

GREATER BOBS AND CROW LAKES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Bedford District Community Hall South Frontenac Township

Sunday, July 29th, 2012 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Item 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks:

President Taro Alps welcomed members and guests to the 33rd annual meeting of the association. He briefly noted that his term of presidency was ending and that in addition to the vacancy of president, there were additional vacant positions on the board. Members may want to consider volunteering for these vacancies during the course of the meeting as there would be a vote approving the 2012/13 slate of officers and directors at the end of the meeting. He thanked board members for their help throughout his term and also commented on the rewarding nature of his experience during this time. He advised that the association is always looking for new members to serve on the board and for assistance with various lake projects, such as the distribution of the shoreline survey results. He also noted the current low water level conditions, designated by RVCA as level II.

Item 2. Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting held on July 10th, 2011 was made by B. St. Arnaud and seconded by B. Carabott. A member noted that copies distributed at the meeting did not include page 6. Janice Walker indicated that a complete set of minutes would be posted on the GBCLA website shortly. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. Welcome to Mayors and Councilors:

President Alps welcomed councilors Mark Tinlin and John McDougall of South Frontenac Township to the meeting. Councilor McDougall complimented GBCLA for their excellent lake plan and noted how it was currently being used as a model throughout the province. He noted that there is concern that the emerald ash bore is heading our way and that 1/3 of our tree canopy is ash. On Thurs. August 30th there would be a meeting of lake association executives to discuss solid waste and re-cycling in the township. Councilor Tinlin informed members that monies had been approved to update the Bedford hall (air conditioning, new windows, floors, etc.) He also noted that there would be a 2nd annual constituency date meeting on August 27th and further public consultation meetings would be announced shortly.

Item 4. President's Update:

President Taro Alps updated members on noteworthy activities and initiatives:

(a) Shoreline Survey: A representative from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds (CSW) would be speaking further on this year's survey.

(b) Safety Buoys: A sample buoy was on display and President Alps thanked Laurel McKay who generously provided identifying tags for the buoys. He also thanked all the volunteers who donated their time and energy to take in and put out the buoys each year (B. Brink, M. Cooke, P. Smallman-Tew, R. Smith, and B. Sykes).

(c) There would be a Septic Workshop in Perth on August 18th.

President Alps commented that with the current state of government cutbacks, more and more is falling back onto the shoulders of the community. It is important that we recognize this and look for opportunities to become actively involved with our association.

Item 5. Change to Membership Year:

President Alps informed the membership that the board was proposing a change in the membership year from a June year-end date to a calendar year-end date. As such, the next membership renewal date would be January 2014, which would allow for ½ year extended membership. Motion to accept this change made by Jean Cooke and seconded by Helen Booth. A discussion followed regarding the rationale for this proposal. The change was to allow for better tracking and bookkeeping. Other discussion points included the possible lapse in revenue and what would be the impact on membership. Vote was called and majority opposed the change.

Item 6. Frontenac Stewardship Council:

Gord Rogers, Chair of the Frontenac Stewardship Council spoke on the role of this council and its composition. They assist in finding funding sources, produce brochures and hold seminars on various lake-related topics (i.e. Species at Risk). They have 14 volunteers and 1 paid staff person (Cam McCauley from MNR). He noted that future funding prospects were worrisome with the provincial and federal omnibus bills. Fisheries rehab funding is in jeopardy as well as the possibility of further cutbacks. However, on the positive side, volunteer activity is stronger than ever with a hard core group of people helping out and the sophistication of volunteer activities is improving. He also felt that we were fortunate to have the foundation as it played a very positive part in our role as lake stewards. Questions posed included what threat zebra mussels played to our lakes. No evidence of zebra mussels has been recorded and it could possibly have something to do with the pH level of our lakes.

Item 7. O.P.P.:

Marine coordinator Byron Newell spoke to the members on issues relating to *marine safety*. There have been no changes to the boater safety guide. Operator competency cards are the biggest change in the last 3 years. Approximately 95% of boaters are compliant however they are not taking their cards out on the lake. When multiple boats are owned, then photocopies of the card are acceptable. If a boater is unable to produce an operator's card, it will result in a \$305.00 fine. US citizens who rent a boat must comply with the Boaters Rental Checklist (owner of vessel completes with renter). US citizens operating a US boat on Canadian waters under 45 consecutive days are required to abide by the laws of their state. While marine officers have some discretion on enforcement of required boat items, drinking on boats, life jackets (in good condition) and operator's cards are regulations that are strictly enforced. He advised that when older boats are purchased with no registration papers, a notary can legally prepare a declaration of truth of ownership which can then be forwarded to Transport Canada. He advised that when sound levels of speed boats are extremely high, get the registration number of the vessel and inform the OPP. Re fishing regulations, licenses and limits are enforced.

Another OPP Detective spoke about issues relating to *cottage safety*. After providing recent statistics on property crimes, she advised that getting to know your neighbours may be the single most important thing you can do to protect your property. Having someone close by looking out on your behalf is critical in improving your cottage safety. In the event of a break-in, she advised not to clean up your property after calling the police as it can remove important evidence. Finally, know your property by taking pictures and noting serial numbers. Deer cameras can also be a valuable tool in the event of a break and enter. There is a Safeguard Program with information on how to secure your house better (on

GBCLA website) or else auxiliary officers can come directly to your house/cottage to advise on individual situations.

Item 8. Facebook & Website:

Rick Prudil reported that we are now in the second year of the revised web site design. Lowest hits/month have been approx. 900 and highest hits/month approximately 3,000. A Facebook site was introduced a few months ago and without any official announcement we now have 65 members. He asked members for any suggestions or changes and suggestions from the floor included more clear info on upcoming events and more maps.

