

**Our Ramara Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007- 9:30 am**  
**Days Inn- Ramara Room**  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance**

*Al Read – Washago & Ramara Seniors*  
*Gail Seaward- Friends of Ramara Public Library/North Mara Beach Residents Assoc.*  
*Marian Davy – Community Member*  
*Kevin Lehmann – Ramara Library Volunteer*  
*Cheryl Thompson - Joyland Beach Association/Funfest Coordinator*  
*Caroline Schiavone – Recreation Coordinator Ramara \* Recording minutes\**  
*Janet Banfield- CEO Ramara Public Library \* Chairperson\**  
*Diane Bell – Our Ramara Scholarship Fund*  
*Louise Brooks – Ramara Chamber of Commerce*  
*Leila Sherriff - Sherriff Paralegal Services- Executive Director – Alzheimer’s Society-NE*  
*Simcoe*  
*Don Barton- Soulvine Media*

**Regrets**

*Julie Scott – Innovative Perspectives*  
*Cathy MacDonald- Washago Community Centre*  
*Janice McKinnon- Deputy Clerk Ramara Township*  
*Karen Anderson – Mnjikaning Recreation*  
*Dann Oliver – Ramara Chamber of Commerce*  
*Ron Douglas – Rama-Mnjikaning Culture Department*  
*Donna Hewitt – Community Development Coordinator*  
*Sabine Houlden- Our Ramara Community Liaison*

**Additional Agenda Items**

Under New Business:

1. Ramara Township Scholarship Fund Dance – Diane
2. Mnjikaning Involvement – Kevin
3. Leila – announcement

**Action Items from Last Meeting**

1. Asset Mapping Overview to Council – Janet reports that the report was received as information by Council. To Do: Once completed this should be formally presented to Council on its findings.
2. Certificates to Schools & Frames – Sabine is currently working on making a certificate and Janet will take care of purchasing frames. Once complete this is an excellent

opportunity to present to schools and have a photo opportunity at the same time. Julie/Janet to coordinate this.

3. Cheryl – License Fees Waived by Township- Cheryl will continue to pursue this with Janice to take to Council for approval.
4. Press release to Packet – Janet handed out the Packet & Times article of March 2, 2007 that thanked all the Coalition partners.
5. NMBRA newsletter – Cheryl sent the Packet article to Gail to put in the North Mara Beach Residents Association newsletter - Gail reports it was received and put in newsletter that went out last month.

### **Library Strategic Development Fund Update**

LSDF meeting with Sabine & Mark – Janet and Kevin met with them and reviewed how the website was intended to be and have set the wheels in motion to start working on the revised website and work will also begin on the back end of the database. This work will allow automatic uploading upon approval by the administrator and equal a much smoother transition for those responsible for updating the database but will equal less manpower needed. 50% has been paid up front and 50% will be paid at completion of the project. Suggestion: When website is finished, have it set up in theatre style for partners around the table to enjoy a demonstration. Invitations should also be sent out to Council to attend that meeting or set up a deputation time for Council members to access [www.ourramara.com](http://www.ourramara.com) online with their computers at a Council meeting. Kevin will look into this when project is completed.

### **Rural Community Capacity Building Update**

Kevin reported in Julie's absence that public meetings are now being held in what is now "Phase 2" of the project identifying gaps and needs within the Township. The turnout has been good with a lot of good information being gathered. Last public meeting scheduled is March 21 @ 7:00 pm at the Ramara Centre. Please contact Julie or Kevin to get your name on the RSVP list if you have not been involved in a previous session. This is your opportunity to voice your opinion on what is needed in the Township.

### **Our Ramara FunFest 2007 Planning Committee Update**

Cheryl reports that planning is on track at this time. Lonestar Oasis has been booked for the talent stage at night. Vendors continue to sign up weekly. Sponsorships are being sought on an ongoing basis. She is still waiting to hear from the Casino re parking and will update the Funfest Committee on this when available. Committee shirts/sizes needed to order this year's shirts. The Funfest website is being updated by Sabine.

### **New Business**

1. **Ramara Township Character Award** – Diane Bell announced that her deputation to Council on March 12<sup>th</sup> was successful in setting up a Ramara Township Character Award which is a scholarship to be awarded to a student from either board (public or separate)

who is going on to college or an apprenticeship program as a tradesperson. This is a unique partnership with the SCDSB where the money will be held with the school board and the decision will be made by the awarding principals to the student who will benefit that year. \$20, 000 must be raised for it to be viable at this point. It has been set up that the award will rotate from Patrick Fogarty to Twin Lakes on a year to year basis – this is dependent upon funding received. Diane was also successful in having Council agree to donate the Ramara Centre in kind and also any profits made from the bar for a dance being held May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Centre. The Sensations have been booked as the talent for the night. Diane will be contacting organizations and businesses for donations and has offered her time to go out to discuss with businesses or organizations who wish to learn more about the fund. Please contact her.

