

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to the 64th Annual General Meeting of The Whiteshell Cottagers Association Inc.!

It's great to see such a fantastic turnout this year again, and we certainly appreciate the support of everyone in this theatre, and we also welcome the opportunity to bring you all up to speed on what we've been working on over the past year.

I'd like to start by thanking all the exhibitors who came out tonight to showcase their products and services... as you surely noticed, some brought booth prizes that they will be drawing for, so if you missed entering any of the draws... I'm sure they'd be delighted to have you drop by after the meeting to do a last minute entry!

It's been a very interesting year for the WCA, with a significant degree of stress and frustration, but ultimately, with significant successes as well. We have worked very hard and gone to great lengths to get to where we are today..... We are truly undergoing a revitalization process and are pleased with the progress made to date, but we are just beginning. We've begun social media campaigns on Facebook and Twitter which are works in progress, as well as a much needed facelift and upgrade to our website. We hope you'll follow us as we continue on our path to jumping out of the past and into the modern day!

Our membership #s were up over 2014 (1968/1720) 14.4% and we are showing signs of significant gains again this year. We're already just shy of 1800, and a very encouraging number, roughly 16% are new this year. If we remain on current trend....we should end the year

somewhere around 2300. When you consider that there are some 3400 + cottagers in the Whiteshell, we still have our work cut out for us to achieve our goal of 90% participation....and we'd like your help. Spread the word and be our ambassadors.... We need your help and support to encourage your neighbors to join. There will be Membership drives at various lakes beginning May long weekend, and we welcome those who wish to volunteer to help. Just get in touch with your Lake Director to offer your name and support! If you don't know who your Directors are, then just send an email to the Association general email address on the website and I will connect you.

There is strength in numbers, proving we are a credible and active Association deserving of attention. This was clearly demonstrated to the Government and was a decisive factor in our significant victory with the Province with our freeze on the lease fee portion of our annual invoices, and their commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in negotiating a fair agreement. Danny will elaborate much more on that in the President's Report.

Thank you.....

Ken Sommer – General Manager/Secretary