

**The Friends of
Charleston Lake Park**

2019 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

[Owing to the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 virus, this Annual General Meeting was held virtually.]

On July 17, the Chair circulated three documents by email to all members: the Minutes of the 2018 AGM, the 2019 Treasurer's Report (in two parts), and the Chair's Report. [These are found attached.]

Members were given until July 31 to email comments on these reports to all other members for discussion. There were no comments.

On Aug 2, the Chair sent an email to all members, asking them to vote on two motions, by Aug. 9;

1) Moved by Cliff Redman, seconded by Mary Jo Sibbald "That the Minutes of the 2018 AGM be approved."

2) Moved by Yolande Lapointe, seconded by Cliff Redman "That the Treasurer's Report be approved."

In the same email, the Chair also asked members to vote to approve/disapprove the following as Directors of the Friends:

Wayne Ashford
Doug Bickerton
Janice Hallam
Yolande Lapointe
Steve Page

Cliff Redman
Mary Jo Sibbald
Jim Wallbridge
Claudette Weststrate

Motions #1 and #2 were approved unanimously.
All Directors named were approved unanimously.

Chair's Report to the 2019 AGM

The aim of the Friends of Charleston Lake Park, as stated in the organization's Constitution, is

To further the public's awareness, education, and understanding of the biological, cultural, historical/archaeological, and geological resources of Charleston Lake Park by:

- a) undertaking specific projects and initiatives such as providing educational/interpretive publications, maps, audio-visual materials, and other appropriate items related to Charleston Lake Park;
- b) encouraging and supporting public-spirited research of Charleston Lake Park's natural, historical, and cultural resources with view to disseminating such research findings to the public;
- c) supplementing and enhancing existing Park educational/interpretive and recreational programs by offering periodic special events and activities for the benefit of the public; and
- d) stimulating community interest and understanding of Charleston Lake Park to help ensure the protection of its natural and cultural resources.

These are very broad guidelines and our resources (both human and financial) are limited, and we operate within the context of our cooperation agreement with Ontario Parks. Over the past decade, our activities have been channeled in 4 directions:

- fund-raising
- sponsoring special events in the Park
- supporting Park programs
- monitoring Park trails

Fund-raising in 2019

Our main fundraiser, the canoe raffle, was very successful. Despite poor weather at the Craft Fair, we sold more tickets (3545) than in 2018, thanks mainly to an increase in sales at the Gatehouse.

Special Events

- Birds of Prey - a live raptor show, always popular with all ages of Park users
- Seniors Day – a chance for seniors in our catchment area to visit the Park, go on a led hike, and have lunch. It was our fourth year for this event, which is supported financially and organizationally by the township. It was a great success, with 60 people attending; we had to cap the numbers because of our limited resources, and we ended up with a substantial waiting list.

Other support for the Park

The Park's new trailhead sign for the West Side Trail, with its acknowledgement of long-time Director Mike Boysen, was financed from our In-Memorium donations.

We purchased a Snake banner for the Discovery Centre and a laptop for the use of the summer staff who were planning and conducting educational kids' programs.

Trail Monitoring

Our dedicated band of trail monitors spent the summer hiking our trails, doing minor upkeep, renewing the signage where necessary, and reporting major problems. Assistant Park Superintendent Adam Worth and his staff followed up. All the trails are in great shape.

Other Items

As in previous years, the Friends sponsored a local high school student to attend the Ontario Nature Youth Summit for Environmental Leadership and Biodiversity. In 2019 our student was Kaitlyn Stojadinov from Athens.

We also donated to Ontario Park's Bursary program (for summer staff), and to the Charleston Lake Association and the Thousand Island Watershed Land Trust, both organizations that work to enhance Charleston Lake and its environs.

Finally:

As always, I want thank the following:

H2O Paddlesport and Frontenac Outfitters for the canoe;
Gananoque Rotary Club, Athens Corn Fest, Lyndhurst Turkey Fair, and the
Charleston Lake Association for welcoming us to their venues;
Henderson Printing for a printing discount;

Board members for their enthusiastic participation in our activities, particularly
Seniors Day and ticket selling (and members Peter O'Hare and Gerry Gustar as
well).

And , of course, everyone who has bought tickets year after year.