

SKOOTAMATTA DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Box 146 Cloyne, Ontario KOH 1K0

www.skootamatta.ca

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

"Sheldrake Lake RFP Will NOT Go Forward"

By this time you will have received either a Canada Post mailing or an email from me having to do with an announcement from Addington Highlands around a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for a "Unique Economic Development" on Sheldrake Lake. The deadline for submissions for this proposal was Friday, November 16, 2007. and details of this RFP were provided for your information on the SDRA website.

On Saturday, November 17, 2007, I received an email from the Reeve of Addington Highlands, Henry Hogg, announcing that **no** proponents came forward and that the project would **not** go forward! Needless to say, this was a great relief to the SDRA executive and to those individuals that had become involved with the RFP process.

The SDRA executive was heavily involved in this process from the beginning in order to provide the membership with all the details of the RFP and to protect the interests of our membership. Perhaps the failure of this RFP project was, in part, due to the 'vocal' involvement of the SDRA executive and a group of concerned members but there had to be other factors as well. I am certain that if there was a proponent(s) at any time during this process, they had to know that the SDRA and the Sheldrake Lake Cottage Association were not going to go away and that there was a great deal of opposition mounting towards the RFP.

This RFP attempt should serve as a 'wake-up' call' for the SDRA and its membership. Collectively, we will have to be more aware of the Townships economic initiatives and we must insist on better and more efficient means of communicating with them. The SDRA executive will do whatever it can to protect your interests and the interests of our neighbours on Sheldrake and Pringle Lakes. Several positive things occurred during this process that we can build on in the future. Our association with the Sheldrake Lake Cottage Association was rekindled and the potential for future partnerships may exist. The website has proved to be a very valuable tool and we will continue to utilize its presence. Lastly, the 'mettle' of the SDRA was tested and, in my mind, we became stronger.

In closing, you have reason to be proud of your executive and the manner and degree to which they represented the membership throughout the RFP process. On your behalf, I want to thank them for guiding me and providing the assistance required to deal with a complex and serious matter. I would also like to thank, Derek Mendham, President of the Sheldrake Lake Association, for his assistance along the way. Derek has conveyed his personal thanks to me on behalf of the Sheldrake Cottage Association for the SDRA's assistance. He believes that it was the involvement of the SDRA that made the failure of this RFP possible.

The executive will monitor the 'fall out' of this RFP. We do not expect anything to materialize over the winter and we will meet in the early spring to review our recent involvement and to develop ways to improve communication between the SDR and Addington Highlands Council. Please continue to consult our web page at www.skootamatta.ca for updates and new Association initiatives. The RFP has reminded me that the letters S.D.R.A. stand for 'Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association'. There is no mention of words like cottagers, full time resident, seasonal, local or permanent restrictions. This is some thing that we should embrace and not make divisive. Lastly, on behalf of the SDR executive, let me wish you a healthy and enjoyable winter wherever you are....**the flies are just around the corner!**

Sincerely,

Kent Farrow

President - Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association