

Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation's yearly Public Meeting.

Saturday, August 21, 2013 – 10 a.m., Alexandria Town Hall

Bob Lamoureux, president of the GBRC, started, by thanking Dale Honneyman for letting us have the meeting at the Town Hall on a Saturday morning, and also thanked everyone for attending. Bob acknowledged Jim Reagan, from Senator Ritchie's office, indicating that he would discuss the grant that we received from the Senator Ritchie for \$25,000. Bob also acknowledged Kevin Bamerick and stated that he has been very effective in helping us with the Bay and thanked the residence of Goose Bay for attending.

Bob read a letter from Barry and Roxanne Pratt, who were Board Members from the start of the Goose Bay Reclamation Corp. They have just given their letter of resignation, stating it was getting too much for them. Bob then introduced Laurie Andre'-Amis and Pam Andre' two new Board Members (helping with fund raising and advertising).

Treasurer report: Tony Galluppi treasurer of the GBRC stated that dues were \$10 per family when the group was formed in 2009. At that time we collected \$840 in dues and \$2,452.50 in donations. Expenses were \$299.08 leaving us \$2,093.42 in bank account for 2009. We had a 50/50 raffle in 2012 and raised \$1,970, the winner donated her portion back to the GBRC. The same year the board upped the dues to \$20 per family to generate more revenue. In September of 2012 we collected \$560 in dues for 28 families down from the 84 families we had in 2009. We received \$4,698.50 in donations. With the ongoing raffle we have collected \$6,072.50 minus \$140 in expenses. To date, August 2013, we have \$16,176.92 in the account.

Bob talked about the raffle and acknowledged Dave Garlock for donating the grill, Barbara Panko for the quilt, Jacyn and Steve Reihlman for the cherry bench, Carol Lamoureux for the afghan and Ken and Carolyn Trendel for the birdhouse. We printed up 3,000 tickets and have sold 1,365 so far.

Bob introduced Jim Reagan from Senator Richie's office. Jim explained how he was invited to a meeting at the Goose Bay boat launch dock last summer, by area residents, to discuss the weed situation in the bay. He then met with Senator Richie to let her know of the residents concerns. She contacted an expert to identify the types of weeds present in the bay. Rob Williams, from SELO PRISM, met with Bob and Nancy Hunter and they toured the bay by boat taking samples for identification. When the senator received the report from Rob Williams she requested a personal tour of the bay. Bob took Senator Richie by boat around the bay, upon seeing its condition she was able to secure a \$25,000 grant from the State Conservation fund. Senator Richie was impressed with the work that the GBRC is trying to accomplish.

Bob informed the residence that he had to reconvene the steering committee because of issues with our initial choice of weevils. The steering committee consists of 9 people from Goose Bay. Tee committee intended to implement a weevil solution but the GBRC didn't have sufficient funding to start this application so it was delayed until next year. In June of 2013 we received notification from Enviro

Science indicating they were no longer going to offer a weevils solution. We tried, unsuccessfully, to find an alternate vendor.

Bob introduced Erin Rupp, a steering committee representative. Erin thanked Bob and Carol Lamoureux for all their efforts and passion that they have toward saving the Bay. She said that the committee met last year and discussed all ideas on how to save the bay. Hand harvesting is labor intense and very expensive, chemicals which are also expensive and require DEC approval. The consensus was milfoil weevils which is a biological way to eradicate the milfoil. Since that time the company selected to supply weevils is no longer going to raise and sell weevils. Bob had to ask the steering committee to meet at Macsherry library, once again, to discuss options. It was decided to go take a 3 prong approach to our situation in Goose Bay. 1<sup>st</sup> Harvesting (hand harvesting by individual owners around their docks and shoreline), maybe a group of residents would volunteer to remove milfoil by hand and bring it to the Goose Bay launch for pickup and disposal. 2<sup>nd</sup> The chemical Renovate OTF would be used where needed to address denser concentrations of Milfoil. And 3<sup>rd</sup> keep searching for a company that can supply weevils

