

**KDCA & NWOTA ANNUAL FALL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2010
EVERGREEN LODGE, EAGLE LAKE, ON**

IN ATTENDANCE (41)

GORD BASTABLE
JACQUI HAUKENESS
MAL TYGESSON
STEVE HARTLE
EVIE HARTLE
GERRY CARIOU
MIKE LOEWEN
CHERYL PINETTE
MARCEL PINETTE
RUTH PRICE
RANDY HANSON
PEG HUNGER
BOB HUNGER
CHERYL GAUTHIER
CINDY MILLER
WAYNE HELLIAR
JACK GREEN
HEATHER GREEN
BRIAN MILES
GEOFF GILLON
TOM PEARSON
KARLA CLARK
WAYNE CLARK
JIM REBBETOY
ANGIE KORZINSKI
CHRIS LEWICKI
PEG PALUCK
BOB PALUCK
JEFF MOREAU
CAROL DAVIS
TANNIS DRYSDALE
ERIC BROWN
MEL FISHER
CHRIS MARCHAND
PETER BURNS
MATTHEW BENSON
STEVE DUDA
SCOTT LOCKHART
GREG MECURE
KEVIN BEGIN
JUDY ALEXANDER

VERMILION BAY LODGE
RUGBY LAKE LODGE
EVERGREEN LODGE
BIG HOOK WILDERNESS CAMPS
BIG HOOK WILDERNESS CAMPS
SUNSET COUNTRY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
PATRICIA REGION TOURIST COUNCIL
BIRCHDALE LODGE
BIRCHDALE LODGE
DEER TRAIL LODGE
HANSONS WILDERNESS LODGE
WHITEFISH BAY CAMP
WHITEFISH BAY CAMP
HARRIS HILL RESORT
SECRETARY, NWOTA
HELLIAR'S RESORT
GREEN AIRWAYS & FLY-IN CAMPS
TROUT LAKE LODGE
PATRICIA AREA COMMUNITY ENDEAVOURS
RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORP.
CAMP NARROWS LODGE
CLARK'S RESORTS & BAIT
CLARK'S RESORTS & BAIT
FLOATING LODGES
RUSTY MYERS FLYING SERVICE
RUSTY MYERS FLYING SERVICE
TEMPLE BAY LODGE
TEMPLE BAY LODGE
TEMPLE BAY LODGE
LAKE OF THE WOODS BOOK
TOWN OF FORT FRANCES
TOTEM RESORTS
CITY OF DRYDEN COUNCILOR
DRYDEN OBSERVER
McAULEY & PARTNERS
MNR DRYDEN
MNR KENORA
MNR KENORA
CBSA, CHIEF OF OPERATIONS
CBSA, SUPERINTENDENT
BOREAL SIGNS & KDCA SECRETARY

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. October 6, 2010 by Gord Bastable as President.

2. INTRODUCTIONS: Self introductions were made around the room.

3. MINUTES OF FALL MEETING: Minutes from the 2008 Fall KDCA meeting were previously circulated. Steve Hartle moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mal Tygesson. Carried.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Handouts were circulated to the membership in attendance and Steve commented on the summarized report. He said that KDCA & NWOTA have both received their final payment of the startup loans to NODMA. Steve said that Harlald Lohn couldn't be at the meeting today but wanted to extend his thanks to KDCA & NWOTA for their support of NODMA. Acceptance of the financial statement was moved by Wayne Clarke and seconded by Mal Tygesson. Carried.

5. SUNSET COUNTRY TOURISM ASSOCIATION UPDATE: Gerry Cariou

Gerry gave regrets from Jim Grayston, OTMPC who was unable to attend this meeting. He sent a brief update with Gerry stating that they weren't sure about Chicago this year but that Minneapolis would continue this year with television and radio (with Mike Max) along with the sponsorship with the Minnesota Wild Hockey team as well as advertising on city buses and bus shelters. Sport Shows will include the Northwest Sport Show, Chicago, Detroit, Harrisburg and Toronto. Gerry said that anyone interested in being on one of the radio segments to contact himself or Jim. He reminded members that they can have a free listing on the www.gofishontario.com and the www.gohuntontario.com web sites. Contact Gerry to get the form that requires completion to get the free listings. E-mail: gcariou@sunsetcountry.ca. Gerry said that Sunset Country is planning on doing five Sport Shows. If you are a Gold or Platinum Member of Sunset Country they will take your brochures to these shows.

6. PATRICIA REGION TOURIST COUNCIL UPDATE: Mike Loewen

PRTC has been a nonprofit Marketing Association for over 50 years. Mike said that membership is slightly down and that some resorts are saying it was a slow season while others said they were at about par and others saw increases. PRTC plans to introduce the "FREE MAP" into some new markets this year in the U.S. They will do two new shows this year-America's Outdoor Chicago Show and Iowa/Cedar Falls in March 2011. PRTC has entered the social media marketing scene through Facebook and Twitter. Currently PRTC hosts two main web sites which they will be rolling into one site next month. Mike said the new RT013 is not very vague and looks forward to more information on how it will work. Steve asked how they were getting maps into new U.S. States. Mike said the "FREE MAPS" are being inserted into Outdoor News and In-Fisherman magazines.

10:10 A.M. **COFFEE BREAK**

10:20 A.M.- MEETING RESUMED

7. KDCA/NWOTA BORDER COMMITTEE REP: Peg Unger

On behalf of the KDCA/NWOTA Working Group Peg said that one of the issues being worked on is the issue with the border. She said the issue is not so much with the law as the law is the law. A request for the rewording of the law has been made but the committee has not received any word to date. The issue rudeness are guests face at the border which needs to stop. Peg posed a question to the reps from the Canada Border Services Agency "Can we as operators or as an organization do anything to help resolve these matters?"

8.CANADA BORDER SERVICES AGENCY (CBSA) Greg Mecure, Chief of Operations and Kevin Begin, Superintendent

Greg thanked KDCA/NWOTA for the invitation and insured the membership that it is a priority to work with the tourism industry on these issues.

Kevin said that at the last meeting he gave his pledge to work with the organizations on the issues. He said they realize what a huge economic impact it has in the region. He said they are not out to hurt any kind of business. He agreed that there were a few incidents of rudeness. He said that tourists were more upset with being turned back than by the rudeness.

The following is a summary of the discussions:

Bob Paluch, owner of Temple Bay Lodge on Eagle Lake -he passed out newspaper articles and letters from his guests who were turned back at the border. He said that a lot us us feel that rudeness got worse this summer. There were more complaints on that than other things. Bob said he's been dealing with the DUI issue over the last 12 years.Now this year with electronic databases we're dealing with criminal charges. We thought we'd see improvements this past summer but it's been the roughest run so far.

Greg Mecure, CBSA Chief of Operations -the Officers behaviours are my concern. Some of the little things are difficult messages to deliver. He gave some examples such as Officers pointing fingers at people crossing the border. He said the way they are sometimes delivering the message comes across as rudeness. He said they are working on training Officers to deliver the message in a professional manner.

Angie Korzinski, owner Rusty Meyers Flying Service, Fort Frances base - asked why was someone with a 40 year old conviction not not able get in. Why couldn't he just be let in?

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances - depends what the conviction was. Anything that was considered/compared to a jail sentence in Canada is taken seriously.

Peg Paluch, owner of Temple Bay Lodge on Eagle Lake -Kevin, you are the only one who took time to explain things to me this summer when some of our guests were denied entry. You let me fax lists of our guests for prescreening one week prior to their departure to Canada. She asked if he would do this for them again next season.

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -he said it's not their policy to prescreen travelers but for her to touch base with him in the Spring and they'd work on a clearance system He said discretion is only to be used as a huge economic benefit.

Cindy Miller, NWOTA -but \$1,000 times 50 people being refused is huge!

Greg Mecure, CBSA Chief of Operations -we've always heard that Fort Frances is a tough crossing. He said according to their stats it is not that tough.

Tom Pearson, Camp Narrows Lodge, Rainy lake and President NWOTA -you're talking the last 3 years. We started screaming about this issue 10 years ago. The number of people coming through the Fort Frances border is 50% down. You've already sent back all the inadmissible customer and they're not coming back. Manitoba and Saskatchewan don't have this problem.

Greg Mecure, CBSA Chief of Operations - Fort Frances is down 4% in visitor crossings. There are just less people coming. Fishermen and hunters are dedicated customers.

Tom Pearson, Camp Narrows Lodge, Rainy lake and President NWOTA - you can't tell me it's not a problem. Your Officers have a cowboy attitude. He explained a story about one of his guests (72 years old) bringing a carved fish as a gift to him valued at \$100 across the border. The Officer told the 72 year old that he'd buy one from him for \$1600. Conversation went on with the Officer trying to trick the man into agreeing that it's value was \$1600. If he had fallen for it he would have had to pay taxes on the \$1600 instead of the \$5.00 he paid in taxes on the \$100.

Steve Hartle, owner Big Hook Wilderness Camps, Red Lake -the damage has been done. He told Greg that when the CBSA are doing their stats they're starting at the bottom. The stats are a little screwed up because it's a different type of visitor crossing the border compared to Windsor. CBSA is taking tax dollars out of the system.

Eric Brown, owner Totem Resorts, Lake of The Woods, Sioux Narrows -he explained this was his 32nd year in the tourist business. He commended on a past employee of CBSA Fort Frances, Harvey Ostichuck. He was a great friend to all the tourist operators, had common sense and discretion. I have lost 3 million dollars of lost revenue over the last three years because of guests being denied entry (1,500 guests). He said he used to employ 225 people. Now he only employs 65 because of this. A fellow from Minnesota had a DUI. He tried coming across the border at two different times. On the last attempt the Officer read him the riot act and made him sign a form that if he tries to enter Canada again he'll get 30 days in jail. There seems to be no consistency as to who is let into Canada. He said he sent a list of guests to the border to be prescreened 30 days in advance. The Officer said forget it. We don't have time to do that-we're 6 months behind. He said most DIU's (99%) are a summary conviction. Why are we holding U.S. guests with DUI's on a different level?

Karla Clark, owner Clarks Resorts, Indian and Cedar Lake -she said the damage can't be undone. What can't be measured are the people that want to come to Canada but won't because of what they've heard about the border crossing. That's multi million \$'s.

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -10 years ago we didn't have an electronic database. It was all personal interviews. I can't apologize for the laws.

Karla Clark, owner Clarks Resorts, Indian and Cedar Lake -back then when they crossed with a DUI the Officers comment was "Have a nice trip."

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -the main thing is our access to information. The Agency tells us we have to consider all these things.

Mal Tygesson, owner Evergreen Lodge, Eagle Lake -when people are deemed inadmissible do they sign a form? Do you also keep track of the number of people in the group traveling with the person with a DUI who are also turned back? Kevin said NO. Mal said that if we had more ammo with these stats then maybe we'd have more ammo with the decision makers.

Greg Mecure, CBSA Chief of Operations -I think the tourist operators stats would be better than ours.

Gerry Cariou, Executive Director, Ontario's Sunset Country -but we're not believed! They see us biased on this issue.

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -7% are referred to be reviewed. 3% of those 7% are allowed admissible.

Gerry Cariou, Executive Director, Ontario's Sunset Country -percentages are misleading indicators. Percentages compare apples to oranges.

Greg Mecure, CBSA Chief of Operations -the message I'm taking back is that there is still an issue with our Officers. Perhaps we need to get some of the stories we've heard today back to the Officers that work the border. They have to understand the impact it has on you.

Gord Bastable, Vermilion Bay Lodge, President of KDCA -we can measure our loses due to the border. Do you feel that with the electronic database that safety in Northwestern Ontario has improved?

Gerry Cariou, Executive Director, Ontario's Sunset Country -he thanked Kevin and Greg for coming...it's like a shooting gallery. I get calls from Mom & Pop camps saying "We're going to loose our camp because of the border." You guys must realize the impact you're having. We're a lot poorer than 10 years ago...but are we safer? The tourism economy is collapsing because of all these people being turned back at the border.

Karla Clark, owner Clarks Resorts, Indian and Cedar Lake -by in large guests coming to Northwestern Ontario are not bank robbers turned fishermen and hunters. When guests come to our resort they never leave during their stay or go out to bars etc.

