



**SCUGOG LAKE
STEWARDS**

ERO SUBMISSION: SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS RESPONSE TO

ERO number - 026-0056

Ministry reference number

1000392603

POSTING 025-1257

REGARDING PERMIT TO TAKE WATER: -

1078815 Ontario Inc.

**SCUGOG LAKE STEWARDS RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE REQUEST TO
SPECIFICALLY RENEW THE TEN-YEAR PERMIT TO TAKE WATER FROM
LAKE SCUGOG, SCUGOG TOWNSHIP, ONTARIO**

The Permit to Take Water request above has the same terms of withdrawal amounts from Lake Scugog as in the past Permit. Although we would agree to the re-permitting request in general, there should be conditions on the timing and amounts of those withdrawals under specific conditions.

We would like the permit to acknowledge that if low water conditions in the lake and the watershed are declared (Level 1, 2 or 3) in the Kawartha Watershed and specifically in Lake Scugog, then operations should either be limited or halted depending on the severity of the declaration. Instilling this into the new permit would protect aquatic ecosystems, preserve water quality, maintain the groundwater-surface balance and protect Lindsay municipal water withdrawal from the Scugog River. This would also support a faster recovery once drought conditions ease. Drought conditions in the future are expected to increase because of Climate Change.

CONTEXT FOR OUR COMMENTS

The Scugog Lake Stewards Inc. is an incorporated, all-volunteer, charitable organization dedicated to the health of Lake Scugog, within the Kawartha watershed. We began our endeavours in 1999 and became incorporated in 2023. Our Vision is a healthy Lake Scugog and Watershed that benefits all. Through effective engagement, communications, education and research, we build awareness through partnerships while encouraging direct participation of the community on focused efforts to enhance the lake and watershed environment. That is our Mission.

Following the installation of a dam in Lindsay in the north flowing Scugog River in the 1830's, Lake Scugog was created. This lake is very large, (68sq.km.) but shallow with an average depth of only 1.4m. As a headwater lake on the Trent-Severn Waterway, it can only draw water from our own watershed. As such, Lake Scugog is very vulnerable in times of drought, which are predicted to be more common in the future. The economy of the Township relies on a healthy Lake Scugog to support its tourist industry and strong real estate market.

We have been on Kawartha Conservation's Low Water Response team for more than 10 years and last year our watershed was in a low water restriction category for almost a month. We regularly correspond with the Trent-Severn Waterway dam/lock management team to ensure we maintain maximum water levels in times of drought.