

Big Gull Lake East End Cottage Association (BGLEECA)

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saturday, August 30, 2014

Location: The Shean Goonetilleke Cottage, Helen Lane.

Attendees: Debbie Bird, Lynda Corkum, Donna Commerford, Ken Grant, Dave Cox, and about 70 cottages owners.

Absent with regrets: Janet Sidey, Leslie Maitland

Meeting started: 10:35 a.m.

Hand outs: Agenda, Financial Report, North Shore Road Report for North Shore Road residents

Sale items: Cook books, hats, tee shirts, Gypsy Moth kits; 2014 calendars.

1. Introductions, Announcements, & Guest Speaker (Ken Grant):

Ken Grant (President of the BGLEECA) introduced executive members.

Ken asked cottagers if they wanted a stylized map of Big Gull Lake. No interest was expressed because owners already possessed lake maps. Ken also announced upcoming municipal elections and indicated that cottagers can vote in the election by email, telephone or in person.

This year, Ken served as guest speaker in his capacity as President of the Federation of Ontario Cottage Association (FOCA). FOCA has 500 lake associations and 50,000 members. Most FOCA directors live in Toronto and so there are challenges for those living elsewhere. Out of Big Gull Lake dues, \$3.25 per cottage is allocated to FOCA dues plus a flat fee of \$175. One Provincial-wide concern is hydro rates; rates are significantly higher for cottage owners than permanent residents. A FOCA representative is lobbying Ontario Hydro to reduce these rates. Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) costs are now downloaded to municipalities; cottagers are responsible to contributing to this cost. One of the benefits of our FOCA membership is that it offers members discounted insurance (Aviva Insurance Company) on automobiles, cottages and boats; saving are significant. Ken encouraged Big Gull Lake cottagers to check the FOCA website for information.

Ken also relayed local news. Concern has been expressed about a proposed condominium development (about 34 units) on Ardoch Lake that may result in increased nutrient inflow to the lake. If so, water quality in the lake would decline. A species of Bluegreen alga has been reported in Westport.

After Ken's remarks, Donna Commerford (Vice President) presented Ken with an appreciation gift.

The 2013 AGM Minutes:

Acceptance of the 2013 minutes was moved by Nancy Kingston (pending 1. the correction of two spelling errors; and 2. A change from “Ken” Williams to “Eric” Williams. The motion, which was seconded by Vince Phillips, passed.

Introduction of new neighbours:

- a. Shean and Angela Goonetilleke have purchased the Phyper’s home. Although absent, they kindly offered their property for the AGM
- b. Steve Shintz and Kelly now have a cottage in Area 2
- c. Tim and Sandra Fulsom are new cottagers on Old Farm Lake
- d. Sue McKean bought a cottage on Coleman Lane

2. Directors’ Reports:

- a. Vice president (Donna Commerford):

- Family Triathlon (swimming/walk/run and paddle portion).
This year Donna’s 91year old mother, June, was the oldest participant; June contributed to the walking portion of her team. Donna presented the Triathlon Trophy to the The Fentons (Area 2).
- Area Reps were thanked.
- The Kids’ Fishing Derby was cancelled this year, but there are volunteers for next year (Shean Goonetilleke and Jeff Burzynski)
- Volunteers from Areas 1, 2 and 3 were thanked for their help in organizing the AGM picnic. Areas 4, 5 & 6 are responsible for organizing the picnic next year.
- Announced that Big Gull Lake T-shirts and hats were available for sale.
- Nancy Kingston and Tom Symes were thanked for their many years of service in preparing the lake calendar. Donna requested three volunteers to contact vendors (five vendors per volunteer) for calendar advertisements. The ads pay for the printing of the calendar, contribution of lake stewardship and community events. Debbie Bird announced that the cost of printing the calendar was \$2,300.

- b. North Shore Road Report:

Dave Cox announced that the North Shore roads are in good shape. The week before the AGM, the road committee moved to start legal action against those who do not pay road dues. Pertinent website addresses rather than paper announcements will be placed on roadside bulletin boards. Dave expressed concern about selective logging in the region near Mosquito Lake Parkway and road #10 because logging activities would increase the wear on the North Shore roads. However, OMNR relayed that road damages would be repaired. The logging emphasis is on selective cuttings and one cleared area. The only vegetation buffers will be adjacent to waterways. There is \$7,000 remaining in road “kitty.”

c. The Treasurer's Report:

- Handouts of the financial report were available at the AGM.
- Treasurer Debbie Bird relayed that there were no new items to report. Debbie explained that the General Fund has increased because there were no expenses associated with the Fish Derby (the derby was cancelled this year). Also, the Environment and Welfare funds are now included in the General Fund.
- Debbie, who is in charge of the master cottage list, encouraged cottagers to contact her to ensure that information on the list is current.
- John Fenton moved (seconded by Steve Burnie) to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously

d. Director at Large Report:

- Lynda Corkum encouraged cottagers to visit the BGLEECA website (www.bgleeca.ca). Lynda thanked Janet Sidey and others for their efforts with the website.
- Information was relayed about Aquatic Invasive Species monitoring report for Spiny Water Flea and Zebra Mussel veligers (see details on the website).
- Lynda described the need for a creel census on Big Gull Lake for sport fish because the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources monitors the lake infrequently (2010 and 2017). Cottagers were encouraged to read the explanation and need for the census (Calling all Anglers) and to contribute to the Big Gull Lake Creel Census form. This information is available on the website; hard copies were distributed.
- Cottage owner, Donna Roche expressed concern for the increasing numbers of freshwater jellyfish in her area of the lake (Area 1). (*Lynda previously reported this occurrence to the Ontario Federation of Angers and Hunters.*)
- A question about slot size for Walleye was posed. *Although unaware of the size range at the time, Lynda discovered that the slot size for Walleye in Fisheries Management Zone 18, which includes Big Gull Lake, is 40 to 50 cm (15.7 to 19.7 inches).*

3. Elections (Ken Grant):

Last year the BGLEECA elected President & Lake Steward (Ken Grant), Vice President (Donna Commerford), Secretary (Janet Sidey) and Director at Large (Lynda Corkum). This year, Lynda agreed to stand for Lake Steward, creating an opening for Director at Large. Ken relayed that there were five meetings each year: May, June, mid-August, AGM, September). No volunteers were forthcoming.

Treasurer, Debbie Bird, was re-elected to a two-year term (Moved by Donna Commerford; seconded by Pam Cox; Vote: unanimous approval.

4. Other News:

- Judy Pietrusiak (Area 3) will prepare the layout the BGLEECA calendar. Judy, who is creating a Big Gull photo book with collection of historical lake stories, is seeking more input up until the end of September. She encouraged cottagers to submit contributions to her.
- Sailing Regatta (Sunday of the August civic holiday) was organized by Norma Hindson
Norma announced the winners of the sailing regatta:
 Single sail: James White and Derek Lukala
 Double Sail: Brian Barrett and visitor
There were seven boats in the tournament. The Hindsons hosted the post-sailing party.
- Door Prizes were distributed

5. Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 a.m. (Moved by Tom Symes; seconded by Pan Cox.)

Vote: unanimous.

The AGM picnic followed the AGM. Sincere thanks to Area 1, 2 and 3 volunteers for organizing the picnic.

Respectfully submitted by Lynda Corkum
on behalf of Janet Sidey.