Angie Korzinski, owner Rusty Meyers Flying Service, Fort Frances base -do the Officers get "Human Factors Training"?

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -sensitivity training is incorporated into every module of training.

Eric Brown, owner Totem Resorts, Lake of The Woods, Sioux Narrows -is it automatic after 10 years they are allowed in?

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -they are deemed rehabilitated after 10 years for all minor offenses (i.e. DUI's).

Eric Brown, owner Totem Resorts, Lake of The Woods, Sioux Narrow -can you help us speed up the process of those 5-10 years?

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances -It is the office in Thunder Bay that handles them and they are very busy. Depends on volume and time of year as to have fast they get processed. If the person has missed including some information on the form it can get very lengthy.

Gerry Cariou, Executive Director, Ontario's Sunset Country -we're the only tourist businesses in Canada that has information on our web sites and dedicated web sites with information for crossing into Canada. This info on our web sites isn't working.

Eric Brown, owner Totem Resorts, Lake of The Woods, Sioux Narrows -maybe automatic rehabilitation should be cut from 10 years to five years.

Anonymous

- this person told a story of a brother who had 2 DUI charges not being allowed to come across the border to fish but has crossed the border 15 times in the last 6 years with a semi transport loaded with \$82,000 worth of goods being imported.

Tom Pearson, Camp Narrows Lodge, Rainy lake and President NWOTA -it's ironic that the Ontario Government spent \$2.5 million \$'s on marketing in the U.S. just to get people to come up here.

Kevin Begin-CBSA Supervisor, Fort Frances

-Contact me at the following tel#'s
807-274-5281 (work) or 807-6068 (cell)

12:10 P.M. LUNCH- *Sponsored by Temple bay Lodge & Evergreen Lodge*

Gord welcomed Mel Fisher, representing the City of Dryden. He said he was overwhelmed with the problems facing the tourist industry and wanted to pledge the City's help/support.

1:00 P.M. Meeting resumed.

9. MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATES: Matthew Benson, Dryden MNR, Scott Lockhart & Steve Duda, Kenora MNR

Matthew announced staff changes throughout the region. They are as follows:

Red Lake - Dave Anderson retiring and Nadine, a Biologist is back from maternity leave.

Sioux Lookout - Jim Fry is Acting District Manager.

Dryden - Dick DeGroot, Conservation Officer is retiring, Jill Van Wallegham, A Biologist is on maternity leave and Dorothy Brunner will be acting in her place.

Forestry - Leo O'Driscoll is on leave and will also be retiring with Derek Johnson acting on his behalf.

Fisheries Update: Zone 4 Background report is complete. There are nineteen people on the Advisory Council with KDCA Member Karla Clark being one of them. Fort Frances Zone 5 is one year behind Zone 4. An Advisory Committee is in place and will meet in late October. The background is expected to be completed by January 2011. Eagle Lake and Wabigoon Lake Creole Survey samples have been sent to the labs for analysis. They also monitored the movement of Trout on Eagle Lake's West Arm. Data suggests that Trout can move from one end of the lake to the other end of Eagle in 2 to 3 days.

Deer Update: The committee status is unchanged since the spring meeting. Monitoring and sampling for Chronic Waste Disease (CWD) in Northwestern Ontario will be continued this year.

Moose Update: The aerial moose inventory done last winter in Zone 8 couldn't be completed due to loss of snow. It is expected that this inventory will be redone this winter.

Timber Related Things: In 2010 there were three Forest Management Plans done in the Dryden Forest, Sioux Lookout/Lac Seul and the Kenora Forest. the Cross-Route Forest in Fort Frances, Whitefeather Forest in Sioux Lookout and the Whiskey Jack Forest in Kenora will all be implementing their FMP's in April 2011. Mal asked Matthew what feedback the MNR was getting back from the council. Matthew said he had not attended any of the meetings. He said he understood there was a sense of frustration and information overload. he said the committee is starting to come together and identifying the consensus problems.

