

April 11, 2011

Ministry of Natural Resources
3301 Trout Lake Road
North Bay, ON P1A 4L7

Att: David Payne, District Manager

Dear Mr. Payne:

Re: Recommendations from 2010 Hudson Lakes Stewardship Plan

The Hudson Lakes Association (HLA) has a membership of 95 families, or 53 percent of the residents of Twin Lakes, Fairy Lake, Bartle Lake and Pike Lake, all in Hudson Township in the District of Temiskaming. Over the past two years, the HLA, working under the guidance of a lake planning consultant has prepared a Background Information Report, and a Stewardship Plan that identify the unique characteristics of the lakes environment that are important to the residents, and recommend a course of action to preserve and enhance those characteristics in the future.

The Stewardship Plan contains 29 recommendations, of which eight are deemed to come under the jurisdiction of the MNR. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss these recommendations with you during the coming year. Some of these recommendations also will require consultation with the Township of Hudson, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, and Forestry, and the Temiskaming Health Unit, which we will be pursuing in due course.

The Background Information Report and the Stewardship Plan are included in the HLA web site at www.hudsonlakes.ca<http://www.hudsonlakes.ca>.

Recommendations 6,7 & 8 Wetlands

- 6. Seek protection for all remaining wetlands via Official Plan and Zoning By-Law as well as being recognized in the Forest Management planning process.*
- 7. Work with the government agencies to verify and evaluate all remaining wetlands.*
- 8. Promote public education about significance and conservation of all wetlands.*

In the summer of 2009, the HLA retained a consulting biologist to conduct an assessment of the

shoreline and terrestrial-based wetlands of the Hudson Lakes area. Some of these wetlands occur within the boundaries of Hudson Township, and some within the unorganized townships of Lundy, Firstbrook and Barr. Most wetlands are on Crown lands, while others are on private lands.

None of the wetlands identified in the survey have ever been officially evaluated by the province to determine level of significance. Without such evaluation or appropriate zoning, these wetlands remain unprotected. The report of the consulting biologist states that ...”Due to the size of these wetlands polygons, the diversity of plant species, variety of habitat that are able to support an assortment of fish, birds, reptiles and wildlife, and the social and economic benefits of wetlands services and wood products indicate that these wetlands would be of provincial interest and significance. Once these wetlands would be approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) as ‘provincially significant’, development and natural resource extraction (except mining) would not be allowed according to the Provincial Policy Statement 2005 -Section 2.1 Natural Heritage. “

The Hudson Lakes Association is requesting that the MNR conduct an evaluation of all wetlands in the lakes area to determine level of significance. A designation of “significant” would serve to protect these wetlands from development and timber harvest. Assuming a “significant” designation, the Township of Hudson would be asked to include provisions in the Official Plan and Zoning By-Laws to reflect this. Since some of these wetlands are on private lands, an accommodation must be reached with the land owners on this matter.

Promotion of public awareness about the significance and conservation of wetlands can be done by both the association and the township through articles in newsletters, speakers at our AGMs, and by word-of-mouth.

Recommendations 9 & 10– Wildlife & Wildlife Habitat

9. Discuss with the Ministry of Natural Resources the possibility of restocking Lake Trout in Twin Lakes.

10. Work with the Ministry of Natural Resources to inventory fish species and population densities to determine the health of the fish community in all four lakes.

The Background Information Report for the Hudson Lakes Stewardship Plan contains a section on fish habitat on the four Hudson lakes that was developed through interviews with avid anglers and long- time residents and cottagers on the lakes. Although each of the four lakes must be treated separately due to differences in water chemistry, population density, size, and development history, it is apparent that all have experienced a decline in fish populations due to changes in fishing pressure, lake chemistry, loss of fish habitat, and introduction of non-native species.

Twin Lakes, Fairy Lake and Bartle Lake had a naturally occurring population of fish including lake trout, yellow pickerel (walleye), yellow perch, bass and northern pike, as well as lake whitefish and herring. Upper Twin Lake had a productive lake trout habitat in the past, and currently yields catches of yellow pickerel (although the population has been declining over the past 30 years), perch, pike and bass, as well as lake whitefish and lake herring. Twin Lakes has been stocked in the past with yellow pickerel (walleye) and splake. Although there are no accounts of any adult splake having been caught by anglers since on Twin Lakes, at least two were caught in adjacent Fairy Lake. Bartle Lake is the only lake of the four that is managed by the MNR and is currently being stocked on an annual basis with brook trout.

One of the problems in determining if lake trout can be reintroduced to Twin Lakes, and/or pickerel can be stocked, is that there is no reliable scientific information on current fish species and populations. The association would like to discuss having the MNR carry out a survey of Twin Lakes, Pike Lake and Fairy Lake with determine this information with the possibility of stocking Twin lakes with lake trout and pickerel.

Recommendation 11 & 13 - Hammond Lake Esker

11. Investigate methods to preserve and recognize the Hammond Lake Esker Complex.

13. Petition the Ministry of Natural Resources to carry out a comprehensive hydro-geological survey of the Hammond Lake Esker Complex to determine what effect the existing gravel pits have on the lakes, and to require a hydro-geological study prior to any major expansion of existing pits or development of new pits.

One of the features that make the Hudson Lakes so attractive to residents is that they are all located on the Esker, and are mostly spring-fed lakes with cold, clear water and sand beaches. Lovell and Frey (1976) suggest that drainage in this area occurs along eskers and faults. The course of underground drainage is indicated by Bowers (Spring) Lake and (Little) Spring Lake.

Without resorting to designation of the Hammond Lake Esker Complex under the ANSI programme, the residents of the lakes would like to ensure that the Esker is given some type of recognition as a natural feature that is extremely important as a source of high quality spring water and for its scenic features.

The Hudson Lakes Association is concerned that long-term operation of aggregate operations within the watershed of the Hudson lakes could negatively affect the flow of ground water into the lakes. In particular, the Miron No. 3 Pit is situated only 350 metres from Fairy Lake. There has not been any reported negative impact on the environment or water quality attributed to this pit to date, but its proximity to a lake that is home to a church camp for children as well as thirty homes and cottages would indicate that this situation should be closely watched. Possible sources of contamination would include spills of engine oil, hydraulic fluid, or diesel fuel. As well, seepage from Fairy Lake into the pit could be a possibility, although this is preferable to seepage

from the pit into the lake. The ground surface elevation at the pit is 306 m and the water level elevation in Fairy Lake is 302 m. However, the floors of most gravel pits are usually at least 5 m below the lip of the pit, which in this case would mean that the pit floor is below the usual water level of the lake. The HLA feels that this situation should be closely monitored by the MNR.

Recommendations No 14 & 22 - Viewscapes

14. Work with the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure that future management plans include appropriate provisions for the protection of the viewscape and watershed, cultural heritage sites, the regeneration of the forest, and the monitoring of industry activity.

22. Work with the Township and the Ministry of Natural Resources to recognize the importance – both visual and economical – of the viewscape and natural vistas of Hudson Lakes. The viewscape should be delineated in the Official Plan and the Forest Management Plan, and proposed developments within the viewscape should be compatible with the natural character of the lake.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet during the ensuing year with your staff to discuss the concerns that have been identified in the association's Hudson Lakes Stewardship Plan

Yours very truly
The Hudson Lakes Association

Bruce W. Taylor P. Eng.
President