



Township of  
**Leeds** and the  
**Thousand Islands**

## **Operations Report OPR-028-19**

To: Mayor and Members of Council  
From: Adam Goheen, Director of Operations  
Date: June 3, 2019  
Subject: St. Lawrence River nautical speed zone assessment and recommendations

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council receive the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands St. Lawrence River Nautical Speed Zone Assessment and Recommendations report; and,

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council direct Staff to proceed with public and stakeholder consultation regarding the implementation of the speed zone recommendations outlined in the document with a subsequent report to be brought before Council.

### **BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

In 2018, at the request of the Council of the day, an inventory and assessment of speed zone signage on the St. Lawrence River within the limits of the Township was commissioned. Mr. Dennis Roberts, Marine Law Enforcement Specialist, former Ontario Provincial Police Marine Unit official and long-time Township resident, conducted a review of the 11 existing speed zones contained in the Federal legislation against field conditions. His analysis concluded that most of the signage is either missing or in poor condition and in need of replacement.

Responsibility for the nautical speed signage within the limits of the Township rests with it and speed limits are not enforceable by the Ontario Provincial Police unless the signage is present and in good condition.



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Additionally, while speed limits were established with the goal of minimizing vessel wake, in many cases it appears the opposite effect has been realized. With this in mind, Staff again reached out to Mr. Roberts to expand the scope of the exercise to provide recommendations for improvements to the zones with a renewed focus on mitigating property damage, limiting shoreline erosion and increasing public safety.

The recently-completed Assessment and Recommendations report provides a commentary for each regulatory zone as well as recommendations for revision or removal of the speed limit. It is the Staff recommendation to proceed with implementation of the recommendations indicated in the report.

It is envisioned that the next step in the process will be to conduct a public consultation process to solicit feedback from stakeholders regarding the proposed changes. Sign locations will need to be sited and permission from private property owners may be required. It is anticipated that a progress report will be provided to Council in the fall, with a subsequent application to be submitted to Transport Canada to amend the legislation to include the new zones and limits.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Dennis Roberts, Marine Law Enforcement Specialist

## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Township, through its Community Strategic Plan, supports 'making improvements to the community, both from a physical, and social and sustainable perspective'. This project furthers that goal.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

While funding for this project was not allocated during the 2019 Operating Budget process, Staff recommend moving forward with this initiative. It is anticipated that the total expenditures this year will be in the realm of \$5,000.00 (to be funded through the Operating Budget), with funds to be set aside for signage installation as part of the 2020 budget process.



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## **ATTACHMENTS**

St. Lawrence River Thousand Islands Speed Zone Signage Assessment report, prepared by Dennis Roberts, Marine Law Enforcement Specialist

Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands St. Lawrence River Nautical Speed Zone Assessment and Recommendations report, prepared by Dennis Roberts, Marine Law Enforcement Specialist

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Goheen', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Goheen  
Director of Operations

Reviewed by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Potter', written over a horizontal line.

Steven Potter,  
Acting CAO