

# Battersea Loughborough Lake Association Newsletter

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## President's Message (*Evonne Potts*)

Who would ever have imagined a time where we would no longer be allowed to hug our grandchildren, we would visit our elders through glass windows, that planes would no longer fly in the sky, playing in parks would be prohibited, nature trails would be off-limits, attending celebrations or even a family get-together could be dangerous and the U.S. border with our neighbours would be closed to us, and our border closed to them?

Shockingly that is the world that we live in today. Every government, industry and organization has had to adapt to these changing times and the BLLA is no exception. Webinars and Zoom meetings are now the "new normal" for me. Groups such as FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations) and the Lake Networking Group address issues online. Some of our concerns are not new, such as boating safety, shore erosion, septic system and road maintenance, but others are new, namely how to now comply with Annual General Meeting requirements, governance and online meeting tips, insurance for unattended cottages, suspension of the water sampling program and what are the implications of cottagers relocating to the lake.

The changes caused by COVID-19 have been especially hard on small businesses. Like all lake associations, the BLLA runs on a shoestring budget, but as a Board we felt that if ever there was a year to support those who have supported us, this was the time. A decision was made in March to include our longstanding sponsors into our newsletter and website at no cost to them. Funds already received were returned with our thanks. In order to stay on budget we made a couple of key changes including reducing our newsletter to only one Spring edition, and sending it out digitally, rather than by mail.

Another serious result of the pandemic was Frontenac County's surprise decision to extend the deadline for approving the draft plan conditions at Johnston Point by six months. This was approved by County Council within days of the province's lockdown announcement, despite the Province allowing ongoing construction projects to continue, and without the knowledge or consent of Township Council, and without even an application for extension from the developer. We remain mystified as to why the Johnston Point development was prioritized by the County during a pandemic, particularly in light of the facts that there was still three months left to go, draft conditions have been broken, a walking bridge had been installed in the PSW and without a building permit, the Overall Benefit Permit hasn't been made public, the Condo Agreement hasn't been signed back after almost two years, the Township voted last year against the agreement being extended, and a host of other reasons, including the developer himself telling Township Council that "*Environmental standards could not be more elevated. It is unfortunate and regrettable and deplorable that the project, and those standards have not been respected here before.*" (Gavin Marshall - Principal - Magenta Waterfront Development Corp. June 4, 2019).

The Board has also been working on applying and receiving a grant to combat invasive species, researching enhancing our native fish populations, creating awareness of the need for pollinators, the impact of septic systems and protection of species at risk on our lake. Our newsletter includes articles on some of these activities. One positive from COVID-19 is that it has reminded us to appreciate those

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who help us. I would like to thank Watersheds Canada and the Gottlieb Foundation for their grant to purchase two new "Extractigators", our former BLLA director Susan Sutherland (Butterfly Lady) for giving us a tour of her "Monarch Mansion" (and inspiring my brother-in-law to make one for me), and Mabyn Armstrong of Turtles Kingston for including us on her determined quest to return "Mr. Big" back to his home. I would especially like to thank our volunteer Board Members for their guidance and assistance during this difficult time. Most importantly, I would thank you, our members, for your support and encouragement to protect our lake for now, and for generations to come.

## Board of Directors

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### Newsletter Editors

Heather Gregg  
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### Contacts

[presidentblla63@gmail.com](mailto:presidentblla63@gmail.com)  
[treasurerblla63@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerblla63@gmail.com)  
[membershipblla63@gmail.com](mailto:membershipblla63@gmail.com)

## POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BLLA SOCIAL AND AGM



We are truly grateful to have Marc and Stella Hiemstra as BLLA members. Our spring newsletter had hoped to announce their beautiful heritage farm and orchards as the venue for this year's June AGM. Due to COVID-19, the AGM has been postponed, at the very least until the fall. Please check the BLLA website and follow us on facebook as we plan for a future date. There is always hope that instead of the sights and smells of spring apple blossoms, the wonderful fall fruits of Loughborough Heritage Orchards will colour our next social and AGM.



