

The Couchiching Conservancy

2018 Annual General Meeting Minutes

March 3rd, 2018

To be approved at the Annual General Meeting March 2019

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order just after 2:00pm at ODAS Park Orillia with 210 guests and members in attendance. Board member Jamie Ross began by recognizing the traditional Chippewa Territory, welcomed guests and welcomes special guests, Simcoe North MP Bruce Stanton, Teresa Harrigan, representing Chippewas of Rama First Nation, Severn Township Mayor Mike Burkett, and Monty Hummel, President Emeritus and Chair of Legacy Giving for the World Wildlife Fund. Jamie also delivered the news the Phil Careless would not be able to attend as speaker and that David Hawke would take his place.

2. Minutes and Highlights of 2017 Annual General Meeting

Executive Director Mark Bisset highlighted the 2017 AGM minutes. There were no questions regarding the minutes and a motion to approve the minutes was moved by Neil Grey and Seconded by Herb Furnace. Carried.

3. President's Remarks

The current year's president, Doug Christie, was not able to be with us in person, so he pre-recorded a video message. In the video he wished us well on the day and stressed the importance of volunteers and thanked them for their service. He also stressed membership referring back to his letter earlier in the year. He finally asked for support for monthly giving, and incentivised it by modeling the coveted Couchiching Conservancy toque.

4. Treasurers Report

Treasurer Jack Booth Presented the Audited financial statements for the period ending October 31 2017.

Highlights included:

- The fundraising for the Black River Wildlands (Ron Reid Reserve).
- Increase in capital assets of \$220,000 which is due to the donation of the Adam's Nature Reserve
- The Heartwood fund is now past 2,000,000
- He pointed out that \$393,000 for the BRW was not reflected in the current year's revenue because of the date of purchase.
- Our fundraising target of \$112,000 was exceeded by \$50,000
- He thanked our supporters, volunteers, staff and the board as well as his colleagues.

There were no questions. The motion to accept the Financial statements for the year ended October 31st 2017 was moved by Adam Thompson and Seconded by Ted Duncan. Carried.

5. Need motion to appoint Hehn Trickey as auditor for 2018

6. Past President's Council Report

Adam Thompson updated members on the work of the Past Presidents council. He spoke of the forming of the CC, and the fact that we have now reached the 25 year mark. He also stated that

50 people had now signed up to the Heartwood fund and we have about \$2.1 million in bequests and pledges. He asked that anyone interested in the Heartwood Fund speak to him after the meeting.

7. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mark Bisset began by expressing gratitude to all in attendance and all who make The Couchiching Conservancy's work possible. This included supporters, the board and staff. Mark continued to speak on members, donors, volunteers, community support and the land itself that we protect.

He then announced the change of name for the Black River Wildlands property to the Ron Reid Nature Reserve.

Ron said a few words, he thanked volunteers and all others involved in the BRW campaign. He referenced all of the support he has had in his career in conservation and stated that the Ron Reid Reserve should read Ron Reid & Friends. He stated that a land trust should be synonymous with local conservation in the same way that a local hospital is synonymous with healthcare, and that we are getting there. He also recognised our presence in The Villiager publication from Washago and quoted the first page.

8. Recognition of Volunteers

Margaret Pomeroy was welcomed to the podium to honour our volunteers. She praised them as being critical to our success. The group recognised for 2017 was the Passport to Nature Committee with thanks for their outreach program and over \$20,000 in funds raised. Those honoured were:

- Jamie Ross
- Adam Thompson
- David Homer
- Ron Reid
- Arni Stinnissen
- Ginny Moore
- Sue Deadman
- Tom Wilson
- Stephanie Moy-Shuster

Secondly Meagan Coughlin was honoured as an individual volunteer, Margaret outlined Megan's dedication to the water quality and citizen science programs, as well as Meagan's 541 volunteers hours worked in 2017.

9. Election of New Board

Mark presented the slate of candidates, to those present and asked three times for nominations from the floor. Seeing none a motion to accept president Doug Christie and directors, Jack Booth, Margaret Pomeroy, David Homer, Robert Sullivan, Jamie Ross, Wendy Lowry, Pam Fulford and Lisa Neville was proposed.

The motion was moved by Janet Grand. Seconded by Neil Grey. Carried

10. Introduction and Guest Speaker

David Homer was welcomed to the podium to introduce guest speaker David Hawke. David Homer thanked David Hawke for stepping in on such short notice as our original speaker, Phil Careless was detained due to inclement weather.

David Hawke spoke on the past year and the work that went into the BRW campaign. He outlined our work with Ontario Parks, and the way that the Ron Reid Nature Reserve fits into Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. He also demonstrated, using maps and aerial photos the incredible mix of habitat types that gather on this property, he briefly discussed the former settlement of Ragged Rapids that existed on the property, outlined our campaign strategy of bringing people to the property to experience it, and thanked Janet Grand for all of her hard work in that regard. He then focused on the size of the tract and the number of species that require a large continuous territory and call the Ron Reid Nature Reserve home.

11. Legacy Landscapes

David Hawke, no longer acting as guest speaker introduced our Legacy Landscapes project to the crowd and announced that an art show will open November 3rd 2018 at OMAH.

12. Raffle

As part of our fundraising efforts for the Ron Reid Nature Reserve local artist Mary-Ann Tully painted a piece inspired by the reserve. Raffle tickets were sold at The Bird House Nature Co. for several months and the raffle was drawn by Ron Reid. The winner was Judy Wilson, (which Janet originally read incorrectly as Judy Metcalf.)

13. Motion to Adjourn

Mark Bisset came back to the podium and presented the motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Adam Thompson. Seconded by Neil Grey. Carried.