The Friends of Presqu'ile Park
Minutes
Annual General Meeting
June 3, 2017

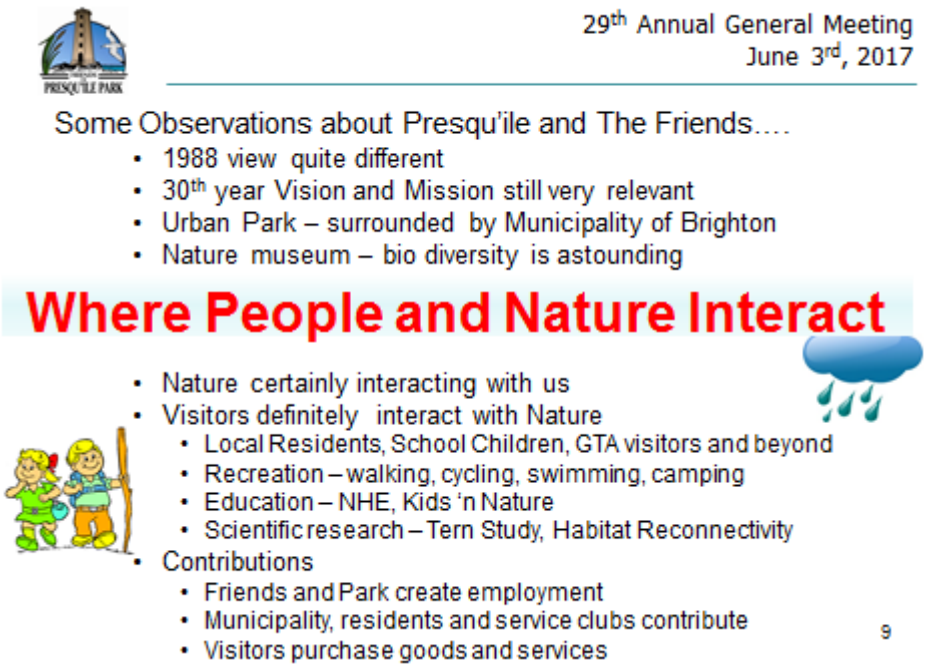
Note – The AGM was held in the Brighton Barn Theatre due to severe flooding in the park and the resulting closure.

Chair Steve Sinclair called the meeting to order at 10:30 am. Steve advised that this was the 29th Friends AGM and approximately one third of the attendees were new participants. Over 50 members were in attendance, so there was a quorum.
Steve welcomed guests, Mayor Walas, Jennifer Arnold and her two assistants and Sean Boyle with his assistant.

The Agenda was approved on motion by Bev Cook, seconded by Phil McRae.

Opening Comments – Interpreting our Vision & Mission.

The importance of our Vision and Mission were stressed by Chair Sinclair, in particular the component "Where People and Nature Interact" which were placed in context as noted in the following slide.



The Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting held, June 4, 2016 were reviewed.
The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on motion by Phil McRae, seconded by David Crouch.

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Four Key Areas of Operations – 2016 Accomplishments

Education and Interpretation – Janine McClintock (taped)
Janine advised that the Friends support two programs, Natural Heritage Education (NHE) and Kids n' Nature with the goal of nurturing and caring for the park. 2,345 children participated in Kids n' Nature in 2016. 100 participated in the four summer camps, an increase in numbers due to grants from the Canada Summer Jobs program and the Brighton Health Center, to support hiring a third assistant leader. Janine named the staff and outlined their duties.

The second component of the Friends education agenda is support of the NHE programs:

Under David Bree's (NHE Leader) guidance, the Nature Centre Coordinator focuses on caring for the animals and displays, coaching Park Interpreters and volunteers who greet visitors and by conducting many interesting program. This partnership allows the Nature Centre to be opened up and ready to greet visitors seven days a week throughout July and August and then close up properly in early September.

Natural Heritage Education is a Park responsibility; however the Friends are able to provide financial support both from our own funds and by obtaining grants which are allowed only to Charities.

Almost 10,000 individuals were touched through the 182 programs conducted in 2016. Amphitheater productions, nature hikes and the Critter Cart and many one on one contacts at the Lighthouse Interpretive center attest to how import this joint activity is to the park visitors.

Environmental Initiatives:

Invasive Species:
In 2016 Invasive Species were monitored under the guidance of Don Tyerman.

Species at Risk Activities:
A milestone was achieved in partnership with Ontario Parks and Laurentian University with installation and modification of the Habitat Reconnectivity protective fencing.
Scientific Research:

Tern Research Study – Penn State
Steve introduced Jennifer Arnold, who gave a short summary of her research. Jennifer has been studying the Common Tern at Presqu'ile for 10 years. Her interns have not only participated in the Tern study, but have also assisted park staff, Kids n' Nature and Sean Boyle.
The inland Common Tern population has been declining since the 70's. Presqu'ile is the

last natural breeding center on Lake Ontario. In the 60's Presqu'ile had the largest breeding colony, with between 10,000 and 15,000 breeding pairs. The coastal population has not declined. Don Tyerman called on Jennifer and her husband Dr. Stephen Oswald, to try and determine why the colony was declining and not producing young. They determined predators were a major issue and devised a system of barriers and overhead grid, to cover the nesting area. There is now a much higher survival rate with lots of chicks fledging. This activity is now included in the park plan. High water levels this year have reduced the habitat, but the terns are using the habitat available. The Friends have their research report and Jennifer is currently developing a video of their activities. Jennifer thanked the Friends for their continuing support.

Turtle Mortality Study – Laurentian University

Steve next introduced Sean Boyle and his assistant Cory. Sean indicated that 2016 saw the turtle fencing installed, due in large part to the Friends. Sean started his study in 2013, at the request of Ontario Parks, due to the high mortality rates on the road. In past years he surveyed areas of the road daily and gathered data to determine where fencing and tunnels should be located.

This year he is collecting data to determine how effective these features are. So far no turtles have been killed and only a few snakes and frogs. By using cameras and microchip scanners, he has been able to determine that turtles, other reptiles and small mammals are using the tunnels. Last year assistant Rachael studied garter snakes and determined they had no aversion to the tunnels. This year's assistant Corey, who has been studying the effect of windmills on reptiles, will help Sean conduct his final year of research this summer.

The park will receive a copy of Sean's report at the end of his study. Sean has worked on an outreach program in Brighton including grade 9 students and has reached 350 to date.

A question from the audience: What effect has the opening for the bicycle path had on allowing animals onto the road? Answer – Sean is surveying the area 4 times a day to determine the impact. A few animals are getting onto the road.

Birdseed Program

A small amount is provided to support birdfeeders near the Park Office and the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre

Infrastructure Enhancements in the Park

Trail Monitoring

Under the guidance of John Cockburn this is the fourth year for this growing program. Volunteers walk trails, clean up and report downed tree or damage information to Assistant Park Superintendent. This is an enjoyable way to help the park benefit from all it has to offer and interact with visitors.

Trail Repairs & Extensions

A group of interested volunteers support the Park Maintenance program by supplementing construction activities with Park Staff when needed. Additional material not available in Park budgets are supplied to help expand trails (Newcastle and Pioneer) Footbridges 500' in 2016 (1,200' – in last 3 years)

Fundraising Activities

Chair Sinclair shared with the attendees that the Funding side of our operations has an amazing number of our members and other volunteers contributing their efforts.

Our Lighthouse Gift Shop offers new and interesting items for sale and equally important provides an ongoing face of the organization for the Friends for every special event weekend and seven days a week during the summer months. Manager, Joyce Boucher is working with a few volunteers to help lighten her load and is always interested in talking to others who would like to commit to this important fund raiser.

Our core of Barbeque volunteers is expanding and as they provide tasty treats throughout the season have also attracted some new volunteers including a younger contingent. Their contributions make a big difference to the Friends.

Christmas @ Presqu'ile celebrated a major milestone hosting their 25th year bringing juried Crafts and Artisan works and attracting attention far and wide. This is a very big undertaking requiring effort from June right the way through to the end of each year. The Craft show, the Art Show at the Lighthouse Interpretive Centre and the Tea Room continue to provide important support to the Friends.

Governance & Management

As a 100% volunteer organization the Board of Directors undertakes multiple roles, including managing, communicating and improving technology as part of the day to day business of running our Charity and at the same time attending to the key Governance matters for example, planning and policy development… essentially the prudent oversight for our long term success.

The operating philosophy is to fund Education and Operational costs including large items like insurance and accounting fees from the funds generated through our annual operations.

