

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

**Saturday, September 12, 2020 @ 10:00 am  
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order:**

David Bird called the meeting to order at 10:05 am

**2. Welcome & Introductions:**

David Bird welcomed everyone and introduced the Executive that were in attendance. David also reviewed some housekeeping items to ensure the use of Zoom for the meeting ran smoothly. David Bird expressed his hope that everyone has been keeping safe during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. David also mentioned the closing of the Interlaken Fire Station #50 at Interlaken. David touched on the cancellation of all the community events on the lakes for this year due to the pandemic.

**3. Bereavements:**

David Bird announced the loss of Ken McArthur and reflected on his long standing on Rebecca Lake and as a BRCA member.

**4. Approval of Minutes of AGM June 29, 2019: Lisa Parrott**

Lisa Parrott reviewed the highlights of the June 29, 2019 AGM and asked for a motion to consider these minutes as published.

**Motion by Wendy Kimmel to approve the minutes as published.  
Seconded by Paul Feasby. Carried.**

**5. Nominating Committee:**

Wendy requested nominations from the floor. As there were no more nominations, Wendy terminated nominations and noted that she had approached each of the proposed individuals and asked for their consent and agreement to act in the capacity of a Director for the upcoming year and Wendy advised she had received agreement from all.

**Motion by Wendy Kimmel to nominate the following individuals to stand as Directors:**

David Bird, President  
John Greven, Vice-President, Rebecca Lake  
Nettie Cronish, Vice-President, Bella Lake  
Lisa Parrott, Secretary  
Rosemary Mantha, Treasurer

A verbal vote was carried out. Wendy asked if anyone wished to abstain from voting, no response. Wendy asked if anyone was against the nominations, no response.

**Seconded by Paul Feasby. Carried.**

**6. Municipal Reports:**

Mayor Glover welcomed everyone. Pointed out that there are many announcements on the Township and District website with regards to Covid-19. He stated that he does updates on his Mayor Terry Glover Facebook page. The Township Office is opening slowly however, with numbers rising in Ontario they do not wish to open any quicker and are asking people not to attend in person if it is not necessary to do so. The Mayor spoke on behalf of the Townships at the AMO conference on improvements to broadband in our area. He mentioned that the internet and cell phone service is very slow during Covid-19 due to the many people working from home and streaming. He mentioned that Lake of Bays is trying to attract business and has had an overwhelming response from businesses wishing to relocate to Muskoka however, this will require updates to our internet service. Mayor Glover stated that the updates will be in the range of \$300,000,000 for Muskoka however, the province has approved \$300,000,000 for the entire province. He indicated that Muskoka will be requesting more money prior to next election. Short term rentals are being monitored and the Township will have a regulation soon and there will be a request from the Township for feedback on it. The Community Planned permit system is coming into play and there will be an open house and video available. Mayor Glover requested that people respond to the questionnaire on the website. Mayor Glover asked that everyone continue to be careful during the pandemic and that there be no parties or large group gatherings. Mayor Glover expressed his desire for people to shop local to support our struggling businesses. The Mayor advised that he is not sure how many cottagers will be staying up at their cottages but he is aware that many people from the City have registered their students at the local schools and the school system attendance across Muskoka is up and no further students will be accepted. Mayor stated that the Councillors are doing a great job and he thanked them.

No questions for Mayor Glover. David Bird thanked Mayor Glover for attending our AGM by Zoom.

## **7. Financial Report:**

Rosemary Mantha presented the financial report that was emailed previously to all members of the Association. Rosemary discussed the 2 donations for the Hospital and Hospice that were overlooked but advised that the donations were made in May. Rosemary recommended that donations for this year be approved.

**Motion by Rosemary Mantha that donations in the amount of \$400.00 each be forwarded to the Huntsville Hospital and Hospice Huntsville for 2020.**

**Seconded by Alicia Omand. Carried**

Rosemary discussed the \$2,710.00 from Fire Station #50 Interlaken, showing in miscellaneous Revenues. Rosemary asked whether we should pass that amount on to Fire Station #30 Limberlost.

Question: Denis Crane asked if we should contact the Fire Station and ask how they would use the donation. Nadine Grant suggested we consider other causes, i.e. the Women's Shelter. Rosemary mentioned that the Library is also looking for donations.

Question: It was asked why Interlaken had not spent the donations. Carolyn Paterson mentioned that quite a bit of money was raised at a Community Sale not long before discussions commenced to close the Station. Therefore, they took all the money that had been raised and divided it between 3 community associations of which the BRCA was one.

**Motion by Denis Crane that the Board members review the recommendations and a decision be made by the Board and acted upon.**

**Seconded by Wendy Kimmel. Carried.**

Rosemary Mantha stated that she has received dues from 181 members and that there are 32 outstanding member dues with a total membership of 213. Rosemary Mantha stated that the method of funds received is as follows; approximately 150 by e-transfer and 31 by cheque.

## **8. Foundation Report:**

Glen Warnica presented on behalf of The Foundation, stating that there have been no issues in their monitoring of the beach activity as well as through the trails. Glen advised that moving forward to next year there are no big plans anticipated and asked that people continue to monitor the beach. The Foundation AGM was by Zoom on Thursday, September 17, 2020 and the details are on the website. Jamie Gerson is the new Secretary for the Foundation and he can also be contacted for assistance with reviewing the AGM minutes.

Jamie Gerson advised that he had sent out an email to the membership but stated he had some technical difficulties so if it was not received please let him know.

## **9. Committee Reports:**

### **History**

Wendy Kimmel mentioned that there are more pics added to the Bella/Rebecca History website and contributions continue to be added. They have received good feedback from local community and association members, however, people outside of the community have found the website and one being an author from Kingston asking to reprint one of the photos of a shoreline picnic. Another request came from England regarding flooring that had been manufactured and shipped from Muskoka Wood Products Huntsville, Bob Hutcheson addressed the question. Laminated maps still available as well as brochures, contact Wendy Burgess or Val Kremer. Considerable interest in a Print Production – Coffee Table Edition and the committee is considering options and possibilities. Wendy thanked all on the committee members; Val Kremer, Harold Kremer, Bob Hutcheson, Carolyn Paterson, Paule Clifford, Marcia Julian, Wendy Burgess, Rick Bramm, Ron van Bremen.

### **Stewardship Awards**

Cathy Greven gave an introduction and explanation of award, described how they look for people who have contributed to all 7 aspects of our plan. Cathy explained that the details are posted on BRCA website under Stewardship and that the category consists of water quality, fish and wildlife, shoreline, trees and vistas, development, character and social life. The Committee is looking for the membership to make nominations based on these categories.

Wendy Kimmel read the endorsement of the nomination of Marcie and John Lancaster by Linda and John Houser. Wendy reviewed the details and congratulated Marcie and John.

### **Foundation Beach Revised Emergency Plan**

Cathy Greven stated that many years ago there was an active fire prevention safety committee and program in place. Recently the committee met at the beach with personnel from Fire Station 30 to review any deficiencies when faced with an emergency at the beach and what needs to be done to rectify any identified deficiency. Deputy Fire Chief Gary Monahan and Shane Taylor walked through the trail and met Cathy Greven and Steve Markham who arrived by boat. To date, EMS services have never been required at the beach.

The previous plan was discussed, and Gary and Shane noted that the current trail is fine for EMS use by an ATV and toboggan. It was suggested however, that signage be changed to reflect the 911 protocol and noted that when a call is made from a cell phone, that individual will be the contact and it is necessary that they stay on the line to provide information and updates. It is also necessary to tell EMS when the call is made that access is an issue so EMS arrive with appropriate equipment. It is also important for someone to meet the EMS at the entrance, so they do not pass by. Communication is the key! The Foundation will be erecting a sign regarding 911. If it is necessary to make a 911 call from the beach it is imperative that someone meet the EMS at the entrance on Billie Bear Road. It was noted that if the individual can be transported to the boat launch at Billie Bear, that would be desirable, and that information must be communicated to EMS dispatch. EMS Dispatch will be advised of the meeting and any new information that has come from it. Cathy and Steve were asked to remind everyone to replace batteries in their smoke and COD detectors to ensure everyone gets out of their cottages/homes as it will take EMS a while to arrive to this area. Fire safety inspections of cottages and recharging of extinguishers had been carried out in the past and Cathy Greven advised that if anyone is interested in this program, she is willing to start it up again next year.

Questions/Comments – Wendy Kimmel expressed the importance of this work and that it needs to be communicated broadly. Wendy suggested that the Foundation and the Association plan for a workshop for next year and possibly Steve Markham could arrange to carry out a mock emergency at the beach to help everyone become more aware and be prepared.

John Greven mentioned that they had their extinguishers checked a few years ago but would like to see a demonstration put on at Billie Bear Resort on how to use them and put out a fire.

**Action: David Bird to investigate.**

## **Environment**

John Housser presented his update and mentioned that the data is on website. They monitor the clarity, the content of phosphorous and content of calcium. In terms of water clarity Rebecca Lake which is surface fed, typically experiences 3.5 m of clarity and Bella Lake which is spring fed, typically experiences 5 m of clarity and this year is consistent with past. With respect to phosphorus, both lakes are moderately enriched (natural). Both Bella and Rebecca Lakes are under 8 UGS. If the calcium content goes below 2 mg/l the lakes can no longer sustain life. The lakes were badly damaged in the 70's from the Inco plant in Sudbury. Work has been done since then to improve the lakes.

Calcium is depleted by the acidity in the lakes and our lakes have been monitored for the past 12 years with a couple years where the content had gone down to 2 mg/l, which is very concerning. We have already lost all crustaceans in the lakes, occasionally there may be an odd leech, but the clams and crayfish are gone. They are part of the food chain which affects our fish population and there is no doubt that the lakes have changed. The perch have now disappeared, we now have more sunfish, second tier fish species and very healthy lake trout population. Last summer both lakes were above 2 mg/l and in fact have been above since 2016. The township is still operating their wood ash program in which you donate your wood ash and they spread it on sample lakes. Wood ash is full of calcium and John mentioned that he is spreading his own wood ash 15' from shore and at that distance it would take 2-3 years to reach the water. This is the recommended procedure, do not put the ash right into the lake as it is best to leach into the lake over time. John went on to mention that the big issue this year is the Algae blooms. John has been monitoring the lakes for about 30 years and this is the first year that he has seen the surface temperature reach 25 degrees, traditionally it peaks at 23.5 – 24 degrees. There have been 5 algae blooms in this Region however not on our lakes yet. There was an algae bloom here approximately 5 years ago. The study of algae blooms is very incomplete, no one knows what truly causes them except for a known couple contributing factors. If the lake level decreases quickly and there are low levels the sun excites algae living dormant on the bottom and it will burst. The second is the disturbance of the bottom with a contributing factor being the higher use of jet skis crossing the shallow areas. A lot of water is pumped through a jet ski and if running through the shallow areas it will disturb the bottom and this is thought to be a contributing factor. Jet ski users are encouraged to stay out of the shallows.

Carolyn Paterson mentioned that it is obvious that the lakes have changed dramatically over the years. The biological quality of the lakes has diminished a lot. Carolyn noted that there are no clams, snails or crayfish and she asked everyone to watch and if you notice any of these species to please let her know. She expressed that we need invertebrates back and that the sponginess of the lake bottom is due to the lack of the invertebrates. A couple people advised that they have recently found a small crayfish. John Housser advised that on a positive note the invasive species notably the Japanese snails did not survive due to low calcium content and the European clam that has taken over all the lakes that are limestone based also did not survive.

Question: David Bird asked if the crustaceans would regenerate if calcium levels increase or is the environment too hostile for them. Carolyn advised that she is very hopeful that they would return. Carolyn also asked that people not remove rocks along their shoreline as they make good homes for them.

Wendy thanked John and Carolyn for their ongoing work on monitoring of our lakes. Deterioration of the lakes very concerning and if there is a point of no return, ongoing monitoring if very important.

#### **10. Other Business:**

Alicia Omand advised that the Bella/Rebecca Facebook group is gaining popularity and that the of the site is for all members of community to share information, events, bear sightings, etc. If you have a family member that has requested access please let Alicia know as she vets individual requests and if it is a name that is not in the directory she will not accept their request. So please send Alicia a quick email or Facebook message and let her know. Alicia also advised that migration to the new site has taken place so if anyone notices any errors or omissions, please let her know.

John Houser advised that there were 5 sailing races on the lakes, unofficially called the Covid Cup and that an average of 9 sailboats participated. It was not sanctioned by the Association and the hope is to encourage more sailing on the lakes and less motorboats. The races will take place again next year and hopefully called the Post-Covid Cup! Jean Goodier asked if Cathy Greven's report about Emergency Response could be put on the BRCA website. Carolyn Paterson advised that a new brochure has been posted on the website on behalf of The Foundation.

Alicia Omand reminded everyone to be careful on the trails and in the woods. Always remember your cell phone!

**Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

**David Bird, President / Lisa Parrott, Secretary**