

## Chautauqua Residents Association Annual General Meeting May 29, 2017

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was opened by the President, John Gleddie.
2. **Appointment of secretary:** Buddy Andres moved and Ruth Denyer seconded appointment of Joanna Gorski.
3. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Peter Millard and seconded by Leslie Frankish.
4. **Town report:** Presented by Jim Collard.
  - a) **Water/sewer line insurance program:** From the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), about \$10/month, added to water bill, has been used successfully in other towns. Protects owner from damage located from property line to house. The town gets a small fee for each household signing up, the profit goes to AMO. So far, the program has geared up for insuring sewer lines, then it will address water lines. Homeowners insurance generally does not cover this.
  - b) **Niagara Steps:** Jim chairs the active transportation committee, working to connect all our villages with off-road trails. So far, 83 people have signed up for the Niagara Steps competition; you only need a pedometer or smart phone with the right app. The competition encourages people to walk during the month of June. You can post photos, challenges, and anything interesting on the website (link at NOTL.org). The objective is to have fun and get people moving. The winning team gets lunch from Niagara College and the winning individual gets a \$100 gift certificate to the Outlet Collection.
  - c) **Property standards:** A few calls this year. The objective of this difficult task is to achieve compliance with standards. It is important to emphasize that once the process is initiated it cannot be stopped.
  - d) **Infrastructure deficit:** Despite the \$70 billion infrastructure deficit in Ontario and the large deficit in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wilberforce may be levelled this autumn. It was suggested to Jim that perhaps the repairs can be delayed until after the three houses have been built, as passage of the large trucks damages the road surface.

The question was asked whether the road surface has any impact on flooding in the area. The Chautauqua sewage system was installed in 1948 and is only buried three feet deep. The bottleneck to improving the system is The Circle, and this will not be addressed for some time. There is now an underground sewage pool to handle overflow, followed by overflow into One Mile Creek Pond if necessary. Jim recommended that property owners install a back valve on their sewage systems as a precaution. Although it is thought that about 20 homes were flooded, Jim only received one call during the recent heavy rains.

The town spent an unbudgeted \$576,000 on repairing erosion damage at the docks, Queen's Royal Park, and other locations. Ryerson Park is fairly well protected from erosion. Private property damage cannot be repaired by the town.
  - e) A draft bylaw requiring tree preservation and/or replanting is available on the website and will be going to council.

5. **Playground:** Kevin Turcotte, Manager of Parks and Recreation, presented three options for playground equipment enhancement (budget \$10,000) for Chautauqua Park. The rationale for this is to replace equipment removed from the Naussau/William Street playground that was deemed unsafe to be reused. Kevin is available at X263 for any questions. Installation would take about four to six weeks. The CRA needs to make a decision about which equipment to install, as if no decision is made, the budget will revert back to the town. It was commented that input from parents of young children would be useful. A feedback form is on the website.
6. **Approval of minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting:** Ross Robinson moved and Charmian Entine seconded approval of the minutes.
7. **President's report:** Presented by John Gleddie
- Water-quality testing: Ryerson Park does not fit provincial guidelines for water-quality testing and therefore it will not be done. It costs about \$400 and involves multiple tests. However, even a brief rainfall can change *E. coli* levels, and therefore John questioned the value of testing. Is the water treatment plant located on the Parks Canada property testing water quality? Can we use their results? **Ruth Denyer will follow up**, as the water was tested in the past, and maybe this previous testing can provide a rationale for re-instituting testing.
  - Stop sign on Niagara Boulevard at Vincent: This will be removed, based on a consultant's recommendation. Niagara Boulevard is a through street. Notices will be placed in the Advance.
  - Kate Sullivan had no update on the Community Plan.
  - John Gleddie thanked Lorraine Busbridge for guiding him through his first year as president, and he thanked the entire board and members for their work in the previous year (including Kurt, who made a great Santa, and Buddy for his great corn roasting skills).
  - This year's golf tournament will be held on August 16.
8. Financial report: Presented by Joanna Gorski, approval moved by Brian Crow and seconded by Peter Millard.

Description	Income	Expenses	Net	Balance
<b>Opening balance</b>				<b>\$ 2038.62</b>
Membership <sup>1</sup>	\$ 665.00		\$ 665.00	
Golf tournament	\$ 529.25	\$ 275.28	\$ 253.97	
Corn roast <sup>2</sup>	\$ 562.30	\$ 451.80	\$ 110.50	
Carol stroll <sup>3</sup>		\$ 356.06	(\$ 356.06)	
GIC interest	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	
Totals	\$ 1806.55	\$1083.14	\$ 723.41	
<b>Closing balance</b>				<b>\$ 2762.03</b>

GIC: \$4000 on deposit

<sup>1</sup>AGM + corn roast

<sup>2</sup>Income includes food & map sales; expenses include Advance advertisement, production of maps, purchase of food and beverages, etc

<sup>3</sup>Expenses include horse and sleigh rental, hot chocolate, candy canes

It is important to remember that \$1500 is earmarked for website development. With the surplus in the account, it was suggested that we look for worthwhile local projects (like cool street signs in Chautauqua) or charities, as our association is not a money-making venture. It was also suggested that meanwhile, an additional \$1000 should be moved to a GIC. Larry Miyata suggested that the financial report include more detail on expenses and income, and that this should be included in the minutes of the future meetings.

9. **Presentation and election of 2017/2018 executive:** Lorraine Busbridge thanked everyone in attendance and announced that the current board was standing for re-election:

- John Gleddie: President
- Joanna Gorski: Secretary-Treasurer
- Kurt Hamm: Director
- Peter Millard: Director
- Ross Robinson: Director
- Daryl Rutt: Director

The board was elected by acclamation.

10. **New business:**

a) Holmes Hooke and Leslie Frankish undertook the Chautauqua tree inventory in the summer of 2016. The work took over 300 hours and involved consultation with experts. The result of the process is a 45-minute slide show detailing methodology, findings, and recommendations. Briefly, Chautauqua has 780 canopy trees and 210 understory trees (such as Japanese maples and magnolias). Of the canopy trees, about 80 are ash, which will all be gone within two years; the silver maples lining Wilberforce are about 10 years past their life expectancy, and about 100 red oaks are near their life expectancy. Many other trees are showing signs of stress. This does not account for any tree loss due to construction, which can be considerable. Of 11 mature trees lost within 50 metres of Holmes's house in the past few years, six were lost due to age and five due to construction.

It is estimated that about half of the current trees will be gone within 10 years. Compared with the trees that have been lost, 21 fewer trees have been planted to replace them. To date, 75 oak seedlings and other species have been overwintered at Niagara College, and they will be planted in Nassau Park and then moved to their final location at the appropriate time. Although many people do not have room for trees right now, it is estimated that space will open up as trees are lost. In addition, Communities in Bloom has offered 150 tree seedlings. But we need older trees (a 6' tree can cost \$400) so we could use some financial support for that. Leslie will incorporate into the website information about the existing tree canopy, recommended trees to plant, and tree stewardship.

Buddy moved to thank Holmes and Leslie for their great work.

Lorraine suggested an evening to share the tree inventory slide presentation with the CRA, and Ruth Denyer suggested the entire town could be interested. Such an event could be advertised and held in the Community Centre.

- b) Leslie will prepare an outline of the website for review by the board to finalize the requirements before moving ahead.
- c) The CRA is still supporting the development of a tree bylaw. There is both an online and paper petition. Both individuals and organizations within the town support a tree bylaw to prevent tree loss due to development. Betty Disero explained that the project to pilot the bylaw in Chautauqua lost momentum due to changes in council and in town staff. The recent clearcutting revived interest in this project, but the Planning Department now wants to hire a consultant (\$20,000, 18-month delay) to perform a survey to determine whether people want a tree bylaw. As this has already been determined, there is no point in wasting time and money answering this question again. Council will be voting on June 12, so the CRA should be there—it may help get council moving forward. The tree inventory needs to be reworked into a formal report so it can be used in the neighbourhood plan.

Currently, the use of a tree protection zone must be included into building permit application: no bylaw is necessary for that. Larry Miyata recommended that we support Betty Disero at council on this project. Betty said unanimous endorsement by the CRA of the letter to Communities in Bloom would be important in that context. Larry moved endorsement of the letter and Bill Charnetsky seconded the motion, which passed handily.

- d) Chautauqua Park playground equipment: In the agreement with the town, this park was initially designed as a passive park, with any equipment targeted to young children. In 2011, it was agreed that no more equipment, trees, or benches would be added to the park. The CRA needs to determine whether to change this and decide what is wanted. It can be argued that the addition of one piece of playground equipment will not materially change the character of the park. Input from people with young children would be helpful. Buddy Andres moved and Ruth Denyer seconded a motion to get a consensus about what should be added to the park on or before the date of the corn roast. The motion passed.

11. **Adjournment:** John Gleddie thanked everyone. Ross Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting and Buddy Andres seconded the motion, which passed.