



**Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of the KLCA Newsletter. Please read below for information about our lake community!**

## **Letter from the KLCA to Algonquin Highlands regarding our concerns about expanding the Septic Lagoon near Fletcher Bay.**

Dear Ms. Reeder,

On behalf of the Kawagama Lake Cottagers Association (KLCA), please accept this submission as our comments on the proposed McClintock Lagoon capacity expansion that was the subject of a public information centre on August 25, 2018 at the Dorset Community Centre.

As way of a brief introduction, the KLCA represents the interests of seasonal and permanent residents of Kawagama and Bear Lakes. Kawagama Lake is the largest lake in Haliburton. The KLCA currently has a membership of over 500 families. We also maintain a very popular Facebook page which now has close to 2000 followers.

We have reviewed all of the information listed on the notice of the meeting, as well as the annual compliance reports for the lagoon. This is a significant amount of information, even for people who understand the complexities of lagoon systems and environmental systems.

Since the KLCA was completely unaware that the Township was considering expanding capacity of the lagoon until very recently, we will be limiting are comments at this time to three overarching questions and concerns we have about the proposal. The answers we receive to our three overarching concerns will

significantly impact any further comments we may have. We hope that this submission will serve as a basis for further discussions between us; yourself; and the Township with respect to this proposal.

Our comments/concerns are as follows:

- 1. The need for the expansion is not evident based on the information provided.**

We understand that an expansion of the site, or other alternatives, were studied in depth through an environmental assessment process around 2005. From what we understand, this study was initiated based on an estimate that annual septage from Algonquin Highlands was approximately 12,956 m<sup>3</sup> annually, and yet the existing lagoon had an allowable annual volume of septage of 2,470 m<sup>3</sup>. Since all townships should treat septage created within their boundaries, these figures suggested that Algonquin Highlands needed to increase capacity substantially. But further analysis showed that this initial estimate of the septage created within the township was vastly elevated, likely due to the fact that most residents of Algonquin Highlands are seasonal and do not need to have their systems pumped as frequently.

Based on the information provided to us, current septage creation in Algonquin Highlands is currently approximately 1162 m<sup>3</sup> annually. This volume is expected to increase to 1725 m<sup>3</sup> annually by 2036 (reference Cambium 2013 report). Yet, the allowable volume of septage into the McClintock lagoon is 2,470 m<sup>3</sup>. So even in 2036, the lagoon would only be accepting 70% of its allowable volume of septage. We are not suggesting that the Township not take action until it starts to bump up to the allowable volume, but this does make us question why the Township seems to be in a rush to expand the lagoon. In discussions with you at the information session, you indicated the Township is hoping to have the Class EA process completed in less than a year, so construction can begin next year. Why the rush?

At the information session, we were told that one driver was that the lagoon almost

exceeded its exfiltration capacity of 3000 m<sup>3</sup>. What we do not understand is how the exfiltration capacity was almost exceeded, when septage input was less than 50% of the allowable. We were told it was due to high precipitation, but the precipitation amount was only 20% more than the 30 year annual average. Based on the calculations in the 2017 Annual Report for the lagoon, if the lagoon received its allowable volume of 2,470 m<sup>3</sup>, and an average amount of precipitation fell, the lagoon would far exceed its design capacity. In fact, at the allowable volume of septage, the lagoon would need to receive less than 50% of our “average” precipitation for the exfiltration design capacity not to be exceeded. It’s unclear how the “allowable volume” of septage is related to the “design exfiltration capacity”. Based on the way the information is presented, one would assume that volume into the lagoon, in the form of precipitation AND septage, should not exceed design exfiltration. But clearly, that is not the assumption when the Ministry of the Environment set an annual allowable volume of septage at 2,470 m<sup>3</sup>. Clarity with respect to how the capacity of the lagoon is calculated with respect to the inclusion of precipitation and the details of how the MOE set the current annual volume limit would help enormously.

In closing out this point, we do recognise that operating near regulatory environmental limits should be avoided. Action does need to be taken when capacity is being threatened in order to prevent serious harm. However, given that the lagoon will be operating 30% under its allowable volume in 2036, it appears we have time to ensure proper action is taken.

