

Questions Arising from the Open House of the Porcupine Watershed Public Liaison Committee on February 12, 2020:

Question	Response
<p>In September 2018, City Council approved enhanced testing in Porcupine Lake with the goal to determine safe remedial actions to improve the Lake. A suggestion was made to retain a Professional Geoscientist (P. Geo) with experience in remediation of waterways suffering from both mining toxicity and sewage contamination. This was disregarded and the task was instead assigned to City staff. Seventeen months later, we are still waiting. Will this be another smoke and mirror game with residents or will the money be well spent?</p>	<p>In September of 2018, city staff was directed to commission an enhanced sampling program for consideration in the 2019 budget where it was subsequently approved. The task of sampling was never assigned to staff. Water and sediment will be sampled from Porcupine Lake and its tributaries in the late winter of 2020. The sampling will characterize nutrients and other parameters in the lake and tributaries to indicate if wastewater has affected the water and sediment quality.</p> <p>The late winter can be a particularly sensitive time for lakes, because lake water has been isolated from oxygen in the atmosphere by ice for several months, and the aquatic plant community (which provides habitat and dissolved oxygen) has been dormant since the fall. Dissolved oxygen in water is critical for aquatic life and effects the balance of nutrients and other parameters in lake water. Open-water monitoring programs have been conducted on Porcupine Lake for many years, but it is important to understand the sensitive late-winter under-ice conditions.</p> <p>Hutchinson Environmental will be conducting the work. Their team, including the project lead who is a Professional Geoscientist, have extensive experience assessing surface water and sediment for effects from septic, urban and industrial inputs.</p>
<p>City councilors ignored instructions from the MOE and failed to upgrade the sewage system in a timely manner. The MECP prosecutes individuals contaminating waterways yet continues to make excuses for municipal dumping. City employees are instructed to deny, deny,</p>	<p>MECP ordered the City to conduct monthly water quality sampling during the ice-free season. The enhanced sampling was brought forth by The Friends of the Porcupine and endorsed by Council hence why we are conducting additional testing. Once the results from that study we will</p>

<p>deny. A whole century of mining has caused a toxic mix of contaminants in the Lake and River. Can someone please explain why We the TAXPAYERS are on the hook for the cost of the testing necessary to restore health to our lake?</p>	<p>then know if any remediation will be required.</p>
<p>What are the locations of the sediment testing and to what depth with core samples be taken?</p>	<p>At each sample location in the lake, two water samples will be collected from the depths that provide the best information on under-ice water quality:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One sample ~ 0.1 m off the bottom to characterize water near the sediment-surface water interface, where oxygen may be most depleted and chemistry will indicate the influence of nutrients, metals and environmental parameters in sediment on lake water quality; and, • One composite sample of the water column from ~0.5 m off bottom, to the base of ice that will represent overall water quality. <p>At each point source and/or tributary location, a sample will be collected upstream of the source, and downstream of it to determine the relative change in water and sediment quality related to the source.</p>
<p>Is Benthic testing included in the Study or would you consider that to be a wasteful and unnecessary expense already knowing the high level of contamination?</p>	<p>A Benthic study is not included (at the moment). The City will review the results from the enhanced study and determine if a Benthic study is required.</p>
<p>Why is there a large snow dump behind the BARN with runoff directly into the creek? The contaminants in snow/debris removed from roadways have been well documents in Provincial studies. We shouldn't need more studies. With one of the largest, land area cities in North America, why don't we move the snow dumps away from water courses and use natural terrain/obstacles to slow runoff?</p>	<p>Historically the snow dump has been behind the BARN for many years. Due to land availability and without impacting snow removal operation efficiencies, it is difficult to find replacement snow dump sites. The City is currently looking at reshaping the current snow dump to alter majority of the snow melt from directly hitting the water ways.</p>
<p>How long does it take for the lake to turn over?</p>	<p>Turnover of the Porcupine Lake has not been studied. Shallow lakes typically experience little turnover.</p>
<p>Is the City planning to dredge Porcupine Lake?</p>	<p>The City will not dredge the Lake. Recently, Bob's Lake Lagoon was dredged.</p>

<p>What is the long term plan to rehabilitate Porcupine Lake?</p>	<p>At this point there is not a long term plan. The results of the enhanced sampling will assist in developing any longer term plans.</p>
<p>We are all tired of hearing about the debacle at PS4. Out City P. Eng at the time resigned amid controversy over the location of the tanks, the way bids were accepted and the way contract were awarded. The construction site has been an eyesore for years. Multiple attempts to stabilize the buildings have failed. The excuse of “Ongoing Litigation” is growing old. Property values are affected. People are understandably discourage and tired of excuses.</p> <p>Does the City have another backup plan?</p> <p>Who are the “Named Parties” in the litigation?</p> <p>Does the City expect a financial settlement in their favour?</p> <p>Does the City have insurance to protect taxpayers against the costs associated with lawsuits, fraud, or negligence?</p>	<p>The City will not comment on human resource matters other than to say this is wholly inaccurate.</p> <p>The City also cannot comment on legal matters.</p> <p>The City carries insurance.</p> <p>There have not been multiple attempts to stabilize the building. The work to date has been to finish the construction.</p> <p>The Contractor is moving ahead with plan to implement a micro piling solution to stabilize the pump station in the Spring of 2020, with an expected project completion date of Fall 2020.</p>
<p>Mayor Pirie campaigned on the promise of a new treatment plant for Whitney/Tisdale. The old one is out of date and out of sight. Is it not operating up to today’s or even yesterday’s standards. Is the Mayor still committed to a new treatment plant to protect the environment?</p>	<p>Mayor Pirie remains committed to eliminating bypasses. When the Lift Station upgrades are complete, City staff can then focus their efforts to reviewing the Whitney/Tisdale treatment processes. The Whitney/Tisdale treatment plant is currently operating within its licensed operating parameters issued by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.</p>
<p>Have any black legged ticks been identified in the area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 – 1 positive, 3 negative • 2018 – 1 positive, 1 negative • 2017 – No positive • 2016 – 1 positive • 2015 – None identified <p>The Porcupine Health Unit continues to focus on educational awareness for residents on prevention of vector-borne diseases.</p>
<p>Have there been any confirmed cases of</p>	<p>One case identified with no travel history</p>

Lyme disease in people with no history of travel outside of Northern Ontario?	outside of Northern Ontario
General matters discussed with the Porcupine Health Unit at the event.	<p>Beach Postings in 2019 – Explained Enhanced Beach Sampling Program for Porcupine Lake, where the Porcupine Health Unit increased sampling to two times a week to obtain a better beach water quality picture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beach was posted 3 times in 2019 due to adverse water sampling results. In all 3 events, heavy rain was reported within 24 hours or was occurring at the time of sampling. This can have an effect on water sampling results. <p>Porcupine “BeachWise” Reporting website – Discussion on how and when beach advisories are reported to the public.</p> <p>New Public Beach “Notice” Signs – Discussed the new signs that will be posted at all public beaches with general beach safety messages. Signs were on hand for the public to see.</p>