

President's Report to the Membership – ONEC AGM, 10/26/16

This AGM marks the completion of my 2nd year on the ONEC Board, my 1st year as President. It has been a learning year for me, not just with regards to ONEC, but learning about the bigger picture which involves interacting with government, establishing partnerships and understanding the greater community in general. I hope to take what I have learned this year and apply it to the final year of my two-year term on the Board.

Boathouse Issues

When I took on the role of President, my first priority was to clear the orders against the boathouse issued by the City Building Department. This proved to be difficult and only with the assistance of City Councillor Tobi Nussbaum were we able to engage managers in the Building Department who were able to then move things along. I must thank Councillor Nussbaum for his help in this matter and I am happy to report that we are very close to clearing the structural orders against the boathouse.

In addition to the City Building Department we had to engage the City Fire Department, and while we were able to clear up many of the 2009 fire safety concerns, there was still the greater occupancy issue to address. For that, the NCC hired a fire & building code consultant and these consultants have now submitted a report to the fire department indicating that the boathouse does indeed meet the requirements for a significant increase in occupancy. At this time, we are still awaiting word from the fire department.

Here I would like to recognize the assistance provided to us by Gary Lacey, Executive Director of Capital Stewardship for the NCC, and Bill Leonard, Director of Real Estate Management for the NCC. While the process has been slower than everyone has hoped, it is only because of the investment that the NCC has put into the Boathouse that we are as close as we are to having large events return to the boathouse.

Ontario150

For 2017, the Ontario Trillium Fund, in partnership with the Province, created an enhanced one-time funding opportunity for capital projects specifically targeting community facilities. We have applied for \$105,000 of a \$140,000 project to rehabilitate the exterior of the boathouse.

Filming Opportunities

We had two film shoots at the boathouse this summer. The first was for a reality TV show that follows kids building playgrounds. The show selected us as a field trip destination and we were able to accommodate them with a sail on the Ottawa River. The second film shoot was for a few scenes for a feature film production. The boathouse did feature prominently in some of the takes and as both productions will have wide distribution I hope this will provide the boathouse with significant exposure.

Related to this, the Ottawa Film Office requested, and we provided, photos of the boathouse for their "look book" which they use to show off Ottawa as a filming destination.

Elmwood School Rowing

We have a new MOU with the Elmwood School. As they were going through a coaching transition, we decided to keep it to 1-year with terms similar to the prior MOU. The new coach is focusing on getting as many girls on the water as possible which is to our benefit as they pay us a per person participant fee.

Outreach

We are in the very early stages of developing partnerships to bring under-resourced youth to ONEC to participate in our camps. This year we did provide a few camp spots to the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre for their youth program; however, transportation and fear of water are challenges that need to be overcome.

Plans for the Year Ahead

- Continue to address the boathouse occupancy and related issues
- Work with Bernie to bring on a more dedicated administrator
- Create a Terms of Reference document for the Board
- Expand on water recreational opportunities using the canoes generously gifted to ONEC by the OCDSB's MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre and arranged by Board Member Sheila Perry

Thanks!

I would like to thank each and every member for your patience and support. ONEC has been facing challenges for several years and this past year was no different. I hope that what I have been able to report gives you some encouragement for the future.

I also wish to recognize and thank the members that volunteer incredible amounts of time and effort to the club. These members have been mentioned in the other Directors' reports, but here I would like to specifically thank Bruce Akins and Christa Romanat for joining me on the nominations committee. Together we were able to navigate through what wasn't always a straightforward nominations process.

I would also like to thank the 2015-16 Board for serving with me over the past year. I especially wish to recognize outgoing Board members Ian Ferguson and Sheila Perry. Ian provided great insight into the early stage development of a fundraising plan for ONEC. As mentioned, Sheila brought about the gift of the 8-person canoes and was instrumental in connecting us to other outside groups. I truly hope we are able to build on their contributions in the years ahead.

Finally, I must thank our Manager, Bernie Desrosiers, and all of the staff that have helped us bring sports and recreation to the waters and shores of the Ottawa River throughout the year. I look forward to working with everyone again next year.

Imbaw Storer
President, ONEC