

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS IN LITTLE LAKE & OTONBEE RIVER PUBLIC NOTICE

FACTS

Historic storm-water runoff and leachate from industrial sites within the City of Peterborough has resulted in contaminants that have accumulated in the sediments of Little Lake/Otonabee River, in particular at the foot of Rink Street in the vicinity of the marina.

The contaminants of concern are Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Poly-cyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals.

Agencies from all levels of government are working closely with the responsible parties to further assess the extent of the impacted sediments in an effort to safely remove and/or manage them.

In the coming weeks a consultant will be conducting sediment sampling in Little Lake and in the vicinity of the city marina. The sampling will not interfere with normal recreational use of the Lake.

At this time there are no identified risks to the public's use of these waters.

Questions and Answers

Q: Is it safe to swim in Little Lake?

A: The Peterborough County & City Health Unit with the assistance of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion has reviewed the available data and has concluded that there are no health concerns to the public's use of the lake.

Q: Is it safe to touch the bottom sand/sediment of the lake in the beach areas?

A: Most of the contamination in Little Lake is bound to the fine-grained sediment in the deeper portions of the lake and around the city Marina. No public health risks have been identified at the common recreational areas in Little Lake (Beavermead Park, Rogers Cove Etc.)

Q: Have there been any studies of the impact on fish?

A: Yes, the Ontario Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources conduct a regular monitoring program that collects and analyzes sport fish for levels of environmental contaminants. The Provincial Government publishes the results of the study in the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish. This guide should be reviewed whenever consuming recreationally caught fish.

Q: Why is the consultant sampling all of Little Lake?

A: Sampling is being conducted in all areas of Little Lake and the Marina to ensure that a complete understanding of the historically deposited sediment is known before any recommendations are made.

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Q: I am doing work on my dock/retaining wall near the water, is there anything I should be concerned with?

A: Most of the contamination in Little Lake is located in the deeper portions of the lake and around the city Marina. There are no identified health risks in doing this work. However, it is required that Parks Canada be advised prior to conducting all in water work in the Trent Severn Waterway.

Media Inquiries or More Information

For more information regarding the contaminants management project, please contact Environment Canada at 416-739-4826.

For more information regarding public health concerns please contact the Peterborough County and City Health Unit at 705-743-1000

For more information regarding sport fishing and the consumption of fish please contact the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring Program at 1-800-820-2716 or refer to the Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish available online at www.ontario.ca/fishguide or at your local Service Canada outlet

For more information regarding vessel navigation and Trent Severn Waterway operation please contact Parks Canada Trent Severn Waterway at 705-750-4900.