2. **Mnjikaning Involvement** - Janet and Kevin met with Ron Douglas regarding representation at the Our Ramara table . Ron still receives updates in the form of minutes but has not sat at the table for some time. It is felt around the table that Mnjikaning's involvement is crucial in forming partnerships. Also missing at the table was former involvement with the Recreation department. Ron explained that while still interested there has been much staff turnover in departments and a busy time in general has not afforded any staff member the time to sit at the table. Kevin will continue to follow up on this to try and get active representation at the table.

### **Group Updates**

#### *Marian*

- April 18<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm – Ramona Hall is holding a Pancake Supper

#### *Cheryl*

- Joyland Beach holding annual indoor golf tournament on March 17<sup>th</sup> followed by a ham supper \$15 per person. .
- Joyland Beach breakfast serving will start soon for the season .

#### *Gail*

- No updates from NMBRA at this time
- Friends of the Library – Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm @ Ramara Centre. The Friends also sponsored March Break Programs at the Library giving \$1000 . Friends will also be sponsoring the new identity for the library by paying for the new mascot totem pole to be carved out of wood.

#### *Kevin*

- Is working on updating the events calendar on the Our Ramara website. Please send any updates to Kevin.

#### *Al*

- Ramara Seniors have decided NOT to put a table in at Funfest this year
- Washago Seniors may be putting on a garage sale at Ramona this year for Funfest

*Caroline*

- Mayor's Walk – May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Inclusion Counsellor approved by Council for summer camp
- Winter programs almost finished
- Swim Program finished March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Spring programs start 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April
- Baseball registration takes place March 24/31 from 9-12 and April 4 from 6-8 pm
- Friday March 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm – March Break Camp – Wizard of Oz production

*Louise*

- Chamber office has moved across the street to Jolly Motors
- Bill Kahler is the new Council rep for Chamber
- A student will be in the office for the summer
- Trade show set for April 28<sup>th</sup> – Ramara Centre
- More maps are available if you want to distribute – contact Louise
- Community Policing update – fingerprinting is taking place and Erika Neher is the new Council representative on Policing

*Diane*

- New scholarship fund – see above – any cheques or donations should be made out to the Simcoe County District School Board c/o Ramara Township Scholarship Fund

*Janet*

- New look and logo unveiled for the Library (Owls)
- March Break programs sponsored by the Friends are now taking place including Bead Workshop, Clowning Around Workshop and a Comic Juggler on Thursday afternoon in the auditorium – all are welcome to attend.
- Kevin is also providing an internet safety workshop on Wednesday afternoon
- Library Board will be putting up a display for Funfest and will be running a dunk tank
- Through funds from the CAP grant, Janet has ordered a 19 inch monitor with built in speakers and a large print keyboard with zoom software to address accessibility in one of the library workstations
- Library website has some changes including an online resource button
- Library has also secured partnership with Brechin Public School to share \$1500 to spend on resources for parents

*Don*

- Business storefront has closed but printing is still in operation
- Don is looking into the possibility of expanding distribution of the Soulvine newsletter to encompass events in and around entire Township
- Looking into updating [www.washago.ca](http://www.washago.ca) which has been stagnant for some time
- Don wants to invite Severn Twp rep to a Coalition meeting to have them observe the unique partnerships within Our Ramara and the municipality's endorsement of the project.

*Leila*

- Leila has been hired as Executive Director of the NE Simcoe Alzheimer’s Society – anyone wishing to contact her can call the office at 329-0909
- Alzheimer’s Society will be putting in a table at Funfest

*Action Items*

- *Future To Do – Asset Mapping sessions to Council*
- *Sabine – certificates for schools*
- *Janet/Julie – certificates TO schools*
- *Cheryl – Funfest license fees*
- *Future To Do – when [www.ourramara.com](http://www.ourramara.com) is updated present to Council as deputation and in public meeting with Coalition as well as any invitees*
- *March 21 – RCCB Needs/Gaps session – Contact Julie or Kevin to attend*
- *Kevin – Follow up with Mnjikaning*

**NEXT MEETING – APRIL 11<sup>TH, 2007</sup> 9:30 AM – DAYS INN RAMARA ROOM**