

Paul Lehman

From: Grant Leslie <grantless@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 4, 2018 7:25 PM
To: rod.phillips@pc.ola.org
Cc: steve.clark@pc.ola.org; john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org; Paul Lehman; sommer.casgrain-robertson@rvca.ca
Subject: Conservation Authorities



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December 5th, 2018

The Hon. Rod Philips
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
11th Floor. Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto Ontario, M7A T25

,Subject: Letter of November 9, 2018 from MPP Randy Hillier, regarding the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.27

Dear Minister Philips,

The Big Rideau Lake Association has received a copy of the above noted letter to you from Randy Hillier MPP.

Our Association represents the interests of lake front property owners on the Big Rideau Lake with a focus on protecting the environment of the lake. The Association has growing concerns about the quality of our lake water.

Water quality tests performed by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority and Association volunteers indicate the level of Big Rideau Lake water quality to be only fair to poor. In the last 2 years blue green and filamentous algae blooms have increased indicating further water quality deterioration. We are in particular aware that some blue green algae produce toxins that affect the health of both humans and animals.

The work of the experts employed by the Rideau valley and other Conservation Authorities provides analysis, information, and technical advisory services not available from any other single source. The monitoring of water quality and the sources of water pollution affecting our lake and the various water sheds in Ontario is extremely valuable to citizens and their municipal governments.

Municipal Governments are as close to the citizenry as government is going to get and the work of Conservation Authorities support the development of improved municipal policies regarding infrastructure and development and keep citizens directly informed regarding the state of their environments and the kind of actions they can take to preserve them.

The proper monitoring, management and protection of water resources, particularly those that recharge aquifers that provide drinking water for both rural and urban areas in Ontario is more important than ever.

Randy Hillier's criticisms of Conservation Authoritiesostensibly those in his riding, seem largely related to performance shortfalls which can be rectified by management interventions. His call for repeal of that section of the Conservation Authority Act related to the authority of Conservation Authorities to enter into MOU's with municipalities is a call to "throw out the baby with the bath water".

This Association urges you to do the right thing and disregard Mr. Hillier's call for the repeal of a key section of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.C.27

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and opinions.

Yours Sincerely

Grant Leslie

President Big Rideau Lake Association

CC:

Paul Lehman General Manager, MVCA

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson General Manager, RVCA

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry