

If there is one adage that has proven to be true, as I grow older and supposedly wiser, it is, ***“that you get what you pay for.”*** In 1990-91 the Ministry of Natural Resources received 1.6% of the Provincial budget. Today the MNR receives a mere .5% of the budget while their legislative responsibility has grown from 28 to 46 pieces of legislation. The MNR, a skeleton of its former self, is being asked to do more with a fraction of the financial wherewithal required to do the job.

Now, the McGuinty Liberals have included legislation to “Transform” the MNR in their omnibus budget bill. Should the budget pass the Liberals will have the legislative right to further gut the MNR and further degradate Ontario’s natural resources.

The MNR is not the reason for Ontario’s publically held debt of 257.5 billion nor the Liberal government’s 16 billion dollar deficit. The Liberals have already spent a decade cutting away funding. So why pick on an already gutted MNR to try and find savings? How could the Liberals be so delusional as to think they can transform the administration and management of Ontario’s natural resources for the better when they have demonstrated for a decade their own inability to manage anything? The utter mismanagement of the Ontario economy and everything from Caledonia, to E-Health, the OLG Scandal, the green energy plan fiasco, closing gas fired power plants, the Ornge scandal, the loss of the smelter in Timmins and the Caterpillar factory in London, the closing of jails and now the ONR with no real economic plan or consideration of the socioeconomic effects on the communities involved.

The MNR should not be the Ministry sacrificed looking for savings. If there was some intelligent thought employed the MNR would be placed on a stable financial base so that the natural resources of Ontario may be preserved, protected restored and improved into the future. If there are changes needed in the way the MNR does its job lets make sure that a competent government that understands the value of our natural resources is in place to lead in any restructuring.

Regards,

Gaye Smith  
Former Chairman Temagami Stewardship Council  
RR#3, Paisley, Ont. Island 970 Lake Temagami  
Temagamistewardship.ca and gayesmit@Twitter  
519-353-7275 and 705-237-8709