

*STATE OF THE LAKE
Environment Report
2014*

FAWN LAKE



WHY WATERSHED WATCH?

A lake monitoring program of the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) has long recognized the recreational and aesthetic value of lakes within the watershed and is committed to preserving and protecting water quality and fish habitat. Since the launch of the Watershed Watch program in 1998, MVCA has joined together with volunteer lake stewards throughout the watershed to take steps in restoring and protecting water quality.

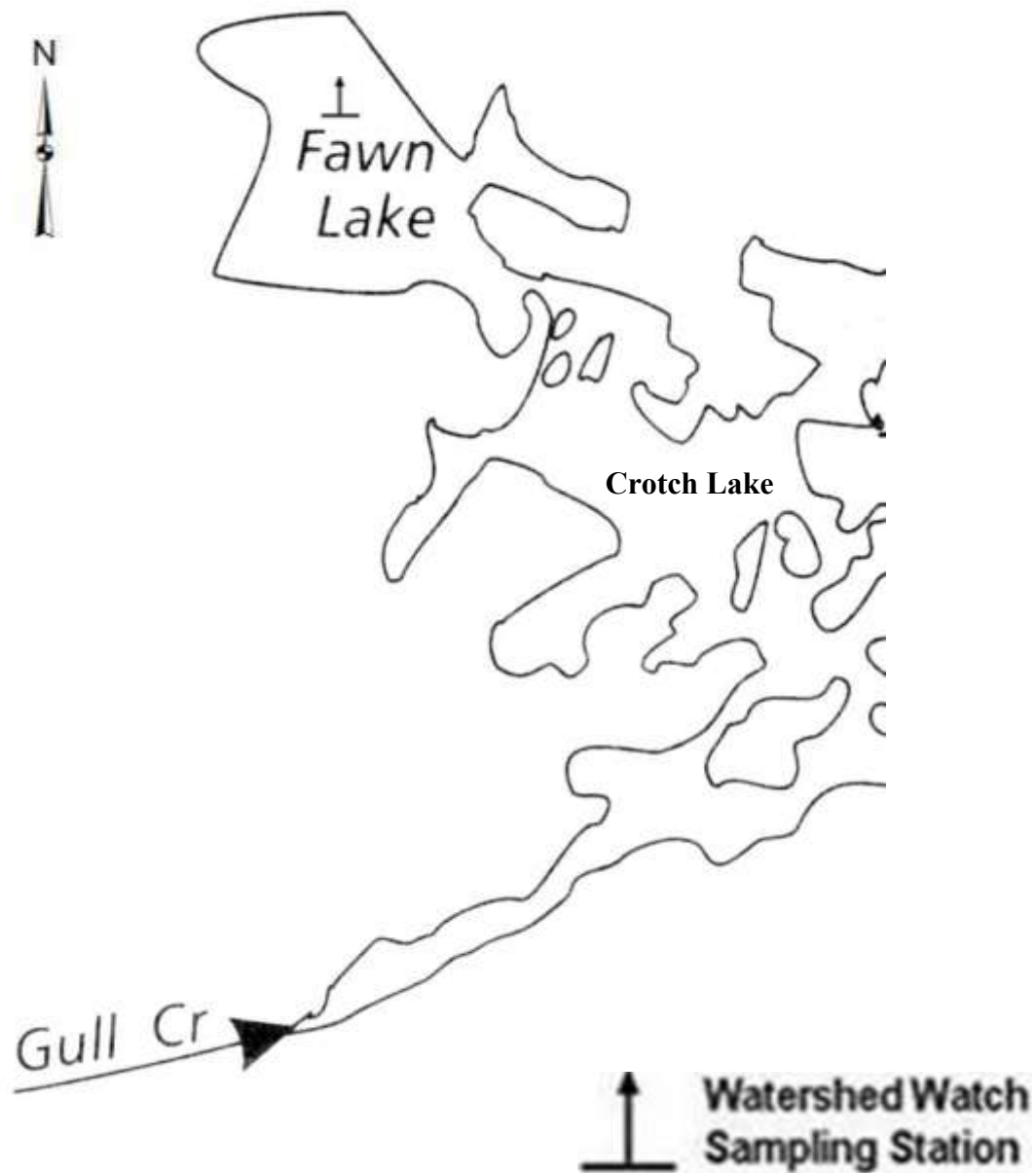
Watershed Watch is an environmental monitoring and awareness program. The objectives of the program are to collect reliable environmental data to document current water quality conditions. This data is used as an essential educational tool to encourage residents to adopt sound stewardship practices aimed at maintaining water quality. We will assist shoreline residents, both seasonal and permanent, to become personal stewards of their lake by encouraging them to take on an active role in restoring and enhancing their shorelines. In this way, we will work together to maintain healthy lake environments throughout the watershed.



