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# Mayor to meet face to face with MNR minister

## Fishing agreement, conservation

Owen Sound Mayor Deb Haswell says she has been invited to a face-to-face meeting with Natural Resources Minister David Orazietti.

While the provincial ministry has not specified what it plans to talk about, Haswell said she expects the main topic of discussion will be the new commercial fishing agreement between the MNR and Saugeen Ojibway Nation.

Bruce- Grey- Owen Sound MP Larry Miller and MPP Bill Walker have criticized the agreement, which allows commercial fishing to "resume in Owen Sound and Colpoys Bay on April 26, 2013, and continue year round over the term of the agreement," and expressed concerns that it could kill the local sports fishery and hurt the annual Salmon Spectacular derby.

Haswell, meanwhile, has told The Sun Times that she is confident the agreement will not negatively impact the annual derby or sports fishery.

She recently convened a meeting with Chippewas of Nawash First Nation Chief Scott Lee, members of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association and city officials.

The "entire reason," she said, was to get a clearer understanding of the five-year agreement.

She said the agreement contains measures to protect both the sports and commercial fisheries. Haswell said she expects to receive more information on the agreement during the meeting with the MNR, which is scheduled for Tuesday at Orazietti's office at Queen's Park.

Haswell said she would also like to discuss with the minister her concerns over provincial funding for conservation authorities.

She said there is a troubling gap between what the province has mandated the agencies to do and the amount of funding they receive.



"They really are under siege," she said.

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