Kenora District Update: by Steve Duda

Andrew Applejohn has moved on and Leo Heyens is Acting District Manager. It is hoped this position will be permanently filled within the next few months. He said of interest to the camps on Lake of the Woods there has been interim fire response where the Ministry is letting fire play out it's natural role and burn themselves out as long as there is no danger to persons or property. Their next phase will be to perform prescribed burns which is hoped to encourage growth. White Pine and Oak stands tend to do well with fire. This phase won't start at the earliest until 1 year from now. Of note- Sturgeon on the Winnipeg River have been put on the endangered species list. Netting and monitoring are being conducted to track their movement in the Winnipeg River. Steve said there are two Forest Management Plans in Kenora for 2012. They are the Kenora Forest (1 year contingency plan) and Whiskey Jack Forest (3 year contingency plan). They are currently developing a working relationship with Grassy Narrows First Nation.

More Kenora District Updates: by Scott Lockhart

A proposal has been brought to the Minister to address public safety concerns and to eliminate discharge from a road or roadway. The proposed legislation is that one cannot possess a loaded firearm used for public vehicular use- one must be off the road 8 meters before loading a firearm. The MNR will accept comments on this proposal between Sept. 24 to Nov. 8, 2010. The EBR is www.ebr.gov.on.ca and once you are on the site the number is 011-1053. They are hoping for this change for the start of Moose and Deer season and should not affect bird hunters. Jaquie asked what has spurred this? Scott said it was a safety issue. Randy Hanson said that they're seeing deer hunters numbers dropping. He said that the lack of management in the deer hunt has spurred the high end American Plan deer hunters to disappear-they've gone elsewhere. That leaves us with the low end deer hunters. We need some changes, however small. Scott said it's not done yet. Matthew said that it's the same thing in Dryden...it's inexcusable that we don't have a game plan to report about at meetings like this. Randy Hanson said that anytime a discussion comes up it's money, money, money....no budget. Are we seeing a drop in staff at the MNR. Matthew said that anytime you see a Ministry in a deficit situation there is no growth in staff. He said they can't afford the staff they have. Mal asked if the opening of Northern Pike Season changing on Eagle Lake. Matthew said there was a mistake in the regulation write up this year having Northern opening 1 week later than walleye and once it's published it can't be changed. In this case the conservation officers will patrol lightly. Mal said that the CEO's stayed away from Eagle Lake. It was a soft approach and very nice.

10. KDCA/NWOTA WORKING GROUP BRAINSTORMING SESSION:

Everyone agreed that it was worthwhile to combine the fall meetings. Both organizations face similar issues and our strength in numbers is an asset. The following members all agreed to work on behalf of the working group- Harald Lohn, Gord Bastable, Jaquie Haukeness, Peg Hunger, Tom Pearson and Randy Hanson. After much discussion it was agreed that the working group focus on two major issues; the border and the Deer hunt. Randy agreed to put together a press release stating some facts about the deer hunt. This will be approved by KDCA and NWOTA executives before being released. The committee will also put together a survey with approximately 10 questions that can be included in travel packages sent to guests before they embark on their trip across the border into Canada. The survey will include questions such as "What is the badge number of the border agent and what was your experience when crossing the border?" If you have a suggestion of a question you'd like included in the survey please e-mail it to Cindy at cmiller@kdca-nwota.ca so she may pass on to the KDCA/NWOTA Working Group for consideration in the survey.

11. OTHER BUSINESS :

- a) **OFFICE CONTRACT RENEWAL:** Ruth Price moved that the KDCA office contract with Boreal Signs (Judy Alexander) be renewed. Seconded by Mal. Carried.
- b) **ELECTIONS:** Gord said that according to the KDCA Constitution elections are to be held every fall. Mal said that KDCA will have to put amending the constitution to a vote at the spring meeting.
- c) **SPRING MEETING - date confirmed for May 6, 2011, Waldhof Hall .**
- d) **NOTO CONVENTION:** Jacquie agreed to be the KDCA representative at the fall NOTO Convention. Evie moved that expenses for attending the convention be covered by KDCA. Seconded by Steve. Carried.
- e) **KDCA/NWOTA WORKING GROUP:** Steve said every year KDCA kicks in \$2,500 to the working group account. Mal moved that if the working group needed the \$2,500 matching dollars that it would be available. Seconded by Steve. Carried.

15. ADJOURNMENT: Steve motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Seconded by Evie. Adjourned.