
TIARA Newsletter

Spring 2014

Enbridge Pipeline

In our last newsletter (Autumn 2013) we explained our concerns about the request of Enbridge Inc. for the reversal of their Line 9B, a 639 km section by which Enbridge wants to send Canadian crude oil from North Westover (northwest of Hamilton) east to refineries in Montreal, passing within 2 km of Lansdowne in the 1000 Islands area. (The flow of the pipe was originally eastward but since 1999 had been westward.) On March 6, the National Energy Board (NEB) approved its request. The NEB placed some conditions on Enbridge, but concerns remain about the danger of leaks from this old pipeline, which will be under increased pressure with this proposed use.

St. Lawrence Heritage River Project

We are nearing the final stages of this project, a huge undertaking very dear to our hearts, to have the St. Lawrence River designated as a Canadian Heritage River. Over this long winter, TIARA volunteers have been re-visiting river-front municipalities from Kingston to the Quebec border, asking for final approval from each of them for our nomination. As of April 1, we have secured resolutions from 10 of them, and there are only 4 more to go! Stay tuned!



Michael McCarthy

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Michael McCarthy, who was a member of TIARA's Board of Directors from 1990 to 1997 and again from 2010 to the present, also serving as President for several years.

Michael's selfless dedication and courage will remain an inspiration to us all. Our condolences go out to his wife Christina and their family.

Saturday, May 3: "So You Want To Run For Council?"

This professionally facilitated workshop about the responsibilities of municipal Mayors and Councillors will be presented by the TLTI, Gananoque and FofY townships on Saturday, 3 May, 2014, from 9:00 to 2:00 at the Rockport Recreation Centre.

TIARA was the first to organize this kind of awareness seminar back in April 2010. The facilitator was Fred Dean. He is one of Ontario's foremost municipal lawyers. At the time, he complimented us as being "on the cutting edge" and soon spread the word about its success. This year, the Township has engaged him as the facilitator at their 3 May seminar, which has been designed specifically for anyone interested in running for Mayor or Council. If you are leaning towards serving your community, or simply keen to learn how local municipal governments work, TIARA highly recommends that you participate in this seminar. Admission is free. For additional information, visit the announcement located under "News" on the homepage of the township's website; www.leeds1000islands.ca

Decisions of municipal councils have a direct effect on so much of our lives and our community generally, so it is vital that informed and interested candidates come forward. If you are thinking of running yourself, or if you know someone who would make a good Councillor, this Workshop would be extremely beneficial.

Voting day is Monday, October 27, 2014

TLTI area property owners will be able to cast their ballots in a number of ways: electronically, by internet or telephone, as well as by the traditional paper ballot. Sad but true, American land-owners cannot vote, only Canadian citizens over 18. For further election information, please phone the Township at 613-659-2415 ext. 216.

New Provincial Policy Statements

The province of Ontario has just released its new provisions in the Provincial Policy Statement 2014 under The Planning Act. When TLTI's Official Plan is next reviewed following the development of a County-wide Official Plan, it must conform to these new policy statements. Some of the sections that interest us are under 2.0 "Wise Use and Management of Resources" which include cultural as well as natural resources, wetlands and water.

To give some highlights: Policy 2.1.3 requires each municipality to identify a "Natural Heritage System", "a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, linkages intended to provide connectivity... to maintain biological... diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species and ecosystems." These areas could include provincial and national parks, conservation reserves, and natural lands (or lands which have been or could be restored) etc. This is a firm directive, where previously there was mere encouragement. If you were at TIARA's 2013 Annual Meeting, you might remember representatives from the Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative (A2A) explaining the importance to wildlife of these connected areas, which are now emphasized in the new Policies.

Policy 2.2.1 requires planning authorities to "protect, improve and restore the quality and quantity of water". They are required to think in terms of whole watersheds when doing long-term planning, which makes such good sense. Section 2.2.1 a) says this can "be a foundation for considering cumulative impacts of development". TIARA has always tried to emphasize that each planning decision by Council, however small, should be seen as being added on to the previous ones. We have always been aware of the danger of our environment being "nickel and dimed to death".

If you wish to look at the 2014 Provincial Policy Statements, please go to

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=10463>

(Note: The Thousand Islands area is part of ecoregion 6E.)

Tick bites and Lyme Disease

This serious disease is transmitted by the bite of an infected black-legged tick, and it's of growing concern to us all, since Leeds-Grenville is one of the province's hot spots for Lyme-carrying ticks. They have already been reported this spring.



Advice from the Leeds-Grenville Health Unit: Start by preventing a tick bite in the first place, by covering up if you're walking in woods and long grass and checking yourself and your dog for ticks when you get home. Look carefully! They're tiny – as small as the head of a pin. If you find a tick, it's important not to squeeze the tick's body when you're removing it, as this can cause the tick's saliva or blood

to be injected into your skin, increasing the chance of infection. Instead, use a tick-removal tool to grasp it at its neck, as close as possible to your own skin. (A variety of such tools are available from many pharmacies, veterinarians and hardware stores.)

If you think the tick has been on you for more than 24 hours, seek advice from your doctor. Less than 24 hours, and it will probably not have had time to infect you. Diagnosis of Lyme Disease (named after Lyme, Connecticut where it was first identified in the mid-1970s) is difficult, and the flu-like symptoms can easily be mistaken for other conditions. Even the famous “bull’s eye” rash may not appear. Having the tick itself tested for Lyme isn’t really practical. There’s one man in a Winnipeg lab testing ticks for all of Canada, and he’s got quite a back-log!

(For some reason, veterinarians can provide this service quickly. The irony is that it’s far quicker to get diagnosis – and hence early treatment -- for your dog than it is for you.) Leeds-Grenville MPP Steve Clark is calling on the Ontario Ministry of Health to address the whole issue of timely testing. For more information, please visit www.healthunit.org and choose “Lyme Disease” from the list on the left.

TIARA

2014 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 9 August, 2014

Landon Bay Centre

302 Thousand Islands Parkway

(East of Gananoque)

Coffee 9:00, Feature Presentations at 9:30

Business Meeting 10:30

Guest speakers: Sandy Hay, County Planner

Pierre Mercier, TLTI Archivist

Followed by a brief business meeting

Everyone welcome!

Pierre Mercier, Archivist for Leeds and the Thousand Islands (and a Director of TIARA) will tell us about the wealth of local fascinating family history in the form of illustrations, photographs and documents to be found in the township’s archives at Escott. He’ll whet your appetite with a sampling. Not only that, he will show you how you can have your own family documents digitally recorded at the Archives, and then returned to you along with a digital record for easy electronic sharing and of course, your safekeeping.

Sandy Hay, Manager of Planning Services for Leeds & Grenville, will take us through the process of preparing the Counties’ first Official Plan and how this will impact local Official Plans in TLTI, FoY and the Town of Gananoque. What’s the point of a County Plan, anyway? Sandy, who has been intimately involved with the area’s planning for many years, will explain.

Hydro One brush spraying

You may have received a notice from Hydro One recently asking for permission to clear trees and brush five meters each side of their poles and lines if they cross your property.

Many land-owners are apprehensive about Hydro One’s plan to prevent further growth by spraying cut stumps with the **herbicide Garlon RTU**. They worry because it has a degree of toxicity to aquatic organisms and could affect the groundwater considering the shallow soil prevalent on many islands and the mainland. Cottage and lake associations who objected in the past have found that Hydro One respected their wishes and cleared using only “manual or mechanical means”.

STOP PRESS: Thanks to an alert TIARA member, who brought this issue to our attention in the first place, we’ve just learned that Hydro One has decided to **not spray herbicide** on any of the Islands in the St. Lawrence River this spring / summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please write

Scott Barr, Hydro One Forestry Services, Box 428,
Brockville K6V 5V6 or e-mail
scott.barr@hydroone.com.

The Holy Grail of Good Planning?

We think we’ve found it in the form of a precise example of the elusive phenomenon we’ve repeatedly warned against for years: **negative cumulative impact over time**. Here’s how we ended up with a **heavy industrial manufacturing facility in a forbidden zone** south of Highway 401 in the Thousand Islands.

The bustling marina complex of River Rat plus Kehoe Marine has been in the spotlight again recently. They were again wanting a 2920-square-foot “seasonal tent” to display boats for sale. They were asking to transfer a piece of land to make room for Kehoe’s recently enlarged building for what is arguably an industrial use. They manufacture large beamed docks. Trees and shrubs which were supposed to be shielding some of this rather unlovely commercial activity from the Parkway have been cut down. Parked vehicles were spilling over onto the right-of-way drive which nearby residential neighbours need to reach their homes.

Where did it all begin? Years ago, where River Rat is now, there used to be one residence. The owners set out a few garden gnomes for sale on a neatly cut green lawn that stretched up to the Parkway. It was this “commercial activity” that was the justification for Tourist Commercial zoning, and the floodgates opened. It was a trickle at first: a display building here, a few parked cars there. A Site Plan was drawn up, indicating buffering hedges and limiting parking spaces and for a while this was adhered to, and then actively disobeyed. Neighbours despaired as what was once a green lawn evolved into a source of noise and general untidiness, visible from the Parkway, and in stark contrast to the beauty of the Thousand Islands.

Where will it all end? Only when a comprehensive history of any given development site is recorded, reviewed and incorporated into a **mandatory** site plan control procedure, no matter how insignificant a land-use application may first appear to be to either the municipality’s Planner or the Committee of Adjustment. In this case, the initial “light manufacturing” facility gradually transformed itself. Over time, as the demand for product increased in both size and strength, the facility expanded into what has become a “heavy industry” – forbidden by the Official Plan south of the 401.

Thousand Islands Area Residents’ Association

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*Please consider joining our Board.
Send a message in confidence to
info@tiara.on.ca*