

## **Proposed Bell Mobility Cell Tower – KLCA Membership Update # 2**

The Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association ("KLCA") has been informed by Bell Mobility they are proposing to erect a cell tower on a hill on the south shore of Lake Kawagama to provide enhanced cell coverage.

### **Update # 1 (March 12, 2013) Summary**

Please refer to Update # 1 on the KLCA website for the background and details; however, to summarize:

- Bell Mobility advised the KLCA via email dated March 4, 2013 they are proposing to erect a 40 metre tall cell tower on a hill on the south side of Lake Kawagama (more or less directly south of Eagle Island).
- The KLCA fully supports the enhancement to cell coverage but is concerned over how this is to be achieved (i.e. which type of tower to be used).
- As per Industry Canada (communication tower regulating authority) guidelines, Bell Mobility is required to conduct a 30 day consultation process. Bell Mobility advised in their email this period concluded March 29, 2013. It is important to note this period has since been extended to April 15, 2013.
- Bell Mobility advised a tower disguised as an unlit pine tree could not be used as they are only 30 metres tall and the proposed tower needed to be 40 metres tall. The KLCA found one supplier of "tree towers" 42 metres tall.
- The KLCA requested the membership to provide comment to Bell Mobility and the Townships and to consider copying the KLCA.

### **Update # 2 (Current Update)**

Since Update # 1 (March 12, 2013) the following has been accomplished:

1. Comments on behalf of the KLCA were formally submitted to Bell Mobility on March 15, 2013 as per the attached email (pages 4 to 6 inclusive of this update).
2. Bell Mobility extended the deadline to provide comments to April 15, 2013.
3. The KLCA made a formal request of the Algonquin Highlands Township for support of the KCLA position with respect to use of an unlit tower disguised as a pine tree and to develop a communications tower policy. Our request was placed on the agenda for the regularly scheduled March 21 Council meeting. I attended as an observer and there was a good discussion. Council was in agreement with our position that a policy covering communication towers is

required. They will be working to develop one that ensures an appropriate public consultation process is defined. They have had communications with Bell Mobility and have the ability to provide their opinion with respect to our request for support of our position regarding the use of cell towers disguised as unlit pine trees at a later date.

### **Next Steps and What You Can Do**

1. Bell Mobility has **extended the deadline to submit comments to April 15, 2013**. If you have not already done so please provide your comment to Bell Mobility indicating if you are in favour of increased cell coverage and the type of cell tower to be used (i.e. disguised as a pine tree without lights or a metal tower as proposed by Bell). Given that Rogers Communications is currently conducting radio studies in the area you should include a comment emphasizing the need for co-location of antennas from multiple carriers on the same tower regardless of type to reduce the need for multiple towers.

Please be sure to indicate on your email this is your response to Bell's request for comment in regards to a cell tower at Bell Site Code: W4800 (as per the pamphlet attached to the email from Bell contained in Update # 1).

2. Copy your respective municipal government on your responses to Bell Mobility using the contacts listed on page 3.
3. It would be helpful to us if you considered copying us on your responses to Bell Mobility either via email ([info@klca.org](mailto:info@klca.org)) or to our Canada Post address listed below.
4. More updates to follow.

Update Prepared by:           John McHardy, President  
  Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association

Contact details:

Bell mobility: Karen Balbaa  
Municipal Advisor – Territory 3  
Bell Mobility Inc.  
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Dysart et Al: Cheryl Coulson  
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Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association: PO Box 98  
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Email: [info@klca.org](mailto:info@klca.org)

## John McHardy

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**From:** John McHardy [johnmchardy@rogers.com]  
**Sent:** March 15, 2013 8:49 AM  
**To:** 'karen.balbaa@bell.ca'  
**Cc:** Gerry Bonnefoy (Industry Canada); Dawn Newhook (Algonquin Highlands Township)  
**Subject:** RE: Bell Mobility Site Consultation / Kawagama Lake W4800

2013-03-15

Karen,

Please accept this email as a formal submission by the Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association to the public consultation process in support of a proposed communication tower referred to as Bell Site Code: W4800.

The Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association ("KLCA") has approximately 500 members who have property on the shores of Kawagama and Bear lakes. The KLCA is very supportive of any initiative to improve cell phone coverage in our area for a variety of reasons including improved safety, convenience and internet access. Referring to our most recent survey we know that the majority of the membership views the improved internet access this tower could provide as a priority. However having said that we need to temper, whenever possible and practical, developments of this type with our guiding principle of preserving the heritage of the natural beauty we are so fortunate to have (e.g. no lights in the sky).

We are very concerned over the type of the tower being proposed. The Bell Mobility correspondence indicates that a 40 metre tall tower is required and that this exceeds the 30 metre height limitations of the very much preferred Muskoka Monopine (unlit tower disguised as a pine tree). This statement appears to contradict the results of some research we have conducted. We found at least one manufacturer providing 42 metre tall "tree towers" capable of supporting 3 different carriers (<http://www.engend.com/index.php/photos-pine-poles>). Please advise why one of these would not be acceptable.

It is important to view this change not only in the context of the current impact but also in terms of future changes. This is the first cell tower that will be visible to the lakes (Bear and Kawagama) and there is every reason to anticipate there could / will be more. For example, we are aware that Rogers Communications is currently conducting radio surveys in the same area. It is vitally important we set the tone now as to the proper way of advancing this technology. Broader cell coverage for most in the area is definitely a necessity more than it is a "big city luxury". The technology of cell towers disguised as large unlit pine trees works well. One only need look to the outstanding success in nearby Algonquin Provincial Park for an example of how well these work and blend in. While they may stand taller than the surrounding trees on a hilltop, most will definitely agree they look far more "natural" than a metal tower with blinking lights.

We would also like to register our criticism of how the consultation process has been conducted. We were advised by your email dated March 4, 2013 of the proposed tower and that the public consultation period had started and would close March 29, 2013. I had the opportunity for a phone conversation with you that week; however, when I sought a follow up conversation the week of March 11 to 15 I found you were on vacation. I was advised by the backfill identified in your out of office email that he was not familiar with the file and could not assist ... i.e. I was to wait for your return. The timing of the consultation process is poor.... It happens at a time when a large number of people are on Spring Break vacation. Furthermore, the majority of the membership are seasonal residents and do not receive the Huntsville Forrester...the only paper in which you advised you were running an ad to announce the consultation process. This is unfortunate as we expect you could have identified these individuals in your customer database and mailed them a notice, as the majority of these individuals are Bell landline subscribers.

In summary, our concerns are not with the "what" but rather the "how" the cell coverage is to be enhanced. We strongly support the advancement in cell coverage in our area but equally strongly oppose the type of tower proposed. We have identified a manufacturer of 42 metre tall towers disguised as unlit pine trees capable of supporting 3 carriers. Please explain why a tower such as this cannot be used since it exceeds the height requirements you identified. In other words why can you not repeat the success you achieved in nearby Algonquin Provincial Park using this technology ? This is the type of tower we could strongly endorse. Related to this, we are also requesting this process be coordinated with the process Rogers Communications is currently conducting. This will increase the chances only 1 tower is required and ensure more of our members and residents in the area will receive the benefits of enhanced cell coverage.

I look forward to your response to the comments provided and questions raised.

Regards,

John

John McHardy, President  
Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association

cc: Gerry Bonnefoy  
Eastern and Northern District  
Industry Canada

Dawn Newhook  
Clerk/Planning Administrator  
Township of Algonquin Highlands

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**From:** karen.balbaa@bell.ca [mailto:karen.balbaa@bell.ca]  
**Sent:** March 4, 2013 5:59 PM  
**To:** johnmchardy@rogers.com  
**Subject:** Bell Mobility Site Consultation / Kawagama Lake W4800

Dear Mr. Mc Hardy,

I received your contact information from Dawne Newhook at the Township of Algonquin Highlands. Bell Mobility is the process of consulting with the Township of Algonquin Highlands for a new site location which will improve the current coverage issues experienced by Bell Customers that live year round as well as spend seasonal time around Kawagama Lake.

I understand that The Kawagama Lake Association is aware that Bell Mobility is planning on improving the current coverage for our Bell customers in the vicinity of Kawagama Lake.

Attached please find a copy of our public notice which Bell would like to provide to the Lake Association as well as to those property owners that fall within a 3 times the tower height radius from the tower base. In addition Bell will also run a notice in the Huntsville Forester. The comment response period is 30 days. This time will be used to gather questions and comments at which time we will respond to them and prepare a summary for submission to the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

The proposed site is a 40m self support tri-pole design tower. Given the recent publicity with regard to the Muskoka Monopines ( An aesthetic solution that looks like a pine tree) we anticipate that the public will inquire about the

opportunity to place a similar installation in this location. Bell first and foremost considered the Aesthetic design of this location. Terrain and current tree heights greatly influence if the Monopine is a solution that can be used in a given location. The Monopine was designed and engineered at 30m and unfortunately is limited to this height. In this area Bell must consider the current terrain and surrounding tree heights as well as line of site to the next site within our Network. The solution is to install a 40m tripole design which allows the site to be just above the tree line but allows for a lower site which does not dominate the skyline. We anticipate that given the low height this site will not require lighting however this will be confirmed with NAV Canada.

This site will also provision for collocation if required in the future. This means that should another carrier be interested in locating their equipment on the tower, the tower will be designed to accommodate this request and will prevent the proliferation of another tower in the area.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands has indicated that they do not have a protocol in place with regard to Telecommunications. In this case Bell Mobility relies on Industry Canada Guidelines with regard to Public Consultation. I have attached our notification for your distribution to the Lake Association and welcome any questions or comments in response. Also attached you will find a photo rendering as well as a Site Survey plan which identifies the location of the proposed tower and also identifies those property owners that have received notification.

Bell is making every effort to provide the seasonal and full time residents of Kawagama Lake with improved service for summer 2013.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments with regard to this notification.

Sincerely,

Karen Balbaa  
Municipal Advisor - Territory 3

**Bell Mobility Inc.**  
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