

**BELLA-REBECCA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, June 26, 2021 @ 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 to one more year of a virtual AGM meeting.

3. Bereavements: N/A

4. Approval of Minutes of AGM – September 12, 2020: Lisa Parrott

Lisa Parrott reviewed the highlights of the September 12, 2020 AGM and asked for a motion to consider these minutes as published. Lisa Parrott also advised that she will be stepping down.

**Motion by Wendy Kimmel to approve the 2020 AGM minutes as published.
Seconded by Alicia Omand. Carried.**

5. Nominating Committee:

Wendy Kimmel, as past president, would like to bring forward the candidates for the 2021-2022 year.

David Bird – President
John Greven – Rebecca Lake VP
Alicia Omand – Bella Lake VP
Andrea Di Caro-Bent – Secretary
Rosemary Mantha – Treasurer

Resigned - Nettie Cronish, VP Bella Lake and Lisa Parrott, Secretary

Wendy Kimmel asked if there were any other nominations from the floor, if not, call for motion to elect the directors as identified.

**Motion by Paul Feasby moved to appoint the 2021-2022 Executive.
Seconded by Bob Hutcheson.**

Wendy Kimmel asked if anyone opposed, no hands raised virtually on the screen. Everyone in favour. **Carried.**

6. Financial Report:

Rosemary Mantha presented the financial report. Rosemary Mantha stated that it was emailed to some of the membership previously and will be forwarded to the remaining membership today.

The item of annual donations was discussed. It was noted that the Executive had approved the following increased donations at the 2021 Spring Executive meeting: \$1,000.00 to each of the Huntsville Hospital, Hospice Huntsville and the Muskoka Women's Advocacy Group - Chrysalis Huntsville.

Discussions ensued on where some of the membership felt the donations should be dispersed to and it was decided that each of the mentioned recipients would be reviewed to determine the need for the donation.

Motion by Denis Crane that the donations as noted be dispersed however, subject to review.

Seconded by Alicia Omand. Carried.

7. Municipal Reports:

Mayor Glover: Please see Mayor Glover's message attached to the Minutes.

Councillor Rick Brooks: Please see Councillor Brooks message attached to the Minutes.

However, Rick Brooks did touch on an event in Baysville later today to announce the unveiling of 200 signs that will be erected acknowledging the deaths of the many indigenous children while in the residential school system across Canada. Rick Brooks also mentioned that the Muskoka Ash Drop-off Program is in operation today in Bracebridge. Rick mentioned that township staff have been preparing and posting videos on the website to bring awareness to important services being offered, i.e. the emergency alert system as well as awareness to individual staff members and their roles.

Rick mentioned they have been very busy responding to the issue of illegal fires and dumping, the new dump fees, improvements to programs, the off road vehicle by-law, which will provide for more OPP presence to enforce the law such as the prescribed age limit for riding dirt bikes, snowmobiles, atv's on local roads as well as which roads and when. The municipality is striving to ensure that everyone is respectful of this privilege. There have been concerns raised with people trespassing at the Limberlost Forest Reserve and not staying on designated trails. The roads within the reserve are being upgraded to ensure safe and reliable passage for all emergency services to access when required. Rick mentioned that there is a lot of heavy equipment working on these upgrades and concern has been raised for the safety of those individuals walking along the roads rather than the trails. They ask that everyone remain on the

marked trails. Rick reminded everyone that it is turtle season so please be conscious of the turtles on the side of the road, be respectful when they are nesting. Folks on the Billie Bear side of Bella Lake that utilize the new mailboxes should know that Rick Brooks along with John Paterson and other residents are working on an enclosure at the mailboxes with a new message board component. Rick asked that anyone interested in assisting or getting more information to contact him. The marketing and use of an electric motor that is immersed in the water to clear weeds around docks was brought to Rick's attention and he has been looking into this matter along with the MNR as it is felt that it has an adverse affect on the fish habitat and Rick asked that everyone please refrain from using this device and he noted that the Township will be looking into it further. Rick thanked everyone for engaging him in the association meeting and finished by mentioning that there are 5 lake associations in his ward, and he will be setting up meetings involving representatives from all 5 associations to carry on discussions applicable to all.

Questions: Short term rentals – Councillor Michael Peppard addressed this question stating that District Council has approved the regulation of short-term rentals and it will be in effect in Lake of Bays in Spring 2022. He noted that a short-term rental is less than 30 days.

District Councillor Michael Peppard: Councillor Peppard thanked everyone for inviting him to speak and mentioned that he was attending the virtual meeting via the Township of Lake of Bays library due to insecure internet at his residence, that we all experience in this area! Michael mentioned that the Township Library is open for curbside pickup and that they have lots of new books. Michael noted that at the district level, a climate change declaration was passed in November and an explanation was provided. Lake of Bays purchased their first electric vehicle, there is a charging station in Baysville and one coming to Dwight soon. He mentioned that the District has held off on organic waste drop-off until next year however, the sites are filling up. There will be new rules coming out shortly and organic compost drop-off will be opening at the transfer sites, the number of garbage bags that residents can drop weekly may be reduced to 2 per week, and they are considering the use of clear bags only for garbage, a new tracking system is coming for all sites as it is possible that individuals are dropping refuse from outside of the township, the District has received another grant for flood plain mapping which will allow them to get alerts out to people on the new alert system. Michael also mentioned that Mayor Glover is setting up a Lake of Bays Arts and Culture group. He also mentioned that the reuse stations at the transfer sites won't be opened back up until the end of Covid, possibly after October?

8. Foundation Report: Glen Warnica

Glen Warnica discussed the beach and noted that it is privately owned by The Foundation and that it has a total of 450 acres, 3100 feet of waterfront, extends across Billie Bear Road to Heck Lake. The Foundation has 250 members, 20 elected Directors and the Executive. It was established over 50 years ago in 1968 and the stewardship focused on preserving the land and the wildlife. He mentioned that The Foundation is a

separate organization from the BRCA, has its own charter but that there has always been good cooperation and friendship between the 2 organizations. He mentioned that the Foundation encourages people to join and that the initial membership is \$100 with annual dues of \$10.00 thereafter. Glen also noted that the AGM is Tuesday night at 7pm on Zoom and invited anyone to attend by contacting Rita Bloem @ rita.bloem@rogers.com who is managing the Zoom meeting and the invites.

9. Committee Reports:

Historical: Wendy Kimmel

Wendy noted that Val Kremer is absent today but went on to say that the Historical Committee is still active although after all the hard work over the past few years is enjoying a somewhat quieter time right now. She mentioned that there are changes to website coming and mentioned that they are exploring options to create a print version, a coffee table book. She advised that there are still maps for sale, laminated/paper, and to contact Wendy Burgess or Val Kremer or send an email to brcahistory@gmail.com. Everyone was encouraged to explore the website and the link is on the BRCA website. Wendy went on to bring everyone's attention to interesting correspondence that they received from an individual who happened upon website. An email was received from a stamp collector in the Netherlands who was researching postcards and found a stamp that was postmarked from the Antioch post office. The postcard was sent to Mabel Hart in March 1910 and was postmarked in New York, Grassmere and finally Antioch, how interesting this initiative is worldwide. Wendy stated that she has been thrilled to be part of it and thanked Val Kremer, Wendy Burgess, Paul Clifford, Bob Hutcheson, Rob van Bremen, Rick Bramm, Carolyn Paterson and Marcia Julian. Rob van Bremen asked if there is interest from the membership in the idea of a coffee table book and noted that the cost would be around \$50. Many virtual hands were raised in favour of the idea.

Stewardship Awards: Cathy Greven

Cathy touched on how the idea of the Stewardship Award came to be and what it represents. A successful nominee receives a print of a painting by Catherine O'Mara of the bridge at the narrows. Sadly, there were no nominations this year and the committee encourages people to look for nominees, individuals that through their efforts preserve wildlife, wilderness, and the lakes. Anyone being nominated that only meets one of the requirements can be nominated for the paddle award. Cathy impressed upon everyone that the Committee does not make the nominations, it is up to the members of the association and nominations can go to either Cathy Greven or Linda Houser.

Environment: John Houser

Part 1: This year Global Warming may be an issue in spite of Donald Trump's denial. May 24th weekend the lakes were in the 18-degree range. Traditionally we see 11-degree readings. The lake has cooled since, but we should be on the lookout for algae blooms. Please report them to me and the Ministry of the Environment. Info on their website.

Our lakes are fragile. Calcium readings are minimal to support our fish population. Studies are being done to reverse this trend, but no conclusions yet. Increased and larger boat use is having an effect on shoreline habitats. Please consider the impact you are having on these fragile lakes. Rebecca and Bella are gems, but easily damaged beyond repair, please leave something for the next generation.

Benthic water monitoring: Back again. This year Saturday July 11 at 9 am. Volunteers needed for 1.5 hour shifts. Contact Linda Houser text or cell 705-635-2492.

Part 2: Here is a summary of observations taken during the summer of 2020 on both Rebecca and Bella Lakes

Total phosphorus: Rebecca 5.8 unchanged / Bella 6 unchanged

Secchi disk: Rebecca 3.38 unchanged / Bella 5.0 unchanged

Calcium content: minimum 2 for aquatic life, we are at the tipping point.
Rebecca 2.1 unchanged / Bella 2.2 down fractionally

New category: Chloride content showing salt input to lakes. We are at the low end of the range, showing minimal impact. Rebecca 1.43 a slight rise from previous years / Bella 1.16 unchanged

10. Other Business:

Due to the pandemic there will be no BRCA sponsored events this year however, the corn roast in September may still be possible and will be reviewed later this year.

Alicia Omand and Wendy Kimmel shared some events that are happening however, as they can be done so under the safety protocol. Wendy noted that in discussion at the Spring Executive meeting it was confirmed that no beach events for the regatta would happen however, on Sunday, August 1st @ 1pm the sailing race will go forward because it is possible to socially distance and Denis Crane will be taking a leadership roll in the organizing. Denis Crane noted that Daphne Perry has graciously allowed the use of her beach area as the starting point and the details will be posted on the website and on Facebook.

Wendy Kimmel, Alicia Omand and John Greven are organizing an Association sponsored Buck Up Boat Parade on Sunday August 1st @ 11:00am. This is an opportunity for everyone to get together safely, decorate their boat and dress up. Alicia shared a video they created. Well done everyone!! Details to come on the website and Facebook. Denis Crane also mentioned that he is organizing an unsanctioned small sailing race on July 2nd and details are on Facebook. As well Denis mentioned that he is organizing a fun triathlon which will involve the typical swim from the regatta, a bike ride from the beach back to Buck Island and a run from there up to the Greven cottage and back. Details on Facebook.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

David Bird, President / Lisa Parrott, Secretary