

**Minutes of the BIRPOA Annual General Meeting of members held
Sunday, August 6th 2017**

Lot 70 Birch Island (Blair cottage) at 11:00 am

Members of the Executive Committee present:

Mike Davis	President
Brett Cavanagh	Vice- President

Regrets:

Murray Smith	Past President
Vipool Desai	Treasurer

Members representing 22 lot owners were also present. About 45 cottagers in all.

1. Welcome & Introductions: Mike Davis opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all in attendance and special thanks to the volunteers for their contributions over the past year.

Ry Weisiger on trails

Andy Shaw for the sign at the marina

Brett Cavanagh and Dave Perfetti for developing the new website

Laura Davis for library and secretarial support over the year

Todd & Kelly Blair for the BBQ

Bob Cavanaugh for garbage advocacy with the Township

Mike Davis then announced this year's Gala award winner – Chuck Laudermilch

2. Treasurer's Report: On behalf of Vipool Desai, Mike Davis referred to the Treasurer's report which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Funds at the beginning of 2016-2017 fiscal year were \$5,291; membership revenue was \$ 1,579; total expenses were \$3,496 resulting in a year-end balance of \$3,374. Mike also commented on the importance of maintaining insurance coverage which is BIRPOA's single largest annual expense. Insurance provides essential liability protection for the directors, volunteers and individual property owners.
3. Various ongoing events and issues to cottagers on the island were brought forward.

- i. A reminder that a garbage drop in - clear bags, with appropriate tags - is available at the public boat launch on Sunday's 4-6 pm until Thanksgiving.
- ii. Cottagers were encouraged to sign up for email delivery of Township newsletter to keep up to date. The link is (aschur@twprideaulakes.on.ca)
- iii. Free drop-off of a load of brush (one per household) is also permitted at the Portland Transfer Station. Contact the Township for voucher number at (aschur@twprideaulakes.on.ca)
- iv. There is a new sign is up at marina. Many thanks to Andy Shaw for getting this done. It is not completely waterproof so notices should be put in protectors
- v. There is a new battery charger at marina
- vi. Library helpers are needed. Ideally teenage kids to provide guidance on book titles for younger readers. As always, donations of thoughtful, current and quality titles are welcome. Laura Davis could use help shelving (and will provide a 5 minute tutorial beforehand if required).
- vii. An update on the butternut recovery program was given. There are a few on the island and more can be planted.
- viii. Ry Weisiger commented of trial maintenance and noted that the culverts at the causeway are beginning to collapse. Cottagers are advised to be careful. Some suggestions to correct the problem were discussed and it was agreed the Executive would look further into solutions.
- ix. The Constitution revised in 2012 will be posted to the website shortly.

4. Update on living things on and around Birch Island prepared by Murray Smith

There appeared to be at least seven baby loons including a set of twins at Jones Falls.

A Bald Eaglet on Ecclestone Island seemed to be doing well. It was seen flying in and out of the nest frequently although still being fed by the parents.

Two Osprey nests with chicks had been spotted and there appeared to be a bumper crop of muskrats, several beavers and one mink in the water this year. Otters have not been spotted this season.

Hopefully someone may have seen them and can report it.

There seems to be a good number of deer on the island this year although only one buck had been seen (young, probably two point). Grey Rat Snakes which are listed as a threatened and close to endangered species, seem to be well established on the island. *Some of them even find their way into member's cottages.* They are harmless to humans and great helpers in keeping the mouse population down.

Another note- a very unwell baby raccoon was found on the path near the meadow. It was taken to a local vet who ultimately euthanized it and had it sent to the MNR for a rabies test. Test results will be shared on facebook when they come in.

5. Virtual Libraries – Tools & Toys sharing program.

Mike Davis introduced the basic idea:

- A list of names, lot numbers and items you are willing to loan out
- Only offer items in good working order and expect some wear and tear every time it is used.
- If you break it, offer to fix or replace it
- Tools & toys no longer needed, could be donated to a frequent borrow or other worthy recipient.

6. Annual canoe race: Marg Milner spoke about the upcoming 40th annual race on August 27th, 2017. The day will begin with a decorating contest with the race to start at 1:00 p.m.

7. Nomination and Voting on Executive Committee Positions for 2017 – 2018

Mike Davis noted the slate of nominees

President:	Brett Cavanagh (current VP)
Past President:	Mike Davis (current President)
Treasurer:	Vipool Desai (current Treasurer)
Secretary	Rory Gooderham
Librarian	Laura Davis

Mike Davis also called for nominations for: Vice President. He also called for additional volunteers to contact an executive committee member if interested.

8. Other business:

There was discussion about keeping in touch with the Island community and the need to continue distributing cottage owner lists. Recognizing that putting owner names and contact information on a website could compromise individual privacy, it was agreed to come up with alternatives and these will be considered by the Committee.

Sand Lake Marine issues - Speed & dust on the road are constant concerns. Cottage owners and their especially occasional visitors and renters need to be reminded to slow down on the road. Parking extra vehicles requires a fee to be paid at the marina. The money is used to maintain the roadway. Other concerns are noise in the evening and dog droppings. Pet owners need to pick-up.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was concluded at 12:00 noon

Members were then invited to a sumptuous BBQ organized by Kelly and Todd Blair.