

BPSA MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024



Quorum established at 23.8 members and with 32 members and two guests in our audience, President Carl Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed our guests.

Secretary Dennis Morton moved to accept the recorded minutes of our last membership meeting of Oct. 24th, 2024; motion 2nded by Al Hunter; motion carried.

Treasurer Jane Thibideau had provided the Club members with a statement of our financial affairs; in her absence, Pres. Carl gave the report. We have a Royal Bank account with a balance of \$33,010.84. Our working capital balance is \$20,525.09, as there are allocated funds of \$12,505.75 consisting of archery, \$531.00; fish stocking funds, \$5.00; Kids Fishing day funds of \$679.43, hatchery capital funds of \$2,841.32, Disability Access Project funds of \$4,320.00 plus Prepaid 2025 Membership funds of \$4,219.00. The Ways and Means account balance is \$2,851.45. We still own 2 x \$15,000. Guaranteed investment certificates. Our income from Nov.1 to Nov 20 was \$500.00 and our expenses for the same period were \$573.23. Dennis Morton made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; 2nded by Charles Robertson; motion carried.

Director Jerry Beaver reported on our membership. BPSA now has 323 members. Jerry advise that about 100 members have already paid their 2025 dues.

Property Manager Chris Thompson gave a property report. He thanked Wayne Musselman for splitting the wood that we use in our club woodstove during the winter but he indicated that the wood still needed to be stacked and the handgun club members were asked for their assistance to do this. He advised that the lawnmowers had been winterized and stored for the winter but noted that we would need to buy a new battery for one of the mowers in the spring. Al Hunter mentioned that the club's cleaning lady, Katie Horst, was unable to do her duties because of pneumonia and encouraged all of the members to do a little bit when we're in the Clubhouse to keep it clean and tidy. Pres Carl mentioned that the directors had initiated a disability access project with ramps into the clubhouse and deck improvements and they were working on obtaining plans and quotes for the work. As noted in the treasurer's report, we already have designated funds of \$4,320.00 toward the costs of the project. We may need to seek some grant funding to complete the work but we will keep the members advised.

Hatchery manager, Al Sutter, provided a hatchery report. He reported that club members had stocked rainbow trout into Colpoy's Bay and Barrow Bay on Nov.16th, and some rainbow will be retained in the hatchery tanks over the winter for more growth and planting in 2025. Al expressed concern for the water levels and flows into the hatchery due to a dry summer and fall and indicated that we may have to make a decision on accepting our routine brown trout eggs from MNR which normally come in December or January; we may not have enough water for the new fish. Al mentioned the Community Hatchery Project had returned to 12-month support funding for hatcheries in Ontario. The new panels had been installed over the windows below the roof-line in the hatchery and we would plan on getting the area spray-foamed as soon as possible.

Handgun Club president & BPSA director Al Hunter made a report for the Handgun Club.

Their membership is 81 members. The handgun club has a bank balance of \$25,255.68. The gun range had a full inspection of our Warton facility and we are in full compliance and received excellent remarks on our operation.

Al advised that the Handgun Club is continuing to support the parent club, BPSA, and had voted at their recent Executive meeting to maintain their stipend of \$3,500 for 2025, which they will give to the Club in April/25. Al outlined new procedures approved at their meeting for handling the gun-club for new probationer members. They're hoping the new procedures will assist in a smoother integration of the new members into the Association. As President of the Handgun Club, he reported that he was very pleased with the good integration of the rifle shooters and the handgun club participants. There is work being done to try to retain our Youth Shooting program and things look well in being able to do that. Effective January 1st, Jason Cowen, has been approved to become the Gun Club Vice-President, replacing Kat McCulloch. Thanks to Kat for all of her work in both the handgun club and as a director on the BPSA Board and she is continuing her work. Kat mentioned that Andy Crawford has indicated that he would run PAL licensing courses for BPSA in 2025.

OFAH rep Stu Paterson had gmailed an update on his activities. Pres. Carl provided the highlights.

- OFAH is encouraging the Ontario Government to consider a "Request for Review" of the multi-million-dollar Bradford Bypass project. The route passes over the Holland River which flows into Lake Simcoe. The river cuts thru the Holland Marsh, which has some of the richest and rarest soil in the Province. OFAH's position is that a project of this size will inevitably cause harm to local fisheries and potentially beyond.
- He reported on the 2nd occasion this year that a commercial fishing boat sank at the Stokes Bay dock, leaking oil and fuel into the water. It was cleaned up but he noted that the owner could refuse to pay for the clean-up and taxpayers will pay under the Ship Source Pollution Fund.
- TVO produced a documentary called "All Too Clear" which reports that whitefish have all but disappeared in Georgian Bay due to quagga mussels consuming tiny nutrients which are a vital part of the food chain. He encouraged the public to view the documentary which is streaming on YouTube.
- BPSA member and OFAH NXT/Gen Ambassador Natalie Mechalko has been elected to the Board of Directors of the new OFAH Foundation; congrats to Natalie.
- Stu Paterson is one of two OFAH Board directors from Zone H on the Membership Board.
- Stu will prepare an annual report on his OFAH activities to his BPSA fellow-members by submitting a report on the BPSA website this December.

The highlight of our meeting tonight was the induction of 3 club members as Life Members. Pres Carl presented plaques and certificates to esteemed members, Don Elliott, Ed Elliott, and Frank Hutter and presented a brief background of their accomplishments. Along with help and stories from Life member, Ray Marklevitz (from the audience), the gentlemen recited a few highlights from their membership, which were well received by their audience. Lots to remember!

In "**Other Business**", the following items were discussed:

- Family Day, 2025 will be recognized on Monday, Feb.17th. We discussed whether we should host another public open house that day and agreed it was a good event in 2024 & we should do it again. We should decide on a special guest and conduct a gun-club

exhibit, an archery exhibit and shoot, hatchery tours, and offer hot dogs & hot chocolate to our visitors & members. Lots to do but time to do it.

- Reminder to attend our BPSA Christmas Social and “potluck dinner” on Sunday, Dec. 15th, starting at 1pm. It will be an informal meeting for the members. We shall have draws for some door prizes, and a potluck dinner around 2pm. Remember to bring your own utensils, plates, drinks, and some potluck item to share with the other members.
- Pres Carl announced that the directors had decided to try to get better meetings (more guest speakers on topical items, bigger audiences, etc) and we bantered around some discussion. Carl asked the members to contact him by gmail at BPSA website or call him at 519-375-2312. Thanks to those that volunteered a few speakers.
- The Great Lakes Fishery Commission had forwarded a \$200.00 cheque to BPSA as a donation due to our participation at the GLFC’s lamprey booth at the site of the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular. Thank you, GLFC!
- Charles Robertson was the winner of a 50/50 draw; he donated the funds back towards gift cards for the early bird draw on the 15th. A few other members won a door prize from an assortment of items brought to the meeting.
- Remember to look at BPSA items, such as pens, t-shirts, sweatshirts, buttons, for Christmas.

A **motion** was made **to adjourn** the meeting by Kat McCulloch; 2nded by Marje Beaver; carried. The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.