

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018 @ 10:00AM

BILLIE BEAR LODGE HALL

1. Call to Order:

Wendy Kimmel called the meeting to order @10:07 am.

2. Welcome:

Wendy Kimmel welcomed everyone, acknowledged the efforts of the Executive over the past year and introduced the Executive and Lake Representatives. Wilma Stortz advised that the coffee would be delivered at 10:30 am and that there would be an ice cream social after the meeting was adjourned.

3. Objectives/Protocol:

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 objectives without purpose or gain for its members and to use any profits, donations or other accretions solely for the purpose of its objectives.

Protocol for the meeting; unless a member demands a private ballot, voting shall be by a show of hands on any issue. Wendy Kimmel shall declare matters "carried" or "defeated" using her best judgement, subject to valid objection from the members.

4. Opening Remarks:

Thank you; Wendy Kimmel expressed her thanks and gratitude to Past President Don Spring who acted quickly to cancel the 2017 regatta and the Lake VP's, John Greven and David Bird, who acted on her behalf in the weeks following the 2017 tornado. As well, Peter Dyer who carried forward on the Bella & Rebecca Lake Depth Maps in the face of our adversity. Wendy advised that there are still maps available and please see Peter Dyer to purchase. Wendy also wished to thank everyone for their strong sense of Community.

2017 - an Anomaly: Wendy advised that after the event on August 3, 2017, an EF2 tornado was confirmed for our lakes by Environment Canada on Sunday, August 6th. Wendy read from a clipping that detailed the strength of the tornado, the size, the path and the destruction and that no fatalities or injuries were reported.

Wendy advised that she has been looking into possible assistance for the affected property owners through Trees Canada (possible 2019), Forests Ontario – (50 M trees possibly 2019), Muskoka District – Pay it Forward Community Investment Grant and the Municipality.

Wendy was recently informed that our application for assistance under the Restore Your Muskoka Shore program, part of the Muskoka Watershed Council, was accepted. This was an application made last Fall under the Great Lakes Guardian Stewardship Fund, which councillor Mike Peppard brought to Wendy's attention. Wendy advised that she hopes to have details soon and will then contact affected property owners to determine their interest in participating and the executive will then be looking for volunteers to help plant trees and shrubs.

Linda Houser cited the response as a miracle and a strong sense of neighbourhood. She expressed gratitude and a deep felt thank you from the entire Mansell Community to the volunteers who assisted in so many different ways. Linda extended an invitation to all the volunteers to an open house on August 3rd (being the one-year anniversary of the tornado) from 4-6pm for refreshments. John Houser added that the Mayor responded the day after the tornado and dropped in to review the devastation and to advise of a program with MPAC that reduces taxes by 35% for those impacted until restoration is complete.

Mary Spring advised everyone that Tobin Spring is returning on the Sunday of the August long weekend for Music on the Dock and because of the events of last year that resulted in the cancellation of his show, Tobin would like to donate this year's concert to recognize those that faced difficulty after the tornado. Mary talked about Tobin's own personal loss of his home to a devastating fire and indicated that any support towards Tobin's concert would be greatly appreciated.

Andrew Ellis thanked Alicia Omand for her efforts in getting the message of the tornado and the devastation out to the community on Facebook. Andrew suggested we look at setting up some sort of formal emergency alert and response process and he advised that he is prepared to help set up a committee to review this.

Bereavements: Wendy Kimmel reflected on the loss of members during the past year and asked everyone to pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of Terryl Schock, Robert Chapman, Sheilagh Verity, Mary Needham and Jane Dowsett.

New Members: Wendy Kimmel welcomed new members or cottagers to the lakes. Unfortunately, no one was available for introductions. Wendy again reminded all if they are aware of any new cottagers please let the Executive know as the Lake Reps would like to welcome them to the community.

5. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting:

On a motion by Linda Houser and seconded by Christine Jany the minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved as published. Carried.

6. Nominating Committee:

Nominations from the floor were requested. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Bob Hutcheson, seconded by Bob Brooks that Don Spring, Past President; Wendy Kimmel, President; David Bird, Vice President - Bella Lake; John Greven, Vice President - Rebecca Lake; Lisa Parrott, Secretary; Denise Omand, Treasurer will hold office for the following year or until their successors are appointed or elected. Carried.

7. Financial Report:

Denise Omand presented the Financial Report for the year ending March 31, 2018.

- Revenue for the 2017/18 Fiscal Year - \$7,040 however, this is overstated by \$200 as some members have paid ahead for the next fiscal year. As a result, the dues revenue for the 2018/19 fiscal year will be understated by \$200. Dues intake so far is \$6,400, this being the lowest intake over the last 10 years. Records indicate that this is typical for the year prior to the new directory being published. It was hoped that this situation would be rectified by the policy implemented in 2016 which stated that a member must have paid their dues for the three years prior to be entitled to receive a directory. Furthermore, it was discussed at the Executive meeting in May and agreed that cottagers may voluntarily increase their annual fees to help offset mounting costs. The executive would like to encourage family members 30 years of age plus to become separate members as we would like to see them get involved. In addition, members that own more than one developed cottage property and whom are currently being charged only one annual fee should consider paying a second fee to increase revenue.
- Net Income - \$14.33 which helps to explain the reason the executive is seeking measures to increase revenue and offset ever increasing costs.
- Expenses – Donations have traditionally been made in the amount of \$400 each to the hospital and hospice. However, the executive would like to postpone this donation until February 2019 and leave the amount to be donated to the Executives sole discretion and which will be based on the budget at that time. Denise explained that we had an extraordinary expense this year. After several years of not filing a tax return we felt it necessary to hire BDO to complete and submit a return to ensure everything is in order and current. Going forward David Bird, who is an accountant, has offered to do our tax return for the 2018 year and hopefully will continue. It was also noted by Denise that we have a loss of approximately \$500 on the sale of the Bella/Rebecca Depth maps. There are still maps available and we are hoping for more sales and that next year this will balance out. Printing and mailing was low this year however next year it will increase due to publishing of the directories.

Questions/Concerns: Clarification on postponing the donation was requested and provided by Denise. Nora Dowsett asked the Executive if anything else could be cut from the budget to help meet our commitments. Denis Crane asked why there is a shortfall of \$1500 on memberships and have members been contacted? Denise explained that she has contacted members, 3 notices have been sent and people have been contacted by phone. She explained that as it is a small amount it is often overlooked and in many cases members have forgotten to update the executive on changes to their contact information, specifically a change in an email address. Paul Feasby asked what percentage of cottage owners are members. Denise explained that she does not have that information. Nancy Grundy asked if we have considered increasing fees to \$50 and was advised that the Executive have discussed this however, for this year it was decided that we would encourage people to pay their dues in a timely manner and encourage those that may wish to voluntarily increase their fees to do so. A discussion ensued on the possibility of providing the directory by pdf however, it was explained that this creates a privacy concern. John Housser stated his Ski Club has gone to an online directory and members have to enter a password. A show of hands for a change to the current printed directory showed that many people do oppose an electronic version.

On a motion by John Housser and seconded by Wilma Stortz the decision to postpone the donations and leave the decision to the Executive's discretion was approved. Carried.

On a motion by Brian Markham and seconded Linda Housser the Financial Report was adopted as presented. Carried

- 8. Foundation Report:** Gerry Atkin advised that there are plaques available from last years celebration of the anniversary of the Foundation and members are welcome to pick one up. Gerry went on to explain the work that has gone into creating Interpretative Signing detailing all aspects of the land, for example the wetlands, existing species, etc. and that these signs will be erected this Fall along the trail into the beach. Gerry explained that there is a silent auction to sponsor the signs and have your name included on the sign to help offset the costs of the signing and auction forms are available on the table at the back of the room.

9. Committee Reports:

Septic Systems: Denis Crane on behalf of David Bird explained that a committee was put together to gather information regarding septic systems. A report was completed and handed out to everyone in attendance discussing best practices for our septic systems. Denis explained that you can purchase a filter for the pipe from Brooklyn Concrete if your system does not currently have one and this prevents plugging of the pipe. Denis explained that household grease and/or cooking oil must be put in the garbage and not down the drain the septic system. FOCA has information available on their website and Wendy Kimmel advised that this information is also available on our website.

Historical: Val Kremer discussed the committees mandate to document and share the history of the lakes. The committee consists of Val Kremer (Chair), Paule Clifford, Bob Hutcheson, Wendy Burgess, Carolyn Paterson, Marcia Julian John Greven, Wendy Kimmel and Harald Kremer. Val explained that an interactive map will be posted online hopefully by the Fall to let you explore the history of our lakes. As well a print version of the map in pamphlet form will be available. The committee is also looking at a proposal to offer a story presentation about past experiences of cottaging on Bella and Rebecca lakes. If you would like to contribute please get in touch with a committee member.

Stewardship Awards: Linda Housser advised that there is no Stewardship or Paddle award being presented this year. Linda went on to explain that no suggestions or nominations were received for the committee to review. Linda discussed the significance of each award, noting that the committee requires community input and asked that members get involved and send suggestions. Criteria and nomination forms are on the website.

Environment: John Housser presented the report detailing the Secchi depth, Phosphorus and Calcium content for each of Bella and Rebecca Lake. John drew attention to the low calcium content, explaining this is the reason we have lost all crustaceans. Question was asked whether the water level is low, John advised that when looking over a span of years, it is normal. John was asked if algae blooms are expected this year. John advised that there are none on our lake at this time. Don discussed toxic algae blooms in two remote and undeveloped lakes in Algonquin Park. Because these two lakes do not have septic systems which is often considered the reason for the algae blooms, research is being done in an effort to determine the actual cause of a bloom.

Benthic Water Monitoring: This years testing will be on the Lancaster dock on Rebecca Lake on Saturday July 28th from 9am -noon.

Regatta: Tara Pearce advised that the regatta is well organized and in good shape for this year. Tara thanked the Ellis family for all the work they have done and hope that they will continue to be involved in the organizing while new volunteers learn the ropes. Tara also thanked Wendy Kimmel for her guidance and Denis Crane who acted as the go-to person for Tara. Outstanding business; volunteers required for the position of beach coordinator, announcer, score sheets and the start/finish lines.

Trophies: Lisa Nadlin advised that all trophies have been collected, to the cheers of the entire hall! Due to the cancellation of the regatta in 2017, the plaques on the big trophies will have "tornado 2017" engraved on them in recognition of the cancellation of the regatta. Twill crests will be recycled with the dates being changed manually from 2017 to 2018. Lisa explained that the twill crests are very expensive, a big budget item in our Financial Report and would like to see a suggestion for something less costly. Tara Pearce suggested that as a previous participant in the regatta for many years and having received many twill crests that just a ribbon would suffice. It was suggested that we look into printing the crests. In response to a call out by Wendy Kimmel for volunteers to work on alternatives for next year Janet Baker and Denis Crane volunteered.

Corn Roast: Reminder that the corn roast is at the Foundation Beach on Saturday, September 1st @ 1pm. Volunteers required!!

BOOM Sailing: Boom sailing was cancelled as the Ontario Sailing Association had no team to send to run the camp this year. No plans at this time to offer the program again.

10. New Business: No new business.

11. Municipal Election: Wendy advised that she has invited the candidates to give a short talk on the highlights of their platform;

Ward Councillor;

- Mike Peppard – Incumbent - Councillor for the past 2 years, enjoyed making decisions for this township and would like to run for District Council. Mike feels that decisions made at the district level have as much if not more impact than local decisions. Mike mentioned the watershed plan that he had actively participated in the development, is available on the township website. Mike impressed upon everyone to vote, citing that barely half the population is voting.
- Martin Mann – operates a home inspection business and is also interested in running for District Council. Affordable housing, high speed internet, tourism and health care are his key concerns. Martin wants to ensure that our concerns are brought to the district to facilitate improvements.
- Rick Brooks – Rick is a 4th generation from Sinclair Township and his approach as local councillor is to be a good listener. Rick stated that he understands that roads are a big issue in our area. Rick feels it is necessary for the position of local councillor to provide support to the district councillor on the district issues outside of local jurisdiction. Rick indicated that the hospital issue is a very important issue.