ABOUT FAWN LAKE

- Located in the Township of North Frontenac.
- Elevation of 240 metres above sea level.
- Lake perimeter is 4.5km.
- Deepest point is 9 metres.
- There are no properties located within 35m of the lake
- Warm water fishery, particularly: Walleye, Northern Pike, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass.

Fawn Lake



This map is intended for illustration only; it should not be used as a navigation guide.

HOW DOES FAWN LAKE MEASURE UP?

WATER QUALITY RESULTS (1976 - 2014) - Fawn LAKE

Sample Year	Secchi Disc Depth (Metres)	Total Phosphorus Euphotic Zone (Micrograms/litre)	Total Phosphorus 1 Metre off Bottom (Micrograms/litre)	Chlorophyll <u>a</u> Composite (Micrograms/litre)
**1976	2.2	30.0		
2000	3.5	12.0	9.0	1.38
*2005	5.0	21.3	46.0	2.93
*2010	5.8	9.3	16.3	4.90
***2014	3.3	12.5	11.0	2.30
n	5	5	4	4
Minimum	2.2	9.3	9.0	1.38
Maximum	5.8	30.0	46.0	4.9
Mean	4.0	17.0	20.6	2.9
Standard Deviation	1.43	8.54	17.23	1.49

* Mean based on less than 6 measurements .

** Includes Recreational Lakes Program Data. Chlorophyll a data prior to 1985 has been adjusted to reflect new lab procedures in filtering resulting in an increase in chla concentrations by 35%.

*** Only Spring and Summer Samples were collected on Fawn lake due to low water levels.



MVCA Monitoring Staff use 4 different sampling procedures to measure water quality.

WATER CLARITY

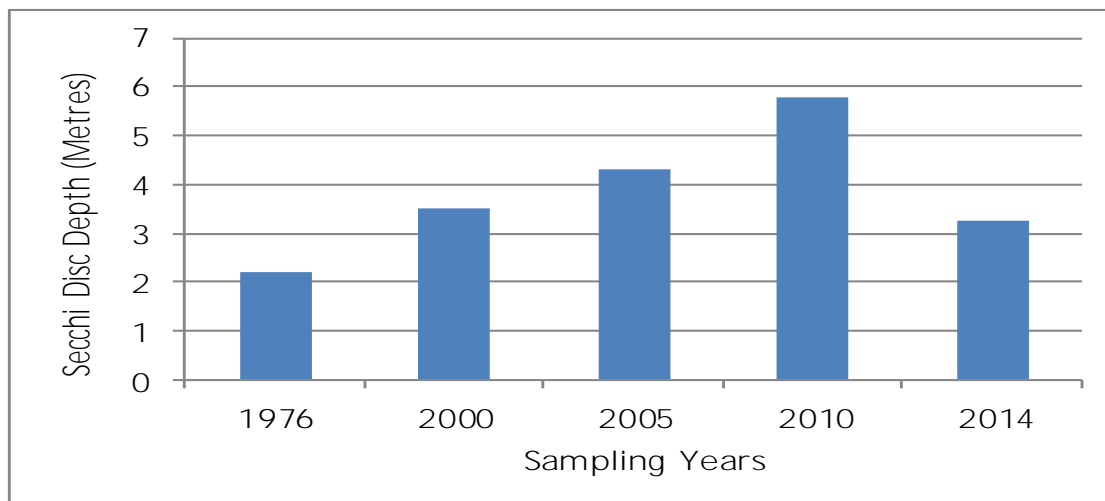


A Secchi Disc is a black and white coloured disc used to determine water clarity. The disc is lowered into the water. The point at which you can no longer distinguish the black and white is called the Secchi depth. The higher the Secchi Disc measurement, the more clear your lake.

Lakes are classified as oligotrophic, mesotrophic, or eutrophic, depending on age and whether they have little, some, or a lot of life, respectively. Oligotrophic lakes are the youngest, mesotrophic lakes are middle-aged lakes that are less deep and more fertile than oligotrophic lakes, and eutrophic lakes (the oldest lakes) are most fertile and even more shallow than Mesotrophic lakes.

Interpreting SECCHI DISC Results	
Secchi Depth	Lake Nutrient Status
Over 5 metres	Oligotrophic – unenriched, few nutrients
3.0 to 4.9 metres	Mesotrophic – moderately enriched, some nutrients
Less than 2.9 metres	Eutrophic – enriched, higher levels of nutrients

FAWN LAKE
ANNUAL MEAN SECCHI DISC DEPTHS (metres)



* only 2 sampling events occurred in 2014 due to low water

PHOSPHORUS LEVELS

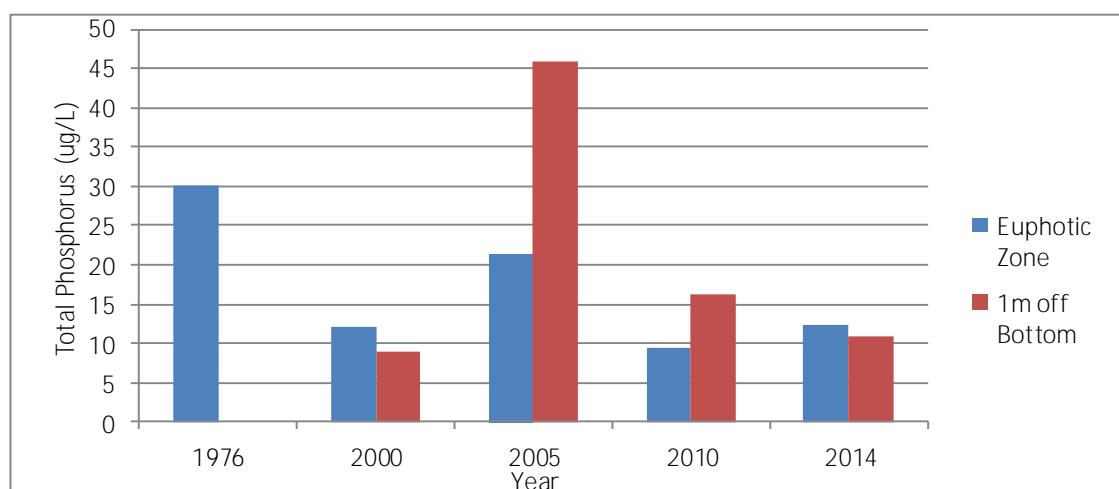
Phosphorus is the nutrient that controls the growth of algae in most Ontario lakes. For this reason any increase in phosphorus in the lake will increase the quantity of algae that can grow. High levels of phosphorus can lead to algal blooms and in some cases affect the habitat of cold water fish such as lake trout. A general guideline exists to characterize your lake based on the total phosphorus that is measured.

A Kremmerer Bottle (pictured to the right) is used to sample water at specific depths. The bottle is lowered to the required depth with both ends open. A weight on the rope is dropped. When the weight hits the bottle it causes both ends to close, sealing the sample water in the bottle.



Interpreting TOTAL PHOSPHORUS Results	
Total Phosphorus	Lake Nutrient Status
10 ug/L or less	Oligotrophic – unenriched, few nutrients
11 to 20 ug/L	Mesotrophic – moderately enriched, some nutrients
21 ug/L or more	Eutrophic – enriched, higher levels of nutrients

FAWNLAKE -
ANNUAL MEAN TOTAL PHOSPHORUS RESULTS (ug/L)



* only 2 samples taken in 2014 due to low water

CHLOROPHYLL a

Water clarity is influenced by the amount of phytoplankton or microscopic algae present in the water. Chlorophyll a is the green pigment in phytoplankton.

