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Big Rideau Lake Association
Annual General Meeting, Sept.19, 2020
Held by Zoom Webinar

Present

Phil Albert
Charles Buckingham
Robin Copestake
Gayle Mathe
Grant Leslie

Regrets

Doug Kirkland
Nancy Watters

Guest

Dr. John Smol (Biology Professor, Queens University)
Arie Hooganboom (Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes)
Brian Campbell (Reeve, Tay Valley Township)

1. Call to Order

A quorum of members being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM
There were 37 members present.

2. Explanation about how to use ZOOM webinar Robin Copestake

Robin instructed the members about how to use the question feature and how to vote on resolutions using the poll feature.

3. Opening remarks by the President of the Association Grant Leslie

Grant said that in spite of the unfortunate cancellations of event due to Covid, the BRLA had a busy year

- installing 115 shoal markers
- sprucing up Cow Island
- water testing
- learning about algae blooms (Dr.Smol, our key speaker to address this)
- working with TRL to resolve issue of PFAS leaching from date site
- some results from Carleton bass study
 - lower mortality rate than expected from caught fish
 - some fish took up to 500 days to return to territory
 - social impact of tournaments on residents study still being analyzed
- working with other lake groups on Safe, Quiet Lakes initiative
- Government relations - working with TRL to insure lake protection in Township Plan
 - Township website posting results of water quality analyses
- Parks Canada replaced or repositioned some buoys in late July
- BRLA working on volunteer tasking maps. Volunteers can see what a specific task involves re what needs to be done and the time line to do it
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4. Review and approval of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM

ON A **MOTION** by Charles Buckingham and **SECONDED** by Phil Albert and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the BRLA approve the draft minutes of the 2019 AGM

5. Presentation by Dr. John Smol

Dr. Smol explained the science of Paleolimnology whereby in part, core samples of sediment are taken from lake beds, dried and analyzed in laboratories. The top layers of the core give information on the most recent conditions/events in the lake going back 200 to 300 years (in a core about .5 metres in length) This shows an historical perspective that the usual water sampling studies don't as they usually cover a time span of 2 to 3 years.

He focused on the various species of algae (fossils) that are found in the samples, illustrating with charts and photos, how a marked change has been observed at the time of the building in the Rideau Canal (1830) due to deforestation and disturbance of habitat in the 12,000 year old lakes. Different species of algae thrive in different climates and habitat conditions. In the 1970s, the presence of more trees and less phosphorus (being put in the water by humans) indicate different populations of algae .

A longer core can show conditions (aerially transported contamination, pollen, fossils) going back much further in time.

The rate and species of algae also tell analysts the rate of eutrophication (an increase in nutrients which result in algal bloom). The impacts of eutrophication are fouling shore line, toxins and decreased deepwater levels.

Counts of and identification of diatom fossils (there are many species) also give scientists a picture of nutrient levels in lakes.

Dr. Smol referred to a study that has been done on Lake of the Woods, a lake where residents have greatly reduced the amount of phosphorus going in to the lake. Core samples from different parts of the lake revealed varying results. Blue-green algae continues to bloom due to climate change.

His team will be sampling Big Rideau Lake this summer.

Dr. Smol concluded that palaeontology studies can dovetail with the shorter term water testing efforts.

Grant thanked Dr. Smol for his very interesting presentation.

Question

Dr. Steven Cooke: How do you address the issue of dealing with so many levels of governance? (Federal, County, Townships Conservation Authorities)

Answer

Scientists have a responsibility to communicate with decision makers. Make sure they are well informed. Governing bodies will have to know the cost of making changes/ adding nutrients.

Question

Cindy Laprade: What can lake users do to improve things?

Answer

Control your own property regarding planted buffer zones, what you as a homeowner allow to flow into the lake and compliance with municipal laws.

Agriculture can lessen amount of fertilizer and other chemicals presently leaching into the lake water.

Point source such as visible sewer pipes to be reported and removed.

Question

What impact do zebra mussels have on algae?

Answer

1 zebra mussel can filter 1 litre of water. this greatly reduces the population of some species of algae but other species can thrive in the waste from this filtering.

Question Jeff Stuart

How many core samples would you take on Big Rideau Lake?

Answer 1 or 2 from the middle of the lake. It would take the majority of a 2 year master's study to analyze these cores.

6. Address by Arie Higgenboom, Mayor, Township of Rideau Lakes

Mayor Hooganboom thanked the BRLA executive and members for the good work they are doing on behalf of the lake. TRL has granted \$5818.00 this year towards its continuation.

- the Township has been busy fielding questions from U.S.A. citizens regarding border closures
- there is a Township Covid 18 newsletter
- TRL has been addressing gaps in cell service in the area
- TRL will be doing 300 mandatory septic inspections this year, double what has previously been done
- we have 90% compliance with Township Plan for vegetative buffers on lake properties
- no increase in 2020 budget

- continuing strong growth in Township
- work continuing on Newborough bridge and County Road 1 (Rideau Ferry to Portland)
- moving forward with new community hall and library
- supporting fairness to all re garbage pick-up
- not supporting roadside spraying

- **Question** Michael Freidan

How are the sites chosen for septic inspection?

Answer

There are 22 lakes in TRL. This year we will focus on Big Rideau Lake. Some sites are chosen as they may have identified issues

Grant thanked the Mayor for his thoughtful presentation.

