

Cottage country can handle T.O. trash

By [DON PEAT](#)

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If Toronto cottagers are sneaking their city trash into cottage country, politicos north of the Big Smoke say they're ready for it.

City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor Ric McGee said he hasn't seen any surge in Toronto trash from the 30,000 people that call his municipality northeast of Toronto home-sweet-part-time/weekend-home.

"The residents of Kawartha Lakes (both full-time and part-time) are entitled to two bags of garbage (a week)," McGee said.

"If they so choose to put out two bags of garbage, they have absolutely every right to do that."

"We're just thankful for all the people from the GTA that choose to call Kawartha Lakes their weekend home."

Kawartha Lakes had an almost two-month long civic strike last year. Although garbage wasn't part of that strike, McGee said he can sympathize with fellow Mayor David Miller and the people of Toronto.

'WE CAN COPE'

"It's a difficult time but this is when communities come together and support one another," McGee said.

Muskoka Lakes Township Mayor Susan Pryke said the regional district can cope if Toronto cottagers bring their garbage north.

"I think we can cope and we haven't had anyone abusing that I'm aware of," Pryke said yesterday.

"If you are a cottager up here, you're allowed to put waste in our waste stream."

"During the last garbage strike (in Toronto in 2002), our (district's) commissioner of engineering and public works advised us that they didn't see a huge impact."

The cottage country mayor said she'd rather see people dispose of their waste properly, at a transfer station, than see garbage tossed on the edge of the highway.

"Do it right, bring it to the landfill site and dispose of it properly," she said.

But that country hospitality only goes so far. Pryke said staff are on the lookout for private trash haulers trying to dump their garbage up north for free.

"If they come to the transfer site, they'll have to pay," she said.