

The Time Has Come For Citizens With Vested Interest To Be Heard

“The time has come, the walrus said to talk of many things: of shoes and ships and sealing-wax of cabbages and kings and why the sea is boiling and whether pigs have wings.” The quote, from Lewis Carroll seems somehow appropriate as I read that the MNR has negotiated away the fishery of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron to Native commercial netters. This can't be real. It has to be a Fairy Tale.

History has already proven that commercial netting and the fishery of Lake Huron and Georgian Bay is not compatible. The commercial fishery collapsed in the 30s.

Because of the investment of hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteer labour and a financial investments that must by now be in the millions from Canada's premier conservation clubs the fishery of Georgian Bay and lake Huron was rejuvenated to a world class recreational fishery. Make no mistake here... I give no credit for the rejuvenation of the fishery to the MNR. The credit goes entirely to the local fishery clubs and local citizens who did the majority of the work.

A few years back the fishery collapse again, without the MNR even aware as to the reason(s) for the collapse. Now, as the fishery is just beginning to recover the MNR opens the fishery to Native commercial netting. The economic benefit from a recreational fishery far surpasses the value of a commercial fishery so why would anyone in their right mind jeopardize the fishery with gill nets?

I do not believe that the MNR has any right to negotiate away our recreational fishery. “ALL” Canadian citizens have a right to fish. The right goes back to the Magna Carta and is enshrined in British Law and our Canadian Constitution. The MNR bureaucrats and their Liberal masters have no legitimacy in negotiating any part of that right especially without involving the public to which the right belongs. Why at a time when the Government of Canada has affirmed the Aboriginal right to fish for food and ceremonial purposes but has rejected the Aboriginal right to commercially fish has this Liberal Government of Ontario created this mess. Having the present Liberal Government of Ontario involved in any way in negotiating a policy that involves a right that is so important to Ontario's citizens considering their track record of fiasco after fiasco is ludicrous.

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