



Bonnechere River Watershed Project

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“Helping Ourselves to a Healthy Environment”



Dear Lake Property Owners' Association Representative:

We are writing you on behalf of the Bonnechere River Watershed Project and the Ottawa River Institute.

As you may know, the County of Renfrew is reviewing the County's Official Plan and is organizing a series of six public meetings (proposed locations: Barry's Bay, Calabogie, Chalk River, Cobden, Eganville and McNab/Braeside).

The revised draft Official Plan has a new watershed policy (section 31). It says, "The County encourages the protection and improvement of water quality based on a watershed planning approach."

We are working with other groups, notably watershed and agricultural organizations, to further develop the County's approach in this regard. We are exploring the possibility of a county-level watershed council, with links to stewardship groups representing the County's four major Ottawa River sub-watersheds (Madawaska, Bonnechere, Muskrat/Snake/Indian and Petawawa).

The draft Plan also proposes a specific role for lake property owners' associations. It says, "Lake Associations may conduct lake stewardship planning. Any recommendations of a lake plan affecting development applications may require an amendment to this Plan."

As well, our two organizations are working to support and expand this summer's public beach water quality testing, carried out by the Renfrew County & District Health Unit. You can view results from last year's efforts on Lake Clear at <https://sites.google.com/site/arefpt/>. Is there is a lake steward representing your lake? If so, could you share their contact information?

Finally, we are in the early stages of organizing the 5th Annual Renfrew County Stewardship Forum, tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 6th, 2016. We plan to feature a panel discussion of lake association representatives at the Forum, and would like to invite a representative of your group to

participate. This will provide an opportunity to share views on ways to protect and improve water quality, taking into account the draft County Official Plan.

We would greatly appreciate hearing back from you on these matters. Please reply by contacting our coordinator, Cheryl Keetch, at (613) 756-3884, or by e-mail at info@bonnechereriver.ca or info@ottawariverinstitute.ca.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn Lindsay
Chair, Bonnechere River Watershed Project

Ole Hendrickson
President, Ottawa River Institute