

**Muskoka Pride Community - Annual General Meeting
November 8th 2023 6:00PM
Bracebridge United Church**

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Forth, Paul Finley, Merv Taylor-Morin, Deb Davies, Mo Oakley, Steph Taylor, Greg Titus, Kellie Leeder, Evan McCraney, Ella Frost, Glen Yacula, Romy Melis

Guests (non-members): Celest Rose

1. Call to Order@ 6:05pm
2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the November 8 th 2023 Annual General Meeting Agenda. CARRIED	Deb	Greg

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the minutes of the October 26 th 2022 Annual General Meeting. CARRIED	Steph	Mo

4. Confirmation of Acts

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
That all contracts, acts, and proceedings by the Directors and Officers of Muskoka Pride Community since the last Annual General Meeting, as set forth and described in the Minutes, be approved, ratified and confirmed. CARRIED	Shawn	Kellie

5. Officer's Reports
 - President – Merv Taylor-Morin gave a report (appended to the minutes).
 - Secretary – Shawn Forth gave a report (appended to the minutes).
 - Treasurer – no report.

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To accept the Officers' reports. CARRIED	Deb	Steph

6. Financial Statements

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
In accordance with Section 76 of the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, the general membership of Muskoka Pride Community motions to not hold an audit or review engagement on its March 31, 2023 Financial Statement. CARRIED	Steph	Deb

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the unaudited March 31, 2023 Financial Statement CARRIED	Evan	Paul

7. By-Law Amendments

One Bylaw amendment was presented to all members, to remove the maximum number of members of the Board of Directors.

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To ratify the Bylaw amendment as presented. CARRIED	Glen	Kellie

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
That the Board be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the general membership in connection with the amended Bylaws. CARRIED	Greg	Steph

8. 2023-2024 Board of Directors

Call for nominations to the 2023-2024 Board of Directors for individuals willing to stand for the Board (self-nomination is encouraged)

Nominations (2 Year Term): Kellie Leeder, Ella Frost, Shawn Forth, Romy Melis, Deb Davies

Nominations (1 Year Term): none

Current Board Members with 1 Year remaining: Merv Taylor-Morin, Glen Yacula, Steph Taylor, Paul Finley, Mo Oakley, Greg Titus

9. Election

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the 2023-2024 Board of Directors CARRIED	Greg	Evan

10. New Business

There was none.

11. Adjournment

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To adjourn the November 8 th 2023 Annual General Meeting at 6::25pm	Steph	

President: _____ Secretary: _____

Halloween has come and gone, leaving behind our first blanket of the white stuff. Very pretty but way too soon. This year has been a challenge with a renewed frontal attack on our community. The focus has been and continues to be on people who look different to the average male. To be clear I mean Trans folk and drag queens again.

In 1968-69 in the USA and 1982 in Canada the queer community was under attack by the right. 54 years later, the far right led by 1 Million March 4 Children and the Freedom Convoy, is once again dragging out the same old rhetoric (protect the family/parent rights). These groups seem to have the support of rightwing provincial governments across Canada and it has fallen to labour and the queer community to stand up for the rights of the child.

This summer we partnered with the District of Muskoka to produce antidiscrimination signage. The "Hate has no home here" signs were distributed around Muskoka. The message is on lawn signs, window signs and window decals helping to spread the message. You might see the message on lawn signs on private property and on window signs in store fronts.

We are pleased to have been able to attend some in-person events this year after a long hiatus due to covid. Our presence was felt at the Minden Pride festival once again. We had an information booth at the Hike for Hospice walk at Johnston's Cranberry Marsh. In October Muskoka Pride staffed a gate during the Bala Cranberry Festival. Our board and general members attended flag raisings and other events throughout Muskoka. We partnered with the YWCA to organize the walk to end gender-based violence, which was another successful event.

2023 saw the return of face-to-face pride week events around Muskoka. The festival in Memorial Park was well attended by a diverse group of supporters. We had to deal with a couple of protesters with negative comments about 2SLGBTQ+ visibility. Members of the board add a queer perspective by sitting on other committees in Muskoka.

Now that the festival season is slowing down, we are gearing up to organize the 5th annual 2024 Muskoka Queer Film festival. Films are being submitted as we speak. We were very pleased with the support, attendance, and feedback from High Schools and the GSA students. Hopefully

we will hold the student focused viewing again. We had such a good experience holding the festival at the Rene Caisse Theater we plan to go back for the 2024 film showings.

Like many community organizations we need volunteers. Please check out our web page to see where you can help support the community. You can use the links there to sign up.

Finally thank you for my time as your president for 2023. I look forward to further serving you.

Merv Taylor-Morin
President Muskoka Pride

MP Secretary's Report to the 2023 AGM

November 8, 2023

In addition to my role as Secretary, I am also responsible for all Muskoka Pride social media accounts, the Muskoka Pride website, coordinating details of the Pride Week, monthly social events, the monthly Youth Group, all grant writing, overseeing the grant reporting, and the media spokesperson for Muskoka Pride.

Our social media accounts have continued to be active throughout the year, adding followers and responding to inquiries. Across our 3 accounts (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) we have over 7000 followers!

Muskoka Pride had a very successful Pride Week, with the return of our Festival in Memorial Park and the Parade down Manitoba Street. We continue to build partnerships with groups in the community – Huntsville Theatre Company, TimberBeast Productions, Bracebridge & Trinity United Churches, Away We Go Trips, Bracebridge Hall, the 6 Mile Lake Cottagers Association – to name just a few. It is because of these partnerships that we were able to host such a diverse week of Pride events.

Last fall we stopped our monthly coffee socials due to declining numbers. It would be fabulous to get the monthly social events going again, but only if someone else is able to take on the coordination of them. They were a chance for regular community visibility, and an opportunity for those new to the area to meet members of the queer community.

The Youth Group is held on the second Friday of each month, here at the Bracebridge United Church. We regularly have between 6-12 participants. Last fall, PFLAG Muskoka also began holding their monthly meeting at the same time, providing an opportunity for parents and family members to build community and support. Both groups continue to meet monthly with consistent attendance.

Muskoka Pride was extremely proud to partner with YWCA Muskoka for the rebranded “Walk A Mile in Their Shoes” fundraiser. The portion of funds raised that go to Muskoka Pride are directed to programs supporting Muskoka’s LGBTQ+ youth – the monthly Youth Group, supporting PFLAG Muskoka, and supporting the high school and elementary GSA clubs. We were able to spend and distribute approximately \$6500 last year through the WAM funds.

Muskoka Pride was successful with 5 grants last year. The Heritage Canada “Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage” grant immensely helps us during the annual Pride Week. The Bracebridge Event Tourism Grant allowed us to try some new programming at the Festival. We were successful with 2 different grants from the District of Muskoka IDEA committee – supporting MQFF and the “Hate Has No Home Here” signage. We were also successful with 2 grants through Fierté Canada Pride. The Rural and Remote Communities grant

was used for updating our brochures and other improved signage, and for the creation of anti-protest kits (whistles, signs, banners). The Community Safety grant was used for costs associated with the Festival and Parade (radios and traffic signage). Overall, it was a successful year for grants, and I've already completed applications for 2 grants for next year.

This year was a challenging year for liaising with the media. A lot of time was spent helping some of the local media to navigate through the misinformation surrounding the recent anti-2SLGBTQ+ protests. Muskoka has been hit hard recently with the loss of the weekly newspaper distribution, and Facebook blocking national and local media from posting on its platform. Local non-profits such as Muskoka Pride rely on the local media to help bring attention to our community events. We have built up many positive relationships with local media, and as such we are often called upon by local journalists to add a queer voice to media stories.

It has been an absolute pleasure and a wonderful challenge to serve Muskoka Pride in these roles.

Shawn Forth

Secretary and Promotions

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