

**Minutes and Notes of the Harmony Residents Group Inc. Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 in the Virgil Arena Mary Snider Room.**

This meeting began at 7:10 PM with 24 people present including two speakers and five members of the Board of Directors. The speakers, because of their other commitments, began the meeting. Brief notes of their salient points follow.

Mr. Scott Finlay from Parks Canada (PC) spoke from 7:10 to 7:45 with a comprehensive and informative talk about the Battle for Fort George and the immediately preceding and following events, all with a sense of humour, and was applauded enthusiastically. The land north of Lakeshore Road and east of Two Mile Creek is the main battle site, administered now by PC but granted originally to John Secord. His house and barn, built in about 1780, were destroyed by the US Army when it abandoned its outpost and withdrew into captured Fort George in the summer of 1813. The battle was the first amphibious operation of the US Army and Navy which, combined, had about 75 pieces of artillery compared to the 5 or 6 which the British had in Fort George. The invaders numbered about 7000 while that of the opposition force that met them, regular soldiers, militia and native allies was about 400, 200 of whom were killed. There may still be about 100 bodies of soldiers on the site, killed in skirmishes during the US retreat. The burning of the Town of Niagara and the suffering of its inhabitants, on December 10, 1813, changed the nature of the war which, generally, had spared the civilian population. The Niagara peninsula is the only part of Canada to have suffered a prolonged occupation by the enemy. Many US citizens believe that the burning of Niagara was in retaliation for the Burning of Washington, DC, by the British in August 1814, instead of the reverse.

Mr. Steve Miller of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is a Water Resources Engineer, who spoke on the subject of lakeshore erosion, from 7:45 to 8:15, including a question/answer period. A mechanical failure prevented his use of a projector but he covered the subject comprehensively. The NPCA is responsible for an area from the Hamilton Airport to just east of the Grand River, about 170 km of shoreline. Lake Ontario levels are much less variable since construction of the control dam at Cornwall but erosion is still a serious concern, the average rate being two feet per year, but as much as two metres per year in some places. Aerial photographs taken in 1954 and 2006 indicate that the shoreline has receded 40 metres during that time. Based on 100 year average high water levels, structures should be at least 45 feet from shore to avoid storm damage. NPCA was created by the province and has no jurisdiction over federal lands. Erosion protection is the responsibility of the land owners. The vertical breakwater, which extends from the local golf course into the town, was built during the economic depression of the 1930s and its endurance indicates the high quality of its construction. NPCA updated its operating plan in 2009/10.

At 8:20 PM R. Busbridge, Board of Directors Chair, began the business section of this meeting. S. Sparrow reported Harmony Residents Group Inc. income and expenses since the previous AGM, proposed acceptance of her report, seconded by K. Morrison and approved by a show of hands. Bank balance as of April 30, 2012 is \$3192.91

S. Sparrow volunteered to serve as Treasurer during the Board meeting of January 17, 2012. R. Busbridge proposed that she be confirmed as a Member of the Board of Directors until the next AGM, seconded by K. Morrison and approved by a show of hands.

T. Busbridge provided a list of some Group members, present at this meeting, whose dues have been paid.

R. Busbridge read his summary of Board activities since the previous AGM.

The next general meeting of the HRG membership is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 7PM in the Virgil Arena Mary Snider Room.

This meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM but some members stayed for coffee and pastries, both of which were delicious, and provided by D.Hennesey and K.Morrison.

Cliff James, Secretary