## **2. Only a very narrow range of options appear to be under consideration to manage septage within Algonquin Highlands.**

At the information session, there was a display board that listed a wide range of options for the management of septage within Algonquin Highlands. This list of options being considered is not included on the Township’s website on the expansion project (it should be as should all other display boards and information that was available at the information session). We were advised that this list came

from a class environmental assessment that was completed in 2005. We were advised that this long list of options was reduced in subsequent reports completed by Cambium (which were not part of the class EA). Although we agree that it is important to build on previous studies, the EA process does not allow the options to be prematurely narrowed prior to the first public consultation session and the identification of the preferred solution.

The Township's abandonment of its previous 2005 Class EA is troubling. While we agree that EA was flawed in that it over-estimated the volumes of septage to be generated annually, its findings are necessarily flawed. As you are aware, that EA did not recommend expansion of the McClintock Lagoon, but instead recommended treatment at another other site. It is unclear why this recommendation is not being considered.

When we left the public information centre, it was unclear to us what exactly the Township was proposing and which options they were considering for the lagoon expansion. We understood that "dewatering trenches" were the preferred option of the Township, due to the cost, but most of us came away with the impression that no options are off the table, and that the Township is very early in the process. We were advised to look at the other reports available, which we have. There was an initial list of about 20 options, and then the 2013 Cambium report lays out 5 options, with little or no consultation or explanation as to why the list was narrowed to the list of 5.

However, according to the 2017 Annual Report on the lagoon: "The Township is currently in the process of completing the studies required to expand the existing site. The expansion is proposed to include a number of dewatering trenches". In fact, it goes on to explain how much work has already been done for the environmental assessment of the trenches. This suggests that the Township is not consulting on all options, and that the decision on which site was to be used to accommodate growth in septage generation was made even before the public information centre.

We strongly recommend the Township broaden the options being considered and

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consult more broadly on these options.

### **3. Engage the community in meaningful consultation.**

As per comments above, we and our membership, had no idea the Township was proposing an expansion of the lagoon. Even after going through all of the documents, it is unclear what exactly is being proposed, and why.

A key element of the EA process is consultation. In order to meet the requirements of Schedule C Municipal Engineering Association Class EA the Township must engage in meaningful consultation, and this consultation is to take place throughout the process, not after key decisions have been made. All guidance on effective consultation recognises that it must be initiated early in the planning phase of a project. Based on the information presented to us, it appears that the Township has made substantial decisions about expanding a sewage lagoon that is located less than 500m away from the largest lake in Haliburton, without consulting the residents of that lake, or the other nearby lakes.

This proposal is a Schedule C Class EA. By definition, it is considered a project that may cause significant adverse environmental effects. For such Class C EA studies, mailings to area residents are often initiated and continued throughout the study, without the need for the residents to request to be on a mailing list. We recommend that all residents, seasonal or permanent, on Kawagama Lake be included in any future public consultation notices or information circulations. At an absolute minimum, residents in Fletcher Bay should be informed regularly throughout the process.

In closing, we hope you find our comments useful. We also wish to reiterate that the KLCA hopes this submission will serve as a basis for further discussion between the KLCA and the Township and their consultants on septage management in Algonquin Highlands.

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Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Kathleen Hedley  
President KLCA

cc: Mayor Carol Moffatt, Algonquin Highlands

## **Thank You Peter!**

The KLCA would like to say a huge Thank you to Peter Evans for his many years of volunteer service on the KLCA Board of Directors. Peter has been on the board of directors of the KLCA for more than 10 years and has held the positions of Regatta Director, Fireworks Director and Boating Safety Director. As well as running amazing annual Regatta, Peter always personally donated several of the large auction items. He also generously offered the services of his business, Icon Digital, to the KLCA at no charge, including the design, creation and printing of the KLCA road sign, the Regatta signs, volunteer t-shirts and much more. When the KLCA was looking into taking over the Kawagama Lake Fireworks display, Peter jumped in wholeheartedly and took over the organization of this popular event as well. The KLCA directors will miss Peter's great ideas, leadership and sense of humour. He will miss being part of the KLCA team with all of its hardworking board members. We wish him all the best and we can't wait to see his new son, Luke, participating at the Regatta soon!



## Navigation Update

Doug Middlebrook – Navigation Chair

Wow, that was a fast cottage season! It just seems like yesterday that we were out on the calm early morning waters of Kawagama in May.

