

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](http://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
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# 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 were not satisfied with water levels on the lake?
- c. Can you recall a specific time when you were 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](http://engagelakebernard.ca)
- Or scan the QR code
  
- [info@engagelakebernard.ca](mailto:info@engagelakebernard.ca)
- 905-399-5634
- 877-825-9870

