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Big Rideau Lake Association Board Meeting Annual General Meeting, September 18, 2021

Panelists

Phil Albert

Grant Leslie

Charles Buckingham

Gayle Mathé

Robin Copestake

Guests

John Smol

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson

Arie Hooganboom

The meeting started at 9:05 AM with Board Members, Mary Ann Calzonetti, Cindy LaPrade, Michael McSweeney, Peter Merkley, Steve Nichol, the above panelists and xx BRLA members in attendance.

Opening Remarks Grant Leslie, BRLA President

Grant welcomed the BRLA members and guests to the AGM. He reiterated BRLA's continued commitment to the shoal marker program, on-going water testing, and annual fireworks display.

BRLA's focus on the future includes the return of the day camp program at Cow Island, sailing instruction and increased sailing regatta activity as well as updating the facility on Cow Island. The board will continue pressing for responsible development of lake property as it pertains to the environment.

Grant called for more volunteer support. The Board has need of a secretary and communications person.

Zoom Robin Copestake

Robin took a few moments to explain how to vote, comment and ask questions on Zoom.

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous AGM

It was **MOVED** by Grant Leslie that the minutes of the AGM of Sept. 19, 2020 be approved as presented. **All in favour. CARRIED**

Presentation by Dr. John Smoll Professor at Queen's University, Paleocological Environment Assessment and Research Lab 'PEARL'

Dr. Smoll explained that his work and that of his assistants, currently Emma Gray and Kapillash Balasubramaniam studying core samples taken from a lake's bottom. By analyzing the pollen grains, contaminants, soil particles and varieties of algae and microscopic fossils in the various layers of sediment, he and his team are able to tell much about climate change (over thousands of years) and the impact of human activity in this area (over 200-300 years). By comparison, water sampling shows very recent changes. Both can work together.

The quality of the lake water decreased drastically with the building of the Rideau Canal system.

His work in Lake of the Woods has given him evidence that although people have made a great effort not to pollute the lake with phosphorus, less desirable algae continues to thrive. People will have to strive for even less phosphorus discharging into the water. Climate change, with less ice and more thermal stratification is why blue-green and other algae are thriving.

Several questions were asked.

Q. Does decreased wind speed have an effect?

A. Blue-green algae like calm. They float to the surface and blot out other growth.

Q. Are trends being noticed in Big Rideau Lake and others?

A. Indian Lake, Otter Lake, Upper Rideau and Lower Rideau have different depths and conditions but are showing similar results

Q. Do bubblers (to keep docks from ice damage) cause harm?

A. Not appreciable.

Q. What can we expect to see in the next 20 years?

A. Climate warming will get worse. We have to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Q. What causes water stratification to increase?

A. Warm water is less dense than cold. Compare to oil and vinegar.

Q. What is the effect of oil film on water?

A. Some oil film is natural. Boat oil on Big Rideau has very local effect.

Q. What can we do to reduce phosphorus?

A. Don't use lawn fertilizer. Keep septic system healthy. Big storm activity run-off will fill the lake quickly with chemicals.

Q. How important is water quality monitoring?

A. Very. It gives real time picture of lake changes.

Q. How does this affect the trout population?

A. Lake trout need deep water and high oxygen. The oxygen levels are decreasing with climate warming.

B. Q. Should phosphorus levels be lowered from #12 ?

A. Under 10 is algo-trophic. Numbers in the teens would be troublesome. Big Rideau is moving water and flushes itself which is good.

Grant thanked Dr. Smoll for his most interesting presentation and reminded the membership that RLEF supports his work. If you contribute through RLEF you will get a tax receipt.

Presentation by Sommer Casgrain-Robertson General Manager of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority 'RVCA and **Sarah McLeod**

RVCA tests surface water on Big Rideau Lake at 4 deep water sites 4 times a year and many shallow water locations 2 times a year.

In 2005 you could see a secci dish in 8-10 metres depth. Now due to sediment, algae and invasive species, the reading is about 6 metres. Data from the last RVCA report, 2014 is available at info@rvca.ca

In 1930 there was a great reduction of wetlands and trees. There was soil erosion, flooding and drought.

In the 40s, 50s and 60s conservation authorities were formed.

Presently there is ecological pressure due to more development. There is a need for storm water management due to industry, agriculture and individual development. Climate change is a huge challenge for conservation authorities as intense weather causes increased run-off.

Team effort of landowners, farmers, municipalities and all levels of government necessary to slow climate change.

