

OPP TAX INCREASE !! - Update # 2

The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is proposing to change the way in which it calculates the bills for their services. This will result in a significantly larger bill, for the same policing services, to the 4 Townships that make up Haliburton County. The current estimate is this will increase the annual bill from \$ 3.3 million to \$ 8.5 million dollars. The Townships will have absolutely no choice but to pass this on to the taxpayers which will result in tax increases of 36 % in Algonquin Highlands, 33 % in Dysart, 25 % in Highlands East and 20 % in Minden Hills.

I have looked at the proposed model and find it to be fundamentally flawed – the full assessment of the flaws is described in “OPP Tax Increase # 1” on the KLCA Website News and Events Page (<http://www.klca.org/events/opp-tax-increase-issue.htm>). There is also extensive background material posted on the County Website (<http://haliburtoncounty.ca/proposed-opp-billing-model/>).

The KLCA has been working very closely on your behalf with the Townships, the County and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations to lobby for a more equitable change to the billing model. I requested in a letter I sent February 28, 2014 to the membership that you to consider emailing / sending a letter to the Premier and your local member of the provincial legislature voicing your concerns. Several other lake associations sent a similar request to their memberships. I am pleased to report that many letters have been received and it seems to be having an impact in that the government is now listening and appears it might consider making some changes. However having said that more needs to be done to ensure it happens.

You should have received a letter by now from the Reeve of your Township (Algonquin Highlands or Dysart) requesting your assistance and outlining how you can help. Letters have been sent by the 4 Reeves in Haliburton County to all taxpayers (commercial, residential, permanent, seasonal etc.).

Please, if you have not done so already consider joining the opposition to OPP Funding Model change. A **Day of Action on May 1, 2014** is being organized by the County with the goal of emailing, faxing, tweeting, or phoning opposition to the changes on May 1. The Haliburton County website (<http://haliburtoncounty.ca/proposed-opp-billing-model/>) has all of the background materials including sample letters and contact details on how to voice your opposition.

Thank You !

John

John McHardy, President
Kawgama Lake Cottagers' Association