Environmental Initiatives are largely funded from The 25th Anniversary Environmental Fund which is performing as we had envisioned and with continued donations will be around for a long time to help nature in the Park.

In October, for the last few years, Bev Cook leads the Board through a review of every key area along with an exercise to look further into the future. Last October Rob Cunningham provide a detailed look at areas his team felt could use more help and from that potential activities are under ongoing assessment.

A New Initiative for 2017

As an outcome of our fall briefing from Rob and the Board's desire to expand our focus on education the idea of a Friends of Presqu'ile Bursary Program for our Park emerged. About 50 to 60 students join the Park each year and make the Park experience better for all visitors in many ways.

Two programs have been developed the Student Employee Bursary and the Career Bursary program with the aim to reward exceptional workers in all departments and to encourage post-secondary education. Details of each are contained on our website.

Accountant Reviewed Financial Statements as at December 31st, 2016.

Highlights from the December 31, 2016 Financial Statements, which were provided to all members prior to the meeting, were reviewed.

Of particular note were the gross amounts contributed to Education ($62,000) Environmental Initiatives ($64,000) and Infrastructure Enhancements ($5,000) for a total contribution of $131,000. Funding for these initiatives came from the Friends annually generated funds ($48,000) and other sources ($84,000) such as Grants, Camp Fees and a donation from the Brighton Rotary Club's Henry Hayes Memorial Fund.

An update on the status of the 25th Anniversary Environmental Fund was presented indicating additional donations of $13,000 were received in 2016 and based upon performance an amount of $8,030 is allocated for Environmental Initiative in 2017.

The Financial Statements were accepted following a motion by Bev Cook, seconded by Jack Scott.

A motion was made by Don Davis and seconded by John Cockburn to appoint Welch LLP as the Accountants for 2017 and to authorize the Board to set appropriate remuneration. The motion was passed by the members.

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Park Update

Rob Cunningham, Park Superintendent, addressed the meeting and provided an update on the many challenges caused by the flooding of the Park. In addition to having to close the Park, the Park Office basement is again flooded this year. The office flooding is severe enough that an MNR Office trailer is being moved from Dryden to Presqu'ile for temporary office relocation. A new Park Office is to be constructed.

On a positive note paving of the bike path is almost compete, two new roofed accommodations will be available this year for visitors and last year set a record for attendance at 244,000.

In his closing remarks Rob expressed his appreciation for all that the Friends do for Presqu'ile and his excitement for the support from the Friends in establishing the two Bursary programs which will help encourage this year staff which is about 80% new to the Park.

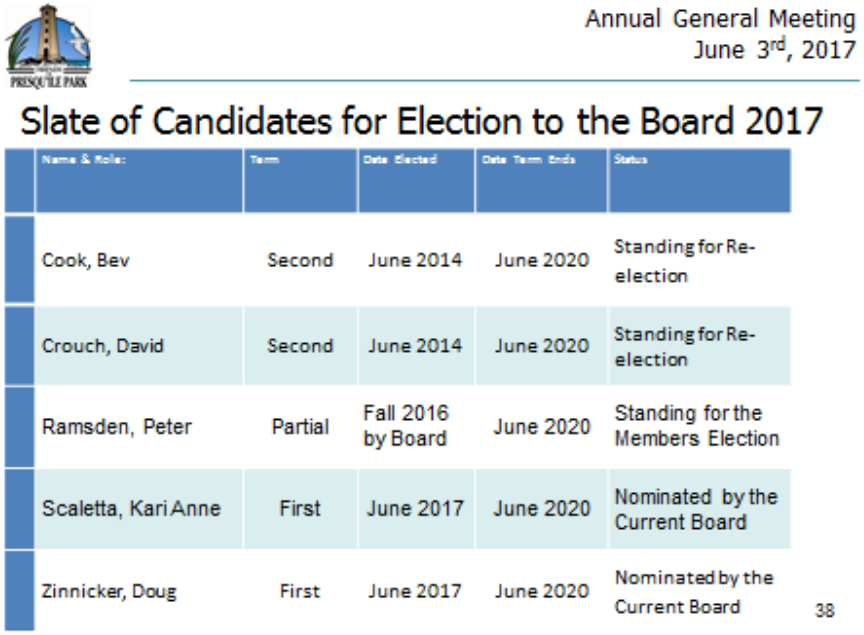
Review of Current Board of Directors Incumbents 2016:

Four directors are continuing in their terms; they are John Cockburn, Janine McClintock, Tim Lawley and Phil McRae. Bev Cook and David Crouch, current directors, will be standing for a second term and Peter Ramsden, who was elected by the Board in the fall of 2016, will stand for election by the members. Ian Savill has resigned from the Board and Steve Sinclair will be leaving the board as called for in the By-Laws after completing two full terms.