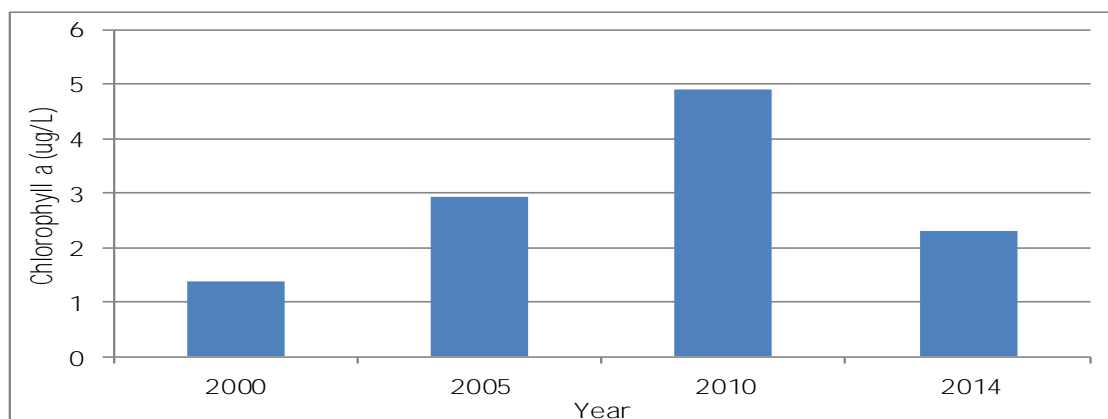
The lower the chlorophyll a density in your lake, the clearer your lake is. Chlorophyll a is directly affected by the amount of total phosphorus in your lake. The more phosphorus there is in the water, the more algal growth will occur.



A Composite Sampler (pictured above) is used by dropping the tin container into the water. When it reaches the required depth it is slowly pulled back to the surface. The tin is filled as water enters one tube and air escapes the other. Some air remains in the tin to ensure collection throughout the haul to the surface.

Interpreting CHLOROPHYLL <u>a</u> Results	
Chlorophyll <u>a</u> Reading	Lake Nutrient Status
Up to 2 ug/L – low algal density	Oligotrophic – unenriched, few nutrients
2 – 4 ug/L – moderate algal density	Mesotrophic – moderately enriched, some nutrients
More than 4 ug/L – high algal density	Eutrophic – enriched, higher levels of nutrients

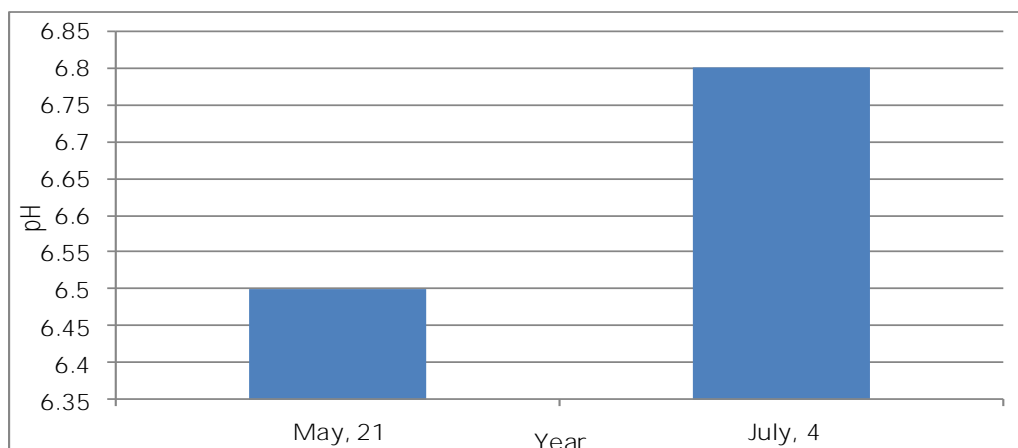
FAWNLAKE - ALL BASINS
ANNUAL MEAN CHLOROPHYLL a RESULTS (ug/L)



*only 2 samples taken in 2014 due to low water

pH LEVELS

FAWN LAKE— 2014 pH LEVELS



Lakes with pH's lower than 7.3 are less prone to invasion by zebra mussels



Help MVCA and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Stop the Invasion!

Fawn Lake was tested for invasive species, particularly [zebra mussels](#), and [spiny water flea](#), in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH). In 2005, 2010, 2012 and 2014 neither zebra mussel veligers or spiny water flea were present in samples taken. Ontario's Invading Species Awareness Program Annual report will be available in the Spring of 2015 (www.invadingspecies.com).

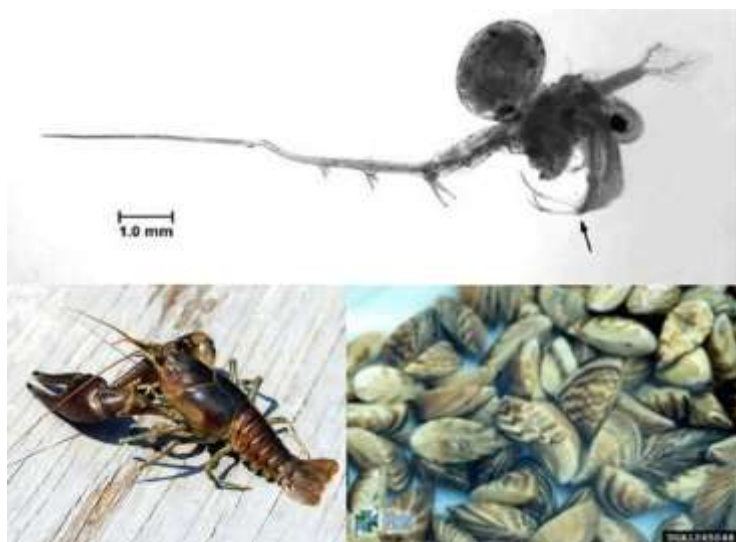
Residents and property owners need to ensure that all access points to the lake have posted signs indicating the precautions that boaters and anglers can take to prevent the spread of invasive species into Crotch Lake and beyond. Residents are also invited to participate in the Invading Species Awareness Program (www.invadingspecies.com) through MVCA and OFAH.

MVCA and OFAH promote a proactive approach to invasive species management. This includes education and outreach about invasive species and how they are transported. Stop signs such as the one pictured above remind boaters to clean, Inspect, Clean and Drain their boats so that they don't give invasive species a free ride.

Check and clean watercraft every time it is moved to a different water body!

The plankton haul net (pictured right) looks like a wind sock with a plastic cup attached to the end. The mesh size of the net is 63 microns, which can filter microscopic organisms (plankton) like spiny water flea and zebra mussel veligers from the water. The plastic cup portion of the net is called the cod end. It collects the plankton sample as water passes through the net.





For more information on these and other invasive species, visit www.invadingspecies.com/invaders or call the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

If you would like to help monitor and prevent the spread of invasive species in the Mississippi Valley watershed, email monitoring@mvc.on.ca or call us at 613-253-0006.

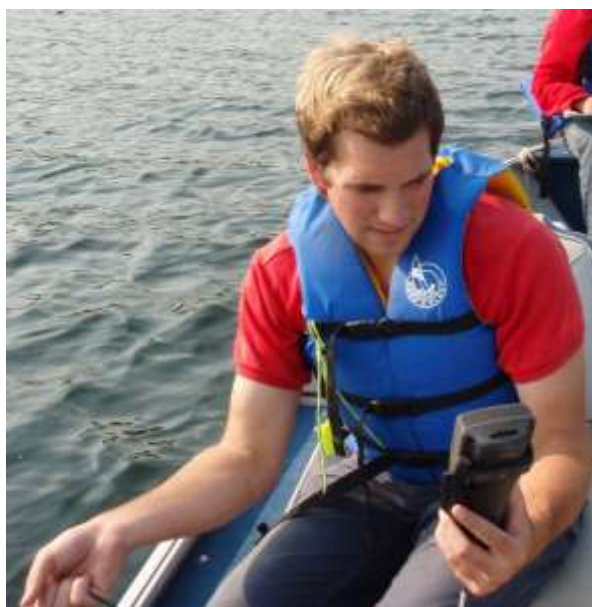
*Top: Spiny water flea. Photo: Cathy Darnell
Left: Rusty Crayfish. Photo: Doug Watkinson, DFO
Right: Zebra mussels. Photo: Amy J. Benson, US Geological Survey.*

FAWN LAKE DISSOLVED OXYGEN (D.O.) SAMPLING RESULTS

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) is a dissolved form of oxygen vital for all underwater plants and animals to survive; it's what they need to breath. Adequate dissolved oxygen is important for good water quality and necessary to all forms of life. Poor (low) DO levels will cause stress on fish and may result in fish kills (mass death of a species in a season).

MVCA takes three DO readings each sample season. By monitoring the DO levels of our lakes we can develop lake profiles showing the lake stratification and the state of the lake.

Lake Stratification is the separation of lakes into three layers:



The Dissolved Oxygen Metre is used to gather DO and temperature readings. The probe is lowered into the lake and readings are taken at every metre from the hand-held screen.

Epilimnion (top layer of the lake)	Warmer water with higher D.O. concentrations.
Thermocline (middle layer of the lake)	Distinct layer in which temperature changes more rapidly with depth than it does in the layers above and below.
Hypolimnion (bottom layer of the lake)	Typically the denser and colder water at the bottom of the lake.

FAWN LAKE DISSOLVED OXYGEN RESULTS, MAIN BASIN

FAWN LAKE - EAST BASIN #14-03

MAY 21, 2014 at 1:03PM

Depth (m)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Percent Saturation	Thermal Stratification
0.1	17.1	9.52	98.6	Epilimnion
1	17.1	9.50	98.5	
2	17.0	9.50	98.3	
3	16.9	9.49	98.0	
4	14.9	8.95	87.2	Thermocline
5	9.5	9.70	84.8	
6	7.9	8.30	70.1	
7	7.6	7.72	64.0	Hypolimnion
8	7.0	6.85	56.2	
9	6.4	4.27	34.6	
10	5.9	2.30	18.4	
11	5.7	0.80	7.6	
12	Bottom	Bottom	Bottom	

FAWN LAKE - EAST BASIN #14-03

JULY 4, 2014 at 1:20PM

Depth (m)	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Percent Saturation	Thermal Stratification
0.1	24.6	7.98	95.9	Epilimnion
1	24.6	7.95	95.7	
2	24.6	7.96	95.6	
3	24.6	7.95	95.5	
4	17.1	5.20	53.7	Thermocline
5	12.7	4.32	40.6	
6	10.3	3.82	34.0	
7	8.8	1.97	15.1	
8	Bottom	Bottom	Bottom	



Warm Water Fisheries Habitat (Bass, Walleye, Pike, Perch) defined as Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations greater than 4 mg/L at temperatures less than 25°C.

* No Fall Dissolved Oxygen profile was taken due to low water limiting access to Fawn lake

PLANT YOUR LAND

Our free shoreline planting service helps you restore the natural look of your shoreline while combating erosion, cleaning your water and creating a healthy habitat for fish, birds and wildlife. **It'll save you time and money for lawn maintenance too.**

Naturalizing your shoreline does not mean you lose your view or your shore access. MVCA staff will look at your property and create a planting layout that suits your needs. The designs will maintain open areas and let you enjoy your waterfront property while gaining the benefits of naturalization.

Contact Caleb Yee by phone if interested in planting your land at 613-253-0006 ext.253 or by email at Cyee@mvc.on.ca



ALGAE WATCH



Eurasian water milfoil and invasive aquatic plant that forms dense mats

Over the last decades algae and plant growth appears to be increasing in our lakes. MVCA in partnership with Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, Carleton University and Rideau Valley Conservation, are trying to better understand aquatic plant and algae growth in Eastern Ontario lakes. Phosphorus, climate change and zebra mussels are all being examined for their possible effects.

You can help us get a handle on this issue by reporting algae blooms and a excessive plant growth on your lake at www.citizenwaterwatch.ca.



MVCA would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers and the Lake Steward Network for their assistance with and support of the Watershed Watch program.

For more information about MVCA Monitoring Programs please call: Susan Lee at 613.253.0006 ext. 235 or email: slee@mvc.on.ca

or

visit: www.mvc.on.ca

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