

The Friends of Charleston Lake Park

Annual General Meeting
Saturday, 5 October 2013, 10.00 a.m.
Visitors' Centre, Charleston Lake Park

Minutes

In Attendance: Wayne Ashford, Ben Chabot, John Cornish, Andy Graham, Gerry Gustar, Bill Hallam, Janice Hallam, Mike Lawrance, Peter Murray, Steve Page, Cliff Redman, Jim Wallbridge, Claudette Weststrate, Ray Wilson and one guest.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** Bill moved and Jim seconded the adoption of the agenda. Approved.
2. **Minutes of the 2012 AGM:** Moved by Claudette and seconded by Cliff to adopt the minutes as presented.
3. **Financial Report:** A copy of the financial statement was distributed by Wayne. A copy is attached to these minutes. This is not a year-end statement, but complete to date. It has been a good year for the raffle. The key remains in having the canoe on display. With respect to the Store, sales have been lower than last year. No one specific cause has been identified. Wayne moved and Ray seconded the adoption of the report. Approved.
4. **Chair Report:** Steve noted the following highlights in his report:
 - We received a grant of \$2500 from Enbridge for the Blue Mountain trail project. Another is on hold with TransCanada pending finalization of the Township agreement. Steve thanked Andy for writing the applications.
 - We were successful again with the Canada Summer Jobs program to support our Store employees.
 - We did not receive a Great Lake Guardian Fund grant for the water trail concept.
 - The raffle remains our major fund raisers. The Craft Fair and Athens Corn Fest did well. However, the Gatehouse remains our most lucrative source of sales. Thanks to the Park staff for being so helpful.
 - Settlers Weekend was a huge success this year. Sadly, it is the last year for this project as the Whitehorns are not repeating it. A possible donation in gratitude to the Brockville Museum was discussed and set aside for the planning session.
 - We sponsored a delegate to the Ontario Nature Youth Summit in Orillia. Claudette read out Katelyn's report. This is attached and will be posted on our website. It was felt that this is worthwhile repeating. Claudette will follow up.
 - In terms of the Board, Ray is stepping down but will remain our trusted Trail Master. Dwayne is also leaving the Board but will continue to help

with the supervision of the Store and will remain an active supporter of the trail program (along with Oscar).

5. **Vice Chair's Report** Andy reported on two items:
 - The conversion of the website is complete. Andy is the administrator. We need to upgrade our trail information as well as review some of the more narrative elements. Otherwise, once we took it over from the Biosphere, we were able to make a number of improvements.
 - The long and murky tale of the Blue Mountain Trail entrance concept continues with more turnover at the Township. Andy suggested we needed to do our own entrance work regardless of the outcome or timing on the Township agreement. Ben, Ray, Steve and Andy are to meet.
6. **Trail Report:** Ray noted that all the trails were in very good shape. He paid tribute to the monitors and a special thanks to Darrin Fox as he leaves us to return to Sharbot Lake. We also want to express our thanks to John MacLeod and the employment group that built the new bridge linking Blue Mountain and Huckleberry Hollow. Areas of concern are the flotation bridge at Slim Bay and the boardwalks.
7. **Store Report:** Janice reported a small loss this year. She attributed this to the wet start of the camping season. We had a good staff group. However, we expect a fair turnover next year, as our employees move on. We have a good inventory to carry over. Expressions of thanks were extended to Janice.
8. **Park Update:** Ben provided a written report, which is attached in full. He was welcomed back. He reiterated his own gratitude to Darrin and to Mike Cappello, who will be staying on as acting Assistant Park Superintendent. The Park had a good year in terms of use and income. The new cabin on the Eastern Water will be open for use in 2014 – most of the renovations are complete. Ben explained the move for more built accommodation by Ontario Parks.
9. **Election of Directors:** Moved by John Cornish and seconded by Peter Murray that the following be approved as Board Members: Wayne Ashford, Doug Bickerton, Andy Graham, Gerry Gustar, Bill Hallam, Janice Hallam, George Hurst, Steve Page, Cliff Redman, Jim Wallbridge, Claudette Weststrate. Approved.
10. **Other Business:** John Cornish noted that many of the interpretive guides and signs were out of date. Mostly notably, the Beechwood Trail has evolved so significantly that some of the interpretive material is actually misleading. Ben agreed to take this on. There was a useful discussion of finding more economical ways to provide this information.
11. **Adjournment:** Janice moved and Bill seconded that we adjourn at 11.40 a.m.

Report of Katelyn Fleming, Rideau District High School on the Ontario Nature Youth Summit

When the administration approached me and asked me to attend the Youth Summit, I wasn't quite sure what I was getting myself into. With only attending Biology class, getting decent marks, and only having interests in the environment I was eager to broaden my horizons on biodiversity and environmental resources. Little did I know it would be an awe-inspiring experience and would leave me with incredible memories.

When I first arrived, I was greeted with smiles, handshakes and many questions. Everyone was so cheerful, full of spirit and enthusiasm. I immediately gained more friends than I could ever imagine. Then all the intriguing lessons and activity's began.

A presenter was introduced from a local reptile zoo. I learned all about endangered species and how this is affecting our ecosystems. I even got to hold a 100-year old snapping turtle named Titanic. Along with many other species such as the endangered Black Rat snake, Fox snake, Milk snake and Painted turtle. Since we were able to hold these intriguing animals, we had to learn the proper ways to hold them and to remove them safely from dangerous spots, such as, roadbeds. If only everyone knew how meaningful these animals truly were, maybe instead of driving over the turtles on the road they would get out and safely remove it from the traffic, just like I will do from now on to try and help the population. This presentation was filled with interesting facts.

My first workshop was called Slimes and Scales. We had to wake up early in the morning and go for a hike throughout the beautiful Geneva Park. Although it was raining, it was still an amazing experience. I learned that the Wood frog is the only frog that is located in all the provinces because it is capable of freezing solid. During this workshop we had to find species, identify what it was, use a new app to track the frog then place it safely and properly back to the place we found it. During our hike we only found Leopard Frogs, and a Praying Mantis.

My second workshop was called Natural Beauty, where we learned how to make beauty products from things that our earth naturally provides us with. Rather than using products with vast amounts of chemicals. We learned how to make a healing salve out of bees wax, oil and herbs.

Tiny Seeds Big Change was the next workshop, which taught us unique ways to get our community involved in growing gardens and having planters placed throughout the community.

I then went to a workshop about how the Aboriginal peoples view the earth, and why we should incorporate these beliefs into our own lives. Larry was the presenter's Western name, and with him, he brought a talking stick. To be able to

share our ideas or ask any questions we had to be holding this unique stick. This presentation left me with so many inspiring thoughts, ideas and questions. One of the questions it left me was '*what can I personally do to help eliminate a large ecological footprint?*' From this, I decided not to drive to school every day, when a bus is provided and to cut down on my paper usage. So far, I have followed through with these few simple, but helpful ideas.

My last presentation that I was involved in was a debate on whether windmills were a pro or con. I learned about all the different ways of green energy and all the bad things that we have been using for energy.

The whole weekend was filled with many other activities, like night walks, movies, games, owl prowls, canoeing and other fun things to keep us active. I attended the movie called Shark Water, and participated in the campfire, night walk and owl prowl.

One thing that was very helpful was the summit brought representatives from different universities to talk about their environmental programs. This was very helpful because I am at the stage where I need to figure out what I want to do with the rest of my life. There are so many great programs that are all interesting and intriguing to me.

One of the last events and presentations of the summit was a keynote speech by Rob Stewart, who happened to be the creator of the movie Shark Water. This was truly an amazing opportunity to be a part of because it was extremely motivating. He proved to us how just one person can make a difference and that's all it takes, just one person. I even got a picture with him.

My overall experience at the Youth Summit was exceptional. I am so blessed to have this opportunity and it will for sure be one of my best memories. The amount of knowledge I gained on the environment and species is incredible. I am going to take this knowledge and try and influence others to help save the environment, because all it takes is that one person. Thank you much for this experience, I truly appreciate it.

Thanks Katelyn.