

JACK LAKE COTTAGERS' ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 386,
Apsley, Ontario K0L 1A0
Canada

1984-07-24

To: Cottage Owners & Residents of Jack Lake
and their Guests

Subject: Ministry of Natural Resources Proposal Regarding
Deer Hunting in Peterborough Crown Game Preserve



The Jack Lake Cottagers' Association, last August provided all members with a copy of their position paper on this important issue and requested that you write certain individuals and newspapers expressing opposition to the proposed Deer Hunt which if implemented could adversely affect our opportunities to enjoy wildlife viewing in the area surrounding Jack Lake. The response from our membership was remarkable and it was most gratifying to realize how interested you were in supporting our cause. Numerous letters were published in all the Toronto newspapers and the Peterborough Examiner. The Minister of Natural Resources received over 120 letters from our Association. Thanks for the great effort.

As we continue to oppose the Ministry's plan for a Deer Hunt within the Preserve, we have been encouraged by the support we have received from numerous Apsley area residents, the Peterborough Field Naturalists, the Stoney Lake and Kashabog Lake Cottagers' Associations.

It appears to us that the only support for the proposed Deer Hunt comes from the Anglers & Hunters Association and a few Ministry of Natural Resources policy makers who are on this issue, described by a Toronto newspaper as "being so indoctrinated by the rod and gun theory of wildlife management that they are blind to the obvious inconsistencies of their own arguments." Concurrent with our letter campaign to oppose the proposed Deer Hunt, the Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters were lobbying in support of the Ministry's proposal to change the status of the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve to a wildlife management unit with a bow and arrow season to harvest 100 deer in the fall of 1984.

Since last fall David Lean and myself, have researched this issue in great detail. We have had the benefit of extensive consultations with long term area residents, skilled and professional guidance from respected biologists, foresters and loggers active within the area. The more we learned, the more we were convinced that the proposed Deer Hunt within the Preserve was not necessary for anything other than to satisfy the Ministry's objective to increase hunting opportunities for a few.

JACK LAKE

The lake derives its name from Handsome Jack, a Chief of the Chippewas, who claimed all the streams and lands surrounding the lake as his fishing and hunting grounds. The Chief, who died in 1835, allowed the paleface to hunt for deer and partridge or to fish in the waters as long as no furs were taken. Today, no hunting is permitted as Jack Lake lies within the boundaries of the Peterborough Game Preserve.

In an article in the Peterborough Examiner on January 11, 1984, the Ministry of Natural Resources forecasted that, regardless of an extensive supplementary feeding program, 600 to 1,000 deer would die of starvation during February and March!!! On April 12, 1984, in a follow-up article by the same newspaper, Ministry of Natural Resources staff reported that no deer in the Preserve died of starvation!!!

The Ministry of Natural Resources continues to claim that the Preserve is overpopulated relative to available winter food supply. At the same time, existing M.N.R. programs will increase deer populations within and on the boundary areas of the Preserve. Three years ago M.N.R. restricted the killing of antlerless deer in order to increase deer populations in the area surrounding the Preserve, the source of the migrate herd which winters in the Preserve. Deer populations are definitely increasing because of this program and, no doubt, could eventually result in a winter overpopulation problem in the Preserve if continued indefinitely.

The deer supplementary feeding program carried out last winter will encourage migration of deer into the Preserve during the winter season and place further stress on available brouse. Let's not be fooled as to why M.N.R. fed the deer. It was not to preserve them for wildlife viewing but rather to develop an inventory to satisfy their hunting industry. Fees!!!

Predatory control is what the Ministry calls it. I can't help but think of it as a wolf slaughter!!! Did you know that 26 wolves were trapped within and around the Preserve during the winter of 1982/83? A well kept secret! How can M.N.R. ever justify this wildlife management technique in an area they claim is four times overpopulated by deer. Such a deliberate interference with the balance of nature is totally inexcusable.

On January 23, 1984, the Peterborough Examiner published a lengthy article on the Deer Hunt issue which was prepared by David Lean with input from myself. This article basically outlines our Association's concerns and is posted on the bulletin boards at the marinas.

Our Association's objections to the proposed hunt were further explained at a meeting February 15, 1984, with the Honorable Alan Pope, Minister of Natural Resources. At that meeting the Minister gave David Lean and I the distinct impression that he was not in favour of a bow and arrow hunt and that he was not going to be pressured into making any hasty decision on the matter. We were assured that our Association's concerns would be taken into account when making the decision on the issue.

This spring a rumour was circulating in the Apsley community that the Game Preserve would be opened to a shot gun hunting season for two weeks commencing in the fall of 1984. On June 14, 1984, David Lean and I met with Mr. John Sloan, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources to obtain clarification of the Ministry's intention regarding this proposed Deer Hunt. Mr. Sloan advised that the Minister had not made a decision, but that a two week shot gun season commencing in the fall of 1984 was receiving serious consideration. We again presented our views and challenged the Ministry's basis for proposing the hunt. The meeting was concluded with the agreement that we would be given the Minister's decision on the matter in two weeks. On June 28, 1984, Mr. Sloan advised me by phone that the Minister has not yet made a decision.

What do we do now?

Let's not just wait for a decision!!! The Minister is obviously assessing the political risk of offending the Anglers & Hunters Association or the Cottagers' Associations, while at the same time being pressured by his own Ministry staff to accept their recommendations to implement a hunt this fall. Time is of the essence.

We as an Association continue to oppose any plans to open up the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve to deer hunting. If it is established that deer populations exceed that which can be supported by available natural habitat, we recommend that the solutions be found outside the preserve, i.e. issue more doe licences and longer hunting seasons in the area surrounding the Preserve.

We object to killing wolves!!!

At this very crucial time in our lobby to retain the existing status of the Peterborough Crown Game Preserve, I again appeal for your support in writing letters to express your view of this very important and sensitive issue. Your Association urges you to:

A) Write the following newspapers:

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| - Toronto Globe & Mail
444 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 2S9 | - Peterborough Examiner
P.O. Box 389
Peterborough, Ontario
K9L 6Z4 |
| - Toronto Star
1 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5E 1E5 | |

B) Writing the following individuals:

- The Honorable William G. Davis, P.C., Q.C.
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1
- The Honorable Alan Pope
Minister of Natural Resources
99 Wellesley Street
6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3
- The Honorable John Turner
Speaker, Ontario Provincial Parliament
372 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3L6

I would suggest your letters ask specific questions. This way, the normal bureaucratic form letter will not come back. As this issue will likely be decided based on numbers, please try to get your neighbours and family members to write also. Every letter helps!!!

Without our previous letter campaign, I am certain the Minister would have long ago approved of the proposed Deer Hunt.

Thanks for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ambrose Moran". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ambrose Moran
Director