

2022 LKRA member Survey re Election Issues May 12,2022

Methodology:

- A survey was created in Google and the link was shared in the May 12, 2022 LKRA E-News followed up by a reminder in the June 2 E-News.
- Of the 885 subscribers who received the May 12 E-News, 529 opened the email and 33 clicked on the survey. Of the 899 subscribers who received the June 2 E-News, 528 opened the email and 31 clicked on the survey.

Summary:

- Of the 64 E-News subscribers who clicked on the link 50 responded by submitting a survey - 25% with a principal residence on the lake and 75% with a seasonal/secondary residence.
- The responses represent 8% of total residents and 16% of residents holding 2021 memberships. Therefore, the results of this survey are qualitative in nature and directional only.
- Out of a list of 14 possible issues, respondents were asked to identify which issues were of concern to them. There was also space to identify other issues.
- They were then asked to identify the top three of the issues they identified as of concern.
- The most selected issues were Roads, Internet/cell coverage and the Environment.

Ranking (the number of respondents that identified the issue as top 3):

1. Environment (water quality/shorelines/tree removal/climate change issues/Boat cleaning/big wakes) - 32
2. Internet/Cell coverage – 27
3. Private Roads – 26
4. Short term rentals – 10
5. Crown land campers – 10
6. Input into HBM council decisions – 10
7. Garbage (hours, curbside, etc.) – 8
8. Septic systems (lake water quality/inspection/approval process) – 5
9. Gas pumps on the lake – 4

Other (two or fewer respondents chose/identified them):

- Fireworks
- Boat launch maintenance
- Building permit approval process (cost, timeliness)
- Lack of bylaw enforcement
- Speeding boats
- Light pollution
- Lake levels
- Abandoned docks
- Lack of police presence

Other comments:

- We need to increase LKRA membership levels
- Remove the advertising signs on all the trees
- Would like a list of LKRA member addresses and phone numbers
- HBM Council needs to look forward

Some direct quotes:

- Cost of seasonal land line service is usurious.
- I use FR 93 where there is virtually constant crown land camper use. I am concerned about leaching of human waste into the lake.
- I am not aware of any enforced program to protect our lake from invasive species introduced by boats using the lake. No facilities for washing the exterior of the vessel and/or cleaning of fish wells and bilges
- more input into council (we are their largest tax base, and basically their customers - I don't think they honor that)
- internet and cell phone coverage (because no matter where I am - I need to work)
- Short Term rentals due to late night noise and lack of respect for the lake and others
- Internet phone access - we have none. In a dead zone no service available.
- Roads - establish a road grant
- Some members of the current council have no concerns about fairness or providing a service for the tax dollars received. A member of our road committee has raised the creation of a private roads grant program with the current council and even when it is pointed out that we pay many tax dollars and get absolutely nothing for a return, they don't care.
- Road maintenance. Despite paying the most in taxes we get ZERO return. There is no excuse for this.
- Campers at Bottle Lake. After many years of complaints about campers at the west end of Lake Kasshabog HBM town council used our tax dollars to pay the mayor's brother to landscape Crown Land for parking areas and attract the unpaid campers to Bottle Lake.
- I can only hope that you can experience the problems that arise from short-term rentals - noise-dogs barking, overcapacity, adults and kids screaming, and drunken parties that disrupt peaceful enjoyment of property by residents. This one is a no-brainer.
- Road upgrade grant program. There is no cost involved to Twp. Why was this turned down? Current councillors need to realize the tax contribution made by the waterfront people.
- Private Roads because Town should be contributing
- More input into HBM council and issues... better representation.
- I find we bring issues up to council and the village councillors as well as our own councillor always vote it down or brush it aside. It's an old boys club!!
- Internet/phone access is top issue. It is a safety issue, as well as a reflection of modern convenience.
- Maintaining shoreline is 2nd issue, as the knock-down houses being built are also destroying the natural shoreline, and grassing the lawns, using fertilizers, etc.
- Short term rentals: I do not believe that owning a rental property is in concert with the majority of cottage owners looking for the cottage experience today.

- More Council input: We perhaps need Council to formalize its policy where seasonal tax revenue is not being spent on seasonal services. Just make it clear. If there were less seasonal tax payers how would that change Council's spending decisions?
- Internet and cell phone: Good luck with that one. Perhaps a FOCA initiative to lobby the CRTC? The federal government seems determined to protect the profits of the large telecoms.
- Roads- Waterfront taxes carry the infrastructure for HBM TWP. Waterfront taxes account for more than commercial, agricultural and town taxes combined. We pay road tax as part of our municipal taxes and in addition pay for Fire Route maintenance. Saves Municipality from maintenance costs. Suggestion- at least hard top or pave municipal road up to fire route. i.e. West Kosh Road, Blue Mountain Road
- Environmental- including campers' garbage - residents are left to pick up garbage and we are still paying for transfer station tags (drop charge of tags, taxes cover enough), more enforcement and fines through authorities, light and noise pollution (fireworks). Progressive municipalities (Trent Lakes) and some European countries are banning fireworks on specific weekends because of concerns for wildlife disruption. Increase awareness through LKRA regarding light disruption to wildlife and consideration for neighbours.
- Short Term Rentals - municipality needs to hold owners accountable, bylaws, directives, need to be licensed and regulated through municipalities.
- Short term rentals cause noise and renters demonstrate non responsible behaviour on lake...at others expense. Some weekends are painfully noisy.
- Private Fire Road maintenance should be supported by our property taxes. My MPAC assessment doubled when I bought into FR93A so my property taxes went up with no increase in services.
- We do need a gas pump on the lake. I suggest that more gas is now spilled into the lake from jugs then ever would have leaked from the marina tank. Not sure what our association can do about this though.
- Transparency, which ties into more input into HBMTWP council decisions. Many townships are much more transparent about how tax dollars are spent, with line items. A taxpayer should be able to access the HBMTWP website and see line by line how the tax dollars are spent.
- When I look across the lake, it looks like a city because they have so many lights. Properties that have bright lights shining across the lake destroy the solitude, star gazing etc.
- Council Representatives- some appear to be anti-lake. Not looking after lake residents' interests i.e. removing themselves from voting on road proposals because they live on a fire route. Do council members who live in town remove themselves when a decision is required on a town issue?