

Champlain Regional Repeater Association  
Annual General Meeting 2021

May 26, 2021

7 p.m. via Zoom (to accommodate the COVID-19 pandemic)

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Present: Greg VE3ECI (Chair), Randy VA3RKS (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Allen VE3JGU (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Tim VA3PYC (Secretary & Zoom host), James VE3KAW (Treasurer), Robert VA3AGN (Net Manager), Phil VE3HOA (Technical Director), Jim VA3GMZ (Web Master), Graham VE3AMN, Frank VE3YY, Larry VE3KLJ, Don VE3PM, Alan VA3IAH, Steve VE3KEG, Bill VE3TUC, Curt VE3ZN, Ed VA3EJT, Jean VE2OCQ, Rob VE3JA

The agenda for the meeting was circulated via email in advance of the meeting.

Agenda

Review 2020 AGM Minutes: Tim VA3PYC

Executive Reports:

- President's Report - Greg VE3ECI
- Treasurer's Report - James VE3KAW
- Net Manager's Report - Robert VA3AGN
- Technical Director's Report - Phil VE3HOA & Graham VE3AMN

Special Project Updates:

- CRRRA/STP History Curation - Tim VA3PYC & James VE3KAW
- Social Events - Postponed

New Business & Member Input

The meeting began at 7:11 p.m.

**Motion to accept the agenda as presented** (Tim, James)

Passed unanimously.

**Review of the minutes – outstanding business from previous meetings**

Tim VA3PYC noted that there were no outstanding action items from last year's AGM. Tim explained that Graham VE3AMN prepared the minutes as his last duty as the association president. Graham provided a comprehensive summary of the various technical projects that were accomplished over the year. Tim thanked Graham on behalf of all members for his leadership and generosity both in terms of his time and his financial contributions to the CRRRA. We are happy that he continues to be involved even in his retirement as president and technical director.

**Motion to accept the minutes of the past meeting as posted. (Tim, Curt)**

Passed unanimously.

**Executive Reports:****1. President's Report - Greg VE3ECI (See the attached report provided by Greg.)**

Greg made a short Powerpoint presentation (see attached) beginning by noting that the CRRRA Executive has been meeting quarterly via Zoom making significant progress in a number of areas. Greg thanked the executive team members for their work this year.

Greg noted that we are in fair shape financially, however we could strengthen this for projects that we would like to do. Greg acknowledged the work that Phil VE3HOA has been doing as the Technical Director with the support of Graham VE3AMN.

There have been significant upgrades to VE3STP over the past year which are documented in the Technical Report in the minutes. For example, there is an APRS iGate Digi running on VE3STP site 2 thanks to Alan VE3JGU, as well as new batteries for the packet station thanks to VE3AMN and VE3YX from the Renfrew Club.

Greg explained that our membership is stable but stagnant. Without donations we would have a tough time paying the bills with a membership around 30 as it is. We need a vision for realistic growth, but we even need to define what we mean by this. This will be an issue for the Executive Committee in the year ahead.

Greg also looked ahead at technical issues ahead of us in terms of implementing DMR, enhancing interoperability but not undermining our FM repeater.

Greg expressed an interest in having quarterly Zoom meetings for members in general.

In addition, he noted that we are considering new antennas for the STP2 tower. Alan VA3IAH asked about the difference between the two sites used for VE3STP, and Greg provided a short history of the two towers. Frank VE3YY asked about the input

and output frequencies for VE3STP. Graham VE3AMN summarized the band plan in relation to these frequencies. In response, Frank noted that new radios identify our frequencies for Simplex, so new amateur operators don't realize that they may be interfering. Graham's research has led him to believe that there is no real reason to move. This is a perennial issue given our repeater's frequencies.

Greg took time near the end of his remarks to thank a number of club members. First, he expressed his thanks to Graham VE3AMN for his generosity and work this past year noting the repeater controller that he donated as well as the radio equipment on the FM side, and this is just to name a few things that he did for the CRRRA this year and in many years in the past.

Greg then expressed his thanks to Phil VE3HOA for a great deal of work on the FM repeater and his work on the DMR repeater which is at Phil's QTH.

Greg also thanked Tim VA3PYC and James VE3KAW for their work interviewing early CRRRA members (e.g., VE3KEG), as well as Ed VA3EJT who has been engaging members of the greater Madawaska township to raise awareness of our club and the possible role of ARES, something that is under-developed in our association at the moment.

Jim VA3GMZ noted that local historical societies may be interested in the interview data and club history once it is complete. Bill VE3TUC noted that we do have signed agreements with local municipalities such as Horton Township. Our efforts here need to be renewed. Bill also noted that he had a radio that he is willing to donate for the purpose of ARES.

## 2. Treasurer's Report - James VE3KAW

James reported that we have collected \$1325 in donations, \$900 of which came equally from the City of Pembroke, Township of Laurentian Valley and Town of Laurentian Hills for batteries (with thanks from Bob VE3YX for coordinating this donation). Expenses included RAC insurance for approximately \$500 plus a contribution to the batteries of \$200. Interest accrued was \$1.08! The balance is \$2818.74.

James noted that we have 28 members, two of whom have yet to renew their membership.

In response to the report, Rob VA3AGN asked how long the batteries are expected to last. Graham VE3AMN estimates 5 years. Frank VE3YY reflected on his experience with batteries at his trailer site and noted that wrapping the batteries in silver-aluminum insulation can be helpful.

**Graham moved that we accepted the financial report, seconded by Robert VA3AGN. Carried.**

### 3. Net Manager's Report - Robert VA3AGN

Robert summarized the net reports for the year. Steve VE3KEG ranked number 1 on the total number of check ins and nets hosted. See summary provided below.

Name	Location	Date	Checksin	Formal	Informal	Time	NETS
<b>VE3KEG</b>	Steve	Burnstown	776	0	209	2447	67
<b>VA3AGN</b>	Robert	Pembroke	762	0	173	2337	64
<b>VE3ECI</b>	Greg	Carleton - Place	746	0	168	2289	56
VE3KAW	James	Almonte	654	1	145	1990	55
VA3PYC	Tim	Carp - Kinburn	592	0	168	2155	50
VE2BJZ	Peter	Aylmer	165	0	48	504	19
VE3JKV	Jim	Renfrew	28	0	8	76	3
VE3FTS	Steve	Arnprior	21	0	11	77	3
VE2OCQ	Jean	Gatineau	20	0	0	15	1
VE3AMN	Graham	Ottawa	13	0	2	45	1
VA3IRV	Irving	Deacon	4	0	0	13	1

### 4. Technical Director's Report - Phil VE3HOA & Graham VE3AMN

Graham began with some comments about Site 1. The packet repeater at site 1 is operating reliably. The battery replacement was an important improvement as well as the replacement of the low voltage device. Graham used Sandy's VE3AAC's equipment which provided small improvements to the previous radio gear (e.g., radio jack).

Phil VE3HOA began by noting how humbled he was at the work done prior to him taking on this role. He is very impressed with the installation. He also thanked Allen VE3JGU and Graham for their coaching and help. His first job was to install the repeater that Graham manufactured for Site 2. Phil then presented a slide show of the site and installation, including the multi-mode package that Graham provided to do DMR

Phil also reported on the SDR data on the FM repeater. He explained that the separation of the input and output is excellent, but the input filtering requires a little more attention, increasing the skirt on the low side may help a little further with the interference we've experienced. Phil concluded by noting Greg's remote control

project as an advancement to help shut down our repeaters if we run into malicious interference.

Phil also suggested that we network the DMR repeater in the future.

Graham added that: 1) the steel building for our repeaters was a gift from Canadian Pacific Railway, which is a very expensive unit, and 2) the duplexer was a gift from Bell many years ago.

Summing up this section of the meeting, Greg noted that he wants further club discussion on various possible future projects.

#### Special Project Updates:

##### 5. CRRRA/STP History Curation - Tim VA3PYC & James VE3KAW

Tim explained that apart from the interview with Steve VE3KEG, James and he have not made further progress. COVID and Tim's choice not to retire has delayed their work. Tim asked Graham VE3AMN if he would be available for an interview soon. Graham prefers that we begin with VE3AAC as soon as possible.

##### 6. Social Events - Postponed

After Greg invited every attendee to make closing comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.