

TALPINES POA
Box 9 Waubaushene, Ontario
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August 3, 2020

Dear Councillors Jeff Bumstead and Mary Warnock,

Re: Confederate Flag, Waubaushene

As the Directors of a volunteer community organization with the goal of enhancing and improving our Tay community, we write in **support** of your initiative to consider a by-law banning the flying of the American Confederate flag. It was with enormous dismay that we saw that a homeowner in Waubaushene has once again hoisted this flag near the Government Dock.

Our Association is fully in support of the Black Lives Matter movement and Anti-racism initiatives. Tay Township has shown its support for Anti-racism initiatives and we urge Council to continue in its efforts through the passing of a by-law.

Whatever arguments might be advanced in favour of freedom of expression, citizens also have the **responsibility** to act in a socially just manner. In our view, one is NOT free to express images, flags, signs, banners or other materials that are harmful, hurtful and racist toward members of our community.

Our community must welcome diversity and recognize that this flag, with its origins in the American south, is a hateful remnant of slavery and oppression of Black People. Some call it "the traitors" flag. It is such a contentious symbol that even the American military has now banned its use.

Contrary to the argument advanced, the Confederate flag is not a proud symbol of the history and culture of the American south, but rather it is a symbol proudly adopted by the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists.

It has no place in our community. It was removed for a time, but now is visible by any boater passing through the Waubaushene channel. What an embarrassment for our community. We hope your initiative is successful.

Regards,
The Directors of Talpines POA

Victoria Reaume, President