

NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR Remedial Action Plans

Remedial Action Plan Office - Winter 2015 Update

Over the winter months the North Shore of Lake Superior Remedial Action Plan Office at Lakehead University focused efforts on discussions of the pending summative Nipigon Bay Status Report, the health of the fish populations in Thunder Bay and Nipigon Bay, and communication of the RAP mission at Canada Water Week.



Visitors to Thunder Bay's Canada Water Week event discuss the location of Remedial Action Plan projects.

January 2015

Nipigon Bay PAC Meeting (January 6th)

On January 6th the Nipigon Bay Public Advisory Committee (PAC) held their best attended meeting to date at the Red Rock Recreation Centre. The meeting focused on construction of the new water pollution control plant in Red Rock, Riversedge Developments CEO Justus Veldman's waterfront development plans for Red Rock, and the draft "Status Report for the Nipigon Bay Area of Concern".

Regarding the water pollution control plant, Kal Pristanski Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Red Rock indicated that the Township had received financial commitments from both Federal and Provincial governments and, following a round of public consultations, work should begin shortly. Justus Veldman also has big plans for the future of Red Rock, and although unable to attend in person due to the weather, he discussed his desire for a deepwater port facility and repurposing of the former mill property for producing black pellets used in bio-mass fuelled power generating facilities. Finally, Sarah Da Silva of Environment Canada presented the PAC with more information on the status of the Nipigon Bay Area of Concern as actions near completion. She pointed out that a full report will be presented to the public at a May 7th RAP open house, from 5 to 8 p.m. (presentation at 7 p.m.) at the Nipigon Recreation Centre.

Thunder Bay PAC Meeting (January 7th)

At the January 7th meeting of the Thunder Bay PAC (held in the Health Sciences Centre at Lakehead University) the pending Thunder Bay Stormwater Management Plan and the Kaministiquia River Water Management Plan were primary topics of discussion. Cecilio Olivier from the consulting firm Emmons & Olivier Resources (who are working with the City to develop the stormwater management plan) presented PAC members with some facts on how the plan is progressing noting that they expect completion of the master plan by July 2015.

Both Mike DesChamps (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry) and Eric Hansen (Ontario Power Generation) provided the PAC with information about the current status of the Kaministiquia River Water Management Plan and its relationship to the fishery including information about flow, control and regulatory structures which impact the river. Finally, Greg Grabas (Environment Canada) provided PAC members with an update on some of the studies that have been undertaken to learn more about wildlife issues in the Area of Concern such as those around bird deformities, plankton, and habitat assessments.



Rob Swainson holding a coaster brook trout caught on the Nipigon River.

Podcast w. Rob Swainson (January 29th) – Nipigon Area Fishery

In the January 2015 edition of InfoSuperior's podcast, or audio interview series, Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan Coordinator Jim Bailey spoke with Rob Swainson, a former fisheries biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) who has worked extensively on the Nipigon River system. The interview touches on the importance of the Nipigon River to area residents as well as the restoration efforts made to assist fish populations, including coaster brook trout.

February

Nipigon Bay PAC Meeting (February 18th)

At the February meeting of the Nipigon Bay PAC, presentations about sea lamprey control were made by Lakehead University masters student and former Nipigon Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staffer Kathy Sakamoto and also by Paul Sullivan of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Additionally, methods for making the general public aware of the Nipigon Bay RAP Status Report and for soliciting public comment into the report were discussed. The report is to be the culminating RAP document outlining environmental restoration efforts and conditions in Nipigon Bay and the Nipigon River.

The Public Advisory Committee has already provided review and comments about the document which will be made available to the public at a May 7th RAP open house, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Nipigon Recreation Centre (presentation to be held at 7 p.m.).

March

Thunder Bay PAC Meeting (March 11th)

At the March meeting of the Thunder Bay Public Advisory Committee, Terry Marshall (a former MNR Biologist) presented a comprehensive look at the status of fish populations in Thunder Bay noting those species which appear to have healthy populations and those which appear less than optimal. He also highlighted various places where data gaps remain. At this meeting members of the PAC also discussed potential future topics for PAC meetings including an update on wildlife habitat in May.

Canada Water Week (March 19th) - Mariner's Hall, Marina Park, Thunder Bay

For Canada Water Week celebrations the Remedial Action Plan Office hosted a display at Mariner's Hall at Marina Park offering visitors information on the various projects that have been completed to clean up the Thunder Bay Harbour. Visitors were able to locate the projects on a map and use that information in reference to their current location on the waterfront. Staff were also on hand to answer a wide variety of questions concerning potential future remediation actions and issues.

North Shore of Lake Superior Remedial Action Plans are supported by Lakehead University, Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

For more information about the Remedial Action Plans, Areas of Concern or Lake Superior in general visit <http://www.infosuperior.com>.