



Summer 2022 Update

Good day residents of Lake of Bays,

I hope my note finds you all in good health and slowly returning to your normal lifestyles. I am very proud of the Township's pandemic response as we dealt with vaccine and PPE shortages. In addition, I am also proud of how we assisted our residents and businesses as we found our way through the mountains of restrictions and protocols. This was a tall test for all of us and your Council and staff made decisions based on what we knew and what was unfolding every day for a very long period. I hope we all learned something from the added pressures of operating a municipality in a multi-year emergency. I know I certainly did.

Township

The Township of Lake of Bays is in a comfortable position as we enter a new period of financial uncertainty. We have managed our financial resources conservatively and responsibly and look to a bright future as we move forward. Our Building and Planning Departments continue to deal with 150% increases in their respective workloads however, they continue to produce permits and inspections as their mandates require. Staffing is similar to every other corporation as we all face shortages and increased workloads however again we are hitting our marks.

Broadband and Cell phone service

Council and I have made this topic our number one priority this term. I have attended many conferences and had the honour of leading The District of Muskoka's delegations with Ministers both provincially and federally in search of improvements in our area. Information Technology providers have been awarded contracts to extend services. We continue to work on advocacy and solutions to assist where we can. Muskoka's broadband need is estimated at \$300,000,000.00.

Healthcare and Hospitals

I currently sit on the Health Services Committee at the District and as your Mayor, I also meet regularly with the Hospital Board. Discussions are ongoing as the District looks to improve all methods of health care from hospital improvements, to paramedic services, to hospice care and seniors assisted living projects. Simply put, past Provincial governments have not spent what is needed to look after health care. I have attended delegations with Ministers as we look for added funding and I expect that this position will always be one needing advocacy.

Short Term Rentals (STR)

We are one of the first municipalities in Ontario to address the Short-Term Rental issue. We have hired a dedicated staff member to address this issue and we are slowly hoping to bring every short-term renter in the Township into compliance. [Short-Term Rentals](#) are important to regulate. Generally, we experience the most complaints from the rentals of cottages to the public for many reasons including septic concerns,

noise and other infractions that disrupt the neighbourhood. Although some rental units are well managed, we hope that other issues can be addressed by education and regulation so that we can all enjoy the tranquillity of our properties.

Water Levels

As your Mayor I sit on the Muskoka Watershed Control Group. This is a collection of Muskoka area Mayors and Public Works experts who meet regularly to monitor water levels in your watershed. Generally, we meet more often during the Spring to gather information and share best practices. This group was created during this term of Council to be a voice during high water and flood conditions. Flooding destroyed millions of dollars in infrastructure and personal property at the start of this Council's term. We currently are past the flooding stage this year however, we remain in regular touch with this Group monitoring lake and river levels to give everyone information to make informed decisions.

Artists of Lake of Bays

During this COVID pandemic, our talented residents have had a very difficult economic time. Their revenues were literally wiped out as gatherings and shows were put on hold. I assisted this group with a new initiative that needs your attention. Have a look at "[Arts Loop](#)" on Facebook or "[ArtsLoop.ca](#)." This group of very talented creative individuals have started a movement here in Lake of Bays to give the 'arts community' a larger presence in our Township. I urge you to support them where and when you can and help lift them up to gain further exposure as we start to open and get back to these events. The Arts are one of our strongest resources and I believe that by supporting their growth we will all benefit in many ways.

General Information

I hope that all residents follow the [Township of Lake of Bays website](#) for updates, [frequently requested by-laws](#) and general information. The "[Customer Service Portal](#)" can be used to submit requests for service or to ask for more information. I look forward to several new projects in the Township in the near future like improvements to our Fire Services and Library Services. Communication is the cornerstone of my strategy to provide you with the knowledge to address issues. I am regularly in contact with the O.P.P. and our Emergency Services so that I can have the best information to pass along to staff and Council as needed. General inquiries should be directed to staff however, I look forward to answering and assisting where I can. I am available and you can reach me at tglover@lakeofbays.on.ca or call me at the Township office at 705-635-2272 or at home 705-767-1179.

Stay well and be kind.

Mayor Terry Glover