

MINUTES OF THE HARMONY RESIDENTS GROUP APRIL 29, 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE MARY SNYDER ROOM, VIRGIL ARENA

The meeting began at 7:04pm with 28 people attending including 9 Board members and 2 invited speakers.

INVITED SPEAKERS

Dr. Richard Merritt, a published local historian, gave an hour long talk about the heritage significance of the military land extending along the Lake Ontario shoreline between One and Four Mile Creeks. He enhanced his talk with a slide show of original survey and other maps that showed the location of several 19th century landowners including 3 generations of the Secord family. He speculated about why no official archeological survey of the area had been made.

The second part of his talk focused on the military use of the land in the 20th century. Again, with the use of maps, he showed various locations used for military training in both the First and Second World Wars. This military use extended to an elevated area on the south side of 3 Mile Creek known as Caesar's Camp because it reminded the soldiers of a similar place near Hastings, UK, an embarkation point for Canadian soldiers leaving to fight in Flanders during the First World War.

Dr. Merritt concluded by commenting on various more recent uses of the land such as the 1934-76 town dump close to the site of one of the Secord homesteads, the 1963-71 incinerator, and the 1960-2017 Wastewater Treatment Plant. He ended by expressing a strong opinion for conservation of the area as a public park because of its unique heritage and natural features.

Eric Nielsen, manager of national historic sites for Parks Canada, spoke and answered questions about Parks Canada's management plan review and how it might involve Harmony Residents Group's proposal for the federally owned lakeshore lands to be used as a heritage/nature park. He said that a proposal had been made to Parks Canada CEO's for a Niagara National Historic Park and that the lakeshore lands were included in that proposal. If the proposal was approved quickly, then the management plan review could begin soon afterwards. If, however, approval were delayed, the review process would have to be postponed until after the October election.

With regard to the review process, Nielsen said that Parks Canada will invite all who wish to participate and that there would be both public meetings and meetings with individual participants. He also stressed that since Parks Canada had limited funds, it would help if participants could finance their own proposals.

CHANGES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chairman thanked W. Charnetsky and K. Morrison for past services as Directors of the Harmony Resident Group's Board. He then explained that the terms of service for the present Board had expired and that the election of a new Board was required. Since no nominations from the floor were forthcoming, the following list of candidates was presented and unanimously approved:

Meredyth Cowling –Director
Peter Harvey – Director
Dave Hennessey – Vice-chairman
Cliff James - Director
Finn Madsen - Chairman
Tom Patterson – Director
Ryder Payne – Secretary
Cathy Simpson – Director
Shirley Sparrow – Treasurer

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer, S. Sparrow reported Harmony Resident Group’s income since the previous Annual General Meeting as \$860.00 and expenses as \$512.00. The not-for-profit organization now has 43 paid up members and an additional 127 supporters.

The report was unanimously approved.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors’ next meeting is MAY 26, 2015, 7 to 9pm, VIRGIL ARENA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm.