

# Baldwin Agnew Lake Residents Association

1500 Hardwood Road, McKerrow, Ontario P0P 1M0



## Meeting Minutes BALRA Annual General Meeting

**Date:** Sunday July 20, 2025

**Time:** 10:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** Baldwin  
Recreational Centre

### Attendees:

Paul Matte  
Jo-Anne Boucher  
Jason Cote  
Steve Bender  
John Prudhomme  
Sue Land  
Michelle Kallo  
Don Boyer  
Gary McMahon  
Genevieve Demers  
Chris Gautier

Don Brickett  
Cleo St Onge  
Helene McDonald  
Haven Hinds  
Mona St Onge  
Denis Michel  
Kornel Kallo  
Nancy Boyer  
Mark Landstrom  
Leah Breit

Keith Cheff  
Christina Cheff  
Arthur McDonald  
Terry McIndue  
Bill Land  
Laurie Michel  
Elias Saari  
Michelle Calton  
Vern Gorham  
Will Land

### Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Presentation from Acting Fire Chief (Vern Gorham)
4. Discuss Amending the Fire Bylaw
5. Election of Directors
6. Treasurer's Report (Jo -Anne Boucher)
7. Rearing pond Treasurer's Report/Update (William Land)
8. NORM update (Paul Matte)
9. Magna Mining meeting update (Paul Matte)
10. Methods of Communication to membership (email, [balra.ca](http://balra.ca), Facebook, signs, mail)
11. Open Discussion – thoughts and ideas for BALRA objectives

### General Meeting:

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as presented.

## 2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of July 21, 2024 were accepted as presented.

## 3. Presentation from Acting Fire Chief (Vern Gorham)

- The Township of Baldwin and Baldwin Fire Department have resolved the issue of crossing Portage Bridge with the fire tanker. Since the bridge does not have the capacity to hold the tanker when it is full of water, the tanker will be emptied prior to crossing and a fill station has been created close to the lake so the tanker can be filled after crossing the bridge.
- The Baldwin Fire Department is looking at purchasing a boat for emergency purposes.
  - Jo-anne Boucher asked 'what are other municipalities doing?'
    - At this time no surrounding municipalities have an emergency plan for boat access cottages
  - A member suggested that The Township of Baldwin combine with the other two other municipalities that surround Agnew Lake: Township of Sable-Spanish Rivers and the Township of Nairn & Hyman.
  - Chris Gauthier suggested that we approach Magna Mining to help with funds for the boat.
  - Mark Lepine suggested that balra organize fundraisers to raise money for the boat. Ex. 50/50 draws
- The Baldwin fire department visited boat access cottages on Agnew Lake handing out smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Questions were answered about the need for carbon monoxide detectors and many required new smoke detectors.
- AED's are located at
  - Fire Hall, McKerrow
  - Snoopy's Landing, McKerrow
  - Town Hall, McKerrow

## 4. Discuss Amending the Fire Bylaw

- Paul Matte proposed to members about amending the Fire Bylaw since there have been questions raised about the bylaw that was passed at The Township of Baldwin a couple years ago.
- Paul Matte suggested that we amend specifically Part 4, Section 14, a, (ii) relating to campfires- the campfire is located at least 10 meters from any structure; and 10 meters from any forest or woodland.
- Haven Hinds informed members that he uses a screen cover over his campfire that he purchased from Amazon to keep the sparks and embers down.
- Christina Cheff informed members what the Provincial guidelines were for campfires which are 3 meters. She also let them know that The Township Sable-Spanish Rivers and The Township of Narin & Hyman has a distance of 6 meters.

**Action Item: Open and in progress.**

## 5. Election of Directors

- Currently for 2024/2025
  - President- Paul Matte
  - Treasurer- Joanne Boucher
  - Secretary- Christina Cheff
  - Directors- Keith Cheff, Will Land, Don Bricket and Cleo St Onge

- For the 2025/2026 year Christina Cheff and Cleo St Onge will be stepping down from their positions, however Christina will continue to be a Director going forward.
- Laurie Martin and Marc Lepine volunteered to join the committee.
- Michelle Kallo volunteered to design and manage our Facebook page.

