

November 18, 2020

To County Council Members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization in support of the proposed Shoreline Preservation By-law. We, like many others, believe that this may be the most important piece of legislation ever considered by Haliburton County.

I have followed the news, consultations, presentations and deliberations of County Council on this by-law. You realize the relationship between the lakes and nature to the existence and economy of a thriving Haliburton County. The science is clear, healthy lakes need healthy shorelines. You know the population of Haliburton County continues to grow. You are aware of the continuing development. You have seen many examples of the further destruction of our shorelines in the 2020 building season. We need this Shoreline Preservation By-law now, and certainly prior to the Spring of 2021, before our lakes suffer irreparable harm.

We need to develop in harmony with nature. I wish that all who live and play here would innately know how to protect the lakes. Unfortunately, even with the educational efforts of the lakes associations that is not the case. People need guidelines, rules and laws to outline how to protect the lakes.

Regrettably, we also have those who act out of self-interest or without a concern for their neighbours or the consequences. Every day, we see examples of this, when we witness the actions of some in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect our lakes and Haliburton County we need this by-law.

We also implore you to ensure that we implement this by-law in a way that is effective and pro-active in its protection of the shorelines. A permitting process is a minor step in the process of developing or re-developing a property, but it will ensure that we are not trying to negotiate the repair of damage after the fact. The cost in time and effort for permits and pre-approval is a small price to pay, and a fraction of the cost that we will have to invest to rehabilitate our lakes.

We thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

Bob Carter
President, Lake Kashagawigamog Organization

cc. Charlsey White, Mike Rutter