

# GREATER BOBS AND CROW LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

Sunday, July 28th, 2013 1:00 - 3:00 PM

### **Item 1. Welcome and Introductory Remarks:**

President Larry Arpaia introduced himself and welcomed members to the 34th annual meeting of the association. He briefly noted that this meeting would reflect on the current state of our lakes but would also look ahead on what we need to do in the future, specifically through partnerships.

### **Item 2. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the last general meeting held on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was made by J. Harvey and seconded by J. Cooke. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Item 3. RVCA Algae Bloom Survey: Kaitlin Brady**

Kaitlin Brady addressed the issue of algal blooms and excessive aquatic vegetation. Contributing causes include an increase in nutrients from lawn run-off (excessive rain will promote this). Also, global warming has resulted in warmer water temperatures, promoting growth as well. Preventative measures include shoreline buffers, phosphate-free soaps and septic inspections. She encouraged members to complete the RVCA survey, describing what they are noticing on the lake (accessible through GBCLA web site). By doing so, it will help RVCA to learn more about what is happening on our lakes and develop means to mitigate the negative effects. Discussion followed touching on topics such as the local sources of phosphate-free soaps, weed removal as a response to excessive weeds in swimming areas and whether there was any evidence of blue/green algae on local lakes.

### **Item 4. BioBlitz 2013: Bill St. Arnaud**

Bill St. Arnaud described the upcoming BioBlitz scheduled to take place on August 16 & 17, 2013 on the crown property adjacent to the Badour Farms development. Experts from the Museum of Nature, University of Guelph and the Toronto Zoo are just some of the participating researchers/speakers. In addition to expert-led walk/talks, a baseline inventory of local flora and fauna would be established. Free to GBCLA members, \$5.00 for non-members and \$10.00 for families. Members were directed to the BioBlitz table to sign up for one or more of the 11 walks offered.

### **Item 5. Bobs & Crow Lake Foundation: Norm Mole**

Norm Mole detailed the history and stated purpose of the foundation. Foundation funding in the past has included: fire pumps, nautical buoys, signage, shoreline surveys, fisheries funding, boating cards and the 2013 BioBlitz. He noted that individuals and groups outside of the GBCLA are eligible for funding through a prescribed application form on their web site. The Foundation's immediate project to raise funds was the upcoming Frontenac Frolic scheduled for Sat. August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Bedford Hall. Flea market and silent auction items were requested and could be dropped on the Friday prior. He stressed that the lack of government funding made the work of the Foundation even more critical.

**Item 6. FOCA: Ken Grant**

Ken Grant, President of the Board of Directors of FOCA spoke on the resources, programs and benefits of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottage Associations) membership. FOCA is an association representing approx. 500 lake associations across the province. Some of their tested programs include FireSmart, Bear Watch and Succession Planning Workshops, among many others. They are responsible for educational material and e-newsletters on a wide-range of topics relevant to cottagers. They recently hosted informational sessions on the Algonquin Land Claim.

Ken then explained the rationale for a recent membership fee increase from \$2.75 to \$3.25 per cottage. Loss of sponsorship from government agencies has prompted this increase. FOCA intends to develop more corporate sponsorship, in addition to raising membership fees. Benefits of membership include reduced rates of directors' liability insurance, proposed 10% reduction in personal/home insurance rates, Cottage Life subscription reduced rate, Canoe Museum reduced entrance fee, etc. Discussion clarified that as members of the GBCLA, we are all FOCA members. Larry Arpaia also noted that we will be able to access the FOCA legal team and a boilerplate template for our Not for Profit charter changes which are required for February 2014.

**Item 7. Fisheries and Wildlife Report: Gord Thompson**

Gord Thompson reported that we are in Year 5 of the Walleye Plan, however we are actually one year behind in projected goals. Due to the current high water levels and political issues with South Frontenac we have only completed the rehab of 4 creeks. Campsell Creek remains to be done. This year was scheduled to be an evaluation year however MNR is not able to do the required measurements to officially evaluate the success of the program. Observations of End Creek however have confirmed at least 70 spawning walleye and other anecdotal observations have indicated the spawning beds are working. There is over 280 tons of rock currently in storage ready to go. It will be used to augment other streams or be held over for another year for Campsell Creek. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a tour with MNR of all the rehabbed creeks, looking for areas requiring maintenance or augmentation. Members were invited to join this tour if they were interested.

**Item 8. Financial and Membership Report: Martin Yates**

Martin Yates drew members' attention to the financial report that was handed out at the door. He cautioned that these are preliminary numbers and are subject to correction. For the year our income was \$7,068.00 and expenses \$9,057.00 leading to a deficit of \$1,989.00. The members' equity at June 30, 2013 was \$17,582.00. The major source of revenue was memberships and donations. (Membership is shown as down as a correction to an error made two years ago when some memberships for future years was shown as revenue instead of prepaid memberships.) No external funding came to the Association last year. We wrote down the cookbook inventory by \$500.00 to properly reflect our physical inventory. Otherwise our biggest increases in expenses were the magazine (we decided to print extra copies as publicity material) and the AGM when several directors retired and were given gifts of appreciation. (2012 AGM costs were lowered by a donation of \$250.00 from CSW which was set against the costs. A realistic expectation would be that the AGM should cost about \$1,000.00). In summary, we are now having difficulty meeting our ongoing expenses (not project costs) from our current membership base. Potential courses of action include reducing expenses, increasing membership, embarking on fund-raising activities and increasing membership dues.

We received a total of \$19,159.00 for our various projects including a generous \$8,249.00 from the Foundation, \$7,910.00 from MNR and \$3,000.00 from the Toronto Zoo. These funds went straight to the

project expenses so did not go through the Association accounts. They are though, funds given to us to spend on these projects.

Paid up memberships as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013 was 221, a slight fall from June 30, 2012, which was 227 which was down from June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, when it was 236.

Motion made to appoint Kelly, Huibers, McNeely of Perth to review our accounts and prepare our tax return by D. Cooke, seconded by B. St. Arnaud. Motion carried unanimously.

**Item 9: President's Message (Your Lakes Today, Our Partners for Tomorrow):**

Larry Arpaia addressed the membership on the need to raise our membership fees. The rationale for this increase reflects the absence of government grants, the increase in FOCA rates, the increased cost of our magazine (in both production and mailing), and the proposed plan to use an electronic service to archive our historical information. Of our current \$30.00 membership fee, \$25.00 goes towards the running of our association. An estimate for 2014 forecasts a cost of \$38.11 to provide the same services. Our last membership fee increase was in 1998. With this information in mind, the association executive was recommending that membership fees be increased for 2014 to \$40.00.

Member's comments stressed the importance of increasing membership in addition to increasing fees. Lake magazine should be electronic. Road associations could collect membership fees for GBCLA at same time as they collect their road association fees. There was a suggestion to increase membership fees to \$50.00.

D. Jennings moved that fees for GBCLA membership be increased to \$40.00, seconded by B. St. Arnaud. Motion carried with one opposed (arguing for \$50.00 fee increase).

Larry Arpaia summarized the status of our current lake partnerships, i.e. RCVA provides shoreline surveys, planning and plants to assist with shoreline erosion. We participate in the Lake Partners' Program for water testing. FOCA will be assisting with our Not for Profit charter renewal. We have collaborated with both the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds and Friends of the Tay on shoreline surveys. We are partnering with the Toronto Zoo (i.e. one of three partnerships they have in the province) in the Adopt a Pond Program and for our BioBlitz. And we are now poised to enter into an agreement moving towards e-services that will archive our historical information, lake magazine issues and future collection of data. (Members will be receiving a letter shortly from Larry Arpaia explaining relevant privacy issues and asking members to opt into this project.) A sub-committee of board members is part of a district working group exploring mandatory septic inspections.

In summary, our lake partnerships are the direction for the future. We need to engage in these partnerships as much as possible as we take on the responsibility of stewardship of our lakes.

**Item 10. Election of Officers and Directors for 2013/2014**

Larry Arpaia noted that there were two vacancies on the board, that of Marine Safety and Cottage Safety and explained the portfolios. No nominations were received for these positions however it was noted anyone interested could contact Larry Arpaia in the near future.

The current remaining slate of officers and directors for 2013/2014:

President – Larry Arpaia  
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 Representatives - Bernie Gelineau, Lloyd Jones  
Crow Lake Gatekeeper - Mike Byrnes  
Website & Facebook - Rick Prudil

It was moved by N. Mole and seconded by D. Cooke that the above slate of officers and directors be accepted for 2013/14. Motion carried.

**Item 11. Other Business/Members' Comments:**

Larry Pick drew members' attention to a petition he was circulating requesting the parcel of land (beach) on the west side of Badour Island be reserved for public use and not be transferred in the Algonquin Land Claim Settlement.

Charlie Stewart noted that electronic trash could be delivered to an organization in Perth called YAK which raises funds to support youth in both Perth and our area.

Derek Cooke enquired re Cottage Safety and Larry Arpaia noted that it was predominantly an informational portfolio. A safety document from the OPP would be posted shortly on the web addressing this issue.

It was noted that time/date information regarding the AGM was not on the web site however it was explained that it was there originally but pushed down in priority due to other announcements. There was a suggestion to have blank name tags for members for next AGM. Also, Bonnie Carabott noted she needed a water tester for Mill Bay.

South Frontenac Councillor Pat Barr informed members that the Lions Club in Westport took scrap metal. Also, the Public Works Manager had scheduled a general meeting with lake associations for August 29<sup>th</sup> in Sydenham. There would be a waste management meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Bedford Hall. The Buck Bay Road would be hard-surfaced next year.

Keith Kerr, Councillor from Tay Township informed members that the strategic planning draft was now available on their web site.

The 50/50 winner announced.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by G. Thompson, seconded by M. Keenan. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

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

DRAFT