

**LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP\* ‡**

**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:30 – 8:30 PM**

\*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>

‡ There are openings for additional members of this committee. Please email lsec.mckellar@gmail.com for assistance with the application process.

**Here is the Zoom Link.**

We are unable to access the Community Centre this month, so this meeting will not be hybrid but will be held only on Zoom.

Topic: Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee of McKellar Township

Time: Sep 14, 2023 11:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87307814354?pwd=ZWdnWWtzZFJ0M0x0Ymww1akJDdnA4dz09>

Meeting ID: 873 0781 4354

Passcode: 649659

One tap mobile

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Item	Time	<b>Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.</b>
1. *		<b>Land Acknowledgement:</b> 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. *		<b>Roll Call:</b> Tony Best (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (); Melanie Jeffrey (); Al Last (); Axy Leighl (); Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (); Nick Ryeland (). We need 4 committee members to have a quorum ()  Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof?

3. *		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of July 6th, 2023. (attached).  Moved:           Seconded:                            Approved: (    )</p> <p>Amendments:</p>
4. Goals		<p><b>General Updates on Current Issues.</b></p>
4.1 *		<p><b>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</b></p> <p><b>Sept 14, 2023</b> – Jennifer sent out a draft policy on Aug 16<sup>th</sup> for your review (Fifth revision attached) and additional material to be used to evaluate it on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> (The Science Behind Vegetated Shorelines attached).  <b>We will be seeking a motion to approve this proposed policy and forward it to Council as an amendment/replacement for the current Tree Canopy Policy 2019-12 Tree-Canopy-Policy (attached).</b></p> <p>July 6, 2023 – Axy will send out a draft policy by July 17<sup>th</sup>. We will review it at our next meeting on August 10<sup>th</sup> and decide whether it is ready to share with Council at that time. Council members have expressed interest.</p> <p>April 13, 2023 - Axy &amp; Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. The first draft of this proposed policy as well as some references are attached. We need to decide how to proceed with the fine tuning and public education/familiarization with this new policy.  Discussion included a need to use more plain language.  The question was raised about the cost to the township of implementing this. There may be some initial publicity costs, but there is no need for enforcement expenditures as it is a by-law to establish a policy of best practices for maintaining tree canopy and natural vegetation and will serve as a guide for residents.  The Haliburton by-law has a question and answer section. Something similar might be helpful.</p>
4.2		<p><b>Water Sampling</b></p> <p><b>July 6</b> – MLCA samplers have completed the June 2023 sampling for E. coli and results are posted with MLCA and the Township.</p> <p>The six largest lakes in McKellar Township were also sampled for phosphorus and calcium. For five of those lakes this was the first time. The sites of the 2021 Lake Capacity study were used, and a comparison sample collected at the five Lake Partner Program sites on Lake Manitouwabing. Posting of these results is pending.</p>
4.3		<p><b>Septic Education –</b></p> <p>July 6 – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It was included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p> <p>A question was raised about septic inspection by a member of the public. Jennifer has made a preliminary call to the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association and will follow up, as will Nick.</p>

	<p>A call was received in June from a McKellar Township resident who will be remaining anonymous. There was a release of raw sewage into Lake Manitouwabing from a burst septic tank on April 15 that was visible on the melting ice. The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Association (NBMCA) was contacted, but by the time they were called, the ice had melted and the sewage was gone so they were not able to take any further action. E coli tests were completed in the area in June. The site level was slightly elevated and was over the provincial standard of 200 CFU/100 ml downstream. There is no mandated septic inspection in McKellar Township. This committee investigated the possibility a few years ago, but the cost of acquiring each septic registration in the township from NBMCA, the cost of paying the salary of a septic inspector (even one shared by other area municipalities) and the process to set the system up was agreed to be beyond the capacity of the Township at that time. Discussion included the diesel spill in the spring at which the health department, the Ministry of the Environment and the police attended, and this was contrasted to the government response to the sewage spill. We also discussed the possibility of asking the Township if one of its employees could go out to witness a future sewage spill and report it on behalf of the Township as quickly as possible. Perhaps a hotline could be set up and/or the By-Law officer could be involved. Currently, individual residents are relied upon to do the reporting; they are assured of anonymity by the NBMCA, but that does not extend to a possible court case. Individuals may suffer from personal harassment for reporting a neighbour and this is not acceptable. The committee also discussed a need to devise/discover a reporting mechanism for 24/7 reporting and advertise this to residents.</p> <p>The main concern is that a majority of township residents draw household water from the lake and treat it with various methods before drinking it. Discussion was also had on the need to advertise free tap water testing by the health unit and the water testing, likely at a cost, by Water Depot in Parry Sound. <b>Nick</b> will investigate the service available from Water Depot. We have a video on water testing available online.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup>:  Resolution 2023 #4  Motion: that we rescind Resolution 2023 #1 of March 9 2023, as follows:</p> <p>*Resolution 2023 #1 - The LSEC will print 100 copies of the Septic Smart booklet distributed last year and make them available at the Township office and the Library for new residents  Moved: Axy Seconded: Al Approved yes</p> <p>Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved (Yes)</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #5  Resolved that we approve the flyer entitled Wise Septic Use (4<sup>th</sup> draft attached), have 2000 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$1,500 and request that Council authorize* its distribution with the next tax mailing.  Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (Yes) With changes: none  *Council authorized this distribution with the next tax mailing.</p>
4.4	<p><b>Presentations</b> - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here:  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf</a> along with other videos</p> <p>Our <b>postings</b> (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under "Residents/Environment." Jennifer has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith's help.  <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</a></p>