This past season, we continued to receive a number of enquiries regarding boat speed on the water. Unfortunately, all we can do is encourage communication whenever this occurs. If you are able, please approach your Kawagama neighbour and discuss how this impacts you personally as it pertains to safety, dock stability and shore erosion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people who have helped us by placing the markers in May and will be soon pulling the markers out. In many cases, this is not an individual effort and requires the assistance of spouses,

children, grandchildren and friends. Therefore by thanking the following individuals, I would also like to thank their “marker partners” as well;

1. Bruce MacPherson
2. Bruce Norman
3. Scott Holladay
4. Eric Doetsch
5. Jim Kaufman
6. Don Early
7. Elwood Kielt
8. Pip Nightingale
9. Rankin Middlebrook



## **Elections and Candidate Information**

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The Haliburton Highlander Newspaper asked the Ward 1 & 3 candidates the 3 questions below. The following questions and answers are taken directly from the Haliburton Highlands News, dated Thursday, September 13, 2018, issue 356. The exact link is: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/thehighlander/Newspaper/2018/2018-09-13.pdf> (Please note that the Ward 2 candidate is acclaimed.)

***Don't forget to mail in your ballots in time to be received for the October 22,2018 election!***

- 1) Tell me a little bit about yourself - particularly what would make you a good candidate - ie. previous work experience, or volunteering for the township are good points.
- 2) Why are you running? What do you think you can do for the ratepayers of Highlands East that your competitors cannot?
- 3) How do you think the township is being run. What would be your good, bad and ugly list?

**JULIA SHORTREED - WARD 1 Candidate:**

1. I grew up as a cottager and moved to Dorset in 1988 where I raised my two kids who now live here as well. I have just retired from Scotiabank after a 35-year career which included [roles as] Personal Banking Financial Manager and Small Business Financial Manager, which also included supervising local fundraising. After retiring, I spent the summer working parttime for a local business gaining insight into what businesses in our community need to thrive.
  2. Now that I am retired, I want to give back to my community. I feel that my career has given me the experience I need as well as insight into the needs and wants of both residents and businesses in our township, which will benefit my role as a councillor. We have a great community with amazing volunteers and I want to commit to continue building on this by representing the constituents of the township. There are numerous projects that I want to be involved in, most particularly affordable housing, which is desperately needed for singles, families and seniors and will help local businesses fill vacant job positions. Preserving the
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lakes and shorelines is particularly important to keep them healthy and beautiful for everyone to enjoy year-round. Technology is growing by leaps and bounds and working with the new EORN {Eastern Ontario Regional Network} initiative to bring cell service to everyone in our area as well as enabling constituents' internet service [so they can] work from their home or cottage is something I want to be a part of.

3. I have attended council meetings and have seen first-hand the hard work, commitment and fairness as well as a lower tax base compared to other parts of the province [that] our current mayor and councillors are dedicated to providing to the township. I feel that my experience, integrity and commitment will benefit the township and its constituents.

**DAVID LAWSON - WARD 1 Candidate:**

1. My family has been in the area for five generations, we love it here. I became a permanent resident in 1999. I've always helped in the community when possible. Since retiring I've joined the Lions Club and I've taken an active volunteer role. I'm very proud of the work I do giving back to the community. After college I worked 40 years with Xerox, where I excelled and won numerous awards for service and developing technology that improved copier function. I learned how to troubleshoot and prioritize, [learned] people skills and I've learned that before a decision is made research is always necessary. A large part of my career was reading people and guiding them to the solutions they required. I worked as part of a team. A team that works well together is effective. My plan is to uphold the township plan. I believe in common courtesy and common sense. I've gained the reputation as someone who is honest, reliable, hard-working and able to solve problems others struggle with. I don't mince words, I speak my mind. There is no doubt of my message once I state it [but] I'm open minded and willing to consider other alternatives and adopt [them] if they are the correct way to go. I'm friendly and approachable. I may seem quiet but that is because I am a good listener, beyond that I understand the message people are trying to get across not just what they are saying. I have the ability to drill to the heart of any situation.

2. Julia [Shortreed] is a worthy candidate and I look forward to learning her platform. I've always been community minded. The community needs my expertise and skills. Now that I am retired from Xerox I have time to dedicate to the role of

councillor. To me it's not a job but another chance to serve and give back to the community I and my family love so much ... My plan is to actively volunteer for the different committees and dedicate myself to moving their agenda forward.

3. I think the township is doing a good job. I see my role as councillor as one that looks for opportunities to improve and streamline what we are doing, to help residents understand the township plan, what it means and why it is important to adhere to it. The biggest complaint I have heard is about the tipping fees at the landfill site, this concern will take considerable research.

