

**Minutes of a Meeting between the  
Lake Networking Group and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)**

October 24, 2012  
10:00 hrs to 12:00 hrs

Tay Valley Township Council Chambers

**Participants:**

Constable Dave Blair (Community Service Officer-OPP), Constable Mike Forster (OPP), Taro Alps (Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes), Terry and Judy Kennedy (Kennebec Lake), Karen Hunt (Otty Lake), Robert Cosh (Otty Lake), Jim Lampman (Bennett/Fagan Lakes), Gord Welby (Bennett/Fagan Lake), Larry Arpaia (Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes), Lloyd Jones (Greater Bobs and Crow Lakes)

- 1.) **Marine Safety-** Constable Forster presented the Marine Detachments Statistics for May to Sept 2012

652 Boats stopped by Marine Detachment on all lakes

183 Warnings Given

Charges Include:

53 Liquor Offenses

37 Personal Floatation Devices Offenses

13 Fisheries Offenses

2 drug Charges

24 Small Vessel Offenses

Compliments to the OPP from the Lake Networking Group for their effort to make our lakes safe.

Several marine issues were brought forward;

A.) Wake Board Boats-concern expressed about boats that produce severe wakes and are very destructive to the shoreline. OPP noted that an increase of such boats has been seen on the lakes yet no problems have been identified.

B.) Boats too close to swimming areas – A concern that boats waterskiing and tubing have been seen very close to swimming areas and docks around the lakes. OPP noted that all boats must comply with regulations (speed limits of 10km/h within 100 ft from shore). If boats are consistently breaking this regulation report to OPP with name/description of boat and OPP will send out an Officer.

C.) Fisherman too close to docks and swimming areas- OPP noted that this may be an etiquette and education issue and not necessarily a legal issue

## 2.) Cottage Safety

- A.) Constable Blair reported that in May 2012 that 6 persons were charged with approximately 50 breaks and enters in the Lanark Highlands, Maberly, Sharbot Lake and northern Bobs and Crow Lakes. Goods recovered have been returned to cottage owners.
- B.) A concern was expressed re Fireworks being discharged during a Fire Ban. The OPP reported that each Township has different by-laws concerning fireworks. These by-laws are enforced by the Fire Department. If the Fireworks by-laws or the Fire Ban By-laws are broken cottagers are encouraged to contact Fire Department in your Township at any time. In Tay Valley Property owners will be charged \$450 if the Fire Dept appears on site during a Fire Ban and the property owners do not have a permit. Other Townships have less clear by-laws. For further information Lake Associations are encouraged to contact Ken Gilpin (613 541 3213). Mr Gilpin is the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer for our region and reports to a number of townships.
- C.) Concern brought forward about large, loud parties around lakes. OPP noted that they will respond to complaints brought forward on a low priority basis only. Any OPP intervention will be a courtesy visit, rarely are charges laid for such interventions. This issue must be addressed by the Townships through a Noise Pollution By-law.
- D.) Dumping of garbage illegally in Townships. OPP noted that littering/dumping of garbage illegally is a Township issue that must be addressed first by the Public Works Department and the Township's Building Inspectors and then by the Ministry of the Environment depending on what is illegally dumped. A complaint must be forwarded to the Township; usually the Township will initially issue a caution letter followed up by a visit from the By-law enforcement officer. OPP does not address such issues.
- E.) What can be done to discourage crime at cottages? Constable Blair spoke of the OPP Safe Guard Program. OPP Officers and Aux Members will do a free Safety Audit inside and outside one's cottage. Cottagers must phone OPP to book an appointment. This program's intention is 'crime prevention through environmental design'. An example of a proactive component of Safe Guard program is the "owl" 'Cottage Watch' Sign at Bennett Lake. This sign has the decals of the OPP, Bennett & Fagan Lake Assoc and FOCA and has been supported by all members around Bennett and Fagan Lakes The signs were made by ProDecal and the cost is approximately \$40. Per sign. For more info on the process contact Dave Blair (613 267 2626).
- F.) OPP recommends the installing and use of locked gates to discourage intruders during the off season at your cottage. If an intruder cannot get close access to your property they will look elsewhere.

Next Meeting will be in the Spring 2013. Dates to be coordinated between Inspector Salisbury and Karen Hunt.