

**BIG GULL LAKE EAST END COTTAGE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING (AGM)  
MINUTES JULY 13, 2024  
TIME: 10 - 12:00  
LOCATION: CLAR-MILL HALL  
PLEVNA**

**General Comment:** This new venue for our AGM was well received and the meeting well attended. Coffee, tea, water and some light snacks were provided. Rental cost from the Township was \$15.00 for this modern well equipped building.

**1) Introduction of BLEECA Board**

Donna Commerford introduced members of the Board.  
Regrets: Richard McIlveen, Ken Grant.

**2) Review and Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes**

Karen Saer moved to approve the 2023 AGM Minutes. Second by Lorna Merklinger. Carried.

**3) Cottager's Update: Memorials:**

The passing of the following BGL cottagers was acknowledged:  
Norma Roach, Yvan Beauduin, June Handbidge

**4) Guest Speaker: Mayor Gerry Lichty**

Gerry's interaction with and update on local issues was well received by the attendees. The following items were reviewed and associated questions answered.

- i) Cellular Telephone Coverage: Two new Rogers towers will be erected in the area close to the BGLEECA and operational in 2026. Ontario Connects website shows where new towers will be. Editor's comment: An article by Jeff Green in the Frontenac News (May 15, 2024) provided detailed information on this subject.
- ii) Ardoch postmaster is retiring. Township currently looking for replacement/new location.
- iii) Healthcare: Paramedic services for our area were reviewed including the Neighbours Helping Neighbours cardiac arrest response program

- from Frontenac Paramedic Services. North Frontenac Township is providing \$5,000 per year for 3 years to support the operation of the new MRI unit for Smith Falls Hospital. There will be a new physician from Wales setting up practice in North Brook to begin later summer.
- iv) Taxes will increase by 3.92%.
  - v) Electric Vehicles: The Township is planning on installing chargers in the community if they get grants to do so.
  - vi) The Township is implementing a Community Planning Permit System to simplify building approval process.
  - vii) Septic Systems: The Township has a voluntary system for inspection. The mayor is trying to stay away from implementing a mandatory inspection requirement and would like to hear input from the community.
  - viii) Short Term Rentals: No complaints have been heard by the Township.
  - ix) White Duck Provincial Park: No progress to report.
  - x) Helen Lane Parking Improvement: Township waiting on feedback from the MNR.
  - xi) Frontenac Municipal Services Corporation (FMSC) of which North Frontenac(NF) is a member, is trying to make the area more welcoming for development given that 70% of NF is Crown land.
  - xii) Camping on Big Gull Lake: Permits can be purchased at the Township office.
  - xiii) K&P Rail Bed Trail: Gerry spoke about the completion of this Trail and the County request for a contribution of \$5,000 from North Frontenac for this project. This request is not supported by the Township.

## **5) Director's Reports:**

President: Donna Commerford- nothing to report.

Vice President: Greg Best thanked Karen Saer for the photos and layout for the Calendar. He also thanked Debbie Bird and Keith Rowe for getting the advertisers to support creation and production of the Calendar. He also encouraged the membership to support those same advertisers. Also thanked were the Area Reps in their support of our cottage community. Greg also reminded us about the availability of Welcome packages available for new cottagers.

Treasurer: Debbie Bird - Reported that the Association's general fund was healthy. Some of the funds were spent to support purchase of Dock Signs and Tic Kits. The Board is trying to use funds in a responsible way.

Linda Radtke reported that our books are in good order.

Debbie Bird moved that the Financial Statements and Review Report be approved as presented. Beverley Burke, seconded. Carried.

Pam Bell moved that Linda Radtke conduct the financial review in 2025. Lynne Hughes Marsh, seconded. Carried.

Roads: Murray Finch - Nothing to report. Note - Jim Commerford thanked Murray for his ongoing road care.

Environment: Ken Grant - Virginia Grant report that a recent water sample contained no water Soldiers in the lake..a good report. For health reasons Ken is looking to pass the environmental torch along to a new Environmental Steward. The Association is looking for a volunteer for this position.

Director at Large: Keith Rowe. He announced that he will not be standing for re-election. Keith shared some historic Minutes from the board noting that BGLEECA was started 39 years ago. He also reviewed results from the recent MNR fishing survey of the lake. Special recognition was given to Keith for championing an important initiative called Getting the Lead Out and gaining involvement and support of the Township. The initial goal of this program by the end of 2024 is to get 100lbs of lead fishing weights out of the local lake environment. Donna Commerford thanked Keith for his years of service and support of his cottage community. In closing Keith reviewed the OPP information on boat safety.

**6) Elections:** As the entire slate of Directors were re-elected at the 2023 AGM, there is no need for an election of most directors except those positions that have become vacant. To that end Karen Saer moved that Teri Rowan be elected as Director at Large to fill the position vacated by Keith Rowe. Seconded by Sue Prior. Carried. Welcome Teri!

The list of your Executive for 2024-2025:

- President, Donna Commerford
- Vice-President - Greg Best
- Treasurer - Debbie Bird
- Secretary - David Marsh
- Environmental Steward - Vacant

- Director at Large - Murray Finch
- Director at Large - Richard McIlveen
- Director at Large - Teri Rowan

7) A big Thank You by Donna Commerford was given to all our volunteers:

- Linda Radtke, Review of Financial Statements
- Karen Saer, Calendar
- Shoal Light, Murray Finch
- Bev Williams and Virginia Grant, Water Rangers and Lake Partner Water Quality
- Elizabeth Jones, Storage of picnic tables and tents.
- Janet Sidey, Website
- Wayne Bird, Newsletter Editor
- Will Egan, The Kids Fishing Derby.

**8) Other Business: Role of cottage Association.** There was unanimous support by those in attendance for the ongoing existence and work of the BGLEECA on behalf of the membership. One of the important roles highlighted was the establishment and maintenance of relationships with the Township and staff...we are an important conduit of communication.

Responsibility for placement of shoal buoys was discussed. It is not the role of BGLEECA install buoys/ shoal markers. Installation lies with individual cottagers who know where the shoals lie.

**9) Upcoming Events:**

- August 3, Fishing Derby
- August 4, Sailing Regatta
- August 10, North Shore Road meeting

**10) Adjournment:**

Debbie Bird moved that the 2024 AGM be adjourned. Seconded, Lynne Hughes Marsh.