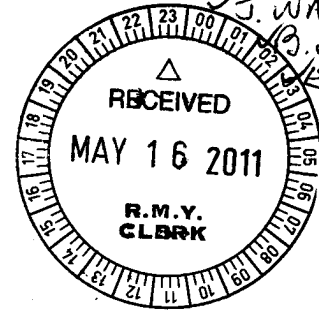


May 9th, 2011

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

CLERK'S OFFICE
FILE No. - P42



Dear Mr. Kelly,

We represent a group of citizens who believe in the importance of recognizing the significance of Lake Simcoe. As such, in January of 2011 we coordinated a meeting of citizens and public officials from around the lake to investigate if Lake Simcoe could be designated as a **Canadian Heritage Lake**. This would be the first designation of its kind in Canada.

Currently, Canada has recognized its rich river heritage by creating a **Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)**. This system "promotes and enhances Canada's river heritage and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner". The CHRS is a public trust. Local citizens champion the program. Governments – federal, provincial and territorial – lend support and guidance to receiving a designation for significant rivers. Importantly, the CHRS has no legislative authority. Voluntary participation, partnership, cooperation and community involvement are what drive it.

Establishing a Canadian Heritage River involves a two step process, nomination and designation. Nominations must be submitted to the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board by participating governments. To be considered, the river must have outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values, a high level of public support and it must be demonstrated that sufficient measures will be put in place to ensure that values will be maintained. We believe that the recent provincial *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and Plan as well as the federal Lake Simcoe Clean Up Fund provides this support.

Although it is not a river, Lake Simcoe includes a watershed of 35 rivers and was recognized internationally through the Thies International Riverprize in 2009. Further recognition through a heritage lake designation would offer the following benefits to Lake Simcoe, including:

- citizen engagement in lake conservation,
- conserving cultural and recreational values and traditions,
- improving public health and well being,
- advancing socio-economic benefits associated with the lake,
- increasing business and tourism opportunities, and
- connecting urban Canadians to history and nature.

The purpose of this letter is to provide awareness to all Lake Simcoe watershed Councils that there is a groundswell of strong community support to request a designation for Lake Simcoe as Canada's first Heritage Lake. It is our intent to provide watershed Councils and public officials with further details on this process and solicit your support as we move forward with this exciting initiative.

Yours truly,



Marj Mossman
Citizens for Heritage Lake Simcoe



Barbara Love
Citizens for Heritage Lake Simcoe

Copy Lake Simcoe Watershed MP's
 Lake Simcoe Watershed MPP's
 Lake Simcoe Watershed Municipalities
 Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources
 Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
 Heritage Lake Simcoe Citizen's Group