

# TRENT LAKES COUNCIL UPDATE

Highlights of Trent Lakes Council Meetings  
**July, August, September 2023**



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Welcome to the 4th newsletter for this term of Council!!

Summer is nearing an end. What a busy summer it has been! After 3 summers of COVID restrictions, people were anxious and excited to be out, around and getting together.

I hope you were able to enjoy at least one of the many outdoor concerts, yoga in the park, cruise nights, farmers markets, studio tours, fall fairs, nature hikes, art and craft shows, or paddling adventures this summer.

Your Council has been busy as well, holding 5 Saturday Town Hall meetings and a Special Saturday Ratepayer meeting, attending cottage and ratepayer meetings, visiting local events and activities, and talking with residents.

This Fall we will be hosting a Quad-Council meeting with Selwyn, Curve Lake, North Kawartha and Trent Lakes. We share borders, and many common issues and opportunities. Putting our heads together and looking for ideas and solutions is an exciting prospect.

- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor held 5 Town Hall meetings this summer. A summary of these is included on page 2.
- Nearly 200 Peterborough Public Health septic inspections were completed in the Catchacoma area for Water Access Only properties. Inspection results for 2016 – 2022 are shown on page 2.
- In 2022, Trent Lakes diverted 61% of its waste, highest in the County and better than the County average of 54% management report.
- Trent Lakes disposes 185 kg of garbage per household vs. 311 kg average for the County. Go to: [Trent Lakes 2022 Waste Management Report.pdf \(civicweb.net\)](#)
- The Municipality is applying for a grant from the Rural Transit Fund to establish a "Mobility Hub" in Buckhorn to support alternative modes of transportation.
- The Municipality is exploring development of the Lakehurst Hall property as a trail head, performance space, and/or other use.
- Approval of the new County Official Plan (which will encompass Trent Lake, going forward) has been further delayed. Changes are being made to the Provincial Planning Statement, requiring revisions to our Official Plan. One good change will remove Trent Lakes from the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*, recognizing the rural nature of Trent Lakes vs. the Greater Toronto area.
- A tender has been awarded to MVW Construction and Engineering Inc.; and The Greer Galloway Group Inc. for construction of the shared Public Works / Recreation & Facilities Building on County Road 49; funding will be through a Construction Loan with Infrastructure Ontario.
- Staff provided a Q2 operational report, available at: <https://www.trentlakes.ca/en/news/trent-lakes-q2-2023-report-card.aspx>
- A comprehensive Communications Plan has been approved and is being implemented. Go to [DRAFT Communications Strategy](#). The goals are to:
  - Inform
  - Engage
  - Promote
- Staff are directed to expedite the relocation of the cell tower at Flynn's Corners prior to lease expiration March 31, 2024.
- The Annual Special Ratepayer/Association/Resident meeting was held Saturday September 16<sup>th</sup>. An excellent presentation to answer resident questions is available at: [Ratepayer Presentation 09.16.2023](#)

**NOTE:** These are updates selected by me to keep the public informed. Any errors or omissions are mine alone. For more, and to see video recordings of past Council meetings, go to [www.trentlakes.ca/council/meetings-agendas-minutes/](http://www.trentlakes.ca/council/meetings-agendas-minutes/)

***Trent Lakes is proud to be a vibrant, resilient,  
sustainable and environmentally friendly community.***

## TOWN HALLS

The Mayor and I held Five Town Halls in June and July. These were informal, drop-in sessions (Thanks to Councillor Franzen who subbed in for one.) Locations were Galway Hall, Cavendish Community Centre, Lakehurst Hall, Buckhorn Community Centre and Oak Shores Community Centre. Over 60 people came by to share concerns, ideas and even thank you.

The topics most often raised were:

- Short Term Rentals
- Road Safety
- Waste Management
- Building & Planning

We addressed these directly at each session, and Staff has prepared an excellent status on each of these at: [Your concerns 2023](#)

I will just touch on **Short Term Rentals** here, as this was the most vocal issue in every Town Hall. Go to <https://www.trentlakes.ca/en/government/short-term-rentals.aspx> The intent of municipal actions is to ensure a Safe and Incident-Free situation for residents *and* renters. Specifically:

- Ensure that traditional residential neighborhoods are not turned into tourist areas to the detriment of residents
- Ensure any regulation of short-term rentals does not negatively affect property values
- Ensure that homes are not turned into pseudo hotels or “party houses”
- Minimize public safety risks and the noise, trash and parking problems often associated with short-term rentals
- Give permanent residents the option to occasionally utilize their properties to generate extra income from short-term rentals

With the increased number of municipalities adopting STR control programs (including our neighbors to the north and west – Haliburton and City of Kawartha Lakes) we don't want Trent Lakes to be the “preferred” or “default” destination for investors and corporations who run STRs as commercial businesses or ghost hotels.

### Phases 1 and 2 of our 3 year strategy are now complete:

- Mailout of Good Neighbour Approach document.
- Tracked complaints/warning letters and reported repeat offenders.
- Implementation of an Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMPS) which includes new By-laws for Nuisance, Noise, Open-Air Burning, Fireworks and Hearing Officer. [AMPS \(civicweb.net\)](#)
- Hiring of Maxama for additional by-law enforcement for evenings and weekends on a three-month trial.

### Phase 3 (to be completed in 2024)

- Working Group reconvened with direction to create a draft Short Term Rental Licensing by-law for Council consideration in 2024.
- Consideration of budget and staffing resources required under licensina.

## SEPTIC PROGRAM

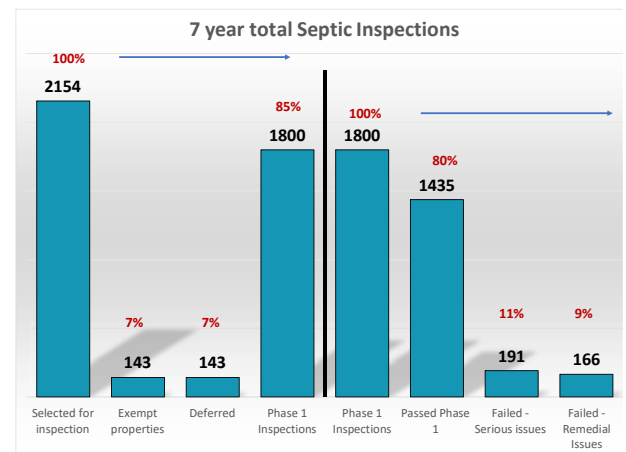
We have over 50 lakes and many rivers and watersheds in Trent Lakes. The two most important actions that ensure continued healthy water quality are maintaining a natural shoreline (to prevent erosion and filter runoff) and maintaining a properly operating septic system. Both are responsibilities of individual shoreline property owners. The Municipality has a role in supporting these actions through education, bylaws and inspection programs like septic inspection.

Two inspection programs are managed by Trent Lakes, and currently performed by Peterborough Public Health:

**Mandatory** – 64 properties in communities with Municipal water systems (Alpine Village, Pirates Glen, Buckhorn Lake Estates) inspected every 5 years

**Discretionary** – Up to 300 shoreline properties inspected every year – rotating locations throughout the municipality

WHY do we do this? In Ontario, 70% of on-site sewage systems aged 7-15 years are failing and 55% of these failures are related to poor maintenance and management\*



### Key Messages:

- 11% of Inspections reveal serious issues with septic systems and PPH follows up on their resolution
- 9% of Inspections reveal serious issues with septic systems and PPH follows up on their resolution

\*Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (2018)