

Preface

1) Introduction the Turtle Lake Watershed Corporation

- a) The TLWI is a non-profit corporation mandated to advocate for the maintenance of the aquatic health of Turtle Lake so that the lake can be enjoyed and utilized by people in the future as it was in the past.
- b) The TLWI knows that Turtle Lake, presently an ecologically healthy lake, is experiencing increasing human usage, attracts increasing numbers of people for recreation, for rest, for relaxation, for spiritual renewal, for the opportunity to experience nature, and for some the opportunity of possible monetary reward and profit. t
- c) The TLWI believes that any human usage of Turtle Lake for whatever purpose has the potential to negatively impact the ecological health of the lake.
- d) The TLWI evaluates all human activities on or around of the lake, including further developments on or around Turtle Lake, as to their potential to maintain, enhance, or endanger the aquatic health of the lake.
- e) The TLWI understands that Turtle Lake has a maximum threshold to absorb and mitigate the effects of human and human activities. Once that threshold is reached, the lake will start a precipitous ecological decline. Such a decline would be very difficult to halt and even more difficult to remediate.
- f) The TLWI believes that any increase in the number of people living, visiting and utilizing Turtle Lake will require increased number rules and re1ulation in order to minimize the conflict between competing interests and to maintain the aquatic health of the lake.

2) GENERAL CONCERNS WITH ALL PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF TURTLE LAKE

- a) The TLWI has concerns about litigation arising from property development. Litigation resulting in court orders that can temporarily or permanently stop construction of developments before they are complete. The stoppage of construction of any development near the lake shore of Turtle Lake puts the ecological health of Turtle Lake at increased risk due to uncontrolled wind and water erosion of exposed soil, uncontrolled sediment deposits in the lake etc. The risk of litigation and construction stoppages could be minimized if **prior to the commencement by the owner or developer of any site preparation or construction**
- i) RM of Mervin has received and reviewed a geotechnical assessment by a qualified engineer attesting to the capability of the surface and subsurface soil structure to support the proposed development.
 - ii) The RM of Mervin has received and reviewed detailed topographical study detailing elevations by a signed qualified civil engineer that show the natural water drainage pattern prior to construction and the detailed plan for water drainage during and after construction.
 - iii) The RM of Mervin has received and reviewed an environmental report from a qualified professional report cataloging and detailing the flora and fauna that presently live on land or in the water near proposed area of development.
 - iv) The RM of Mervin has received and reviewed a report from a qualified archeologist detailing the presence or likely presence on native artifacts on or in the area of proposed development.¹
- b) The TLWI has concerns about the financial capability of the RM of Mervin, should it decide to authorize these developments, to secure and render harmless the assets of an authorized development that fails, due to the bankruptcy of its owner, either to complete

¹ This issue was precipitated when road construction was halted in early June Of 2019 in the Saskatchewan RM of Winslow upon the discovery of native artifacts in the construction area. The resulting controversy revealed that continued construction would likely be in violation of International law, Canadian Law and the necessity of Saskatchewan law to be in compliance.

construction or operate the development in a manner that protects the ecological health of Turtle Lake and those that use it. Most or all of the ownership of the proposed developments are corporate entities with their liabilities limited to the market value of its assets upon liquidation. The financial requirements to successfully secure and render harmless each of the four proposed developments vary from hundreds of thousands of dollars to many millions of dollars. If the RM of Mervin authorizes any or all of the proposed developments, due diligence requires that RM of Mervin recognize the risks of authorization and the necessity of taking actions to mitigate or minimize these risks.

- c) The TLWI has concerns about the limited awareness displayed by the developers of the two studies of Turtle Lake commissioned the RM of Mervin and RM of Parkdale was surprising. These two studies should be mandatory reading before any developer can submit a proposal for development to the RM of Mervin.