



## **AGM Minutes**

Saturday August 9, 2025

Birch Cliff Lodge

9:00 a.m.

1. Formal welcome by President Marlin Horst.
2. Tony Fitzgerald, mayor of Hastings Highlands, presented a brief summary of the township's activities, goals and issues. A 4.2 million \$ capital budget has had part of it used for the Mink Lake Road improvement. Next year will be Lake Kaminisseg. There is a \$13.5 million operating budget requiring a 4% increase. We have a \$161 million deficit. There are 9 surplus properties, which upon sale will be added to the reserve for capital. Tony is the chair of the finance committee for the county. He, along with all mayors in the province, has Strong Mayor Power. The Ontario Government is rapidly changing laws impacting how the municipality can conduct business. Lake issues are being shared by the Interlakes Group, BASC and Watersheds. Mayor Fitzgerald reiterated to send complaints via the online format since those complaints must be addressed and the records of how these complaints have been resolved are kept on file.
3. Tammy Davis, Deputy Mayor and manager of the Bancroft Quinte Hospital, gave a strong plea for supporting fund raising for equipment. The hospital is responsible for the purchasing of its own equipment. The goal presently is \$1.25 million to cover the cost of 2 ventilators required to add to the trauma centre. The hospital has seen 15,700 emergency victims already this year, approximately, 35 – 60 patients per day. The next large project is to introduce an oncology department at the Bancroft Hospital.
4. Gary Pirko was the third presenter. He outlined the results of the highly successful fish derby, then gave details about the upcoming Brush Pile event in September. The brush piles will be placed in the east side of the lake toward the dam.

September 28 is another spawning bed cleaning and volunteers are required to see this be successful. Gary meets with a representative of the MNRF every two months and good progress is being made toward Baptiste Lake being considered a good host for Lake Trout fingerlings. The highlight of his talk was the show and tell of the newly purchased Drone. It will greatly assist in mapping the bottom of the lake, in video taping fish activity and assist in locating the actual Lake Trout spawning beds, which may be deeper than originally understood. Several lakes share the cost of the Drone, the Fishery holds the insurance, and training is underway.

5. President's Comments: Marlin introduced the directors. The *summer events* have been very successful, including the regatta, a huge success, which was organized independently by Sandra Irvine and Lindsay Cook. *The Interlakes Group* is now officially recognized by Hastings Highlands as an association and receives communication from the Committee of Adjustment for land use planning. *Watersheds* receives grants but they are not used for salaries. These are paid through donations.
6. Motion to accept the minutes of the 2024 AGM minutes made by Marlin Horst, seconded by John Van der Paas, all in favour, carried.
7. Treasure's Report: Diane Jared, treasurer, presented to all attendees a printed report and explained carefully all aspects of this report. It is an excellent report. Motion to accept the report as presented by David Hawkins and seconded by Lori Assen. All in favour and carried.
8. A motion to pass a resolution to exempt the BLA from a requirement for audited financial statements made by Marlin Horst, seconded by Gary Pirko, all in favour and carried.
9. Nominations for new directors. We have room for 14 directors, presently have 9. Nominations cannot be taken from the floor but three names have been brought forward for a later vote. Jenn Vastagh, Lindsay Cook and Sandra Irvine have brought their names forward. Moved by John VanderPaas, seconded by David Hawkins to create a list of new director nominees. All in favour and carried.
10. *Septic re-inspection programme committee*. We need a volunteer to represent the BLA on this HH committee. The

ensuing discussion led to Jenn Vastagh offering to write an article for the newsletter to open the topic of the operation of Septic Re-inspection. Other municipalities have been successful in creating a program for re-inspection.

11. Adjournment: 11:00 a.m. Moved by Anne Coleman, seconded by Shelley Pickard, to adjourn, carried.