



**Muskoka Pride Community - Annual Meeting  
November 5th 2025 6:00PM  
Bracebridge United Church in the Sanctuary**

**MINUTES**

Present: Shawn Forth, Steph Taylor, Glen Yacula, Ella Frost, Celeste Rose, Kellie Leeder, Greg Titus, Star Evans, Carol-Ann Chapman, Rose LeBlanc, Lorraine Boucher

Guests (non-members): none

**1. Call to Order @ 6:07 Meeting Chair - Steph Taylor**

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Moved by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
To approve the November 5th 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda. <b>CARRIED</b>	Star Evans	Rose LeBlanc

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Moved by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
To approve the minutes of the November 6th 2024 Annual Meeting. <b>CARRIED</b>	Greg Titus	Kellie Leeder

**4. Confirmation of Acts**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Moved by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
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. <b>CARRIED</b>	Celeste Rose	Ella Frost

**5. Officers' Reports**

- President - Steph Taylor gave a report (appended to the minutes)
- Secretary - Shawn Forth gave a report (appended to the minutes)
- Treasurer - Glen Yacula gave a report (appended to the minutes)

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To accept the Officers' reports. <b>CARRIED</b>	Celeste Rose	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, 2025 Financial Statement. <b>CARRIED</b>	Loraine Boucher	Rose LeBlanc

Motion	Moved by	Seconded by
To approve the unaudited March 31, 2025 Financial Statement. <b>CARRIED</b>	Greg Titus	Celeste Rose

## 7. By-Law Amendments (None in 2025)

## 8. Review: Objects for which the corporation is incorporated (Objectives)

Do these activities remain consistent with what is outlined? Do our purposes need to be restated?

### Muskoka Pride's Objects:

1. To organize pride events in Muskoka throughout the year.
2. To represent the 2SLGBTQ+ community in other festivals and events.
3. To promote education in the community about 2SLGBTQ+ culture and community.
4. To foster a positive and safer space for all.
5. To create opportunities to challenge heterosexism and 2SLGBTQ+ discrimination.
6. To form partnerships with other organizations supporting diversity.

Questions regarding Object #5 - use of the term "heterosexism" is dated and does not include transphobia. Suggested wording is "cisheteronormativity".

## 9. 2025-2026 Board of Directors

Call for nominations to the 2025-2026 Board of Directors for individuals willing to stand for the Board (self-nomination is encouraged)

**Nominations (2 Year Term):** Shawn Forth, Star Evans, Ella Frost, Kellie Leeder, Rose LeBlanc

**Nominations (1 Year Term):**

**Current Board Members with 1 Year remaining:** Celeste Rose, Greg Titus, Steph Taylor, Glen Yacula

**10. Election**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Moved by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
To approve the 2025-2026 Board of Directors. <b>CARRIED</b>	Greg Titus	Rose LeBlanc

**11. New Business**

There was none.

**12. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Moved by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
To adjourn the November 5th 2025 Annual General Meeting at 6:48pm. <b>CARRIED</b>	Rose LeBlanc	

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **President's Report November 5, 2025**

Hello everyone,

It has been an honour to be your president this last year, and what a year it has been. We've had many changes over the past year but I feel that we've grown closer as a community. Muskoka Pride has been involved in many outreach programs in our communities including walking in the coldest night of the year in Gravenhurst in February. February also brought us to the polls, asking our MPP candidates what matters to us and regarding having our voices heard. We again asked our MP candidates for federal election in April questions regarding having our rights and what they would do to help us.

We've also a varying array of social events throughout the year leading up to Pride Week.

Speaking of Pride week with the theme of Reclaim, Resist, Rejoice was a roaring success. We had 19 Muskoka Pride events plus 5 affiliate events over 10 Days. A huge thank you to our pride planning committee and to our volunteers for making Pride week what it is.

Looking ahead to the future, I hope to see more outreach done in our community, whether through our youth programming or for fundraising events for ours or other organizations. Our future is ours to determine and I can't wait to see what comes next. Looking ahead just a little further we have our 20th Pride week Picnic coming up in 2029. I hope to see our events and Picnic bigger, louder and prouder than ever before and to be on the board to see it happen. Again, It has been an honour to be your President this last year and thank you for being on this journey with me. I especially want to thank our amazing board of directors for their dedication to this last year.

**Steph Taylor**  
**President of Muskoka Pride**  
**Steph@muskokapride.com**

## **MP Secretary's Report to the 2025 AGM**

**November 5, 2025**

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, the media spokesperson for Muskoka Pride, and taking over Fundraising Lead.

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 the Festival in Memorial Park and the Parade down Manitoba Street. We continue to build partnerships with groups in the community – TimberBeast Productions, GAY AF Comedy, Gravenhurst Public Library, Bracebridge & Trinity United Churches, Bracebridge Hall, the 6 Mile Lake Cottagers Association, Muskoka Drag Royalty – 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 5-10 participants. PFLAG Muskoka has not held their meeting since June, as the volunteer team with PFLAG is changing. The PFLAG meetings will start up again in January, at the same time at the youth group, providing an opportunity for parents and family members to build community and support.

In previous years we have partnered with YWCA Muskoka to hold “Walk A Mile in Their Shoes” where funding supported our youth programming. The walkathon was not held this year, due to construction in Memorial Park, and we are not sure if it will continue in future years or if the fundraiser has run its course. We have been able to tap into funding from the Bala Cranberry Festival, and have received some donations over the past year to allow us to fund our youth programming.

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. The Bala Cranberry Festival Community Grant provided funds to support our youth group and PFLAG meetings. The District of Muskoka IDEA Grant allowed 2 years of funding to support the Muskoka Queer Film Festival with screenings in Gravenhurst (and hopefully Huntsville). 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 4 grants for next year.

This year was a positive year for liaising with the media, although there continue to be many changes to the media landscape over the last few years. Without a local weekly newspaper, and with much less coverage by CTV Barrie, we haven't seen many reporters out to our events. It 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.

This year Steph and I tag-teamed on Fundraising and Sponsorship for Muskoka Pride Week. Ultimately, we met our targets for funding, adding a few new sponsors and renewing connections with old sponsors. We were not hit nearly as hard as many larger Prides, who saw many sponsors withdraw their usual funding. We will continue connecting with local businesses and not take any of our funding dollars for granted.

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](mailto:muskokapridefestival@hotmail.com)**