**Action Item:** Elect members at next meeting

6. Treasurer's Report (Jo -Anne Boucher)
  - Last year, year end date was set for Mar 31 going forward.
  - January the Foca membership is due.
  - June 4 2024-March 31 2025 there were 49 members of Balra
  - Everyone is encouraged to invite new members across the lake to join.
  - We have a welcome letter to new members.
  - Having a Facebook page to get information to members faster and quicker would entice new members.

**Action Item: Open and in progress.**

7. Rearing pond Treasurer's Report/Update (William Land)
  - 15,000 pickerel were released on July 6 2025
  - Thanks to this year's volunteers for the release:
    - Paul Matte
    - Brad Clarke
    - Barry Vondette
    - John Prudomme
    - Steve Bender
    - Will Land Sr
    - Cleo St Onge
  - Thanks to Steve Bender, Barry Vondette and Cleo St Onge for helping with the windmill repair.
  - Thanks to the Land family for using the property.
  - Access to pond going forward:
    - Possible new road to access pond
    - Volunteers will be needed to build road
    - Comments are welcome to share about the road
  - Foca Lake Steward LPP (William Land)
    - Sample 3 areas on Agnew Lake
      - Espanola Bay
      - Sand Bay
      - Agnew Lake G
    - Send samples to Foca monitoring total phosphorus and other things like algae bloom
    - A member asked if John's Creek could be added to the sample areas.

**Action Item: Open and in progress**

8. NORM update (Paul Matte)
  - Meetings for the year were held on September 11/2024, February 2025 and July 14/2025- resources are available on [balra.ca](http://balra.ca) that links to the Township of Nairn and Baldwin pages regarding the meetings.
  - Contact Belinda Ketchabaw at the Township of Nairn to volunteer.
  - Contact the MP to voice your opinions and concerns.

- They will be taking Norm material from North Bay to ALTMA starting mid August.
- The Township of Narin hired an independent firm Hutchinson Environmental to conduct an investigation and they had found a lot missing.
  - No testing of fish and aquatic plants etc
  - Hutchinson advised against the dump.
- The Greater City of Sudbury should be advised about the transportation of the material since they will be using their roads as well as Vale roads.

**Action Item: Open and in progress**

9. Magna Mining meeting update (Paul Matte)
  - March 20 2025 meeting with Magna.
  - Meeting included:
    - Township of Baldwin
    - Township of Sauble/Spanish River
    - Township of Narin/Hyman
    - Balra- Paul Matte and Will Land
    - Magna representatives
  - Topics covered were intention and plans going forward with the mine.
  - Magna acquired KGHM
  - There are no current plans to mine existing low grade Shakespear deposit for at least 2 years before Magna invests further in the Shakespeare property.
  - Planning an onsite mill
  - Tailings will be located on North East side of property with dam, Tailings dam is 20 meter high on west side with weekly inspections
  - Water discharge from tailings is during Spring and Fall for 1-2 weeks. Sampling is done below the tailing and will be done below the future Mill
  - Water treatment is currently done and empties into a creek in Webbwood to Agnew lake
  - Power will be provided by submarine cable closer to Webbwood side at 44kV.
  - Noise from operation: Blasting & Rock Breaker. White noise, backup alarms etc are proposed to mitigate.
  - Exploration: it was suggested that Baldwin residents be notified and kept up to date.
  - No further exploration is currently planned as there are higher priority mine sites getting the capital.
  - Haulage routes have not been determined yet.
  - Fire access - has not been addressed to date

**Action Item: Approach Magna about funding for boat for the Baldwin Fire Dept**

10. Methods of Communication to membership (email, [balra.ca](http://balra.ca), Facebook, signs, mail)
  - Facebook announcements of the latest posts from the Township of Baldwin.
  - Sign's on Hardwood rd and Springers Landing- Great work Keith Cheff for the wonderful job you are doing on the sign, keep up the great work!
  - Inform the Township of Baldwin on the great work they have been doing on the roads!

**Action Item: Open and in progress**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm