

# Friends Of Charleston Lake Park:

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting - November 7, 2009

Held at Nature Centre, Charleston Lake Provincial Park.

**Chair Steve Page opened the meeting at 10:04am**

**Motion** by Duane Dillman, Sec Pierre Mercier: To adopt the agenda as circulated.  
Carried.

Secretary Doug read last year's AGM Minutes.

**Motion** by Janice Hallam, Sec John Cornish. That we adopt the Minutes of last year's meeting. Carried..

**Treasurer's Report:** Wayne Ashford being absent, Steve read the report of the Treasurer:

The donated canoe and sales of the new maps allowed a small excess of revenues over expenditures for 2009. We made some significant investments this year including printing of new maps, wood chips and other materials for trails and an increase in special events for campers. There was an improvement in raffle ticket sales and store sales held up quite well. A couple of corporate events netted some funds which the Park gave to the Friends.

Operating expenses were less than anticipated: our store manager worked fewer hours, we bought slightly less inventory and administrative costs were unchanged from last year.

Our balance is healthy. We have a commitment to fund up to \$7000 for the Blue Mountain Trail Development in the coming year.

**Motion** by Ron Sinclair, Sec'd Ray Wilson: That the Treasurer's Report for 2009 be accepted. Carried.

**Store Report:** Janice Hallam

This summer we had a staff of 4: 3 clerks and 1 manager.

We did not receive HRDC funding this year, but did receive an extra SEP position through the MNR. . We had a good year, making a profit of \$883.00.

There is some inventory left, but we'll need to order about the usual \$2500 next year. We'll look for a new cash box/register next year as the old one failed and we had to break into it.

We should look at options for payment. Visa is in question.

Next year the store will coordinate closer with the NHE staff.

**Trails Report:** Ray Wilson

Great job. Thanks for the effort of the Trail Monitors and the Parks Staff.

Good reporting and good response - a real team effort.

We did three significant projects:

1. Boards on the WST are now complete.
2. Juniper clipping on the WST is now almost finished.
3. The WST diversion at km 3.5 west has been completed.

Next year we'll need a very small bridge at the south end of the trail diversion. Steve thanked Ray for his efforts, especially the email reporting of trail status.

**Park Report:** Chris Robinson reporting for Tim Truesdell, Park Superintendent . Attendance was down slightly this year owing to wet weather, but remarkably good. CL Park got extra students this year which meant that we put more chips and stone dust on trails.

New Trailhead signs were installed at Beechwood and Hemlock. Trail Guides are now available at these locations.

About 700 of the new maps were sold this year.

Consultant Jim Peets was hired to review the Blue Mountain Trails system and report.

A new tile bed was installed in the campgrounds.

Trails are really good and a lot of campers comment on them.

Research: Some money was left over from two years ago. Mike Burrell did a bird monitoring job on the north side of the park to complement the work done in 2004. Next year we hope to do some bird monitoring for the Blue Mountain side to complement the work of 2005. A five year record of these sites will give us a good idea of what is really happening to various bird populations in the park over the next few decades.

Education Program: Chris thanked the Friends for the Trails that are used regularly in the education programs. They are a great asset. Special thanks for the plastic "Poison Ivy" plant that doesn't wilt or need replacing each day and for the audio visual equipment at the amphitheatre.

### **Chair's Report: Steve**

1. In June we made application to the national Trails Coalition, ( through Don Ross of FABR), for matching funds for trail development. Tim Truesdell produced a proposal to ; (a) have a Blue Mountain access concept drawn up professionally, (b) provide new signage for Blue Mountain access point, (c)construct 2 bridges on the Blue Mountain Trail. The Board authorized the spending of up to \$7,000 of Friend's money and Ontario Parks put in \$2,000. Our application was successful.

The Access Concept Report has been completed and the board will review it. Tim is currently waiting for bridge design from OP. To qualify for the matching money, the work must be completed by March 31, 2010.

The Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands has been approached to upgrade their road allowance between Warburton Road and the access point. There has been no response to date.

2. Raffle Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> prize to a woman from Gloucester, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize to a man from Guelph. Both are ardent Park users.

3. The Species at Risk pamphlet was completed and is being circulated.

4. We are developing a much closer relationship with the Charleston Lake Association. The CLA has paid for half of the Species at Risk pamphlet.

5. David Archibald was back this year.

6. Terence Dickinson was back twice this year.

7. Membership is declining and we'll have to do some work in this area next year.

8. Corporate membership and donors should be developed.

9. We need to pay more attention to our website which is now badly out of date.

10. Thanks to the directors for all the effort in each department, especially the extra work done on raffle ticket sales. Special thanks to Wayne for his diligence on the treasury and to Janice and Bill for their devoted efforts on the Friends Store.

**Constitution and Bylaws:** Steve Page

The proposed new Constitution and Bylaws were introduced and briefly described.

**Motion:** by Ray Wilson, Sec'd Duane Dillman: That we accept the new Constitution and Bylaws.

Discussion followed. Carried.

**Election of Officers for 2010:** Steve Page

The old board will stand with the exception of Rick Dunn who is tied up with other volunteer duties. Steve thanked Rick for his service to the Friends over the years.

The proposed 2010 board consists of Steve Page, Andy Graham, Duane Dillman, Peter Murray, Wayne Ashford, Janice Hallam, Bill Hallam, Ron Sinclair, Jim Wallbridge, Ray Wilson and Doug Bickerton.

There were no new members who volunteered from the general membership.

**Motion:** by John Cornish, Sec'd by Pierre Mercier, That the slate of directors be approved. Carried.

Adjournment of the AGM was at 11:10am

Speaker: Shawn McIntosh of the MNR gave an update on the status of Whitetail Deer in the Province and particularly in Ontario's Parks.