

Kawartha Lake Stewards Association

Charles Court, Lakefield, ON., K0L 2H0

April 18, 2015

The Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister of Health & Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Re: Support for the Ontario Lyme Alliance and the need for a comprehensive and integrated Lyme disease strategy for Ontario

The Hon. Dr. Eric Hoskins

The Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA) supports the Ontario Lyme Alliance in their efforts to raise awareness, teach prevention and gain proper testing and treatment for Lyme patients in Ontario. Specifically, we ask you to give priority to MPP Mantha's motion on 27 November to develop a provincial strategy for Lyme disease. A motion that we understand was carried unanimously by all three parties.


We ask for assurance that our government will take the necessary steps to see the motion successfully translated into Ontario's Lyme Disease Strategy in 2015 and no later than one year after the passage of this motion.


As an outdoor oriented environmental association, the KLSA is concerned about tick-borne disease and the impact that Lyme disease has on individuals and families across Ontario.

Kawartha Lake Stewards Association

The Kawartha Lake Stewards Association (KLSA) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization of shoreline owners (cottagers, year-round residents and local business owners) in the watershed of the Trent-Severn Waterway. This includes four Ontario townships, 14 Kawartha Lakes, 24 property owner associations and a watershed population of over 225,000 property owners. Established to provide a coordinated approach to lake water monitoring, the Association tests lake water for phosphorus, water clarity and *E.coli* bacteria during the spring, summer and early fall. In recent years, KLSA has expanded its activities significantly, primarily into the areas of research and public education, forging valuable partnerships with Trent University, Fleming College, Kawartha Conservation Authority and the Trent-Severn Waterway (Parks Canada). KLSA research initiatives have investigated various factors that affect water quality such as sources of phosphorus, methods of aquatic plant management and algae in the Kawartha Lakes. Recent public education initiatives have included the publication of an Aquatic Plants Guide, the preparation of GIS-based maps, showing water flows into and out from the Kawartha Lakes, and an Algae in the Kawarthas instruction booklet. KLSA publishes an annual Lake Water Quality Report. In this our fifteenth year of operation, KLSA has proven to be a trusted and respected source of water quality data collection and interpretation among shoreline residents, government agencies and businesses within the Kawartha watershed.

In closing, we would like to emphasize KLSA's strong support for the Ontario Lyme Alliance and a provincial Lyme Disease Strategy.


Kathleen Mackenzie, KLSA President


Mike Stedman, KLSA Treasurer