

## **BLCA AGM President's Comments:**

### 1. BLCA in a time of pandemic

- The pandemic has affected us all in many and significant ways
- As with other lake associations, we have had to cancel most of our social offerings this year
- We were happy to continue to provide financial support to the outstanding fireworks on July 4. Many have noted this was not only the best ever on Belmont Lake, but comparable to the show in larger communities across the country. Many thanks to Bob Prins, Bryon Backus, John Tsalcos, Chad Acorn, Todd Taylor, Jeff Keating
- We are going ahead with the parade of lights, possibly the sailboat races, the blackout and the fall hike
- We changed the way we distributed the newsletter and calendars this year, and we provided local businesses with no charge advertising to give them a boost at this challenging time. Fred Bennett will have more to say on this during his financial overview
- The electronic distribution of the newsletter and calendar appears to have been well received by members
- We had planned to do issue a membership directory this year, but deferred it until next year, when we hopefully can distribute it in hard copy

### 2. Gypsy Moth

- We included an article in the newsletter on the Gypsy Moth invasion, with a few tips on how to moderate them
- The infestation was worse than expected, with some areas around the lake suffering badly
- We will be working with local authorities and FOCA to assess the best way forward
- In the meantime, there are countless on-line information sources that cottagers can use to take action to reduce the infestation next year

### 3. Water levels:

- CVCA has done a good job of managing water levels in the system
  - Actions taken in prior years to reduce the leakage of the Belmont dam and log management have been very successful

- The spring freshet was moderate this year with little flooding, and water levels have been consistent this spring and summer despite the draught
  - Belmont Lake level is 22cm over summer set level as of yesterday
4. The HBM Lakes Association was involved in several areas over the year.
- Our focus of the HBM Lakes Association has been on providing township council with input on key by-laws. We continue to monitor developments related to on shore boathouses. Based on our feedback from members at our volunteer recognition gathering last September and Belmont responses to the township survey, we have taken the position that on shore boathouses should not be permitted within 30 meters of the lake
  - As noted in our newsletter, the tax levy increased 5.37% for this fiscal year. As all jurisdictions are experiencing, next year will be an incredibly challenging one for the township due to the pandemic
5. Normally we would have each director speak to their areas of focus at the AGM. This year, due to the time restrictions of the meeting, I will highlight those very briefly
- Fred Bennett keeps track of membership and our finances and along with his wife Pam have done a stellar job at scrubbing our records until there are very few issues. Fred is resigning from the board today, but has offered to continue to keep our records through to the end of our fiscal year on March 31. Thank you Fred and Pam for your outstanding service.
  - Evan Meyers recruits and organizes our road reps, who do a remarkable job at boosting our membership and just as importantly, add a positive social aspect by being a BLCA member. Last year we hit an all time high of 387 members. This year, even without the ability to canvas face to face, the goodwill generated by the road reps have led to 300 members joining to date. Thank you Evan, the quadrant leaders and all the road reps for making our association stronger and more fun. And thanks to Evan and Mary Ellen for hosting the Volunteer Appreciation Event at their cottage for the last several years, a real team building gathering.
  - Donna Peeling and Wendy Vuyk look after our water testing. Although the Lake Partner Program is on hold during the pandemic, Donna will continue to collect Secchi Disk measurement throughout the summer. Wendy will collect samples and report on Coliform, E-coli and Phosphorus. To date, our water quality remains very high, and has been

remarkably stable for the last few years. Let's all work together to assure we keep this record in tact by keeping our shorelines natural, avoiding using fertilizers and pesticides and keeping our septic systems in good shape. Many thanks to Donna and Wendy for this important work. Our enjoyment of the lake and our property values dependent on water quality

- Katherine Deas looks after our social media, coordinates our BLCA clothing and plays a major role in planning and carrying out our regatta. As time goes on, social media will be all the more important to communicating with members. Katherine also attended FOCA conferences on our behalf. Thank you Katherine.
- Brian Deas coordinated a variety of social programs and he looked after the signage that you see around the lake. He acted as the board contact for the fireworks and golf tournament and attended FOCA conferences along with Katherine. Brian will be resigning from the board as of this meeting, and I would like to thank him for the over 8 years of dedicated contributions to the BLCA during that time.
- Greg Alexander, our secretary, looks after the minutes of our AGM, along with managing the marker buoys and our email blasts to members. He helps plan and carry out the regatta along with Katherine. Thank you Greg for this important work.
- And of course there are a lot of others who have provided their time to add texture and fun to the BLCA.
  - John Dixon acted as editor for the newsletter
  - Lisa Levy put our calendar together
  - Jim Carnrite sends out links to access our lake calendar as members join
  - Debbie Howe organizes our golf tournament
  - Val Marshall is planning the fall hike this year

6. Many thanks to the members of the board and all our volunteers for their hard work and significant achievements over the year. In addition to hard work, we have a lot of fun and we get to meet some very interesting and lively cottagers along the way.

7. If you have any questions or comments, use the chat feature of Zoom. I will try to address them before the end of the meeting. But it time does not permit, we will include a response in the minutes of the meeting.

8. I would now like to turn it over to Mayor Jim Martin for a township update.