Item 9. Wildlife Subcommittee:

Jenepher Lennox-Terrion summarized the recent accomplishments of this committee. At the Toronto Zoo presentation and planning meeting last summer (i.e. Adopt a Pond Program), the Wildlife Subcommittee was formed. As a result of their efforts, a turtle nesting beach was created on Turtle Island and a shoreline naturalization workshop is scheduled for Saturday, August 25th at 10am at the Crow Lake Schoolhouse. Finally, a Bio Blitz (an inventory of wildlife and plant species) is scheduled for the summer of 2013. In preparation for this, there will be a planning meeting on Saturday, August 11th at 10am at the Crow Lake Schoolhouse.

Item 10. Shoreline Survey:

Chantell Campeau gave a brief overview of the shoreline survey process and the information contained in the binder for property owners. Each owner will receive an individualized report on their shoreline along with general information on how to maintain a healthy shoreline. Last years' survey results would be ready in a week's time.

Item 11. Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation:

Norm Mole reiterated the message that these were days of increasing government cutbacks. In light of this, the foundation's role is becoming increasingly more important. In the past, they have provided funding for the shoreline survey and the purchase of fire pumps. The upcoming Frontenac Frolic (Saturday, August 4th) is a good way to support the foundation. Details on the day were provided (flea market, silent auction, bake sale, etc.).

Item 12: Financial & Membership Report:

Martin Yates drew members' attention to the highlights of the financial report which accompanied the agenda. For the year 2011/12 our income was \$11,021.08 and expenses \$21,655.72 leading to a deficit of \$10,634.64. The members' equity at June 30th was \$19,225.09. Membership revenues of \$6,307 represented 60% of our total. We also received grants totaling \$2,771 from the Bobs & Crow Lakes Foundation. Last year we contained our routine expenses to levels similar to the previous year with the exception that we printed extra copies of the spring newsletter to distribute with the shoreline surveys. (This will be good publicity for the association and will help attract new members.) Last fall the board decided that it was important to complete the shoreline survey even though funding that we obtained the previous year was no longer available. This meant that, even though we spread the remainder of the survey over two years rather than one, the net cost to the Association was \$12,500 last year. This fully accounts for the deficit. Our other two projects were the emergency water pumps and stream rehabilitation projects. Both of these were completed at no cost to the association. MNR paid for nearly the entire fisheries project and we once again depended on the generosity of the Foundation.

There was a suggestion for more emphasis to be placed on an e-version of the lake magazine. Motion to appoint Kelly, Huibers, McNeely of Perth to review our accounts and prepare our tax return made by Larry MacNinch, seconded by Derek Cooke. Motion carried.

Martin Yates reported that the 2011 year end, paid-up membership was 227, a slight fall from 2010/11. This represents only 17% of the properties on the lakes. He encouraged members if they haven't already done so to renew their memberships for 2012 and to also encourage their neighbours to join. This will be the final year for the Emergency Water Pumps program and the deadline for applying for a grant is August 3rd.

Item 13: Fishing & Wildlife:

Gordon Thompson reported on last year's activities which included the rehab of End Creek, the rehab planning for Camsell Creek and the whitefish workshop held on December 3rd, 2011 (attended by 125 People). Eagle Creek is scheduled for this year (August 20th). Next year shoreline rehabbing will stop and an evaluation process will begin. He noted the importance of GBCLA self-reliance in these days of government cutbacks. Volunteers and self-funding will be critical in the future. Two invasive species are now in our lakes, black crappie and rusty crawfish. Any sightings should be reported to a hotline and it's important to get the ones out that you do see.

Item 14: Election of Officers and Directors for 2012/2013:

Gordon Thompson drew members' attention to the current vacancies on the board. They included: President, Vice President, Marine Safety, Cottage Safety, Communications & PR and Crow Lake Representative. Larry Arpaia volunteered to stand for President, Mark Cooke for Marine Safety and Lloyd Jones was nominated by Bernie Gelineau for Crow Lake Representative. It was moved by Gordon Thompson and seconded by Martin Yates that the above mentioned be accepted as new members of the board. Motion carried.

President Alps listed the current and remaining slate of officers and directors for 2012/2013:

Past President - Taro Alps

Treasurer - Martin Yates

Secretary - Janice Walker

Fisheries & Wildlife - Gordon Thompson

Commercial Operations Liaison - DiAnne Henderson

Water Quality - Bonnie Carabott

Membership - Edie MacNinch

Crow Lake Representative - Bernie Gelineau

Crow Lake Gatekeeper - Mike Byrnes

Website & Facebook - Rick Prudil

It was moved by Bill St. Arnaud and seconded by Norm Mole that the above slate of officers and directors be accepted for 2012/13. Motion carried.

Item 15. Other Business/Members' Comments:

President Alps presented a gift of thanks to Susan O'Brien Mactaggart who was stepping down from her role as editor of the lake magazine. Members' comments included the suggestion to include a link regarding water levels (from the RCVA website) on our website. Also, a member noted that the destruction of beaver dams in Eagle Creek helped to maintain our current lake level. It was also suggested that the association pay more attention to access roads to our cottages. Past-president Charlie Stewart presented a gift of thanks to President Taro Alps for his contribution to GBCLA during the

five years of his tenure. President Alps introduced the new president, Larry Arpaia who then proceeded to announce the winners for the door prizes and 50/50 draw. Five cookbooks and two copies of The Dammed Lakes (generously donated by Lloyd Jones) were distributed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Larry Arpaia and seconded by Diane Poser. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

To be distributed to all Directors

To be posted on the web site

| To be made available to all members upon request

Janice Walker
Secretary