

Bob Andrews of Parks Canada was unable to attend the meeting. On April 9, Ginette Brindle, Manager of Southwest Ontario at Parks Canada and Bob's boss, advised Randy Busbridge that she must attend any meetings relating to Project Niagara but that she had a calendar conflict for April 14. Ms. Brindle has committed to attend our May 12 meeting.

Randy Busbridge provided updates and news. Two key items were:

1. We have developed a concept presentation describing our vision of a Natural Heritage Park, and are seeking partners to help further develop the vision and demonstrate feasibility.
2. A Project Niagara Co-ordinating Committee has been established to "provide timely, disciplined advice to municipal decision makers on all aspects and facets of Project Niagara." Its members include Stephen Bedford and Ewald Kuczera from the town, Ken Brothers from Niagara Region, Bob Andrews and Ginette Brindle from Parks Canada, and Kari Cullen from Project Niagara. This appears to be the first step towards addressing municipal issues.

Randy reviewed the purpose of the Harmony Residents Group, which is:

1. To promote the establishment of a park, on the Parks Canada property on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which:
 - a. Preserves, protects and rehabilitates the forests, prairies, wetlands, and shoreline,
 - b. Protects the wildlife that uses the above habitats,
 - c. Preserves and presents the First Nations, early settlement and military heritage,
 - d. Is accessible by the public;
2. To oppose any use of the Parks Canada property on Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake which is inconsistent with the use described above; and
3. To cooperate with other citizens groups in Niagara-on-the-Lake on an issue-by-issue basis, as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The preliminary budget for 2009 is \$4,200, with membership dues of \$20 per household.

Randy reviewed the proposed structure, which is:

- The Board of Directors will act as a Steering Committee.
- Directors will chair various working committees (Membership, Research, Communication, and Business Development).
- The board will consist of:
 - A Chair,
 - Vice-chair,
 - Secretary,
 - Treasurer, and
 - Up to 5 additional Directors.

Nominations were taken from the floor. Barb Morrison and Joan Busbridge both proposed that the existing Steering Committee (i.e. Randy Busbridge, Doug Campbell, Meredyth Cowling, Joanna Gorski, Dave Hennessey, Finn Madsen, Ken Morrison) form our first board. Shirley Sparrow seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

The board's first tasks will be to write a constitution and incorporate the group.

Harmony Residents Group

Randy stated that progress will depend on how many people volunteer to participate on our various working committees. A general discussion ensued, addressing questions of strategy, recruiting and publicity. We will resume this discussion at our next meeting, which is May 12, 7:00 PM at the Virgil arena.