Tom Thomson, from Aquatic Invasive Management, talked about his company and their ability to harvest Milfoil. He said his company hand harvests milfoil in large and small bodies of water that are infected with Eurasian Water Milfoil. Tom feels that Goose Bay is at a critical junction today because these invasive weed are adversely affecting the fish habitat as well negatively impacting swimming and boating. Tom explained that when milfoil dies, it decomposes and becomes its own fertilizer creating ideal conditions for milfoil to thrive. Tom said his company, Aquatic Invasive Management (AIMs), has a two phase method of removing milfoil. Phase 1 is for high density areas, they quadrant off about an acre and then hand harvest milfoil placing it in a net bag and remove these bags by a boat to shore for disposal. Phase 2: Have divers go shoulder to shoulder removing milfoil, taking fragments and root balls off the bottom. Tom took a boat tour of the Goose Bay and indicated the bay is at a critical survival point; it is the worst infestation of milfoil he has observed. Tom stated that the DEC would only require a general permit to remove milfoil. Tom stated that if his group was selected to hand harvest milfoil they would start at the southern part of the bay to maximize efforts to control milfoil. Tom talked about projects he has been working on in the Adirondacks and Lake George. He indicated it would cost approximately \$3,600 or more per acre to harvest milfoil depending on its density. He did state it would be very expensive. Bob will get an estimate from AIM for this option.

Bob introduced Rick Lopez and Lee Harper who used Renovate OTF at Mud Lake to treat a milfoil infestation. Rick is on the board of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservatory. He has researched Milfoil for many years and wanted to go with weevils for Mud Lake but because the cost of weevils they started researching chemicals. He discovered that the DEC has recommended Renovate OTF in lakes and it is also approved by the Adirondacks Parks Association. Rick said you need a license applicator so he approached Lee Harper to help with the Mud Lake project. Lee came highly recommended by Save the River. Rick said it cost \$7,000 for 20 acres.

Rick stated that Goose Bay residence have to work together to save the bay. He said boaters are our worst problem because boat props chop up milfoil causing it to reseed itself. He suggested that Goose

Bay residents put up buoys and have boaters utilize these pathways rather, than randomly traveling through the bay, this would minimize the problem. Rick recommended that individual homeowners try to harvest milfoil around their shorelines and docks. Rick indicated he would be available to talk to anyone who would like to see how to hand harvest milfoil around their docks and shoreline.

Lee Harper, from Riveredge Associates, talked about the application of Renovate OTF. The DEC requires a licensed applicator to spread Renovate. Application cost average about 25% of the cost of the chemical used for in the application. He will help Bob try to find a better price for the Renovate OTF, generally the more you buy the cheaper the product. Lee will send Bob an estimate. Lee also stated that the cost associated with removing milfoil is very expensive, no matter whether you use weevils or chemicals. Lee talked about Renovate OTF which is specific for milfoil control. In Mud Lake there were 19 different aquatic plants and when the Renovate was applied it did not kill any of the native plants. Lee recommended that everyone at the meeting get on the computer and research Renovate OTF to find out its effectiveness to control and/or eliminate milfoil. He said it has been used in Cazenovia Lake, several other lakes and widely used in the Adirondack Park. Lee said the process for obtaining a permit for using Renovate is complicated and tests may have to be performed (example: flow study and weed mapping) before the DEC will allow the use of the chemical.

The meeting was opened up for questions: It was asked if the \$7,000 for 20 acres on Mud Lake also included the application, Rick said it did not; a rough estimate would be \$9,000 which included the application. Rick said it would be cheaper if groups could collectively purchase Renovate because of volume discount you could get from the manufacturer. Lee Harper indicated that they treated less than twenty acres in Mud Lake.

Someone asked if he could apply the Renovate themselves, Lee restated that only a licensed applicator can apply the Renovate. Lee suggested that residents pull up the label for Renovate, from SeaPro website, to examine the rules and requirements for this product.

Don Rupp suggested that owner's get together and form a milfoil harvesting group. He asked if anyone was interested they could build a raft to load the milfoil on and bring it to the boat launch for disposal. He suggested that maybe the town could arrange to have the harvested material picked up for disposal.

Bob adjourned the meeting and suggested that if anyone had any questions, please contact him.