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## 2019 Year End Financial Report

*(Bob Fugler)*

The 2019 year end finds your lake association in reasonable financial health – covering its costs and still with a sizeable account balance. This year there has been some modification in how the financial reporting is done, in an attempt to better present multiyear membership revenues within the standard current-year reporting period.

The re-introduction of the 3 year membership option has been very popular. At year end 2019 we had 34-3 year memberships. We also had a number of renewal memberships, both 1 year and 3 year, that were paid in 2019 but not going into effect until the year 2020. In the past, all membership income was included in the year that it was received, making that year's revenues look favourable and the future year revenues looked disproportionately low. Now all future year revenues are set aside in a deferred revenue account and only the current year income is reported as an income.

Our income sources are similar to previous years. 53% of the income comes from memberships and 29% from advertising. We do continue to receive very generous donations – they are 14% of our income. Insurance remains our largest expense, at almost 33% of our costs. Newsletter publishing, AGM costs and our Internet and social presence amount to 30% of costs. We continue to support the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (more commonly known as FOCA) for the work they do representing our lake association and the others. FOCA costs are 19% of our expenditures.

Overall the lake association generated an excess of income over costs of \$131 for the year. The new deferred income account stood at \$1,540. Total ending balance of cash, bank and investments is \$10,412.

At this point last year I announced my retirement from the treasurer's job. Alas it was not to be and I am now sitting in the job as an "acting" treasurer. On a more positive note, new Board member Catherine Sutton and myself are looking into setting up a 'high-falutin'" double-entry accounting system to manage the lake association's finances. Who says old dogs can't learn new tricks?

## Trout Stocking

*(Nada Beamish)*

As expected due to COVID-19, MNRF cancelled the Loughborough Lake Trout stocking event scheduled for this spring. We are fortunate, however, that the White Lake Fish Culture Station employees placed all 15,000 Lake Manitou strain Lake Trout in the west basin of Loughborough from a private landowner's property on Friday, April 3rd. While survival conditions for the Lake Trout are not as ideal as when the many dependable volunteers place the fingerlings around the deep areas of the west basin, we are grateful the MNRF and White Lake Fish Culture Station (FCS) went ahead with a modified version of the event.

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## Water Quality Report 2019

*(Bob Fugler)*

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, the COVID-19 virus is affecting many of the things that we do on the lake. One area you might not expect to be affected is the water quality testing that is done. Testing is currently (well the first week of May 2020, anyways...) suspended and we wait to find out if this is a monthly/annual/forever change.

There are 2019 results to report on. In general, there is a slight increase in total phosphorous in the lake and a reduction in Secchi disk depths in both East and West Basin. From personal observations, I did not notice the normal algae reduction in the East Basin waters at the end of the season. It was still quite green looking into the water in October. The lake wide 2019 results, while higher, however are within normal year to year variations. It is only when you eyeball the last three or so years you can place an unfavourable trendline. Of course over the years, we had had similar trends before and then they have been followed by improving numbers.

So not to worry...yet. But do your bit. Naturalize your shorelines, pump out your septic tanks and keep fertilizers away from the lake. Don't blow leaves into the lake; let them compost in the woods. The better we can do to encourage the life at the lake edge, the better we are taking care of nature's garden and maintaining the water quality of our lake.

## Finding Our Way to the Lake

*(Catherine Sutton)*

At the end of 2016, my husband Ron Jackson and I reevaluated our lives. My family is in Montreal, Ron's family is in the Toronto area, and at the time we lived in Oakville, a town halfway between Toronto and Hamilton. Ron owned and operated a small business and I worked at the senior level of a Canadian company. We made the decision to leave the Toronto area and move closer to Montreal – we wanted to change our urban setting for more of what nature had to offer.

In January of 2017 we began the transition. We had decided on the Kingston area as it marked the half way point between families, so we began the hunt for our new home. We were lucky enough to find an amazing home on a peninsula out on Loughborough Lake. My husband began researching the lake and found there was wonderful fishing – we were sold.

We have been here going on 3 years and we decided to join the board of directors of the Lake Association to give back. You see, the lake has provided us with wonderful early morning canoe rides; beautiful Bass dinners (in season and when Ron is fortunate); amazing sunsets as well as being woken to the cries of the loon... we are grateful.

The association is here to protect the lake and preserve our natural environment, to ensure those who live here and those who visit have this wonderful place for years to come. We consider our joining the association our service to the lake, in return for the great pleasure it provides us.

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## That One Last Move *(Stella and Marc Hiemstra)*



At a 'certain age' there often comes a dream, a longing, for a fresh move to a fresh place, one last time. For some it's a down-size, for others, just a side-size. For the brave and bold, an up-size! We had a small farm outside of Bobcaygeon, Ontario with horses, heritage large British Black pigs, laying hens and an enormous garden that I grew just for the fun of it. And a handful of apple trees, newly planted. Our home was made from stackwall, pulled from the cedar bush 35 years ago, hauled on Marc's back and built into a house. It cost \$670 to the rafters. Family was far away, as was Peterborough for any major shopping and medical needs. With grandchildren arriving and retirement from 9 - 5 just around the corner, we succumbed to the call for that one last move, to be closer to family and to retire to a chosen lifestyle of life on the land. Casually looking at options, we thought it would be great to match farm land with lakefront. The looking

brought us to South Frontenac. Kingston is such a perfect larger centre with its first-rate hospitals and transportation options, the County is so beautiful and the weather was even better!

We moved to Inverary in May, 2014 to a property with two ancient apple orchards, large hayfields, barn, pastures, a sugar bush, garden space to meet my expectations and stunning Loughborough Lake out the back door. This was a definite up-size. But it was the apple orchard that caught my eye. It was not in production, at all. Not a blossom was in sight the May we moved. When I was a little girl my parents had elderly Dutch friends with an apple orchard. I remember standing under one of the huge trees, branches reaching over me, covered in white scented petals. I'd never seen anything like it. The stunted crabapple in my Saskatchewan prairie backyard not exactly a close comparison. Researching, pruning, trimming, thinning, spraying with wild and wacky concoctions, experimenting, failing, pruning some more, refining the wild and wacky... after four years, we had fully restored our property's heritage apple orchard.

We maintain the orchard using organic methods only, no small task for apples as it's not just us humans who like to munch on them! The existing varieties on the trees, all large standards and all over 65 years old, include two heritage exclusives, Canada Red Atlas and Canadian Red Melba. The Atlas is very rare and you'll never find either at any grocery store; their flavour is spectacular, but they can't be shipped or don't store very well. Ergo...not commercially viable in our "store for a year and ship across the country" economy. There are also Heritage MacIntosh, Spartan, Yellow Transparent and one Hawkeye tree, which is the very original Delicious, when it was still delicious. Many new baby trees have been planted, all heritage or vintage varieties, including some famous trees from the past, but long forgotten today such as Wolf River, Belle de Boskoop, Esopus Spitzenburg and Rhode Island Greening.

Perhaps our apples taste so incredible because they are irrigated with fresh water from Loughborough Lake-! Who knows...it could be the secret sauce. What is not a secret is the beauty of South Frontenac, not only its many lakes, forests and farmlands, but its kind, welcoming and hard-working people. We are humbled and happy to be here.



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## The Butterfly Lady of Inverary *Sandra Sinclair*



A year has passed since Susan Sutherland of Loughborough Lake, became affectionately known as 'The Butterfly Lady of Inverary', after word of her beautiful Monarch hatching habitats spread throughout the South Frontenac region. Her bountiful "Monarch mansions" captured the attention of inquisitive neighbours and fellow conservationists across Ontario, after an article was published in the Frontenac News on August 22, 2019 highlighting her preservation efforts. An increase in sightings of these miraculous orange and black

butterflies has been reported around the lake, thanks to Susan and many others who have created pollinator-friendly gardens and safe egg hatching havens of their own. From July-Sept 2019, Susan impressively released 155 healthy monarchs, which lead to a vast following of inspired individuals along the Monarch's migratory path into Mexico. Among the dozens of inquiries and requests to visit 'The Butterfly Lady's' home, included Loughborough Public school teachers and one teacher from as far away as Toronto, asking for more information and hoping to collect eggs, caterpillars and chrysalis for their classrooms. As a result, Susan created an educational outreach program with an interpretive slideshow and an interactive portable habitat for students to witness each stage of the butterfly's life cycle up close.

Causes for Decline: Among the many environmental factors leading to the rapid decline in the Monarch's population is deforestation and loss of their essential habitat, the use of herbicides and pesticides, an increase in extreme weather and natural disasters due to global warming and the dwindling supply of native milkweeds that are essential for their survival. A female Monarch will lay approximately 300-500 eggs during her two to six-week lifespan, but only one out of one hundred eggs are likely to hatch in the wilderness due to a high number of natural predators. Even then, only 10% of the tiny eggs that do emerge as caterpillars will survive to become adult butterflies, which emphasizes the importance of creating a protected area for the eggs to hatch like Susan's enclosed habitats.



What are the Consequences of the Decline? Butterflies, along with other important pollinating insects such as bees, bats and birds are an essential part of the natural food chain. They help to create and sustain healthy ecosystems that are critical for human life on earth. Simply put, without pollinators, no life forms on earth will survive.

What Can I Do To Help? Local efforts to re-populate pollinators have increased, thanks to outreach programs like Susan's; but many more people are required to join-in and start planting in order to make a difference for the butterflies and bees. Milkweeds and nectar plants are the essential food source for the Monarch Butterfly. These can be grown in even the smallest gardens and yards, in both urban and rural areas. Other ways to help include purchasing your own Monarch hatching kit, making bat and bee houses, stopping the use of harmful herbicides and pesticides in your gardens and



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yard and supporting wildlife organizations. To find out more, visit <https://blog.nwf.org/2015/02/saving-monarchs> or [www.cwf-fcf.org](http://www.cwf-fcf.org). The survival of these life-sustaining species is in our hands. Please help “spread the word of the wings” by raising awareness and creating your own butterfly garden.

## Resources:

1. Frontenac News Article, Aug 22, 2019 <https://www.frontenacnews.ca/south-frontenac-news/item/13391-the-butterfly-lady-of-inverary>
2. Monarch Watch [www.monarchwatch.org](http://www.monarchwatch.org)



## **Septic System Inspections** *(Ross Sutherland)*

The staff’s next-three-years work plan, accepted by Council, includes “develop cost effective approach to septic concerns.” South Frontenac residents have had a longstanding concern about contamination from septic systems. These concerns have been heightened by blue-green algae blooms and recent research identifying our area as one of Ontario’s deteriorating-ground-water-quality hot spots, a fact behind the controversial water fights in Sydenham and Hartington.

The Federation of Ontario Cottagers’ Associations (FOCA) and the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) recently held a webinar that examined existing voluntary, discretionary and mandatory Ontario septic inspection programs.

<https://cela.ca/webinar-overview-of-septic-system-reinspection-programs-in-ontario/>

One of the discretionary programs in the Algonquin Highlands found that 57% of the systems were older than 20 years and about 25% of all systems, and 62% of holding tanks, had some sort of code contravention. Many of the contraventions were relatively minor, like solids occupying more than a third of the tank or no holding tank haulage agreement: problems often easily fixed with routine maintenance. A few were more serious, like no alarms on a holding tank, and rusted metal tanks.

Key conclusions from the webinar were:

- Education is key to a successful inspection program.
- Voluntary programs do not find the septic systems most in need of inspection.
- Residents fear the cost of needed repairs.
- Many older septic systems are not in municipal records.
- Inspection programs only find deficiencies that already exist.
- Many good programs are already operational.

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## Extractigator: A Solution to a Thorny Problem *(Philippa Fugler)*



You may have Buckthorn trees on your property and you may not even know they are there. It is a small shrub or tree that came to North America in the 1880s to be used as an ornamental shrub or as a windbreak around homes and fields. Buckthorn is invasive, spreads aggressively and tolerates many habitats.

In our region around Loughborough Lake they can form dense thickets that crowd and shade out native plants. Buckthorn seeds are profuse and are carried by birds to germinate widely.

