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2021-11-11

Chair K. Ras and Board Members of Credit Valley Conservation Authority  
1255 Old Derry Road  
Mississauga, ON L5N 6R4

Dear Chair Ras and Board Members:

Re: Review of Island Lake Conservation Area Management Plan:

As a member of Caledon Council I participated in original Island Lake Conservation Area Management Plan. During 1995-'96 meetings for the first 1979 Plan I suggested a complete circular boardwalk which, to my great admiration and surprise, was not only included in the final plan but built as wonderful walk now known as the Vicki Barron Lakeside Trail, in the Town of Mono, for residents of Orangeville and area.

The new Island Lake Management Plan however, must be considerably more than ideas for future park experiences, facilities, partnerships and education.

Low Flow Augmentation Reservoir:

Island Lake was built in 1967 as a Low Flow Augmentation Reservoir to provide sufficient water flow to dilute the secondary treated sewage effluent from the Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant during summer dry periods.

The 1998 Island Lake Management Plan contains the following statement of priority purpose for the reservoir;

"This function [low flow augmentation] was made more critical with the opening of the new Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant in 1984. As such, CVC's first priority is the continued management of the reservoir system for the protection of the Credit River's water quality. This is achieved by providing a consistent flow of water to the river for the purpose of diluting effluent from the Sewage Treatment Plant. All other functions served by the reservoir including recreational and educational uses are of secondary priority."

Orangeville's population in 1971 was 8,074, in 2016, 28,900 and forecasted to be 36,490 people in 2036. The most central assumption of the assimilative capacity of the upper main Credit River in 1967 can hardly hold true for 4.5 times the population sewage load in 2036.

Island Lake was always, and remains, a component of the Town of Orangeville Sewage Treatment System along with the treatment plant and sewer mains. Unfortunately effluent treatment includes the Upper Credit River.

#### Poor Water Quality:

The reservoir was built on the cheap. When the sluices were closed to achieve the first fill the reservoir the waters stopped rising due to a direct connection to the Nottawasaga River. An additional long earth dam had to be built along the north-west end of the reservoir to stop the waters running off to Georgian Bay. The tree stumps and topsoil were not stripped off before flooding, providing a superb growing medium for aquatics which grow and die in considerable quantity causing eutrophication of the waters. The shallowness of the reservoir, averaging of 1.55 m deep, causes the waters to heat up dramatically in summer months. Often the Island Lake waters exhibit water quality parameters worse than the secondary sewage effluent discharged into the river into the Town of Caledon.

#### Long Pollution Plume:

The combined effluent and Island Lake discharge waters flow southwards into the Town of Caledon and receive free "effluent polishing" as they pass through approximately 6 km. of privately owned riverine wetlands to the Hamlet of Melville where the measurement of effluent treatment effectiveness has traditionally been taken. The pollution plume resulting from the Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant which includes Island Lake's primary dilution function as part of the plant, extends down into Caledon as far as Beechgrove Sideroad. The cold water fishery is destroyed in the upper main Credit River for many kilometres as a result.

#### Invasive Pike:

In an effort to provide a challenge to anglers, Credit Valley Conservation introduced Northern Pike to Island Lake in the late 1980's, a predator fish not native to the Upper Credit River. Pike escaped Island Lake and have moved well down river into Caledon as far as Inglewood, reducing the native Brook Trout and other fish populations.

### Requested Ecological Goals to be included in the revised Island Lake Management Plan:

1. Excavate and remove the tree stumps and original topsoil from the bottom of the Lake;
2. Deepen the depth of the Lake to an average minimum depth of 4 metres;
3. Extirpate Northern Pike in the Lake and upper Credit River;
4. Increase the Orangeville Sewage Treatment Plant capacity to enhanced Tertiary levels.

These are challenging goals which would restore the high quality cold water fishery to the upper Credit River and increase the quality of visitor experience at Island Lake.

### Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations:

The Goals would help to implement the thinking found in the Water Quality: An Aboriginal Perspective: as follows

"Water is, and always has been, viewed as precious by indigenous people. Concern for water is not new in our communities. It hasn't just come about because of the pollution we face today. Water has always been, and continues to be recognized as a fundamental life-giving force."

"Water in our traditions has cleansing and purifying powers. It is the giver of life with which babies are born. It is imperative in our traditions to keep the water clean so it can continue to fulfil its purpose. Imperative also is the paying of respect to water. This is frequently done by offering tobacco to the water. Such intimate and spiritual ties to water and the rest of the environment are reflected in our languages."

"In addition to people, water supports the lives of other beings or aspects of Creation that are important to the whole web of life. Again indigenous people benefit from this life-giving support. For example, there medicines under and around the water. Water is the basis of life; we cannot live without it. We have a responsibility to look after it."

<http://mncfn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/water-newsletter2a.pdf>

### Provincial Policy Statements:

The goals would also implement Provincial Policy Statement 2020 section 2. Water, which direct municipal actions to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of

ground and surface waters, and additionally, Section 2 of the Planning Act, Provincial Interests,

(a) the protection of ecological systems, including natural areas, features and functions; and

(e) the supply, efficient use and conservation of energy and water

CVC Agency Role:

Achieving the four goals would implement the CVC agency role stated as follows:

"At Credit Valley Conservation... we lead the protection, restoration and enhancement of our local natural environment and inspire a deep appreciation for the role of nature in keeping us connected, healthy and happy." [From:

<https://cvc.ca/project/island-lake-conservation-area-management-plan/>]

Sincerely,



C.c. Mayor and Members of the Town of Orangeville Council

Mayor and Members of the Town of Mono Council

Mayor and Members of the Town of Caledon Council

Chair and Members of Region of Peel Council

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nation

Izaak Walton Flyfishing Club

Credit River Anglers Association

Dufferin Northern Peel Anglers and Hunters Association

Trout Unlimited Canada