

Minutes—Draft, subject to member approval at next AGM

REDSTONE LAKE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS -JULY 9, 2016

Haliburton Forest – Seminar Room—commenced at 2:00 p.m.

1	Welcome, Opening Remarks – Bob Cole, President	<p>Bob Cole, President of RLCA opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He reviewed the agenda and introduced the members of the Board of Directors who were present at the meeting. Bob thanked and paid tribute to Mary Lou Ciancone our director who has been responsible for publishing the Newsletter for many years but is not running for re-election AND to Anne Bates who is not a director but as a volunteer manages and solicits all of the advertising that supports the Newsletter and the website.</p> <p>Bob then dealt with the Minutes from the 2015 AGM. A Motion to approve the 2015 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members of RLCA held on June 27, 2015. Made by Blackberry Seconded by Joe Comartin Bob asked for a show of hands to approve the Motion, which was unanimous. MOTION APPROVED</p> <p>Bob reminded everyone of the number of ways that the Board communicates with the members of RLCA—website and facebook and periodic email blasts. Our goal is to try to tell you right away what has happened</p> <p>Bob noted that volunteers are welcome and we need your support—anyone who wants to run any of these programs: newsletter, AGM, social activities, updating bylaws, membership drives, photo contest please see him or any of the other directors.</p> <p>Bob welcomed Pat Warren, the Director of Resource Development from the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust who set up a table at the back of the room. If you want to learn about the land trust see her at her table where she has posters and information</p> <p>Finally, Bob pointed out the notice for the chicken and rib dinner which has been posted on the wall. This is a fundraiser for the Haliburton Fish Hatchery which stocks our lakes.</p>
2	Keynote Speaker, Josh Burk -- ArborView Tree Care	<p>Harvey Bates introduced Josh Burk from West Guilford. Harvey described Josh as being well regarded—he is honest and thorough and he provides discounts to RLCA members.</p> <p>Josh thanked everyone for coming. He started by saying that he loves trees and wants them to survive as long as possible. The benefits from trees are countless and we want to keep them as long as possible but as long as it is safe. He said he would talk about beech bark disease and answer questions.</p>

Josh has lived in Haliburton all his life. He is a certified arborist, has taken intensive training with Arboriculture Canada and will be training with them to become an instructor. His training has been in tree risk assessment and he is a qualified tree risk assessor.

Josh divided his presentation on beech bark disease into 3 parts: overview, stages and management recommendations.

Overview

Beech bark disease is caused by a combination of beech scale and a species of *nectria fungi*. It develops in 3 stages—advancing front is the first—you see beech scale which is a bug that is 1 /2 to 1 mm long. The second stage is the killing front where the fungus affects the tree. The third stage is the aftermath zone.

The fungus came from Europe in 1890 on the european beech tree species. Its presence was officially confirmed in Ontario in 1999. The initial phase is the scale which is very small. You can see white, woolly areas or even dots especially on the rough surface of the tree. Most of the trees have scale present—this is the woolly mass the insect produces to protect itself from the elements. The insects are not mobile for very long—end of July to November. The scales are transported by wind and by animals who brush up against them. Transporting firewood in the area also moves it. The final agent is the fungus. It gets into the wounds that the scale has made in the outer bark. The fungus gets in and cankers are prevalent and then girdle the entire tree. It takes a while for the tree to be girdled by the fungus. Once the tree is girdled then there is a danger of beech tree snap where the top of the tree breaks off even though the tree has leaves at the top. This can be very dangerous. The fungus is transported through wind. It will move around the same tree—decay just keeps on growing. The fungus will attack the big trees first—not often found on the trees which are less than eight inches in diameter. The bigger canopy and area of the larger trees are more receptive to the disease. Some trees are resistant—but only a very small percentage. They take on the fungus but can still fight it, even though they have a low vigour. The fungus is only detrimental to the american beech, not the european beech. Once the fungus has nothing left to feed on then it will not be there.

Josh said that it is ok to split beech wood and burn it on your own property. Once infected with the fungus then the wood is garbage. You can burn it. A lot of harvesters are cutting beech now even though the trees are not affected.

Stages

The fungus has fruiting bodies or spores which are red. These minute spores are spread by wind and there are no ways to stop the fungus with a fungicide. Josh's presentation included several pictures which showed the scale. The white spots on the trees in the pictures are lichen which is usually on the north east side of the tree. The scale shows as vertical white lines going up the tree, which get bigger. The deep red on the tree in the pictures is the fruiting bodies (spores) from the fungus. The black tar is a canker under the bark and is old dead sap oozing out of the tree. The tree in the picture is infested.

The scale is typically found in the lower bowl of the tree.

