

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

AGENDA

Thursday November 30, 2025

ZOOM MEETING

Time: Nov 20, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82258484979?pwd=xCRJUyi5s75M2FaNDkHgZ4gTWVgc6.1>

Meeting ID: 822 5848 4979

Passcode: 543943

† 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 September 18, 2025. (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? October 16 -Also, there have been a number of mentions in the news recently about water contamination by PFA's – we should look into how to test for this (see attached)
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues. NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.
4.1	*	Waterfront/Shoreline Protection November 20 – Chair has distributed information in the past week about the issue of wake boats (Effects on the Lake of Recreational Wakes, Resources and References on Wake Surfing). Included with this emailing will be two pertinent research papers and VORR 7.1 for Dummies. The reason for

		including the research papers is that research is required in order to make a VORR application – whether this research will suffice remains to be seen. Chris Houser offered to separate the Manitouwabing data if we request it. Previously, information on putting a question to the voters was distributed. There is a requirement that an assessment needs to be done on the support that exists in the community for a ban on wake boats, and we could take advantage of the fact that 2026 is a municipal election year to request a question on the October 26 ballot. The deadline for this submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is March 1 2026 and the request would need to be made by Council. An awareness/education campaign would need to be conducted next summer in order to present the issue to the residents Discussion: MLCA role/ LSEC role / Others Whether/how to proceed If we decide to proceed – next steps October 16 – 1. A presentation by Safe Quiet Lakes (attached) concerning damage caused to lakes by wake boating/surfing was sent to the committee by McKellar Township Clerk, Karlee Britton. Consider requesting that Council put a question on the ballot for the October 26, 2026 Municipal Elections asking residents whether they would want a Council to apply for a Vessel Operating Restriction Regulation (VORR) restricting wake surfing to areas of McKellar Township Lakes that are 6 m deep and 60 m from shore to avoid stirring up phosphorus deposits in the sediment, disturbing spawning beds and nesting sites, interfering with the operation of other boats, endangering swimmers near the shore, damaging docks and boats, and decreasing erosion of the shorelines. A bylaw has to be written to put the question on the ballot. This is a process (writing the question, holding a public meeting) has to be completed by March 1 2026, in order to ask the question in October of 2026. (attached document “submitting a question to the voters” written for the committee) Discussion: Committee members want to investigate this issue of damage and disruption caused by wake boats. One committee member, whose dock faces the centre of the lake, told how he is unable to get into his boat because of the turbulence of the water caused by wake boats when they are in the centre of the lake and his grandchildren have to get out of the water because of the . He felt that restricting wake boats to the centre of Lake Manitouwabing would therefore not have any appreciable impact on the disruption they cause when in wake mode even in the deepest part of the lake. Another member described going to great expense to suspend his watercraft at the dock, rather than tying them up so they wouldn’t be destroyed by smashing against the dock when wake boats are nearby. He also said that his water line into the lake had holes beaten into it by being repeatedly beaten against the rocks on the bottom with the deep wave motion caused by wake boats in front of his cottage. Another member described almost being capsized by the wake motion while out in a wide, 14 foot, aluminum keeled fishing boat. Apparently the Federal government has decided that under Vessel Operation Restriction Guidelines, a municipality can apply to have wake surfing banned on a lake. One of the big caveats in doing so, hearings must be held and “most” people need to be in favour. It was proposed that we look into requesting that a question could be put to the voters at the same time as the Municipal Elections next fall about banning wake boats. See attached note which outlines how the procedure to place a question to the voters is outlined in the Ontario Municipal Elections Act. The committee decided to do more research and discuss this issue again at the next meeting. One member pointed out that the question put to voters is required to be simple and straightforward, such as “Are you in favour of banning wake boats from McKellar Township lakes?” and that having distance and depth specifications would be seen to be too confusing.
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4.2		Water Sampling October 16 – 1. water testing results are in. Phosphorus levels are quite low, possibly from the dry weather and lack of runoff. Carl estimated from the lake temperatures that the sampling was done before the lakes turned over, which he thought would account for the low phosphorus levels. 2. Attached to the Agenda concerning PFA's were the price list for PFA tests, and a brief article written for the committee entitled "Why Test for PFA's?" Carl said there will be PFA's in the lake water – the question is whether the limit of 30 nanograms per litre (as set by the federal government as a safe level) – will be breeched. Carl said sampling for PFA's should be done as early in the spring as possible. The middle of the lake, Hurdville Arm or Hurdville Dam are acceptable locations for sampling. Jennifer will discuss any further guidelines around sampling from Caduceon and pick up a sample bottle from the Caduceon office in Barrie. Jennifer noted that the main reason for testing would be to show evidence of the existence of PFA's in the lake water and to provide education to residence about the filtering required to remove them. The committee agreed that we will do one test for PFA's in 2026 at a cost of approximately \$625 plus tax (price quoted in October 2025).
4.3	*	Publicity November 20 • The video on Well Maintenance has been completed and is posted on our YouTube channel. The list has been updated and sent to the library • Items that could be added to Environmental Considerations 2026: 1. Discouraging insect fogging 2. PFA's in the water 3. Effects of wake surfing on the lake 4. Discouraging dumping pharmaceuticals into the septic (from well maintenance video) 5. Article about avoiding shallow areas/disturbing sediment with power boats with Patty's pictures 6. Any other inclusions/deletions/changes? 7. Note about videos available • We could do some work/education on planting in the water at the shore (buffer, habitat)

		October 16th – The video on Preparing to Protect your Property from Wildfire Damage has been edited to contain an introduction by Rob Morrison, McKellar Fire Chief and is available on the McKellar Township web page under Residents/Environment/Fire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67SaYBFcaDc LSEC Facebook page url: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL 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 Our postings (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer will continue gradually updating the page with Megan Attard’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx
4.4		Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling October 16 – the Township received a letter from CMO which unilaterally changes the contract (attached). The Township will receive less money than was agreed to in the initial contract last year because recyclable materials from institutions (business, schools, churches etc) can no longer be recycled with materials from residences. October 16 – suggest we put a brochure on safety of Generator Use up on our web section (attached) Postponed until November.
4.5		Fishing / Wildlife – 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. RESOLUTION #3 2025 Moved: Ross, Seconded Peter – We will spend an amount not to exceed \$ 1200 on turtle signs. Passed Unanimously.
4.6		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
4.7	*	Pesticides/Fertilizers – Nov 20 – Pamphlet discouraging fogging of pesticides has been printed and delivered to the Township office. Payment was included with 2025 budget. October 16 Peter reported on his presentation of the pamphlet on pesticide fogging to Council. The brochure was approved by Council to be included in the February 2026 tax mailing. Resolution 2025 #4 Resolved that we have the brochure on pesticide fogging - “Spraying for Mosquitoes: Things to Consider” printed this fall in preparation for distribution with the winter (Jan/Feb) tax mailing at a cost of no more than \$1500. Moved: Peter Seconded: Rob Passed Unanimously Sept 18 – A few of us realized that the education on pesticide fogging needs to go out before the spring (ie with the January tax mailing). A pamphlet has been written to discourage fogging for biting

		insects because the contamination kills other insect species, interferes with the food supply for animals and birds, remains in the ground, pollutes the groundwater, and is carried to the streams, rivers and lakes with rain runoff, affecting aquatic life. This pamphlet is presented for evaluation and approval by the committee. Moved: The pamphlet distributed with this agenda entitled “Spraying for Mosquitoes: Things to Consider” be approved by this committee and presented to Council for approval Moved: Tony Seconded: Ross <u>without</u> amendments: Passed unanimously
4.8		Invasive Species –
4.9		Water Levels – 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
4.10		Drinking Water Source Protection Oct 16 – The webinar on well maintenance by OGWA will be on Monday October 27 at 7 pm on zoom. Facebook and MLCA publicity.
4.11		Strategic Planning – July 17, 2025 The committee members will each monitor one environmental publication/ Newsletter/ organization with a view to keeping the other members informed and updating ‘Environmental Considerations.’ <i>Peter</i> will monitor Safe Quiet Lakes, including the survey results and Transport Canada rulings on Wake Boats. [There have been public hearings. Municipalities have the jurisdiction to make the waterways motorless, allow motors of 9.9 HP or less, or have no limits on watercraft. There have been Transport Canada hearings about moving wake surfing into its own category, however boats cannot exceed 10 km/h close to shore (within 30m), but there is difficulty enforcing that limit. Only transport Canada can be effective at restricting the use of wake boats which are so destructive to the shoreline and shore bird nests.] <i>Ross</i> will monitor FOCA <i>Jennifer</i> will monitor Watersheds Canada and Water Magazine <i>Rick</i> will monitor Firesmart. <i>Nick</i> will monitor Council and report back any developments that affect our Environmental work Perhaps Rob can monitor changes at MNR that are of significance to us. We need someone to monitor changes in Fishing Regulations and trends etc.
		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 Nov 20: Expenditures for 2025 have been finalized October 16 – Draft Budget for 2026 (attached)

The Draft Budget was presented. It includes a 5% increase in costs for analysis of water samples. We will print 200 copies of a revised 'Environmental Considerations' book initially and print more if they are needed.

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 Pesticide pamphlet Recycling pamphlet	\$819.25 \$1045.25	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.		Our meetings are now held on the third Thursday of the month. <table><tr><td>January 9th</td><td>July 17th</td></tr><tr><td>February 13th</td><td>August 21st</td></tr><tr><td>March 13th</td><td>September 18th</td></tr><tr><td>April 10th</td><td>October 16th</td></tr><tr><td>May 8th</td><td>November 20th</td></tr><tr><td>June 12th</td><td>Dec 18th</td></tr></table> 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.	January 9th	July 17th	February 13th	August 21st	March 13th	September 18th	April 10th	October 16th	May 8th	November 20th	June 12th	Dec 18th
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7.		Motion to adjourn. Moved: Seconded: Approved: Time:												