

Carrie Sykes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: October 13, 2009 10:20 PM
To: John/Gillian Ball ; Michelle Percival
Cc: Philip Cote; Janet Peake; Carrie Sykes
Subject: Re: message to council

Michelle:
Could this email be included as correspondence on the November council meeting?

Thanks
Margaret
Sent wirelessly from my BlackBerry device on the Bell network.
Envoyé sans fil par mon terminal mobile BlackBerry sur le réseau de Bell.

-----Original Message-----

From: John/Gillian Ball [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 14 Oct 2009 02:15:29
To: <clerk@lakeofbays.on.ca>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: message to council

To the Council of Lake of Bays Township:

We were most perturbed to discover this past week that the Council has apparently voted to allow Sunday hunting in this municipality. We had relied on having at least one day of the week when we could be spared the worry of nearby hunting so that we could walk our dogs and have our grandchildren at the cottage without concern about venturing outside in the Tackaberry Lake area.

We realize that hunters, no doubt, bring some finances into Lake of Bays during the hunting season, but we really feel that many areas of Muskoka are now far too developed to allow shooting so close to cottages and homes. We have certainly been concerned about the increase of hunting in our immediate area with a growing scarcity of wildlife over the past few years.

Last week we had people hunting at nearby Ellis Lake (about 1 km as the crow flies) and heard some shots that were far too close to our home. There was also a lot of activity throughout the Thanksgiving weekend when residents had families up here to celebrate the holiday, but were fearful to go out for a hike.

Some of us have posted "no Hunting" signs on our property and have safety vests for our dogs and for ourselves, but bullets can travel a long way. With the forest hiding homes, it could be a case of an accident waiting to happen. A fellow at the MNR suggested that we stay in our cottage for the next few weeks and not venture outside! This leads us to wonder why hunters have more privileges than cottage and home owners?

We now leave the lake before deer season opens as we had a very nasty experience some years ago when 4 hunters from a small shabby hunt camp near the entrance of Tackaberry Road were sitting by the side of the road with their guns pointed at our car as we came over the hill. We also saw them circling the lake with guns pointed over the water and received threats in response to our concern. With possible inebriation and other incidents of 'not following the rules' - we no longer enjoy being here in the fall although it is the best time of the year for taking pleasure in this beautiful area and hiking along roads and forested trails.

We do hope that the Council will please reconsider this new ruling about Sunday hunting. We had all relied on that one day of peace and quiet and safety during the week. Many of us on this lake are deeply disturbed by this new ruling as it has certainly destroyed our tranquility and peace of mind.

Sincerely, Gillian and John Ball - [REDACTED]