

**BELLA-REBECCA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2017 @ 10:00AM
BILLIE BEAR LODGE HALL**

1. Call to Order:

Wendy Kimmel called the meeting to order @ 10:06 am.

2. Constitution:

In accordance with the by-laws of the BRCA due notice was given and a quorum in attendance, therefore Wendy Kimmel declared the meeting to be validly constituted for the conduct of business.

3. Opening Remarks:

Wendy Kimmel welcomed everyone and acknowledged the efforts of the Executive over the past year and introduced same. Wendy thanked Willma Stortz for the use of the Billie Bear Lodge once again and for the ice cream social to follow the meeting. Wendy also thanked Larry and Mary Greenwood for the coffee and donuts.

Wendy Kimmel reviewed the objectives of the Association:

- i. To initiate and develop plans for the benefit of the community as a whole;
- ii. To work with all interested groups and authorities to control and improve the environment of Bella and Rebecca Lakes and vicinity;
- iii. To keep the area as a desirable place to live during all seasons of the year;
- iv. To carry out its objects without purpose or gain for its members and to use any profits, donations or other accretions solely for the purpose of its objects.

Wendy Kimmel highlighted some of the executive accomplishments over the past year;

- have reviewed the Stewardship Initiative Report Card completed by committee and identified several priorities for moving forward.
- have worked with Committee Chairs to understand their plans and needs and to obtain budgets for the coming year,
- have initiated a number of very exciting projects on your behalf,
- have updated the Corporations Profile required by Ontario legislation and have submitted the Associations income tax return for 2016, with no tax payable.

4. Welcome:

Wendy Kimmel welcomed new members to the lake and asked if anyone is aware of a new cottager on either of the lakes to please let the executive know as she and the Lake Reps would like to welcome them to the community.

Wendy Kimmel asked everyone to take a moment to reflect on the loss of members over the past year.

5. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting:

On a motion by John Ellis and seconded by John Houser the minutes of the 2016 AGM were approved as presented. Carried

6. Nomination Committee:

The floor was opened to nominations for Directors. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion for Don Spring, Past President; Wendy Kimmel, President; David Bird, Bella Lake VP; John Greven, Rebecca Lake VP; Lisa Parrott, Secretary and Denise Omand, Treasurer was seconded by John Houser. Carried

7. Financial Report:

Denise Omand presented the Financial Report for the year ending March 31, 2017.

- Revenues are made up of dues, extra directories purchased and the interest on the term deposit which comes due in August. The actual dues revenue is \$7330 which includes \$600 that was booked into the previous year;
- Expenses continue to be lower due to a savings from the Fee notices being sent out by email with only 10 mailed. Further savings are noted by the maintenance of the ongoing website maintenance by a volunteer using GoDaddy with a \$225 year to year licence fee;
- Closing cash - \$17,877.14;
- Denise advised that the directory costs were \$900;
- Motion by Denise Omand to approve donations in the amount of \$400 each to the Huntsville Hospital and to the Huntsville Hospice, seconded by Dennis Schetler.
- Motion by Ginny Burgess to approve the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Dennis Schetler. Carried
- There was a new expense this year for the accounting fee for the filing of tax return;
- Denise reminded everyone to keep her up to date on address/email/ changes and to advise of new members.

8. Stewardship Initiative Report Card:

Wendy Kimmel discussed how the Stewardship Initiative was drafted 12 years ago and noted that copies are available and anyone that requires a copy to contact her. Two years ago the executive actioned to review the progress and Ron Barry volunteered to lead the committee. Wendy thanked Ron and the other volunteers, Jean Goodier and Dennis Crane. Highlights of the review made it clear that it is necessary to reduce the number of objectives and action items to just four; water quality, environmental stewardship, communication and education. The recommendations are that the executive take on a greater role in the Stewardship Initiative, there be a leader for each action item and that budgets be assigned.

Wendy noted that the volunteers are doing very well with the water monitoring and that samples are taken every 2 weeks from late May to early October. Wendy noted that this has been done for over 30 years and the Benthic Monitoring for over 15 years. A great job has been done by all involved and we must ensure that this continues. The Stewardship Award is also doing well with individual contributions being recognized. It was noted that there is a 1 year hiatus, however, Cathy Greven and Linda Houser agreed to lead this initiative going forward. The volunteers on the Social committee are doing a great job and their contributions are also recognized and much appreciated.

