

Date: Sunday, September 15, 2024 Location: 26 Ch. Horace Cross	
Present	Julie Cote (President), Hope MacLean (Vice President), Doug Forster (Treasurer), Amy Whiting (Secretary), Ruth Salmon (Meeting Chair), Andrew Fairbairn, Justin Unsworth, Ron Hill, Monique Lariviere, Peter Eady, Emily Duncan, Barbara Riedel, Louise de la Gorgendiere, David Frere, Lucy Cole, Dawn Cooper, Gary Cole, Dave Cross, Anik Bernatchez, Eva O'Grady, Tom Richard.
Call to order	Meeting called to order at 10:02 am.
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn requested to add compost pick-up for cottagers to Varia. • Decision: The agenda was approved with this addition.
Approval of Last Year's Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision: Approved without notes or amendments
President's Report: Julie Cote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie highlighted the success of the beaver deceiver project, which has effectively managed the beaver population and protected the lake infrastructure and minimized the need to consistently monitor and clear debris from the culvert. • A round of applause was given to the beaver committee for their hard work and dedication.
Financial Report: Doug Forster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was a simple year for the membership account with no expenses beyond bank charges. However, the costs of the materials required for the new beaver deceiver, and for the lake water quality testing will come out of this year's budget. As such, our budget for the current year has already been spent, with some funds remaining in the contingency fund. • Membership fees are recommended to remain the same, with no objections raised. • There are not many outstanding accounts, but there are always some. Emphasis was placed on maintaining an up-to-date membership list. • Discussion on the lack of engagement from the Bell Lake residents living off Hwy 366 and on Ch. Wells and the desire for increased involvement in the association. • Proposal to do some outreach by distributing handouts to Bell Lake and new Fraser Lake residents to increase membership and involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn proposed revitalizing the Welcome Package started by herself and Jen Currie a few years ago and distributing it as a flyer for residents. • Gary suggested including a lake health report to highlight the benefits of membership. • Action: Ruth asked for volunteers to revamp and distribute the information package. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary and Dawn will lead the revamping and translation of the information. • Julie will assist with distributing the packages to houses.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision: Financial report accepted.
Lake Health Report: David Frere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, lake health is excellent. High water levels have resulted in ultra-clean lakes with minimal detection of chloroforms, and phosphorus levels below detection. • Concerns about algae were raised and addressed; it is filamentous, naturally occurring and not a cause for worry. • Concerns about the high amount of lily pads were raised. David emphasized that keeping phosphorus levels low will help control weed growth. • Hope raised concerns about the south end of Bell Lake showing signs of nutrification. David suggested creating a weed map to track the growth and spread of weeds in the two lakes. An aerating device was mentioned as a possible solution. David recommended a BOD5 test to check for depleting oxygen levels that would indicate over-nutrification. • Eva asked if it was okay to remove the algae, and David confirmed it was. Peter mentioned that it is possible to use a fan rake to pick it up from the water. • Reminder was issued to clean watercrafts properly and away from the water before putting them in the lake. • Water test costs have increased, and the lab is now less efficient. There was some discussion about exploring other options. • Thanks to David for his contributions.
Beaver Report: Beaver Committee (Hope MacLean, Louise de la Gorgendiere, David Frere)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were challenges in building the deceiver due to the availability of appropriately sized mesh panels. 6x6 was recommended, but 6x8 was found. David overlapped the panels to 6x4 closer to the culvert to prevent beavers from going through. As of now, the beavers have not been able to penetrate the mesh. The floor and trapezoid design seem effective in keeping beavers out of the culvert. • The deceiver was easy to assemble and light enough for David to install himself. It was placed in shallower water than originally planned with a more solid bottom. • The false dam aimed to fool the beavers and keep the trapezoid clear. The dam was constructed but Mr. Brisebois was unhappy about the dam due to fines he incurred previously for debris that was piled on his land, so the false dam was removed. • Beavers have been active in damming the trapezoid, likely due to high water levels from rain, but it was not interfered with the effectiveness as of yet. As water levels drop, a vortex in the pipe might attract beavers and increases damming. Covering the pipe to dampen the sound was suggested if a vortex appears. • The current pipe might not be big enough; installing another pipe could help to speed up drainage. David suggested we could set the lake level with the pipes if we'd like more consistency. Right now, they are low to facilitate drainage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about water levels in the spring were raised. The need for continued close monitoring of the deceiver was emphasized. • It was unanimously agreed that this solution has been much better than daily culvert cleaning. • It was noted that beavers have become much more active near the deeded access at the far end of Fraser Lake. • There was discussion about the bog near the highway at the end of Horace Cross and the potential need for another, or different style of grate in the culvert so it doesn't become constantly blocked with algae. • Sadly, David is moving, so his services will no longer be available going forward. He has offered to continue to monitor the deceiver for the year and is willing to install a second pipe if needed. He will be missed, and we will need a new volunteer. • Julie suggested informing the MRC about the deceiver, as they had been working with us extensively on a solution for the culvert blockages. Hope mentioned she had already informed the municipality as she has discussed the deceiver with the Mayor. Some members preferred to wait before informing the MRC due to concerns about how lake levels in the spring and winter will affect the deceiver. The beaver committee recommended waiting and observing. <p>The decision of when to notify the MRC that the deceiver was installed and inform them of its current success was put to a vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 members voted to monitor the deceiver for the year and approach the MRC before the next AGM. 10 members voted to wait for a longer period before informing the MRC. • Decision: This will be discussed again at next year's AGM.
Executive Committee Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie, Doug and Amy would like to step down from their roles on the executive committee. • Hope volunteered to be the President, but as she currently holds the role of vice president and no volunteers presented themselves for any of the available positions, no changes were made to her position. • Due to the lack of volunteers willing to take on an executive position, the importance of seeking new members was raised again as well as a need for people to understand the amount of work required of BFLA volunteers. • Due to the lack of volunteers, Ruth asked if the current executive committee would continue on an interim basis until replacements are found. The Welcome Package to be distributed to Bell Lake and new Fraser Lake residents should include information on the benefits of membership and seek volunteers for the association executive. • Decision: Doug and Julie and Amy will continue in their roles until replacements are identified.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amy emphasized that communication guidelines should be established to ensure respect and courtesy towards volunteers. These guidelines should outline how the executive team will communicate internally, and clarify for members what sorts of issues should be addressed by the association versus what should be dealt with personally. • Julie and Amy will work on the communication guidelines.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva has been uploading past AGM documents that provide context and history to the website for easy access. https://www.bellfraserlakesassociation.ca/
Varia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn would like to know if other cottagers struggle with compost disposal due to the fact that they are not present for garbage pick-up. Dawn currently takes her compost home with her or goes to the cottage to pick up for fall members who live far away and cannot pack it out with them. She is looking for solutions, and has reached out to the municipality about getting a composting dump station set up for cottagers. She would like to encourage others with similar issues to write to the municipality as well. Eva suggested that she disposes of her garbage and recycling in the big bins at the train turntable in Wakefield. • Micheline Beaudry-Somcynski would like it noted that she is having a big wedding party at her house on Bell Lake on Saturday, Sept 28 so it will be noisy until 11:30 pm.
Adjournment	Meeting Adjourned: 11:02 am
Acknowledgements	<p>Thanks to:</p> <p>Anne Winship for providing coffee.</p> <p>the Beaver committee and to David, Bruno Roy, and Graham Ramstead for their work on the deceiver.</p> <p>Eva for her work on the website.</p> <p>Ruth for chairing the meeting.</p> <p>Hope for hosting.</p>