



Andy Letham
City of Kawartha Lakes Mayor
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June 6, 2017

Dear Mayor Letham,

In 2015 I met with two constituents who expressed their concerns about the dwindling walleye population in our local area lakes. I began what has become a two-year process to try to turn things around. I began by meeting with the Trent-Severn Waterway (TSW), who controls the water at the federal level, and with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Peterborough, who manage the fisheries. The TSW was willing to sit down and discuss improvements provided the MNRF was on board.

After two years of on-site meetings, and other meetings with Kawartha Conservation and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, a proposal was drafted by the Peterborough MNRF office. It was a solid step in the right direction. To my frustration, however Peter Mabee, then manager of the Peterborough MNRF (recently retired) decided that the MNRF would not move forward with any improvements to walleye decline—providing a letter stating that they would not support my initiative.

I engaged Laurie Scott to write a letter to the Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. That letter urged the Minister to support my two objectives:

1. Fix the spawning beds below the Bobcaygeon and Lindsay dams
2. Run water over the top-loading stop log dams in Bobcaygeon, relying less on the harmful bottom-scrubbing hydraulic dams (especially during April spawning season)

It is my goal to get the provincial MNRF working together with the federal Trent-Severn Waterway to provide walleye the water they need to survive—especially in the spring. These are very achievable goals.

I recently launched a public campaign to put some pressure on the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to move things forward. I created a website dedicated to this purpose: jamieschmale.ca/walleye. I do not feel that the local Peterborough MNRF office is doing a good job of managing our walleye fishery and I think they should do something positive before it's too late!

I am writing to you today because part of my focus is Lindsay. I would appreciate your support! I want to protect the wildlife in this area, ensure future generations know the thrill of walleye fishing, and bring back anglers who boosted our local tourism economy. I believe Lindsay stands to benefit from if my efforts are successful.

If you support my campaign I would like to state as much on the campaign website on the "updates" page. Repairing the spawning bed in Lindsay is the right thing to do. It is worn out and it's time to fix it. Doing so would make a big difference to the walleye who come to spawn in Lindsay every April.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Jamie Schmale

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Schmale', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jamie Schmale, MP
Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock