



Dear firstname,

As 2025 comes to a close, Lake Simcoe is at an important crossroads. This month, the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition (RLSC) team released a major new report, generated significant regional and national media coverage, and raised serious concerns about a provincial proposal that could weaken the lake's protection framework. At the same time, the team is working to close a year-end fundraising gap to ensure advocacy, research, and education efforts continue into 2026.

Here is an update on what the RLSC team has been working on — and how supporters can help.



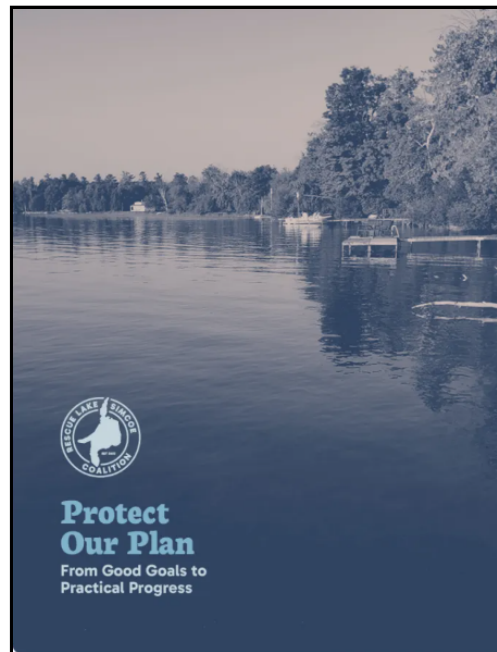
Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress

The RLSC team recently released "[Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress](#)", a comprehensive assessment of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, sixteen years after its adoption.

The findings are clear:

- The goals of the Plan remain sound

- Progress has stalled
- Local governments are carrying much of the burden without full provincial and federal support



The report outlines thirteen practical, achievable recommendations to restore momentum. These include renewed federal funding, updated phosphorus and road-salt strategies, stronger conservation-authority oversight, and coordinated investment in stormwater infrastructure and natural cover.

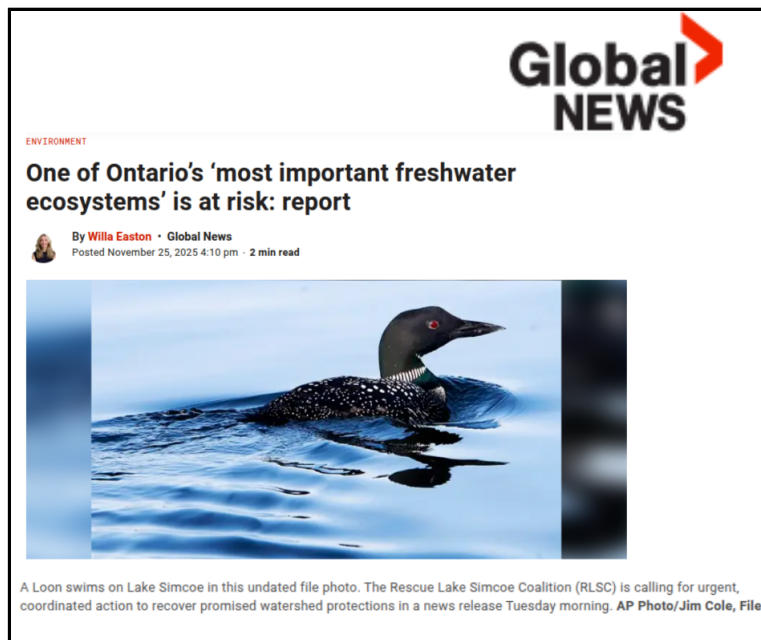
The core message is straightforward: Protect the Plan that protects the lake.

Strong Media Coverage and Growing Attention

The release of “Protect Our Plan” has already generated substantial coverage.

[The Toronto Star](#) wrote [about the threats to the lake](#) and [Global News](#) [highlighted the report's findings on phosphorus pollution and road salt](#) as persistent threats to Lake Simcoe. The RLSC team also spoke with [Radio-Canada](#) [about the growing pressures on the](#)

[lake](#) and the urgency of action.



The Coalition was encouraged to see the report cited in the House of Commons by [John Brassard MP](#) during the federal budget debate, reinforcing the call for renewed, dedicated federal funding for Lake Simcoe — a cornerstone recommendation of the report.

Our executive director, Jonathan Scott, also wrote [a column in The Trillium](#) about how our report's recommendations are fundamentally small-c conservative ideas the Ford government should get behind supporting.

This attention helps ensure the lake remains firmly on the public and political agenda.

**Opposing the Consolidation of
LSRCA Into a Mega-Regional
Authority**

The RLSC board is deeply concerned by the province's proposal to consolidate the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) into a large mega-regional entity responsible for multiple watersheds.

Lake Simcoe has Ontario's only watershed-specific, [legislated protection plan](#), and it works because it is local, focused, and science-based. Folding LSRCA into a sprawling authority risks weakening monitoring, accountability, and the long-term recovery of the lake.

The RLSC board has [formally submitted its concerns](#) to the province and is urging the government to keep LSRCA intact and focused on Lake Simcoe.

How supporters can help: Contact your local MPP and ask them to protect local watershed governance and the [Lake Simcoe Protection Plan](#). With the Legislature adjourned until late March, we hope this break will give the province time to reflect and choose a more rational course.

Cheers and Jeers: Progress and Pain Points

The RLSC's executive director, Jonathan Scott, also published a year-end "[Cheers and Jeers](#)" column reflecting on what worked — and what did not — for Lake Simcoe in 2025.

At a high level, the cheers recognize effective advocacy, youth leadership, and practical collaboration where governments and communities worked together to reduce pollution and protect the lake.

The jeers are directed at stalled progress, delayed funding, worsening road-






salt pollution, and provincial decisions that risk undermining local watershed governance.


BARRIETODAY.com


GUEST COLUMN: Cheers and jeers for Lake Simcoe in 2025

Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition executive director reflects on highs and lows of the year

Jonathan Scott
about 22 hours ago





Lake Simcoe's Kempenfelt Bay is shown in this file photo. | Raymond Bower/BarrieToday

Year-End Fundraising: Help Reach the \$60,000 Goal

The RLSC team has raised just over \$10,150 toward a \$60,000 year-end fundraising goal.

Donations support advocacy, research, education, and hands-on environmental work — ensuring Lake Simcoe remains a priority in 2026.

All donations made before year-end are eligible for a 2025 tax receipt.

As a thank-you, the next 20 donors will also receive a free [Lake Simcoe postcard](#).

[Donate Now](#)

Still Looking for a Meaningful, One-Of-A-Kind Gift?

Support Lake Simcoe while shopping locally:

- **Water-drop jewelry and sun catchers**

Beautiful pieces made by a local artist, with proceeds supporting lake protection.

[Purchase here.](#)



- **Lake Simcoe photo cards**

Featuring stunning images captured around the watershed — beautiful and impactful.

[Purchase here.](#)



Updates on the Bradford Bypass

For those looking for updates related to the Bradford Bypass, information is available at bradfordbypass.ca. A project report was released in December and [can be found here](#).

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition throughout 2025 — by reading, sharing, donating, and speaking up for Lake Simcoe.

The lake's recovery depends on steady, practical action — and on governments doing their part.

From all of us on the team — have a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays!

— Your Rescue Lake Simcoe Team

The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition

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