

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Agenda

Thursday February 26, 2026

ZOOM MEETING

Topic: Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee

Time: Feb 26, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83172949498?pwd=8NMm3hAHs7Pb5uO0qjT5ixAqLvyM2a.1>

Meeting ID: 831 7294 9498

Passcode: 224409

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,83172949498# Canada

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Join instructions

https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/83172949498/invitations?signature=-vvrLdYcaRs_9kSDZl4RjhFBhuv5JfXuQkELaedJmi0

† Educational resources posted by this committee are available on the Township of McKellar Website here:

<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

Our Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Item	Time	Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.
1.	*	Land Acknowledgement: In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here, and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.
2.	*	Roll Call: Tony Best (); Ross Crockford (); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (); Carl Mitchell (); Nick Ryeland (); Rick Speers (); Rob Gibson () We need 5 committee members to have a quorum () Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof?
3.1	*	Motion to accept the minutes of January 15, 2026. (attached) Moved: Seconded: Amendment: Approved with () without () Amendment :
3.2	*	Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Seconded:

3.3	*	Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss?
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues. NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.

4.1	*	<p>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection</p> <p>Feb 19, 2026 Do we want to act on the issue of the damage that wake boats do to a lake environment? How to move forward: a discussion. Possible information draft: The Effects of Wake Surfing on the lake and property (attached). Need to add effect on fishing?</p> <p>Jan 18, 2026: We have gathered a lot of information and debated extensively about the damage that wake boats do to a lake environment and considered how to move forward. A vote was held on a zoom poll: “Should we try to get Council to put a wake-boat question on this year’s election ballot?” This ballot was defeated – we will not be requesting a question on this year’s election ballot.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling</p> <p>Jan 18 Jennifer has written and distributed a draft article on treating drinking water to remove PFA’s which can go in the next edition of Environmental Considerations. Dec 15 2025 The committee agreed that we will apply to do one test for PFA’s in 2026 at a cost of approximately \$625 plus tax (price quoted in October 2025).</p>
4.3	*	<p>Publicity</p> <p>Feb 19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The article on treating drinking water to remove PFAs was posted on the LSEC Facebook page. Question: should we continue to make postings in the winter or wait until May for further posts? • New article for FB page on Key Biodiversity Areas (draft attached) • Would anyone be interested in working on articles mentioned below? Are there any other topics we should include in 2026? • Jennifer is planning a series of articles for Facebook based on the Webinar series “How Lakes Work” by the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed <p>We could do articles on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A) Well maintenance based on the video with a reference to it. B) Discouraging Insect Fogging – Peter will do this C) PFA’s in the water – draft completed D) Effects of wake surfing on the lake – drafts completed E) Discouraging dumping pharmaceuticals into the septic? F) Article about avoiding shallow areas/disturbing sediment with power boats with Patty’s pictures or new pictures that show the deep channels – best at high noon with a bright sun G) Article on planting in the water near the shore – put with wake boats articles (buffer, habitat) H) Should we publish a map with a guide to the location of the deep channels in the narrowest areas I) Updated video list or where to locate it

		<p>J) We would aim to have a revised Environmental Considerations ready to print in early May – get a list of new residents by the beginning of June. We need to get it to the printer by mid-May, get the list of new households by the beginning of June and complete 2026 distribution by July 1 as we did in 2025</p> <p>K) Can we do an article or video with Rob or both on distinguishing invasive phragmites from indigenous phragmites, preventing the spread and removing and destroying invasive phragmites without spreading it inadvertently</p> <p>L) It would be good to see if we have covered all relevant topics perhaps by looking through the issues covered by other associations</p> <p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf along with other videos</p> <p>Our postings (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer will continue to gradually update the page with Megan Attard’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>
4.4	*	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</p> <p>Feb 19 – the new guidelines for recycling in McKellar Township are posted on the web site under Municipal Services/Transfer Station</p> <p>Jan 15 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council passed a bylaw that we can hold the Clean Up Our Lakes Campaign between May 11 and 25th as we requested. We need to put up the sign at the transfer station and do publicity.
4.5		<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>Jan 15 - Tony heard from a local resident that he gave up fishing from his boat because wake boat activity was too disruptive.</p> <p>Oct 16 Update from Ross on Turtle Crossing Signs – Ross and Jennifer conferred about the number of signs required and settled on an amount of \$1200 as appropriate for the turtle signs on McKellar Township roads.</p> <p>RESOLUTION #3 2025</p> <p>Moved: Ross, Seconded Peter – We will spend an amount not to exceed \$ 1200 on turtle signs. Passed Unanimously.</p>
4.6		<p>Benthic Study October - GBB did Benthic sampling again in July 2025 – report is available on the McKellar Web Page here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Manitouwabing-environment-report-2025-1.pdf</p>
4.7		<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p> <p>Jan 15 – Our pamphlets concerning fogging with insecticides are at the Township office ready to be distributed with the February tax mailings.</p> <p>Dec 18 – Rob noted that the province is considering a law limiting pesticide spraying on lawns.</p>
4.8		Invasive Species –
4.9		<p>Water Levels –</p> <p>Sept 18 – We posted a notice about the lowering of water levels on the LSEC web page so people are reminded why the water levels are dropping and the fact that the range of level is governed by an agreement The water level on Lake Manitouwabing is controlled by the hydro power company, Bracebridge Generation Ltd. within the limits of the normal operating zone established in a resolution of the Public Utilities Commission of the Town of Parry Sound (No. 87-83).” And the url for the paper : 2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF.pdf</p>
4.10		<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>Jan 15 – there should be information on standardized Drinking Water Source Protection projects available this spring.</p>
4.11		Strategic Planning –

Ongoing items deleted from Agendas and Minutes: Septic Education, Microplastics, Fish Catch reporting sign at Armstrong Lake following stocking, Catch and Release signs, Dark Skies, ICE CAP, EV Chargers, Organic Waste Planning, Pollinator Gardens. These items can be brought back as needed.

5.

Budget
Dec 18: Proposed LSEC budget for 2026 presented to Council Dec 16th, 2025

Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee Budget – 2026 draft

	2024 Budget Detail	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Draft Budget
Water Testing					
E. Coli Sampling	\$4,500.00	\$4,640.22	\$4,900.00	\$4,690.09	\$5,000
Phosphorus and calcium sampling	\$2,500.00	\$2106.04	\$2,400.00	\$2,413.60	\$2600
PFA test					\$800
Standardizing solutions	\$250.00	153.68	\$170.00	\$175.15	\$180
Benthic 2 sites	two sites \$4,000	\$2,520	\$4600	\$3869	\$4000
Water Testing Sub total	\$11,250.00	\$9,419.94	\$12,070	\$11,147.84	\$12,580
Educational Materials					
Signs (recycling, animal/turtle crossing)	\$200	0	\$500		\$1200
200 Environmental Welcome Packages for New Residents			\$1450	\$1,864.50	\$4000 (400 copies)
Educational Materials Consolidated (Flyers and other educational materials Presentations)	\$3,500		Shoreline Pamphlet \$ 1300 New Recycling Pamphlet \$1300	\$1,226.05 Insecticide fogging pamphlet \$ 1,226.05	1300
Honorariums for talks	\$900	0	\$500		\$500
Demonstration Pollinator Garden			\$250	delete	
Education Activities Sub Total	\$6,843.00	\$1,864.50	\$5,300	4316.60	\$7000
Grand Total	\$18,093.00	\$14,951.44	\$17,370	\$15,464.44	\$19,580

October 16:
Motion to accept the proposed 2026 budget, with the proviso to do an initial printing of 200 Environmental Considerations books and add a later additional printing if needed.
Moved: Rick Seconded: Ross Accepted: Unanimous

6.

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Our meetings are now held on the third Thursday of the month.
Meeting Dates for 2026:

January 15th	July 16 th
February 19 th	August 20 th
March 19 th	September 17 th
April 16 th	October 15 th
May 21 st	November 19 th
June 18 th	Dec 17 th

The Council Chamber is available and has been booked for Third Thursdays.
Old information is occasionally removed from the bottom of each item in these minutes, but can be found in old minutes on the Township’s web page under Environment.

7.

*

Motion to adjourn.
Moved: Seconded: Approved: Time: