

**WRITTEN REPORT #1****PRESIDENT'S REPORT****Lorne Monahan**

Given the extensive material below, I will keep my comments to a minimum. In addition to LCPOA information that you have received through Updates and our recent newsletter, a letter was forwarded to BVT early this spring to support the repairing of McGrath Road. I am aware of the speeding issue on Lake Clear Road, and have made inquiries to FOCA regarding MPAC's large increase in property assessments for this same area. I compliment our many volunteers for a job well done. Lastly, I thank the membership-at-large for their continued support of this great organization.

**WRITTEN REPORT #3****NOMINATIONS****Philip Lancaster**

\* **To be emailed to you shortly**

**WRITTEN REPORT #3****LAKE STEWARD****Wayne Lecuyer**

(NOTE: Results below are the most recent - LM)

## 1. 2015 Ph Spring Average Test Result

Site	2014	2015	% Change
1 (East End/centre)	10.9	8.8	-19.3
2 (northwest - Opeongo)	9.7	n/a	n/a
3 (East - Hardwood Bay)	6.5	n/a	n/a
4 (West - Hanes Island)	10.4	8.5	-18.3
5 (South - Wieland Shore)	11.0	8.5	-22.7

Note: We have been advised that the MOE has not been able to locate the test results for Sites 2 & 3, and we are following up on this, and will provide the updates for distribution when received from the MOE. These results are very positive versus previous years, and are below the acceptable readings from the Ministry.

## 2. Secchi Disc Readings:

The stewards perform these tests approximately every 3 weeks, which record the clarity and temperature readings from each site, and are submitted to the Ministry at year end for their database.

The latest reading from Site 4 was on September 27th, water temperature of 19 degrees, (67 degrees F.) All historic readings can be found on the Ministry's website: <http://Ontario.ca/.opendata>. Our site is 2453.

## 3. Calcium Readings:

These readings are available through the MOE website, and are well under the maximum acceptable levels by the MOE.

## 4. Buelow Beach Monitoring:

As discussed at the AGM, the issue of E-coli was raised, and the Renfrew Health Unit has been conducting tests weekly for E-coli. They performed testing from June 8 to Sept. 1, and the

readings exceeded the acceptable levels set by the Ministry on three separate occasions. Acceptable readings to the Ministry are 100/ml or less, and the excessive readings were as follows: June 8 - 781.3, June 23 - 784.9, and July 7 - 694.4. When readings exceed 100, the RHU conduct further tests.

The RHU in 2014 tested this site twelve times, and 3 readings exceeded acceptable levels. It is our understanding that the RHU do not provide the test results to the Township. Based on the test results for this year, a Cautionary Notice was posted at the public beach advising of the potential adverse conditions when swimming at the beach.

It is quite possible/probable that the unacceptable E-coli readings were/are being caused by the amount of seagulls, and cormorants nesting on the island, and the effect their excrement has in the water. This is particularly increased during periods of heavy rain, and onshore strong winds. The LCPOA together with the LCC ( as owners of the island) continue to monitor this situation, and are pursuing all avenues available to improve this situation.

#### 5. Shoal Markers/Buoys:

All markers remain in the lake, and will be taken out after the Thanksgiving weekend, in the event there are "visitor" boaters on the lake for safety purposes. They will be re-installed in May of each year. A special thanks to Bob Peltzer, Ray Pitre and Philip Lancaster for assisting in the installation of the shoal markers this year.

#### 6. Boat Washing:

To attempt to reduce/omit the spread of invasive species it is recommended that your boat be washed in the event it has been in any bodies of water that have zebra mussels, or any other invasive species. This would apply to any other guests or visitors you may have during the summer.

#### 7. LCPOA Environment Committee:

A formal committee has been formed which will be responsible for researching and establishing issues and priorities as they relate to the ongoing health of our lake, and other ongoing environmental issues that affect us all. Ongoing reports/information will be made available to the members.

#### 8. Well Water Testing:

As previously noted in reports, free well water testing kits are available at the Ministry of Health offices in Arnprior, Pembroke, Renfrew and Ottawa. Tests are done for a minimum of 3 times, 2-3 weeks apart. This is a simple test conducted in the home, and results are available within 7 days. It may well be one of the most important tests owners can have done annually.

