



**Annual General Meeting Minutes
Saturday July 29, 2022
10:00am-12:00pm followed by lunch
In Person at the PAB CC**

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (ANNE STEWART)

2. APPROVE 2021 AGM MINUTES (LEEANNE SMART):

- Leeanne requests motion to approve. Mindy Ord motions, Silvio Annosantini seconds. All approved. Motion passed.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (ANNE STEWART)

- Anne welcomes everyone.
- She indicates that members continue to work on environmental projects including monitoring and removing phragmites, engaging with Ministry of Transportation about our highway 529 road conditions, picking up garbage along BNIA's adopt-a-road 529A, and water testing in 3 different sites under the Lake Partner Program.
- She calls for new volunteer(s) to coordinate the regatta.
- She thanks members who have stepped forward to help both on the board and with outings and workshops and to those who have made financial donations.
- She reconfirms that the BNIA mandate is defined around 4 objectives: the natural environment, aquatic/sport and other physical activities, looking after our finances and member interests, and welcomes members to bring forward suggestions.
- She thanks outgoing board members John McMullen and Molly Mulloy.

4. GUEST SPEAKER – GEORGIAN BAY ASSOCIATION (STEPHEN SPRAGUE)

- Stephen says the GBA was founded in 1915, advocates on behalf of 18 associations and represents approximately 30,000 individuals. There are 23 people on the Board of Directors plus 1 full time Executive Director (Rupert Kingsley), one part-time administrator and many volunteers.
- He says that all member associations have directors which are voting members, and confirms that the BNIA is represented by director, Doug Ferguson. His responsibility to bring BNIA issues to the GBA.
- He confirms that costal protection is important. We are a UNESCO biosphere: the world's largest freshwater archipelago, there is a threat of overdevelopment, effective

action requires collaboration, and the GBA works to support sound municipal planning standards to ensure sustainable development.

- He reviews current priorities:
 - Floating Homes – They have formed a strategy group to support/engage the MNRF and Transport Canada.
 - Municipal Planning Comparison – There are 5 municipalities involved, they are comparing planning regulations and identifying sound practices. He indicated that some municipalities don't have building regulations.
 - Fire – They post danger ratings on the GBA website and provide safety information. They've engaged in the Fire Smart program and in his area (South Channel) they've applied for and received a \$500 grant for fire protection that they used to set up a What's App fire emergency group and purchased couplers for sharing fire pumps. Butch Folland asked for more information and Stephen indicated that in South Channel they have 15 pumps for 140 people. They have a What's App. South Channel Emergency Team that includes 15 people willing to help and they get What's App notification in the event of a fire emergency.
 - Boating – They post new regulations and support reduced noise and provide safety tips.
 - Water Quality – They're concerned about cruise ships, microfibres and dock foam and appropriate septic systems.
 - Aquaculture – Including open net pen industry, government advocacy and sustainable operations.
 - In addition, they support Lands and Forests, First Nations, and Fisheries.
- He confirms the GBA vision is "The preservation and protection of the Bay and its natural environment, ecosystems, and species to sustain this world- renowned biosphere and archipelago for future generations."
- He indicates that the GBA is increasing fees in 2024. The current fees (last increased in 2016) are \$50 per member + \$5 for postage. New fees will be \$65 per member.
- He indicated that there is a study underway evaluating mercury levels in Georgian Bay and when the information is available, the director (Doug Ferguson) will provide info to the group.
- Rob Reed mentions that there is a Floating Cottages petition and requests signatures.
- Mindy Ord asks for clarification on vessel vs floating home. Stephen indicates that they want Transport Canada to say that they're not vessels/boats, rather they're floating homes. If they're designated as homes, municipalities can enforce building, plumbing, electrical standards, etc.
- David Luckock asks about the GBA designation. Anne confirms that the GBA is not a charity, and they can't give a tax-deductible receipt because they do advocacy work. Georgian Bay Forever & the Georgian Bay Biosphere are charities. Stephen confirms that they are complementary organizations.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT (MIKE MAJOR):

- Mike says that the BNIA continues to be in good financial position with over \$40,000 in the bank as of December 31, 2022.

- He says that revenue from memberships, directory advertising, and donations are consistent with last year's revenue and is sufficient to cover annual expenditures. Membership revenue remains the main source accounting for 55% of total revenue and an additional 21% from donations. Directory advertising is currently covering nearly 70% of total directory costs.
- He says that expenditures were higher than 2021 due to resumption of the in-person AGM, additional materials and training for First Responders, and refurbishment of old regatta trophies and purchase of 2022 regatta trophies. Our major expenditures remain remittance to GBA and Directory both representing 34% of expenditures.
- He confirms that our goal is to closely match annual expenditures to revenue to ensure we offer more programs and services that are important to our members.
- He says that return on investments continued to be low in 2022 (1.7%) due to poor market conditions across most investment portfolios. To achieve higher investment return for the Association, the Board approved transferring \$23,000 from its Money Market Investment and an additional \$2,000 in excess savings into a higher yielding (approximately 5%) one-year, locked Guaranteed Income Certificate (GIC). We will revisit how we invest these funds as the GIC matures in one-year.
- He says that after paying most of our 2023 liabilities, the BNIA still has a positive balance with \$13,831.11 in the chequing account, \$25,000 in the reserve account, \$788.47 in the reserve interest account, and \$1,559.70 in PayPal account.
- He finishes by addressing the GBA fee increase saying that our 2022 GBA costs were \$11,854 (including mailing). Assuming 211 full members (current number on our web page) the new GBA costs will be \$13,715 (just under \$2000 extra). The Board has decided that we will not increase membership dues in 2024 as the GBA increase will be covered within our existing budget without dipping into reserves.
- Mike motions to accept treasurer report. Ted Simmonds seconds. All approved. Motion passed.

