



Bayfield Ratepayers Association
P.O. Box 508, Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0
519.565.2469

bayfieldratepayers@gmail.com
www.bayfieldratepayers.ca

President's Report
BRA Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Saturday, August 3, 2013, 10 am at the Community Centre (2nd Floor)

I can't thank Paul Hill enough for his four years of service to the Village. He arrived in Bayfield with his wife, Bernadette, about four years ago and it seems he was immediately commandeered by Dave MacLaren to be one of our Directors. He has always been there for us with good suggestions and has given us an enormous amount of his time as he juggles commitments. A sincere thank you to Paul. And, I look forward to working with him as an active Member.

Carol Thornley Hall, is a joy to work with. She has a great sense of humour and perspective. I sincerely appreciate her continued contribution to the Board.

There are many others to thank especially; Sondra Buchner for her work slowing down the traffic along the highway and all her good work planting trees & with Communities in Bloom; Scott Bradford of *Main Street Web Design*, for his generous help designing the new web site; Jen Wallace of Main Street's *The Hive* for designing our new logo and letterhead. Mayor Dowson & Councillor Geordie Palmer & our members for joining us at our monthly Board Meetings. And, to Bill and Robbie Webb who held a brainstorming session at their home for what we could do to revitalize the harbour and the BRA and to the invited guests who participated.

WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS YEAR:

We've attended / participated in:

- Council Meetings
- Planning Meetings

- OMB Hearings - 75 Tuyl St.
- Drainage Workshop
- Bayfield and Area Revitalization Meetings - Main Street
- ABCA (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority) Landowners Meetings
- Friends of the Bayfield Library's Reading Garden meetings
- Met with the Ministry of Transportation regarding the proposed removal of trees located 7 metres from the edge of the highway from Bayfield to Goderich to resurface the road. (We need to meet again to see the detailed plans for mitigation of trees removed.)
- Had a brainstorming meeting on how to revitalize the BRA Board and Harbour.

Other:

- Along with ABCA had a public presentation of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's Community Watershed Plan at the Town Hall
- successfully submitted a River Water Testing Grant Proposal to Bluewater
- partnered with ABCA on a watershed tree planting grant proposal to the MOE (Ministry of the Environment) Great Lakes Guardian Fund
- held monthly open Board Meetings with Minutes posted on the web site
- passed motions and wrote letters to the Premier about our opposition to Industrial Wind Turbines' lack of due process & loss of threatened Bobolink habitat and attended public meetings
- kept in touch with members
- supported Bayfield Historical Society's proposal for the Old Library
- helped Sondra Buchner's work to slow down the traffic on the highway
- created a logo, new web site & gmail account to keep in touch at a reduced cost

Membership 2012-2013 Priorities

- Continue the fight to hold the line on taxes.
- Main Street Revitalization and Tree Renewal
- Membership Renewals & Donations, Reduce web site costs (done) and Stabilize Funding
- Support Municipality of Bluewater's position on Industrial Wind Turbines
- Support Bayfield Historical Society's proposal to expand Archives into old Library
- Options for Municipal Services
- By Law Enforcement
- Election Readiness
- Integrating our communities
- Continuation of Blue Flag Initiative and Clean Beaches
- Public Access to the Beach & Public Beach Safety
- Fix North Pier (responsibility of the Federal Department of Fisheries & Oceans)

We want to hear your priorities for us for **2013-2014** and we need your help to move forward on them. I know that: revitalizing Main Street; revitalizing our Board; stabilizing BRA funding; the 2014 fall municipal election; and watershed water quality will make our priority list. Here's to our work to make Bayfield even better!
