



# CLPOA Annual General Meeting – May 5, 2026

## Elsbeth Gaukrodger - President's Remarks

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This is my first AGM as President, and I'm glad to be stepping into this role with a group that already has a strong foundation.

Basically, everything we do as an association comes back to one thing: **keeping Chandos connected, engaged, and well looked after** — a place where people know each other, show up, and take some ownership in what happens here.

### People & Volunteers

That starts with people.

I want to thank our Secretary, **Debbie Kirton** and Director of Communications, **Kristen Davison** for pulling this AGM together. There's a lot behind the scenes — from required documentation & communication to the virtual setup — and they've handled it smoothly.

I also want to recognize **Dave Taillefer**, who's stepping away after years of service, including as past president. And while he may be "retired," we're all hoping he keeps an eye on those water hazard markers — thanks for getting them installed last weekend.

More broadly, this lake runs on volunteers. From environmental work and lake preservation to finances, membership, yearbook advertising, and events — a lot of effort goes in that most people never see, but it's what keeps things working.

If we want Chandos to stay strong, this is what it looks like — people stepping up in ways that fit their time and interests.

### Looking Back:

Looking back at 2025, a lot of what we did was about strengthening connections across the lake.

The Environment Committee didn't just run programs — they brought people together around shared responsibility. The Fire Preparedness Session, Water Pump Demo, and shoreline vegetation initiatives all reinforced that we **each play a role** in looking after this place.

We launched the **Chandos Lake Summer Social** — specifically to connect newer cottagers with long-time owners. That's exactly the kind of thing we need more of, and we'll build on it this summer. Hopefully we see a strong turnout on July 18th at Lakeview Marina.



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The **Regatta** over the August long weekend is another great example — there were more than 200 participants of all ages. A big thank you to **Erin Walkovich** and her team for making this a terrific event, and to **John Lovatsis** for keeping everyone well fed at all our events.

The **Kids' Fishing Derby** run by **Lynne Moore** and the **Fireworks Display** arranged by **Derek Hull**, continue to be highlights of the summer — events that bring people together year after year.

We also stepped up beyond the lake, with a Community Care contribution to support Apsley residents affected by the Ice Storm, and with our first annual Charity Golf Tournament — both, reflect our associations support of the broader Apsley area.

#### Looking Ahead:

Essentially, we lost some momentum during COVID — especially when it comes to participation. So, the focus now is simple: **rebuild, grow and broaden engagement**.

We need to bring in more people — new owners, adult children of long-time cottagers, younger families, and those who may not yet feel as connected.

That applies across the board — events, volunteering, and even how people use the lake responsibly.

A **good example is the boat cleaning station**. It's one of the best tools we have to protect the lake, but it only works if people use it. This year, **we'll be more active** — promoting it, working with fishing events, and having volunteers on-site to make it easy.

**Protecting the lake and getting people involved go hand in hand.**

We're thinking about bringing back **an in-person AGM**—with a bit of a social side—because face-to-face still counts.



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### Closing

We've got a strong board and a solid group of volunteers — that's a great starting point.

Right now, about 50% of Chandos properties are part of the association. That's good, but there's room to grow. Broader participation makes us more effective and more representative.

So, talk to your neighbours. Invite them in. The more people who are engaged, the stronger this association becomes.

Because ultimately, this isn't just about running programs or meetings — it's about having some **fun**, and keeping Chandos, a place people care about, contribute to, and want to be part of.

**Thanks for being involved, and for everything you do to support the lake.**