



### **NEWS RELEASE # 1 – AUGUST 28, 2019**

This is our 1<sup>st</sup> News Release in 2019 regarding our progress fighting the pollution of Lake Simcoe caused by a farming conglomerate growing non-native vegetables at its muck farm north of Beaverton. We have received remarkable support for our government petitions - 8,600+ signatories so far and the number is increasing everyday. We are sending out this News Release because we owe our supporters an update regarding what we have done and how things are going.

One month ago we sent legal materials to our elected officials and their appointees about a major pollution problem in Lake Simcoe that we have been complaining about for 10 years. We ran a physical and digital campaign to get people to support our cause, we set up a website, made videos (including a musical!), and we've created Instagram and Facebook presences.

This News Release explains what else we have done and the responses we have received so far. Specifically, one month ago we delivered packages to Doug Downey (the Attorney General (AG)), Jeff Yurek (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)), their Parliamentary Assistants and the MP (Jamie Schmale) and MPP (Laurie Scott) for our riding, among others. Our package asked our elected representatives to prosecute Goodyear Farms (GYF) for illegally discharging polluting material into Lake Simcoe from its Asian vegetable farm north of Beaverton in violation of the Ontario Water Resources Act. Our package contained a legal memorandum stipulating why such charges were warranted and, indeed, required by law. We are merely asking our elected representatives TO ENFORCE THE LAW!

Our package also contained materials asking our elected officials and their appointees to revoke permits granting GYF the right to take up to 18,000,000+ litres of water PER DAY from Lake Simcoe to irrigate its Asian vegetables. Apart from two

sod farms and two small farms, in each case, that are not adjacent to the Lake, GYF (which is adjacent to the Lake) is the only farm of which we are aware that has been granted such a permit. Our package specified the legal basis requiring the termination of these permits.

Shortly after delivering our packages, we heard from the director (Director) appointed under s. 34 of the OWRA. She is the person responsible for issuing permits to take water. She told us her department would review our materials and conduct their own due diligence and assessment of the situation. More recently, the Environmental Review Tribunal (Tribunal) has contacted us and assigned our case to a person (presumably a lawyer within MECP) who will act on behalf of the Director. In addition, lawyers based out of Toronto have identified themselves to the Tribunal and us and stated they have been retained to act for GYF on this matter. So, it looks like there is going to be a hearing into our petition to revoke GYF's water-taking permits!

We have also recently followed up with the AG's office and the MECP regarding enforcement of the OWRA. We want GYF prosecuted for discharging impairing materials into Lake Simcoe in violation of that law. A representative of the "Communications" group at the AG's office told us they had received and reviewed our materials and had referred our submissions to the MECP.

Two individuals within the "Communications" group at the MECP subsequently contacted us. Both of these individuals were aware of our submission and told us that a "response" to our materials was "on the desk of the Minister awaiting signature". Interesting. We will see if our government will support its constituents or not.

Look for our next News Release as developments warrant. If we do not receive the backing we expect from our elected representatives, our intent is to bring private actions and lawsuits. So, our next News Release may contain a request for donations to help us cover the costs of such actions.

To see the materials we delivered to our elected officials, visit our website at: <https://sosbeaverton.wixsite.com/home> . To sign our petition demanding that the laws be enforced to stop this pollution, follow the link on our website. You can also find our videos on the website and by searching SOSBeaverton on YouTube.

Finally, please forward this News Release to anyone you think may wish to support us and, if you know anyone who would like to be added to our distribution list, please ask them to notify us at [sosbeaverton@gmail.com](mailto:sosbeaverton@gmail.com) .