

# Loon Lake scenario letter from Mayor's office

March 7, 2017

Dear Citizens of Loon Lake,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you all, confirming the cancellation of our annual salmon and trout fishing tournament that was scheduled to take place in May of this year.

Over the last few years, we have all noticed the changes happening in the ecosystem of Loon Lake. Our adult salmon and trout are smaller than they have been in the town's memory. Children may have noticed more plants growing in the shallow areas where they like to swim. Chefs are not able to find as many local mussels to include in their regionally famous dish, Loon Lake Mussel Pie, which has earned us fame in such magazines as *Food and Wine*, *Bon Appetit*, and *Sport Fisher Illustrated*. Recently, and most disturbingly, dead ducks have been found washed up on the shores of our beautiful lake.

The temptation is to blame the new dam construction on the Loon River, which strengthened the size of our lake and provides us with hydroelectric power. Our engineers assure me that the dam is not to blame, but my advisors are investigating the possibility that it may be the root of all our problems.

Unfortunately, until this mystery is solved, I am suspending all ice fishing, swimming, boating, and other activity on the lake. We will be piping our drinking water in from the neighboring town of Moose Lake until we understand what is happening in our lake ecosystem. While this is at a considerable cost to our taxpayers, I simply cannot allow the citizens of Loon Lake to consume water that may be unsafe.

Thank you for your understanding and support. If any of you have information about possible causes of these changes, I encourage you to create a public service campaign to share with the town.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor Collins