

Photo credit: Andrea Jantzi

# Engagement on Lake Bernard Water Levels

Coffee Conversations

May 1 (virtual)

May 4 (in person)

Hosted by J Consulting Group

## Purpose of Engagement

- Over time, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has heard some concerns about water levels on Lake Bernard.
- In the summer of 2023, MNRF committed to initiating engagement with all Lake Bernard users.
- J Consulting Group is facilitating a series of engagement activities – website, coffee conversations, community visit, survey (engagelakebernard.ca)
- Seeking diverse interests, concerns, and observations about water levels throughout the year.
- Information will help guide MNRF on next steps in managing water levels on Lake Bernard.



## It's Been a Wet Spring. This Engagement Is About Next Steps, Big Picture

- It has been a wet spring
  - April has been a wetter month than average
  - We know water levels are high as with much of central Ontario
- This engagement is about next steps big picture
  - We're here to discuss how water levels are managed on Lake Bernard throughout the course of a year

## Themes We've Heard So Far

#### Water level management

Requests for additional information about:

- MNRF's priorities for water level management on Lake Bernard
- Science and information collected by MNRF to manage water levels on Lake Bernard
- Establishment of the current operating plan and rule curve
- Timing of log insertion this year

(Note: some of this information has been provided in *Water Management on Lake Bernard Background Report, 2024*)

#### **Sentiments:**

- Dissatisfaction with water level management, shoreline erosion, communication.
- Have not had issues with water levels so far.



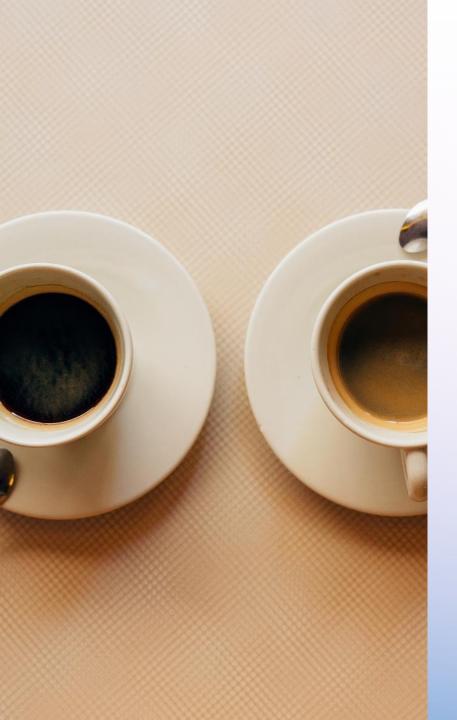
### Themes We've Heard So Far

#### **Engagement**

Interest expressed in:

- 1. Use of information collected through this engagement.
- 2. MNRF's commitment for reporting on this process.
- 3. Methods for letting people in the community know about this engagement.
- 4. Providing comments on the Water Management on Lake Bernard Report, 2024.





## **Key Questions for Today**

#### Connection with the lake

a. What is your connection to Lake Bernard

#### Water level satisfaction

- a. What is your general level of satisfaction with water levels?
- b. Can you recall a specific time when you <u>were not</u> satisfied with water levels on the lake?
- c. Can you recall a specific time when you <u>were</u> satisfied with water levels on the lake?

#### Future water level management

- a. What are your priorities for water level management?
- b. What changes would you like to see in the future to match your priorities?

#### Questions & communication

- a. Co-create a list of questions.
- b. What is the best way to get information out to people regarding water levels and any changes in water management?



## Thank You!

- Survey is open until May 9th
- Go to our project page: engagelakebernard.ca
- Or scan the QR code

- info@engagelakebernard.ca
- 905-399-5634
- 877-825-9870