**JENNIFER DAILLOUX- Ward 3 Candidate:**

1. My 17-year career as a humanitarian and human rights advocate has equipped me well for council. For instance, during the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, I served as program director for a number of refugee camps on the border between Chad and Sudan, overseeing an annual operating budget approximately double the size of Algonquin Highlands. I became skilled in developing budgets that balance urgent needs with regular service delivery and long-term development goals, seeking funding, and monitoring expenditures for efficiency and accountability. My research and advocacy experience is also highly relevant, given the number of concerns that residents in AH cite which lie outside the jurisdiction of the municipality but touch directly on municipal affairs and local life. The proposed McClintock quarry at Harvey Lake, or our lack of cell phone and Internet coverage, are perfect examples. The municipality can often only tackle these issues through advocacy.

2. My life has always been embedded in the complexities of public service at either the policy or implementation level, but until now, I've worked primarily overseas. I want to bring these skills home. It's what I love to do, it's what I do best, it's what I want to continue to do. My comparative advantage over Councillor [Brian] Lynch, whom I respect greatly, is that I've got some unique research and advocacy skills that have taken me as far as Capitol Hill in Washington, Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and the United Nations. These skills would bring a fresh set of ideas, tools, and energy to our work on council.

3. I think our municipality is running extremely well. Individual households and specific lake communities have legitimate specific concerns ... [but] broadly speaking, our finances are in good shape, we've got important long-term projects that our reserve funds are steadily building towards, road maintenance rotation

may seem slow for some but is actually quite efficient given the needs and the size of the team, [and] our municipal, professional staff is highly-skilled and dedicated. [However], we've got some strong bylaws in AH focused on keeping environmental protection part of the equation in property planning; keeping the structures on our lakes to a reasonable size and number; and safe ... most families in AH are paying to do the right thing, but some pay nothing to do whatever they please. Our enforcement capacity could absolutely use a boost ... I think council could ramp up advocacy on some of those issues... as well as making sure we've got a stronger voice vis-a-vis the provincial government where new Crown land use permits encroach on local life. Finally, ... let's get an online feedback mechanism established where key matters can be put out [to seasonal residents] for comment.

**BRIAN LYNCH - Ward 3 Candidate:**

1. I have spent many years in financial positions in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. I have experience in both facilities management and human resources. I retired as controller four years ago from the largest group of automotive dealerships in Muskoka. In the past, I have volunteered for community activities, coached children's teams, led scouting activities and worked on numerous church committees. Currently, I volunteer at Dorset Snowball, I am the church treasurer and a director of the very busy Dorset Lions Club.
  2. I am running because I feel there are many unfinished projects in the township – the airport industrial park [and] the septic reinspection program to name just two. The timeline on public projects and programs is longer than in the private sector and after taking the first steps it is important to have continuity to see them completed. Through this past term, I have worked hard to maintain knowledge of the issues before council. This has involved discussing pros and cons with both staff and ratepayers as well as sharing viewpoints around the council table. A 100 per cent attendance record at council demonstrates my commitment to this position. In addition, my committee attendance and [attendance at] the events that result in well above 90 per cent. This demonstrates my dedication to the township and this position.
  3. I have been pleased with the work of council in maintaining fiscal responsibility while balancing more and more “passed down responsibilities” from the provincial
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and federal governments. Council is a cohesive group that in almost all cases can work together to achieve consensus on issues that are before them. Council continues to lobby upper levels of government to respect our planning and development rules. In this last term this was evident in the Stanhope septage spreading hearings and in the Harvey Lake Quarry [issue]. In the upcoming term I will be seeking a compromise that allows keeping a library branch in Dorset while making better use of the current library space.



## Reflections

Please send your photos, cottage stories, cottage histories and/or other ideas you would like to have considered for publication to [reflections@klca.org](mailto:reflections@klca.org).

## Information Sessions Regarding Forest Management of the French Severn Crown Forest

(This includes the forests around Kawagama and Bear Lakes)

*Join the conversation and ask questions about the management of the French Severn Forest! Have your say: come speak to the plan author, representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Local Citizen Committee (LCC) and other property owners.*

***The 2019-2029 Draft Forest Management Plan for the French Severn Forest will be available for review!***

Attend to learn more about forest management on **crown** land. If you cannot attend, go to [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans) to review maps starting October 26, 2018 that show the locations of proposed operations. Information sessions will be held as follows:

<b>Huntsville:</b> Utterson Community Hall 32 Township Hall Road Utterson Time: 3:30pm – 6:30 pm Date: October 26, 2018	<b>Parry Sound:</b> Bobby Orr Community Centre Hart Trophy Meeting Room 7 Mary Street, Parry Sound Time: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Date: October 27, 2018
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**Why should I attend?**

The session will provide an opportunity to meet the people involved and review the Draft Forest Management Plan materials, such as maps showing harvesting areas, areas of concern for wildlife, and other values. We hope these will help community members understand the locations and types of forestry activities to be expected in the next 10 years.



