

Baldwin Agnew Lake Residents Association

1500 Hardwood Road, McKerrow, Ontario P0P 1M0



Meeting Minutes BALRA Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday June 14, 2026

Time: 10:00am-11:40am

Location: Baldwin
Recreational Centre

Attendees:

Paul Matte
Jo-Anne Boucher
Laurie Martin
Jason Cote
Christina Cheff
Keith Cheff
Will Land
Michelle Kallo
Arthur McDonald
Celine White

Cleo St Onge
Mona St. Onge
Denis Michel
Bill Land
Shelley Matte
Haven Hinds
Gary McMahon
Matt Munn
Helene McDonald
Gordon White

John Prud'homme
Steve Bender
Mark Landstrom
Elias Saari
Denis Pitre
Terry McIndoo
Don Boyer
Troy Boyer
Tim Goudreau

Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Election of Directors
4. Treasurer's Report (Jo-Anne Boucher)
5. Rearing pond Treasurer's Report/Update (William Land)
6. Lake Steward Report (William Land)
7. Municipal Purchase of MNR land (Paul Matte)
8. Municipal Elections (Jason Cote & Marc Lepine)
9. Methods of Communication to membership (email, balra.ca, [balra.ca/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/balra), signs)
10. Open Discussion – thoughts and ideas for BALRA objectives

General Meeting:

1. Approval of Agenda
Move item 5 and 6 ahead of the Treasurer's Report
Add: Presentation to past directors
Boats and docks beside public beach

The agenda was accepted as amended.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of July 20, 2025 were accepted as presented.

3. Election of Directors

- Currently for 2025/2026
 - President- Paul Matte
 - Treasurer- Jo-Anne Boucher
 - Secretary- Laurie Martin
 - Directors- Christina Cheff, Keith Cheff, Will Land, Jason Cote, Marc Lepine
- For the 2025/2026 Don Brickett resigned.
- Jo-Anne Boucher will be stepping down from the Treasurer position, however will continue as a Director going forward.
- Michelle Kallo volunteered to join the committee as a Director.
- Paul gave a special thanks to outgoing director Don Brickett, who was instrumental in the Association.
- Paul gave a shout out to Michelle and Laurie for their work on the Facebook page. It is very informative and well done.
- Paul stressed the importance of the work the directors do and thanked everyone. Paul asked for more volunteers for the Board and reiterated that new directors are always welcome and to please reach out to him if interested.
- The above names were put forward for 2026/27 and approved by members.

The members were accepted as presented.

Action Item: Elect Officers at next meeting

4. Rearing pond Treasurer's Report/Update (William Land/Bill Land)

- Unfortunately we cannot access the Rearing Pond via the old road. Bill and Will have been busy establishing a new trail through their property. It will run through a creek/swamp. They are laying down tamarack trees, gravel and a large mat to cut through the very wet areas. It is a work in progress and volunteers are desperately needed.
- Ted Bell/Horizon Aggregates donated a load of gravel that needs to be spread.
- Home Hardware donated a mat to cover part of the swamp.
- They are looking for volunteers to help move gravel, cut trees, etc. If anyone has a small tractor, trailer, atv, trimmers to use, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Bill or Will Land if you are able to help.
- 75,000 pickerel fry were put into the pond.
- Tentative release date into the lake is Sunday, July 12th at 8 am. They will be looking for volunteers to help net, move and disperse the fish into the lake. Families, kids and grandkids are welcome. Please contact Bill or Will Land if you are able to help. The pond is accessible by the trail or by boat.
- A sign will be posted with the finalized date.
- Jo-Anne Boucher mentioned that BALRA has funds that can be available for special projects. The Rearing Pond committee can submit a funding proposal for help with costs, if necessary. Requests can be brought to the Board for special approval.
- Thanks to the Land family for using the property and for all their hard work.

Action Item: Open and in progress

5. Lake Steward Report/Update (William Land)

- Lake Sampling will be starting soon at 3 areas on Agnew Lake. Samples will be sent to FOCA to monitor phosphorus, algae blooms, etc.
- Currently applying to FOCA to be part of an Invasive Species Study Project. Only 5 lakes are chosen. William is completing the application and will be submitting it soon.

Action Item: Open and in progress

6. Treasurer's Report (Jo -Anne Boucher)

- Jo-Anne went through Financial Statements and explained all income and expenses for the year.
- There were 43 out of 107 paid BALRA members for 2025. Everyone is encouraged to invite new members across the lake to join.
- Explained benefits of FOCA membership. Cost is a base of \$150 plus \$5 per member. FOCA helps with lake monitoring, invasive species study (if successful), members receive discounts on insurance, etc.

Action Item: Open and in progress

7. Purchase of MNR Land by Township of Baldwin (Paul Matte)

- The Township of Baldwin put in an application to MNR to purchase Crown Land on a portion of Sunrise Shores and Maple Ridge.
- Letters were sent to all impacted properties within 1 km of the proposed purchase.
- The purpose of the purchase is to increase the supply of lots to increase the tax base for the Township.
- The Township had Tulloch develop two different sketch maps showing 11-3 acre lots or 8-5 acre lots. They chose estate size lots, so homes are in keeping with the surrounding neighbourhood. The two maps were approved by council and submitted to the MNR on May 11, 2026. The Township is waiting for MNR's response. It may take years, they do not know. If anyone is interested, the maps are posted on our website and on our facebook page.

Action Item: Open and in progress

8. Municipal Elections (Jason Cote)

- Jason thanked members for their support at the last election, which put him into the position of Deputy Mayor.
- He encouraged anyone who has an interest in running for Council to reach out to himself or Jo-Anne (as a past council member).
- The deadline for putting your name forward is August 21, 2026 by 2pm.
- There was a question put forward about a historical environmental concern (old gas station) in the hamlet. The person was encouraged to reach out to Holly at the township with their concerns.

Action Item: Open and in progress

9. Methods of Communication to membership (email, balra.ca, balra.ca/facebook, signs)

- Emails are sent out every year with important updates, AGM information and newsletters.
- balra.ca/facebook was launched in 2025 and has been a great addition to the association. The page is used to share information on BALRA, township and community events and contains valuable information. Paul encouraged everyone to check it out.
- balra.ca website is a great source of information. Thank you to Jason for developing and maintaining the website.
- Sign's on Hardwood rd and Springers Landing - will be kept more up to date. Thank you to Keith and Christina Cheff for all their hard work.
- Paul asked members to help keep our records up to date for new property owners. He encouraged members to send updates to secretary@balra.ca

Action Item: Open and in progress

10. Presentation to Past Balra Directors (Paul Matte)

Past Board Directors have been instrumental in developing our Association, from roads, boat launch, keeping harmony and so much more. A lot of good has occurred because of their hard work and dedication of these Directors.

Paul presented thank you gifts to the following past directors.

- Don Brickett (absent)
- Cleo & Mona St. Onge
- Steve & Rachelle Bender
- John Prud'homme
- Denis Pitre
- Barry Vondette (absent)
- Debbie Cayen (absent)

We apologize if we missed anyone. Everyone's contributions to our community is greatly appreciated.

11. Boats & Docks beside Public Beach (Paul Matte)

- It has been brought to our attention that the MNR may be issuing a permit for a parking lot, road and trail for people to access boats/docking beside the public beach.
- There are BALRA members who are on both sides of the issue.
- Paul reminded everyone that BALRA has no decision making power for this proposed docking area and will be taking a neutral position on this issue, as we have both lake and road access members. We are not for or against either group. We provide information only and just want to make members aware of the issue.
- Mark Landstrom, John Prud'homme and Haven Hinds discussed issues for both sides.
- There is contact information on a facebook post for Mr. Landstrom.
- Haven Hinds reiterated that the Dock Association group is trying to mitigate issues by reducing the number of docks from 10 to 6 and they have gotten liability insurance as required by Vale.
- Mr. Hinds was encouraged to share what the Dock Association has planned for safety at the public beach, rules for dock users, etc. so that we may share with members to hopefully reduce concerns.

12. Open Discussion - thoughts and ideas for BALRA objectives

- Mona St. Onge thanked everyone for their hard work.
- Helene McDonald thanked everyone for their hard work regarding the NORM issue. And reiterated that people and public opinion does matter.
- Everyone was encouraged to talk to their neighbours about the Association and about becoming members. There is a lot of value for only \$20 per year.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 pm

Minutes recorded by: Laurie Martin, Secretary