



SAUGEEN OJIBWAY NATION
ENVIRONMENT OFFICE

Media Release

19 October 2018

Owen Sound Harbour toxic to fish and a potential hazard to humans SON-Trent Study

The main concern of the Chiefs and Councils of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) is with the integrity of the environment of their traditional territories and with projects are not incompatible with the use that the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded FN and the Chippewas of Saugeen would make of the land. It is the job of the SON Environment Office to ensure no project harms the rights and claims of the SON. In this way we work to protect not only SON's traditional territories but the health and safety of our neighbours in surrounding communities.

In this spirit we are releasing the summary of the most recent studies completed by Trent University in partnership with SON-EO on the ecotoxicological Hazards in Owen Sound Harbour. The story of this report is that pollution in the Harbour is high and extensive and bad for the health of fish and fish stocks, and its sediment can harm people if they are exposed to it.

- The results of the study echo the report by Dillon Consulting (2010) and show that polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and other toxic organic and inorganic compounds are concentrated in the Harbour in levels that exceed sediment and water quality guidelines for the protection of fish.
- The SON-Trent report also confirms the Dillon finding that the area affected reaches beyond the mouth of the Harbour to Kelso Beach on the east side.
- Lab tests indicate the sediment in the Harbour, if disturbed, can harm fish health and recruitment of stocks.
- PAH levels in the sediment exceed Canadian guidelines for the protection of human health and so pose a cancer risk for people who come in contact with it.

Disturbing the contaminated sediments would increase the risks of ecotoxicological effects and should not be conducted without a full evaluation of those risks.

“Leaving the Harbour as it is does not address the current contaminant hazards,” says Doran Ritchie, the Resources Manager for the SON Environmental Office. “A full evaluation of remediation options, as well as an in-depth evaluation of risks associated with each option is necessary to properly ensure the protection of the SON fishery, ecological and human health.”

Michael Johnston, the Manager of the Environmental Office: “Because risk to the fishery and to fishers who come in contact with sediment in the Harbour is so great, we have asked the Crown

to enter into proper consultations with SON over any action it is contemplating regarding the Harbour. Unfortunately, we've had no response to our requests. We know the City of Owen Sound has had similar problems with Transport Canada. The Crown owes SON a duty to consult, but it also owes the people of Owen Sound a clear and transparent discussion of what to do with the Harbour.”

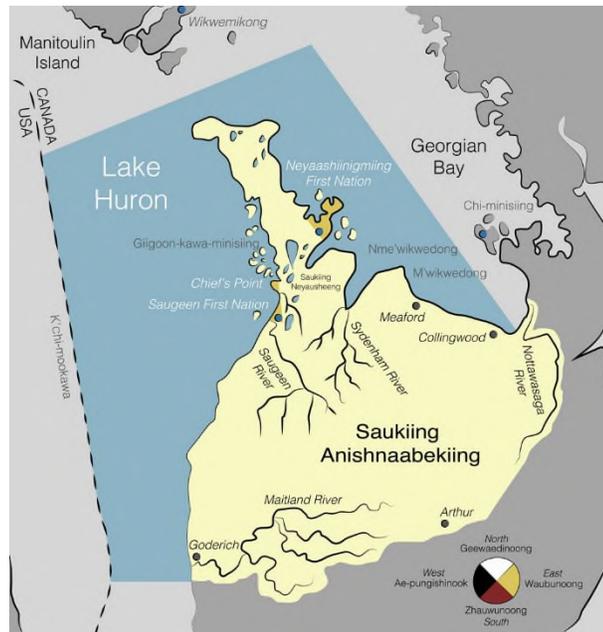
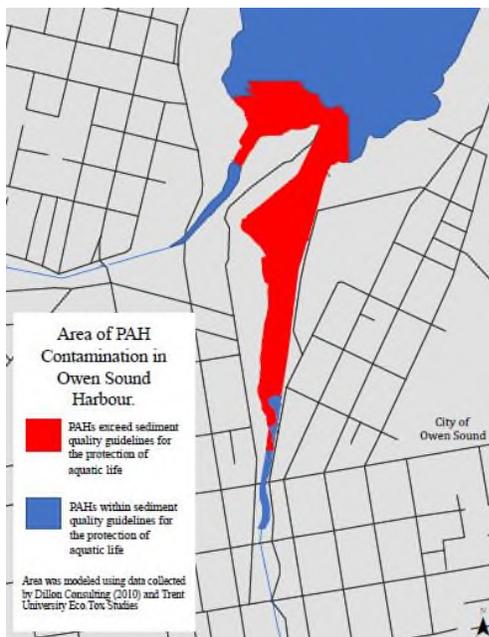
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- Michael Johnston, SON EO Manager, michael.johnston@saugeenojibwaynation.ca, Cell: (289) 388-4476

CFOS Interview on this matter 19 Oct 18 with Chief Lester Anquot, Doran Ritchie & Michael Johnston archived at

<http://www.bayshorebroadcasting.ca/podcast.php?PodcastID=28728>



SON Environment Office 519-534-5507 <https://www.saugeenojibwaynation.ca/>

Press conference at 10 am at Bayshore Broadcasting , 270 9th St E, Owen Sound

