

Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association pleased with TSW report

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Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed by association members at the spring meeting of the Kennisis Lake Cottage Owners' Association at Haliburton Forest on May 17. The association has almost 600 members. For details on all these initiatives please see www.klcoa.org.

Water levels have fallen five inches

since the beginning of spring as the Trent-Severn Waterways tries various strategies to deal with the large volume of melted snowpack. The association hopes levels will rise another five to six inches before the summer drawdown begins.

In general, the association is pleased with the TSW panel report, which recognizes the important recreational and environmental role of the watershed lakes and calls for a better system of management.

"I think we made a huge step forward,"

Chris Riddle said. (The association is a member of the Haliburton Highlands coalition for better water management.) However, even though the report talks about water conservation, it doesn't set out a plan on how to do it.

The success of the coalition has initiated discussions about the formation of a watershed council. "We have too many small groups trying to do the same things and we need to co-ordinate things better," he said.

The coalition has supported the local lobbying effort to convince the provincial government to have a moratorium on uranium exploration and development in the county. He noted that the uranium core that is being surveyed near Tory Hill runs diagonally up to Dorset. Kennisis Lake should therefore also be concerned about the issue.

Island development

The association is opposing the possible creation of two "building envelopes" on Island C across from the West Shore development. The land is owned by Shall-May Holdings, which is applying to Dysart et al for rezoning.

The owner did an environmental report on the proposal but the association was successful in its request for an independent peer review of the findings.

Lake steward Cameron Douglas said the island is a high-profile area visible from many parts of the lake. The association is concerned about the loss of a natural area, the island's aesthetic value and septic tank servicing.

Concerned residents can contact the county office to request that they be notified when a public meeting on the issue will be held. That will likely be some time from now since the peer review is not expected to be completed for another six months.

Fishing stories

The Ministry of Natural Resources wants at least 10 avid fisherman to tell their fishing stories.

It's all part of the data collection that will help the ministry determine how to improve the lake's fisheries.

Kennisis Lake has many unique features, Gary Benson said: it's a largely spring-fed, deep lake with deep spawning trout. Speckled trout have been introduced over the past few years to help alleviate the rock bass problem.

MNR fisheries biologist David Flowers will meet with the Kennisis anglers to discuss the information-gathering program and provide the materials that are needed,

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