

McGregor Bay Association
83rd Annual General Meeting
August 3, 2025
Parish Hall

MBA Board Members Present: Eleanor Pardoe, President, Bryan McDonald, Vice President, Ken Lather, Secretary, Tom Carmazzi, Treasurer, Doris Cowan, Karin Lauderback, Ian Cook, Anne Harvey, Bill Steiss, Doug Whitton, Andy Betterton, Eric Grant, Mattia Thillaye-Kerr.

Board members absent: Jackie Toombs, Holly Higen.

The meeting was called to order by Eleanor Pardoe at 3:00 p.m., who chaired the meeting.

Eleanor opened the meeting with the introduction of Judy Young, who read our Statement of Respect.

Eleanor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Eleanor then handed the mic back to Judy to call for a moment of silence for the reading of the names of the members who have died:

- a. Peggy Biederman
- b. Connie Campbell
- c. Chuck Kleinschmidt
- d. Bryan Milsom
- e. Stan Stratto

Other names were offered:

- f. David Curliss

Judy called for a moment of silent gratitude for these friends.

Next Eleanor asked Ken to call for approval of the minutes from the 2024 AGM, which have been posted and circulated. Ken called for any corrections or additions. Hearing none he called for a motion to approve. Upon motion by Gerry Quinn, seconded by Carl Botan, the minutes were approved.

Eleanor asked the Board members present to introduce themselves.

Eleanor expressed her appreciation and respect for the great people at the GBA, many of whom she has been able to meet at meetings. In following Eleanor introduced Liz Phillips, past president of the GBA, to give us an update. She told us about the new Executive Director, Meredith Denning. She has had great experience in water management throughout Georgian Bay. The new president is Al Stratton. Vision 2050 remains a priority. They have released a report outlining 16 conservation models. They have also established an advisory counsel. Fundraising for the project has been completed so they are now starting on writing the paper and developing consensus.

Liz brought pamphlets on dock foam that have been developed. She confirmed that we can take the blue foam to the dump if it is in bags.

Boating safety is important and Transport Canada just completed its consultation on mandatory life jacket wear. She expects their criteria in the next year or so. So far this year there have been 10 boating fatalities in Georgian Bay and 57 drowning deaths.

Liz brought postcards for nominating persons for the inaugural Champions of the Bay award.

Liz thanked Doug and our organization for our collaboration on the phragmites eradication project.

Eleanor next introduced our Mayor, Al McNiven, to make some comments. He discussed the replacement of the swing bridge. The recommended design is a two lane swing bridge. They are now hiring a construction superintendent, by the end of this year. After that it will be a minimum of two years to start. They are now acquiring properties. A question was raised as to who is paying for the bridge. Al said the Province will pay.

Eleanor next called upon Laurie Cook, our councillor, for a report. She reported the good news that the taxes in our ward have actually gone down this year. A lot of the tax revenue goes to funding the recycling at McGregor's Landing. She understands there have been problems, overused. Is getting a quote on having additional pickups. Hazardous wastes cannot be left there. Have a special day in July at the landfill. Encouraged everyone to make the trip to Little Current and see all the new stuff going on.

Eleanor called upon Doug to make some additional comments about the GBA. Doug reported about an incident that recently occurred at Nairn Centre. Some materials that could pollute the water. He was able to get the right people involved to address the issue.

Eleanor next called for committee reports.

Doris, with Desert with a Dash. She reported it has been going on for over 25 years now. Started by Veronica Steir. Now have 7 programs a year. Two more to be had. All of the slots for next year are filled. Working on publishing the programs on YouTube so people can watch remotely.

Ian, water quality. Testing regularly at 8 or 9 locations in the Bay. Data available on-line. Called for additional volunteers for the testing. So far all results have been good on the water quality.

Anne Harvey, membership. Our numbers are up just slightly from last year, 147 regular members and 86 extended. We are doing the directory again, verifying info. If changed do go on-line and make the necessary changes.

Doug, phragmites. We have a project in collaboration with Whitefish River First Nations lands department, Georgian Bay Forever, and Bay of Islands. Phragmites is an invasive plant from Europe that takes over wetlands. We contribute in-kind contributions, we have a crew of volunteers who show up to eradicate. Whitefish River First Nation is mapping all locations in McGregor Bay where there is phragmites, which is very important. There is more info on our website. Doug is happy with our progress and the team we have working on it.

Eric Grant, website. He is working on making it more user friendly with more info. Let him know if he can help with any problems.

Andy Betterton, safely. First he thanked Ed Schillimore for continuing to look after the pumps. We were able to do two demos of the pumps, at the water festival and the beach, very well received. To date there have been no fires reported. We do have two locations with difficult access. Working on that. Need a landing-craft type boat to move the huts.

Elizabeth Quinn asked to be informed of the new locations when the pumps are moved, so she can update the emergency map. Andy will do.

Bryan McDonald, sailing and water festival. Blessed to have Hannah run the junior sailing program. She really made it fun. Taylor, Gerry and Elizabeth Quinn's granddaughter, won the Junior Sailor of the Year award. Adult sailing had the Iroquois Island and Outer Bay races. Water festivals, awesome picnic at Red Sand Beach. And the water festival at Parish Hall went very well.

Eleanor talked about a few things. FOCA is similar to the GBA. They do a lot and put out a lot of great books. They put pressure on the Provincial government to protect the environment. They are promoting youth engagement. At the town hall meeting in July one person was interested in how to protect your property from fire. FOCA has info on that in a newsletter, she will ask Anne to send it out. We can apply for a \$500 fire smart grant. Baldy is now closed to all hikers until August 10, too many people there.

Eleanor next called upon our Treasurer, Tom Carmazzi, to present the financial report. We increased our dues last year. It worked out quite well. But since our membership is down a bit we will just break even. But we are financially stronger this year than last. Someone asked Tom why they would donate when we have all these reserves on our balance sheet. Tom explained, in any given year our membership fees only cover about 80% of our expenses. The rest comes from voluntary donations. If we go negative then we go into the reserves instead of asking for more funds. We think about three buckets in terms of our reserves. The first bucket is the unknown but expected. There are a lot of threats to the environment that we do now know but they will come. Phragmites is an example. We are fortunate that our forefathers created the Rainbow Fund, intended to address big threats to our environment. Fish farms. Mining. Deep harbor. So we have the funds to address these types of issues. So the reserves are targeted to help us protect what we all love.

Doris Cowan, nominations. We are going to lose Ken, our secretary. And we are going to lose Karin, who leads our AGM social event. She does amazing work. The first of our two nominees Kathe Linder. Kathe is going to look after the social when Karin retires. Kathe started coming here when one month old. She is a veterinarian, had an equine center, and has a big dog boarding center by Kitchener. She lives on a farm outside Strathford where she has farm animals. The second nominee is Doug Whitton. His family has been here a long time. He has been attending Board meetings as our GBA rep. He is recently retired, building a boathouse. Loves downhill skiing. He worked as a designer and architect for corporations in New York, Hong Kong and Toronto. Also been a professor and lecturer. Doris asked for nominations from the floor. None presented. Doris called for a vote to approve these nominations. Unanimous approval.

Eleanor had a few final comments. Rodnet, the chief at WRFN, wanted to attend today, but was unable due to family issues. A few thank yous. Ed Schillimore is continuing to look after the fire pumps, thank you. Hannah and Katie Higgs, been doing junior sailing for few years, may not be back next year. Thank you to them and Bryan. Kids Krafts is new, want to thank Krista Barr and Gillian Woodroffe, for running these sessions. Thank you to Marti Gagnon for putting the markers out in the Bay. It's a big job. And again another thank you to Gillian Woodroffe for putting together the amazing newsletter for us. It's a lot of work. And a thank you to Gerry Quinn for making sure Red Sand Beach was ready for the picnic. And he still heads up the Fisher Harbour committee in Little Current. Also want to thank our retiring Board members, Ken Lather and Karin Lauderback for all they have done. Also thank you to all the other Board members for all they do.

Eleanor handed the torch over to Ian Cook, who is taking over as President of our association.

Ian addressed Eleanor. You stepped up when we really needed someone to lead the MBA. You have strengthened our relationship with the GBA and with FOCA. Most of all we appreciate your love for the natural beauty and history of the Bay.

Elizabeth Quinn asked if we have a plan to address abandoned docks. And did Liz get any info on an EV charging station at the landing. Eleanor replied that we have been talking a lot about abandoned docks, but we do not really have the physical ability to take them out. Perhaps we need to hire contractors. We will be discussing it more to come up with a plan.

Eleanor handed the mic to Karin. She expressed her appreciation for being part of the Board. She introduced and thanked all the people who have helped with the social. She gave instructions for the dinner.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Lather, outgoing secretary