

LOWER BEVERLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 204
DELTA, ONTARIO K0E 1G0

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JULY 13, 2013 10 a.m. DELTA FAIR HALL

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Light refreshments were enjoyed from 9:30 a.m. by the approximately 50 attendees. At 10:00 a.m., our President Lynne Jeffries called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and thanked our sponsors who attended. Those attending were Burt Hudson from Burt Hudson Real Estate, Terri Woods from Bickerton Real Estate and Lisa Brown and daughter from Paul Brown Construction. Our other sponsors were all mentioned.

Lynne then used a slide show as her presentation with the first item being a review of the agenda.

IN MEMORIAM

A moment of silence was observed for those who had passed this last year. Those remembered were Eleanor Pye, Mary Santos, Don Fleming, Patricia Newcombe, Barbara Gifford and Ron Pye.

MINUTES FROM 2012 AGM

The minutes from last year's meeting were reviewed. Lynne named the members of the current Executive Committee and noted that next year is an election year. She asked for new faces and new ideas. If anyone is interested, please contact Lynne.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A slide was shown of our revenues (\$7680.00) and our expenses (\$10357.00) for 2012. Our previous balance of \$15039.00 plus revenues and minus expenses left us with a balance of \$12362.00 at the start of 2013. Lynne mentioned that the South Crosby Fire Department had not cashed their cheques over the past few years so the funds were given to the Delta Athletic and Recreational Society. Unfortunately, the Fire Department did cash their cheques later but we continued with the donation to DARS.

REVIEW OF 2012 ACTIVITIES

Lynne had a slide presentation to go over the activities of the past year. There were many excellent pictures from the events.

- The dock sale didn't have many participants and will not be repeated.
- The float for the Delta Fair was great as usual and won third prize.
- Clean-up day was successful as usual with Sandy's help.
- Our picnic was a great success with lots of fun during the 'Olympic' games.

Lynne thanked all our volunteers for their continuing help.

- Shoal markers – Fred & Sharon Olivo and Brian & Lynne Jeffries

- Auditor – Ed Van Voorhis
- Clean-up day – Sandy Ellis
- Picnic – Dave & Marsha Johnson
- Paddling – John Truyens
- Webmaster – Lynne Jeffries
- Newslettter – Louise Mantha
- and of course, all the executive team.

She noted that Dave Johnson and Fred Olivo had been recognized at our local volunteer banquet for 10 years of service. Dave Champagne, Don Santos and Ed Van Voorhis were also recognized for 20 years of volunteer service.

UP-COMING EVENTS

- Our AGM meetings will alternate between a Saturday morning and a weekday evening. The date for next year will be announced on our website.
- July 20th is the endangered species presentation to be given by Tim Wood at 10:00 a.m. at the Township Park Pavilion.
- July 27th, our float will be in the Delta Fair parade. We will decorate at Olivo's on the 26th, following the theme of the Beverley Lake Hillbillies.
- Thursday, Aug. 1st will be the Clean-up Day.
- Saturday, Aug. 8th is the flotilla and picnic at Kendricks' Park.

Lynne mentioned that there were lists on the tables in the room showing each road in our area. She asked that we all check our information and update if necessary. She also noted that we need a few more 'road champions'. Extra help is needed to maintain our membership and mailing lists, as well as someone to act as water safety co-ordinator and to help with putting out the turtle and boat safety signs. All volunteers accepted. Anyone who knows of a Company that might be interested in being a Corporate Sponsor could perhaps approach these folks and then let Lynne know of their interest.

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

This group is doing a survey on algae and weeds in our lakes. We can do this survey by going to www.surveymonkey.com/plants-algae. Green algae is not harmful and not toxic. Blue-green algae can produce harmful toxins and has a bad odour. Please notify Lynne if you see it.

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE WATERSHEDS

Hillary Knack from the Centre for Sustainable Watersheds spoke to us about a makeover program to naturalize our shorelines. It is being offered to cottagers with little shoreline vegetation and/or ongoing erosion concerns. A letter was delivered to many homes and anyone interested can contact them. See our website for further information.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Our surprise guest speaker, Tim Wood, was introduced by Lynne. He is a species at risk coordinator with the Leeds & Grenville Stewardship Council. He had graciously offered to fill in when the regular speaker was unable to attend.

Tim told us that he had gotten his start giving presentation just like this one at Murphy's Point Provincial Park. His first talk was about loons but it wasn't a great success with

one of his listeners; she wanted him to talk about panda bears. On the more serious side, Tim told us that species all around the world are at risk. Any plant or animal that is vulnerable to extinction can be classed as 'at risk'. There are approximately 600 species at risk in Canada and around 200 in Ontario. Tim showed excellent pictures of some of these such as the eastern hognose snake and our own stinkpot turtle. Of the 6 types of turtles found in Ontario, 7 of these are at risk. Tim identified the main causes for us.

- The number one cause for this problem is habitat loss. Many of our wetlands have been lost to construction, etc. The loss of some of our beaches has resulted in a decrease in the numbers of the piping plover who nest on beaches.
- The second cause would be pollution. Animals are affected as much as humans by air or beach pollution.
- The next cause was fragmentation or land use change. When a highway or new marina cuts through the habitat of a species at risk, this is a major issue for them. The snapping turtle doesn't nest until age 20 and many turtles are lost on our highways that bisect their habitat when they come out to lay their eggs.
- Another cause is the introduction of an alien species such as the zebra mussel. Other alien species that we are seeing are the sea lamprey and the Asian carp. Both of these are voracious eaters who leave nothing for the native fish. Tim told a story about the little brown bat. In 2005 in Albany, N.Y. it was discovered that the bats were coming out of hibernation very early. A fungus (alien specie) had attached to their necks, causing them to awaken early but no food was available for them so they starved. Approximately 8 million of these little brown bats have been lost since 2006. (We all know this means lots more mosquitoes).
- Climate changes can also be an issue. The warm spell last March then the return to cold in April caused many animals to emerge from hibernation. They were unable to find the necessary food with the following cold spell and again they starved.
- Persecution by humans is also a problem. We see a snake and immediately want to kill it, resulting in a loss of snakes and an overflow of mice and rats.
- The final issue Tim mentioned was road mortality. A survey was done of a 40 kilometre stretch of the Thousand Island Parkway. During a period of 80 days, 6655 dead animals were found.

Tim did say that we can all help with these issues. We can try to preserve and protect the habitat of species at risk. We can educate others and try to raise awareness. In our area, we can watch for the signs on the roads where animals might be. A new initiative is the location of nesting boxes for snakes down near the St. Lawrence River. There are success stories such as the beaver and the Canada goose. It will take time but we can all help.

Lynne thanked Tim and presented him with our book "Ripples Through Time" and a candle with our decal on it.

We held a 50/50 draw which was won by Burt Hudson, rightly so since he had contributed most of the funds.

Lynne thanked all our sponsors and everyone who had attended and the meeting was adjourned.