

## Time For The MNR to Live Up to Expectations

For years the web page for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources displayed no mission statement or credo. It was not until former minister Donna Cansfield that something finally appeared only to be changed by the present minister Linda Jeffries. Interesting when neither really understood anything of what the MNR should be about. Ms Jeffries latest flowery statement expounds the value of biodiversity. The irony here is that the minister is claiming to look after the ecological community while at the same time forestry has been removed from the MNR and fish and wildlife has been delegated as a non-essential entity.

I can understand why the MNR had no credo or mission statement on their web page. If you post your principals and goals then you might be expected to live up to them. The Temagami Stewardship Council had as its credo, "to preserve, protect, restore and improve the natural resources and the environment of Temagami." The credo stated what we wanted to accomplish in Temagami and we did a pretty good job (check out [www.temagamistewardship.ca](http://www.temagamistewardship.ca)). I also think that the citizens of Ontario wish the MNR would try to preserve, protect, restore and improve our natural resources. The present Liberal government has done nothing to reverse the cut backs and has in fact greased the slide of this gutted ministry into obscurity. They seem content to allow our natural resources to be used as a source of revenue that obviously will keep on giving without any need to spend money on proper management and enhancement.

Fishing, hunting and the recreational use of Ontario's natural resources are not only billion dollar industries in Ontario but they are also part of our tradition and culture. They deserve to be managed properly. We need to look no farther than the neighboring northern states of the United States to see examples of governments that recognize the value of their natural resources and are prepared to invest in the future well being of their natural resources.

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