

January 29, 2021

Corrine Arthur, R.P.F.
Regional Planning Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Corinne.arthur@ontario.ca

Re: CCA Comments on the Proposed Operations stage of the Forest Management Planning for the 2021-2031 FMP for the Bancroft-Minden Forest.

I am writing in my capacity as the President of the Catchacoma Cottagers Association (CCA) and on behalf of the CCA Board of directors. The CCA is a not-for-profit association established 70 years ago to represent the interests of cottagers and other lakefront residents on Catchacoma Lake.

The CCA appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Plan of Operations stage of the development of the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) covering the Bancroft-Minden Forest which includes the Catchacoma Forest. The "Catchacoma Forest" is located on the north end of Catchacoma Lake, bordering on Kawartha Highlands Provincial Park to the east, County Road 507 to the west and stretching north to Pencil Lake.

The CCA has followed the work of the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee closely and we are represented on the committee by one of our Board members, our lake steward, Ted Spence. The CFSC was established in winter 2020 to follow up on the new research undertaken and published by the Ancient Forest Exploration Research group (AFER). The AFER studies identify the Catchacoma forest as a distinctive forest area dominated by mature and old growth eastern hemlock and potentially containing the habitat of several endangered species. The area is currently used for research and education activities as well as for recreation by local residents and cottagers. It contains an extensive informal hiking trail system which can be accessed from the parking area on 507 or directly from Catchacoma Lake. The Rathburn Snowmobile and ATV Trail also traverses the area from the parking lot on 507 towards the Northeast.

We are aware of ongoing logging and forest management occurring in the Catchacoma Forest. We support the directions proposed by our local community interest group, the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC), that further consideration be given in the development of the new Forest Management Plan to the potential for a conservation area within the boundaries of the Catchacoma Forest.

Since early 2020 you have received many requests for a moratorium on all logging activity in The Catchacoma Forest until the AFER studies can be fully evaluated and various options for the conservation of this area for scientific research, education, and

recreational use can be fully considered. The requests for a moratorium came from the Catchacoma Forest Stewardship Committee with CCA support, from other groups, and from many individuals (including many of our members). We have reviewed the current Proposed Operations document and appreciate that a portion of the Catchacoma Forest (Plot 3710) is now in the contingency rather than the regular harvest category. We support the direction from CFSC for the study of options for the possible conservation of the Catchacoma Forest area. We understand the CFSC is planning additional studies of both the forest and the wetland areas for spring and summer 2021. **We request that the entire Catchacoma Forest area including plots 3710, 2749 and 1711 be removed from the proposed harvest areas (active or contingency) until all studies are complete and decisions can be made on the possible future conservation status of these lands.**

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and request.

Sincerely,



Joe Natale
President, Catchacoma Cottagers Association
(416) 432-5636

- cc. Municipal Council Trent Lakes
- Carol Armstrong – Councillor Galway-Cavendish Ward, Trent lakes
- Dave Smith – MPP Peterborough Kawartha
- Maryam Monsef – MP Peterborough Kawartha
- Svetlana Zeran – Bancroft Minden Forest Company
- Jane Dumas – Bancroft Minden Local Citizens Committee
- Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations