



## **2023 Annual General Meeting minutes: August 26, 2023**

Prior to the meeting, a cheque for \$11,100 was presented to Janet Davey, President of the Bruce Trail Club. Janet informed the members that our club has now donated over \$110,000 to the Bruce Trail Club! Janet explained that our generous donations help the Bruce Trail Conservancy to maintain and acquire more land, as about 30% of the land which forms part of the trail is owned by private citizens.

The meeting commenced at 4:54 pm. 36 members attended.

**1. Welcome** (Tony Pisano). Tony welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He also expressed his appreciation to the Social Committee and to Trevor and Rose for providing the pig roast.

**2. Questions on the 2022 AGM minutes and financial/donation statements.** The members had been given the opportunity in the weeks prior to the meeting to review these documents. Tony asked the members if they had any questions, but there were no questions arising. Rob Llord expressed his thanks to our Treasurer, Cesar Valladares, for his excellent work managing and reporting on the financial matters of the club.

**3. Motion to accept the 2022 minutes and financial statements.** Proposed by Peter Illich and seconded by Kathy Illich. Motion carried.

**4. Amendment to the club By-Law on Race Ownership.** Tony explained the proposed change to the language related to our four club races.

1.05 Objects for which the Corporation was Incorporated.

***Current language:***

To encourage and promote the activities of running and walking in the St. Catharines area through:

- a. the organization of regular meetings for participation in the sport;
- b. the holding of races and fun runs for both the members of the Corporation and the general public;

***The following change has been proposed to sub-section 1.05 b:***

- b. the holding of races and fun runs for both the members of the Corporation and the general public. These races shall be retained as the property of the

Corporation and will remain within the control and direction of the Corporation and its membership until such time as the Corporation is no longer in existence;

Rob Lord put forward a motion to accept this By-Law amendment. Zachary Randle seconded the motion, and the amendment was carried without discussion.

#### **5a. President's Report (Tony)**

Tony began by commenting how much our club has grown in the last year. Head for the Hills last October at White Meadows was a success. All of the 2023 races held so far went very well. The Valentine's 5k had significantly increased participation and the 12 Mile Creek half marathon and 7k had a record number of registrants. The Niagara Ultra sold out early again and was very well received by the runners. Tony remarked that a great positive change this year was our increased presence on social media. This was entirely due to the many hours of work put in by Emily Vancise and greatly helped the Valentine's and 12 Mile Creek races to achieve such success. Tony finished his report by informing the members that Henri and Diane have retired from the Niagara Falls International Marathon (NFIM) which means that the Niagara Ultra returns to our club, as the partnership with NFIM comes to an end. Henri will be staying on as a consultant for the next two years to guide and train a committee of club members to take over the role of Race Directors for the Ultra. Tony also expressed his desire to keep the race experience the same and indicated that we will need a few volunteers who must be able to devote a significant amount of time to serve on the committee of Race Directors in training. More specific information on the training and the responsibilities for this committee will be shared soon.

#### **5b. Treasurer's Report (Prepared by Cesar, presented by Tony)**

As of June 30, 2023, the club's total income was \$45,898.54. Expenses came in at \$20,374.67. At this point we have a net income of \$17,408.42. For the **entire year 2022**, expenses were about \$8,000 more while income was about \$15,000 less.

**6. Introduction and acceptance of the 2023-2024 board.** Tony introduced the latest board members and thanked all of them for their work over the past year:

President: Tony Pisano (and Race Director), Treasurer: Cesar Valladares, Secretary: Mark Mullally. Race Directors/Members at Large: Rob Lord/Don Stoakley, Social Director: Lisa Galloway, other Members-at-Large: Jerry Gibb, Leigh-Ellen Keating, Karen Evers (membership).

Motion to accept the new board proposed by Blair McReynolds and seconded by Teresa Schoonings. Motion carried.

#### **7. Social committee report Lisa Galloway**

Lisa commented briefly on the upcoming events for the rest of the year. These include a wine run on Sept 17, the second Festival of Lights run on November 18 and the

Christmas party on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Tony thanked Lisa and the committee for all they do for the club.

#### **8. President's Award.**

Tony explained that the President's Award is given each year to a club member who has made a significant contribution to the operation, activities or growth of the club. He told the members that it had been a difficult decision to select just one individual. Tony's choice for the award was based on this person's active participation in all club events, his friendliness to all, support and welcome of all new members, his positive attitude and willingness to always lend a helping hand and to step up as a new co Race Director. The President's Award for 2023 was won by Don Stoakley!

Tony also expressed the club's sincere gratitude to Kathy Illich, who is leaving the Social Committee after many years of hard work and dedication.

**9. Questions from the floor.** There were no questions, but one comment. Jerry Gibb offered his thanks and congratulations to the two co- Race Directors of the Valentine's 5k race, Rob Llord and Don Stoakley, for their hard work and commitment as inexperienced, but highly successful race directors.

**10. Motion to adjourn.** Proposed by Raymond LeBlanc and seconded by Rob Llord. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm. Carried