

# Beach Canal Lighthouse Group

**General Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 8 September 2021, 7 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting hosted by HOPA via ZOOM**

## **MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Thomson, Chair; Larissa Fenn, HOPA representative; Ian Kerr-Wilson, Director; Robin McKee, Director; Tony Thoma, Director; Patti and Bruce Hoyle, Directors; Stewart Patch, Treasurer; Ann Gillespie, Recording Secretary; Gloria Pfefferle, Membership Secretary; and the following members: Carol Eydt; Lois Reid; Gil and Connie Chainey; Patricia Taylor; and Bill Thompson  
ALSO PRESENT: Megan Hobson, heritage consultant and member of the ACO Hamilton Region Branch, and invited guest speaker Bill Fitzgerald

HOPA: Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority  
DFO: Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
MTO: Ontario Ministry of Transportation

### **1. Welcome**

George welcomed all present to our third virtual General Meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic-imposed restrictions on in-person meetings.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Larissa, seconded by Tony and approved.

### **3. Approval of Minutes for the February 17, 2021, General Meeting**

Moved by Ian, seconded by Gloria and approved.

### **4. FEATURE PRESENTATION: “Moving the Beach Canal Lighthouse”, by HOPA engineer Bill Fitzgerald.**

Larissa introduced Bill as Vice President of Operations at HOPA since 2008. He joined the Hamilton Port Authority in July 1995 as Project Engineer, after working with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa’s Transportation Department, as well as for the Toronto Transit Commission and the City of Waterloo. After Bill’s brief presentation there was ample time for questions, which resulted in a lively Q & A session. George and Larissa thanked Bill for his informative presentation. Bill then offered to provide updates at future meetings as work gets underway.

The key points made by Bill in his presentation and the Q & A session which followed are provided in Appendix ‘A’.

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## 5. Treasurer's Report (2021-09-08) and Funding Status for the Relocation Project

Stewart reported that in March 2021, when the Executive met with Ian Hamilton, we agreed to commit \$350,00 of the \$400,000 grant received from the Hamilton Future Fund to the relocation of the lighthouse with the balance coming from HOPA and DFO. DFO was left with a surplus of \$275,000 in their budget for the lighthouse, which had to be spent before the end of their budget year on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This amount was therefore transferred to HOPA to hold in reserve until needed. See Treasurer's Report below for account balances and project funding.

### **Current Accounts**

Our current account balances are:

Chequing account:	\$3,632
Savings account:	\$420,810
TOTAL:	\$424,442

### **Project Funding**

We received \$400,000 from the Hamilton Future Fund and \$25,000 from the ward councilor, Chad Collins. To date, we have spent only \$15,572 on fees to Borgal, Goldsmith & Associates, Architects for surveys of the lighthouse and keeper's cottage and plans for their restoration. We have committed \$350,000 for the relocation of the lighthouse, which leaves us with about \$59,400 for repairs to the keeper's cottage.

## 6. Membership Secretary's Report

Gloria reported that our membership base has remained stable at 33 members. No fees were charged for 2021 as it has not been possible to hold in-person meetings due to the pandemic. She suggested that perhaps we need to go back to our "newsletter" distribution list to recruit some new members and that we also need to have some new lighthouse pins made to be made available for once we can hold live meetings again. She will prepare an updated membership list for the next Executive Committee meeting.

## 7. Adjournment and Next General Meeting (AGM): Sunday, November 14, 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8 p.m. The next General Meeting is our AGM which will be a virtual meeting to take place on Sunday, November 14 at 2 p.m. Details to follow.

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## Appendix 'A'

### Key Points of Bill Fitzgerald's Presentation

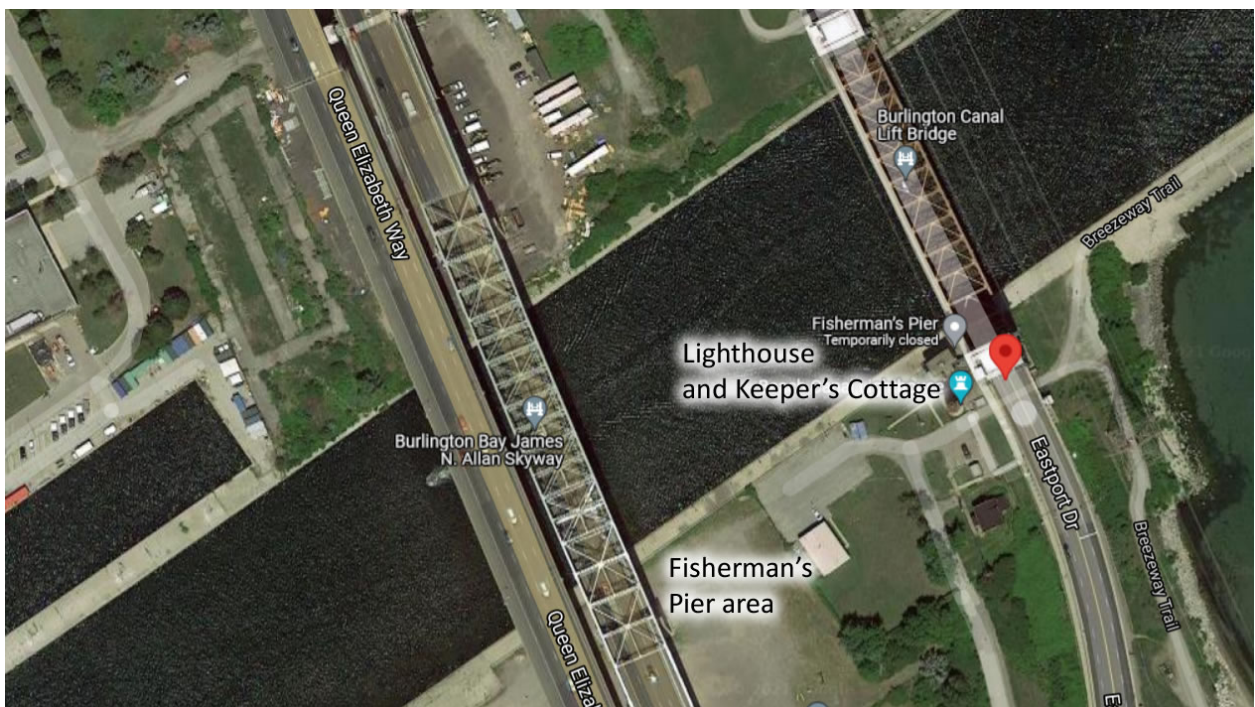
- The stone tower will be relocated about 300 feet to the west of its current site adjacent to the Burlington Canal Lift Bridge to a new site in the Fisherman's Pier area owned by HOPA.
- The targeted date for this project is early January to mid-March 2022.
- HOPA is working with MTO to secure a location on the far side of an existing maintenance shed but still close to the canal. MTO maintains a generous easement on either side of the QEW bridge; hence, the department has a say in where the lighthouse is moved to.
- HOPA is also still waiting for feedback from various federal levels of government before the exact placement of the stone tower can be finalized.
- A detailed geotechnical analysis of the site will need to be done. HOPA is working on specifications to put out to contractors. The relocation of the stone tower may necessitate the removal of the lantern, which would be re-installed on the tower once the move has taken place.
- Excavations will need to be deep enough to put down the jacking beams, which will require a very heavy crane to keep the stone tower plumb while it is being moved across a roadway and a parking lot. For the move, some overhead wires will need to be temporarily removed.
- There is an international association of structural movers, who will be drawn upon to find a company up to this challenging task. There is an expectation of that each of their proposals will take a somewhat different approach, which will need to be weighed in the final decision on which contractor is hired.
- To make the site secure, an area will need to be cordoned so that curious onlookers from the public can be kept at a safe distance from on-site work, especially for the move itself.

### Question and Answer Session after Bill's Presentation

- Is there an elevation difference between the site of the lighthouse in its current and new locations? Bill: Yes, by several feet (exact differential yet to be determined).
- Will piles need to be driven for the new foundation? Bill: Yes, this is probably the best solution given that there is a good base of sand and gravel.  
It was noted by a member that given the proximity of the former Royal Hamilton Yacht Club to the new site, there may be underground remnants that will need to be investigated. (NOTE: The RHYC building was a highly ornate wood structure which burned to the ground in 1915.)
- Would any work need to be done in the future on the canal, such as widening it, that could adversely affect the new location of the lighthouse? Bill: No, its current width of 300 ft is ample for the passage of ships entering Hamilton Harbour. It is anticipated that HOPA will at some point in the future acquire the canal walls.

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- Will the south-east pier be closed to pedestrians due to safety concerns? Larissa: The City of Hamilton and the City of Burlington are now discussing how they could take on this liability to ensure that the piers are safe for pedestrian traffic.
- How many days will there be moving action for the people to watch? Bill: Most of the time will be spent on preparatory work; the move itself may only take a day.
- Should we be creating a video record that could be posted on our website? Larissa: This is definitely a project that HOPA would want to take on.
- Bill commented that the bid selection process will be similar to other engineering projects undertaken by HOPA but that, in this case, we need to be absolutely sure that the selected contractor will carry out the work with utmost care (given the technical challenges involved). His biggest concern right now is, due to the recent sharp rise in the cost of construction materials, even the quotes coming in from the lowest bidders are still over budget. He wanted to go out to tender much sooner but the process of working with MTO has been much slower than anticipated. He is still hopeful that a winter completion date might be possible. The contractor will want to wait for the best possible weather conditions for the actual move.
- Are there any structures in close proximity to the new site for the lighthouse that will need to be removed? Bill: The contractor should be able to safely work around the existing storage building and there are no other structures close by.
- Will there be any structural investigation of the stone tower prior to the move? Bill: While there are no obvious signs of cracking or pieces of stone or mortar falling off, he will ask a structural engineer to examine the stonework.



Google satellite view showing the existing location of the lighthouse and its new location in the Fisherman's Pier area.