

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 5, 2014				Report Date	Wednesday, December-03-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Commercial Logging in Algonquin Park - Report #05/12/14/1407

Subject:

The content of the October Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's report entitled: "Managing New Challenges" recommending the end of harvesting of timber in Algonquin Provincial Park.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following resolution in support of MPP John Yakabuski's letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and the resolution of the County of Renfrew of October 29, 2014.

WHEREAS local residents and the county economy rely heavily on the commercial logging operations in Algonquin Park;

AND WHEREAS the elimination of those jobs would be economically debilitating for local residents, ratepayers and other county municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby fully and whole heartedly support the positions of both MPP John Yakabuski in the attached letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and the County of Renfrew's resolution calling for the Minister to disregard the recommendation of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario as it relates to logging in Algonquin Park;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement and support.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The attached letter from MPP John Yakabuski and the resolution of the County of Renfrew fully report the details of this issue. I have also attached a press release by the Commissioner.

For further information the full report of the Commissioner may be located at http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en_US/pubs/annual-reports-and-supplements/2014-managing-new-challenges. Or by simply Googling "Environmental Commissioner of Ontario – Managing New Challenges Report".

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

http://www.eco.on.ca/index.php/en_US/pubs/annual-reports-and-supplements/2014-managing-new-challenges

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk





Gord Miller, B.Sc., M.Sc.
Commissioner

Gord Miller, B.Sc., M.Sc.
Commissaire

Commit to End Logging in Algonquin Park

Toronto, 7 Oct. 2014 – Ontario's Environmental Commissioner says the government should commit to end logging in its flagship provincial park.

In his 2013/14 Annual Report "*Managing New Challenges*" released today, Gord Miller pointed out that logging is banned in all of the other 338 provincial parks in Ontario. "Algonquin is Ontario's oldest provincial park," says Miller, "and it's high time that we brought it in line with modern values. Right now, it does not even qualify as a protected area under international standards."

The Environmental Commissioner says there are more than two thousand kilometres of logging roads in Algonquin Park and several thousand kilometres more of abandoned ones. "These roads cause a number of problems in the Park, damaging habitat, harming wildlife and acting as pathways for invasive species."

The government recently reduced the area of the park open to logging, but almost two-thirds of Algonquin is still potentially open to timber harvesting. (See map on next page.) Miller says logging in Algonquin is unnecessary, as there is an ample wood supply in the areas outside of the park.

"I am deeply disturbed that Ontario's flagship park continues to receive the lowest level of protection of any of the province's protected areas. This flies in the face of the *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006*, which says that ecological integrity should be the top priority for managing and operating all parks."

The chapter "Cutting into Ecological Integrity: Commercial Logging in Algonquin Provincial Park" is on page 85 of the report "*Managing New Challenges*" which you can download at www.eco.on.ca.

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Environmental
Commissioner
of Ontario



Commissaire à
l'environnement
de l'Ontario

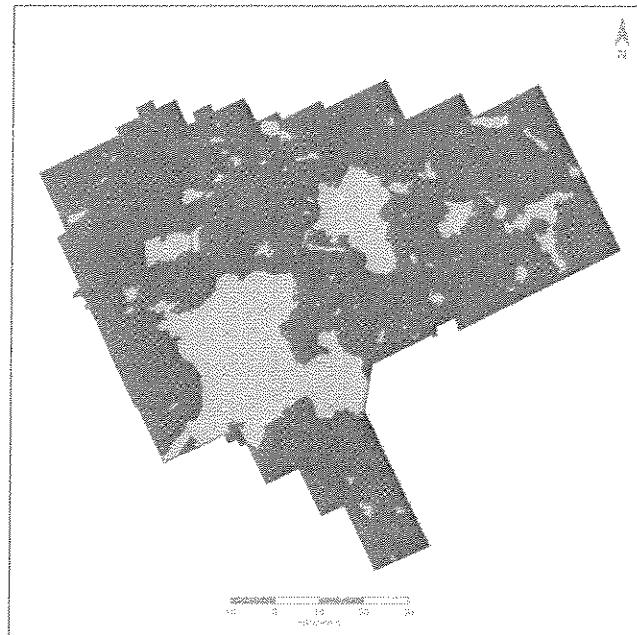
Gord Miller, B.Sc, M.Sc.
Commissioner




Gord Miller, B.Sc, M.Sc.
Commissaire

Areas Where Logging is Permitted and Prohibited
in Algonquin Park

For more information, contact:
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Communications and Outreach
Coordinator
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
416-325-3371 / 416-819-1673
1-800-701-6454
hayley.easto@eco.on.ca

Aussi disponible en français



-  Protected from Logging
-  Protected from Logging (Post-2013 Plan Amendment)
-  Open to Logging (Recreation/Utilization Zone)

- 30 -

*The **Environmental Commissioner of Ontario** is the province's independent environmental watchdog. Appointed by the Legislative Assembly, the ECO monitors and reports on compliance with the Environmental Bill of Rights, the government's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its actions towards achieving greater energy conservation in Ontario.*

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John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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OCT 17 2014

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84 Isabella St.
Pembroke, Ontario
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Tel. (613) 735-6627
Fax (613) 735-6692

Hon. Bill Mauro
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Suite 6630, 6th Floor, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

October 10th, 2014

Dear Minister Mauro,

I am writing you in response to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's report released earlier this week entitled: "Managing New Challenges". Among other things, Mr. Miller recommends that the harvesting of timber in Algonquin Provincial Park should no longer be allowed. I wanted you to know—in no uncertain terms—that I find this suggestion reckless and completely unacceptable.

The phasing out of commercial logging in Algonquin Park over the next 10 years would be a devastating blow to the people of my county and would negatively impact the entire economy of Eastern Ontario. My riding was hard hit during the economic recession and adopting this recommendation would hurt the still fragile regional economy. Thousands of jobs in surrounding communities would be lost and many more people in my riding would be indirectly affected by the closing of timber harvesting in Algonquin.

It is also worth noting that just last year your Ministry went through a comprehensive process looking at this very issue. As you well know, in the *Algonquin Park Management Plan Amendment* another 100,000 hectares were declared protected land and closed to timber harvesting. However, the most important aspect of your Ministry's report was that—although it reduced the amount of land where harvesting was allowed—it clearly affirmed that logging should continue and the status quo be maintained.

The practice of an ecologically sound timber harvest has benefited Algonquin Park in many ways. The systematic harvesting of timber in the park has irrefutably proven to reduce the frequency of forest fires. Moreover, it is the logging roads that your Ministry uses to fight fires when they do occur. Your department ensures that these roads are maintained at the highest standards—something which benefits both loggers and conservation officers alike. With stringent management practices the forest industry

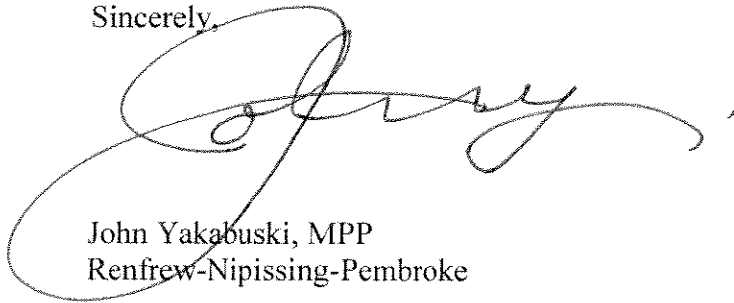
works with the Ministry of Natural Resources to ensure that this renewable resource will be available in the park for another 120 years.

Algonquin Park is a great natural resource for visitors in part because its wide geography is easily accessible due to the logging roads within it. This has resulted in a huge benefit for the millions who go to it. It is because of this self-evident fact that only a tiny fraction of recreationalists complain about the timber harvesting that goes on. This is one of the many reasons why the park needs to remain a multi-use area.

