

Date: September 22, 2008
Location: St Philomena's Church Hall
Subject: Minutes of the HIRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance: Terry Botten, Brian Humphries, Gary Hall, Gary Nichol
Regrets: Faye Muller, Bob Staples
Guests: None

<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>ACTION BY</u>
Minutes of last meeting were accepted as given.	
Treasurer's Report showed a balance of \$1073.61	Gary H.
Membership reported the paid-up membership to be at 92 members	Gary H.
It was confirmed that Dr. Emily Gonzales of St. Lawrence Islands National Park will chair a meeting on Oct 8 discussing "Does Howe Island Have a Deer Problem?" Meeting will be at 7:00 PM at St. Philomena Parish Hall.	Terry
Gerry Ross will also give a brief presentation to guide islanders through the HIRA website.	
It was decided that Dr. Gonzales should receive a gift for her time and presentation.	Gary H.
Main ferry inspection is scheduled for some time in the near future. HIRA has been trying to get dates, times and what alternatives will be provided. To date, no information has been forthcoming but we will continue to provide islanders with the latest information as we get it.	Terry
As part of the Official Plan Review, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) will review certain lands that are currently designated as Agriculture in the current Official Plan to assist the Township to determine if certain lands should continue with that designation. The Township and OMAFRA will visit as many properties as possible who have requested their lands to be re-designated on October 8. More information is available at the Township office.	
An article in the Whig on September 17, 2008 reported that the International Joint Commission has bowed to public pressure to return to more natural flows in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. In short, they are now recommending that the water levels be kept higher to accommodate private boaters and waterfront properties. The next step is to form a small working group to form a final package to be submitted to governments by June, 2009. They also pointed out that a change in governments could delay the completion of the new plan. This is not going to be a "quick fix" solution.	
Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM	