

Lake Networking Group - Lanark OPP Annual Meeting

September 20, 2019 at 10:00 am.

@ Tay Valley Township Offices, 217 Harper Rd, Perth

0930- Meeting set up and prep

10:00 - start with Welcome & Introductions

-Moderated by Greg Ellis, Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association

Attending:

OPP - Insp. Derek Needham has recently transferred and is unable to attend, he has arranged for Sergeant Byron Newell of the S.A.V.E. Unit (Snowmobiles, ATV's and Vessels Enforcement) and Staff Sergeant Marty McConnell of the Lanark detachment to attend.

Dalhousie Lake Association

Christie Lake Association

Little Silver & Rainbow Lakes Property Owners Association

Silver Lake and Area Environmental Protection Association

Lower Beverley Lake Association

Black Lake Association

Otty Lake Association

Pike Lake Association

Mississippi Lakes Association

Lake Networking Group

The meeting started with a short round of introductions. It was noted that this meeting has been an annual event for the past 12 years and has been found to be a very useful means of communication.

The lake associations had been asked to prepare questions for the meeting for discussion with O.P.P. The following Questions were presented in advance to the OPP officers :

1. - **How are the limits of allowable cannabis plant growing applied?** There are some rural residents that have far more planted than the 4 plants each, can they grow plants for friends and relatives too? These large planting areas can be very aromatic and most townships do not seem to have bylaws

Discussion: The actual allowable limit is 4 plants per residence. The officers noted that if the legality of someone's plants are in question, it should be reported to the OPP so that it can be investigated. It was noted that hemp plants are similar in appearance to cannabis and are sometimes mistaken for them. It

was also noted that cannabis cannot be transported in a vehicle (car, boat, atv) unless it is packed away and not readily accessible to the occupants.

2. - Can the very informative OPP weekly reviews also include marine unit and off road statistics?- Do Frontenac and Leeds and Grenville OPP units provide this type of information?

Discussion: Unfortunately not as the S.A.V.E. group serves all of Eastern Ontario and their reporting structure does not allow them to report by County or District. Provincial Marine statistics are available on the OPP website and updated regularly. Lanark County detachment provides weekly updates on stats from their jurisdiction, but can not include S.A.V.E. stats. The makeup of the SAVE unit is currently officers from the Eastern Ontario group with 1 or 2 members from the detachment that they are working in. Impaired driving and boating is still a big issue and one of the main enforcement priorities, as well as safety equipment. It was noted that open liquor is not allowed in boats!!

An update on Last year's question on water ski courses pylons in lakes. Temporary (1 day) courses are ok, long term ones must be approved by Transport Canada.

3. - Speeding on private cottage roads is an issue in many areas. What is the best way to slow these drivers down?

Discussion: If private roads are accessible to the public, they can be considered to be highways now under most situations and can lead to charges for chronic offenders. The officers noted that the best approach is to notify them of the problem and they will attempt to have a discussion with the offender. Traffic on private roads can be regulated by both the Highway Traffic Act and ATV Act. The officers noted that if there are chronic issues, to call and they will set up a response. A police report is very useful for analytics and the complaint process can be done on line. Speed bumps do seem to work for some road associations.

4. Update from last year – Do OPP boats get thoroughly cleaned when travelling between different lakes?

Discussion: There is a new provincial policy covering this and will be followed by the SAVE unit. It was noted that they work in usually close or adjacent lakes that are often connected, so cleaning may not be required. It was suggested that the provision of boat cleaning stations at boat launches would be a good idea.

5. - Info on enforcement of local township noise by-laws:

Discussion: The officers advised to call if noise is a problem, but the laying of charges would depend on wording of the by-law if one exists. It was advised that people should know their by-laws for their area, as they differ between townships. There is a 1-888 number to call the OPP for response to non-emergency issues. It was suggested that a discussion with the owner of the property prior to calling OPP may work, but if there is no improvement the 1-888 number is available. It was suggested that for continual issues with Air B&B and other short term rentals a talk to the owner of the property may help.

6. -Are there any existing laws regarding paper lanterns that use candles? (re: fire hazard)

Discussion: This type of issue would best be dealt with by calling the local Fire Department. They can better provide a deterrent by charging the paper lantern lighters for their response to these types of calls. If there is immediate danger involved, 911 should be called.

7. – Are there any restrictions on use of firearms on rural and lakefront properties?

Discussion: If they are following the safety rules for guns and are on their own property, there are no specific prohibitions for rural properties. There may be some by-laws in some townships, but there are no provincial restrictions for people following the safety rules for guns.

8- boats operating at high speeds too close to shore with swimmers in area - who do they call?

Discussion: Boating regulations specify a limit of 10 kph within 30 metres of shore. Boaters are responsible for damage caused by large wakes. A video or picture of the speeding boats may help with enforcement when OPP are called. There is additional information available on the FOCA website.

9 - boats operating at night without navigation lights, sometimes at high speeds - how should this issue be dealt with?

Discussion: For chronic situations, contact the OPP and they will set up an enforcement routine for the area. An example of this occurred a few years ago on a lake, where on Friday nights water access cottagers would regularly boat to their cottages in the dark with no lights. The SAVE unit was there on a Friday night, after which the boaters all made sure they had working lights. It was noted that a flashlight is sufficient for non-powered watercraft, but running lights are preferred.

The Meeting adjourned at around 11:30, next year's meeting will be around the same date, pending availability of the council chambers at Tay Valley (Sept. 18, 10 am?)

Notes by Greg Ellis, please advise of any errors or omissions!!

Thanks!!

