

January 8, 2021

Township of the Archipelago

by e-mail

Attn: Cale Henderson

Request for Official Plan Amendment – Blackstone Lake development prohibition

Happy New Year.

I write in my capacity as President of the Blackstone Lake Cottagers Association (“BLCA”). The association is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021 and a key priority through our history has been lake stewardship and preserving our water quality, environment and peaceful enjoyment for generations to come. We very much appreciate that the Township is equally committed to these goals.

With these shared goals in mind, we are formally requesting that the Township take the steps necessary to prevent further development (lot severances) on our lake and that this be done as soon as possible. We understand that there is a compelling case for such action and that this would require amendment of the Official Plan. We request that the necessary work be initiated accordingly and be pursued as a priority.

We have reviewed the environmental impact studies presented to the Planning Board on December 11, 2020. Both the original study and TOA commissioned peer review report identify that lake capacity is being approached. BLCA shares this concern given there are still over 20 lots of record that may be developed without additional severances. Our position is consistent with our lake plan developed over a decade ago.

We urge the Township to expedite consideration of this matter and related items such as the “Ribbon of Life “ initiative that was endorsed at our annual general meeting in 2018. BLCA will be pleased to provide support to this endeavour as you would find helpful. We will continue to strongly support Township efforts to ensure full bylaw compliance and environmental protections with as of right road and building work. Well intended laws without enforcement otherwise create a slippery slope with regard to road and building projects.

We would appreciate any advice or information regarding the process to be followed and how we can communicate that to our membership.

Thank you, and keep safe,



Erik Mathiesen

Cc BLCA board, Ian Mead