



Lake Simcoe DESERVES PROTECTION



What's at Stake,
and the Way Forward

**A Challenges and
Opportunities Map
of the Lake Simcoe
and Nottawasaga
Watersheds,
and Simcoe County**



PRESENTED AT
THE LAKE SIMCOE SUMMIT,
JULY 6TH, 2007

SOUTHSHORE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
BARRIE, ONTARIO



Campaign Lake Simcoe



CAMPAIGN LAKE SIMCOE'S VISION:

To protect Lake Simcoe's water, greenspace, and quality of life

OUR OBJECTIVE: Get a **Lake Simcoe Conservation Act** for the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga River Natural Heritage System and Watershed Protection Area that includes Lake Simcoe, and the County of Simcoe.

A meaningful protection plan for the *Lake Simcoe Conservation Act Area* needs to incorporate the following measures:

To improve water quality;

To support a natural heritage and agricultural system to protect greenspace and concentrate development in existing settlement areas;

To enshrine a governance structure as recommended by the Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy (LSEMS) Working Group;

To create recreational access that helps people treasure the lake and does not harm it;

To increase commitment to the restoration and rehabilitation of the Lake.

Did you know?

The Lake Simcoe watershed has:

- 22 municipalities
- Over 380,000 residents
- Estimated population of over 500,000 by 2021
- 12,000 cottages on the shoreline
- Almost 2,000 farms
- 24 Conservation Areas and 3 Provincial Parks
- 2 Moraines – The Oak Ridges and Oro Moraines
- 58 species of fish
- 65 species at risk

Source: NEAC and LSEMS, Public Consultation Sessions, 2005

PHOSPHORUS POLLUTION IS OUR PROBLEM

Phosphorus loading is the main pollution issue affecting Lake Simcoe. Phosphorus is found in detergents or fertilizers, and effectively fertilizes the Lake. It artificially increases weed and algae growth in Lake Simcoe. As the weeds grow and then decompose, they choke off the lake's oxygen, which makes it difficult for cold water fish to breathe. The decline of the cold water fishery is the Lake's canary in the coal mine.

Total Phosphorus load circa 1800: 30 tonnes

Total Phosphorus load by the end of the 1990's: over 100 tonnes

Dissolved oxygen levels circa 1800: 8mg/L

Dissolved oxygen levels by the end of the 1990's: 3mg/L

Source: State of Lake Simcoe Watershed 2003, Lake Simcoe Environmental Management Strategy, page 4.10

For excellent information about the history and issues facing the Lake Simcoe watershed, read *the Naked Truth: Going Behind the Science of Lake Simcoe at:*

www.lakeladies.ca/pdf/TheNakedTruthWEB.pdf

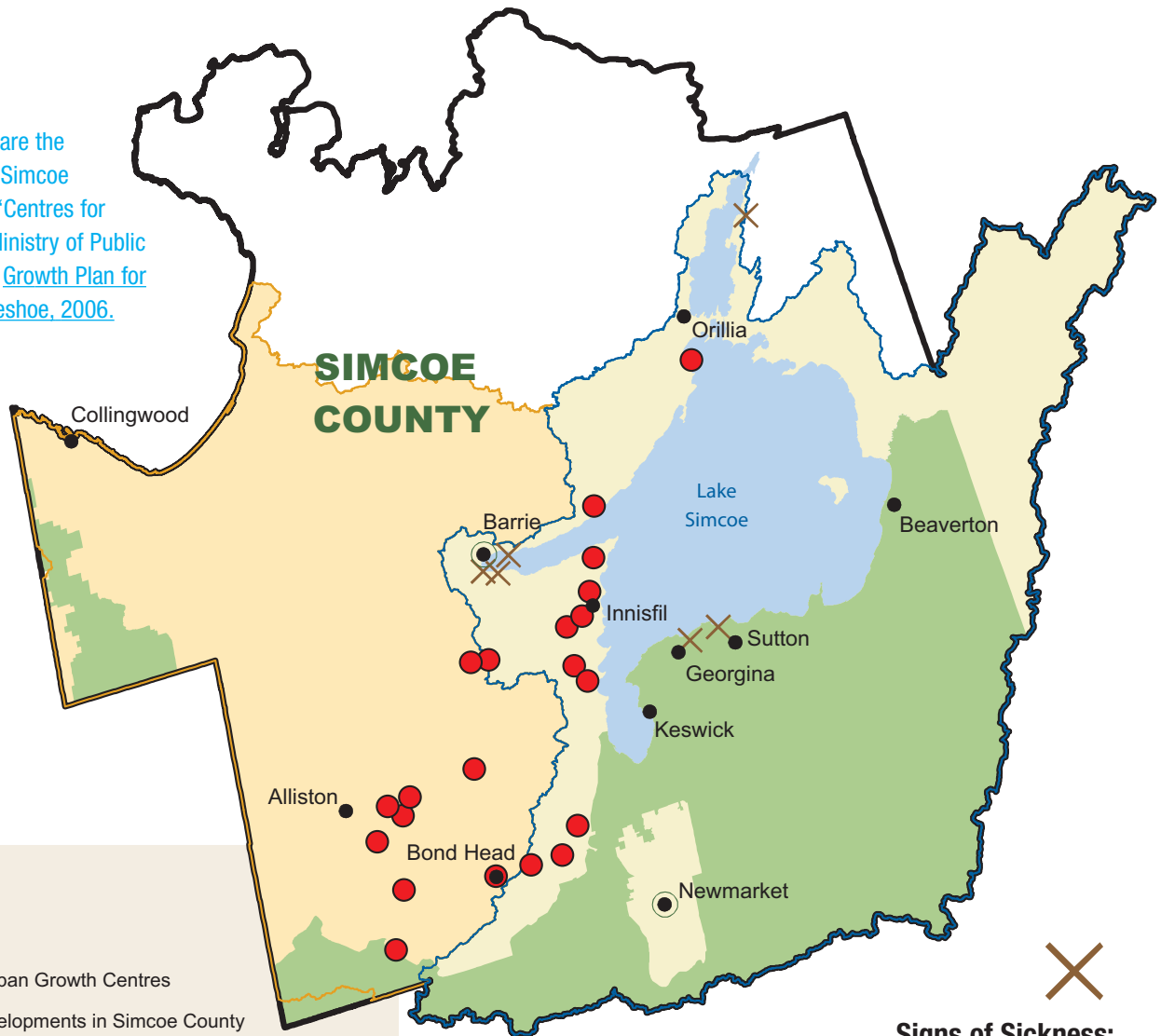
TAKE ACTION! Visit the **Campaign Lake Simcoe** website to learn how you can help protect Lake Simcoe, including telling our provincial leaders what kind of protection YOU want to see for Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Watersheds, and Simcoe County.

