

Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association

General Meeting August 29, 2009

Held at St. Peter's Parish Hall

1. **Call to Order/Introductions:** President Jan Purvis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Jan introduced members of Bluewater council: Jim Fergusson, Bill Dowson, Bill MacDougall, Tyler Hessel, Dave Johnston, and George Irvin. Also introduced was Dave MacLaren, President of the Bayfield Ratepayers Association. And also introduced was BSRA Board Directors: Harlie Johnston, Bill Smith, Paul Mennill, Bob Campbell, Grant Monteith and Lynn Lindsay. Absent director: John Gillespie.
2. **The Agenda** was approved on motion of Don Bulloch, and Keith Locking.
3. **Prism 911.** Huron County Emergency Management staff, Gary Wood and Jason Dodds, showed a video and answered questions on the new county wide emergency notification system PRISM 911. Residents/cottagers can add up to 3 phone numbers (cottage, home and cell) and an email address. (Further information and registration can be found at www.huroncounty.ca/emergman/prism.php)
4. **The minutes** of the [June 6, 2009 BSRA General](#) Meeting were approved on motion of Harlie Johnston and Doug Hillis.
5. **President's Report.**
 - 5.1. The [BSRA Goals and Activities adopted at the last AGM](#) were presented and a [report of the year's activities](#) in each of the areas was reviewed and measured.
 - 5.2. The goals remain the same as last year and the [Priorities for 2009-2010](#) were approved on motion of Doug Hillis and Don Bulloch.
6. **Treasurer's Report**
 - 6.1. The [current report](#) was accepted on motion of Drew Robertson and Dave Griffith.
 - 6.2. The [Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 2008](#) was accepted on motion of Keith Locking and Grant Monteith.
 - 6.3. That the current fee structure continue in 2010 was approved on motion of Dave Griffith and Drew Robertson. (\$10 per subdivision plus \$1.50 per property owner, \$5 for affiliated individuals)
7. **Business arising from the BSRA General Meeting.**
 - 7.1. **The Roads Question.** The board was asked at the June 6, 2009 meeting to re-institute discussion with Bluewater to assume roads for the subdivisions west of Highway 21 that wished their roads assumed. The question is addressed in the following BSRA Directors report Item 8.5, Taxation vs. Direct Services.
8. **Reports from BSRA Directors.**
 - 8.1. [Water Quality Report](#) by Jan Purvis for John Gillespie, Environment Chairperson
 - 8.2. [Grand Bend and Area Sewage Treatment Project](#) by Harlie Johnston
 - 8.3. [Wind Energy](#) by Paul Mennill
 - 8.4. [Association Insurance Rate 2009-2010](#) by Lynn Lindsay
 - 8.5. Taxation and Direct Services by Bob Campbell. Handouts at the meeting: [Taxation and Direct Services](#), [Tax Changes](#) and [Assessment Changes](#). BSRA [Recommendation](#).

- 8.6. Planning for the 2010 Municipal Election by Bob Campbell. The BSRA Board believes that the local politicians must show an understanding and appreciation of the taxation issue and make a conscientious and deliberate effort to address the taxation inequalities prior to the 2010 election. Bluewater's road grant is in place but does not fully address the tax inequity in the municipality. Cottage Associations will need to discuss this issue with their residents and strongly encourage their members to vote in the 2010 election.
9. The [report of the nominating committee](#). The Board thanks Grant Monteith and Bill Smith for their contribution and time over the last 2 years. Paul Mennill moves to Membership and Keith Locking is nominated for Treasurer. The board is reassessing its communications model and recommends not filling the position of Communications Chairperson at this time. In the next few years 2 or 3 people will be needed to fill in for current members who have said they are leaving. The report of the nominating committee was approved by motion of Dave Griffith and Dave Bedard.
10. Discussion, Questions and Recommendations related to the proceeding reports:
- 8.1. **Water Quality Report.** Drew Robertson asked how the Ridgeway ravine restoration will be funded? Ridgeway is just starting but based on the St. Joseph's project, ABCA will help landowners, who in part use their own money, to obtain county, provincial and federal funding.. The Ridgeway project will be similar to the St Joseph's project. What types of things are done? In most cases they are simple and straight forward adjustments like eaves troughs to divert rain water, planting and grass strips to filter surface water and improved manure management practices.
- Rosemary Park asked how is improvement measured in the St Joseph project? Ongoing testing is necessary to measure the impact. Testing indicates the ravine is still polluted and the beach water shows a slight improvement. The local effort is taking place, is there a wider, larger response? It is a combination of very local effort and the more global approach that the coalition is undertaking. Dave Dineen asked is there a response from the local Federation of Agriculture? Ridgeway is just starting but based on the St. Joseph's project, ABCA will help landowners, who in part use their own money, to obtain county, provincial and federal funding.
- 8.2. **Grand Bend and Area Sewage Treatment Project.** Terry Pook asked if the South Bluewater Collection system would consider group rather than individual pumping. It has been brought up numerous times. BSRA will ask the question during the Environmental Assessment. A person from north of St Joseph asked how will I be assured that I am not being charged in my tax dollars? We can see charges being put in a capital account for sewers. We don't know how much has been charged. We can assume that these will be assessed to those getting the sewers with the rest of the sewer costs but we really don't know. Rosemary Parks asked if new development will pay its fair share? Currently there are no development charges in Bluewater. How this will be handled is still part of the discussion yet to take place. One approach would be to have developers pay into the reserve required for the future maintenance and repair of the system thus reducing the ongoing cost for the rest of us.
- 8.3. **Wind Energy.** No questions or comments.
- 8.4. **Association Insurance Rate 2009-2010.** No questions or comments.
- 8.5. **Taxation and Direct Services.** Dave Griffith suggested we get Bluewater's attention by withholding taxes. There are many issues with that - perhaps there are other things that can be done first. Getting everyone to vote would get attention. Gary Rose asked if the current amalgamation made sense, could the financial viability of separation from Bluewater, alone or

with other wards be looked at. We learned when Hensall proposed they go alone that the province wanted them to look at the impact on the rest of Bluewater. In dealing with the province, separation has a less likely outcome than proposing a much larger entity. Our suggestion is to try to have more tax dollars directed to improvements/services west of 21.

A person from Norman Heights asked has every association been taking full advantage of the road grant as they do? No, for various reasons. For many subdivisions the road grant is not enough. Dave Dineen said that the grant does not fully cover their snow clearing, leaving the subdivision paying for grading, calcium and gravel.

On motion of Dave Griffith and Dave Dineen the Board of BSRA was authorized to take the following recommendations to Bluewater Council.

- Ensure that its provision of direct services to each ward more closely reflects the tax revenue generated from that ward through measures such as the following:
 - Modify the existing Road Grant Program to:
 - include the cost of subdivision liability insurance as an expense eligible for reimbursement, and
 - remove the per kilometer cap so that all road maintenance expenses are reimbursed.
 - Assume and maintain at the expense of the Municipality those residence-access roads within the Wards of Hay West and Stanley West that are designated on subdivision plans as:
 - “fee not dedicated”, provided that subdivision association requests the Municipality to assume the road, OR
 - “dedicated” (i.e., not privately owned).
 - Develop a 5 year schedule to pave roads west of Highway 21 currently assumed by the Municipality.
- Limit the amount of individual tax increase resulting from reassessment to a maximum of 5% per year.

8.6. Planning for the 2010 Municipal Election

There will be a mail-in vote in the fall of 2010. It is a significant issue for our organization to make sure the shoreline residents vote.

Can the board send information at the time of the voting that indicates the record of politicians on the issues that impact the shoreline? It has been BSRA’s practice to interview the candidates and is familiar with their votes on most issues. At the time of the election, BSRA sends this background on candidates and makes recommendations for the various positions. There is no plan to change the practice.

11. **New Business.** There was no new business.

12. Meeting dates in 2010

12.1. BSRA General Meeting: Saturday, June 5, 2010

12.2. BSRA Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 28, 2010

13. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 on motion of Grant Monteith and Doug Hillis

Priorities & Activities in 2008-2009

1. Attended all Bluewater Council meetings.
2. Met regularly with the Hay West and Stanley West Councillors and, as necessary, other members of Council and Bluewater Administration
3. Monitored and responded to Council-related issues that affect shoreline residents: **for example: atv's on the beach, wind farms, planning issues, sewage treatment plans for south west Bluewater, taxation levels, insurance review, etc.**
4. Monitored water quality in Bluewater and investigated and implemented ways to improve water quality.
5. Tracked the impact of the 2008 assessment changes on the property taxes paid by Bluewater shoreline residents over the next 4 years.
6. Communicated with shoreline residents by issuing the *BSRA Newsletter* three times this year and communicated with Member Associations' Contact Person, using email three times.
7. Continued the redevelopment of the BSRA website. Sewers.
8. Initiated planning for the 2010 municipal election.

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BSRA Annual Meeting



Priorities for 2009-2010

Proposed Priorities for 2009-2010

1. Attend all Bluewater Council meetings
2. Meet regularly with the Hay West and Stanley West Councillors and, as necessary, other members of Council and Bluewater Administration
3. Monitor and respond to Council-related issues that affect shoreline residents: e.g. taxation, planning issues, and municipal services
4. Continue to monitor water quality in Bluewater and investigate/implement ways to improve water quality
5. Track the impact of the 2008 assessment changes on the property taxes paid by Bluewater shoreline residents over the next 4 years
6. Communicate with shoreline residents by issuing the *BSRA Newsletter* and convey significant and timely information to Member Associations' Contact People, using email
7. Continue to develop the BSRA website and other methods of electronic communication
8. Implement plans for the 2010 municipal election

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Treasurer's Report

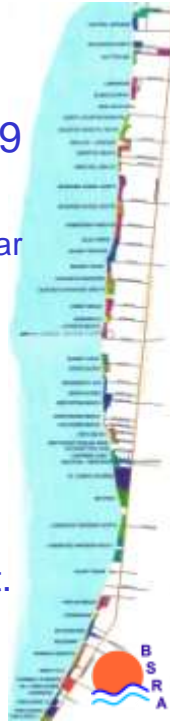
1. Current Financial Status – August 29

1. Revenues for the year \$1,814.70
37 have paid this year of 45 that paid last year
2. Balances:
 1. Reserve Fund \$17,128.78
 2. Operating \$ 3,000.18
 3. Water quality \$ 1,571.71
 4. Accrued Interest \$ 368.78

Motion: Accept the current financial report.

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Treasurer's Report

2. 2008 Financial Statement.

The statement was distributed to members as they arrived.

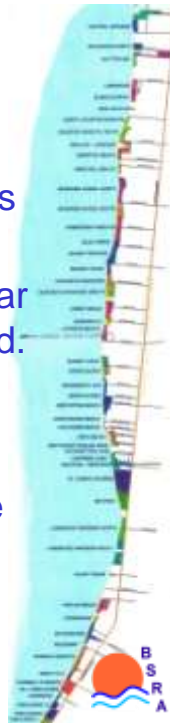
Motion: The financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2008 is accepted.

3. 2010 – The Treasurer recommends no change in the fees.

Motion: The current fee structure continue in 2010.

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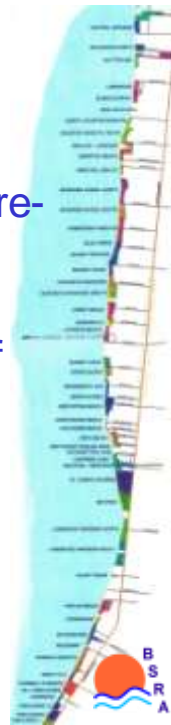
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The Roads Question

Motion at the GM June 6, 2009:

.... the Board of BSRA is requested to re-institute discussion with the municipality on its assumption of roads for those subdivisions west of highway 21, for those subdivisions that are interested.



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Water Quality

Water Quality

1. Water Quality and Testing Results
 - Testing continues at 4 beaches/ravines
 - Ravines unsafe, beaches not Blue Flag
 - Coalition, met local politicians, next MoE – goal is remediation projects
2. Blue Flag Status
 - BSRA wrote requesting consistent tests
3. Huron County Health Unit
 - Meeting with new MoH on ravines
4. Ridgeway Project
 - Watershed plan, meeting Sept. 9

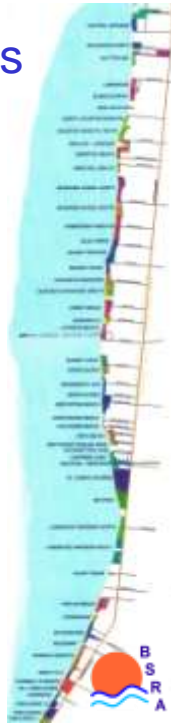


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South Bluewater Shoreline Sewers

1. Status – **Sewage Treatment Plant**
 - Design is close to completion (CAO Aug 24)
 - Possibly come to council in 2 months.
 - Tender? Start building ?????, 2014 deadline
2. Status – **South Bluewater Collection System**
 - RFP for collection system engineer should come to council next month. (CAO Aug 24)
 - Current infrastructure funding unlikely.
 - Get shovel ready and apply for funding.
3. The 3 municipalities ponderously work together – frequent meetings. Reports at council.
See bsra.ca



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Wind Energy portion of the presentation link

Insurance

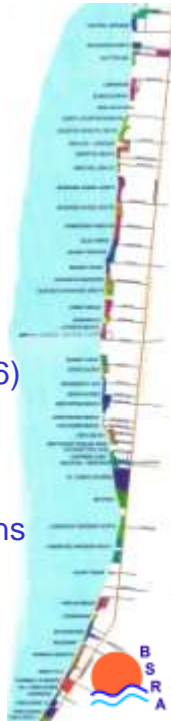
Insurance Rates 2009/10

Due to our excellent claims history and the size of our group there is only a small change in the premiums this year.

Liability unchanged at \$450 (with PST \$486)

D&O moves from \$150 to \$175 (\$189)

Please contact Westlake-McHugh with your questions



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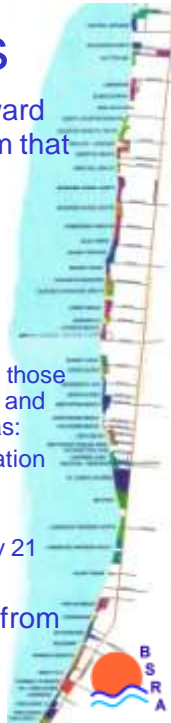
BSRA Annual Meeting

Taxation vs Direct Services

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Report of the nominating committee

Report of the Nominating Committee

Proposed Slate of BSRA Officers for 2009-2010

- President – Jan Purvis
- Vice-President – Lynn Lindsay
- Secretary – Harlie Johnston
- Treasurer – Keith Locking
- Environment Chair – John Gillespie
- Membership – Paul Mennill
- Past President – Bob Campbell
- Communications Chair -

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