

Mayor John Rodriguez
Tom Davies Square
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200 Brady St.
Sudbury ON P3A 5P3

Lesley Flowers
403 Flowers Rd.
Whitefish On PoM 3E0

July 28, 2009

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

Re: Wednesday July 1. 2009
Sudbury Star
“Sudbury among worst sewage offenders” by Denis St. Pierre

I write this letter in anger and disappointment. You see I was beginning to feel hopeful about the number of positive steps that the community of Greater Sudbury has undertaken to improve the environment. It impressed me that 30 years after the first lime spreading and tree-planting program, we have a much greener Sudbury. It impressed me that a citizen's group was able to convince Council to work with them to preserve a green space near downtown. It impressed me that we are beginning a green cart organic waste program. It impressed me that there are active groups of Lake Stewards putting educational and practical programs into place to protect lakes in the area. It impressed me that Drinking Water Source Protection is moving into actual practice. It impressed me that Laurentian University has funding for the planned “Living with Lakes Centre” providing a state of the art place for research and education.

It just does not seem logical that there appears to be so much forward movement in favour of the environment and still we dumped sewage to the tune of 2.6 billion litres into our waterways in the years 2006 and 2007 according to the article of July 1, 2009 in the Sudbury Star entitled “Sudbury among worst sewage offenders” by Denis St. Pierre.

The article sights Nick Benkovich, the city's director of water and wastewater services who says that the cost to have an adequate sewage system is prohibitive. How on earth can we in this day in age, when we are capable of so much good science and forward thinking throw our hands up and say that adequate sewage treatment facilities are too expensive. It is too expensive to the future of our precious watershed not to treat and dispose of sewage properly.

Simon Lake, which is part of the lower Junction Creek watershed, is only one of many vulnerable areas along the sewage stream from the Kelly Lake facility and the Lively sewage treatment plant. Citizens there are working hard to save their lake. They have a full water testing program in place to supplement the city's and have convinced the City with the help of their alderman Jacques Barbeau to fund two coherent water resonators which send electro magnetic waves through the lake and are said to increase water oxygen levels there by preventing the release of phosphorus from the bottom of the lake. All this time and money is going to solve a problem that was thought to have occurred in the past! The algae blooms of 2006 and 2007 were particularly bad. Of course the sewage dumped in those years must have added to the problem!! We seem to work with stop gap measures rather than actually coming to terms with getting the funds and the will to properly deal with the largest issue polluting our lakes and rivers – sewage.

It doesn't matter whether shorelines are naturalized, fertilizer use is discontinued and we test water like crazy if we do not adequately deal with the huge amounts of municipal sewage dumped into our waterways. Elected leaders at the municipal and provincial levels must come to terms with addressing this very fundamental infrastructure. Planning, budgeting and legislation on the part of politicians are the only things that will make this change happen. Positive changes are being made so lets get at some of the more difficult ones now, not when even more lakes and rivers are damaged beyond salvage.

Sincerely

Lesley Flowers
Grassy Lake, Vermillion River
Whitefish

Cc Jacques Barbeau
Sudbury Star
Walden CAN
Simon Lake Stewardship Committee
Christine Nash, Chair Greater Sudbury Lake Improvement Advisory Committee
Coalition for a Livable Sudbury