

# THE MINNOW LAKE NEWS

Published by the Minnow Lake Restoration Group

## Water Quality Concerns For Ramsey and Minnow Lake Area

It's a beautiful view of Minnow and Ramsey Lake from the Gazebo on **Blueberry Hill**, located behind the Carmichael Arena. All seems fine, however, these two water bodies are threatened by **pollution** that could affect the health of the lakes and residents whose **drinking water** comes from Lake Ramsey. Learn more in this newsletter.



Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study and Master Plan  
City of Greater Sudbury

February 2020



The City of Greater Sudbury has just released the **Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study** (copy available on the City website). The study, which was funded by the province, has revealed that there are threats to Ramsey Lake that need to be addressed. The problem is high levels of salt (sodium and chloride). Already, sodium levels are almost **three times the limit** for those on salt restricted diets and chloride levels are now approaching danger levels for **aquatic life**. Most of the salt comes from roadways surrounding the lake and from large parking areas.

Of particular concern, as described in the Study, is the **large proposed parking lot for the Kingsway Entertainment District** which would be located on what is called a “recharge area” for Ramsey Lake. This is an area that provides much of the water for the lake. A map from the Study shows the area and is reproduced on the left.

Salt cannot be removed easily and there are **no effective** mitigation methods - a serious concern.

A number of environmental groups have expressed concern about this threat to Ramsey Lake. Their comments can be found on The Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance website at [www.gswa.ca](http://www.gswa.ca).

# Drinking Salt

Those of us living north of Lake Ramsey are drinking **a lot less salt** in our water than in other sections of the city which is good news for those on salt restricted diets. Our city water comes from two sources; a pumping station on the Wahnapiatae River and from Lake Ramsey. The two sources are mixed to some extent, however, salt levels in our section of the city are in the range of from about 4 mg per litre of sodium and chloride (the two elements of salt) to over 50 mg per litre of sodium and up to around 90 mg per litre of chloride for those in the south and west ends of the city. The low levels come from water from the Wahnapiatae source and the higher levels from Lake Ramsey. A **complete report** on this situation and the tests conducted by our Group are available on the MLRG website [www.minnowlake.ca](http://www.minnowlake.ca) and also the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance website [www.gswa.ca](http://www.gswa.ca).

# Our Heritage

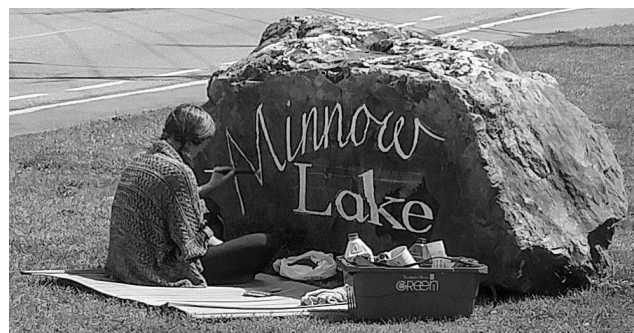
A report on the Ramsey Lake Watershed from 1991 described “the setting of the Minnow Lake Community **is remarkable**, the physical landscape give the community a character and visual identity that could be developed as a **model** for other Sudbury communities” We have, with the help of the City, and residents attempted to preserve our heritage and enhance the livability of our unique community.

Some do not realize that Minnow Lake is part of a Conservation area and the reason that **no power boats are permitted** on the lake to disturb the abundant wildlife including a flourishing fish population, plus turtles, muskrats, a variety of birds including of course ducks, geese, and the past few years even loons.

The Rotary Club of Sudbury recently asked us to speak about our organization and we developed a presentation which can be viewed under the history tab on our website [www.minnowlake.ca](http://www.minnowlake.ca). Our group can be reached by e-mail at any time: [info.minnowlake@gmail.com](mailto:info.minnowlake@gmail.com)

# Activity Update

Our Group continues to work on a number of endeavours to **enhance** our area. To fulfil our mandate with respect to Minnow Lake, we have conducted a survey of lake plant life and identified invasive species, the most prevalent being Phragmites, a tall grass, that is prevalent along the north end of the Bancroft Waterfront walkway. The City is to look at this situation and determine the best method of removal before they spread affecting other native plants and wildlife. **The report** can be found on our website. Currently we have undertaken a further analysis of water quality to determine salt and other chemical levels and the general health of the lake.



We applied for and received a Community Improvement Grant to restore the small parkette on Bellevue Avenue and arranged for painting of a large bolder on the property to identify the area. We have submitted another application this year to have the garbage bin enclosure enlarged at Minnow Lake Place to accommodate all the bins in order to make the area more attractive.



We have also asked the City to replace broken and missing benches and to correct some storm water culvert drainage issues.

Our area councillor (Ward 11) is Bill Leduc who can be reached at 705-665-5873 or e-mail [bill.leduc@greatersudbury.ca](mailto:bill.leduc@greatersudbury.ca)