



# Elphinstone Community Association

[info@elphinstonecommunity.ca](mailto:info@elphinstonecommunity.ca)

<https://elphinstonecommunity.ca>

Serving the Elphinstone Community since 1971

## General Meeting February 21, 2024 – 7 PM Frank West Hall Minutes

<b>Executive</b>	Rod Moorcroft – President	Clint Budd – Vice President
	René Mandigo – Membership	Lucie McKiernan – Secretary
	Brian Thicke – Director	David Weintraub – Webmaster
	Ben Foster – Director	
<b>Absent</b>	Trish Wray – Treasure	Tamara Hedden - PAC
	Janet Oxley – Director	
<b>Members</b>	Estimated at general meeting	34 registered – believe there was 40 plus

1. Call to Order	Call to order at 7:04	Action by
2. Agenda	1. The regular order of business was suspended as the guest speaker was being well received and spoke at some length.	
3. Guest Speaker	1. Chris Basil, Bear Ranch – short notes below	
4. Director's report	1.	Donna
5. Adoption of previous minutes		



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6. Correspondence		
<b>7. Reports</b>		
1. President	<p>1.Thank you to the board for handling all our business while I was away.</p> <p>2.As Lucie is not available to take minutes tonight, each committee member is requested to submit their comments for the minutes.</p>	Rod
2. Vice Pres.	1.Clint has announced he will be standing down from the board.	Clint
3. Treasurer	1.Away	Trish
4. Secretary	1.Not available to take minutes tonight.	Lucie
5. Membership	1.In preparation for the upcoming April 2024 Elphinstone Community AGM, please renew your \$10./person/yr 2024 membership dues <b>now</b> . AND in every way possible encourage & promote ECA to our neighbours/friends to join us at the 2024 April AGM. <b>As paid members</b> they will have a voice and a vote at the meeting.	René
6. PAC	1. Away	Tamara
7. APC	1.Away	Rod
<b>Comm Reports</b>		
Chaster House / Park Standing Comm.	<p>1. Chaster House/Park: There are ongoing discussions with SCRD Parks and with Donna about Chaster Park and the Chaster House Bridge replacement with some positive signs of things happening but nothing concrete or new to report.</p>	Brian



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<p>Website Standing Comm.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are ready to transition from the current MailChimp mailing list system to a domain-based one; announcements in the future will come from <a href="mailto:info@elphinstonecommunity.ca">info@elphinstonecommunity.ca</a> instead of the old gmail address. Very soon everyone subscribed to the current list will be getting an email with instructions for subscribing to the new list. Because of the privacy requirements of our hosting provider we cannot manually subscribe anyone. To continue receiving our announcements, subscribers will need to watch for an email from a "do not reply" address and then click on the link in the email to confirm their subscription.</li> <li>2. Related to the mailing list change, we are also required to publish a privacy policy, which the Board is working on. This gives the Board the opportunity to review and declare security practices regarding the personal information ECA collects from members and subscribers. These are normal things we already do, like not disclosing addresses or publishing names on our website.</li> <li>3. There is some new Forest Conservation language on our website, describing and clarifying our relationship to any other independent groups ECA may collaborate with on this issue. We would love to have more participation from anyone in the community concerned about the impact of logging above us on Elphinstone. The new page is under Projects at <a href="https://elphinstonecommunity.ca/projects/forest-conservation/">https://elphinstonecommunity.ca/projects/forest-conservation/</a></li> <li>4. In addition to the Elphinstone Community Association group on Facebook there is now another account, Elphinstone CA, that can join and post announcements in other area groups and pages. This is a capability a group doesn't have, and it gives us more reach to let the larger community know what we do.</li> </ol>	<p>David</p>
<p>Socials Standing Comm.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The January social seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. Dates suggested for the next social are June or July at Chaster House.</li> </ol>	<p>Clint</p>



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<p>Trails Standing Comm.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is a new trail built by ECA volunteers between the dead end of Grandview west of Clark through the S-Turn ravine to Swallow/Grandview Heights road connector trail. It follows the Grandview Rd Right of Way. The trail is rustic and drops steeply into the ravine but is quite identifiable and passable for able bodied walkers and joggers.</li> <li>2. Also the old 14th Street trail from Grandview to Gower Point Rd that has been abandoned by SCRCD has been cleaned out. It is steep but easily passable again. There is a minor muddy section on the steep portion of the trail close to Gower Point Road. Please use these trails as it helps to establish them in the community. For more information and updates see the ECA webpage <a href="https://elphinstonecommunity.ca/projects/trails/">https://elphinstonecommunity.ca/projects/trails/</a> If you would like to volunteer for work parties or have ideas for trails please email <a href="mailto:trails@elphinstonecommunity.ca">trails@elphinstonecommunity.ca</a></li> </ol>	<p>Brian</p>
<p>Area E Roads Standing Comm.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If you know of an issue such as missing signage, poor design, or damaged/inadequate infrastructure that needs attention, please report it to us by emailing <a href="mailto:roads@elphinstonecommunity.ca">roads@elphinstonecommunity.ca</a></li> </ol>	<p>René</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Associations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No reps. present</li> </ol>	
<p>8. Old Business</p>		
<p>9. New Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Next month's speaker – as listed below</li> </ol>	<p>All Rod René /All  Lucie</p>



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10. Next meeting	<p><b>February 21 General Meeting Frank West Hall</b> – Speaker Chris Basil - farming in Elphinstone</p> <p><b>March 13 Board Meeting</b> – zoom</p> <p><b>March 20 General Meeting Frank West Hall</b> – Speaker Andy Maycock GPR Canada – ground penetrating radar</p> <p><b>April 10 Board Meeting</b> – zoom</p> <p><b>April 17 General Meeting Frank West Hall</b> – Julian Burtnick Fiedler Bros Contracting (Elphinstone Aggregates) <b>followed by AGM</b></p> <p><b>May 8 Board Meeting</b> - zoom</p> <p><b>May 15 General Meeting Frank West Hall</b> - Kelly Foley Cover the Coast Update</p>	
11. Adjournment		

### Committee Reports

#### Guess Speaker

Chris Basil spoke about the challenges of Farming in Elphinstone. It is very apparent that Area E folks like to eat, realize where their food is coming from and are very concerned about our ability to grow food. Chris drew the largest attendance I have experienced at an ECA general meeting.

I was only able to make a few notes before becoming so engrossed in the presentation that I stopped taking notes. Chris’s main thrust from my prospective was water restrictions for the farm community. He went on to explain that 20,000 years ago, the Elphinstone plateau was under water. As glaciers melted the decreasing weight of the kilometer thick ice receding decreased the compression forces on the land and the land began to raised up above sea level. The receding glaciers left pockets of gravel and silty soils behind that now know as the gravel pit and the upper and lower ALR areas of Area E.

Area E is approximately 5500 acres, of this 53% - 2900 acres is forest, 24% -1320 acres is suitable for agriculture and 23% - 12165 acres is residential. Due to buffer zoning restrictions only about 530 “upper acre”s and 310 “lower acres” of ALR is fully agricultural.



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From those acreages in 2023. 300,000 pounds of food was produced. Food production requires water. Under the current water restrictions farmers have to stop using regional district water at stage 4. Chris put a lot of time and effort into determining water usage by farms and usage of other commercial business. As an example local restaurants are not restricted at Stage 4 and were used as a comparison. It can be shown that a small restaurant uses about the same amount of water as a small farm. This and other information was taken to the regional district and farmers presented their case for being exempt from Stage 4 water restrictions.

The thought that came to my mind was, no water, no food, no restaurants not to mention no food for individuals.

Sorry at this point I was really focusing on the report and not taking notes.

### **Directors Report.**

The budget is the big topic this month. With those words I decided I was going to listen and simply tell the membership, go to <https://everythingelphinstone.ca> and read all about it.

### **Lee Carter's Elphinstone Trash Clean up**

Lee is organizing the clean up Elphinstone again this year. Meet at Cedar Grove Elementary on Saturday, March 23rd at 10 to clean up pathways, public areas and ditches. Last year we picked up over 500 pounds of garbage making Elphinstone a cleaner place.