

Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee “ Public Meeting”, Sat Sept 25. 9:30 am arena

Draft Minutes

1. Welcome: Covid protocols, agendas and handouts, Susan listed attendees and took contact tracing phone numbers. Peter chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. He told us we needn't wear masks inside. He is Hoping we can have indoor meetings by October. Our report has been on line for 4 months. 23 people in attendance.
2. Format: - Special presentation to Q and A
3. Special Presentation: McKellar's Senior of the Year Award. Mike Corson and Joyce Hopkins are previous winners. A man of all seasons, personifies excellence. We need more volunteers like Al Last. Retired teacher of 30 years, he and wife Jane moved to McKellar, he wrote the McKellar news in the North Star news for years. Preservation of our natural beauty, founding member of Mck conservation association, restocked the lakes with walleyes, planted trees, built wood duck and Blue bird boxes, children's birdhouse building with area children, co founder of the butterfly garden, working with MNRF on a fish habitat area. Sits on Lake stewardship and makes positive suggestions and takes suggestions to the powers that be. Provides movie nights in our area. Involved in kid's fishing derby. Many stories: canoeing in his 20' war canoe, collection of ANCIENT outboard motors, brought Jack with him fishing in case a bear chased them and he could beat Jack. Excellent photographer. Congratulations to Al Last. One time Al has nothing to say!
4. Introduction and thank you to the committee: Don Sneyd, Tony Best, Fern Harris, Sheila Hardy, Susan Adamson, Jennifer Ghent Fuller, Barb Mallory, Barb Ancinelli, Al Last, Michael Corson, Carl Mitchell and new comers Melanie Jeffrey and Lynda Taylor. They have met for two plus years and worked religiously to prepare this detailed report that hopefully will preserve our lakes and protect our environment for our children and their children.
5. Before we start: Al Last has a special announcement. 6-7 yrs ago, under influence of McKellar conservation association, Al Formed an association with Steve Scholten, Fish biologist with MNR about of Bracebridge, Planted 3000 walleye through the ice. 2000 Walleye fingerlings were put in. A few days ago another 2000 more were put in. Now he is talking about a third run.
6. Introduction of our new Chair who will present our report: Jennifer Ghent Fuller. Peter introduced the ad hoc committee to those assembled. 60 plus page report and it is on the website. We are now a standing committee.
7. PPP - Jennifer presented the power point by using a handout and explained that we make recommendations to council based on our research. Council can chose whether or not to move forward with our recommendations. Many of our issues are interconnected. A sub committee wrote educational handouts which were handed out, in cooperation with MLCA, at the market. They also produced bookmarks. Al Last talked about establishing fish habitat. Derek McIntyre gave Manitouwabing a C- rating. McKellar Conservation Association was developed. It shut down when the Ministry no longer supported us. Don Sneyd effectively

did much research and found out fish habitat had not stayed on par with the number of people fishing. Decided to educate the public. We have to change the behaviour of fisher persons on the lake, mandating fish size, special handling, barbless hooks, catch and release special nets etc. Jennifer discussed the Benthic study and water quality studies, including Ice Watch. Don Sneyd has collected Ice Watch data for many years. We are also measuring deep water oxygen levels. Identified tire reefs in the lake placed in 1987....disposition is with the Ministry of the environment. Safe boating is also an issue we have identified. Ongoing discussion about posting speed limit signs, reporting incidents to the OPP. Water quality and E. coli levels on 5 area lakes are being measured by MLCA volunteers. Our lake is a living breathing eco system, and we need to identify human practices that harm our lake. Residents must treat lake water to make it safe. The amount of phosphorous determines if we have blue green algae, we had no reports this year. Summer graduates under Dr. Carl Mitchell, conducted a lake Capacity Study, gathering phosphorous levels. Septic systems, are an issue in many other area. Tony Best discussed the septic reinspection program. Broadly based programs, made a presentation to council, and when they have the resources they will come up with a program that meets the needs of our community. Link between water quality and septic systems, it is a good program, a good insurance policy to keep property values from plummeting. Deal with it now! Climate change. Township has joined GBB, icecap, multi stage plan, first stage has been completed, identifying our personal carbon calculation. Threat of plastics and pesticides, hopefully we can have a blue box program. Earth day and clean up the lake programs will continue. Hard copies are available In the library. The report is on the township website outlining the goals of the committee as well as suggestions for improvement and actions individuals can take (see bookmark)

8. Q and A Ken Gray asked about planting natural vegetation. Why? Jennifer talked about replacing lawns with natural vegetation. Ian Henderson: thanked the committee, and congratulated. Septic reinspection, 1990, in Tiny Township, that program paid off as far as improvement of water quality. Shoreline...build a new cottage, may not remove anything from 10' from shore. Asked if there is a by law about buffer zones, encourages council to add this buffer. Peter talked about the oil spill, it is contained, still cleaning up the oil. Ken Gray : personal carbon calculator, questionnaire on Georgian Bay Biosphere to calculate your own carbon production. Seemed to be the concern that the questionnaire is on the computer.
9. Next Step: Present to Council Tuesday Oct 12, 21 – deposition
10. Thank you and Adjournment