In light of the growing opposition to the Environmental Commissioner's recommendation that Algonquin Park be closed to timber harvesting, I am stressing to you the absolute necessity in declining Mr. Miller's unreasonable request. Furthermore, the Government must make it clear that it fully supports the ecologically sound timber harvest which supports tourism, local communities, and a way of life for those in the forest industry.

I look forward to seeing your public support for the people in my riding, loggers, and the great majority of visitors who all benefit from Algonquin Provincial Park and would be happy to speak with you on this urgent issue at your earliest opportunity.

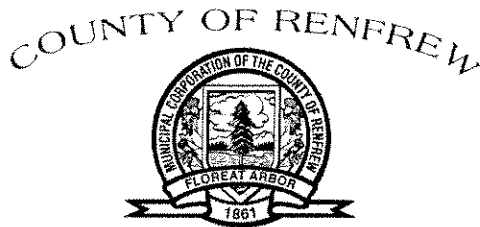
Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Yakabuski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Yakabuski, MPP
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

Cc: County of Renfrew
Town of Arnprior
Town of Deep River
Town of Laurentian Hills
City of Pembroke
Town of Petawawa
Town of Renfrew
Township of Admaston/Bromley
Township of Bonnechere Valley
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Reglan
Township of Greater Madawaska
Township of Head, Claria and Maria
Township of Horton
Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards
Township of Laurentian Valley
Township of Madawaska Valley
Township of McNab-Braeside
Township of South Algonquin
North Algoma Wilberforce Township
Township of Whitewater Region

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY WARDEN



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November 3, 2014

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Melinda Reith, CAO/Clerk
Township of Head, Clara & Maria
15 Township Hall Road
STONECLIFFE ON K0J 2K0

Dear Ms. Reith:

RE: Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's Annual Report Affects Commercial Logging in Algonquin Park

Please be advised that Renfrew County Council passed the following resolution at its October 29, 2014 session:

"WHEREAS seven communities in Renfrew County have substantial employment related to the forest industry and wood processing facilities that receive a significant portion of wood volume from Algonquin Park. Many of these businesses are multi-generational, with the longest running in its 7th generation, and are heavily invested in the sustainability of forestry in Algonquin Park;

AND WHEREAS over 2,700 jobs are directly associated with wood harvested from Algonquin Park and an additional 8,000 jobs are indirectly associated with the support of these activities;

AND WHEREAS approximately 40% of wood volume harvested from Algonquin Park is delivered to Renfrew County wood processing facilities;

AND WHEREAS logging has occurred in Algonquin Park for over 180 years, in harmony with the protection of other forest values, and continues to be a thriving ecosystem that almost one million people visit annually to enjoy;

AND WHEREAS sustainable forest management on Crown land goes hand-in-hand with maintaining ecological integrity, is science-based, heavily scrutinized and monitored for compliance to rules and regulations by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, an Independent Forest Auditor, and in the case of Algonquin Park, a third-party certification system;

AND WHEREAS forestry in Algonquin Park ensures that ecosystem processes limited through human intervention (e.g. fire suppression) are emulated, so that forest types and wildlife habitat can occur at natural levels;

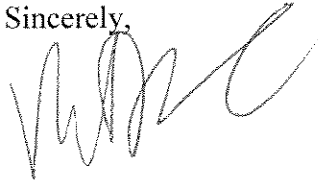
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the County of Renfrew request that the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry not consider the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario's recommendation to commit to the end of commercial logging in Algonquin Park;

AND FURTHER THAT the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry also be requested to permanently protect sustainable forest management in Algonquin Park;

AND FURTHER THAT the Warden, on behalf of the County of Renfrew, have a meeting with the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario to discuss his recommendation;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry; Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario; all local municipalities in the County of Renfrew; other municipalities reliant on forest management in Algonquin Park; John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; and all forest industries in the County of Renfrew."

Sincerely,



Peter Emon

Warden

pemon@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

PE/jhk