Township Mayor;

- Bob Young – Incumbent – Bob mentioned that the election is all electronic this year however the library and possibly the township will be live. Bob mentioned that he has been Mayor for 7.5 years and has brought sound fiscal management to the township. Bob noted some of his past accomplishments, i.e. improved service at the township office, Dorset health hub and that permanent funding is now available, lobbying for additional cell towers, replacement of major capital and stable fiscal government. Bob stated that he thinks of himself as a District watchdog. Important issues are high speed internet, affordable housing, reducing acreage size to increase development. He advised that he is approachable and will answer emails. Bob explained that the hospital issue is not a township issue. Mary Spring asked why there was no representation from this area at the hospital meeting. Bob responded that no one from this area was invited outside of the Towns of Huntsville, Bracebridge and Gravenhurst.

- Terry Glover – Township Councillor for 8 years - McLean Ward, held the position of Chair of the Huntsville BIA and noted his accomplishments. In order to meet people in our community Terry advised he is doing kitchen table talks and is open to chat with anyone.
- Charles Cooper – Lives on North Tasso Lake and was a volunteer at fire station 50. Charles wants to see sustainable communities, affordable housing, high speed internet.
- Gord Adams – former Mayor of Gravenhurst, retired from District Chair of Muskoka. Gord mentioned that this is the first time we get to vote for district chair as it is no longer appointed. Gord would like to see the seasonal population change from being weighted at 50%. He believes there too much government in Muskoka and although attempts to form a single municipality in past were voted down. Gord discussed the role of District and the spending. Wants to move Muskoka forward as a single municipality.
- Shane Baker – Outgoing Councillor – mentioned that he was glad to see a full slate of candidates for the election this year. Shane talked about the Limberlost cleanup and mentioned there was big representation from our lakes. He mentioned the summer ambulance program that will be rotating through the Township of Lake of Bays which will provide quicker emergency response. Shane is polling the association meetings on changing from 3 bags of household garbage at the local transfer site to a garbage bag tag system wherein each household gets 150 garbage tags per year provided by the municipality and as long as your bag has a tag you can take as many as you want at any time but once you run out of tags you will need to purchase additional tags. This idea was shelved for this year. A show of hands seemed to show very little interest at this time.

12. Social Events:

- ❖ Music on the dock – Sunday, August 4th on the Ross' dock on Rebecca Lake.
- ❖ Tornado Appreciation Open House – Friday, August 3rd from 3 – 5pm at the Houssers, Lancasters and Kimmels.
- ❖ Progressive Dinner – Saturday, July 21st - Rita Bloem explained the event and advised that we have a good turnout this year with 75 participants. Rita advised that there is room for some singles and if anyone is interested contact her.
- ❖ Artists of The Limberlost – August 18th/19th - 7 studios and 20 artists participating.
- ❖ Denis Crane mentioned there would be a sailing race tomorrow afternoon off the point, anyone welcome to participate.

Awareness:

- Kathy Atkin mentioned the Petition to save the Huntsville Hospital on the table at the back and encouraged everyone to sign.
- Reminder to slow down when you see a biker/walker on Limberlost Road. Also a reminder to turn off solar lights when not at the cottage.
- Denis Crane reminded everyone to watch boat speed going into Swains Bay, Hutcheson Bay, the Narrows, between Buck Island and Land, as well as any area close to land.
- Wendy talked about high wake from wake boarding boats. Advised that Transport Canada does enforce this.
- Discussion about outdoor music and how sound carries on the lake, please be cognizant of your neighbours. Lake Reps can be contacted to talk to offenders.

13. Adjourn:

On motion by John Houser the meeting was adjourned @ 12:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Kimmel, President

Lisa Parrott, Secretary