### **WRITTEN REPORT #4**

### **MEMBERSHIP/SHORE REPS**

**Jean Davies**

There were 231 full memberships purchased in 2015 out of a possible 316. This is 73%. In addition there were 7 associate memberships purchased from residents at Opeongo Mountain Resort. These memberships are not part of the percentage calculation.

One new membership was purchased this spring by a new owner and one current member paid for 2016.

Lianne Pepper has kindly agreed to be the new Shore Rep for Haley's Bay this year. Rob and Mary Thomson are the new shore reps for Plaunt Mountain 1 and Marc and Anne Audet have agreed to be the shore reps for Haley Bay 1 for this year. Many thanks to our new and continuing shore reps. Paul Beanish has kindly agreed to assist in membership duties.

**WRITTEN REPORT #5****SCHOLARSHIP****Jean Davies**

On May 18, the scholarship committee met for just over four hours to evaluate the applications and choose a winner. We are very pleased that Bonnie McCluskey had joined the committee. We had a challenging time selecting the two winners, but in the end agreed upon **Laura Johnson and Eva von Jagow**. Both are daughters of LCPOA members. Congratulations!

**WRITTEN REPORT #6****OUTREACH****Nelda Markham**

The Outreach Committee received 5 requests for funding this year. Four of its five members met on the morning of May 21 and agreed to give funding to the following:

\$500.00 to Opeongo Mountain Resort for Fireworks on Sat. July 2nd. 2016.

\$250.00 to Sebastopol Heritage Society towards commemorative markers at historical sites throughout the township and particularly along the historic Opeongo Road.

**WRITTEN REPORT #7****ENVIRONMENT****Mike O'Brien**

As requested by the LCPOA Board the environment committee is committed to working jointly with the LCC on environmental issues. At our first meeting involving representatives from both the LCPOA and LCC we concluded that in addition to education about environmental issues the committee should be trying to identify some priorities for action on identified issues. We decided to investigate whether there might be some kind of action we could take regarding increased Ph levels. The committee wondered if doing some analysis of the data collected over the years on Ph levels by the Lake Stewards group might be worthwhile. After some discussion with the Lake Stewards group we concluded that due to diverse factors impacting on Ph levels that we would not likely be able to use the data to understand the changes occurring in Ph levels.

The committee has discussed the seagull issue on Foran's Island to examine possible action that could be taken. No conclusion was reached as it is a complicated matter, not one easily resolved. Also as the island is owned by the Lake Clear Conservancy any action will need to be initiated by that organization. Through connecting with the Lake Steward's committee we learned that Renfrew County Health Unit tests through last year, and the year before, show that at certain times of the year there is a large increase in the e-coli readings within the vicinity of the island, which can be harmful to swimmers etc... in the bay area. We examined the results from the Health Unit for E-coli testing that has been done so far this year on the Buelow beach.

More monitoring of other areas of the lake, ie. Wieland Shore beach, has been discussed and the committee is suggesting that the Township of Bonnechere Valley make a request of the Health Unit to do e-coli testing on that shore. Alternatively if the Health Unit will not do the testing

should people living on that shore wish to collect samples they can be brought to the Health Unit for testing.

The committee has discussed the need for more diligence around boats from other lakes being launched at Lake Clear and possibly introducing invasive species. We will find out who we need to contact to have signage placed at boat launch locations to promote boat washing. We will also need to look into the appropriate steps that need to be taken to have the signs put in place.

We will continue to add educational items to the website as we find items that are appropriate and not currently covered by the material already there. Last year information was added to the website about swimmer's itch. We plan to obtain some material from the Bonnechere River Watershed Project that can be placed on our website to educate people about swimming after a storm in waters prone to E-coli

The committee has obtained information about the Water Ranger project. It is a new Citizen Science website for which we can sign up to participate if we choose to do so. Riverkeeper in partnership with River Rangers have been working on this app over the past year and are now ready to field test it. It would allow all of us to record things about the water at the lake that we are interested in or make comparisons with others with similar information, or if we're wondering about invasive water plants it shows pictures and provides a GPS of their location. We should consider attending the inter lake group presentation when it is held and learn more about the Water Ranger project.

Lastly we are a small group and welcome participation on the committee from anyone interested.

**WRITTEN REPORT #8****ALGONQUIN LAND CLAIM****George von Jagow**

Members: Michael Johnson, Lorne Monahan, Jack Rosien, Wayne Spooner.

The Algonquin Land Claim is the largest land claim being negotiated in Ontario. If successful, it will be the province's first modern-day constitutionally protected treaty.

Since the last Board meeting the following events have happened:

- On March 17<sup>th</sup> the Algonquin's of Ontario announced the results of the ratification vote on their proposed Agreement-in-Principle with the Governments of Ontario and Canada.
  - A total of 3,575 ballots were cast out of 7,540 eligible Algonquin voters – a participation rate of 47 percent. Of those ballots cast, 3,341, or over 90 per cent voted in favour of the AIP and the continuation of negotiations towards the terms of a Final Agreement based on the AIP.
- Your Committee sent a letter to the editor outlining our concerns about the lack of openness during the negotiations that was published by the Pembroke Daily Observer on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The letter was written to incite comment and raise awareness. To date, no subsequent letters to the editor have been published.
- Cottage Life Magazine issued a press release about the Algonquin Land Claim titled "How will the Algonquin Land Claim affect Cottagers" at the following link: <http://>

[cottagelife.com/news/how-will-the-algonquin-land-claims-affect-cottagers](http://cottagelife.com/news/how-will-the-algonquin-land-claims-affect-cottagers) As of May 7th, there were 0 comments.

**WRITTEN REPORT #9****PUBLIC RELATIONS/FACEBOOK****George von Jagow**

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Our budget allowed us to receive 360 bags to be presented to our renewing members. I ordered them in two colours; lime green with white and royal blue with white. You'll be pleased to know that both Jean and Nelda are very pleased with the two separate bag colour decision.

**New! New! New!** Lake Clear Facebook site: *"For Everything Lake Clear"*

This is a closed or private site, only available to LCPOA members and their families. Members can *befriend* us by following normal Facebook protocol for closed groups for access to the Facebook page. Both Colleen Beanish and I have the ability as Administrators to accept members to the page. While LCPOA is not liable for the information posted to the site, we do reserve the right to remove any posts which we deem are inappropriate. What better way to share/uncover items of interest within your local Lake Clear-loving community!

Rationale: The LCPOA has managed to keep in touch with members by various forms of media. For years we provided members with written reports in paper form and in recent years we have evolved and rely more on e-mail and soft copies of reports. While e-mail is still a useful format to provide information, the evolution of communication has changed such that Canadians also rely on any or all of the following formats to share information:

- Texting
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

Because it's 2016, it is the belief of this Board Member that we should offer our LCPOA members an additional, more immediate form of communication that will encourage more sharing of information. Information includes words, photos and videos.

Facebook Facts:

- Facebook has over 1.4 Billion users
- The country with the most active Facebook users is Canada
- There are 157 million Facebook users daily in Canada and the U.S.
- The average time spent on Facebook per user is 21 minutes/day

Great News!!! There will be no cost to the LCPOA.

**WRITTEN REPORT #10****WEBSITE****Colleen Beanish**

*www.lakeclear.org, for everything Lake Clear*, continues to get over 500 unique visitors per week in peak months and is a great space for ongoing community collaboration. We attempt to meet the needs and address the interests of a variety of users. Our goal is multi-generational use and

sharing. We want to keep the website current and relevant. If you can provide content in any area or have suggestions or corrections, please send to [lakeclearwebsite@gmail.com](mailto:lakeclearwebsite@gmail.com).

The most popular pages continue to be: main page, flora and fauna, fish, camping, maps of the lake, blog, LCPOA, beach and boat launches, and the photo galleries. We encourage you to continue sharing the web address with family and friends, as well as considering contributions to the Blog on the Home Page, stories for Treasured Memories II, old photos for under the History tab, or recent photos for the Photo Gallery.

**WRITTEN REPORT #11****LCC LIAISON TO LCPOA****Liz Shultis****A reason to support the LCC: Protection is forever**

All property owners cherish the beauty of the islands on Lake Clear. The LCC owns a number of these islands, pays their respective property taxes, follows the guiding principles of the Ontario Land Trust Alliance, and accordingly will *permanently* protect them in their natural, pristine state. By way of land purchase or use of conservation easements, the LCC, as a registered charity and land trust, can ensure that other properties it might acquire by these means are similarly protected *forever!*

**Annual Fundraiser:**

This year, the LCC's planning for its annual fundraising dinner is under the able direction of Shelagh Mills, one of our directors who is also an event planner! The Mills family has generously offered their gorgeous lakeside property as a venue for the dinner on **August 13, 2016**. The evening will include a gourmet dinner, music, cash bar, and fabulous auction items including Senators tickets, a three-day get-away at the 5-diamond Westin Hotel at Mont-Tremblant, and one of our most popular auction items, a dinner catered at your cottage by the LCC for you and your friends or family. We are also introducing a silent auction for a variety of items. Be sure to save the date (Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>) to enjoy the ambience of lakeside dining, while renewing or making new friendships with fellow cottagers. Last year's event sold out, so reserve your tickets early by talking to any board member or sending an email to [lakeclearconservancyboard@gmail.com](mailto:lakeclearconservancyboard@gmail.com). Ticket price is just \$30 per person.

**News from the LCC:**

The LCC sends out occasional short e-mailings containing interesting information related to our lake. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send us an e-mail at the address noted above.

By the time of your AGM, the LCC will have distributed an informative laminated flyer to all cottagers which will describe our work, as well as give interesting information on our four currently-owned islands.

**Camping on Crown islands:**

Details of the Crown Island camping program and description of the seven sites, which the LCC administers for the MNR on behalf of the Bonnechere Valley Township, are located on our website, noted at the bottom of this page. Important requirements for watercraft access to these camping areas are also outlined. These campsites are monitored twice-weekly by a responsible summer student, hired by the LCC, and remediated whenever necessary. The LCC does not

actively promote camping on these islands, rather it endeavours to ensure that the camping sanctioned by MNR is conducted in an environmentally respectful manner, following our wilderness camping guidelines. Camping statistics indicate that the number of campers has not increased in recent years.

**Liaison between the LCC and LCPOA:**

As members of the LCPOA, you are aware of the liaison positions that John Taker and Liz Shultis have on our respective Boards of Directors. From the point of view of the LCC, this initiative taken by these two organizations continues to evolve successfully. John continues to provide his good business sense and input to the LCC Board. As liaison to the LCPOA, Liz participates in your Board's activities and is an active participant in the Environment Committee, headed by Mike O'Brien.

**WRITTEN REPORT #12**

**LAND USE**

**John Taker**

This committee was formed to address concerns that the LCPOA has observed with apparent exceptions to the existing Township bylaws governing development on Lake Clear. Members are John Taker (Chair), Philip Lancaster, Derek Sweet, Jean Davies, Doug Davies, Sally Gillis (LCC) and Lorne Monahan.

Summary of actions/accomplishments for the period September 2015 to July, 2016

1. In early September, we learned that Renfrew County had released a draft of the updated Renfrew County Official Plan and that a public meeting was being held by BVT on 26 September to allow public consultation with interested parties.

LCPOA and LCC jointly drafted its observations and concerns and Lorne Monahan presented this material at the meeting. A copy of that material, annotated with Lorne's comments and feedback from the meeting participants is provided as Attachment A. Essentially, the Lake Clear input was greater than any others and we were requested to provide more specific examples of recommended changes to the Official Plan that would assist BVT in determining the content of its own Official Plan and any subsequent by-laws or by-law modifications.

2. The Land Use Committee met on 9 October, 2015 to draft a response to BVT concerning particular items in the Renfrew County Official Plan. The specific items of concern that we decided to respond to are:
  - Section 9.2 Objective 4 - establishes criteria for development of all lands abutting highly and moderately sensitive lakes and states: "property between shoreline and dwelling be retained in its natural state".
  - The OP should recommend that the use of recreation vehicles (RVs) for prolonged periods of time be prohibited on lakefront.
  - Properties intended for "single family use", and that their method of dealing with effluent be inspected and approved.

A modified letter was prepared and sent to the Municipality; specifically, to Bryan Martin on 16 November, 2015. That letter is attached as Attachment B.

3. In mid-November 2015, officials from Renfrew County met with BVT council to discuss the Official Plan and to obtain feedback from the municipality. Members of the LCPOA were present for the meeting. The meeting was to allow the Renfrew officials to present the OP development process and there was no discussion on the content of the OP itself, nor was there any opportunity for attendees to present their concerns or views. It was clear that both BVT and Renfrew County were in possession of the letter from the LCPOA Land Use Committee.
4. Renfrew County continued working to complete its OP and in June 2016 provided a final draft of the OP for review by interested parties. The link was published on the BVT municipal website. Mr. Bruce Howarth, Manager of Planning and Land Division was contacted about the LCPOA suggested changes and he provided an email response containing a draft of the feedback that will be provided to BVT and to the LCPOA. The email response is contained in Attachment C.
5. Essentially, Renfrew County feels that the OP contains sufficient 'enabling policies' and the specific LCPOA recommendations can be addressed through bylaws at the local municipal level.
6. The next step, following the formal release of the Renfrew County OP, will be to work with BVT council to address the potential for by-law improvements in these areas.

**WRITTEN REPORT #13****POKER RUN****George von Jagow**

Committee Members: Ian McCluskey, Bonnie McCluskey, George von Jagow

Everything is on track for the 2016 Poker Run.

- Ian and Bonnie have been busy working on a great prize list.
- The committee has been working on drafting a formula to determine how much of the proposed proceeds should be committed to prizes and how much towards the LCPOA scholarship.
  - Thanks to tremendous interest generated by Wayne Lecuyer and another year of solid sales at both the Opeongo Mountain Resort and Whispering Pines, 276 poker hands were purchased.
  - The committee is considering a 50/50 split between scholarship and prizes/costs based on forecasted sales of 200 hands. If more hands are sold, those additional proceeds would go to the Scholarship fund.
- We have started to hear back from dock owners who are looking forward to hosting again this year.
- We have also received positive feedback from the Poker Hand reviewers which we hope to incorporate for 2016.



**WRITTEN REPORT #14****WIELAND SHORE ROAD****Kathleen Burnie**

Committee Members: Kathleen Burnie, Doug and Jean Davies, Lorne Monahan, Marlene O'Brien, Bob Peltzer, Aimee Rupert, Doug and Janet Smith

**Fall 2015:**

September 9: Letter was written to LCPOA executive asking for support in approaching BVT council to address the safety concerns at the beach area on Wieland Shore. Lorne Monahan agreed to take our letter and concerns to a council meeting in October.

- Copy of letter to executive sent to 41 property owners along Wieland Shore and Shepherd's Way
- Update sent to same property owners and invitation for interested individuals to join an Ad Hoc Committee to work with BVT council

Bonnechere Valley Township Council meeting October 6, 2015

- Look for another location and then close the boat launching at Wieland Shore
- Increase by-law enforcement and by-law officer to make regular rounds
- Residents to call by-law officer when vehicles are parked illegally
- Seek land near beach for alternative parking

New No Parking signs were put up near the beach.

November 15 Ad Hoc Committee meeting

- Mandate: To facilitate a solution to the parking, congestion and safety concerns on Wieland Shore Road.

**Winter 2016:**

Three weekends with illegal parking and no tickets issued from by-law officer

Bonnechere Valley Township Council meeting, March 22,

- Promise from council to solve by-law enforcement difficulties
- Dave Murphy stated that the Fire Department would ideally like 15 ft wide road and council agreed that there is no room for any parking.

April 10, 2016 Ad Hoc Committee meeting

- identified 17 spots owned by municipality on Lake Clear totaling over 1000 ft of frontage – municipality was unsuccessful in their search
- Complaint filed with Renfrew County Health Department to check official status of the 'boat launch and public beach'
- Promote parking for campers at Opeongo Mountain Resort and at ball diamond on websites

Bonnechere Valley Township Council meeting, May 3, 2016

Lorne presented concerns to council along with discussion involving other residents.

- Approval of changes to Parking Bylaw – pending passage of amendments

- No Exit sign posted at beginning of Wieland Shore Road
- No Parking on either side of the roadway signs to be posted
- Increased by-law enforcement: Mr. Steve Fiegen (613-281-1001)
- Sign being drafted suggesting boat launching at Opeongo Mountain Resort and will be ordered after approval from council
- Fire Chief, Mr. Murphy, sent a letter to council stating that the roadway was too narrow to allow safe passage of emergency vehicles if parking was allowed. He also inspected the beach and determined the area was too small to accommodate boat launching and swimming together. He recommended closing the area to boat launching.
- C.A.O. Bryan Martin, stated to the Renfrew County Health Unit that BVT does not recognize the Wieland Shore beach area as a public beach or boat launch and they do not promote it as such.
- The municipality withdrew their plans to establish parking areas along Wieland Shore Road.

Websites including the Lake Clear Conservancy and the LCPOA have updated information regarding boat launching areas and parking.

LCPOA Update May 14, 2016

Bonnechere Valley Township Council meeting, May 17, 2016

- Council to investigate possible spots for parking near the beach

Illegally parked vehicles near the beach area, on the hill, and in front of private property continued on every weekend in May with several calls for by-law enforcement and only 1 ticket issued.

### **Summer 2016**

Bonnechere Valley Township Council meeting, June 7, 2016

- No presentations made to council
- Survey indicated that there was no land that the township owned to provide parking on Wieland Shore Road
- Administrative directive by Mayor Murphy to close off the beach area to boat launching
- Decision to post No Parking signs along Wieland Shore Rd
- Acknowledgement that enforcement of by laws continues to be a problem

June 9, rocks were placed as a barrier to prevent the launching of boats at beach area.

LCPOA Update June 11, 2016

LCPOA Update June 14, 2016

## WRITTEN REPORT #15

## BVT COUNCILLOR

Bob Peltzer

For the first time in 30 years I will miss the Annual General Meeting of the LCPOA. Sometimes you have to make a hard choice between two things that you want to do. This year my son and I were selected in a lottery to participate in a week long bicycle tour that happens to take place during date of the AGM. I really regret missing this year's AGM given the contentious issue of Wieland Shore Road and it is my sincere hope that the people assembled that day recognize that both the LCPOA and Council have tried to work to find a solution that preserves public safety as well as traditional uses of the waterfront in that area. Below is my perspective on current municipal concerns.

Wieland Shore The combination of social media with the attraction of free camping on Lake Clear Islands has created many problems for our community. Years ago the Lake Clear Conservancy stepped up to try to instil some order and common sense to allow reasonable public access to crown islands while preserving their fragile ecology. While successful in doing so, there have been spin off problems related to the lack of a proper public access site for Lake Clear. When I first moved to the area 30 years ago this was a problem and remains so today. That it remains so is not due to neglect. Many people including me have worked to find a suitable location. Unfortunately, the topography of the Lake Clear shoreline combined with its development pattern has made this a nearly impossible task without spending a very large sum of money. Unfortunately, the residents of Wieland Shore Road are the people most affected by this lack of proper lake access.

Council tried to solve the problem in the least restrictive way by trying to restrict overnight parking. This proved very difficult to enforce and allowed a problem to remain during daylight hours. This was not much of a problem at first but as social media spread the word that free launching and parking were available on Wieland Shore Road the number of users of that site increased. As the number of users increased so did the problems of blocked driveways, blocked roadway, trash and other bad behaviours.

In early June, Council decided to see exactly what land the township owned in that area after a resident placed rocks along the shoulder of the road. It was learned that the township owned little more than the roadway in that area and that our, 'No Overnight Parking' signs were actually on private property. In effect, we were encouraging trespassing with our by-law and policy. We need to act quickly to stop this incursion and a decision was made to close off all lake access until we could correct our error.

That decision, while resolving the immediate problem, removed a privilege enjoyed by folks both on Wieland Shore and from nearby. A compromise solution was created that endeavoured to take the least restrictive approach to deal with the safety concerns. This compromise is what is currently in place.

A small area was opened up to allow the launching of boats. No parking was allowed at any time in the area near the shoreline. A small, two space site was created on municipal owned property to allow people with handicapped permits to park near the shore for limited periods of time. Finally, an area was roped off and marked with floats to prevent someone launching a boat from straying into an area where people might be swimming. Since by-law enforcement is the key to making this work, Council has given parking enforcement in this area the highest

priority for our limited resources as well as engaging the OPP to add the area to their regular patrol schedule.

It is clear that there are still many people unhappy with this approach; however, we ask that everyone give it some time to work. People are not going to change habits overnight and there will be a period of adjustment. Council is committed to making this work and it can if people work with us. As for a true public access site, we are still looking and open to suggestions.

Assessment By now you should have received your assessment notices from MPAC. If they are anything like the one I received, you may be in shock. MPAC has nearly doubled the values of many properties with lake access and nearly all have increased in value far more than the average in our municipality. Unfortunately, the municipality has no say in the matter but you do. I am appealing my assessment and I urge others to do the same. Before you do, get your facts together. Go to the [aboutmyproperty.ca](http://aboutmyproperty.ca), register or log in and use the, My Neighbourhood, search feature to see the assessments of other properties similar to yours. You can use this information to support your request for a lower assessment. Also, provide details about your property that may not be apparent to MPAC such as the location and condition of structures or site influences such as marshy land or development restrictions that may make it worth less than what MPAC thinks it should be. Carefully look at the information on your assessment notice and make sure it is correct. If MPAC has made a mistake, even a small one, make sure you point that out. You have 120 days from the date on your assessment notice to file your Request for Reconsideration.

Municipal Taxes By now you have received your final tax bill from the township and noticed a fairly large increase in the Bonnechere Valley portion. We are not happy about this and hope you understand that we did everything that was reasonable to try and reduce unnecessary spending. However, there were factors beyond our control, specifically a ruling by the Pay Equity Commission review of the library staff. This resulted in a large, one time expense that we had to pay out in 2016. While this has been well covered in the media and in the township newsletter, Mayor Murphy can provide a more detailed explanation at the AGM should anyone have unanswered questions. It is our sincere hope that we can bring our tax rate back into line next year. Council members are taxpayers too and we feel the pressure of rising taxes and assessments as much as our property owners do. Maybe it is time to reform how we fund municipal governments in a way that is more based upon a person's ability to pay. We have requested that the province undertake such a reform and maybe you should as well.

As always I remain eager to help you resolve any problems you have with municipal government or to answer any questions you may have. You can reach me by telephone or email. Phone: 613-754-2732 Email: [bobp@eganville.com](mailto:bobp@eganville.com)

**WRITTEN REPORT #16**

**BONNECHERE/OTTAWA RIVER**

**Kathy Lindsay**

**\* See separate attachment.**

**WRITTEN REPORT #17****TREASURER****Derek Sweet**

\* To be emailed to you shortly.

**WRITTEN REPORT #18****OTHER****Lorne Monahan**

Please note that there are a few executive members or committee chairs who have not submitted a report. This happens for two reasons: Certain executive members don't normally give written reports. Committee Chairs sometimes have nothing important to report, or feel that earlier or other reports have covered the same material. Feel free to bring questions or observations to the meeting for:

- Secretary (Corrie Stone)
- LCPOA Liaison to LCC (John Taker)

**WRITTEN REPORT #19****FIRST-AID AT THE COTTAGE****Lorne Monahan**

Regarding the Board's request for a paramedic to be our special presenter at our AGM, Dave Libby has confirmed that Commander Jeff Millar will be our guest speaker on *First Aid at the Cottage*. Dave had asked for suggestions as to what issues might interest our members...so here we go with topics suggested below by various Board Members. Now write down what questions you would like to ask at our AGM.

1. Anything related to typical accidents that occur at "cottages" seems logical. He may have an idea of what would be the most common. ( examples burns, semi serious cuts, heat related incidents, swimming/water skiing accidents (how to get person with suspected broken bone out of water ).
2. Paramedic response time
3. Slips, trips and falls.
4. Would Jeff be bringing any printed info such as "What to do if" a quick reference guide to medical situations and emergencies?
5. I would like to suggest how to recognize serious problems (heart attack, stroke) and what to do while awaiting the ambulance. Also, codes appropriate to conveying to the 911 telephone operator the urgency of what is happening. Mainly, what to do differently out here compared to the city.
6. I would add a bit on their GPS - how likely are they to find everyone around the lake, and what might be an average wait time for an ambulance? How wide does the road need to be for an ambulance to get to someone in need?
7. Just a note to say I think it is a great idea to have a paramedic at the AGM. I know when the grand kids were young I took a CPR course at the St. John's Ambulance in Ottawa. They have these courses going on in different locations for those people who may wish to take them. I found it to be very informative. Certainly, anyone who is "at the lake" or not close to medical facilities, they should purchase a full medical kit, which contains most of the basic materials to assist in cuts, burns, etc.. It's all in one plastic kit and well organized.

8. What about a one day course which could include the identified topics. It would not be a certification program, but provide information, and perhaps could be offered for free to members.