

Mayor and Council  
Town of Gravenhurst  
3-5 Pineridge Gate  
Gravenhurst ON  
P1P 1Z3

December 14, 2016

Dear Mayor Donaldson and Members of Council

Re: Gravenhurst Official Plan

The Muskoka Lakes Association has been actively engaged in the development of your strategic plan followed by the update to your official plan. We appreciate the opportunities to provide input to the process and for the time that staff and your consultants have spent with us to discuss specific issues.

We were pleased to see that a number of our comments and suggestions have been incorporated into the draft Official Plan. For the benefit of council, we reiterate how important the environment is to the Muskoka experience – the water quality and the natural surroundings are essential elements of the Town's economy. Decisions made by council need to be consistent with the 'environment first' principle. Maintaining an appropriate balance between economic opportunities and protection of the natural state is an ongoing challenge. As we move forward, council and planning staff need to ensure that opportunities to make the Town more resilient to the impacts of climate change are taken and that opportunities to improve sustainability of both existing and future development are pursued.

The character of this community is unique and should be protected and celebrated.

Yours very truly



Bob Ensor  
President



Anne McCauley  
Chair, Political and Land Use Committee

cc: Scott Lucas, Katie Kirton