

*Draft Notes of OPP-Lake Associations Meeting*

**Next meeting – 27 April 2016 at 9:30am in the Tay Valley Township Council Chambers**

**Lanark OPP/ Lake Associations Annual Meeting  
Wed. 29 April 2015 – 9:30 a.m.  
TVT Council Chambers, 217 Harper Road**

**Attending**

OPP Inspector Derek Needham (Lanark County Detachment Commander)

**Lake Associations**

Donna Doelman (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Karen Dokken (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Ian MacDonald (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Bud Ennis (Bennett and Fagan Lake), Larry Bowen (Christie Lake), Donna Walsh (Christie Lake), Penny Nault (Christie Lake), Irv Dardick (Eagle Lake), Judy Hall (Dalhousie Lake), Larry Arpaia (Bobs and Crow Lake), Doug Kirkland (Big Rideau Lake) and Karen Hunt (Lake Networking Group)

**Regrets**

Kevin Browne (Sharbot Lake)

1. **General:** Karen Hunt opened the meeting with a brief introduction and requested all attending to identify themselves and their lake association and to sign the attendance sheet. Inspector Derek Needham then briefed on various changes concerning the Lanark County OPP Detachment.
2. **Lanark County OPP Update**
  - a. **Realignment** - The Lanark County OPP Detachment previously covered Central and North Frontenac. This is no longer the case as both these townships now fall within the jurisdiction of the Frontenac OPP Detachment. Sharon Brown is the Frontenac Detachment Commander. However, residents will not see a great deal of change as the same officers are in the same cars and the same vessels are doing the patrolling on the lakes but the reporting structure is changed..
  - b. **Digital Fingerprint System** – Previously there was much delay (3-4 months) in the recording and downloading of fingerprint data from the RCMP to the OPP. Lanark County OPP will soon have a digital fingerprint system in Perth thereby considerably reducing the time required to disseminate data to its patrol officers, do finger print checks for Criminal Reference Checks etc. .
  - c. **OPP Highway Camera System** - An OPP vehicle has been outfitted with a state-of-the-art camera system. This new system will enable it to patrol major highways and take photos, both from the rear and front, of 85% of the passing vehicles license plates. It is understood that this information is immediately processed and has the ability to identify stolen vehicles and other potential criminal information.
  - d. **OPP Studies** - A study has been initiated locally to analyze 5 year break-and-entry data as well as violent incident trends throughout their area of responsibility. Analysis of five year trend data will go back to community stakeholders to ask what can be done. This is part of a program called Community Engagement Mobilization. The trend information will go to local Police Services Boards to share information and work together to understand root causes. Note that all documentation released to the Police Services Board is considered a ‘public document’.
  - e. **Media Releases & Crime Stoppers Reports** - The OPP distributes media releases as required and quarterly releases data to applicable counties and townships’ Police Services Boards concerning police activities. This initiative more-or-less takes the place of the previously Community Watch Reports. It was suggested that all interested contact their municipal organizations to access the data

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on their websites. Remember that you may have to ‘subscribe’ to the applicable website. . Lanark County OPP will pass media releases and related information to Karen Hunt for further distribution to the LNG community.

- f. Resources – Lanark County Detachment has three Community Services Officers and nine boat operations for their Marine Detachment.

### **3. Lake Association Points**

- a. Eagle Lake – They have a concern with shoreline erosion and safety due to high speeds through a particularly narrow (20’W) yet deep (20’) channel. Discussion centered on the legality of posting go-slow, no-wake and/or water speed signs as well as erecting a motion camera. Eagle Lake representatives found little direction on the Ministry of Transport website. There is little that the OPP Marine Unit can do unless catching an individual boater either breaking safety regulations or proof and identification (photos, license number) of repeat offenders.
  - i. P.S. Recreational boating regulations are the responsibility of [Transport Canada](#). For information on the latest recreational boating regulations, including how to obtain proof of operator competency for motorized recreational vessels, go to: [Office of Boating Safety](#).
  - ii. P.P.S. When boating in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, **Ontario**, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, please observe the unposted speed limit of 10km/h (6 mph) within 30 meters (100 ft) from shore. This limit applies on all waters within these provinces except where other limits are posted.
- b. Bennett and Fagan Lakes – The trespassing of property under the guise of using a ‘right-of-way’ on private roads to access the water has been a serious concern. Additionally the township map adds to the confusion as it does not delineate where the township road ends and a private road commences. The map infers that the complete road is a township road. Specifics follow:
  - i. The road in question is a ‘right-of-way’ to applicable properties.
  - ii. Residents/property owners maintain this private road.
  - iii. 100% of the property owners must agree to any imposed restrictions.

Inspector Needham explained the difficulty of restricting use of a ‘right-of-way’. For example, the Highway Act allows for use and parking on the verges of the road as the boundaries of said highway are from fence line to fence line even if a physical fence does not exist. However, trespassing on a property to gain access to the lake is different issue which may be addressed by the OPP. Inspector Needham suggested that the lake association or property owner might want to consider using a trail camera to gather information on who is trespassing on private land. The OPP have trail cameras which they will loan out.

- c. Bobs and Crow Lake – A question was raised regarding the partnering of lake association logos on signs with the OPP logo. Bennett and Fagan Lakes requested this partnering for Cottage Watch signs and gained approval from OPP HQ in Orillia. Inspector Needham then asked for a copy of the approval which would simplify his detachment’s search and requests for approval.
- d. A final question was whether there will be increased patrols with the increased OPP costing. Inspector Needham responded by saying that they had received no new resources in the local detachment so would not be providing increased patrols.

- 4. **Meeting Adjournment** – The meeting ended at 10:55am.

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