

2009 Bustins Island Village Corporation Annual Meeting
Board of Overseers Report
August 1, 2009

The 2009 BIVC annual meeting finds Bustins Island and our community of people in good shape. We have lost a number of friends and neighbors who had a long and deep relationship with the island. Our island continues in much the same way as it has in the past and yet it also continues to evolve and change, though more slowly than changes on the mainland. A great many people participate in keeping Bustins running and making it the very special place it is. This is a meeting of the BIVC but I want to acknowledge the other groups that play a significant role on Bustins, the CABI, the Historical Society, the Library, the Store Porch newsletter.

Bustins depends on the volunteer efforts that you have contributed, in the past and more recently. Without this support and participation by so many, Bustins could not exist as it is. We are thankful for everyone that has spent many years, and many decades, helping to maintain and run the island. However, we are continually in need of more and younger volunteers. There are openings available on many of the working committees of the BIVC for people to step into to start getting acquainted with the operations of the island. This is how our next couple of generations of islanders can both contribute and prepare themselves for bigger roles in the future. Just as life on the mainland has gotten more and more complicated, so to, unfortunately, has the running of Bustins. Please talk to your adult children and grandchildren about getting involved.

Much of Bustins is in good shape and running very well. The Lilly B. ferry service continues to provide excellent service and the Boat committee with the help of Captain and Boat Manager Leslie Berry manages the operation very efficiently. The building and docks are in good shape and the Public Safety committee constantly improves our protection and emergency services.

One area where we have failed to manage things properly is the weather! June and July were a rainy and muddy disaster. Where this weather has really hurt us the most is on our roads. The investment that we made a couple of years ago in road rebuilding for some sections has certainly held up and withstood the onslaught of the rains. However it has shown us that we need to spend much more time and energy in maintaining the roads and drainage after every storm. In addition, the plans we had for repairing the potholes and muddy pools in parts of the road have been continually frustrated by the ongoing rain storms that prevent any significant work being done. After spending significant funds on upgrading other aspects of the island operations, it is now time to address the roads in a comprehensive manner. In this year's budget we have increased the funding for road and drainage work. In the coming years even more will need to be spent on materials and labor to bring the roads into good shape for our few vehicles and especially for the many walkers, runners and cyclists. For both financial and work management reasons, the roads improvement project will probably take at least 5 years to complete. The roads on Bustins are what link us all together, predominantly by walking them. They need to be useable during the entire Bustins season, in all kinds of weather.

This year has been a very reasonable year fiscally as well as operationally. We have worked hard to understand and manage our expenses and to prioritize our expenditures. The result is that we have ended the year with slightly more than we budgeted to contribute to our RED reserve fund.

One investment made this year was for a financial review performed by outside CPAs. This was one of several projects driven by our Finance committee with a lot of extra work contributed by our Treasurer John Garfield. The results of the financial review were both informative and gratifying. They verified that our finances were in very good shape, accurate and complete. They also provided a number of ideas areas where we could improve our operations over time. You already see the results of some of their ideas in the revised financial report and budget that is in the warrant this year. You will hear more ideas from the Finance committee in their report later.

Other areas where we spent significant money for projects was for repairs to the steamer dock, repairs to the public dock runway and new roof and skylights over half of the store building.

In planning the budget for the coming year, the bulk of your money goes for the same operating expenses. We have raised the budgets in a few places because of known increases in costs, like for insurance. In other cases we have made a decision to focus on specific improvements, such as the additional funds for road work that we discussed and some more for ongoing work on building maintenance. The capital equipment this year includes a portable pump to complete the upgrade of our fire equipment, a trailer to replace the use of rented dumpsters for hauling metal and large trash off island and a replacement generator for the Community House. Based on a recommendation from our Finance committee, we are also planning a significant contribution to a new Capital fund. This fund will pay for the expected and unexpected costs of major equipment and infrastructure replacements and repairs over the coming years.

As the Board of Overseers deals with operational issues and financial limits we try to keep in mind that this is Bustins, not just another town on the mainland. As much as possible we use and depend on volunteers. We also try to keep things simple and clear, straightforward and flexible. There are things that must be done and work to do, but we also want to do it in a way that allows everyone to ENJOY Bustins as much as possible and to maintain the easy going Bustins style. For the Board of Overseers, I want to thank all those who have worked so hard to keep the island running. I also ask everyone to find some way for you and your family members to participate in the coming year to make Bustins even better and more fun! Thank you!