



John Brassard | Member of Parliament
Barrie—Innisfil
Opposition House Leader

Clerk's Office
City of Barrie
cityclerks@barrie.ca

June 8, 2022

Dear Mayor Lehman and Council,

Within days of being re-elected in 2019, I began pushing for the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund to be restored. Along with area MPs including Barrie-Simcoe-Oro-Medonte MP Doug Shipley, I wrote to the Prime Minister and environment minister, urging them to follow through on their last-minute \$40 million election promise for Lake Simcoe. However, their lack of action since 2019 is proof that the announcement was just a desperate play for votes.

I'm pleased to see so many area municipalities now calling on the federal government to restore the Conservative's Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. Thank you for joining me in calling for a fully funded action plan beginning this year for shoreline mitigation and restoration, as well as projects to mitigate contaminated sites across the watershed and to upgrade municipal infrastructure as required to ensure the long-term health of our lake.

The watershed faces threats, largely from phosphorus runoff and other contaminants, but we saw amazing results when the former Conservative government funded a Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund with \$65 million between 2007-2017. Sadly, that fund was cancelled by the Liberal government.

People who live in Barrie-Innisfil certainly understand that the lake is a significant source of drinking water and integral for recreation, tourism, agriculture and our local economy.

I look forward to working with Barrie and Innisfil councils and the many individuals, families and groups dedicated to the future of Lake Simcoe. I believe grassroots efforts have already resulted in significant improvements to the watershed and with appropriate support from the federal government, we can resume the work to preserve and improve Lake Simcoe so that future generations can continue to enjoy this jewel of Southern Ontario.

Sincerely,

John Brassard MP
Barrie Innisfil
Opposition House Leader
