



May 14, 2020

Media Release

We decided to send out a media release once again regarding an update on the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan (BRWMP).

I want to thank Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards for all their hard work and dedication and support of this amendment. I want to thank Shawn Cameron, Michelle Lavictoire and Laura Lapinskie for the many teleconference calls to continue progressing forward with getting a permanent amendment to the BRWMP.

I want to thank all the stakeholders for their continued support in moving forward with this amendment. This will be my last media release until later this year. I will report what we have been able to further achieve in the months ahead. My Council and myself are committed to achieving this and working with all required agencies to get it done.

Shawn Cameron from RPG stated they will be implementing the Round Lake drawdown as described in September 2020. Details with MECP still need to be finalized but at this point are expected to be resolved. Ice depth and water level monitoring at key locations is expected to be necessary throughout the drawdown period. The details of the amendment are available on the RPG website. Consideration for lower than usual water levels for early fall, winter and pre-freshet can be expected for Round Lake. Prior to making recreational plans, lake users should familiarize themselves with the new water level regime to avoid areas that may become unsafe for boating, ice fishing or snowmobiling. Communications before the new drawdown commences this September will be sent to the effected municipalities including the Algonquin's of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, the Bonnechere River Watershed Project, Renfrew Country Landowners Association, Golden Lake Property Owners Association and the Round Lake Property Owners Association. Golden Lake summer/fall water levels are anticipated to remain consistent with past years. Consideration for all user groups and riparian's must be considered under the water management plan guidelines.

KHR is currently in discussions to extend the Round Lake boat launch ramp as lower levels have proved the current ramp is inadequate. This improvement will assist both during lower water periods during the summer and late season boaters/fisherman using Round Lake.

In the event of a dry spring, summer levels could be impacted as more water will be needed to fill the lake. Historical data indicates this has never been an issue. This can be argued as a small trade off to save properties from high water.

KHR is aware that there are several dug wells around the lake that were dug in the 50's and 60's to accommodate small seasonal cottages. Dug wells are susceptible to drought and seasonal declines in the water table. This issue has been documented from the public consultation records and is an individual issue. KHR will correspond with these individuals on a case by case basis

through its dispute resolution process. Dry water hydrants for Fire services have been identified at Jack's Creek, Turners Creek and one on the Bonnechere River portion. KHR has discussed possible impacts to these hydrants with the fire services. Negative impacts are not expected from discussions with the fire chief.

Michelle Lavictoire from Bowfin Environmental Consulting reports that the monitoring of the impacts of the reduced water levels in 2019/2020 on the Bonnechere River and oxbows was completed in February and March 2020. No impacts were found. During the assessment phase, a conservative approach of 50 cm of ice was used throughout, however the flowing water of the Bonnechere River resulted in much less ice accumulation. Further, the natural elevation in the riverbed that creates the shallows and deeper pools maintained the water depths over the drawdown. On the oxbows, there was more ice but again water depths were maintained sufficiently for turtles and the thaw in mid-March resulted in increased depths when the lake was at its lowest point. A monitoring program is being worked out in conjunction with AOO to satisfy DFO requests and monitoring to take place this fall during the spawn.

Rob Norris, president of the Round Lake Property Owners Association, advises that the RLPOA plans on assisting with volunteers to help in any way it can with any future monitoring requirements.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry along with the BRWMP stakeholders continue to work with MECP to fulfill their requirements and are getting close to a final resolution.

Finally, I want to thank the public for their continued patience as we work through the requirements to achieve a permanent amendment.

Mayor, Janice Visneskie Moore
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards