



DATE: Thurs, March 13, 2008

LOCATION: Direct Energy Centre
Toronto Sportsmen's Show

TIME: 9:00 am to 10:45 am

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES

President, Kim Rhodes, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a progress report to the membership of the association's activities over the past 12 months.

National Fishing 2007: The campaign was a great success with increased media exposure and a growth in the number of family fishing events taking place from coast to coast. The work of a newly formed National Fishing Week Committee will ensure that this nationally recognized event will grow into the future. The Committee is already planning into 2009, the 10th anniversary of National Fishing Week, in order to make it a memorable occasion. The Catch Fishing Website Committee will be responsible for updating our website.

CSIA Newsletter: The CSIA is going 'green' by distributing 3 newsletters and bi-monthly updates electronically to keep the membership informed.

Committees & Staff: Kim expressed his appreciation for the passion and dedication the committee members volunteer to the association. He offered a special thanks to Tina Deutsch, the Office Manager, secretary and motivator. Last July, the board of directors voted to not renew the Executive Director's contract for 2008. At this time, members of the Nominations Committee are conducting interviews in search of a new executive director.

Rick Amsbury Tribute: Kim reported the induction into the Competitive Sport Fishing League's Canadian Fishing Hall of Fame of our past Executive Director, the late Rick Amsbury. As a tribute to Rick, the members got the opportunity to see a video biography of this great legend. Through Rick's hard work and passion, he achieved the unprecedented step of bringing together every provincial and territorial natural resource agency and the federal government in support of the first National Fishing Week. Through the ongoing support of the tackle industry and other partners, this national program keeps growing every year, reaching millions of people coast to coast to coast with the benefits of fishing. Kim continued by acknowledging that "Huck's" dreams are now a reality!

OFAH Anniversary: On behalf of the CSIA, Kim congratulated Mike Reader and the Ontario Federation of Hunters and Anglers on their 80th anniversary and encouraged them to continue their work in the years to come.

Kim welcomed and introduced the Minister of Natural Resources, Donna Cansfield as the guest speaker.

Minister Cansfield explained that she understands the vital part recreational fishing plays in the economy of Ontario, over \$2 million dollars. This contribution benefits the anglers, the businesses and most importantly, families across the province - teachable moments”, where you can share recreation with your family. With over a quarter million lakes in Ontario which are home to more than a dozen sportfishing species, the Minister stated she truly believes the prosperity of fishing in Ontario is defined by sustainable balance that is nurtured over many years. As an example of sustainability, she uses the ‘three legged stool’ concept: economy, society and environment – all must be in balance with one another.

As Minister of Natural Resources she is committed to working with us so that Ontario can build on its vibrant sportfishing industry, its strong commercial fishing industry, on healthy, well-managed fish populations and on the protection for endangered species and for sensitive habitat. Sustaining Ontario’s fisheries by increasing awareness is one of her Ministry’s top priorities. They completely overhauled the 2008 fishing regulations guide to make it easier for anglers to find important information and to identify regulations.

The Ministry is taking a new ecological approach to managing Ontario’s fishing divisions. New boundaries are now based on factors that actually affect the fish populations like climate zones, watersheds and fishing pressures. There are now 20 zones rather than 37.

The Ministry is setting up Fishery Management Zone Advisory Councils to encourage public involvement in fishery management and participation in new monitoring programs to collect information from lakes. Pilot councils are already setup in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Peterborough with more planned for the future.

Enhancement of the fisheries is another priority and the Minister used the Atlantic Salmon Project, one of the largest, freshwater North American restoration programs, as one of the examples of a great partnership of 30 organizations including the CSIA. She also mentioned other enhancement projects like sea lamprey control with DFO and Lake Superior trout stocking. The Ministry is renovating the Dorian Fish Culture Station to double its capacity. The Minister acknowledged the work that organizations like the CSIA and the Ministry undertake will ensure healthy fish populations for the years to come.

The Minister affirmed that 750,000 Ontarians are active anglers each year and they are joined by almost 500,000 visitors with a decline over the past few years. The Minister plans on addressing this trend by increasing the promotion of fishing by continuing to promote Ontario’s licence-free weekends in the summer and winter, Ontario Family Fishing Weekends. The summer event always coincides with National Fishing Week. The Minister observed that while attending her first OFFW this winter, she was struck by the participating anglers’ respect for the environment noting the area was returned to its original pristine state upon conclusion of the day’s activities.

The Minister wants to raise the profile of the Ministry of Natural Resources, custodians of our natural resources. She wants to get more people outdoors, especially engaging children in urban areas, encouraging them and offering them the opportunity to experience our great outdoors.

The Minister expressed her concerns regarding 50% of her staff retiring within the next 5 years and the huge challenge of “restocking” the Ministry with diverse and exciting young people from the province.

She wants to personally learn how to fly-fish and will continue to support fishing festivals and derbies across the province by visiting some of these events.

Minister Cansfield assured everyone that the bait industry won't be going away and that it will continue to be an integral part of the fishing industry. The Ministry will re-engage the Bait Association and others to help teach the valuable ecological and educational role of fishing.

The Minister wants an open-dialogue with the sportfishing industry is prepared to promote sportfishing, recreational fishing and commercial fishing in this province. She is opening the door to anyone who wants to have a dialogue on building partnerships and will gladly discuss any issues.

She touched on MNR funding issues and promised to re-profile funds within the ministry to make sure priorities got funding even if their budget requests fell short.

The Minister opened the floor to questions.

