

Letters

and for rent subsidy should go to programming

annual application to
for continued pro-
Fairfields (EALTCC)
e municipal funding
irst, but with the un-
vas to be forwarded
Fairfields which was
the monthly costs.

NA paid \$17,876 in
e (\$10,000 of which
two townships). In
hly rent paid directly
as \$650.81.

erating costs for the
complex (including
ntre space) in 2015
ter and sewer, snow
nted to \$160,238.

and EDSNA execu-
ere quite happy with
ement with support
ipalities.

year something hap-
SNA reported NAW
1 down for a grant to
, and had requested a
king for \$5,000 to go
on. It was the begin-

nfusion since three of
ncillors and the new
ey had turned down
uest for rent subsidy
sked EDSNA to sub-
quest for recreation
g.

e caused some confu-
fayor Farr suggested
it be assigned to the
reation budget for
ses and not that the
ified for recreation

1 municipalities were
00 grants again. The
orthcoming from BV
and the board hopes
ort EALTCC on the
ast years.

y to pay hydro, heat,
er bills. If NAW di-
pend its grant on
t the seniors activity
ll be a shortfall in rent
s.

s not a member of the
l. He is the part-time
Fairfields section of
id brings with him a
ience and knowledge
ous position with the
ty District School
of pay affordable to
expertise in plant op-

is to provide accommodations and
assisted living services to seniors
who require such services. No private
individual owns any part of Fairfields;
no private individual owns any part
of the seniors activity centre. Each
group is a separate corporation with
separate Registered Charitable Status

designation. Board members of both
groups are unpaid volunteers.

Including the new seniors activity
centre in the expansion of Fairfields
was seen as a win-win situation for
both organizations. Fairfields resi-
dents would have easy access to many
activities without leaving the building

and the seniors association would
have new and spacious accommoda-
tions and more people participating.

If there is a shortfall in rent, the
EALTCC will have to seriously
reconsider renting out the space to
EDSNA. A reduction from the current
rate is not sustainable.

Algonquin land deal: a lose-lose situation for everyone

Dear Editor:

From past issues of the *Leader*,
and the recent March 17 voting re-
sults whereby our Algonquin friends
of Pikwakanagan rejected the AIP
(Agreement-in-Principle) related to
the ongoing Algonquin Land Claim
negotiations, it is obvious that a
strong majority of Pikwakanagan's
330 voters are seriously concerned
about their lack of consultation, as
well as the possible negative implica-
tions of the AIP. These concerns are,
despite the fact they had several of
their own representatives negotiat-
ing on their behalf, in conjunction
with representatives from nine other
Algonquin communities.

In contrast, at the other extreme of
the political spectrum, over one mil-
lion non-natives who are part of this
same claim area have had absolutely
no effective representation or mean-
ingful consultation at all.

Rest assured the Lake Clear Prop-
erty Owners Association fully sup-
ports the Algonquins of Ontario in
their quest to finally arrive at a fair
and comprehensive treaty with our
provincial and federal governments.
Our ongoing concern has always
been that no real input has been af-
forded to non-aboriginals who were
originally deemed to be an equal
party in this process. While the Al-
gonquins have had a high-powered
negotiating team representing their
collective interests, our provincial
and federal negotiators, who were
supposed to represent the interests of
non-natives, have in fact secretly,

single-mindedly, and seemingly at
all cost, pushed towards reaching
an agreement with the Algonquins.
Even our locally elected Bonnechere
Valley Township and Renfrew Coun-
ty representatives have been denied
any true involvement in this process.
Underlining this sad state of affairs,
not one non-native in this area was
allowed to vote on this extremely
critical issue. Not one.

Moreover, and unfortunately, our
Eastern Ontario MPs and MPPs have
refused to voice our concerns, and
most of the public media have chosen
not to explore this issue to any extent.
As a result, there has been no in depth
public scrutiny of this issue and its
ramifications.

Why is this land claim issue so
important to everyone who lives or
visits this affected area of Eastern
Ontario, a large swath of territory
running east from North Bay along
the Ottawa River to Parliament Hill,
and then down to Highway 7?

Here are two of our main concerns:

1. Of the 117,000 acres of Crown
lands that are to be transferred to the
Algonquins, approximately 80 per
cent are located in Renfrew County.
These "cherry-picked" properties
will mainly come from our most
popular, well-used, and valuable
waterfront areas and parklands. Once
transferred, they will be deemed to be
private lands, with no right to access,
so possibly say good-bye to activities
on these lands such as hiking, hunt-
ing and hunt camps! Moreover, these
then-private lands could be developed

or sold to the highest bidder. Here at
Lake Clear, eight of our 13 islands are
slated to be transferred, along with a
large parcel of old-forest waterfront
property. At nearby Spectacle Lake,
plans have already been announced
for a large housing development
which will surely overwhelm this
small sensitive lake.

2. This proposed land claim agree-
ment puts no restrictions on ab-
originals as to methods and limits for
hunting and fishing. In other words,
aboriginals may hunt and fish 365
days a year with no quotas or safety
restrictions, and may use any equip-
ment they wish (e.g. gill nets which
could deplete a lake of fish in a matter
of days.) How would this impact our
tourism industry? How would this im-
pact the lives of those who live in this
area? How would this impact you?
We recognize the Algonquins are a
responsible people and respect the
natural habitat, but there are rogues
in every community...and under this
proposed agreement, there are no
stated legal conservation controls.

We encourage everyone to give seri-
ous thought to this issue, and voice
their opinions accordingly. Once this
land claim agreement is finalized and
embedded in our Canadian Constitu-
tion within the near future, life as we
now know it in Renfrew County may
never be the same.

Lorne Monahan,
*President, on behalf of the
Lake Clear Property Owners
Association
R.R. 2, Eganville*



Letters to the Editor

