

### **Proposed Bell Mobility Cell Tower – KLCA Membership Update # 3**

The Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association ("KLCA") has been informed by Bell Mobility they are proposing to erect a cell tower on a hill on the south shore of Lake Kawagama to provide enhanced cell coverage.

#### **Update # 1 (March 12, 2013) Summary**

Please refer to Update # 1 on the KLCA website for the background and details; however, to summarize:

- Bell Mobility advised the KLCA via email dated March 4, 2013 they are proposing to erect a 40 metre tall cell tower on a hill on the south side of Lake Kawagama (more or less directly south of Eagle Island).
- The KLCA fully supports the enhancement to cell coverage but is concerned over how this is to be achieved (i.e. which type of tower to be used).
- As per Industry Canada (communication tower regulating authority) guidelines, Bell Mobility is required to conduct a 30 day consultation process. Bell Mobility advised in their email this period concluded March 29, 2013. It is important to note this period has since been extended to April 15, 2013.
- Bell Mobility advised a tower disguised as an unlit pine tree could not be used as they are only 30 metres tall and the proposed tower needed to be 40 metres tall. The KLCA found one supplier of "tree towers" 42 metres tall.
- The KLCA requested the membership to provide comment to Bell Mobility and the Townships and to consider copying the KLCA.

#### **Update # 2 (2013-03-25) Summary**

Please refer to Update # 2 on the KLCA website for the background and details however, to summarize:

1. Comments on behalf of the KLCA were formally submitted to Bell Mobility on March 15, 2013.
2. Bell Mobility extended the deadline to provide comments to April 15, 2013.
3. The KLCA made a formal request of the Algonquin Highlands Township for support of the KCLA position with respect to use of an unlit tower disguised as a pine tree and to develop a communications tower policy. Our request was placed on the agenda for the regularly scheduled March 21 Council meeting. I attended as an observer and there was a good discussion. Council was in

agreement with our position that a policy covering communication towers is required. They will be working to develop one that ensures an appropriate public consultation process is defined. They have had communications with Bell Mobility and have the ability to provide their opinion with respect to our request for support of our position regarding the use of cell towers disguised as unlit pine trees at a later date.

### **Update # 3 (Current Update)**

- The Minden Times newspaper reported on the discussion the Algonquin Highlands Township Council had in response to the KLCA request for a communication tower policy and support for our position with respect to the proposed Bell Tower. The story can be found on the Minden Times website (<http://www.mindentimes.ca/2013/03/26/algonquin-highlands-council-looks-at-tower-policy>).
- Bell Mobility is processing the comments received by the April 15 deadline and is preparing a presentation to be made to the Algonquin Highlands Township Council.
- Algonquin Highlands Deputy Reeve Liz Danielsen has requested (page 3) comments be provided for consideration by the Council during the development of a policy regarding new cell tower installations.

### **Next Steps and What You Can Do**

1. Provide comments and questions regarding the cell tower policy being developed by Algonquin Highlands Township to Deputy Reeve Liz Danielsen as per page 3.
2. More updates to follow.

Update Prepared by: John McHardy, President  
Kawagama Lake Cottagers' Association

## Message from Algonquin Highlands Deputy Reeve - Liz Danielsen

I just wanted to let you know that this week, in response to a submission from Kawagama Lake, Council has agreed to investigate the possibility of establishing a policy regarding new cell tower installations. Given the concerns raised by the KLCA and many others, Council agrees that service providers should be required to hold full public consultation for towers of any height and that they should endeavour to the greatest extent possible to utilize environmentally sensitive installations like the monopine style of tower

It is our intent to establish a policy that will serve all of our residents while recognizing the ever increasing need for improved cell and internet service. We have incorporated a dark skies statement in our Official Plan and are considering this during the drafting of our policy.

If you would like to get this message out to your members over the next several weeks, your comments and positions would be greatly appreciated. Algonquin Highlands staff will be researching existing policies across Ontario and preparing a draft to be considered on **April 18th**. Bell Mobility will be addressing Council at that time and seeking our support to proceed.

The majority of comments received so far support a monopine installation at Kawagama. There have been some responses that simply ask us to approve new installations and get on with the provision of high speed services in some of those harder to reach locations as well as some comments from those who aren't enamored with the monopine style.

You can send your comments to me at [ldanielsen@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:ldanielsen@algonquinhighlands.ca) and/or do my best to respond to any questions that you might have.

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