

Notes of OPP-Lake Associations Meeting 22 September 2017

Lanark County OPP Detachment- Lake Associations Annual Meeting

Friday 22 September 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

TVT Council Chambers, 217 Harper Road

Next meeting – Friday, 21 September, 2018 at 9:30am, location and time to be confirmed.

Attending

OPP

Inspector Derek Needham, Lanark County OPP Detachment Commander

Sergeant Byron Newell, OPP Provincial SAVE Unit, Marine Operations

Lake Associations

Bennett and Fagan Lakes Association

Big Rideau Lake Association

Christie Lake Association

Dalhousie Lake Association

Farren Property Lake Owners Association

Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association

Long Lake Association

Lower Beverly lake Association

Mississippi Lakes Association

Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association

General: Larry Bowen opened the meeting with a welcome and brief introduction. He thanked the OPP Detachment for their informative News Release/Communiqués posted to the Tay Valley Township web site - which clearly show their call response workload. Other lake associations should check their respective township websites for similar information as the Lanark County OPP Detachment informs all townships within their jurisdiction. All were then requested to introduce themselves and to sign the attendance sheet. Inspector Needham and Sergeant Newell then briefed on recent changes in deployment and current marine related topics within the purview of the Lanark County OPP Detachment.

1. Lanark County OPP Update

- a. The OPP province wide restructuring process initiated last year to gain efficiencies is working well. Operations now rely heavily on behavior based analytical assessments. They no longer select lakes or communities for patrolling based on a routine or systematic rotation. Of note is that the Sharbot Lake area no longer falls within the jurisdiction of the Lanark County OPP Detachment and now belongs to North and Central Frontenac.
- b. A Break and Entry document was distributed depicting the 2016 infractions. Few were around lakes whereas the majority was located around the population centres of Perth, Smiths Falls and Carleton Place. See embedded doc



OPP 2016 analysis
map

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Reports of cottage crime often peak in the spring when cottage property owners discover that they have been broken into over the winter. The most common times of the day for break-ins are afternoons and early evening.

- c. The OPP Highway Safety Division has a few vehicles specially equipped with 'automated license plate software'. Simply stated these vehicles have cameras mounted to capture license plates at a rate of one per second which can identify traffic in either direction. License plates are automatically run through a 'hot list' to identify offenses such as stolen vehicles, license suspensions, excess demerit points, unpaid fines and the like. More such equipped OPP vehicles will be patrolling highways in the near future.
- d. Marine operations in our area consist of four zones, ours being identified as zone 2, each having four dedicated marine officers. Patrol duties migrate to snowmobile operations. ATV operations are ongoing year around.
- e. News Release/Communiqués are prepared by Constable David Bird, Lanark County Detachment OPP. These news releases have taken the place of Neighbourhood Watch Bulletins. Contact information is below at paragraph 5.
- f. Lanark County OPP Detachment contact information is listed below at paragraph 5.

2. Water Safety

- a. SAFETY EQUIPMENT - There was much discussion on safety equipment requirements for various water craft such as kayaks, paddle boards, sailboards and the like. Embedded is a Transport Canada Safe Boating Guide forwarded by the Sharbot Lake Property Owners Association. Information specific to our discussions may be found on pages 15-18.



TC Safe Boating
Guide

You can also refer to the following government of Canada website for more detailed descriptions on mandatory safety equipment.

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp14659-safetyequipment-3018.htm>

- b. PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATOR CARD FOR NON-RESIDENTS (in Ontario) – The following was taken from the following link https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/debs-obs-quick-quick_visitor-1610.htm and confirmed by Sergeant Byron Newell.
 - i. If they operate their pleasure craft in Canadian waters for more than 45 consecutive days; or
 - ii. If they operate a pleasure craft that is licensed or registered in Canada (including rented or chartered boats).
 - iii. The Regulations **do not apply** to non-residents who operate their pleasure craft in Canadian waters for less than 45 consecutive days. Please note that a proof of residence will be required on board at all times.
- c. VESSEL OPERATION RESTRICTION REGULATIONS (VORR) – Shoreline speed limits and careless operation of a small vessel were topics of concern. Examples raised by various lake associations were wake restrictions, high speed 'cigarette' boats also known as 'go-fast-boats' and careless operation of boats. The following is taken from the embedded VORR document.
 - i. "There was also a regulation against careless operation under the *Small Vessel Regulations*. Careless operation may include, but is not limited to, weaving through other vessels at high speed, jumping waves or wakes, operating an engine at peak RPM causing excessive noise, operating a vessel in circular or criss-cross patterns for extended periods of time in the same location, or causing an excessive wake."

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- ii. “Some provinces (ON, MB, SK, AB) have adopted speed limits of 10 km/h within 30 metres of shore on all waters within their boundaries.....This limit is in effect whether it is posted or not.....”
- iii. Please note that the VORR document emphasizes consultation and working with local authorities before submitting an official application to Transport Canada. VORR are meant to be the last resort for solving problems.



- d. SHOAL MARKERS – Technically Transport Canada must approve the use of all shoal markers on waterways. On many inland waters there is no prevailing or regular marking of navigational hazards by Transport Canada or any other responsible agency. As a result many lake associations have undertaken to make local boaters safer by marking hazards (shoals or underwater hazards) with some form of floating marker. This has been done using locally adopted devices and common sense with the intent that marking (vs. NOT marking) a known hazard being a positive contribution to a safer boating experience. The OPP SAVE Unit recognizes this initiative.
- e. DOCK/RAFT MARKERS IN WINTER – Docks or rafts left in the water during the winter months can be a hazard to activities such as snowmobiling particularly when covered over with snow. It is the owners’ responsibility to mark such hazards and thereby avoid the possibility of potential liability in case of an accident.
- f. WILDLIFE PROTECTION
 - i. Although the OPP may become involved in wildlife protection it is more likely only at the request of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR). Issues such as deliberate and purposeful harassment of wildlife using a watercraft should be immediately recorded and relayed to the MNR TIPS line. See paragraph 5 below under MNR contacts.
 - ii. NON EMERGENCIES (Bears) - Call the Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 (between April 1-November 30) if a bear is:
 - 1. roaming around, checking garbage cans;
 - 2. breaking into a shed where garbage or food is stored;
 - 3. in a tree;
 - 4. pulling down a bird feeder or knocking over a barbecue; and/or
 - 5. moving through a backyard or field but is not lingering.
 - iii. EMERGENCIES (Bears) – Cal 911
 - 1. enters a school yard when school is in session
 - 2. enters or tries to enter a residence
 - 3. wanders into a public gathering
 - 4. kills livestock/pets and lingers at the site
 - 5. stalks people and lingers at the site
- g. BOAT SPOTTERS - There must be a spotter on board the boat who can keep watch on each person being towed and communicate with the operator. There must be an empty seat on your boat for each person being towed in case they need to come on board. Specific information can be found at p48 of the embedded TC Safe Boating Guide.

3. Cottage Safety

- a. COTTAGE SAFETY WORKSHOP – A Cottage Safety Workshop is being coordinated by the Greater Bobs and Crow Lake Association. Such events fall under their category of Educational Socials. Socials are held on Saturday mornings during the summer months bringing in local “experts” who present on a specific topic. The Lanark County OPP Detachment was asked if they

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would be interested in participating. Inspector Needham stated yes and to contact him directly. The earlier they receive details the better the chance of being available.

- b. This paragraph is copied from last year's notes but thought worthwhile to repeat due to the discussions surrounding cottage safety. *“Cottages are subject to theft by boat and or snowmobiles in winter. Avoid leaving valuable sporting equipment outside in plain sight while you are away from the cottage. Always lock your cottage door when you leave the property. When you plan to be away for long periods of time, consider taking the expensive equipment home or store it in a protected facility in the local town near the cottage. Always remove all firearms and alcohol when the cottage is closed for the winter. Small boats, canoes and personal watercraft should not be left near the shore. Instead, bring them higher up on the property and beyond the line-of-sight of passing boats/snowmobiles. Some cottagers leave their aluminum boat right on top of the dock during the off season – not a good idea. Do not restrict visibility to the insides with curtains; better to display that nothing of value is within.”*

4. Invasion of Privacy

- a. The positioning of an outside spotlight by an owner is not deemed an invasion of privacy even though the spotlight may illuminate a portion of a neighbour's property. However if a spotlight targets a specific neighbouring dwelling and not part of the owners property then an invasion of privacy may be deemed an infraction. Similarly, an illuminated right-of-way legally used by others, where the light beam impairs roadway visibility, may be considered a road safety infraction.
- b. Surveillance cameras set up on a dwelling have no restrictive sightline as they are deemed to be for the security of the applicable building and/or property. A camera(s) set up on the perimeter of a property which is directly aimed at another dwelling may be interpreted as an invasion of privacy and as such may be determined as improper use of the surveillance equipment.

5. Contact Numbers

- a. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Kemptville District (MNRF)
 - i. 613-258-8303/8204
 - ii. Kemptville, Ontario, K0G1J0
 - iii. MNRF TIPS line 1-877-847-7667 to report illegal activity against Ontario's natural resources
 - iv. Non-emergency Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327
- b. Lanark County OPP Detachment
 - i. 911 only to be used in an emergency
 - ii. 1-800-310-1122 non-emergency number
 - iii. 1-613-267-2626 local detachment number
 - iv. 75 Dufferin St, Perth
Ontario, K7H3A5
 - v. News Release/Communiqués – contact Constable David Bird at 613-267-2626 x8871

6. Next meeting - Tentatively scheduled for Friday 21 September 2018 at 09:30am. Confirmation and location to be announced.

7. Meeting Adjournment – The meeting ended at 10:45am.