		<p><b>July 6</b> - The request was made to put this link at the top of our agenda/minutes and to generally advertise it.</p>
4.5		<p><b>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters</b> – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6		<p><b>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes –</b></p> <p>July 6 - The “Clean Up Our Lakes” sign is badly damaged.</p> <p><b>Recycling</b> was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at a future meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p> <p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins.  Moved: Tony    Seconded: Sue    approved</p>
4.7		<p><b>Fishing / Wildlife –</b></p> <p><b>Sept 14</b> – Lumber and some T bars have been given to this group by committee members in addition to their independent receipt of township funds.</p> <p><b>July 6</b> –</p> <p>Al requested help with <b>bird boxes for raptors</b> that are on the decline. Sue and Al will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build <b>turtle nesting protection boxes</b>. Al will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with Al on this.</p> <p><b>Loon counts.</b> MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird.</p> <p><b>Canada Geese</b> – Minerva Park has become difficult to use because of the amount of goose guano on the ground. We will make the suggestion to the Township to leave a fringe of unmowed lawn about 2 – 3 feet wide on the land at the water’s edge to take advantage of the reluctance of geese to enter an area with long grass that they cannot see through.</p>
4.8		<p><b>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake</b> - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.  <b>June 1 2023</b> – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9		<p><b>Catch and Release Signs</b> are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.</p>

4.10 *		<p><b>Benthic Study –</b>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – The property at 85 Cole Point Trail, which has been used as a sampling site for the benthic studies for the past 4 years has been sold. Jennifer has spoken with Katrina at GBB and will write to the Clerk to inquire about the new owner to inquire whether they will allow GBB to continue to use that property as a sampling site. 2023 sampling has been completed and the report will be issued by GBB shortly.  May 11<sup>th</sup> – funding is included in the 2023 budget  March 9, 2023 Jennifer distributed an evaluation of the value of the 2022 Benthic report along with a suggestion that LSEC recommend to Council that this research be continued. Proviso: that the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be posted on an existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. We passed a resolution supporting the continuation of Benthic sampling by the GBB.</p>
4.11		<p><b>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</b>  July 6<sup>th</sup> – an example of a brochure that would include pesticides  Turtle nesting protection boxes. Built for people to use and store.  Committee members liked the idea of promoting the planting of rain gardens and filter strips mentioned in the brochure below = to decrease the amount of nutrients seeping into the lake.  <a href="https://www.skaneateleslake.org/CCE_Lawn_Care_for_Water_Quality_Brochure_2020.pdf">CCE Lawn Care for Water Quality Brochure 2020.pdf (skaneateleslake.org)</a></p> <p>Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.</p>
4.12 *		<p><b>Invasive Species –</b>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – Sampling was completed in August for detecting the presence of two invasive plants: European water chestnut and water soldier by eDNA, through the auspices of FOCA.</p> <p>July 6<sup>th</sup> - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8<sup>th</sup> – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>
4.13		<p><b>Dark Skies –</b>  From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:  Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14		<p><b>Water Levels –</b> A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page.</p>
4.15 *		<p><b>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</b>  <b>Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b> – Tony watched the geese to identify how they access Minerva Park and Jennifer has written to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to request permission to plant low shrubs in those areas. Planting will take place Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 0900. Volunteers?</p>

