**Mazinaw -Lanark Forestry plan 2021-2031**

In Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for the long-term health of Crown forests (public land). Through forest management planning, forest managers provide for healthy forests now and in the future and provide a range of sustainable benefits (e.g. timber and commercial products, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities). The frequency and extent of public consultation for Forest Management Planning in Ontario is mandated by the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (1994) and laid out in the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM 2020). Consultation phases for the upcoming ten-year plan are as follows:

**Stage One**- Invitation to Participate (October 2018)

**Stage Two**-Review of Long-Term Management Direction (July 28th-August 27th, 2020)

**Stage Three**- Review of Proposed Operations (November 11-December 10th, 2020)

**Stage Four** – Review of Draft Forest Management Plan (60-day review period tentatively scheduled for March-May 2021)

**Stage Five** – Revision and Approval of the FMP (tentative July 2021)

Notices

The challenge for various lake associations has been that these Forrest Management Plans are only revised once in a decade and board members of the lake associations change more frequently than that. As a result, lake associations often learn about proposed logging plans late in the consultation process and new board members face the same issues each time.

In an effort to streamline this process MPOA joined 6 other lake associations (Kasawakamak, Skootamata, Weslemkoon, Buckshot, Ashby and Brule) in writing to Alison White, Assistant Regional Planning Forester, for the MNRF to request that an absolute minimum of protections be built into all future management plans without the need for individual lakes associations to review and comment each time (available on the MPOA website).

These requested protections included:

1. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 150m from all lake shores,

rivers and streams, and nearby wetlands

2. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 300m from designated lake

trout lakes

3. To preserve the current viewscape, there should be no forestry activity within the highest

ridge lines visible from the lakes, if beyond the setbacks referenced above

4. There should be no alteration to, or use of, primary access roads and recreational trails,

or visible activity of forestry operations from the roads or trails near the lakes

5. There should be no forestry activity within hearing range between May 1st and

November 1st

6. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 500m from private property.

The Ministry provided a lengthy response (available on our MPOA website) which basically stated that many of such protections are already included and that when the actual planned logging areas were identified we still needed to proactively speak up.

The proposed ten year plan for the Mazinaw area is shown below. Green is Park/ conservation areas; Purple is planned logging and Pink is optional logging areas. Note that there is no Planned logging on the shores of Mazinaw at this time however “optional areas are shown on the east shore at the very north end of the upper Mazinaw, adjacent to the south shore of German Bay, and along the south side of the Shabomeka Lake Rd. The ministry has advised that further consultation would occur should any of these optional areas be considered for logging.

