

Report To Rust Commission
On Boat Harbour Pollution Problem
Submitted on behalf of the New Glasgow Lions Club by D. J. Chipman

Our club wishes to express their grave concern over the pollution problem as centred in the Boat Harbour area. Our main concern at present rests with the water pollution as indicated by the beaches along the shore including the once great tourist attraction and recreation area of "Lighthouse Beach." This beach and the private beaches of many Pictonians in the New Glasgow area have been desecrated by the outflow of the black effluent from the Boat Harbour treatment facility.

The obvious discoloration of the water and presence of such a vast amount of foreign material is most disturbing. Reliable reports indicate the great effect this has on our fishermen who once were able to take good catches of shell fish in these waters and now find them barren.

-- Add up the toll of damages --

1. the loss of recreational beaches both for local residents and tourists.
2. the effect on the fishing industry
3. the overwhelming stench of the holding ponds which permeates the whole Pictou Landing area.
4. the deplorable environmental conditions imposed on the minority racial group living adjacent to Boat Harbour.
5. the unbelievably heavy swarms of flies which first appeared with the use of Boat Harbour for effluent treatment and which appear to be directly related to the ponds at "Boat Harbour."
6. The adverse effect of this pollution on property values in the Boat Harbour area.

Everyone is in favour of industrial expansion in the area. Consider however, whether the "toll of damages" of the water pollution and also of the air pollution are fair exchanges for the boost in the economy. Even more soul searching is the necessity to pay such a price for such a boost in the economy. I am sure there are workable and acceptable solutions. The question has got to be not ---

CAN WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

BUT -- HOW WILL WE SOLVE THE PROBLEM?



The effects of such pollution continue to spread with time. If it is not halted soon all the beaches in this area will be effectively ruined. Consider the consequences of this. What will happen to our growing tourist trade? Where will our children go in summer for recreation? Where will we as individuals go for relaxation and recreation?

When is firm action to be taken to halt this destruction of our natural environment and to restore our environment to a position where we can once again enjoy it? Consider the cost of procrastination. Time waits for no man-- The time for action to rectify this problem is

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The urgency of the situation should be obvious.

We urge the "Rust Commission" to recommend to the N. S. Water Authority and the Province of Nova Scotia a solution to this problem which will be effective in solving the problems mentioned above and acceptable to the residents of Pictou County.

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Community Betterment Chairman