6. TOA (PETER FROST):

- Peter refers to his lengthy report in directory and invites members to read it.
- He says that the ToA is holding taxes in line with inflation, and reconfirms that roughly 50% of expenses provincial, not under ToA control.
- He says that the ToA has added staff in Parry Sound – a planner and administrative staff.
- He commends the community on doing well to minimize fire issues this year.
- He says the ToA has not have much success with internet providers on connectivity.
- He says he is active in working with the province to get Highway 529 rebuilt.
- He mentions two important bylaws:
 - Comprehensive Zoning – He says it will be complete by the end of this term.
 - Site Alteration – He shares that someone in Ward 4 built a par 3 golf course built on his islands. Eventually the ToA got stop work order, but the damage will be impossible to recover. He says that the ToA didn't have a proper bylaw to avoid this unfortunate incident and have since hired consultants and looking at draft proposal for new site alteration bylaw. Public meetings will be held soon.
- He thanks Butch and the First Responders.

- He says that the ToA purchased 30 acres of land in PaB with the ultimate objective of providing affordable housing in the future. They will not be developing it.
- He mentions the Food Recycler program, a unit for kitchen for wet waste and says the ToA sold 200 units which reduces waste to ash. Art Kilgour reminds us that the units use a great deal of electricity.
- Tom Martin asks about floating cottages. Peter reconfirms that the waters are under federal jurisdiction and that the municipalities have little control on what can be done on federal waters. Tom reminds us that in BC the province has control. Peter says that the governments are “backtracking” on that.
- Tom Martin asks what we should be aware of related to the Comprehensive Zoning bylaw. Peter says that our ward will unlikely have changes that will have “major impact”.

7. NOMINATIONS (NICHOLA MARTIN/LEEANNE SMART)

- On Nichola’s behalf, Leeanne shares the list of nominees for 2024 and reads the list aloud. She welcomes Gord Johnson and Emily Wort as new board members for the upcoming year.
- John McMullen motions to approve the 2024 board nomination, Susan Day seconds. All approved. Motion passed.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GBA (DOUG FERGUSON)

- Doug reminds us that he is the go-between between GBA and BNIA and asks that any GBA related questions/concerns be directed to him first.
- He mentions that his report will be brief as Stephen spoke about the GBA at length.
- He reconfirms throat floating homes is a big issue and the GBA is advocating on several fronts: environmental, safety, access services, reclassification, and licencing.
- He reconfirms that water quality is a critical concern and mentions support of legislation for Washing Machine Filters (Bill 83) and Septic Systems.
- He refers to the Underused Housing Tax aying that the GBA liaised with CRA to extend the deadline from Apr 30 to Oct 31, 2023.

MEMBERSHIP (NICHOLA MARTIN/ANNE STEWART)

- Anne speaks on Nichola’s behalf saying that 2022 membership numbers are listed in this year’s Directory.
- She says that to date we have 214 full members versus 224 in 2022. We currently have 57 associate members compared to 49 in 2022. We have 25 unpaid full and associate members from last year. We have 24 new or returning members since August last year.
- She says that our online system is working well. Approximately ten people each year request to be sent membership renewal letters by snail mail and therefore send cheques to Mike Major.
- This year the BNIA decided to pay the memberships of the First Responders. Currently we have 10 First Responders.

- Anne reminds us that a full membership as not a “cottage” membership, it is an individual membership. The one person who is the member gets to vote. She invites other people to get their own membership.
- Will be contacting families with 4 or 5 names under 1 membership to inquire if they want more membership Nichola encourages people to volunteer for the BNIA.
- She reminds us that the cottage isn’t the member, individuals are and encourages “older folks” to invite their children to be Associate members.
- She says that there are 16 unpaid members who paid in 2021 but not (as of today) for 2022. They are still members but by March 2023 their membership will lapse.
- She concludes noting the neighborhood coordinator program saying that they tried to hand out directories and maps last year.

COMMUNICATIONS (ART KILGOUR)

- Art says that there are number of communication vehicles that the BNIA uses:
- Website - A portal for membership. He reminds us that it has a good menu system and suggests members go there for questions. He explains the new Fire Pump map tool that was implemented in 2023.
- Directory – In 2023, it is over 100 pages. He works closely with Sara Carter to develop the directory and this year we had a record 30 contributors. He says that the total cost of the directory was nearly \$12,000 this year / \$10,700 last year, greatly offset by ad revenue, sold by Rob Reed, making the net cost of \$4,930 this year.
- Photo Contest – In 2022 we had 59 photos submitted by 24 contributors. He says the winning photo this year is from newcomer Sam Miller. He reminds us that the 2023 contest is coming up and they will be promoting it in August.
- Social Media – Art mentions that the Facebook group has 800 members, most of whom are not BNIA members. He says that the FB site is not a BNIA site, rather it’s a community site for folks interested in Bayfield Nares. He asks for volunteers to help administer the site.
- Mailing List – Art mentions that he sends out Weekly eblast in the summer months using mail chimp. He says that all members are added by default but can unsubscribe if they wish. Mail Chimp statistics indicate that the emails have an open rate of 75% which is very high.
- Digitization – Ted mentions that he has filing cabinets of previous BNIA minutes etc. Leeanne asks for volunteers to help digitize the information.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (LEEANNE SMART)

- Leeanne indicates that she co-chairs the committee with Ted Simmonds.
- She says that the fire priority continues to be on driving education and awareness related to fire prevention and preparedness.
- She reminds us that although FR’s are our first response for health-related activities, and we are fortunate to have two firefighters on our FR team, we all are our response for fire.

- She indicates that the ToA continues to post the fire rating online as well as on 529A and at transfer stations and thanks to the Boat Club and Thompson Marine for agreeing to post the ToA Fire Ban signage during Extreme ratings.
- She reminds us that fire ratings can change quickly and asks that we check the outdoor signage or the ToA website for the rating before starting any fire.
- She says that the directory continues to note all members who've indicated that they have fire pumps with a small fire symbol beside their name and island number. The intention is to enable people to make individual plans with their neighbors to support one another in the event of a fire.
- She says that new for 2023, the BNIA website now includes an interactive map to easily see where there are pumps, who owns them and their contact information. The map is meant for fire response planning, not emergency use. Big thanks to Art Kilgour for working with our web partner to make this happen and keeping the site updated.
- In partnership with the Outings & Workshops Committee, fire pump primer workshops were held in Nares and Bayfield with strong turnout. She thanks BNIA first responders and firefighters Rob Leblond and Marcus Sandhar who led the sessions. Also, thanks to Butch Folland for supporting both sessions.
- Leeanne relays a story of transient folks lighting fireworks the night before on Big Burnt near Art Kilgour's cottage. Art went over in his boat and politely explained the rules and asked them to stop. She thanks Art for his actions.
- Mindy Ord shares that she's purchased Fire Blankets for her island and asks the BNIA to consider buying them for FR's and making them available for member purchase.
- Leeanne summarizes the FR team goal – to stabilize patients and get them to professional care (usually ambulance on mainland) within the "Golden Hour".
- She commends and thanks Butch Folland, Tim Squirrel, Trina Ord, Will Dinnin, Marcus Sandhar, Peter O'Grady, Doug Wagenar, Rob Leblond and Jenny Kolody and asks Butch to speak.
- Butch thanks the BNIA for their support and directs people to a display that he's set up on tables at the side of the meeting showing all the equipment that the FR's use to support people in need.
- He mentions that they have had few calls in 2023 and says people are taking good care of themselves.

OUTINGS & EVENTS (HEATHER GILMAN)

- Heather says that for summer 2023, the Outings and Workshops Committee focused on organizing community building activities that would provide opportunities for recreation and learning within and around Bayfield and Nares inlets.
- She thanks committee members Alison Wilkin, Sue Becket and Mandy Ord and invites others to get involved, including younger people and asks people to contact her to share ideas for events.
- She indicates that moving forward they're working to increase programming and relationship with First Nations.

- She reminds us to look in the Directors for a summary and dates for all events.
- Finally, she mentions the desire to have paddles mapped out on the website so anyone can take them anytime.

REGATTA (MIKE MAJOR)

- Mike reminds everyone of upcoming regatta dates:
 - Paddling Regatta - Sat., Aug. 5, 9:30 am, Island A529-1, Nares
 - Family Regatta - Sat. Aug. 5 at 12:30 pm, Island A801-1, Bayfield
 - Sailing Regatta - Sun. Aug. 6, 1:30 pm, Nares sailing bay, followed by barbecue in Nares
- He asks that those coming to Family Regatta please bring bag of pinecones for pinecone scramble and please bring your own canoe for canoe races.
- He asks for a volunteer to coordinate next year's Family Regatta so if you're interested, please contact Anne Stewart or Mike Major.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS (ANNE STEWART)

- Anne Stewart reminds us to complete Floating Cottages petition correctly.
- Trina Ord reminds us that the ToA Large Item Pick Up is next Sunday.
- Mindy Ord reminds us about Arts on the Bay.
- Ted Simmonds thanks the BNIA for the gifted Salus Life Jacket that he was provided for his extraordinary and ongoing efforts in destroying derelict docks. He says he's dismantled one dock so far this year.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion Tom Martin, seconded by Mary Ann Leslie. Meeting adjourned.