete's Representative be added to the Orenda Executive. It was agreed to discuss this possibility following the election of officers.

The election of officers was directed by Derek Burnett, Vice Commodore

Secretary: by acclamation – Karen Cooke

Treasurer: Donna Upham, the current Treasurer is stepping down but has agreed to assist the new treasurer.

Susan Abboud nominated Nicole Peterson as new Treasurer

Second – Paula Veinotte

All in favour

Nicole Peterson accepted the nomination as Treasurer of Orenda Canoe Club.

Commodore: Les Mayo will continue in his second year of a 2 year term as Commodore.

Paddling Representation: by acclamation – Ian Firth

Registrar: by acclamation – Katheleen Dalley

Vice Commodore: by acclamation – Derek Burnett

Public Relations: currently open

Derek Burnett nominated Cherie Stredder as Public Relations Representative

Second – Les Mayo

All in favour

Cherie Stredder accepted the nomination as Public Relations Representative.

Fundraising Chairpersons: by acclamation – Phil and Tracey Gower

Athlete's Representative:

An athlete from Orenda, Hannah Forsyth, has come forward to volunteer to fill a position of Athlete's Representative.

Motion: Ian Firth

Move that we create the new position of Athlete's Representative to sit on the Orenda Executive. The athlete in this position should be selected by the paddlers of Orenda. If the position is filled by an athlete over 18 it will be a voting position. If the position is filled by an athlete under 18 it will be a non-voting position.

Second: Debbie Smiley

All in favour

There will need to be a notice to amend the By Laws to create this new executive position. This information will be emailed to the entire Orenda membership. It may be that the executive chooses to have this Athlete's Representative as a working position for a year and then vote it in next year. At this time the executive will need to take names of interested athletes and then the athletes will vote for their choice.

Non Executive Positions:

Nationals Coordinator: Derek Burnett has taken the initiative to look after accommodations. Susan Abboud has agreed to spearhead fundraising for this event.

Volunteer Coordinator: Paulette Nussey has assisted with our fundraising chairpersons this past year in this capacity. Phil Gower will approach her to see if she is still interested in assisting Orenda in this way.

Maintenance and Grounds Coordinator: This is at present a job of the Vice Commodore who coordinates getting the jobs done. It would be beneficial to have someone skilled in this area to head up a committee to keep the club in shape.

Safety Officer: An individual in this position would be responsible for fire safety and tracking down potential danger items.

Boat and Equipment Repair: At present this is being done by Cory Firth, our Head Coach and Dave Hamilton. Doug Miles, our Assistant Head Coach has volunteered to fill this position.

It was suggested that an email be sent out to the membership giving a clear description of each position that needs to be filled.

Motion to Adjourn: Cory Firth: Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Second: Trinity Frizzell

All in favour