

**From:** Tom Cowie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 9:52 AM  
**To:** Valerie Hendry <[vhendry@scugog.ca](mailto:vhendry@scugog.ca)>  
**Cc:** Sean Davison [REDACTED]; Don Richardson [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Submission to the Township of Scugog Council: Opposition to the Proposed Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) for Development Along the Western Edge of Lake Scugog

Aaniin Valerie,

I am disappointed that we were never advised of this project happening in our treaty lands with the Crown. The duty to consult involves all 7 communities who are all involved with the Williams Treaty, not just the sole responsibility of one community. There are a lot of significant cultural heritage concerns regarding the area around the lake. The Michi Saagiig used to harvest manoomin on a regular basis, hunted waterfowl, trapped muskrats and fished due to the abundance of natural resources available. Three hundred feet around shoreline would involve archaeological studies due to the high potential of artifacts that could be found. It wasn't until the settler sprawl started to degrade then lands and waters by building dams, deforesting and overburdening the lands and waters which affected the Michi Saagiig residing on and around the island. It was also recognized portage route to the Kawarthas. The water ways and rivers were our highways the Michi Saagiig were fishermen and spent most of their lives on the water or near it. Burial sites were near the waters also and on the islands. Not to take the history of the area into consideration when deciding how to proceed is a terrible injustice. Canada seems to forget that they are a small part of history of the Michi Saagiig, not the other way around. The Michi Saagiig signed treaty's before Canada existed as a Country. Almost half of the treaties signed in Ontario have Michi Saagiig signatures on them.

Our community was never contacted by the township or the developer Avenu, I do not have anything on file regarding this project. Which leads me to believe that the MZO process application was applied for, to circumvent conversation with the First Nation communities that needed to be involved in the process. The list of species at risk or concern is substantial from Snapping Turtles, Eastern ribbon Snake, Barn Swallow, Least Bittern, Blanding Turtles, Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Eastern Small foot Myotis, Tri-colored Myotis, Butternut trees, and special concern for the walleye to mention a few. Many of the species mentioned have been referred to characters in our stories and traditional knowledge. In approving this MZO application would be a big step backwards in relationships with The First Nation communities, truth and reconciliation recommendations and Undrip. Chi miigwech and have a great week.

Gichi manaadendamowin

Tom Cowie

Lands/Resources Consultation  
Hiawatha First Nation

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*We, the Michi Saagiig of Hiawatha First Nation, are a vibrant, proud, independent and healthy people balanced in the richness of our culture and traditional way of life*