

accounts and \$56,000.00 in various GIC instruments. He noted the net revenue from the regatta was \$4,800.

Jeff indicated that we are looking for two new scrutineers to review the drafts of the financial statements for 2025. (The names to be announced at the AGM in May.) The two would take over from Brenda Patterson and Jane Barton, who will be reviewing the 2024 statements. Don underlined the importance of this role in assisting the Treasurer maintain high levels of financial oversight of the management of the resources of the Association.

He also noted that a big expense for the Association this year was the purchase of a shed for the Regatta site (\$6,900). This structure was deemed necessary to ensure protection of assets used to make the Regatta a success, such as the marker buoys, tables, ancillary Regatta equipment and the three elderly barbecues.

Question – Larry Le Mesurier: In the past there was an opportunity to direct donations to the environment fund, security, and the clubhouse. Does this still exist?

Answer: Donations (amounts above membership fees) are always welcome and would be directed to environmental initiatives and should be clearly marked when members are paying their annual dues so that there is no confusion as to where we should budget these extraordinary fund donations.

6. Annual Events (Wendy Carr)

The Lac Bernard Golf Tournament occurs on the 3rd weekend in July and was again a success. It is not a fundraiser for the Association, but is a great community-building event.

The Regatta was held on August 3, 2024. It was an extremely hot day, but was again a success. It realized a \$5,000.00 profit for the Association. The many volunteers, who made the Regatta a success, were thanked. Wendy indicated that people should mark their calendars for August 2, 2025 for next year's Regatta.

7. Environment (Kevin Radford)

Kevin noted that the Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) infestation is the key issue for Lac Bernard. He indicated that actions taken in 2024 included:

- Purchase of 50 more yellow buoys to alert boaters to avoid infested areas
- Purchase of Bentic mats for the Regatta area
- A funding request to La Pêche for water testing
- Engagement with Lac Notre Dame, which has been threshing milfoil
- Engagement with the La Pêche lakes group.

Question/Comments (Larry Le Mesurier, Michelle Comeau, Blair Patacairk, Fred Blair) on Water Levels

Larry suggested that a dam built by humans was established at the outlet and that this caused minor flooding on some properties. He also noted that this was subsequently cleared. In response, it was noted that there were high water levels due to the heavy rains in July and that tributaries to the lake, which are normally dry in July, were flowing freely. It was also noted that one person's high-water levels are another person's low water levels and that some happy medium will need to be determined. It was also pointed out that no one built a dam at the outlet and that human intervention to clear the outlet is illegal as it is a federal waterway. It was again noted that EWM spreads in silted areas where water levels are lower than 6 metres. Therefore, lower levels overall will promote the spread of EWM on Lac Bernard.

Kevin ended this item by indicating that the rescue plan for Lac Bernard is not yet written and that there will be a special meeting in April to discuss it.

8. History Committee (John Macdonald)

John explained that there are four members of the committee – Charles Topp, Jane Mulligan, Will Lockhart and himself. He noted that the decision has been made that historical records to be sought out and archived are those up to 1980. The committee has been identifying records, stories and maps from cottagers and visitors to the lake in the historical period and posting key documents on the Lac Bernard History Committee's Facebook page, which all members are encouraged to join.

9. Tribute to Laurence McClelland

Laurence McClelland was thanked for his outstanding contribution to the Lac Bernard community for placing and removing the white buoys that mark shoals in the lake. Laurence has been doing this for over 40 years. He was presented with a three-dimensional wooden map of the lake for his service. It was further noted that Will Lockhart has agreed to take the leadership role in managing the placement and removal of white buoys in the future.

10. Closing Remarks (Jeff Stubbins)

Jeff closed the meeting indicating that a key priority for the next few months would be determining how to allow for credit card membership purchase, proceeding with logo merchandise for the lake, and tweaking the bylaws. He thanked everyone for their participation.