

# **Birch Island Residential Property Owners' Association (BIRPOA)**

## **Annual General Meeting – August 4th, 2013**

### **Residents Present:**

Paul Beckwith (1), Paola Durando\* & Al Diemert (3), John Feltmate\* (24), Don Allard (27), Bob & Gwen St. Louis (31), Jill Milner-Yi (34), M. Stoichonioik (39), Daisy Dessar (48), Dennis Cardiff (48), Laura & Mike Davis (50), Russell Green (54), Kathy & Ry Weisiger\* (55), Susan and Bob Cavenagh\* (57), Catherine Burnside (62), Sharron & John Curley\* (75), Dave Berry (81), Alice Howarth\* (92), Sylvia and Orland French (95), Jae Shaw\* and Andy Shaw\* (96), Carol and Chuck Laudermilch (97), Stephen Reid.

[\*Officer/Director of BIRPOA]

- **Call to Order:** 10:00 a.m.
- **Welcome:**
  - Jae Shaw, BIRPOA President, welcomed residents, introduced BIRPOA Officers and Directors in attendance, outlined the agenda and asked if there were any additional agenda items residents wished to discuss.
- **Need for Volunteers**
  - Jae Shaw emphasized the need for volunteers for BIRPOA – it's a fun group of people and the work is tailored to your areas of interest and availability. Several existing BIRPOA Officers and Directors have served for many years... new blood is good!
- **Trail Maintenance and Signage Report (Ry Weisiger)**
  - Main trail is generally in good shape. Some trees have come down. Please call Ry if you see anything that needs extra effort to clear.
  - Many thanks to those people who help keep the trails clear and enjoyable for all residents -- it's greatly appreciated!!
- **Library Report (Paola Durando)**
  - Paola reported the recent work to organize the library and the thoughtful donations received – many thanks to all! Many residents reported that they – and their guests – use the library regularly and that it is a great addition to Birch Island !!
  - Paola Durando indicated there is another library applying to the Guinness Book of World Records for the smallest library... but we're smaller, so we may apply too! Good things come in small packages!
- **Marina Report (Andy Shaw)**
  - Andy Shaw reported that: new dock carts will be purchased for taking things to and from cars and boats at the marina; the battery booster purchased by BIRPOA last year will be placed in a box accessible by residents in cases of a dead battery; and the Glovers would appreciate people not exceeding the speed **limit on Hughs Road.**
- **Treasurer's and Membership Report (Bob Cavenagh)**
  - Report provided by Bob Cavenagh as Treasurer, Alice Howarth, was not in attendance.
  - Balance of \$xxx in bank plus \$160.00 in recently-paid membership fees.
  - Main expenses are Director's insurance, FOCA membership, trail maintenance.
- **Trail Maintenance and Signage Report (Ry Weisiger)**
  - Main trail is generally in good shape. Secondary trails are not as good, but not too bad... they are walkable.

- Tertiary trails are in poor shape and need some work to open them up. Ry Weisiger, Murray Smith and Andy Shaw volunteered to work on these trails. Thanks!
- A number of trees have fallen and been removed, and much grass has been mowed -- many thanks to those volunteers who help keep the trails clear and enjoyable for all residents -- it's greatly appreciated !!

- **Lake Stewardship Plan (Bob Cavenagh)**

- On behalf of the committee comprised of Russell Green, Ry Weisiger and Bob Cavenagh, Bob discussed the possibility of developing a lake stewardship plan for Sand Lake. He outlined the findings from a questionnaire provided at the beginning of the season. Resident's main concerns are the health of Sand Lake, dangerous boat operations, and the loss of the "rustic" natural beauty due to manicured lawns to the water and the removal of trees and natural shore lines. On Birch Island, some residents have concerns over noise / loud music, mismanagement of garbage, light pollution, and piles of brush that can increase fire danger.
- The committee handed out a survey of BIRPOA members in order further identify areas of concern and prioritize where efforts should be made.

