



Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands  
Peer Working Group  
**January 17, 2024 | 1:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Donna Dempsey, Lansdowne Agricultural Society  
Monique Hartley, Seeley's Bay Area Residents Association  
Barb Bajema, Lyndhurst Seeley's Bay & District Chamber of Commerce  
Jan Murray, 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce  
Barb Smeath, Lansdowne Association for Revitalization

**Staff:**

Tracy Holland, Communications & Community Engagement Supervisor  
McKenna Modler, Communications & Community Services Assistant

**Absent:**

Wendy Merkley, Rockport Development Group

**Review of Minutes from October 25, 2023**

A question about Peer Meeting minutes being posted on (CivicWeb). Since PEER is no longer a Committee of Council, but rather a working group, the minutes are not required to be posted. Tracy will seek out further clarification from the Clerk if there are any further questions.

Motion to approve minutes, Monique Hartley and Barb Bajema.  
Minutes carried.

**Parade and Tree Lighting**

Lyndhurst - Despite initial volunteer recruitment difficulties, the 48th Lyndhurst parade was the largest and most successful in history. After the parade, children visited Santa.

Lansdowne – The parade was well-attended. After the parade, everyone gathered in the hall for games, crafts, and snacks. Everyone was happy to see the parade return.

Gananoque—It was said to be the biggest one yet. The committee hasn't had their post-event meeting yet, but it seemed to have lots of floats and was well attended.

Seeley's Bay Tree Lighting – The event went well. They managed to get all the lights on the tree this year, which has been a recurring issue as it grows. Attendees gathered around the firepit sipping hot chocolate and listening to Christmas music.

Lansdowne Tree Lighting –Although it was a very rainy night, a small group still came out. The growth of the trees also caused some issues with getting the lights up, but they managed to overcome it. The library hosted some activities in the LCH, and everyone enjoyed hot chocolate and treats.

Rockport – Attendance was good on a rainy evening with music, sweets, and apple cider served. A donated Christmas Tree was also lit along with the gates.

Gift bags from Township; Seeleys Bay inquired about leftover items and was advised to give them to Frost Fest organizers.

### **PEER Terms of Reference Review and Adoption:**

As determined by the group during the last meeting, the overall goal has been removed from the Terms of Reference.

Tracy had an individual reach out in Lyndhurst who was interested in forming a group to join PEER. They had a meeting to recruit members. Tracy is just waiting to see how that meeting went and if things were finalized.

There was some discussion about the Chambers being associated with PEER. As far as Tracy knows, they have been involved with PEER. Since they represent the businesses in TLIT, it makes sense to have them involved. However, they will not receive the yearly stipend that the four local communities receive. If a group from Lyndhurst is not formed there may be a chance to see the role the Chamber of Lyndhurst, Seeley's Bay and District plays and if they may qualify for the monies.

It was discussed to change our meetings to a different day of the week. Tracy will send out a Google Poll to see what days and times work for everyone.

Motion to move forward with the Terms of Reference, moved by Monique and everyone was in favour. Terms of Reference carried forward.

**Report from Communities on planned upcoming events for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024:**

LAFR - Nothing to report.

LAS –Currently getting ready for a Rodeo taking place at the Fairgrounds.

SBARA - Frost Fest committee has been working hard. SBARA is supporting the volunteer opportunities with their new Volunteer portal, " VOLT". This website allows users to list volunteer opportunities available in their area. You can sign up for any role you would like to volunteer for. Out of the 12 available positions, 10 have already been taken, indicating that the program has been successful.

Story fest is on March 17th. It is an afternoon of listening to stories. Jim has written several books and traveled and tells his stories for the afternoon.

Lyndhurst, Seeley's Bay & District - There isn't much happening right now except for Chamber meetings. The upcoming events are scheduled to start in April. The planning for the Rural Expo and the Turkey Fair is in progress. Meanwhile, they are also promoting the events of Chamber member businesses.

Jan Murray—On March 8th, we will have an International Women's Day event themed "Invest in Women." Additionally, their AGM is scheduled for April. Due to financial constraints, they won't be doing their political breakfast this year.

**Updates from TLTI:**

Two ice rinks have been established, one in Lansdowne in the Jerry Park Pavilion and in Lyndhurst at the Park. If these go well this year, there could be plans for one in Seeley's Bay in the future.

We were informed about an issue with the SEP, but we have fixed it and made some changes to it. We added a checklist to the form and will update the guide once the application is more streamlined. If

there are any events happening in your area, please let us know so that our Councillors and staff can be aware of them. We can then discuss whether a SEP is necessary.

Grant opportunities: Tracy is still learning about grants the township is eligible to apply for and currently has a grant in for review of a seniors project.

If you are aware of any grant opportunities, please share them with the group.

Flowers – Tracy reached out to OPS, and once she hears back, she will provide information to the groups.

Pitch-In

Seeley's Bay had a low turnout for the event, and the promotion was too short. It didn't help the weekend weather was wet and rainy. The trailer helped, but more pickup options for acquiring the bags were preferred.

Lansdowne - stopped doing a general clean-up and left it up to the residents to do it on their own.

Lyndhurst – Chamber was not aware of it but was certainly interested in assisting to promote the event. Their idea would be to have bags for pick up where businesses sell bag tags.

McKenna to come up with a campaign for Pitch-In.

CIP – Donna is very interested in learning how the PEER group members could be involved with the CIP. She is also interested in having a new strategic plan done and wonders what others think. Monique mentioned she is attending a workshop on Strategic Plans on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Next meeting**

April , 2024

1:30 p.m.

Place to be determined