

**Muskoka Pride Community - Annual General Meeting
November 6th 2024 6:00PM
Bracebridge United Church**

MINUTES

Present: Shawn Forth, Paul Finley, Merv Taylor-Morin, Steph Taylor, Greg Titus, Kellie Leeder, Evan McCraney, Ella Frost, Glen Yacula, Romy Melis, Celeste Rose, Terri McBride, Brenda Glass, Michael McGary, Carol-Ann Chapman, Rose LeBlanc

Guests (non-members): none

1. Call to Order@ 6:08pm
2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the November 6 th 2024 Annual General Meeting Agenda. CARRIED	Steph Taylor	Ella Frost

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the minutes of the November 8 th 2023 Annual General Meeting. CARRIED	Michael McGary	Ella Frost

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	Michael McGary	Greg Titus

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	Ella Frost	Kellie Leeder

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, 2024 Financial Statement. CARRIED	Greg Titus	Michael McGary

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the unaudited March 31, 2024 Financial Statement CARRIED	Glen Yacula	Paul Finley

7. By-Law Amendments

A package of Bylaw amendments was presented to all members, to put Muskoka Pride in compliance with the updated Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To ratify the Bylaw amendments as presented. CARRIED	Ella Frost	Michael McGary

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	Steph Taylor	Kellie Leeder

8. 2024-2025 Board of Directors

Call for nominations to the 2024-2025 Board of Directors for individuals willing to stand for the Board (self-nomination is encouraged)

Nominations (2 Year Term): Celeste Rose, Greg Titus, Steph Taylor, Glen Yacula,

Nominations (1 Year Term): none

Current Board Members with 1 Year remaining: Kellie Leeder, Ella Frost, Shawn Forth, Romy Melis, Deb Davies

9. Election

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the 2024-2025 Board of Directors CARRIED	Romy Melis	Merv Taylor-Morin

10. New Business

There was none.

11. Adjournment

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To adjourn the November 6 th 2024 Annual General Meeting at 6:40pm	Romy Melis	

President: _____ Secretary: _____

It has been my honour to represent the queer community as President of Muskoka Pride for 2024. I want to thank the membership for their support. Please join me in expressing our appreciation to the current members of the Board of Directors for all their hard work. It is through the continued efforts of long-standing and new members of the board that will keep the festival an essential demonstration of the diversity of our community.

Visibility will make us stronger!

Thankfully, it did not rain on our parade. It was enjoyed by the observers and participants alike. Once again, the cosponsored disco night with Canvas Brewing in Huntsville was a hit. 2024 was the first drag show following the Six Mile Lake Pride Boat. Queens everywhere, on the boat, on the dock, and on stage! Our newest event (Pooch Pride) drew several new sponsors to Muskoka Pride. Look for the 2025 festival notices. Be sure bring your pooch decked out in our colors, to promenade in the park.

As always, we were honored to be asked to cover the gate at Maple Avenue and River Street during the Cranberry Festival in Bala. This is an annual obligation we take on with pride and pleasure. The Muskoka Queer Film Festival (MQFF) is another partnership we are very pleased with. We partner with Sanctuary Studios to offer the best in queer cinema to Muskoka. The festival is growing in popularity and becoming known worldwide for the quality of its film. If there are films outside a "G" rating, MQFF after dark may continue to be an option.

We continue networking when opportunities arise by participating in other rural pride events and local festivals.

Check out our web site and feel free to offer suggestions for 2025. Consider becoming a volunteer, we depend on you.

Merv Taylor-Morin

President, Muskoka Pride.

MP Secretary's Report to the 2024 AGM

November 6, 2024

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, 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 8500 followers!

Muskoka Pride had a very successful Pride Week, with over 2000 people attending Festival in Memorial Park and the Parade down Manitoba Street. We continue to build partnerships with groups in the community – Huntsville Theatre Company, Huntsville & Gravenhurst Public Libraries, 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.

The Youth Group is held on the second Friday of each month, here at the Bracebridge United Church. We regularly have between 8-14 participants. PFLAG Muskoka continues to hold 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 again this year for “Walk A Mile in Their Shoes” fundraiser. The portion of funds raised that go to Muskoka Pride are directed to programs supporting Muskoka’s 2SLGBTQ+ 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 \$4500 last year through the WAM funds.

Muskoka Pride was successful with 6 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. The Bala Cranberry Festival Community Grant provided funds to support our youth group and PFLAG meetings. The Huntsville Community Financial Request helped us to hold a successful MQFF screening at the Algonquin Theatre by waiving the rental fee. The Gravenhurst Tourism grant allowed us to hold an MQFF screening at The Gravenhurst Opera House. We were also successful with a grant through Fierté Canada Pride. 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 3 grants for next year.

This year was a positive year for liaising with the media, although there have been a lot of changes over the last 2 years. We've lost our local weekly newspaper, and it was noticed by a lack of reporters covering events compared to the past. We also did not have CTV Barrie covering our Festival. Both of these can be attributed to the changing media landscape, and the impact of Facebook blocking media stories. This continues to show the need for Muskoka Pride to create and submit our own Press Releases to the local media in an effort to get coverage. 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

muskokapridefestival@hotmail.com