

Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association



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Zurich ON, N0M 2T0

2007 June 20

Hon Dalton McGuinty, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty:

The Board members of the Bluewater Shoreline Residents' Association, from the Municipality of Bluewater in south-western Ontario, wish to draw the enclosed "Water Quality Report" to your attention. We request that the appropriate Ministers of your government read our report and respond to us.

Our organization is an umbrella group made up of 54 associations of permanent and seasonal residents along Lake Huron. In recent years, our members have become very concerned about the pollution of the surface water, both in the near-shore waters of Lake Huron and in the many short streams that flow into the Lake in our area. Our deeply felt concerns have frequently focused on the number of days that the beaches on Lake Huron are unsafe for swimming. Last summer, there was a manure spill into one of the streams which resulted in a significant fish kill, and made the visible level of pollutants flowing into the lake very obvious. This event served as a catalyst for the alarm of local residents and tourists, and caused our organization to intensify our work on the enclosed report. We have consulted many people in the process of refining this paper. In fact, we were invited to meet with Minister of the Environment Laurel Broten in December. We followed her suggestions in refining our paper. But we continue to believe the situation is urgent and that our attached paper merits your attention and more action on the part of government.

We recognize that your government is facing many environmental issues. Hence, we were pleased to see a newspaper article in which you were quoted as saying "Sometimes I'm a little bit concerned that the Great Lakes have slid to the back of environmental concerns". We also recognize that the causes of surface water pollution vary from region to region. But we strongly believe that this issue is both a Provincial and a Federal concern, and that the time has come when much more effective and coordinated effort must be placed in correcting the problems.

At least three Provincial government departments will be involved in solving the problems: Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources. We believe that the federal

Environmental Protection Act is a strong piece of legislation but that the Province of Ontario has not seen fit to put that strength into action. We find it confusing that the interplay between Federal and Provincial legislation results in a lack of accountability for solving the problems.

The time for action is now. Our recommendations, which we believe are actually quite modest relative to the size of the problems, are listed on pages 5 and 6 of our paper. Please ask your Ministers to report back to us. We await your government's response to this paper and its vigorous action on helping to clean up Lake Huron.

Thank you.

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Enclosure: Water Quality Report (www.bsra.ca/wq_report_ref_doc/20070527_BSRA_W_Q_Spill_Report.pdf)

c: Hon Laurel C. Broten, Minister of the Environment
Hon Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture and Food
Hon David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources
Carole Mitchel, MPP (Huron-Bruce)
John Tory, Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario
Howard Hampton, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario
Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton--Victoria--Brock)
Robert Morley, PC Candidate (Huron-Bruce)
Paul Klopp, NDP Candidate (Huron-Bruce)