In addition to the above four areas of focus have been identified and executive representatives have been assigned however, volunteers are required to assist in these endeavours;

- Septic Systems – David Bird – representative, Denis Crane – volunteer. To gain a better understanding of the requirements of a safe system and what we as cottage/home owners need to be aware of.
- Docks/Rafts – Jon Patterson – representative. To understand the by-laws and regulations when planning to build new, replace or rehabilitate a dock or raft and the permit process. If anyone plans to replace or rehabilitate a dock or raft please contact Jon.
- Loons – Don Spring representative, – Jim Stephen volunteer. Purpose is to better understand our very important loon population and what we as cottage/home owners need to be aware of to ensure a healthy population which plays a role in the health of the lake.
- History – John Greven representative, Ginny Burgess volunteer. Purpose is to promote the history of the area.
- Updating stewardship plan – Wendy Kimmel – representative

A reminder to all, additional volunteers required and appreciated.

9. Foundation Report:

Gerry Atkin discussed some of the highlights from the Foundation Annual General Meeting that was held just before the BRCA Annual Meeting. The outhouse has been relocated and redeveloped and he reminded members not to dump fireplace ash into the outhouse, he mentioned the list for volunteering to tidy the beach, a reminder of the 50th anniversary celebration day on July 15th and the focus is on the kids with a scavenger hunt, food (hamburgers/hotdogs and cake) and free t-shirts for the kids. Gerry reminded everyone that although there are volunteers actively working on the event, more are required and much appreciated. Dennis Schetler will be selling t-shirts for the adults for \$10 at the event.

10. Committee Reports:

Environment:

- John Housser discussed the condition of the lakes and noted that a freshwater jelly fish from Shanghai China has now been identified in the Muskoka Lakes as well as in Burks Falls. This is an invasive species however at this time is not particularly harmful;
- Lake of Bays have posted a study of the algae on their website and the District of Muskoka website has data on all the Ontario lakes and both are available for the public to view;
- Graphs and data on the Aquatic Invertebrate, Phosphate and Calcium Content and Water Clarity was circulated and an overview of the data was provided. John indicated that overall both lakes are generally healthy. The calcium content is slightly low but there is not much that can be done, however, if an owner wishes, fire ash can be spread near the shoreline.
- The Benthic data shows that Rebecca Lake is not extremely healthy near the Brooks Mill end of the lake but the remainder is healthy.

- Benthic Water Monitoring is being led by Linda Housser with the following new volunteers, Mary Lancaster, Soomi Kwak-Makowy & Anne Guo. Linda explained that in Benthic monitoring, the composition of the aquatic invertebrate community in the shallow water around our shoreline and the pattern of abundances of different species collected, indicates the health of the ecosystem. The results and an explanation can be found on the following website, muskokawaterweb.ca. Linda impressed upon everyone that there is no question that we all enjoy our lakes and we all benefit from the lake environment. Everyone, especially the new cottagers, residents and the young people need to get involved in the monitoring of our lakes and to take responsibility for the environment of the lakes and for the community.

Regatta:

Daphne Perry reminded everyone that the regatta is being held on August 5th and 6th with the marathon swim kicking things off at the Wilson dock on Saturday morning with the water skiing at 8:30am and the regatta at 1pm at the Foundation beach. The sailing starts at Daphne Perry's dock at 2pm on Sunday. Again, volunteers are required and everyone was reminded that the schedule is posted on the BRCA website. Trophies are to be returned to Lisa Nadalin as soon as possible. Dick Merritt to add levels to trophies that are full and Lisa noted that some trophies will require replacement due to their condition.

Corn Roast:

John Greven & David Bird are making preparations for this event, to be held on Saturday Sept 2nd at 1pm and volunteers are once again required.

Boom Sailing:

Linda Housser advised that Boom will be back in 2018. They are trying to arrange for BOOM to be held the week of the regatta to prepare the kids for the sailing event, 16 participants are required from ages 8-14 and there are currently 12 available positions. This event runs from Monday to Friday and the application requires a deposit and commitment from one parent to volunteer on one day of the week long event. Andrew Ellis volunteered as coordinator, Marilyn and Peter Dowsett and Blake and Susan Hutcheson have generously offered to sponsor the program for 2018. Linda and John Housser have generously donated a 12' petrol sailboat that they have acquired, refurbished and are selling raffle tickets with the proceeds going to BOOM.

Music on the Dock:

Will be held on Sunday, August 6th @ 3:00 pm, featuring Tobin Spring and Laganza on the Ross's dock.

