

Baptiste Lake Association AGM Meeting

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Birch Cliff Lodge

9:00 a.m.

1. Marlin Horst **Welcome** to approximately 28 attendees.
2. **Mayor Tony Fitzgerald** shared many points starting with his appreciation for the professionalism of the Municipality staff, making his job so much easier. He stated that \$1.5 to 1.9 million has been allocated to roads within the HH area. Hastings Highlands will celebrate 25 years, the celebration to be held September 16, 2026. He pointed out that 60% of the HH tax base is from Lake property owners. \$4,000,000 capital spending including a 3rd year plan for road resurfacing. Next year, the municipality will be debt free and the extra \$200,000 savings on interest will be placed into a savings account for emergencies. Regarding the Hwy. 62 project, the province is funding 25 million to cover the cost and part of the agreement is that the province take back the responsibility of the future upkeep of the Highway. The skating rink in Maynooth is being revitalized, details available in the HH website. Also, Bird's Creek skating rink is receiving upgrades. Boat Launches are still a challenge because of the status of MNR responsibility versus Municipality's. Regarding the traffic assessment on the municipality's roads, data can now be collected which reveals the weight and length of vehicles crossing the cable. An OSIM report will help with the prioritizing of road repair. Mayor Fitzgerald's presentation was followed by many questions regarding the roads, diesel and oil costs impacting the budget, some questions pertaining to Internet coaxial upgrades in the area.
3. **Marlin** introduced the directors present: Shelley Pickard, Anne Coleman, Diane Jared, Hilary Phillips, Beth Greenberg. He went further to announce the All Candidates meeting on September 19, 2026 at Emond Hall. His main address was directed to the Housing Development at Elephant Lake. A tribunal hearing will take place in February for 3 weeks. The BLA has been granted party status (which was strongly opposed to by the developers). The developers have made no environmental studies of the impact of their development on Baptiste Lake. Our municipality is not legally bound to oppose the development, it is Dysert et Al who must oppose. Municipalities are not to interfere in the legal responsibilities of other municipalities. \$7,000-8000 has already been spent by the BLA on legal expenses. Eric Hooey will send out an email to members of BLA to inform them of details around the actions taken thus far by the BLA. Donations are being sought to cover future legal expenses. Closer to the February hearing, a letter writing campaign will commence early January.
4. **Motion to accept the minutes of 2025 AGM** made by Marlin Horst, seconded by Kan Chhatwal. Carried.

5. **An excellent financial summary** was presented by Diane Jared, with copies distributed to all present. Motion to accept the Financial Statement made by Kan Chhatwal, seconded by Shelley Pickard. Carried.
6. **A motion to exempt the BLA** from a requirement for audited financial statements was made by Marlin Horst, seconded by Hilary Phillips, carried.
7. No Motions were presented by BLA members.
8. **Nomination and Election of new directors:** Lindsay Cook and Sandra Irvine have been granted committee status. A motion to accept New directors Don Bocking and Anne Morowetz was made by Debbie Jared, seconded by Susan Latremoille, carried.
9. An article on Septic Systems is proposed for the Newsletter. The BLA is still participating in the Ontario Lake Partner program for another 2 years. A report will be in the next newsletter.
10. Adjournment: 10:20 a.m.

Submitted by Anne Coleman

A sincere thank you to Birch Cliff Lodge, Jenn Hill and Steve Bell, for hosting the AGM.