

Long Point Ratepayers' Association – 2025 AGM Executive Summary

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025

Location: Port Rowan Community Centre

Attendance: 63 attendees, 41 voting members (quorum met)

Board in Attendance: Jeff Hopkins (President), John Deans (Treasurer), Lynette Horton (Recording Secretary), Karen Deans, John Godin, John Henderson, Jim Kerr, Heather Meulemeester, Steve Selk

Absent: Richard Mercey (VP)

Board & Elections

- Two long-serving directors, John Godin and John Henderson, stepped down and were thanked for their contributions.
- Five directors (Jim Kerr, Heather Meulemeester, Stephen Selk, Rick Levick, John Everett) were elected by acclamation to fill vacant and expiring positions.

Key Reports & Decisions

Causeway Landscaping:

- No consultation occurred with LPRA regarding landscaping after tree removal.
- Norfolk County advised LPRA's pledged \$15,000 is not needed; motion passed to rescind this commitment.
- No tree planting will occur along the Causeway; landscaping will be focused elsewhere.

Traffic Management:

- Ontario Parks has implemented a paperless permit system and will install real-time digital signage to indicate park capacity, aiming to reduce congestion.
- Cottonwood gate has been removed, allowing direct entry for visitors with QR codes.

Short-Term Rentals:

- Awaiting a County staff report; LPRA supports clear regulations similar to other cottage communities.

Paid Parking Revenues:

- Parking program has generated a reserve fund (~\$250,000), but no funds have yet been reinvested locally. A report on fund use is expected.

Shoreline Restoration:

- Over 15 beachfront owners participating in native grass planting to help prevent erosion, led by Sarah Emons.

Membership:

- LPRA now has over 400 members, among the largest in Ontario. Multi-year renewal options are being explored.

Financial Report

- LPRA remains financially strong with \$95,000 in assets across general, Phragmites project, and legal funds.
- 2025 audit requirement was waived by member vote, in line with ONCA guidelines.

Guest Speaker – Councillor Tom Masschaele

Provided updates on:

- Online voting for 2026 municipal elections.
- Dune restoration and tree planting issues on the Causeway.
- Short-term rental regulation: County is revisiting the topic and may introduce licensing.
- Parking pilot program: revenue is being held in a reserve fund; allocation to be determined.
- By-law enforcement: concerns about confidentiality and the need for more proactive enforcement were discussed.
- Beach by-law enforcement: OPP is responsible for Crown land, but response is limited; signage and clarity are ongoing issues.

Survey & Community Engagement

- 2025 member survey received over 200 responses (52% response rate), guiding Board priorities in areas such as environmental stewardship, governance, and community engagement.
- Plans include a new website, improved communications, and more opportunities for member input and volunteering.

Fundraising & Events

- “Rockin’ on the Point” returns August 16, 2025. Since 2015, the event has raised nearly \$72,000 for Phragmites control.
- Conservation events were promoted, including a native plant gardening workshop and a shoreline presentation.

Other Business

- Members discussed by-law enforcement, a possible second entry sign, parking at Stub’s General Store, property standards, and clarified that there has been no recent rezoning of the Causeway or Long Point.
- Early membership renewal draw winners: Rick & Ethel Kerckaert and Al & Darlene Homeniuk.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Thank you to all members, sponsors, and volunteers for your ongoing support and engagement!