



Kawartha Lake Stewards Association

264 Bass Lake Road

Trent Lakes

Ontario

K0M 1A0

klsa@klsa.info

December 8, 2023

Ms. E. Arthurs
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Douro-Dummer
894 South Street, P.O. Box 92
Warsaw, ON
K0L 3A0

Dear Elana,

After many years of successful fund raising for the Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA), Tom McAllister has decided pass the baton and I have assumed his responsibilities.

Douro-Dummer has generously contributed \$1,000 for the past years and we are hopeful that you can contribute again this year.

While there are many outstanding features amongst the sights, events and activities in this region, arguably none is more important than our water. Whether for drinking, recreation, or supporting the local economy, our waterways are a source of both sustenance and inspiration. KLSA is a 100% volunteer, non-profit, community-based organization of cottagers, year-round residents and local businesses formed to monitor the water quality of the Kawartha Lakes, to educate the public and to conduct research in areas of concern. On behalf of the KLSA board, I would like to once again thank the Township of Douro-Dummer for its past support, and, most recently, for the \$1000 grants received for 2022 and 2023. Both the funding and the implied Township support for what we are doing mean a great deal to us.

This has been another very busy and productive year for us. Complementing our traditional water monitoring programs, we enhanced our program to track water temperature and dissolved oxygen levels through the installation of permanent monitoring devices on several Trent-Severn Waterway buoys. Oxygen dissolves in surface water due to the aerating action of winds and is also introduced into the water as a byproduct of aquatic plant photosynthesis. When dissolved oxygen becomes too low (e.g. as a result of the decomposition of enhanced aquatic vegetation growth due to climate change), fish and other aquatic organisms cannot survive. Once completed, the results of this study will help to anticipate how the Kawartha lakes will continue to evolve and could help to inform future lake management plans. Working in partnership with Watersheds Canada, we were also pleased this past summer to be able to continue our program of shoreline assessment and rehabilitation across a number of local lakes and waterways.



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KLSA continues to receive widespread recognition for its valuable work. Our public meetings attract large crowds, including local mayors, councillors, Ministry representatives, members of the Kawartha Conservation Authority, cottage association executives and others with environmental interests. We are a trusted source of information for shoreline residents, government agencies and businesses within the Kawartha watershed. You can view all of KLSA's detailed, illustrated *Annual Reports* and its other free publications at klsa.wordpress.com.

Now in our twenty-third year of operation, our traditional activities include:

- Volunteer collection of water samples in 80 locations across 13 lakes, for analysis in local labs
- Monitoring of E. coli, phosphorus, and clarity. Higher phosphorus levels are linked to the development of algae blooms and increased aquatic plant growth, including invasive species.
- Reporting what is entering our lakes from sewage treatment plants, which ultimately affects the entire Trent-Severn system.
- Educating thousands of shore dwellers and taxpayers through freely available publications, well-attended public meetings, our web site and Facebook.
- Publishing our annual *Report on Water Quality*, now about 70 pages/year.
- Distributing our free publications:
 - *The Algae of the Kawartha Lakes*
 - *The milfoil weevil: A control method for invasive milfoil in the Kawarthas*
 - *Aquatic Plants Guide*
- Providing advisory, technical and water testing inputs to lake management plans.
- Conferring with many environmental stakeholder organizations.

I enclose a copy of our most recent water quality report which includes our financial statement, as well as a copy of our Aquatic Plants Guide. We are gratified to note significant financial support from individuals, businesses and cottage associations who value our work. If you wish, our Vice-Chair, Dr. Robert Bailey, would be pleased to address Douro-Dummer Council and take questions.

KLSA is a trusted and respected source of information for shoreline residents, government agencies and businesses within the Kawartha Lakes watershed. We very respectfully ask for a 2024 grant of \$1000 to continue our work on behalf of everyone who lives, works or plays on our local waterways. Such funding will be as prudently applied as it is gratefully received.

Very best wishes to you and your loved ones over the holidays and in the new year.

Sincerely,

Gerry Bleau

Email: gerry.bleau@klsa.info

KLSA Director of Fundraising