Board Proposed Slate of Directors:

In addition to Bev, David and Peter two new Directors are being recommended to the membership by the Board following their completion of our application and interview process. They are Kari Anne Scaletta and Doug Zinnicker. All those standing were introduced to the membership through a brief bio presentation.

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Slate of Candidates for Election to the Board 2017

Name & Role:	Term	Date Elected	Date Term Ends	Status
Cook, Bev	Second	June 2014	June 2020	Standing for Re-election
Crouch, David	Second	June 2014	June 2020	Standing for Re-election
Ramsden, Peter	Partial	Fall 2016 by Board	June 2020	Standing for the Members Election
Scaletta, Kari Anne	First	June 2017	June 2020	Nominated by the Current Board
Zinnicker, Doug	First	June 2017	June 2020	Nominated by the Current Board

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The election of these new Board Members was led by Don Boucher and approved by the Members.

Board Meeting – within the AGM:

New this year the "Special Board Meeting" to elect officers and appoint signing officers was conducted:

Phil McRae called the meeting to order and all Board Members present gathered at the front of the meeting hall.

Phil made the following motion:

I hereby nominate the following Board Members to hold the offices noted below for 2017:

Bev Cook – Chair
Peter Ramsden – Vice Chair
David Crouch – Treasurer
Tim Lawley – Corporate Secretary

Prior to the meeting each Board Member has agreed to accept this nomination.
The motion was seconded by Tim Lawley and passed.

A further motion was made by Phil McRae as follows:

The Bank Signing Officers be any two of the following:

Chair - Beverlie Cook
Vice Chair– Peter Ramsden
Treasurer – David Crouch
Corporate Secretary – Tim Lawley
Gift Shop Manager – Joyce Boucher

And it is further moved that as per Investment Policy 005 - The Chair and the Treasurer are authorized to maintain an investment trading account at the Royal Bank (RBC Direct Investing) and to execute investment decisions made by the Board and the incumbents identified above replace the current authorized officers.

The motion was seconded by David Crouch and passed.

The Board Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Phil McRae.

Reflections from the Chair & Welcome to the New Chair

Outgoing Chair Steve Sinclair reflected that six years ago following the Strategic Meeting, he was encouraged by the number of members that felt the Vision and Mission required the organization to expand in all areas especially education and environmental support. He noted that the time has gone quickly and that many good things have been accomplished thanks to the dedication of all of the members and volunteers.

Steve then invited Bev Cook to take over the meeting and thanked her for her strong support and contributions during her first term on the Board.

Acknowledgement of Contributions:

Bev Cook highlighted Steve's participation in building the boardwalk, in recruiting new board members, in developing a "Plan" and for his calm professional leadership. She advised Steve will remain active with the Friends and will act as grant coordinator. Bev presented Steve with a token of appreciation and a life membership to the Friends.

Each of the areas of activities were acknowledge and all members and volunteers as well as Park Staff were thanked for the many hours of effort given in support of the Friends chosen activities.

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Presentation of John Cole Award for Excellent Service to the Friends

Bev Cook announced that the John Cole Award (named after the first Chair of the organization) was being presented this year to Janine McClintock, who, in over 10 years with the Friends, has led all of the Kids n' Nature activities including her work with staffing and curriculum development. Additionally in this past year she has made major contributions to the Communications Committee through work with Friends social media activity.

As Janine was unable to attend this AGM a presentation was made May 27th at a Board Meeting.

Questions

To the Park Superintendent:

- What are the maintenance issues the park is facing? Rob answered several buildings flooded and sand bagging activity.
- Site locations for the new rental tents? Rob gave the site locations
- Where will the temporary park office be located? Rob advised in the park office parking lot.
- Will the park open any time soon? Rob advised he hoped in the next couple of weeks if the water level goes down.

The AGM ended at approximately 11:45 am.