11. New and Other Business:

Barb Paterson Award;

As the first recipient, Brian Markham was presented with the Barb Paterson Award. Wendy reviewed Brian's accomplishments and his extensive volunteering.

Hydro One Rates;

Cathy Greven - Highlights of Cathy's involvement with the Balsam Lake Coalition. When Hydro One made a request for a seasonal rate which would be a higher rate than rural residential 1 or 2, Balsam Lake Coalition were successful in having the request overturned. She explained that there is no assistance for seasonal residents experiencing hardship. Hydro One went on to change everyone to a flat rate which will have a dramatic impact on seasonal rates by increasing them from 40 – 200%. Cathy explained that Hydro One rates are twice that of any other electricity competitor in the Province. Cathy is looking for volunteers to help support the Balsam Lake Coalition by sending letters to FOCA as they were in support of Hydro One's request for the seasonal rate! Motion by Cathy Greven for the association rate payers to support the Balsam Lake Coalition in their ongoing efforts against FOCA and Hydro One, seconded by George Hogg. Carried

Bob Hutcheson History Talk;

John Greven – Bob Hutcheson will be giving a talk on the history of the area on Saturday, August 12th from 1-2:30 in the Courthouse at Billie Bear Lodge. Donations will be accepted and presented to the Station 50 firehall.

Rebecca & Bella Depth Contour Map;

Greg Betteridge, retired Fisheries specialist, discussed the map that he had completed of Bella Lake for the Foundation and is currently working on mapping of Rebecca Lake. It was decided that each lake would have a separate map.

12. Municipal Report: Roads & Docks

Mayor Bob Young: the Mayor discussed the ongoing matter of the District overcharging the townships for police costs and advised that this matter has been elevated to Minister LaLonde however, there is no action to date. The Mayor advised that a letter writing campaign to the Premier and Minister Lalonde from the associations is much needed. A letter will be provided to the BRCA which will then be circulated to all members to send individually.

Councillor Shane Baker: Roads - 1.5 million is being spent on road work from Hwy 60 into Sinclair with Billie Bear Road and Bella Shores Road receiving gravel, Fieldale Road being pulverized and repaved, the road into Pell Lake will be resurfaced. Shane discussed the total kilometres of road being maintained and the hours and staff involved. He reminded everyone that if they have any concerns to contact the township and if not satisfied with the response to contact the mayor and councillors. Shane advised that the township are responsible for such items as fallen trees, pot hole repair, grading, plowing, frozen culverts, washouts and culvert replacement. Items such as sweeping, ditching and brushing where specialized machinery is required are subcontracted. Grading is switched between north and south each year and he reminded everyone that they can't grade when the roads are really wet.

Questions;

- Wilma Stortz expressed the desire of Billie Bear Lodge to have Billie Bear Road paved from Bella Shores to the Lodge,
- Can grading can be done more frequently to which Shane explained budget restrictions,
- Is the township is using crushed granite to which Shane advised that they are not due to cost,
- Is a quarry opening in the vicinity of Walker's Glen, is there a permit, is it a legal operation and is anyone monitoring the work. Shane responded that a building permit has been issued for a residence and although a lot of rock has been removed it is being done for the purpose of building and the township is aware of what is going on.

Councillor Michael Peppard: Docks – minor repairs to an existing dock due to ice damage do not require a permit. Councillor Peppard advised that the public docks are monitored by township staff. Permitting – new construction, rebuilding or an addition to an existing dock requires a development permit and a building permit and the cost of the permit is based on the square footage or value whichever is greater. A detailed site plan is required and if you don't own your shoreline road allowance an occupation permit is also required at a cost of \$500. It is the townships preference that you purchase the shore road allowance. Applications are reviewed within 10 working days, zoning includes 10% coverage however if over the 10% a minor variance is required. The shoreline must remain covered by vegetation by at least 40%. If an individual proceeds without a permit, the fees will be doubled and the township could take the matter to the justice of peace and a fine may be imposed. All the information is on the township website.

Questions;

- Has the township changed the way the population is counted and how will it affect policing costs. Michael advised that seasonal residents are now counted as 1 person rather than as a ½ and that police costs are not driven by the number of people in the township. The costs are based on items such as assessments and the number of properties.

Artists of the Limberlost: Brian Markham advised that it will be held on August 19th & 20th this year with 20 artists displaying their work at 7 studios. Information is available on the website.

On a motion by John Housser the Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Kimmel, President
Lisa Parrott, Secretary