Bob Izumi expressed to the minister the uniqueness of a group such as the CSIA organization in the fishing industry. Bob offered the support of all the members of the CSIA to the Minister in her ongoing fishing resource projects. On behalf of the CSIA members, the Minister was asked what specific plans she had to address the funding crisis in Ontario's Fish & Wildlife core programs, including science and research, fish and wildlife inventory, assessment and field operations funding and critical staff levels.

The Minister responded stating that the Ministry functions within a budget it is given and gave an example of Conservation Officers having new responsibilities in monitoring the commercial fishing industry and the difficulty in retaining trained CO's within MNR. The Ministry is looking at a holistic approach to the collection of data. She is committed to funding around the critical component of data within her ministry. She explained the importance of the ministry providing predictions based on science and admitted that MNR needs to do more. Research and development allocations to projects like species at risk, DNA will be funded.

When it was suggested by a member of the CSIA that the MNR start enforcing the sections of the Act to protect anglers against harassment, the Minister insisted recent instances were the responsibility of the OPP and not MNR Conservation Officers. While awaiting the final report of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Minister is calling for an open dialogue within the community affected by these incidents. The Minister added the translation of the fishing regulations into other languages such as Mandarin will help to educate Asian anglers about provincial fishing rules.

The CSIA membership also asked Minister Cansfield if she will take direct action to exempt the Atlantic salmon restoration project from being compromised by the "Ontario Species at Risk Act"?

The Minister answered in the affirmative noting the Ministry is working to exempt the salmon project and will coordinate the same with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). She promised to invite the CSIA and other partners to engage and be involved in the creation of future regulations to create a comprehensive document. The Minister urged members to call her or her staff if they have any questions or concerns about any issue affecting fish and wildlife.

The Minister concluded her speech by promising to work with the Ministry of Tourism to encourage fishing in the province.

Kim Rhodes thanked the Minister for attending the meeting.

Tom Brooke, Chairman of the CSIA, presented 3 Chairman’s Awards this year recognizing individuals for their outstanding contributions to recreational fishing and our industry.

Walter Oster of the Canadian National Sportsmen’s Shows was honored for his many years of support of grassroots recreational fishing initiatives, especially for kids. Working on behalf of the CSIA, **Phil Morlock** received an award for his outstanding contributions in the establishment of the Outdoor Caucus and Foundation, the largest Canadian parliamentary caucus. Well-known fishing personality and tournament angler **Big Jim McLaughlin** who is the publisher of Just Fishing was honored for his decades of being a ‘bigger-than-life’ booster of recreational fishing, especially among young people. Real Fishing’s Bob Izumi accepted Big Jim’s award on his behalf.

As Chairman of the Nomination and By-laws Committee, John Newton presented two motions to the memberships.

Motion 1 - During the course of the year, the Board of Directors run the association on behalf of the membership. At the AGM we ask that the membership approve the actions of the Board of Directors over the last 12 months.

***Moved by: Phil Morlock Secoded by: Steve Sherman
By a show of hands, the motion was carried.***

Motion 2 – That the membership approve this years slate of Directors, namely:

MEMBER	COMPANY	CATEGORY	TERM	END DATE
Kim Rhodes	Lucky Strike Baitworks	Manufacturer	2 yr	2008
Roger Cannon	Normark Inc	Manufacturer	2 yr	2008
Cam Thomson	Pure Fishing Canada Ltd.	Manufacturer	2 yr	2008
Rob Walton	Shakespeare Fishing Tackle	Manufacturer	2 yr	2008
Steve Dorey	Maurice Sporting Goods	Distributor	2 yr	2009
Shawn Glowka	KTL Canada Ltd	Distributor	2 yr	2009
Nelson Murakami	Natural Sports	Retailer	2 yr	2008
Jim Estabrooks	Fishing World	Retailer	2 yr	2008
Mark Harrison	Canadian Tire Corp. Ltd.	Retailer	2 yr	2009
Alison de Groot	Ontario Out of Doors	Media	2 yr	2009
Ray Sriubiskis	Cnd National Sportsmen’s Shows	Media	2 yr	2009
David Johnson	The Fishin’ Hole	Retailer	2 yr	2009
Jim Gourlay	Eastern Woods & Waters	Media	2 yr	2009
Mark Stiffel	Brecks International Inc.	Manufacturer	2 yr	2009
One (1) member from British Columbia yet to be named			2 yr	2009

***Moved by: Tom Brooke Secoded by: Alison de Groot
By a show of hands, the motion was carried.***

John thanked the Steve Dorey and Ray Sriubiskis of the committee for their help over the past year. John reported that the committee is actively searching for another member to fill the last position on the board.

Tina Deutsch delivered an update on this year's **National Fishing Week** campaign now in its 9th year – Catch a memory - Take someone special fishing! She presented a sneak peak at this year's campaign - a nostalgic feel that will pull at your heartstrings and evoke memories. This year's PSA will be based on old fishing film footage. She thanked everyone for their support during last year's event and for the work by Mike Melnik and Rob Morton in achieving an unpaid media value of almost \$2.3 million in 2007. Sun Media's 6th year of partnering with National Fishing Week for their insert will see many firsts this year. New features for 2008 include 15 urban dailies and 9 community dailies and Overruns for major BC travel centres. More TV stations will be engaged to run contests to win a free rod combo. She encouraged all members to use the free media products available to promote National Fishing Week.

Tina also reminded the membership about the upcoming fund-raising events: 4th Annual CSFL Industry Pro-Am Fundraiser and the Industry Golf Tournament.

Kim Rhodes adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.