

The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bay
99 Lone Pine Road
Port Severn, Ontario
L0K 1S0

Attn: Mayor Walden and Township Councillors

Re: Water Testing in Coastal Georgian Bay Communities

Dear Mayor Walden and Members of Council,

You got it right with this header in your draft for the Port Severn development.

2.5.10 It's All About the Water (March 2008)

You got it wrong when funding was not continued for water testing in 2008. A commitment to preservation of the ecological heritage of the Township requires that you know what you have, that you know how well it is being maintained and that you coordinate all activities necessary both to maintain and to enhance that heritage.

As a taxpayer in the Township of Georgian Bay, I am asking that our Township Council reinstate funding for water testing for the summer of 2009 and give a clear commitment to on-going water testing as a municipal service to protect the ecological heritage of the whole township community.

Immediate action requested:

Given the short amount of time between now and the summer I respectfully request that Council support and work through the program recommended by the GBA Foundation; we know that it can be implemented in time for this summer.

Longer term commitment:

Further we ask you to strike a Standing Committee of Council, chaired by a member of Council with a membership comprised of public, Council and municipal staff members

This Committee should draw on all available and accessible expertise including the science community, government and other agencies. The mandate of the committee would be to maintain a data base on the water resources of the Township, to recommend to Council education and other activities to promote the health of the Township's water resources, and to collaborate with other similarly situated municipal, provincial and/or federal governments in establishing some best practices for water quality preservation and enhancement.

The Committee should bring forward for the consideration of Council, in the fall of 2009, a plan for water testing in 2010 and beyond that is consistent with its mandate.

Remember: It's All About the Water

You will note that this is not "all about the water" for permanent residents. It is all "about the water" for everyone with a stake in the economic and ecological health of the Township. This means, at the least, all tax payers in the Township. As we share this need for knowledge of our main resource, we can easily afford the small cost of the current enterprise.

When you consider this matter at Council, keep one thing in mind.

You have your own community plan acknowledging that it's **ALL ABOUT THE WATER.**

Please vote accordingly and show that your commitment is for the Township as well as Port Severn.

Alan Bowers
2133 Harrison Trail
Mactier, P0C 1H0