

Georgian Bay

I read with interest and amusement the report card on Georgian Bay and here are my thoughts.

- 1) It is oxygen that makes the bay so clean. I has nothing to do with our management. The bay's massive open expanses of water with large waves whipped up by the prevailing winds oxygenate the waters breaking down any organics into carbon and water giving it incredible clarity and abundant life.
- 2) When you look at he water quality in the bay you must understand there is a difference in the quality of oats before and after it goes through the horse. The quality of the water in the bay is most directly impacted by the watershed that feeds it. What happens in Algonquin Park, Huntsville, North Bay, or Bracebridge will eventually affect the water in the bay. To have excellent water quality in any body of water you must manage the watershed that feeds it. Our understanding of this is infantile with toilet police our main weapon of protection.
- 3) The most prevailing contamination on the eastern and northern part of the watershed is the massive infestation of rats, namely the beaver. Solution is to ban the hunting of wolves to bring beaver population into check. Currently the MNR allows the slaughter of wolves from September 15 to March 31. Little Red Riding Hood was just a fairy tale. In the southern part of the bay poor farming practices (plowing right up to the edge of creeks and rivers and allowing cattle to pasture in them) contribute heavy loads of nutrient from agricultural runoff causing algae blooms and oxygen depletion. Take a plane ride over the southern watershed and you will get a first hand look of what I am talking about.
- 4) Measuring phosphorous is senseless. Everything that is growing is growing because of the availability of phosphorous. Water testing is always just a snapshot in history as it is continually changing. Phosphorous is like the nectar solution in a humming bird feeder and will very with what's available to consume it. Phosphorous spikes phyto plankton blooms which spikes a zooplankton explosion which provides food for small fishes which provides lunch for bigger fish. This program has worked perfectly for millions of years years.
- 5) Humans on the bay are a totally insignifigant source of phosphorous on the east and north regions. Picture this if you will. Your septic is like a junk food restaurant. The trees surrounding it are like hungry half starved teenagaers. No burgers are going to get by them. Even if a slight nutrient rich trickle of water were to escape from your septic it would immediately start some algae, fungi, or moss growing which would eventually support grasses then sum small shrubs and so on. In nature nothing complains of a free lunch, or what being served, where it is served and nothing is wasted. Have you never seen chickades or whiskey jacks feeding on a moose carcass?
- 6) You know that pine pollen (yellow powdery stuff in the water in June) it is loaded with phosphorous. A family of 4 could hope to put as much phosphorous into the water as a couple of pines can. Sorry to disappoint you. Your not as significant as you were told. Collect some of this pollen lace water

in a jar and leave it in the sun. Wow what an alge bloom. The creation of life right before your eyes.

You cannot compete with the microcyllium fungi eating the rocks with the oxyalic acid they produce releasing the nutrients phosphorous in the granite. Go into the woods, turn over a rotting log. You will see a white cottony fiborous material. This is mycillium. It is the internet of the forest. It digest dead palnt and rocks to provide nutrient for the forest. It has the ability to move these nutrients to wherever in the forest they are needed.

7) About wetlands. Not all wetlands are created equal. Some provide incredible habitat in minute areas while other cover a vast area and simply spew out toxins. Let me explain. All organics (leaves weeds, aquatic vegetation) break down and decompose in one of two ways, aerobically with oxygen or anerobicly without oxygen. With oxygen they decompose to carbon and water, release thir nutrients and are benign. Without oxygen, they ferment just like making beer, wine or spirits. The organics now produce swamp gas, methane which is odourless or hydrogen sulphide gas which smells like rotten eggs. Both are very toxic.

If you stick your paddle into this organic soup you will likely see bubbles rise to the surface. If they smell, you have hydrogen sulphide, odourless and you have methane. Methane however presents some real problems. Remember the canary the miners took into the coal mine. They are very sensitive to methane and expire quickly when it is present in even minute amounts. That's why you won't normally see a lot of song birds around swamps producing a lot of methane. Ah but were not done yet it gets worse. Methane in water becomes methanol in the organic stew and as it rises to the edge where oxygen is present it converts to formaldehyde which is supper toxic to all aquatic life. This is why so many aquatic species are absent in what would appear to the uniformed a beautiful wetland.

The best wetlands are those with clear shallow water, sandy bottoms with some organic, good biodiversity of aquatic vegetation exposed to wave action or with an unincumbored creek passing through it . Here you will a great diversity of turtles, fishes, and aquatic fauna. There are many of these on Georgian Bay but they are not recognized as wetlands, yet they are the most productive and beniifical for the broadess diversity of species. They don't teach my view of wetlands in scholl but it very easy to observeand understand. Don't get me wrong, I have a great reverence for the natural bogs which also produce their own unique abundance of flora and fauna. Most beaver swamps, in the end, become wastelands where even the beaver can't inhabit.

7) Gas and oil from your boat quickly breaks down into carbon and water due to the presence of oxygen, sunlight and bacterial action. Nature never waste a free lunch.

8) As far as invasive species go. Everything was an ivasive species at one time or another . Are humans no an ivsive species?

About those Zebra Mussels you call bad guys. There was a Life Magazine article back in the fifty's about the great lakes. They said Lake Erie was so polluted it was done for. Over my life the Great Lkes Commission, The

international Joint Commission, Federal, provincial, and municipal governments gathered to discuss, paid millions for quacademic studies and talked about cleaning up the great lakes at nausium and accomplished nothing! Along comes this little mollusk called a Zebra Mussel and does a perfect job with no waste or byproducts, dies off when their done leaving on some troupes to maintain and does it all at absolutely no cost to the taxpayer. Sorry but the mollusk has my vote and you quacademics can quit wasting paper!

That spiny water flea is food to a lot of fish species and I here the bass have bellies full of Gobies. Lampreys, they are a problem. Need to find something that would like them for lunch.

As a final note our bay in the eastern and north is just fine and needs no money wasted on study when there is real work to be done.

For example: Why is I can go into any sporting goods store and buy one of the most toxic metals on earth and throw it into the water with impunity? Lead fishing sinkers are a level of stupidity that only humans can aspire too. Our government has to be suffering from fatal brain injury to allow this. Did anyone pay attention in school? Lead is considered toxic at 10 parts per billion, so consider just how much water one ¼ oz split shot fishing sinker could contaminate. I had to do a water quality report for a kids camp on Skeleton Lake many years ago. I took the sample right off the dock, sent it of for a 93 parameter scan never suspecting anything could possible be wrong. Wow! 78 parts per billion of lead. So why not spend your dollars and time on real issues you can do something about. We could have lead banned this week if we wanted too. Replace with iron shot and if you loose one its beneficial to the aquatic environment.

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