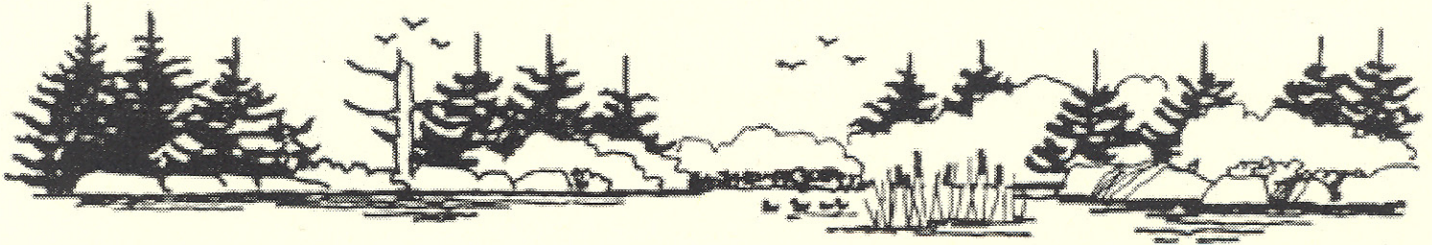


PCBs and Five Island Lake



Five Island Lake Community Liaison Committee • Newsletter #14 • March, 2004

Dear Fellow Residents

Thank you to those of you who came to our community meeting on October 28th. With consultants' advice and input from the community, the Department of Transportation and Public Works has concluded that there is no viable way at this time to complete the remediation of the former Associated Metals and Electronics salvage yard site in Five Island Lake. The Community Liaison Committee has been informed that the environmental and health risks associated with trying to excavate the wastes buried on the site outweigh the potential benefits – especially as there is no known technology to deal with liquids containing PCBs in the fractured bedrock underneath the site.

The good news is that monitoring results over the past ten years have shown that (a) contaminants are not leaving the site and (b) since the clean-up of North Bay, the PCB levels in fish in local lakes have dropped significantly.

All of this means that, until there are some technological advances, Transportation and Public Works will continue to manage the site. This newsletter contains information about the 10-point environmental management plan that Transportation and Public Works will use to ensure that the site continues to be safe and the community remains well informed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Community Liaison Committee by phone (Contact List on back page) or e-mail:

fiveislandlake@hotmail.com

Long-term Management Strategy for the Former Associated Metals and Electronics Salvage Yard

Transportation and Public Works, taking into consideration issues raised by the Community Liaison Committee and people who came to the October 2003 community meeting, have developed the following 10-point environmental management strategy for the site. The strategy includes both physical improvements to the site and long-term management and monitoring actions.

1. Surface drainage on the site will be improved to avoid risk of erosion. The main action will be to re-align Western Brook away from the edge of the salvage yard.
2. The site will re-graded to reduce the gradient of the slopes and ensure they remain stable.
3. The visual appearance of the site will be improved through landscaping with native shrubs and trees.
4. After completion of these three steps, the Department will consider removing the two storage berms on the site that currently contain soils with very low levels of PCBs.
5. There will be an ongoing monitoring program to observe groundwater levels (every six months), groundwater quality (annually), and PCB levels in fish caught in Five Island Lake and adjoining lakes (in 2005 and as needed thereafter).
6. The site will be inspected on a regular basis to ensure the clay and gravel cap over the site is not damaged by erosion, vegetation growth or unauthorized use of any part of the site (for example, ATV intrusions).
7. The central water supply now serving homes between the site and the lake will remain in place and be operated by the Halifax Regional Water Commission.
8. The site will be registered with the Department of Environment and Labour as a "Managed Site" and annual reports will be submitted to Transportation and Public Works and made available to the community.
9. Transportation and Public Works will review the viability of new remediation technologies at regular intervals (at least every five years).
10. Transportation and Public Works will also continue to work with the local community through FILCLC or another appropriate community body.

More information about these various approaches will be presented at the community meeting. We do not expect community members to make instant decisions – more detailed assessments of options, and possibly field studies, will be required. But it is clear that we will be living with a contaminated site in our community for many years to come. How can we ensure that it is safe? Are there any viable clean-up options available today? If not, how should it be managed to reduce risks to a minimum?

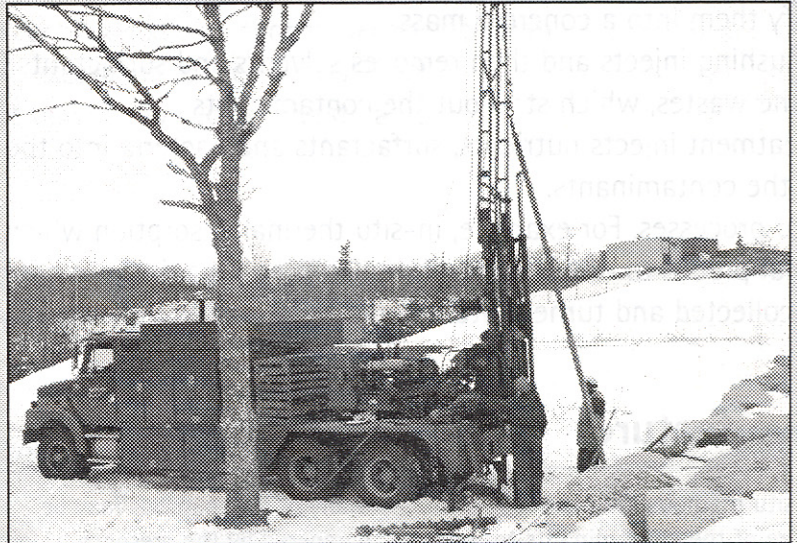
We look forward to seeing you on October 28 at the Bay Road Fire Hall. In the meantime, please contact us if you have any questions.

- John Hoyt (chair),**
Three Brooks, 876-2722
Richmond Campbell,
Cambrians Cove, 876-7847
John Jardine,
Five Island Lake, 876-2724
Danny LeBlanc,
Sheldrake Lake, 876-8179
Joyce Milley,
Hubley Lake Road, 876-5000
Wayne Nicholson,
Five Island Lake, 876-2294

Community Involvement in Ongoing Management

Whatever happens to the site, it seems inevitable that there will have to be ongoing monitoring and management, until technology is developed to get the PCBs out of the bedrock (no such technology exists at present). Therefore the community needs to stay informed to continue to have input into decisions about the site. What is the best way to make sure this happens? Five years from now? Ten years from now?

Please bring your ideas to the public meeting on October 28



Drilling a monitoring well.

We Need To Hear From You

Please take a few minutes to send us your feedback by mail, e-mail, or fax.

The Five Island Lake Community Liaison Committee,
5539-B Young Street, Halifax, NS, B3K 1Z7
Fax (902) 421-1990 fiveislandlake@hotmail.com