RVCA currently

- monitoring and reporting
- watershed planning
- development review and approval/ facilitating sustainable development
- tree planting/ shoreline naturalization/ protect and increase shoreline buffers
- clean water grants
- septic inspections
- wetland and habitat restoration
- work to reduce storm water run-off

Priorities

- update watershed plan, hopefully next year
- modernize science and monitoring
- refocus programs and priorities
- encourage low impact development
- storm water management
- commitment to best management practices

Q. Can the testing results done by Water Rangers be used by RVCA?

A. Yes. More frequent testing fill in the gaps

Q. Can RVCA plans be fulfilled due to reduction in Government budgets?

A. RVCA has enjoyed good support from local government. There is pushback to the province at local level

Grant thanked Ms. Casgrain- Robertson and Ms. McLeod for a very interesting presentation.

Address by Arie Hoogenboom Township of Rideau Lakes Mayor

Mr. Hooganboom congratulated Grant Leslie and the BRLA for their advocacy on behalf of the lake and thanked Dr.Smoll and Ms Casgrain-Robertson and Sarah Mcleod

- he mentioned the RLLAC 'Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee' which meets four time a year.

- The Township granted BRLA \$5508.00 this year based on the size of the lake and membership in BRLA.

- TRL currently has the lowest tax rate of water property and will adjust downward when the new evaluations are calculated

- there Township has provided private road grants

- there is more waste pick up on private roads

- now mowing rather than spraying roadsides

- waterfront planning; registration on title/ interim control by-law on expansions
- 300 septic inspections annually
- more spending on infrastructure/ historical sites improved/ Portland as community hub- green development of library, hall. Studying best solution
- 65 new builds and many cottage conversions from 1 to 4 season
- more broadband coming in partnership with WTC

Q. Will interim control by-law address the population change in campgrounds from weekly/monthly rentals to three season residents?

A. Study to cover all aspects of expansion, particularly environmental impact of denser population. The municipality is not targeting campground expansion

Q. More detail about the 300 septic inspections?

A. Before 2019 inspection was on a voluntary basis. In 2019 there were 50 inspections. In 2020 and 2021, 150. We use Conservation Authority advice on who to inspect. New owners who have not had to deal with septic issues need some level of education for maintaining septic system. Some systems are mandated to upgrade. May expand inspection depending on council wished, budget and staff.

Q. Will public be consulted on campground expansion?

A. Fotan Consulting will have findings in six months. They have been robust in public consultation in the past.

Grant thanked Mr.Hooganboom for his presentation.

Tay Valley Reeve Mr. Brian Campbell unable to attend but sent slides

- Tay Valley emphasizing growth management (new)
- recognition of Indigenous peoples (new)
- National Heritage Systems in West side of Tay Valley
- addressing climate change
- working on affordable housing
- zoning amendments to allow extra bedrooms/ bunnies if septic system has capacity / 2nd dwelling units permitted / tiny houses permitted
- increased size of home based business

events.tayvalleytwp.ca/meeting/Detail

Appointment of Auditor for 2021

On a **MOTION** by Charles Buckingham 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 2021 fiscal year. **CARRIED**

Report from the Treasurer Charles Buckingham

- membership and donations income is down from 2020
- currently at approximately \$8000.00 revenue over expenditures
- unable to expend some directed donations this year due to reduced programs

On a **MOTION** by Charles Buckingham and unanimously approved be it resolved that the BRLA approve the financial statements for the year ended Dec.31, 2020 as prepared by Wilkenson and Company, LLP- Professional Chartered Accountants and presented to this meeting. **CARRIED**

Q. What about fireworks expenditures?

A. \$2510.00 donated in 2020. Can only qualify for \$2000.00 Federal Government grant if fireworks are held on July 1

Q. How many members this year?

A. 311-312

Q. Any more discussion about stopping the fireworks?

A. Grant. We will continue due to overwhelming membership support for them. Huge boat and shoreline viewership. Hopefully, with one large display, there will be fewer smaller displays around the lake. Modern fireworks are less polluting than in the past. Hoping more environmentally displays will be available/ affordable in the near future.

Recognition of Directors Leaving the Board Phil Albert

Phil thanked Gayle Mathé for her four years of service as director on the BRLA Board serving as a patient and diplomatic secretary, spam deleter, water ranger, and occasional assistance at Cow Island with camps and sailing.

Phil thanked Robin Copestake for three years of service on the Board as Membership Chair, Cow Island advocate, social media communicator (great to have a representative of the next generation on this front) Robin also ran Summer Sounds in 2019

Election of New Directors Grant

On a **MOTION** by Grant Leslie and unanimously approved, be it resolved that Katie Leishman be elected to the BRLA Board of Directors.

Grant called for nominations from the floor for other directors. There being none

On a **MOTION** by John Callen and **SECONDED** by Mary Ann Calzonetti and unanimously approved, be it resolved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:05