How can you identify it? Buckthorn is usually the first tree to leaf out and the last to drop its leaves. Trees grow from two to six meters (6-18 feet) tall with leaves that are egg-shaped and finely toothed. The leaves are arranged in opposing pairs along the stem. Most branches older than one year end in a short, sharp thorn. In the fall clusters of purplish black berries are produced.

How can you remove Buckthorn? The Lake Association was fortunate to get a grant from Watersheds Canada and the Gottlieb Foundation to purchase 2 Extractigators, which is a plant pulling tool used to remove Buckthorn trees, roots and all! It is a Canadian invention that uses the operator's weight and leverage to uproot the tree. It is effective, easy to use, and quite remarkable in action.

The Lake Association will be lending out the Extractigators to any lake homeowner to remove this invasive tree, whether they are a member or not. There are two models to choose from, the Big Daddy at 18.5 lbs is for larger trees and the Classic at 12.5 lbs for trees up to 5cm (2inches) in diameter or when working on a slope.

We will be offering on the ground instruction as needed throughout the spring and summer to those who want to remove Buckthorn from their properties.

Removing Buckthorn from our properties is a big win for our lake's birds, animals and native plants. Contact us if you would like to borrow one, or both, of these amazing tools.



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## Mr. Big - Action Brings Hope (Meela Melnik-Proud)

Mr. Big is big alright, and we are thankful and very lucky to still have him around. It was great fortune and great thrill for the lake association to share in Turtles Kingston's release of this 18 kg, 80-something male Snapping Turtle last September. Mr. Big is back plying Loughborough Lake waters, after trauma treatment and rehabilitation at Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre (SPWC). He was likely wounded from a propeller injury after being struck by a motorboat, and was suffering from infected lesions to his head and neck when he was found.



Action brings hope. Mr. Big simply would not be alive today, were it not for Colette Lacoursiere. A big thank you to this kind and gentle soul for tending to this stranded Snapper while on a lake outing, and immediately setting Turtles Kingston and SPWC in local-motion. Hope springs eternal from action like hers, and the everyday heroines behind Turtles Kingston (Mabyn Armstrong) and Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre (Sue Meech) and their network of volunteers.

The Lake Association had a taste of Mabyn's tireless and passionate turtle advocacy last year. She was our guest speaker at our 2019 AGM. Turtles Kingston Facebook followers have grown to approximately 3,000 individuals, families, organizations with more than 1,000 new members last year alone. It means more people in our community are better informed about the plight of our turtles, and engaged in helping to protect our local turtle populations.



All eight of Ontario's native turtle species are at risk. Snapping Turtles are listed as Special Concern under the Endangered Species Act. As with all species at risk, there is the general threat of habitat loss and degradation. But the low hatchling survival rate (<1%) of turtles and late age of maturity (15-20 years) make their populations very vulnerable to decline with any loss of an adult from seasonal run-ins with road vehicles and motorboats.

Mr. Big was one of 54 injured or dead turtles transported last year to SPWC through Turtles Kingston's 'Turtle Trauma Response Program'. Dead turtles are

assessed for possible egg extraction and to confirm that they are deceased, saving them from a horrific slow death at the water's edge or the side of the road. Turtles are ectothermic. They depend on

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external sources of body heat, which makes them capable of slowing down their breathing and heart rhythms. They can appear dead, but in fact may still be alive, and suffering greatly. Eggs are harvested for incubation from gravid female turtles that did not survive their injuries. SPWC incubated close to 800 turtle eggs last season which resulted in hundreds of hatchlings being released last fall.

The 'Turtle Trauma Response Program' is a network of compassionate people and organizations in place, and ready to respond to a rescue call like the one that saved Mr. Big. There are veterinary clinics and the Kingston Humane Society who provide 'Temporary Holding Stations.' There are 'Volunteer Transport Drivers' who give of their time (and gas) to transport the wounded turtles. At the receiving end, there is SPWC working around the clock to rehabilitate not only turtles, but a myriad of other wildlife that otherwise would not have a chance of survival. As Mabyn so eloquently says, *"A sincere thank you to SPWC. The stars in heaven shine brighter because of the selfless work they do."*

Thanks to Turtles Kingston we also have at hand the 'Turtle Nest Protector Program.' Turtle nesting season is now (end May to end September). A female Snapping Turtle will lay up to 60 eggs, preferably in sand or road side silt and gravel. But most of them will be gone come hatching time, generally mid-August. As for all turtles, spring is when adult females are most vulnerable to road mortality, and their eggs are most vulnerable to predation. Generally entire nests are robbed within the first 24 hours, since fresh nests emit a strong, attractive smell for predators. The biggest culprit is the masked bandit in all our backyards. Raccoons, but also skunks and foxes are 'human-subsidized predators' who spring feast on turtle eggs.



Last spring Turtles Kingston and Lee Valley Kingston [announced the turtle nest protection program](#). It designed and sold more than 250 easy to build and easy to use 'Nest Protectors' at cost (\$15.00- tax included along with the 4 galvanized spikes used to anchor the protectors, and educational 'how-to' pamphlets). They also organized a series of seminars where the public (children included) were invited to construct the Nest Protectors themselves. One of our members has donated a Nest Protector to the Lake Association, and several lake members purchased one of their own.

The BLLA is ready to spring into action, and we display our *"I brake for Turtles"* bumper stickers proudly.

*"The protection we all can help provide the adult reproducing turtles is invaluable",* says an impassioned Mabyn. *"Only three per cent of the world's water is freshwater, and 20 per cent of that is in Canada. Turtles are integral to the freshwater systems, as they are the best water cleaners. Remove them, and the wetlands implode."* Mr. Big is a grand old wetland daddy, holding the secrets of our lake, reminding us of our how vulnerable its natural treasures are to human impact, and inspiring hope for all species at risk.

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*The people of Ontario recognize the inherent value of the natural environment. The people of Ontario have a right to a healthful environment. The people of Ontario have as a common goal the protection, conservation and restoration of the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. While the government has the primary responsibility for achieving this goal, the people should have means to ensure that it is achieved in an effective, timely, open and fair manner.” Environmental Bill of Rights, 1993*

## Why Challenging Johnston Point Still Matters 6 Years Later

*(Meela Melnik-Proud and Evonne Potts)*

On June 28, 2020, the Conditions of Draft Plan approval for Johnston Point were set to expire for a second time, mired in the same unresolved extension controversy as last June.

But the declaration of a state of COVID-19 emergency on March 26, 2020 suddenly and alarmingly changed the course of events.

On April 8, 2020, less than two weeks after the declaration, the County used its COVID-19 emergency powers to grant another extension to Johnston Point. It was a County decision made without any formal application from the developer requesting another extension; without any public or Township consultation; and, without any evaluation of the arguments made by the BLLA and Township Council last year in calling on the County to deny any extension to this controversial development.

In a nutshell, this is why challenging Johnston Point matters now, more than ever.

As our members well know, concerned lake residents and our Lake Association have been actively involved in the review process for the Johnston Point Plan of Condominium since this development was proposed in June 2014. Our primary concern has been for planning rules and procedures to be followed as required, to ensure decisions on Johnston Point are adhering to our province's laws, the Provincial Policy Statement, and the Township's Official Plan. This is in keeping with our Lake Association's mandate to protect the rights of our residents, wildlife and lake, now, and for generations to come. That mandate is powered by Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR), that is our means to ensure that our government's decisions on this important environmental matter are made in “*an effective, timely, open and fair manner.*”

Public involvement with Johnston Point began simply as an effort by concerned citizens to bring to authorities' attention that both species at risk and the designation of this property as Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) were completely overlooked on both of the developer's 2014 Environmental Impact Assessments. At stake is the protection and restoration of one of the richest and most significant representations of biodiversity and natural heritage features in all of Ontario.

But now, more than ever, Johnston Point has squarely become an important fight to protect and restore a dangerously eroding democracy.

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The seriousness of the concerns left unaddressed from last June's extension were framed by the June 2019 Donnelly Law Letter to the County. *"The clear inference to be drawn from this activity is that MWDC [Magenta] does not respect the planning process, Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act, the Condominium Act, the Endangered Species Act or the will of Township Council. In conclusion, how is it that MWDC has earned the trust of County Council and the privilege of having its approval extended. There are no legal grounds for granting the approval, and a number of planning, legal and moral principles that warrant a denial of the extension application."* [2019 06 18 Donnelly Law Letter to Frontenac County](#)

How then, can the County justify the April 2020 extension as a COVID-19 emergency response? The stated purpose of the emergency declaration is protecting our health, safety, well-being and property. The decision to grant the extension provides us with none of these protections. It does however, ensure that this development proceeds. At stake then, is not only the irreversible loss of our lake's treasured natural heritage gem, but also the irreversible loss of our key democratic principles (transparency, accountability and public participation in decision-making), and our democratic right to ensure that our elected officials can make decisions in the best interests of those who elected them.

One thing is certain. For obvious good reasons clearly stated by Township Council last year, had they not been overruled by County Council, the development of Johnston Point would have been stopped.

*"My sense on this development is that there is almost an adversarial relationship with the developer",* stated Councillor Revill, South Frontenac's representative on County Council, and the single County vote last year opposed to any extension. *"There certainly has been an unwillingness to keep Council informed, and certainly to listen to the concerns of members of the community that have been very diligent in providing reports to this council... Although I voted for the proposal initially, I think for me I think the tipping point has been the concept of the benefit permit."*

*"Principally, the developer, including anyone they have been attached with, have bargained in bad faith on the draft plan agreement and no amount of extension is going to allow for them to correct the glaring problems that have been created,"* explained Councillor Morey in his letter to the County recommending that any extension to Johnston Point be denied. *"Operating under the mandate that I swore to, it was imperative to say no to an extension. It is causing and has caused irreparable damage to the environment, the PSW and the corporation of the Township of South Frontenac. No amount of time given to this development is going to allow reparations on what has already occurred."*

Privately every level of government and authority with which we have discussed Johnston Point has agreed that this development should never have been allowed in the first place. We have heard so many reasons for not taking corrective action: *"Unfortunately we need to put our blinders on, we don't have the right tools in our toolbox, we lack to the authority to act,"* and to our constant frustration, *"you have taught us and we have learned a lot, next time will be different"*.

Finally, last June, after years of reviewing reports, hearing depositions and making repeated requests for missing information, South Frontenac Township Council took the bold, corrective action that was needed to protect the habitat of the species at risk who call Johnston Point home. We saw this as a giant leap forward. The County's use of the COVID-19 crisis as reason for once again excluding public and Township input in their decision-making is a disturbing and undemocratic step back.

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## A Special THANK YOU to our Members and Sponsors

Never before in our Lake Association's history have we been confronted with a global crisis the likes of COVID-19. The whole world is reeling from the social and economic devastation of this pandemic. What our future holds remains uncertain. We are therefore grateful to all of our members and our sponsors whose support has enabled us to provide the essential service of protecting and enhancing our lake's fragile ecosystems. We will weather this storm together with a whole new appreciation for how deeply we are connected to our natural environment, and how closely that connection is linked to our health, and livelihood.



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Pharmacist/Owner

**INVERARY PHARMASAVE**  
1B-3810 Perth Rd., Inverary, ON K0H1X0  
Phone: 613-653-6337  
Fax: 613-653-6338  
Email: inverarypharmasave@gmail.com  
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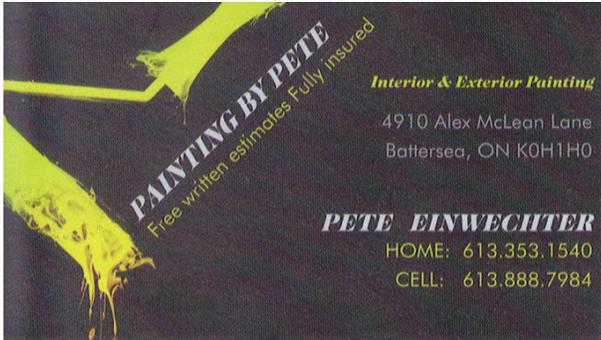



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