

Proposed Official Plan Amendment No 45 Where Have We Lost Our Way?

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June 17 Headline “New Science to
Oust Old Recreational Water Quality
Model in Muskoka “

2005- A strong, comprehensive program

- Revised model produced “ excellent correspondence between measured and modelled estimates of total phosphorus concentration” (Gartner Lee,2005. p30)
 - Over threshold Lakes identified- strong restrictions on development

- Phosphorus Sensitivity Classifications – management on lake specific basis
- Strong suite of Best Management Practices (BMPs) -tailored to lake classification
- Lake Health System Program initiated with:
 - Limits to Growth. Lake-wide assessments with Lakefront Residents
 - Consider stressors to lake health other than total Phosphorus (TP)
 - Stronger monitoring
 - Storm water management

2016 Revision and Proposed Amendment

- Both Model and Lake Health System Program were to be reviewed/ revised (HESL)
- Rejection of the Model
 - Not defensible to OMB challenges
 - Loss of taxpayer money

- Can no longer say “enough is enough”
- Loss of classification- one size fits all
- Loss of ability to predict, plan and proactively manage lake health .
- Loss of incentive to update model with new science
- Uniform implementation of BMPs and site plan controls
- Townships will need more resources to implement

2016 Revision and Proposed Amendment (cont)

- Failure to review or revise the Lake Health System Program –
Nothing new on Limits to Growth
- Nothing to engage lake users – powerful source of knowledge of
changes in lakes – (Leonard Lake. 2005)
 - help strengthen lake-wide implementation of BMPs

- Perceptions not being taken into account
- (Gartner Lee 2005 Survey)
- Other Stressors Forgotten
 - Road Salt (4-fold increase in Leonard Lake- other lakes ?)
 - Motor Boats - re-uptake of TP from sediments increased
 - » The Elephant in the closet
 - Climate Change (importance of model)
- warmer temperatures , more stagnation, more biota in lakes, more algae , less oxygen
- lakes will move to higher trophic status

2016 Revision and Proposed Amendment (cont)

Three Triggers

- Triggers reactive rather than Proactive

- Triggers 1 and 2 will not trigger until lake is eutrophic (almost dead)
- Trigger1. 20 ug/L of TP is too high for lakes currently less than 10-*ie* most lakes. Use 10ug/L
- consistent with the Interim Provincial Water Quality Objective
- Trigger 2. “ *Significantly* increasing levels of TP”
 - Will mean doubling of TP before significance is achieved
 - Remove the word *significant* – a linear upward trend is fine
- Trigger 3 . Cyanobacteria sightings - is fine : uses local knowledge

2016 Proposed Revision and Amendment Conclusions /Recommendation

- Protection for all lakes will be weaker- not just for Over Threshold Lakes
- Muskoka will become a follower, not a leader in Lake Health
- Recommendation:
 - Reject the Amendment with the exception of:
- Trigger 3 Cyanobacteria algae sightings
- BMPs standard for all lakes BMPs
 - Strengthen the Lake Health System Program – particularly Limits to Growth and other lake health stressors.

Special thanks to my wife Katya and members of the Leonard Lake Stakeholders Association

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