



**Subject:** John & Liz Lessif – Lake Lisgar Water Quality Legacy Gift Agreement

**Report Number:** RCP 21-03

**Author:** Christopher Baird, Director of Recreation, Culture & Parks

**Meeting Type:** Council Meeting

**Meeting Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT report RCP 21-03 John & Liz Lessif – Lake Lisgar Water Quality Legacy Gift Agreement, be received as information;

AND THAT Council acknowledge the generous gesture put forward by John & Liz Lessif to be utilized for the future care and improvement to Lake Lisgar within the Town of Tillsonburg;

AND THAT Council enact a By-Law to establish “The John & Liz Lessif Lake Lisgar Water Quality Legacy Gift Agreement” as outlined within this report.

## **BACKGROUND**

Mr. John Lessif approached the Director of Recreation, Culture & Parks in the Fall of 2020 with a generous proposal that would support the health and sustainability of Lake Lisgar in the Town of Tillsonburg. To be named the “John & Liz Lessif Lake Lisgar Water Quality Legacy Gift”, their proposal would fund \$5,000 per year over each of the next 10 years for a total of \$50,000. Please refer to Attachment 1 appended to this report.

To implement the process and to provide a framework for the Lessif’s to partner with the Town of Tillsonburg, the Draft Agreement included as Attachment 2 of this report is placed before Council for consideration.

## **DISCUSSION**

Lake Lisgar is a true asset within the center of Town. In November 2017, The Town commissioned a Master plan for Memorial Park and Lake Lisgar. The Plan provided a series of short, medium and long-term goals that would help shape the future of recreation and the sustainability of Lake Lisgar.

A subsequent Lake Lisgar Revitalization Committee (LLRC) was struck. The LLRC has provided input and comment throughout the work of the Master Plan process. Some of the recommendations yet to be pursued include:

- Collecting dissolved oxygen data in the deepest part of the lake from before aeration begins until after the aerators are removed.
- Locating all aeration units to the south end of the lake in depths greater than 3m. Aerators should be suspended above the sediments to avoid re-suspension.
- Reviewing the aeration process in the shallow lake waters to determine impacts rooted plant growth and navigability for the rowers.
- Exploring alternatives to keep rowing lanes free of aquatic plants but encourage rooted aquatic plant growth elsewhere in the lake.
- Implementing a sampling program of the storm sewers. Samples should be collected following rain events and efforts to collect flow data at the same time would be helpful.
- Track sources on target outlets by sampling upgradient through the sewer catchment.
- Creating wetland or floating wetland islands at the target outlets to assist in outlet treatment while sources are being tracked.
- While aeration can be effective means of controlling bottom water anoxia and resultant algal blooms, long term solutions should be explored. In particular, a review of the surface draw outlet structure to include a bottom draw component to passively mix the bottom waters is an option.
- Review opportunities, effectiveness and funding approaches for converting some of the Lake Lisgar output to a bottom draw system.

While work on the Lake Lisgar Water Quality Plan is yet to fully commence, current funding of \$29,374 resides in the account although \$13,549 are restricted funds for the care/maintenance of the fountain.

A program will be developed later in 2021 for Council's consideration in the 2022 Budget.

### **CONSULTATION**

This report has been prepared in consultation with staff in the Clerk, Finance and the CAO.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE**

There are no financial impacts associated with the adoption of the proposed Agreement. All funds will be used for the defined purposes as outlined in the *Lake Lisgar Revitalization Trust*.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP) LINKAGE**

1. Excellence in Local Government
  - ☒ Demonstrate strong leadership in Town initiatives
  - ☐ Streamline communication and effectively collaborate within local government
  - ☐ Demonstrate accountability
2. Economic Sustainability
  - ☐ Support new and existing businesses and provide a variety of employment opportunities
  - ☐ Provide diverse retail services in the downtown core
  - ☐ Provide appropriate education and training opportunities in line with Tillsonburg's economy
3. Demographic Balance
  - ☐ Make Tillsonburg an attractive place to live for youth and young professionals
  - ☐ Provide opportunities for families to thrive
  - ☐ Support the aging population and an active senior citizenship
4. Culture and Community
  - ☐ Promote Tillsonburg as a unique and welcoming community
  - ☐ Provide a variety of leisure and cultural opportunities to suit all interests
  - ☒ Improve mobility and promote environmentally sustainable living

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Appendix A – Letter from John & Liz Lessif

Appendix B – Proposed Draft By-Law