

WORA Annual General Meeting
Saturday, September 2, 2017
1927 Ridge road West, Shanty Bay

Welcome

- Domenic opened the 14th Annual Meeting at 10 am and welcomed all attendees.
- Domenic thanked Joyce and Bill Forster for hosting our meeting.

Introductions

- Board of Directors: Helena Lazar, Domenic Natale, Kelly Lazar, Ron Golden, Michael Higgins, Frank Hutcheson, Bill Forster and Judi Bolton.
Advisory Board: Ann Golden and Bob Fournier.
- Members of Partner Groups and Guests:
Save Oro - Ann Honeywood, Wendy McKay and Bruce Wiggins;
AWARE Simcoe - Ann Truyens and Sandy Agnew;
Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture - Jim Partridge;
O. M. Councillors - Phil Hall and Scott McPherson.
- Acknowledgement of former Board Members attending, including Ted Bigelow who won the 150th Celebration Award for Citizen of the Year in Oro Medonte.

Live Auction

- Helena Lazar was our Vanna White and Frank Hutcheson was our Auctioneer extraordinaire. Together they were a very entertaining team and thanks to the generosity of donors and bidders, the auction was a huge success.

President's Report

- Our President, Ron Golden gave a report on Burl's Creek, our 'sole focus' for the past 18 -24 months. We didn't win the 11 day hearing at the OMB but we did alter Burl's Creek's plans. The attendance at B.C. this year was ½ of previous years and if this trend continues, they may need to rethink their future plans.
- Ron announced that after 14 years at the helm of WORA, he is stepping aside and Domenic Natale will become our new President.

- Domenic opened the floor for questions from the audience and many were put forward to the Councillors:
 - The future of Gull Rock Marina;
 - Forgiveness of fines to Burl's Creek;
 - Why doesn't O.M. enforce the Provincial Sound Guidelines;
 - Economic benefits claimed by Council are questionable;
 - \$1.62 million to defend Burl's Creek but Mayor Hughes keeps quoting different numbers even after Council has voted on motions; What is the amount spent on defending Burl's Creek?
 - Why is the noise allowed to go until 1 a.m. when other venues are limited to an 11 p.m. curfew?
 - Are the O-M coffers bare as suggested by a staff member and
 - Is the cost of staff time which was consumed with B.C. business included in your numbers?

Guest Speaker

- Ann Golden introduced our guest speaker; Margaret Prophet, from *The Green Belt Coalition for Simcoe County*.
- Margaret described the building, building, building which is going on all over Simcoe County – and NOT in designated growth areas – as Death by a Thousand Cuts! Protecting our water is vitally important and with Climate Change, we are already seeing water problems in areas of Simcoe County. Our County is not using or enforcing our own Land Use Planning rules. Margaret reported that a Green Belt for Simcoe County is not popular at the County Administration level; they see development as a money maker but we can do better than to allow unrestricted development in our County. A Nexus Study found Simcoe County to be # 1 at percentage of lost farmland and # 1 at putting growth where it doesn't belong. 85% of growth which should be going to growth areas is going to rural areas. Margaret stated THE GREEN BELT NEEDS TO BE OVER AS MUCH OF SIMCOE COUNTY AS POSSIBLE.

Treasurer's Report

- Kelly provided the Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2017.
- Kelly also put forward a motion for the appointment of the Accountant for fiscal 2018, motion carried.

Election of Officers

- Kelly and Helena Lazars' 3 year term of office were due this year and both agreed to stand for another term.
- Domenic put forward a motion to formally reappoint Kelly and Helena for another 3 years, seconded by Michael Higgins, motion carried.

Ratification of the Board of Directors Activities

- Gail Raikes, Member at large, moved that the membership of the Association vote to ratify all the decisions taken by the Board of Directors of the West Oro Ratepayers Association from inception to today, seconded by Ann Honeywood, motion carried.

New/Other Business

- Ted Bigelow announced the pig roast at St. Thomas Church on September 9th as part of the Shanty Bay Annual Festival and invited all to attend.
- Domenic explained that our present O-M Council needs a shake-up. Our Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor John Crawford (Ward 4) were all acclaimed; the percentage of voter turnout in our last Municipal election was very poor. For the 2018 October election, Council has passed mail-in-voting and electronic voting but the latter may come up for another vote as the three members of Council who were acclaimed voted against electronic voting.
- Margaret Prophet, our Guest Speaker explained that the same thing happened in Midhurst and the residents were able to oust all but 1 person on Council and start fresh.
- Discussion followed on how to move forward and information will be forthcoming from WORA and SaveOro. Meanwhile we need to saturate our Township with SaveOro and Protect our Water signs.
- Domenic stated that WORA will continue to monitor and keep on future agendas;
 - Gull Rock Marina
 - Burl's Creek and
 - Short Term Rentals

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Anne Golden.
- Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.