

Mayor Murphy and Members of Council
Municipality of Bonnechere Valley
49 Bonnechere Street
Eganville, ON
K0J 1T0

March 20, 2018

RE: Recreational Vehicles (RVs) at Lake Clear

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

For more than a hundred years, my family have been visitors and property owners on Lake Clear. My great grandparents lived in Eganville and rented summer cottages at both Goulet's and Foran's Lodge. At one time, my great-great uncle (John McGuire) was the postmaster in Eganville.

Later, in the 50's and 60's, my father and some of his siblings built cottages along Lake Clear Rd. and we continued to enjoy all that the lake offered in recreational fishing, boating and swimming. I have many wonderful memories of summers spent at the lake. Photographs of those times show quite a different lake than we see today. The shoreline along Lake Clear Rd. had not yet been washed away and indeed was clean, with sandy beaches and nowhere near the amount of weeds and algae now prevalent. My father and uncles were all avid fishermen and proudly displayed their trophy fish of pike and lake trout- the likes of which are no longer seen at Lake Clear.

To state the obvious, the lake is no longer as pristine as it once was and perhaps that is only to be expected. With the popularity of the lake comes many more cottages, year round residences, and septic systems, all of which put pressure on the lake. The days of no running water and use of outhouses are long over. People want their creature comforts and thus we humans are guilty of being the biggest contributors to the levels of pollution in the lake.

As the MOECC has reported, the current levels of pollution are already beyond being acceptable to the health of the lake trout and this should be taken by everyone as a serious warning sign of the overall health of the lake. Development of new shorefront lots has been halted for some years yet, through a loophole in the zoning by-laws, recreational vehicles (RVs) are able to circumvent the rules that must be followed by everyone else. They too, must be subject to the same controls as everyone else; one per property situated at least 30 metres from the high water mark and subject to inspection of water and septic systems.

I implore members of Council to understand their obligation to enact by-laws that protect the interest of ratepayers and to protect the natural heritage of Lake Clear.

Sincerely,


Wendy McGuire Taker
54 Heida Way, Lake Clear