



PAUDASH LAKE CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 34, Bancroft, Ontario K0L 1C0

Paudash Lake Conservation Association (PLCA) objects to contaminating Paudash Lake with Uranium Mine Tailings.

The PLCA is opposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) proposal to dispose of the 200-Ft Crown Reserve around the shoreline of Centre Lake*. Centre Lake, which flows into Paudash Lake, significantly impacts the health of Paudash Lake.

Our concerns include the following:

1. **Uranium mine tailings contaminating Paudash Lake.** The likely radionuclide contamination from tailings in the area of the development from the former Centre Lake uranium mine through related construction activity.
2. **Failure of the MNRF, Highlands East (HE) or the developer (Granite Shores or Highland View Properties) to identify any risks associated with Uranium mine contaminants.**
3. **Downgrading the Environmental Assessment to Category B - making the disposition easier to accomplish.** The assignment of the Environmental Assessment to a Category B is designed for low to medium impacts with known outcomes is incorrect. Significant impacts such as radiation outflows have been omitted and the potential outcomes are not well identified.
4. **The process for this development is seriously flawed:**
 - a. **Highlands East has positioned this disposition of lands as bringing economic benefits even though the developers themselves, and the PLCA, disagree with that.** The major developer, Granite Shores, has said it does not require the disposition of the reserve lands to develop their resort and cottage lots. They would abut the public reserve rather than the actual lakeshore. Development could still occur on private lands on both sides of the lake, according to the developers.
 - b. **Disposing the entire Crown reserve to just two developers is less than objective.** It is unfair to the public who are entitled to use Crown land and is also unfair that it has been tendered for disposition to only these two developers. This is very concerning.
 - c. **The economic analysis is significantly flawed.** The financial benefits for Granite Shores maple syrup operation are overestimated by at least two times and the major plans for the business at such a distance from a nearby population centre and customers-base are unlikely to proceed.

The Paudash Lake Conservation Association has also identified several other significant considerations:

1. **Under the proposal, our Crown Land is gone forever** - whether the development proceeds or not - and there are no guarantees the development will proceed. At a minimum, this proposal is premature.
2. **Public opinion is 2:1 against the proposal.** As voiced at Highlands East's community consultation on the disposition - 2:1 against it.
3. **It is against the interests of Ontarians.** Severely limiting public access to the shoreline of this "gem" of a lake is against Ontarians' interest for the open public enjoyment of the lake itself.
4. **The Ministry has set a precedence for not disposing of this Crown Land.** The Ministry has twice turned down requests to allow new cottage lots in any disposition of the Crown reserve on Centre Lake - we believe this was the proper decision, made for the right reasons.

There are so many issues of concern, which ought to have been sorted out, that we believe the process, fairness and respect for lake health is being seriously compromised without proper consideration.

For further information contact Mike Thomas, President, PLCA – info@pudashlake.org We encourage you to voice your concerns to H.E. Mayor Dave Burton at dburton@highlandseast.ca and to **MPP Laurie Scott at laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org**

*The PLCA is opposed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Notice invitationn for comments for a Category B Project Evaluation of the potential Disposition of 200-Ft Crown Reserve around the shoreline of Centre Lake and on the potential disposition itself.

About the PLCA.

The PLCA has had over a 45-year interest in our lake, the municipality of Highlands East and the businesses that serve our member year-round homeowners, businesses, and seasonal cottagers. We take our role seriously in supporting our lake and our community.

Please visit us at <https://www.pudashlake.org/> or on Facebook at Pudash Lake Conservation Association.