

MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2018 HARMONY RESIDENTS GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN THE SIMPSON ROOM NOTL COMMUNITY CENTRE.

The meeting began at 7.00pm with approximately 50 people in attendance including 8 Board Directors, Pamela Cushing (Supervisor of the Rifle Range clean up) and Drew Neufeld (Lincoln and Welland Museum project).

Harmony Resident Group's President Finn Madsen opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present and introducing the keynote speakers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Pamela Cushing, using maps and photographs, explained the Rifle Range re-remediation process. She identified 4 areas of concern: the berm beyond the targets at the north end, the old town dump that extended into 2 Mile Creek, the grenade range half-way along the west side, and the pistol range in the north-west corner.

Items of archeological interest, military munitions, dump waste and toxic substances have all been removed or capped.

The goal of the re-remediation process was to restore the property to its pre-military training condition. To achieve this the grenade range has been capped to isolate any remaining toxicity from human contact then grassed over to make the area suitable and safe for use as a park. The old dump has been cleared of waste and toxic substances then landscaped to its former state of marsh, intermittent marsh and bobolink habitat grassland. All toxic substances have been removed from the berm and the pistol range.

Cushing warned that no re-remediated site could ever be guaranteed absolutely free from UXO's or toxicity and if dangerous looking objects were found after the clean up was declared completed, the police should be called immediately.

She ended her talk by announcing that the actual clean up would be completed ahead of schedule by the end of summer 2018, and that ground water would be monitored for toxicity for 2 years after that.

NPCA

P. Harvey informed the meeting about two actions recently taken on HRG's behalf.

First, a letter had been sent to Bardish Chagger, the federal Minister for Small Business and Tourism, suggesting that some of her announced \$1.3 billion new

funding for nature conservation, might be made available to Parks Canada. Such funds could then be used to conserve, protect and restore the Lakeshore Lands as a public eco-heritage park. No reply has been received to the letter as yet.

Secondly, he and HRG's President, Finn Madsen met recently with NPCA's Board Chair Sandy Annunziata and others to discuss how NPCA's new management plan might apply to HRG's proposal for the future use of Parks Canada's Lakeshore Lands. Their new plan includes the following; spending money solely for land conservation, a water improvement policy, a conservation education policy, the planting of 1 million native trees and 2 million native plants, and a program offered to local nature groups or individuals volunteering in active conservation. Finn Madsen suggested that the NPCA taking over the Lakeshore Lands and administering them as a conservation area might well become part of the new plan.

Sandy Annunziata agreed to explore this suggestion with his colleagues at the NPCA and the Niagara Region. He also expressed support for the old NOTL wastewater treatment plant becoming a natural wetland.

P. Harvey used photographs to show how decommissioned wastewater treatment ponds west of Grimsby had been converted to natural wetlands complete with trails, signs and a viewing platform. This Biggar Lagoons site allows the public to use the area at their own risk and has become a popular area for nature lovers. The funding for this site was provided mainly by local organizations.

LINCOLN AND WELLAND MUSEUM

Drew Neufeld informed the meeting that the Lincoln and Welland Association had proposed to Parks Canada that a 5 acres site on the Rifle Range be used to build a museum. Construction would consist of a single building and parking space. The building would be used to make visitors aware of the Lincoln and Welland regiment's military heritage and other military history.

Lisa Curtis, Parks Canada, informed the meeting that the Lincoln and Welland's proposal was one of several proposals for the future use of the Lakeshore Lands. No action would be taken on these proposals until Parks Canada's new management plan received official approval. She explained that the process for deciding which of the proposals were acceptable would be an open one with lots of public meetings. She would make the final decision using the criteria contained in the new management plan. She expected the plan to be available by the end of summer, 2018.

TREASURER'S REPORT

HRG Treasurer, David Hennessey, provided the following financial statement;

Opening balance May 25 2017 \$5,665.14

Closing balance May 02 2018 \$5,363.28 (including P. Kavanaugh
memorial fund \$2,688.28)

Loss on year \$201.86

Funds available for operating expenses \$2688.28

ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No additional nominations came from the floor so the following nominees were acclaimed: Dennis Dick, Brock Sansom, Alison Waller

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8.30pm.