

Friends of Dumoine/Amis de la Dumoine

First Annual General Meeting

29 January 2025

The first meeting of the Friends of the Dumoine/Amis de la Dumoine was held 29 January, 2025 at 19:00 on ZOOM, The meeting was chaired by John McDonnell.

25 people attended the meeting:

Laurie Robinson, Wolf Lake Band member
Larry Mchenry, Renfrew, WCA wilderness canoe association
Melissa Robinson, Wolf Lake First Nation
Hugh Christie, Toronto, Paddler of the Dumoine
Claire Bolduc, Préfète de la MRC de Témiscamingue
Mary Hughson, Montreal, DRAW Artist
Deborah Powell, Bristol QC in the Pontiac
Paul Chisholm, Deep River, avid paddler and trail runner
Michel Boyer, Administrator for ZEC Dumoine
Roger Christen, J'ai un abri sommaire près du Lac Laforge since 2000
J-L Fournier, Hull, Historical Researcher and Toponymist
Peter Edmison, Chair Grand Chute Visitor Center
Erin Pehar, Owner/Director of MHO Adventures based in Huntsville, ON
Jennifer Haughton Shawville/Bristol, Paddled part of the river in 2023 and DRAW Artist
Brent Cooper, Swisha Local, Outdoor Guide, Nuclear Inspector (retired)
Carolyn Pullen, Ottawa, Paddler and spouse, mother and daughter of paddlers
Mike Lamothe, bushwacker and trail and bridge builder
Richard Peacock, Lancing Penn, Dumoine River Rod and Gun Club
Lynn Calback
Marc Audet, Deep River
Raymond Beecraft
Guillaume Rivest, Rouyn
John McDonnell, Chelsea
Wally Schaber, Chelsea
David Sinclair, Ottawa

Agenda

1. Land Acknowledgment
2. Opening Remarks
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Highlights of the past year
5. Election of the board members
6. Proposed bylaws
7. Financial report 2023-2024 and budget for 2024-2025
8. Other business
9. Question Period

1. John McDonnell presented an acknowledgement:
The Friends of the Dumoine acknowledge, with gratitude, the land, air fire and all the beings of creation that sustain us. We honour the longstanding relations of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg People, especially members of the Wolf Lake First Nation, to the Dumoine River Watershed and their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial. We acknowledge colonial harms, including the displacement of the Dumoine Band, and we commit to renewed and respectful relations to the People, nature and this place.
2. Wally gave the opening remarks starting with the comment that if anyone wished to ask questions in French this would be welcomed. He outlined the history and objectives of the FOD. In 2016 work to improve campsites along the river and the installation of 'thunderboxes' started. After 2 years 50 campsites were improved. Improve boardwalks and portages. Began considering the old logging road seen along some of the portages and whether this could be opened as a hiking trail. After 6 years the 23 km trail had been cleared and many artifacts found showed that a wonderful history could be told. Work with the ZEC Dumoine and CEPAWS to create and maintain the trail for self-propelled travel. One piece of privately leased property existed at the start of the trail. The FOD has now purchased the lease for this property and will create an entrance facility for the trail
3. Agenda Approved – Hugh Christie moved, David Sinclair second, approved.
4. Highlights of the last year. Wally. The accident at the end of the previous year showed we need to learn how to respond to such an event and to obtain equipment to handle search and rescue. This was done. Completed more work along the trail and signage. Work on Bertrand site. Improvements made at several campsites and invested in canoes to cross the Fildegrand river. Artifacts being donated and placed at the Grand Chute museum and on the trail.
5. Election of First Board – Hugh Christie introduced this. To make the organization more able to interact, we become more formally organized including becoming incorporated and insured. Certificate of Incorporation was issued June 2022. Need a Board of Directors and Bylaws. Proposed first Board of Directors: Wally Schaber, John McDonnell, David Sinclair, Guillaume Rivest, Erin Pehar, Mark Stiles, Mark Audet, Hugh Christie. Acceptance of Directors, Moved Hugh Christie, Second Larry Mchenry, All approved.
6. Hugh Christie introduced the Bylaws. Mark Stiles worked to develop these. It was moved by Hugh Christie and seconded by David Sinclair that these be adopted. This was approved. The approved bylaws are attached to these minutes.
7. Financial Report presented by Wally. Friends of Dumoine has 6 sources of income. About \$25K is required for basic operations. For special projects another 15K. 40% of the budget comes from memberships. We rent canoes 10%. Trail fees 5%, 5% from sale of maps etc. Rest is from Donations. Grants from Power Corporation, MRC Pontiac, and Barry Holborn, Architecture. About 20% comes from private donations. Total about \$40K. This year we have the commitment to develop the lease at the mouth of Dumoine and paying back the loan for the lease (over 2 years). Need funds

for insurance. The financial statements are attached to these minutes. Approval - moved Larry Mchenry, second, Hugh Christie Approved.

8. Call for members to join committees that they feel they can contribute to. Comment by Brent Cooper – interest in getting local people from Swisha involved. They greatly appreciate the work of the FOD. They have a unique role in rescue and strong links with the region. Wally commented on Ron Bowes who had a unique role as the pilot who made the Dumoine accessible to many. A lasting memorial to his memory will be placed in Swisha and on the trail. Big thanks to CPAWS for the creation of the Aquatic Reserve. John explained the possible role of FOD in the process. 1800 square km now protected. Prevents big industrial activities but permits recreation together with hunting, trapping and fishing. Added sections of Noire and Colonge rivers. Working on old growth regions along the Poussière river. Looking to protect corridor between Algonquin Park and Dumoine. Look at linkages between wolves of Ontario and Quebec. Looking at hazardous sites for wildlife along highway 17. Information meeting in the Spring in Deep River.
9. Other business – Dumoine River is boundary between Pontiac and Témiscamingue. Most traffic from Ontario and Pontiac while all of the trail is under the control of Témiscamingue
Working on formal MOU with ZEC Dumoine and now developing MOU with Ministry of Environment.
10. New Board members introduced themselves.
11. Final Points: Hosts required for Grande Chute to look after site and help with the trail.

On Feb 28 Wally will be doing a presentation in Deep River, also possibly in Swisha

12. Questions: A question was raised about the condition of roads and bridges in the Dumoine. The ZEC Dumoine President responded urging anyone who sees a problem to contact the ZEC because they do not have the staff to monitor their complete road system frequently. Wally added that anyone seeing a minor problem such as branches on the road should stop and clear it if they are able. A question was raised about closer linkage with Wilderness Canoe Association. This was welcomed by Wally and he agreed to follow up. No further questions were raised.

13. Motion to adjourn: Moved Ray Beecraft, Second Lynn Calback, Approved

Following the formal meeting, Jean-Luc Fournier gave a presentation titled '<Moine>' on the Dumoine about a trip made by a missionary, Baptiste Proulx (1846-1904) on the Kipawa River leading into Dumoine Lake. This talk was very much appreciated by all.