

**August 11, 2010**

(Hand delivered on August 12, 2010 to Mazinaw-Lanark Forestry Inc., Cloyne, ON)

## **Ashby Lake Protective Association Comments: 2011-2021 Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Plan**

### **Ashby Lake Protective Association**

Ashby Lake Protective Association (ALPA) was established in 1963 and its membership includes permanent and seasonal residents who own property on Ashby Lake and vicinity. ALPA's primary purpose is to promote and encourage activities that contribute to the environmental protection of Ashby Lake and surrounding area.

ALPA and Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc have developed a good working relationship over the past 10 years. During this time, input and discussion have occurred and changes have been made on Forest Management Plans as well as Annual Operating Plans in the vicinity of Ashby Lake.

ALPA wishes to continue this positive relationship. As Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. continues to refine and finalize the Forest Management Plan 2011-2021, ALPA can and will provide detailed commentary for Ashby Lake and vicinity.

### **2011-2011 Forest Management Plan**

#### **1. General Recommendation**

Similar to other lake associations in the Highway 41 corridor, ALPA supports a 1 year moratorium on new logging activities within 1 km of Ashby Lake, Fox Lake and Little Fox Lake, King Lake and Barker Lake. On existing cutting plans, ALPA also supports a logging setback of 750 metres for a 1 year period. The purpose is to allow ALPA to investigate the hiring of an independent biologist to assess the environmental impact of logging on the above lakes.

The Inland Lake Trout Management in Southeastern Ontario report jointly researched and published by the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources (1993) categorized Ashby Lake and Fox Lake as "highly sensitive" lake trout lakes and Barker Lake as "moderately sensitive". These designations were arrived at by using water quality modelling (Ontario Lakeshore Capacity Study Model) prior to Mazinaw-Lanark's Forest Inc. operations in this area. Correspondence received from R. Genge, Principal, Ontario Lake Assessment, Sydenham, Ontario states: *"The Ontario Lakeshore Capacity Study Model uses established export coefficients for the supply of phosphorous from the land in addition to supplies from shoreline development. These export coefficients essentially double when the land is cleared of trees."*

There is no doubt that logging operations, without appropriate buffer zones, can have a significant negative impact on sensitive lake trout lakes.

The Inland Lake Trout Management in Southeastern Ontario report recommends:

“Development...take place in a manner that does not adversely affect habitat essential to the maintenance of a healthy lake trout population. Regulating land use adjacent to lakes will minimize soil erosion and reduce the rate of nutrient input...the two primary causes of lake trout habitat degradation.” p. 46

“Efforts [around Ashby Lake] must be directed toward protecting existing habitat and rehabilitating degraded habitats. p. 51

“Efforts [around Fox Lake] should include...maintaining or enhancing existing habitat.” p. 93

“Efforts [around Barker Lake] should...focus on habitat protection.” p. 55

Clearly, there is a need to protect, maintain and enhance habitat surrounding these lakes and logging setbacks are an important aspect of this strategy. But, there is confusion about what an appropriate setback should be. For example, the current logging standard is a 100 metre setback. Yet, all new cottage construction and development is to be 300 metres from the Ashby Lake shoreline according to the current Ashby, Abinger and Denbigh Township Official Plan. This is an example of two different setback standards being applied to a lake that needs to be protected.

Given the sensitivity of Ashby and Fox Lakes, ALPA believes that a 1 year moratorium on new logging activities within 1 km of these lakes and that a 750 metre setback on existing Cutting Plans is reasonable. This will allow time for both scientific literature and on-site research to be conducted to ascertain appropriate setbacks for logging.

## 2. Specific Concerns

ALPA is concerned about the potential impact of cutting on the **vistas** of Ashby Lake. For example, if the proposed area immediately north of the lake is clear-cut, the scenery will be dramatically changed. We favour a significant reduction in harvest area and a selective cut instead.

ALPA is concerned about **access** to the proposed logging areas. We are deeply concerned about the potential environmental impact of any new roads that would be required to remove the timber. ALPA is strongly opposed to loggers using the cottage road along the north shore of the lake.

There are several **hiking trails** in the proposed cutting area around Fox and Little Fox Lakes. ALPA is concerned that they will be damaged or destroyed. Further, there is a significant and well used **portage** between Ashby Lake and Fox Lake that will be damaged or destroyed if the current Plan is implemented. Appropriate setbacks are required.

ALPA requests that Mazinaw-Lanark Forestry Inc. reconsider the current plan. Not only will it impact the vista and hiking trails; but also, will threaten the **water quality** and **fish habitat** of the trout lakes of Ashby, Fox, Little Fox, King and Barker. Appropriate setbacks are required.

### **3. Further Discussion**

Of greatest concern is the need to establish principled and appropriate setback standards based on scientific evidence so that loggers, recreational users, permanent and seasonal residents are able to share the same resource. ALPA is willing to participate in the establishment of evidence-based setback standards for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Area.

Members of ALPA have detailed 'on-the-ground' knowledge of Ashby Lake and the surrounding terrain. As in the past, ALPA is willing to share this knowledge to the mutual benefit of all land users. Representatives of ALPA wish to meet with Mazinaw-Lanark Forestry Inc. to pinpoint specific areas of concern and to propose specific prescriptions.

Jennifer Purdy,  
President, Ashby Lake Protective Association

Kindly address all correspondence regarding the 2011-2021 Forestry Plan to:

Dale Dilamarter  
Head, ALPA Forestry and Land Use Committee  
743 Ashby Lake Road RR 1  
Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

e-mail: [dale.dilamarter@chee.queensu.ca](mailto:dale.dilamarter@chee.queensu.ca)  
Telephone: (613) 214-0919 or (613) 333-2932