



WHITE LAKE PRESERVATION PROJECT

Newsletter, March, 2015

New Relationship with Watersheds Canada

Watersheds Canada is a federally incorporated non-profit organization and registered Canadian charity committed to providing programs in communities across the country to engage and help shoreline owners enhance and protect the health of lakes and rivers.

On January 22nd, Watersheds Canada held a gala in Perth to raise awareness of water quality issues and funds to support assessment and stewardship programs like those we plan to develop for White Lake. The meeting was moderated by Michael Runtz, a well known naturalist and Professor at Carleton University.

The keynote speaker was Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians. Maude is the recipient of eleven honorary doctorates as well as many awards, including the 2005 Right Livelihood Award (known as the "Alternative Nobel"), the 2005 Lannan Foundation Cultural Freedom Fellowship Award, the Citation of Lifetime Achievement at the 2008 Canadian Environment Awards, the 2009 Earth Day Canada Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award, the 2009 Planet in Focus Eco Hero Award, and the 2011 EarthCare Award, the highest international honour of the Sierra Club (US).

*In 2008/2009, she served as Senior Advisor on Water to the 63rd President of the United Nations General Assembly and was a leader in the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN. She is also the author of dozens of reports, as well as 17 books, including her latest, *Blue Future: Protecting Water For People And The Planet Forever*.*

One of her main messages was the world-wide dwindling supply of fresh water. With respect to Canada she mentioned that federal legislation, which used to protect fresh water, has been weakened or eliminated in the recent (2014) omnibus bills of the federal government. The bills affected are Clean Water Act, the Fisheries Act and the Environment Act.

She commended those of us with an interest in the issue and indicated that it is now virtually up to private citizens and NGOs to monitor and agitate for protection of water.

We are pleased to inform you that Barbara King, Executive Director of Watersheds Canada will attend the WLPP meeting on March 28th 2015 to address their relationship to and support of the White Lake Preservation Project.

Mississippi Mills Town Council meeting

On January 27th, Janet Taylor from WLPP made a presentation to the Mississippi Mills Mayor & Town Council. The presentation focused on concerns regarding the health of White Lake and also concerns regarding the negative impact a proposed expansion of the trailer park at Hayes Bay may have. It was emphasized that WLPP is looking to the Township to make sure the proper data and reviews of the data are in place before any decision is made on the proposal.

This presentation was especially important as most Councilors and the Mayor are new to the job and needed to be made aware of the importance of the decision before them. Residents and property owners of White Lake packed the Council chambers, letting the Council understand the level of concern. Many thanks to all those who attended the presentation.

Steering Committee Meeting

In early February there was a meeting of the WLPP Steering Committee. We had 5 new members join us and volunteer for positions on the Steering Committee. We are now 8.

We are very excited about the possibility of getting the whole lake effectively represented, both by individuals on the Steering Committee and also by area coordinators. Developing an operational structure for WLPP, a lake plan, dividing the lake in manageable areas and recruiting volunteers for these positions will be the primary subjects of discussion for the March 28th meeting.