

BLPOA Communique #1-2022

Winter Season on the Lake

I imagine we all have been missing the enjoyment of having open paths for skating, walking or sliding around the shores of our lake. This season's untimely snowfall of 40cm+ in January pretty much curtailed any means for dedicated volunteers to keep trails open.....and now another 17 cms landed on us.....*just maybe only 6 weeks until the lake reappears.*



Census 2021



The first round of the 2021 Census of Population data was released on Wednesday, February 9th. According to Statistics Canada, the census data for our Township of Rideau Lakes (TRL) is:

- Population up 5.4 % (from 2016) to 10,883.
- Total Private dwellings down 1.6% to 6781.
- Total Private dwellings occupied by "usual residents" up 2.3% to 4696.

It is interesting that the population took a significant jump and mostly due to an increase in permanent waterfront residents who now provide almost 70% of TRL property assessments. Within our Rideau Lakes Township it's also worth noting that residents of individual lakes definitely form a "community", and seasonally, some of these communities are among the largest in TRL.



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Continued Postponement of MPAC's Province-wide Assessment Update:

As part of the [Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario](#) the Government announced the [continued postponement of the province-wide assessment update](#). This means that property taxes for the 2022 and 2023 taxation years will continue to be based on the January 1, 2016 valuation date. Property assessments will remain the same as they were for the 2021 tax year, unless there have been changes to the property.

Special Services Levy – Bass Lake Outlet Project

Our BLPOA Executive continues to work with the Township/CAO on a final determination of the project costs and conditions of the proposed Special Services Levy. The contractor's holdback payment was authorized last week and now the cost sharing bylaw can move forward. It will be placed on the Feb 28 Municipal Services Committee (MSC) meeting. If approved, it would be adopted at the March 7 Council meeting by by-law. The CAO will provide a draft to our BLPOA Board in advance. The CAO is continuing to recommend the option of a 3-year payback.



Blue Green Algae

At the provincial level, several local lake associations wrote last November to our **MPP Steve Clark**, to seek his support for accelerating the *timeliness – few days rather than few weeks* of “blue green algae” lab results by Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.(MECP) We eventually received a letter reply from Ontario Environment Minister David Paccini that included the following extract:



“The ministry laboratory is working to enhance algal bloom response, including sample prioritization, expedited testing and reporting the results of high priority samples. We are committed to continuous improvement to ensure that we address algal blooms in a timely, appropriate and effective way to ensure the health and safety of Ontarians and protect our lakes and waterways.”

Update - Fotenn Study on Campground Development

Members may recall in our previous **Communique #13 – 2021** that last year, Rideau Lakes Township adopted an interim control By-Law, and commissioned a “land use study’ (the Fotenn report) to recommend specific policies for campground development. This January, Fotenn completed and circulated their “**Draft Issues and Options Report**” for review and comment by campground operators, lake associations and the public. The BLPOA participated in a Fotenn Zoom workshop and submitted a set of comments and recommendations pertaining to this draft report. The final Fotenn Issues and Options Report will be submitted to Council later this Spring for its consideration and decision making on whether to update current land use policies and regulations, such as the zoning by-law, to provide a framework for achieving compatibility between campgrounds and surrounding land uses.

For further details on this Draft Issues and Options Report, refer to Township website link:

<https://www.rideaulakes.ca/images/Documents/campground/Township-of-Rideau-Lakes-Tourist-Campground-Draft-Issues-and-Options-Report.pdf>



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Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association

Just a reminder that each and every one of our Association members can access all of FOCA's membership benefits, including the boat and cottage insurance program Cottage First. This also includes free or member-price access to webinars and in-person events hosted by FOCA. Please refer to FOCA's current educational material, member benefits and offers. This User Name & Password to be used for full access by each BLPOA member property owner to FOCA's website.

Board of Directors Meeting 05 March 2022 - Drop us a line!

All in all, a very busy agenda, reflective of the ongoing development and growth on Bass Lake and throughout the region. If you have questions for any Board members, please reach out and send an email to: president@rideaubasslake.com or reply to to this Communique Email address.



Bass Lake
Property Owners Association

We Need Volunteers!

Four the past four years, the work of the BLPOA has been carried out by a lake-wide representative group of hardworking volunteers primarily focusing on the work of the Board, liaising with the Township; Conservation Authority ; provincial ministries and collaborating with other lake associations within our rideau lakes watershed. Community-based volunteers are the backbone of any non-profit organization. Our young lake association is no different. We are seeking new member volunteers to give some folks a break and to help with various lake initiatives and activities.

Why volunteer?

This is your lake! It provides us all with so much beauty and enjoyment – give back by helping the BLPOA preserve it for current and future generations. Feel the satisfaction you get from helping to make a difference. Get to know your fellow Bass Lake community members. Learn more about the lake and the environment around us.

There are many ways to volunteer with BLPOA, including:

- Serving a short term on the Association Executive or Board of Directors;
- Water Quality Sampling Program - help us monitor the health of the lake by collecting a number of parameters at ten sites across Bass Lake;
- Help to recruit new members –canvassing our membership for annual dues;
- Identifying and reporting invasive species or endangered species;
- Monitoring and reporting of bird life around the lake;
- We need ideas and we need people to plan and implement!;
- Contributing short articles for the BLPOA Communiques produced monthly;
- Assist with website and social media development and maintenance.

If you are interested in helping in any capacity and would like to share your knowledge or talents, we would love to hear about it. Please speak with your Road Director and/or send an email to: president@rideaubasslake.com or reply to this Communique Email address. and we will contact you with further information.