

# LOGGING 2015 UPDATE

FROM OUR FOREST CRUSADOR, NEILL LANZ

Ashleigh,

*Thanks for all you do to pull together great issues of Smoke Signals!*

*Yesterday the forestry committee sent a position paper to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: impending forestry operations on Crown land around Jack's Lake. Our Lake Association's focus to protect and preserve the natural environment has driven many efforts and initiatives over the years; this focus drives the current forestry file. Thanks to all the volunteers who monitored and recorded field observations in the three wetlands described in this submission. Our JLA Director of the Environment, Steve Kerr, painstakingly records important sightings and is creating a very impressive "natural inventory" of Jack's Lake. This inventory provides accurate knowledge of our lake and environs - crucial in our negotiations with the Bancroft Minden Forest Company.*

*The BMFC Forestry Management Plan is a 10 year plan with two separate 5 year terms. The first term runs from 2011 - 2016 and is referred to as Phase 1 (south end of Jack's Lake). The second term referred to as Phase 2 is to commence in 2016 - 2021 (north and east shores).*

---

## JACK'S LAKE ASSOCIATION POSITION

*Re: the 2016 - 2021 Forest Management Plan*

---

### BACKGROUND

Several years ago, the Jack's Lake Association's "Forestry Team" represented lake interests during a lengthy "Issues Resolution Process" concerning the first five-year term of the Forest Management Plan regarding Crown Lands around our lake (Phase 1). Collaboration between our team, the Bancroft Minden Forest Company and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry enabled the development of a plan which respects the interests of industry, local citizens, and the environment. In particular, we are pleased that the first negotiations established:

A trustful working relationship between the MNRF, BMFC, and ourselves.

Timing: logging to begin after Thanksgiving and to end in April

A 30 metre setback from the lake (including "Little Jack's"). A greater setback (about 200 metres) was established to protect the river and wetland complex between Jack's Lake and Little Jack's Lake.

## CONCERNS OF THE JACK'S LAKE ASSOCIATION

Jack's Lake is comprised of several distinct basins characterized by differing fish communities and limnological characteristics. The lake supports at least 20 different fish species representing coldwater, coolwater and warm water community types. The local fauna consists of at least 414 species including 23 different species at risk (Sadler 1983, Carpentier 1987, Kerr 2015). There are many unique and sensitive habitat types which can be damaged by inappropriate logging activities. These include fish spawning areas, nesting sites (osprey and bald eagle nest trees, heronries, etc.), seasonal vernal pools used by breeding amphibians, and winter hibernacula. Many of these habitats are protected by both federal and provincial legislation.

There are also concerns regarding alterations to water quality and potential impacts on the aquatic invertebrate community. Unrestricted logging activities are known to increase concentrations of organic carbon and nutrients (Carignan et al. 2000, Evans et al. 2000, Lamontagne et al 2000, Martin et al. 2000, Steedman 2000, Steedman and Kushneriuk 2000), disruption of aquatic invertebrates and anaerobic photosynthetic bacteria (Planas et al.2000, Scully et al. 2000), increase mid-lake wind speeds (Steedman and Kushneriuk 2000), decrease water clarity (Steedman and Kushneriuk 2000), and increase mercury in aquatic biota (Garcia and Carignan 2000).

Finally, overall aesthetics are important to seasonal and permanent residents of Jack's Lake. These concerns include noise, dust and increased traffic on local roads as well as disturbances to the natural landscape vista.

### BUFFER ZONE CONCEPT:

Scientific studies, like those cited on page one, teach us that forestry operations conducted too close to water bodies can impact negatively on water quality due to siltification and, in particular, migration of mercury and phosphorus. Other studies demonstrate that natural vegetation between operations and water bodies can greatly ameliorate negative impacts. The 30 metre setback from the lake, as established for phase 1, verifies in concrete terms the value of a Buffer Zone.

### BUFFER ZONE FOR WETLANDS FEEDING JACK'S LAKE:

Jack's Lake is a headwater lake feeding the Trent System and is itself fed by a small watershed with very few tributaries. Within this small watershed are three wetland complex areas which will potentially be impacted by Phase 2 logging operations: Callahan Bay wetland; Rathbun Bay wetland; and McCoy Bay wetland.

The Jack's Lake membership, under the direction from Field Naturalist Bob Bowles, have for the past three years been conducting an ongoing wetland evaluation of these three wetland areas mapping and identifying significant features to be protected. We have also taken the opportunity to map fish spawning areas, avian nesting sites and location of sitings of species at risk (Kerr 2015).

It is too early in our evaluation process to officially deem these wetlands to be of "Provincially Significant" status. However, given the features already observed and the watershed role described above, the Precautionary Principal should be applied: a minimum of 100 metre setback must be established to protect these wetland features that "feed" our lake.

### 100 METRE SETBACK... THE THREE WETLANDS:

The JLA forestry team was pleased to see that in two of the three wetland areas described above (Callahan and Rathbun), a 100 metre setback is currently proposed.

We are concerned, however, with the proposed proximity of Phase 2 logging to the McCoy Bay wetland complex.

### SPECIFIC REQUESTS RE: PHASE 2

We offer the following as adjustments to the BMFC proposal:

1. Logging should take place only to the east side of the McCoy Bay road. On the map provided, we have marked five wetlands within the McCoy Bay complex and it can be seen that our suggested approach protects the integrity of wetlands which we have numbered 1, 2, and 3. Wetlands 4 and 5, while valuable in and of themselves, do not directly "feed" our lake. We have not provided a map of the Rathbun Bay wetland. However, we believe that "the east side rule" should apply in this area as well to prevent encroachment on cottages in Rathbun and East Bay.
2. Our three year study of the Phase 2 site has determined the forest to be free of invasive species. Logging equipment, if carelessly operated, can introduce such species including garlic mustard, dog strangling vine and glossy buckthorn. The JLA needs assurance that monitoring will be in place to ensure that logging machinery is appropriately "cleaned" before entering the area.
3. As established in Phase 1 negotiations, the JLA requests that any new roadways be de-commissioned after logging activities have been completed because we are concerned about the potential of opening up the forest to future ATV use/abuse.
4. Any use of the private McCoy Bay road should receive the approval of the local road association.
5. Logging activities will only be conducted during the period extending from post-Thanksgiving until the end of April (as per Phase 1).
6. The Petroglyphs area, immediately south of Phase 1, is a Spiritual Centre for First Nations People. The land and forests enveloping the Petroglyphs, including Phase 1 and extending into Phase 2, is registered/licensed trap line territory for Whetung use. Any proposed forestry operations in Phase 1 and Phase 2 must respect the rights of First Nations as defined in Treaty 20.