

LAKE OF BAYS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Year ending April 30, 2025

Saturday August 16, 2025

Baysville Seniors Centre

MINUTES

Margaret Casey in the chair

1. Counselor Jacquie Goddard presented Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation with a certificate from the Township of Lake of Bays recognizing the 40th anniversary of LBHF's service to the community. Margaret Casey accepted the certificate on behalf of the Foundation.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Margaret Casey read her land acknowledgement.

3. **Appointment of Meeting Secretary**

Jennifer Wiser agreed to serve as meeting secretary.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved Margaret Casey, seconded John Saunders, that the agenda be adopted as presented Carried.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Moved Jennifer Wiser, seconded Robert Little, that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the members held on August 17, 2024, are hereby approved....Carried.

6. **President's Report**

President Margaret Casey presented her report. Highlights are:

- 2024/2025 was another good year for LBHF.
- The phrase "another good year" can mean many things.
- Success this year also meant making improvements to the Education Center and our trail system and seeking improvements to our Governance structure.
- New projects at Marsh's Falls:
 - o We have installed 7 new interpretive panels on our trail network

- Implemented a StoryWalk.
- Each one of our many events so far this summer has been very successful and well attended, including Bird Count (one of our best turnouts despite an early morning temperature of 4 degrees), Butterfly Walk, Silent Boat Rally, Anniversary parties and upcoming Mushroom Forays
- We have been working hard to finalize new land acquisitions – such work can take a lot of time.
- In September, your board of Directors will work to create a new strategic plan that will be focused on what we want to have achieved by 2040 – 15 years from now.
- Margaret also shared stories about the aspects of being a President you don't hear much about – answering phone calls. She had a call from a volunteer who wanted permission to enter Marsh's Falls to release 28 hatchlings (i.e. baby turtles). The turtles were released in one of our oxbow wetlands. It turns out that the mother snapping turtle was found on June 24, 2024, in a very lethargic state with fishhooks around her mouth. Fortunately, the person, who found her, was able to find a turtle volunteer who drove her down to the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre in Peterborough. Her eggs were retrieved and incubated; all 28 eggs hatched and were released in one of our ponds. It is wonderful that the turtle experts chose us as the best environment or refugia to release these young turtles. The mother turtle recovered and was released last September close to where she was found.
- Margaret also shared a phone call about fishing at Marsh's Falls. Yes, but please don't throw any worms on the shore (as they are not native).
- Margaret shared the exciting news that we are soon to acquire a new property. Westermains Woods is located on the west side of Lake of Bays and is made up of two tracts of land. One of the tracts is Needlers Point with 14.6 acres and 740 feet of shoreline. The other is 333.75 acres of forested land that lies on the west side of South Portage Road. The area contains a very mature upland forest in good condition and of significant size. For many years private landowners have maintained the forest in a natural state and the District of Muskoka identifies Westermains Woods as a Muskoka Heritage Area. In 1977 Westermains Woods was incorporated as a non-profit organization with board membership made up of the owners of the 7 adjacent waterfront lots. The corporation's sole mandate was to care for and protect the 2 tracts of land. A Managed Forest Plan is in place. Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation will retain the existing goals and objectives of the current Management Plan, keeping the land in its current undeveloped state. An easement will provide the 7 lot owners with access to the land. The name Westermains Woods will be retained, and the land will only be accessible for monitoring and scientific study. The Foundation may occasionally hold nature events led by qualified naturalists. We are very grateful for the

donation of Westermain Woods. It is a great addition to the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation's conservation properties, almost doubling in size the protected acres we own and manage.' We thank the 7 lot owners for their generosity.

Moved Robert Little, Jeff Richmond seconded, that the President's report for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2025 is hereby accepted. ...Carried

7. Treasurer's Report

Jeff Richmond presented his report. LOBHF's financial statements are structured as a series of Funds, each of which is funded with donations, bequests, and/or investment income, and incurs expenses related to the Fund's purpose

DONATIONS BY FUND

	Yearend April 30			
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Weaver	960	915	7,165	3,030
General	86,562	86,445	99,828	104,543
Stewardship		1,800	500	5,275
Memorial	134	600	7,165	3,190
Marianne Girling	15,486	26,784		
	<u>103,274</u>	<u>116,544</u>	<u>114,658</u>	<u>116,038</u>

- We received a significant individual gift of securities to the Marianne Girling Fund in support of future land acquisitions
- Weaver Fund donations have returned to historical levels after a particularly strong year in 2023 due to considerable interest in Brink Weaver's book on the history of Glenmount community
- General Fund donations were in line with last year, but lower than in previous years
 - Our donor community has always provided strong financial support when we have demonstrated a specific need, the most recent example being the Langmaids Island defense
 - There have not been any major initiatives requiring funding in the last couple of years

- We sense that this is changing and we do have land acquisition and other projects in our near term pipeline which will require funding

YEAREND FUND BALANCES

<u>Members' Equity</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>	<u>Operating Change</u>	<u>Inter-Fund Transfers</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>
General Fund	150,939	42,132	(9,476)	118,284
Weaver Bursary Fund	90,598	4,827		85,771
Stewardship Fund	295,107	35,206		259,901
Glenmount Heritage Building Fund	-	(2,400)		2,400
Marianne Girling Fund	1,049,267	108,201		941,066
Land Conservation Fund	1,290,574	(9,476)	9,476	1,290,574
	<u>2,876,485</u>	<u>178,489</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,697,995</u>

- General Fund generated a healthy surplus of \$42,132
 - Down from \$62,375 the previous year due primarily to increased Education and Natural Heritage program expenses
 - Interpretative panels at Marsh's Falls
 - Legal and appraisal fees associated with potential land donations
 - \$9,476 of the surplus was transferred to the Land Conservation Fund to cover expenses related to our Marsh's Falls property
- Stewardship, Weaver and Marianne Girling Funds all benefited from strong investment income, net of management fees
- The Stewardship Fund has now attained our target level, which is the land trust industry guideline of 20% of the book value of our land
- \$2,400 was transferred from the Glenmount Fund to the LOB Sailing Club to fund a portion of restoration work at the historic church building

FINANCIAL POSITION

LOBHF remains in a strong financial position

- Bank balance of \$159,283
- No debt
- Restricted investments in balanced portfolios

Weaver	\$ 90,409
Stewardship	\$ 294,332
Girling	<u>\$ 1,048,789</u>
	\$ 1,433,530

- The financial statements have been audited by Brian Pho, CPA, LPA
- These financial statements are available on the Foundation's website.

Moved Jeff Richmond, seconded Robert Little, that the Audited Financial Statements of the corporation for the fiscal year ended April 30,202, are hereby accepted. ...Carried.

8. Appointment of Auditor

Moved Jeff Richmond, seconded Robert Little, that the Brian Pho, Chartered Professional Account, be appointed to audit the Foundation's financial statements for the year 2026 fiscal year and that the Directors be authorized to fix his remuneration.... Carried

9. Election of Directors

Margaret Casey thanked Gloria Woodside for her dedicated and tireless work for Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation for many years and her leadership will be missed. Gloria Woodside has been a Foundation director for about a decade. She led our Community Heritage program for many years, Unfortunately, she is unable to complete the second year of her 2-year term. We thank her for the many years of public service with the Foundation and many other organizations in our community.

Gloria is the only director stepping down as we add 3 new directors this year.

The following directors are beginning the second year of their 2-year term: Robert Little, Mark McLean, Judith Mills, Paul Shoniker, Jennifer Wiser.

Moved Robert Little, seconded Margaret Casey, that the following directors Margaret Casey, Joan DeCarie, Tracey Macey, Ally MacLellan, Jeff Richmond, John Saunders, Rick Stronks be elected to serve as directors for the Foundation for a two-year term starting today and that Laura Gilmore be elected to serve as directors for the Foundation for a one-year term starting today to complete Gloria Woodside's term....Carried

10. Guest Speaker

Rick Stronks, LBHF Director who oversees Marsh's Falls Nature Reserve (MFNR) property management, shared a delightful presentation on the animals that have been captured at MFNR on several trail cams placed at the property, including deer, ruffed grouse, muskrat, flying squirrel, raccoon, beaver, weasel, pine marten, fisher, otter, fox, wolves, and red squirrel.

11. Community Heritage

Video: Whiskey Bay. We thank filmmaker Oliver Ward for producing the great video that was viewed.

Presentation of Built Heritage Awards to:

The first award is to the Truscott Family who are the stewards of Charley's Place built in 1945. Susan Truscott to receive an award.

The second award is to Sam Hart.

The third award goes to the Price Point Road community. They chose to have a community award to be placed in a public location acknowledging today's celebration. Dr. Doug Miloy, Ruth Gibson, Aileen Blair and Irene Watt received the joint award for the Price Point Road community.

12. Termination

Moved Mark MacLean, seconded Margaret Casey, that the 2025 meeting of the members of the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation is hereby terminated Carried.

APPROVED:

CHAIR

SECRETARY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: PowerPoint Presentation