www.campaignlakesimcoe.ca

Lake Simcoe Conservation Act Area

Simcoe County, Lake Simcoe watershed, and the Nottawasaga Valley watershed

Barrie and Newmarket are the only centres in the Lake Simcoe watershed identified as "Centres for Growth" in the Ontario Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal's [Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006](#). Local planning decisions should reflect the Province's growth plans, but right now, dozens of developments are being planned and approved outside of these areas.



Legend

- "Places to Grow" Urban Growth Centres
- Major proposed developments in Simcoe County
- Beaches most frequently closed or posting health advisories, summer of 2005
- Cities/Towns
- Lake Simcoe Conservation Act Area
- Lake Simcoe
- Lake Simcoe Watershed
- Nottawasaga River Watershed
- Greenbelt



Data Information:

Projection: UTM Zone 17N (North American Datum 1983)

Data Sources:
 Base Data - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
 Greenbelt - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

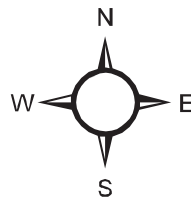


Signs of Sickness:

Six Most Frequent Beach Advisories and Closures, 2005

BEACH	MUNICIPALITY
Minet's Point	Barrie*
Johnson's Beach	Barrie*
Centennial Park	Barrie*
Portage Bay	Orillia
De La Salle	Georgina
Willow/Paradise	Georgina

*Barrie has upgraded its wastewater treatment facilities since 2005. It is undergoing an expansion to be completed in 2009.



Beach advisories are posted when bacterial counts exceed 100 E. coli per 100ml of water, the provincially-mandated maximum. Swimmers are at risk of developing minor skin, eye, ear, nose and throat infections and stomach disorders.

Beaches are closed when there is a hazardous chemical spill, a blue-green algae bloom, or other immediate health risk in the water.

Sources:

<http://www.york.ca/Services/Public+Health+and+Safety/Environmental+Health/York+Region+Beach+Postings+and+Closures+for+the+2005+Season.htm>

http://www.simcoehealth.org/applications/Beaches_Content.asp

Be Part of the Solution!

Take one or more of these easy steps to a healthier Lake Simcoe and a green Simcoe County

TAKE ACTION! Visit the **Campaign Lake Simcoe** website to find out what you can do to protect Lake Simcoe and Simcoe County greenspace at www.campaignlakesimcoe.ca

FIND OUT what you can do in your own home to reduce the residential contribution of phosphorus to Lake Simcoe. Visit www.thewaveprogram.com

Visit **Campaign Lake Simcoe's** partners' websites

www.environmentaldefence.ca

www.rescuelakesimcoe.org

www.ontarionature.org



If you want to do more...

SHARE information with your friends and groups

SUPPORT A LAKE SIMCOE CONSERVATION ACT by getting your organization to sign on to **Campaign Lake Simcoe**

Contact **Claire** for more information at **416-323-9521 x 258**



CAMPAIGN LAKE SIMCOE: *Campaign Lake Simcoe* is dedicated to protecting the water quality of Lake Simcoe, and greenspace in Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga Watersheds, and Simcoe County.



Campaign Lake Simcoe



MAP: Glenside Ecological Services

PHOTO CREDITS: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority; the WAVE; Claire Malcolmson.

