



April 9, 2020

Media Release

A meeting was held on April 7, 2020 to update the Stakeholders of the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan regarding the KHR amendment and current conditions of the Bonnechere River System.

KHR, RPG, BOWFIN and MPP Yakabuski's office have been diligently working on behalf of the stakeholders to fulfil the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) requirements.

With respect to the status of permits/authorizations, DFO has stated that the amendment can proceed but asked that we work with them to develop monitoring program on the fall spawners. At this time, DFO has indicated that no authorization is required. MECP provided temporary authorization to proceed with the amended drawdown. The authorization outlined mandatory monitoring of the ice thickness and water levels during this process. Bowfin and MECP worked on developing an acceptable plan and this plan were carried out by RPG during the winter. The raw data has since been provided to MECP.

Shawn Cameron of RPG gave a summary of the current conditions. Lake levels are rising ahead of 2019 due to an early start to melt this year. The melt so far has been very slow and manageable. RPG will check snow conditions on April 9th and post results on its website. Round Lake current rise rate is double that of Golden Lake. This is believed to be due to the fact there was more snow on the ground in the upper reaches to melt.

As indicated, we have been working extremely hard on the stakeholder's behalf, towards the ultimate end, getting a permanent amendment to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan. I want to thank Shawn Cameron from Renfrew Power Generation, Michelle Lavictoire from Bowfin Environmental Consulting and Laura Lapinskie from MPP John Yakabuski's office for their hard work and dedication to make this happen.

On behalf of all the stakeholders we want to thank all those involved in this long process and partnership. We will continue to work on the requirements to achieve a permanent amendment and thank everyone for your continued patience as we move forward.

On behalf of myself and Council please stay safe and healthy.

Mayor Janice Visneskie Moore
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards