

March 29, 2010

Mr. Bruce Richards, District Manager
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Unit 1, 1500 Paris Street
Sudbury, ON
P3G 3B8

**Re: Fisheries Habitat Losses and Stormwater Management
Minnow Lake, City of Greater Sudbury**

The Minnow Lake Restoration Group has been working for 30+ years to improve Minnow Lake through community education, scientific research, and sustainable parkland development. Much of this program delivery have been undertaken with the financial support and co-operation of the City of Greater Sudbury, and its predecessors (i.e. City of Sudbury and Regional Municipality of Sudbury).

Since 1995 and even prior to that date, the St. Jean stormsewer (which drains the Kingsway) has been identified as largest non-point source of contaminants discharging to the lake (NAR 1995). This sub-catchment represents 70% of the water balance to Minnow Lake.

Over this timeline, the Restoration Group has made every reasonable attempt to work with the City to resolve this matter, to which the City has done little more than formalize the need to do Stormwater Management but not adopted any measures when recently re-constructing infra-structure along both Bancroft Drive and the Kingsway

In November 2009, an area of sand deposition, averaging 1.5 m deep and approximately 20 m wide and extending 30 m from the shoreline was documented at the St. Jean stormsewer outlet (next to Minnow Lake Place) to Minnow Lake. Based on historical sediment chemistry data collected in 1994, the lake was, and continues to be, grossly contaminated with metals, petroleum hydrocarbons and nutrients predominantly attributable to the stormwater from the Kingsway (NAR 1996).

While this site is the most serious example there are other substantial stormsewer depositions notably along Bancroft Drive and Bellevue Avenue. The location of these outlets and photographs of all sites are on the www.minnowlake.ca website on the Ecological Reports pages under Restoration Group.

Given this clear and on-going destruction of fisheries habitat, we are requested that Fisheries and Oceans Canada investigate this complaint in a timely manner.

Sincerely



John Lindsay

President – Minnow Lake Restoration Group 1439 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury ON P3B 1R6 – 525-7526

cc. Mayor John Rodriguez - Mr. Ron Norton – City Engineering - Drainage

References:

N.A.R. Environmental Consultants Inc. 1995. Minnow Lake Restoration Plan: Environmental Baseline and Management Options. Prepared for City of Sudbury and Regional Municipality of Sudbury.

N.A.R. Environmental Consultants Inc. 1996. Quantification of Non-Point Source Metal Loadings. Prepared for City of Sudbury and Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund.