



Huntsville Lakes Council- History

Started when and how

- Formed on March 30, 2002 after three years of meetings co-sponsored by the Huntsville Ratepayers' Association and the Town of Huntsville Mayor's Office. These meetings provided a forum for local lake associations to get acquainted and talk about areas of mutual concern. Don Baker, then Chair of the Huntsville Ratepayers' Association was the driving force who convinced previous Mayor, Len Clarke, followed by Mayor Hugh Mackenzie of the need for such an organization in the Huntsville area. The Council was initially known as the Huntsville Lake Plan Council on its founding date.
- The lake associations felt there was a need for an organization that could lobby locally and provincially with the Town, MNR, MOE, the provincial government and others re issues of common concern such as growing land development and the environment; assist them to create lake plans to help them to deal with these issues; and assist them with the need for education and stewardship to ensure the preservation of their lakes and environment. It was felt that such an organization could liaise with other environmentally oriented groups such as Muskoka Watershed Council and the Town's Environmental Committee. A clear consensus emerged that we could help each other to keep our lakes great by working together on common issues. About 20 lake associations expressed an interest in creating the new Council, which was renamed the Huntsville Lakes Council at its first independently held meeting on April 27, 2002.

Started by who

- Of these 20 associations present at the founding meeting in March of 2002, the following joined at that time: Buck, Chub, Fairy, Fox, Harp, Hidden Valley, Mary, Vernon and Waseosa. Bella-Rebecca and Skeleton were also present at that meeting but did not join at that time. Menominee, Peninsula and Rowanwood Cottagers Association (part of Mary Lake) came in at the April 27, 2002 meeting. Over the years, HLC drew interest from more lake associations in Huntsville, Lake of Bays Township and Parry Sound District, and has gained additional members from those areas to reach its current 21 memberships.
- The founding Co-chairs were Diane Hecht of Hidden Valley and Elaine Jackson of Fox Lake. Diane resigned in Dec. 2002 and was succeeded as Chair by Elaine Jackson and later on, followed by Bill Somers for 1 year, then Mary McCulley/Elaine Jackson as Co-chairs for 1 year and Bill Somers as Chair again for another year. I believe the founding Secretary was Mary McCulley and the first Treasurer, Lynda Howe from Fox Lake.



Huntsville Lakes Council - Mandate

The HLC is an association of Huntsville and area lakes whose purposes are:

- to identify and then provide a single strong voice to lobby for issues held in common among the lakes
- to facilitate lake plan development
- to provide education on issues involving lakes
- to promote stewardship



Huntsville Lakes Council- Accomplishments

The HLC has developed the following:

- Lake Plan Template/Manual
- How to Incorporate your Lake association (free on website to all)
- How to Form a Lake Association (free on website to all)
- The HLC monitors land use planning applications for waterfront development. It receives notifications of (Huntsville) or checks for (Lake of Bays members) variances, liaises with lake associations affected to receive their input and submits comments if it is felt consent for the variance will negatively impact the lake (quarry on Pen Lake, Lake Waseosa severance etc.).
- It lobbies all levels of government and various agencies on watershed issues. It has sent comment in with respect to The Clean Water Act, Hydro One's request to use pesticides, District's recent debt issue, Town's old tannery site, Sound Sorb use by the Gun Club, Town's Visioning Project, the mail-in vote, the Mary Lake dam project etc. It also developed a candidate questionnaire for the last local election and keeps cottagers aware of assessment and taxation issues and developments from WRAFT/CAPTR.
- The HLC had significant input into changes made by Huntsville to both the Official Plan and the Zoning By-laws. It petitioned Huntsville council to review its charges for lake plan amendments to the OP and to register land trusts.
- The HLC advocates for good environmental practices and the need for stewardship. It held workshops on monitoring programs (water quality testing, invasive species, rehabilitating shorelines) and has members on both the Muskoka Watershed Council and the Environment Committee of the Town of Huntsville. It received a grant from Muskoka Community Futures to purchase benthic equipment for use by members.
- It has a website with sufficient space to be able to offer inexpensive website space to all its members.

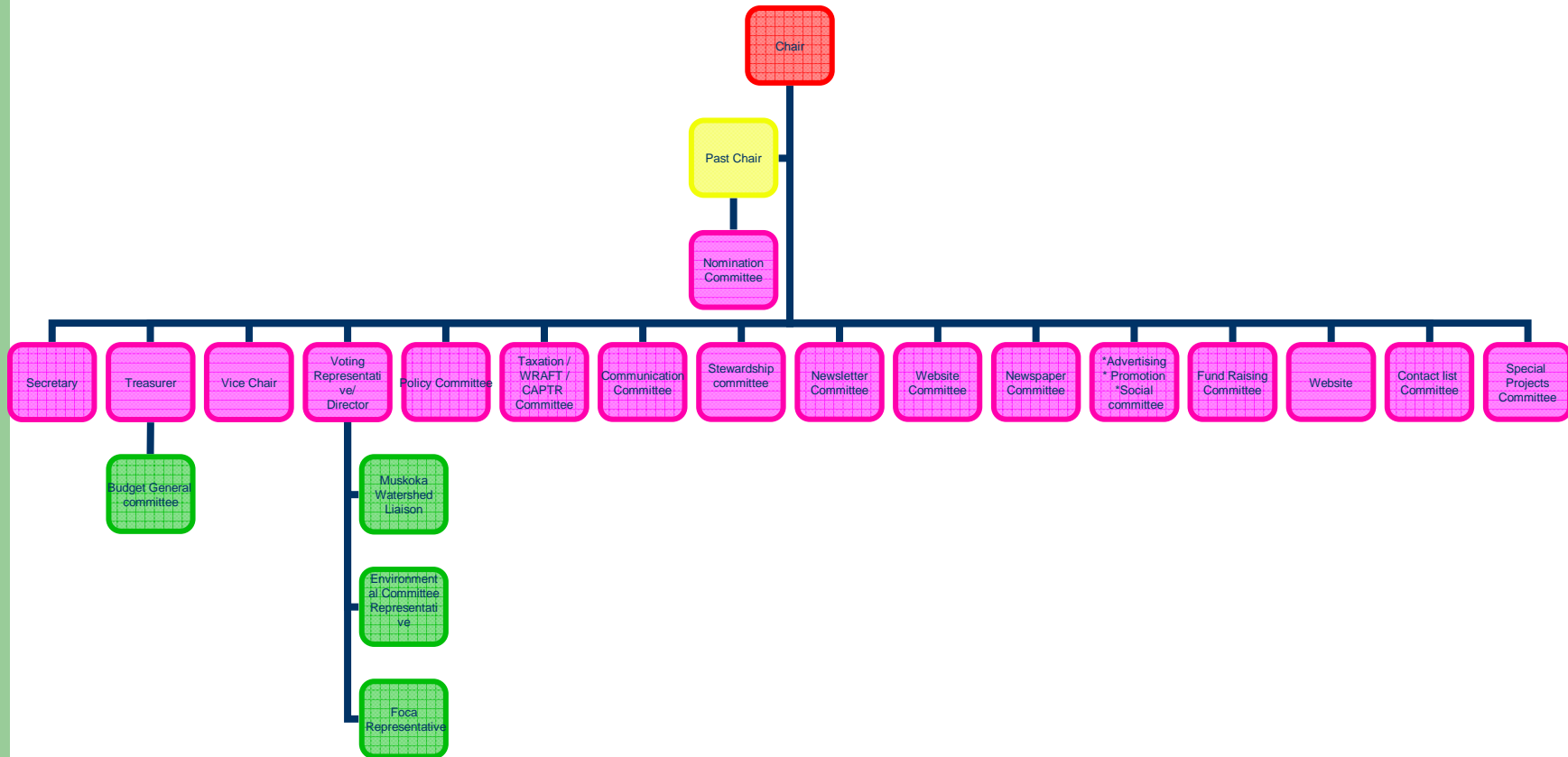


Roles

- Chair -
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Directors/Voting Representatives- 19 Lakes
- Committee Chairs - 13
- Liaison Representatives- 3 postions



HLC –organizational structure



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