		<p><u>Management Recommendations</u></p> <p>Trees with poor vigor and visible cankers should be removed. Water the trees during dry spells. Drought puts the tree under stress so that it cannot fight the fungus. Place wood chips around tree base to retain moisture and nutrients from chips help. Avoid root disruption. Do not transport firewood from scale infested areas between July and November as the scale is mobile at that time.</p> <p>Question: One of the members asked how to tell if his pine trees were under stress? Josh indicated that if they are it is probably because of the pine sawyer beetle, and he suggested that the member look around and if there is any old decaying wood remove it as those beetles nest in decaying wood.</p> <p>Harvey thanked Josh and gave him a small token of appreciation from RLCA (Haliburton maple syrup).</p>
3	Keynote speaker Mike Shepherd -- Shepherd Environmental Services	<p>Harvey introduced Mike Shepherd who owns two septic businesses in Haliburton. Mike's family has been in business since 1934 and Mike has been in business himself since 1986.</p> <p>Mike's topic was: Septics and Septic Health. He said that his company purchased French's Septic Pumping in 2014 and that he would focus on why pump, the final disposal of sewage and the types of systems.</p> <p><u>Why pump and what happens</u></p> <p>Liquids come into the tank; greases and fats float on top and the balance settles. Sewage should stay in tank but once those layers come together, sewage travels to the second tank and out to the bed without any treatment. He recommends pumping your septic tank every 4 years. When his company pumps a septic tank they inspect the manhole, the inlet baffle, the outlet baffle and the sewage level. If sewage is above the outgoing pipe then something is wrong. He will tell you how your system is working and will stamp the bill accordingly.</p> <p>Roots are a problem in a septic system. Try to keep trees away from pipes. This year chipmunks have been the cause of many septic problems. Do not feed the chipmunks any peanuts. They will clog the septic system bed with peanuts and acorns.</p> <p>Other problems arise due to improper installation of the pipes in the system— must have a correct installation. If your system was installed after 2008 you will have an effluent filter in the outgoing side of system. They also inspect this filter and put it back in. That filter should be inspected every year. You can do it yourself. Make sure that it is cleaned out every year.</p> <p>Mike said to be sure to pump the tank in spring or summer. Do not pump the septic tank in winter as there is nothing in it. If you do it might pop out of the ground and you also want to have bacteria in it before winter.</p> <p>Group discounts: he will offer 20 to 25 dollars off per customer depending on where they are if they can do 4 or 5 at a time. Harvey has a map of all the roads and costs on those roads. The costs are regular costs.</p>

		<p><u>Types of Systems available.</u> There are 4 types of systems in Ontario</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Most are class 4f filter bed—have a 20 to 25 year life span; b) Leaching tile bed—don't have much space for them so very few and they have a 40-50 year life span. c) Lots now have a holding system—with an alarm—just pump when ¾ full. d) Treatment units—becoming widely used—now about 80 % of their installs are these units. They work well but they cost more and have an annual maintenance requirement. These systems can remove 99 % phosphorous if you add an extra component. Such a component is also available for nitrogen. <p>Set- backs for the septic bed: building code is 50 feet, the municipality requires 66 feet and is now going to 100 feet. On new builds it is 100 feet.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Is a grey water holding tank a septic system? No, a grey water holding tank is a different class than a septic system;</p> <p>How do you tell if your septic is shot? There are clues, like lots of green grass in the septic bed or gurgling in the toilet.</p> <p>Can you talk about water softeners? Water softeners should not go into sewage systems and neither should paints even if latex paint. He is not sure where to take the material, but do not put it into septic.</p> <p><u>Disposal of sewage</u>—they do not dispose of sewage in Haliburton County. His company takes it in transit and stores it and then moves it to their 200 acre facility south of Haliburton. Each year 5 to 7 million gallons of sewage is pumped out of Haliburton. His company puts it on farmland that grows everything.</p> <p>Bob thanked Mike and gave him a small token of appreciation from RLCA (Haliburton maple syrup).</p>
4	Keynote speaker, Murray Fearrey-- Reeve , Municipality of Dysart <i>et al</i>	<p>Bob introduced Murray Fearrey who agreed to provide updates on certain subjects:</p> <p><u>Septic re-inspections:</u> you must empty a septic tank to inspect it but Haliburton does not have anywhere to dispose of septic tank contents, so there will not be mandatory inspection of septic systems. The CHA program is so important if you can preserve the shoreline so that if there is phosphorous from the septic system the plants pick it up. Concrete baffels in septic tanks are rotting because of the products we are putting into the septic. If everyone pumped every 3 years and with new installs then they would get 60% of the septic. Dysart is now trying to catalogue the septic so that they know the old ones and will look at those first.</p> <p><u>Docks:</u> the new MNRFR policy and court decision on floating docks came out and applies to anything over 15 square metres for dock or ramp. Not realistic. Dysart not doing anything about it. Dysart enforces zoning bylaw including set- backs and not dock regulations/policies.</p>

		<p><u>Hazardous waste days:</u> next Saturday is hazardous waste day at Haliburton Land Fill from 9 a.m. to 3p.m. Kennissis Lake land fill will never be closed but it might end up being a transfer station. Dysart is hauling all of the packer waste away.</p> <p><u>Water levels on the draw down:</u> some are at 84% now and that usually does not happen until August. County doing Official Plan updates; RLCA should be following the progress of the OP updates. Cottagers should not be much affected by the proposed changes, but if you have pine trees then you would need to have them assessed if you intend on building.</p> <p><u>Tax rate:</u> up 3.5 % this year. Dysart is still fighting the OPP assessment. Pursuing this with the ombudsman on basis that no other tax is based on the household .</p> <p><u>Senior housing:</u> is a big issue because a lot of people plan to retire in Haliburton. Some condos—a proposal for 73 in town coming next week by a good developer. Still working on mid-range and lower cost housing. The municipality is working on an extendicare type facility.</p> <p>Question: is anyone looking at commissioners instead of OPP officers? Yes, but since OPP fees are based on # households this would not save anything .</p> <p>Question about hydro rates: is anyone working on it? No one and do not know where to start; lots of folks are not able to pay; Not sure what effect the privatization of Ontario Hydro will have on rates.</p> <p>Bob thanked Murray and gave him a small token of appreciation from RLCA (Haliburton maple syrup).</p>
5	Break	3:30 –3:45—slides for lost and found items were posted during the break
6	Lake Steward’s Report – Mike Johnson	<p>Bob introduced Mike Johnson to talk about water testing; Testing all the lakes; phosphate is a killer of our lakes. It comes through the septic systems—through urine. Need a good septic system and a well-managed shoreline to keep phosphates out of the lakes.</p> <p><u>Testing results for phosphorous</u>—Mike presented slides for Little Redstone, Redstone, Pelaw and Bitter Lake, each of which shows a history of the phosphorous levels in those lakes. The most recent reading for Little Redstone was at 52 and Redstone is doing well at 46; Pelaw could be a concern but is coming down and is now 64. We will take a look at shoreline and the edge of forest and some buildings that should not be there. Mike will talk with the Municipality about this. Bitter Lake is doing ok at 54. We need someone to do testing on Burdock Lake, so please see Mike after if you are interested.</p> <p><u>Lake levels</u> on Redstone until July 1 have been very high but they are now going down fast. See the website for the link to the water levels on Redstone.</p> <p><u>Accessory buildings</u> cannot be located within 30 metres of the high water mark. If they were built prior to 2004 they might be grandfathered at 20 meters. Check your particular construction date and zoning requirement.</p>

		<p><u>Shoreline vegetation buffer</u>—within 30 meters of high water mark you cannot remove the trees in that buffer without an permit; everyone has done a pretty great job on managing shorelines; encourage others to put in deep rooted plants. Horticulturists in Haliburton have been trained on local species. Most frontages are 60 meters so keep most of that natural</p> <p><u>Fish</u> are an integral part of our environment and phosphate is a killer. It steps up growth of algae and algae go to the bottom of the lake and eats up all the oxygen. Trout are then unable to survive at the bottom of the lake where they like to be. Big and Little Redstone are very healthy with Haliburton Gold . The Hatchery stocks Bitter and Burdock every second year with rainbow trout at about 65 grams.</p> <p><u>Spiny water flees</u> do exist in Redstone. They are an invasive species and we cannot do anything about it. They get caught in fish’s throat.</p> <p><u>Fish will change</u> because of climate change—cold water fish like lake trout will disappear and we will get more bass and rainbow trout and lots of walleye.</p> <p>Questions: Could you put trout in Rabbit Lake? Mike said that we can recommend to MNRF what goes In but they will know what the depth is and they will decide.</p> <p>Where do you test in Redstone? Mike indicated that Redstone is tested off Piccadilly Bay.</p>
7	Keeping Our Lakes Clean-- Harvey Bates	<p>Harvey Bates talked about trees, shoreline plantings and septic— we are doing all the monitoring we can do; we have 500 or so potential people who could be members . Harvey talked about the 3 Mile Lake problem with blue green algae—lake was posted—cannot swim there—also toxic to animals. Property values dropped by 50% and have not returned. So if you are talking to neighbours you know who are not here then tell them about 3 Mile. They should at least be worried about their property values. Talk about septic etc. with your neighbours; thanks for being here because of your care and concern about the lakes and keep up the good work.</p>
8	Membership and Growth— Donna Luger	<p>Bob introduced Donna Luger to talk about membership; Donna reported that in 2015 we had 220 members and so far we have 140 members plus those who paid to-day; Donna reviewed the membership slides and also the benefits to members. See the website for further details;</p>
9	Financial Report – Cathy Meades	<p>Donna introduced Cathy Meades to review the financial report. RLCA is in a very favourable position. Cathy tries not to keep a large bank balance –goes to a flexible GIC—we are making bank interest—we have 3 GICs now. Bank fees are more than covered by what the GICs are earning. We are building a healthy balance through memberships and advertising so that we will be able to use resources if any problems do arise.</p> <p>Motion to approve financial statement as described; Made by: Harvey Bates</p>

		<p>Seconded by Lakhbir Singh Sodhi Show of hands- unanimous MOTION APPROVED</p> <p>Budget—Cathy reviewed the budget and noted it is very conservative. The income estimate might be low. We intend to use the money to fund for invasive species; education about septic; shoreline development in older areas. We need to know how you think we should be spending your money—let us know if you think there is something that we should be spending this money on. Anticipated costs include a membership drive, newsletters were prepared and published free to us, so now there will be substantial costs. We also anticipate legal costs for bylaw reviews and equipment for new lakes for testing. There is a contingency of \$3,000 to do the bylaws as we might have to have some legal advice on revisions.</p> <p>A question arose concerning the special needs reserve: what would you need for blue green algae? Harvey replied re the eurasian milfoil scare that we had a couple of years ago. We did not have that species, but if we had it would have cost \$25,000 for each for 3 treatments; reserve is very difficult to come up with for blue green algae outbreak, but it would be very expensive.</p> <p>A question was asked about membership fees: could we reduce membership fees, although the member admitted that this might not be appropriate given the answer about blue green algae? Cathy replied that membership will stay and will not come down as we need to keep a healthy reserve.</p> <p>Another question/comment was made about amending the by-laws: The comment was that Carter’s professional services, a well regarded firm that is on top of the proposed legislative amendment (referred to as “ONCA”) advises that until the government announces a date for proclamation “you should do not do anything”. It seems that the new law is under review and it may never be proclaimed. Barb responded by indicating that our bylaws are in need of major review and amendment even if ONCA is never proclaimed as they were enacted in 1961 and have not been touched since then. The review will propose amendments required for day to day management of RLCA as well as those that would be needed should ONCA actually be proclaimed.</p> <p>Motion to approve the 2016-2017 Budget as presented Made by: Mary Johnson Seconded by: Ivano Labricciosa Show of Hands - unanimous MOTION APPROVED</p>
10	Donations – Harvey Bates	<p>Harvey made a proposal that RLCA make two donations of \$500.00 each, one to the Haliburton Highlands Hospital Foundation and one to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association—Fish Hatchery Motion that RLCA make a donation to the Haliburton Higlands Hospital Foundation in the sum of \$500.00</p>

		<p>Made by: Anne Bates Seconded by: Mary Johnson Motion that RLCA make a donation to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association in the sum of \$500.00 Both motions were unanimously approved by vote of the members MOTIONS APPROVED</p>
11	Election of Directors/Approval of Appointments – Barb LeVasseur	<p>Bob asked Barb LeVasseur to address the election of Directors and Approval of Officer Appointments. Barb noted that all of the proposed officers and directors had been introduced and were shown on the slate proposed by the Board and up on the screen. The Directors proposed on the slate to be elected by the members were: Mike Johnson, Bob Cole, Harvey Bates, Cathy Meades, Donna Luger, Richard Luger and Barbara LeVasseur; The appointments of the Officers proposed on the slate, to be approved by the members were: President: Mike Johnson; Secretary: Barbara LeVasseur; Treasurer: Cathy Meades; and other tasks : Harvey Bates: Government Liaison; Donna Luger: Membership; Bob Cole: Water Steward and Richard Luger: Webmaster. Motion to elect the slate of directors as proposed and to approve the appointment of the slate of officers as proposed Made by: Ivano Labricciosa Seconded by: Ted Mercer Barb asked for a show of hands to approve the Motion and it was unanimous. MOTION APPROVED</p>
12	Draws – Donna, Bob and Richard	<p>Country Log Cabin donated a number of prizes, which were won by: Bridgid Wilson Doris Ashenhurst Joyce Dafern Bill Yates Dorothy Payne Pat Lalonde</p> <p>A wine making kit was donated by: The Wine Store in Minden and the draw for the kit was won by John Healy.</p>
13	End of meeting – Bob Cole	<p>The meeting was adjourned by Bob Cole at 4:35 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to stay for the wine and cheese, to be held in the seminar room after the meeting adjourned.</p>