- **Lightning (John Feltmate)**

- John provided an overview of the different types of lightning and how to protect yourself and your property from lightning strikes. There have been lightning strikes on Birch Island in the past. Most lightning is within a storm that can be seen. One type of lightning -- referred to as "out of the blue" -- can occur when the sky is clear and can travel from over 75 kilometres away. Proper grounding of your house (by a licensed "grounder") is essential to reduce lightning strike damage.
- An information sheet prepared by Jae Shaw -- How to Stay Safe in a Lightning Storm -- was distributed and may be obtained from the BIRPOA web site ([www.birchisland.info](http://www.birchisland.info)).
- Paul Beckwith offered to post additional weather-related / climate change links on the BIRPOA web site.

- **Fire / "Burn Smart" (Bob Cavenagh)**

- Bob Cavenagh reminded residents of the risk of fire, particularly given the very hot and dry weather we've had. He provided copies of a "The Home Owners FireSmart Manual" which provides advice on how to protect your home from wildfire. Additional copies can be obtained from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' web site -- [www.mnr.gov.on.ca](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca).
- In case of fire, do not call the Marina first – CALL 911 !!! – then call the Marina.
- The Marina will make sure the fire department gets transportation to the island.

- **Wildlife (Chuck Laudermilch)**

- Chuck Laudermilch reported that he is aware of two pairs of loons each having two chicks as well as 3 singles for a total of 7 chicks on Sand Lake.
- Chuck reports that the fishing has been good this year and that many anglers are using "catch and release" techniques. He reminded residents that fish over 16 inches should always be released because they are the breeding stock for the lake.
- Chuck also noted that zebra mussels appear to be "down" this year with far fewer attaching to boat hulls and clogging water intakes.

- **Septic Pumping**

- A resident asked about septic pumping. Safeline Marine Construction (Brett Newton) has purchased Rideau Scents and is now pumping and installing septic tanks on the island. Contact: 613-326-0600 or toll free at 1-877-709-9894, email: [smc@storm.ca](mailto:smc@storm.ca), website: [www.safelinemarine.com](http://www.safelinemarine.com).
- John Curley volunteered to remind residents that Safeline Marine is coming to Birch Island for pump-outs shortly.

- **BIRPOA Constitution (Andy Shaw)**

- Andy Shaw outlined five proposed changes to the BIRPOA constitution, which were communicated to BIRPOA residents in advance of the AGM.
- The following motion was made:

**MOTION**

By: Bob Cavenagh; Seconded By: Michael Butler

**With one change -- the word "property" to "membership" in Clause 30 -- accept all five proposed changes to the constitution as presented.**

Clause 30 will now read: Election shall be by show of hands, with only active members in good standing eligible to vote. One vote per **membership** ~~property~~ will be allowed. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

- **Rideau Waterway (Several)**

- Some discussion took place about the Federal Government budget reductions (Parks Canada), which has affected the resources available to maintain the waterway, its heritage sites and undertake scientific research. Residents can find out more at [saveourrideau.ca](http://saveourrideau.ca).

- **GALA Presentation (Orland French)**

- Orland French presented this year's GALA award (**Got A Lot Accomplished**) to Orv Marshall (Lot #99) in recognition of Orv's writing *The History of Birch Island*, being a long-time resident and member of BIRPOA.
- Unfortunately Orv was unable to attend the award presentation -- he was widely acknowledged and congratulated by all in attendance.
- A video of Orland's presentation can be found on YouTube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX7LFuIrxw4&feature=plcp>
- If you have difficulty with the link, simply search for "Orv Marshall".

- **Election of New Officers/Directors (Jae Shaw)**

- Jae Shaw presented the proposed BIRPOA officers/directors for 2012-2013, as follows:
  - Officers – President: Jae Shaw
  - Vice-President: TBD
  - Past President: John Curley
  - Treasurer: Alice Howarth;
  - Secretary: Andy Shaw
  - Directors – Bob Cavenagh, Paola Durando, John Feltmate, Russell Green, Ry Weisiger
  - Vice-President to be identified from the directors above or others that may step forward.

**MOTION**

By: Jae Shaw; Seconded By: Andy Shaw

**Accept slate of officers/directors as presented.**

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

- **Adjourn: 12:30 p.m.**