

President's Report

March 12, 2016

1) Bylaws

No update as I have not started that process other than distributing them.

2) Westport Support Letter

Westport's funding application to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund for the upgrading of its wastewater treatment process was turned down in January. The BRLA was asked by the Village to write a letter of support requesting a review and reversal of that decision to provincial government ministries and politicians.

That letter (copy attached) was sent Feb 18th.

Thanks to Buzz, Doug G and Doug K for their input

3) Committee Reports for Board Meetings

Thanks to everyone for submitting their reports in advance of the Board meetings. I look for your thoughts on how that works for you and how best to distribute them in the future.

4) Day Camp

I will call our new camp councillor, Katie Mackie, this week to set up a transition meeting with her, Beth and myself to set up the camp.



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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully yours,

February 17, 2016

The Honourable Brad Duguid
Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure
8th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay St.,
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Dear Minister

Re: Village of Westport Grant Application to Rehabilitate its Waste Water Treatment Facility

The Big Rideau Lake Association is dedicated to monitoring and advocating for the sound planning and management of the resources affecting the Big Rideau Lake watershed.

The purpose of this letter is to express grave concern about the Ministry's denial of the Village of Westport's application to the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund for the remediation of its wastewater plant. Further, we request that that decision be reassessed with the goal that it be reversed.

Westport's water treatment issues immediately effect the waters of Big Rideau Lake, just as they do Upper Rideau Lake, because that lake drains directly east into Big Rideau through the Narrows Causeway lock and dam. Prevailing westerly winds contribute to this flow.

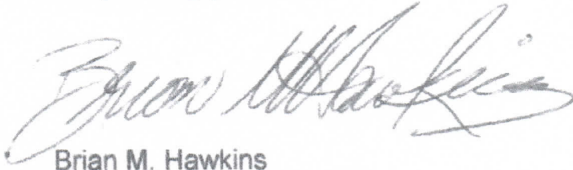
Because of this direct link of Westport's water issues to our shorelines and water quality, we ask that your Ministry direct a portion **our** provincial tax dollars to the resolution of this issue.

We would also remind the Minister and those involved in this decision that Westport and Upper Rideau Lake sit at the headwater of the Rideau Canal World Heritage Site, a UNESCO designation which attracts visitors from around the world every year. It would be shameful for visitors to find degraded water flowing through this once pristine system as a result of a lack of public infrastructure funding.

We respectfully request that the Ministry revisit and reverse the above noted decision to prevent further degradation of Big Rideau Lake's fragile aquatic environment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully yours,



Brian M. Hawkins
President, Big Rideau Lake Association

cc The Honourable Glen Murray
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Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

The Honourable Ted McMeekin
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
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The Honourable Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
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