

May 7 2025

Ambrose Moran

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Re: Save the Cost Effective Lake Partner Program!

Dear Minister McCarthy

I am writing in full support of the **Lake Partner Program (LPP)**, a valuable long-term partnership between the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). It has come to my attention through FOCA that The LPP has been in limbo since the end of March this year, and **the 2025 sampling season is now at risk**. I ask you to ensure this important program continues.

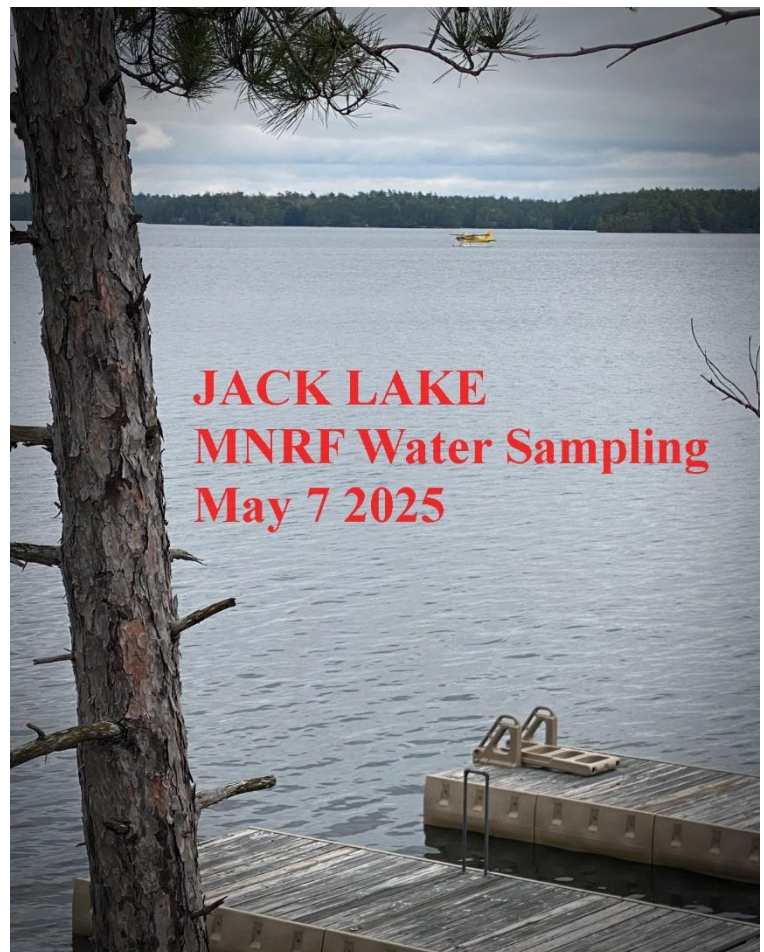
The Province of Ontario has been beneficiary of the involvement with FOCA in advancing cost-effective programs such as the long-established LLP and hundreds of Lake Association volunteers has contributed to the heavy lifting associated with this credible program.

Each year, Lake Stewards devote time and energy in support of a healthy Ontario for future generations. But this value is lost unless the contract is signed to continue the LPP, and the budget for this sampling season is confirmed without delay.

The LPP provides immense value to the public and to Ontario as a whole. For 30 years, it has been one of the largest databases on water quality for freshwater lakes, and its data is essential for research and analysis by universities, government, community groups, and scientists. The water sampling is conducted entirely by volunteers – 629 FOCA Lake Steward volunteers who monitor 546 lakes at 917 sites across the province, providing committed and invaluable assistance to this world-class program.

The Province of Ontario can continue to capitalize on this long established cost-effective program by continuing its support of the LPP without further delay. Clean water in our lakes is one of our most precious and valuable resources—supporting biodiversity, recreation, property values, and local economies. Clean water is the foundation of the recreational tourism business in rural Ontario

Within the last hour today... about 11 am (May 7 2025) the Ministry of Natural resources landed a float plane on Jack Lake reportedly to take water samples in our lake. **What does this cost compared to the sampling by lake**



association volunteers? With confidence I can state that Government staff utilizing float planes cannot cost effectively compete with dedicated volunteers using their own vessels to assemble lake water samples for government agencies to utilize.

There may be an explanation for today's event.

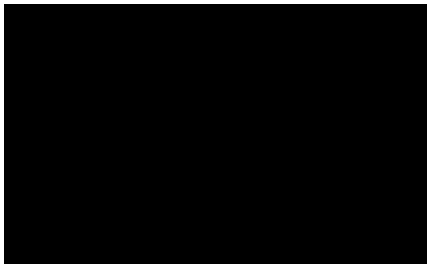
In the past,,, MNRF and MECP undertook a joint study on the potential lake trout habitat in Jack Lake which lead to a determination that Sharpes Bay of Jack Lake was at capacity for development. I am curious if your Ministry in conjunction with MNRF is further evaluating the habitat capacity of Jack Lake to determine if the current water oxygen analysis has changed which could lead to a reclassification of Jack Lake and removal of the development restriction. It is noteworthy that the sampling done today was located in the area of Sharpes Bay being previously in 2017 designated to be sensitive trout habitat at capacity for development.

My ask is that:

A) you support the continuation of this cost effective LLP program and keep me informed regarding your government's decision on this issue.

B) You clarify for me if the sampling being done today is related to any further review of the at capacity for development in Sharpes Bay of Jack Lake, It is timely... that earlier today Peterborough County Council actually voted to adopt an updated new Official Plan .. which finally designates in their OP the area where the sampling was done today in Sharpes Bay of Jack lake as being at capacity for development..... about 8 long years after your Ministry asked the Peterborough County Planning Department to recognize this classification in their official Plan policies.

Respectfully submitted by



Ambrose Moran



cc. FOCA (communications@foca.on.ca)

cc North Kawartha Council Members

cc Havelock Belmont Methuen Council Members

cc Jack Lake Association Directors

cc List LLP – 1A