## **What will I learn?**

- How a Forest Management Plan works
- What Forest Management activities will be occurring in the French Severn Forest
- Where Forestry operations may be proposed in relation to your property
- How forest managers are working to protect water, wildlife values and habitats

## **Can't attend but want to learn more?**

Make arrangements to visit the MNRF Parry Sound District or Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. offices according to the formal notice requirements found on the opposite page or go to [www.ontario.ca/forestplans](http://www.ontario.ca/forestplans) for this information starting October 26, 2018. If your interest is related to specific forest management activities in relation to your property this website will display maps and information you can refer to.

## **Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.**

Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. currently holds the Sustainable Forest License for the French-Severn Forest. Westwind is a not-for-profit; community-based company governed by a Board of Directors, including three members from forest industry, four from the local communities and one from a First Nation Community.

## **French-Severn Local Citizens Committee**

The Local Citizen's Committee is an advisory committee to the Parry Sound District Manager on forestry matters, including the development of forest management plans. Members represent a variety of groups, including trappers, anglers and hunters, tourism providers, cottagers, municipalities, the forest industry, snowmobile clubs and other groups.

## **Light Pollution**

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One of my fondest and most vivid memories growing up in Haliburton County was the night sky. Like so many kids, we spent hours lying on the dock gazing at the stars while contemplating the universe and the meaning of life.

Of course, we still do that today and it is still amazing. However, while I've always struggled to repress my uneasiness over sharing the dock with an unknown number of spiders, these days I also struggle to ignore the piercing glare of dozens of LED lights around the lake's perimeter.

During this year's Perseid Meteor Shower, the celestial highlight of the summer season, I was out in the middle of the lake to enjoy the show from my canoe, and honestly, the number of artificial lights on the water's edge made my heart sink.

Okay. I like it dark so I can see the night sky. Maybe you're not bothered. What should bother everyone is "ecological light pollution"; not the light pollution that obscures the night sky (for star nerds like me) but rather light that points into our lakes, forests and eyes and is known to alter the natural regime of ecosystems.

It's true. The issue of waterfront light pollution on sea life is not new. In primary school I remember the plight of the baby sea turtle who would scurry inland towards coastal lights (and be eaten) rather than heading out to sea. But what about on freshwater lakes and rivers?

The Great Lakes Environmental Assessment and Mapping Project, an ecological think-tank, explains that waterfront lighting is very disruptive to freshwater ecology as well. At the very foundation of the food chain, it stops zooplankton from coming toward the water's surface at night to feed. It's no surprise then that it can also disrupt the feeding and reproductive behaviour of fish and birds.

Makes sense, since most organisms, even humans, have evolved internal clocks that are controlled by natural light-dark cycles and, these internal clocks play important roles in metabolism, growth and behaviour.

You may be asking yourself, why should I care about bugs and other creatures of the night? Well most of us are here because of our beautiful, clean and clear

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lakes; our own utopia for water-based recreation. But make no mistake, our waterfront slice of heaven only exists because of a delicate natural balance that humans seem inclined to upset.

Light has its place. If you need it to see what you are doing, be it work or play, knock yourself out. If you have security concerns, design your external lighting to be minimally invasive to your neighbours, the lake and the night sky. But if a light on your property serves no purpose other than to generate light... consider leaving it off.

*Author Timothy James is a semi-retired professor at Queen's University & volunteer with the CHA. Article provided by the CHA.*



## **Find out when the power's out at your cottage!**

**(information paraphrased from Hydro One's website)**

<https://www.hydroone.com/request-a-service/outage-alerts>

Power outages can be disruptive. Hydro One's team works hard to prevent them but they can still happen now and again. That is why they offer free text and email alerts to let you know when your power is out, when you can expect it to be restored, and when your power is back on.

When they become aware of an outage near your property they will send you an alert and provide the estimated time of restoration. With Outage Alerts, you'll know if the power is out at your cottage.

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Click on the link above or the symbol below to register for outage and restoration alerts.

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