7. Address by Brian Campbell, Reeve, Tay Valley Township

Reeve Campbell thanked the BRLA for their work and for the opportunity to address the members.

- due to Covid-19 the Township office remains open but appointments to discuss building permits and zoning are available by appointment only
- a recreation master plan is progressing involving Tay, Drummond North Elmsley and Perth
- a climate action plan outlines ideas for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- as more residents are working from home, plans are in effect for increasing access to broadband communications, spearheaded by Lanark Co.
- Lanark Co. is promoting the planting of 10,000 trees as part of an initiative to improve the tree canopy and replace trees devastated by the gypsy moth defoliation
- a working group is being recruited to deal with private unassumed roads
- 2 new plows have been added to the fleet and repair work has been done on 2 roads

8.RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 16 (1) OF THE BRLA BY-LAWS

On a **MOTION** by Grant Leslie and **SECONDED** by Gayle Mathe

Whereas Section 16 (1) of the General By-laws of the Big Rideau Lake Association provides that “*There shall be a board of directors not exceeding nine (9) and not less than five (5) in number, each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Corporation and amongst the members of the Corporation who shall obtain the age of 21 years*”.

Whereas Section 285(1) of the Act provides that “*A corporation may by special resolution increase or decrease the number of its directors*”.and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Big Rideau Lakes Association intends to increase the number of Directors from 9 to 12

Be it resolved that Section 16 (1) of the General By-laws of the Big Rideau Lake Association be amended to read “*There shall be a board of directors not exceeding (12) and not less than (6) in number, each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Corporation and amongst the members of the Corporation who shall obtain the age of 21 years*”.

27 in favour 1 opposed. The motion was carried.

9.Treasurers Report of Financial Status Charles Buckingham

Summary of 2019 results

- net revenue from operating activities	\$4,312
- donations to reserves	<u>\$2,418</u>
	\$6,730
- final write-off of solar equipment Cow Is.	(\$6,245)
- net total including non-cash item	\$ 445
- 2019 Grant from TRL included above	\$5,883
- Grant continued in 2020 (\$5,818)	
- for 2020 projecting ysear-end surplus in the range of \$1,000 to \$5,000	

On a **MOTION** by Robin Copestake and **SECONDED** by Phil Albert and unanimously approved, it was resolved that the members of the BRLA approve the financial

statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 as prepared by Wilkenson and Company, LLP-Professional Chartered Accountants and presented to this meeting.

On a **MOTION** by Grant Leslie and **SECONDED** by Robin Copestake and unanimously approved, be it resolved that the members of the BRLA appoint Wilkenson and Company LLP- Professional Chartered Accountants as auditors of the association for the 2020 fiscal year

10. Recognition of Directors leaving the Board Phil Albert

Phil gave thanks and recognition to Doug Kirkland and Nancy Watters on behalf of the Board.

Doug has been an active member for over 60 years. As a teenager, he was active in the youth group on Cow Island. He has served in board positions for 20 years, including the position of President.

Nancy has served passionately, promoting the BRLA lake community with social and recreational programs and events both as a director and as a volunteer organizer. She has actively solicited the support of numerous volunteers and has helped future volunteers by helping to plan “tasking maps”, a description of various volunteer responsibilities and an estimate of the time needed to accomplish them.

11. Election of Directors

On a **MOTION** by Phil Albert and **SECONDED** by Gayle Mathe and unanimously carried, be it resolved that Charles Buckingham, Mary Ann Calzonetti, Cindy Laprade, Michael McSweeny, Peter Merkle and Steve Nichol be elected to the BRLA Board of Directors

12. Election of the President of the BRLA

On a **MOTION** by Charles Buckingham and **SECONDED** by Phil Albert, and unanimously carried, be it resolved that Grant Leslie be elated to continue in his role as President of the BRLA

!3. New Business

In response to a question about appointment of RELF (Rideau Lakes Environment Foundation) Charles said that appointments are made by the BRLA Board.

Q. Pat Evans asked about climate change and the continuation of the July 1 fireworks.

A. Grant. The board feels that a single controlled event would be better than small events all around the lake. There is huge support by the members for the fireworks. The Board will probably have a smaller display in future and is investigating the more expensive but more environmentally friendly alternates to traditional displays.

Q. Tim Poupore asked if BRLA members have been polled on their opinion of the cormorant hunt

A. The BRLA board agrees that the hunt has no scientific basis . The board told members when the legislation was proposed tp make their concerns know to the government. This in part did result in the shortening of the season. The Board will consider polling members on the issue.

Q. Buzz Boles asked the Board to name the members of the RLEF.

A. Buzz Boles, Doug Kirkland, Jennifer Trant

Q. Are there any requirements such as a permit for fireworks displays? We have a neighbour who has very frequent 25 minute displays.

A. We will look into this. A present we don't believe permits are necessary.

Q. Can "No Wake" signs be added to shoal markers?

A. The Board is looking into that as a possibility.

Q. Can the BRLA have a means of addressing "ghost hotels" (private residences hosting large numbers of paying guests)

A. The Board is working with Township of Rideau Lakes and FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers) on the issue. One actionable issue would be the overwhelming of septic tanks.

Arie Hooganboom congratulated Grant and the Board for their work.

Buzz thanked the organizers who helped set up the meeting.

Grant thanked Robin Copestake for her work in set-up and moderating the AGM

14. Adjournment

On a **MOTION** by Charles Buckingham, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM