



The New Landscape in Ontario Lake Country

Terry Rees

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

Who sets the agenda?

...a society where hard work was the dominant ethic, where commoners never deferred to elites



Alexis de Tocqueville
1805 - 1859

What's at Risk ?



Dr. David Schindler on the state and management of Canadian lakes (in reference to development plans for Sylvan Lake, AB

See: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ck0cO2XoHU>

Who's in Charge?

Federal government responsibilities (s.91, Constitution):

- Peace, order and good government (POGG);
- ss.91 (12) Sea Coast and Fisheries;
- ss.91 (24) Aboriginal Issues;
- ss.91 (27) Criminal law; and
- ss.92 (10) Federal works and undertakings

Provincial government jurisdiction (s. 92, Constitution):

- ss.92(5) Management of provincial public lands
- ss.92(13) Property and civil rights
- ss.92(16) Matters of a local and private nature
- ss.92A Non-renewable natural resources

Government of Canada

2012 omnibus bills:

- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
- Fisheries Act
- Navigable Water Protection Act
- The National Round Table on Environment and Economy Act

Science?

Government of Ontario

(Omnibus) Bill 55 “Budget Bill” (all changes circumventing the EBR)

- Endangered Species Act
 - Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act
 - Crown Forest Sustainability Act
 - Public Lands Act
 - Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act
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- Permitting by rule on Crown Lands
 - Algonquin Land Claim

The [Environmental Bill of Rights](#) (EBR) gives the public a mechanism to participate in ministry decisions about the environment, and hold the government accountable for these actions. Budget bills are exempt from this process.

Samara

- May 2011 Federal election: 61% voted
- Beyond voting, Canadians rarely discuss politics, online or off.



Ontario Municipal Elections – Key Dates

- January 2, - 2014 to September 12, 2014
Nomination Period
- September 2, 2014 Posted Voters' Lists
- **Monday, October 27, 2014 ELECTION DAY**
- December 1, 2014 - Term of Office
Commences



Experimental Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science and Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

17 October 2013; Bulletin 22

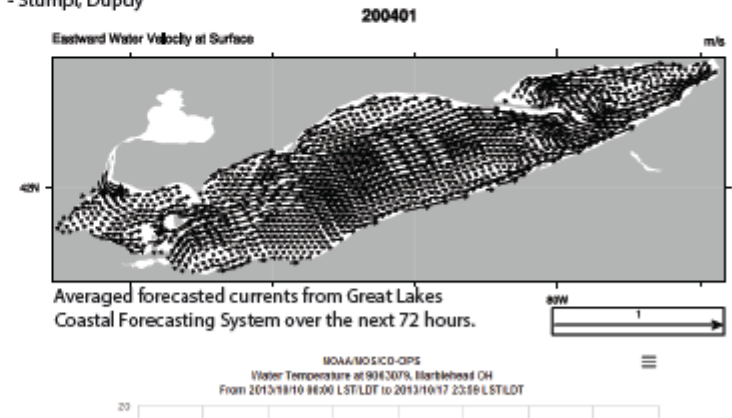
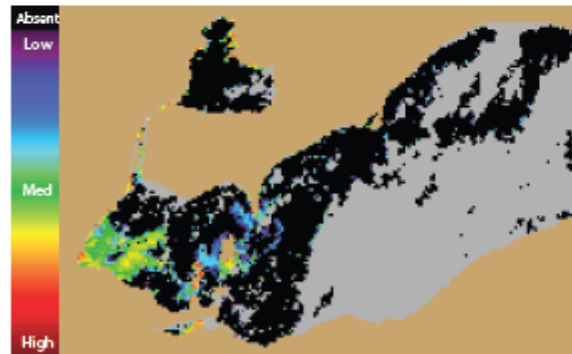
We regret the interruption of the bulletin for the last few weeks due to the US government shutdown.

The cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has persisted owing to a relatively calm fall. Scum layers were sporadic near the Islands in early October, and scum layers were found south and east of Pelee Island, even on Oct 12 (magenta/pink in image). The most intense area of the bloom was in that region. Stronger winds during the last few days mixed the bloom into the water column, reducing concentrations. While the bloom has weakened in the west, pockets of high concentrations are still found in the western basin. GLERL has found toxin levels have dropped substantially in the western basin.

Lake Erie has had a relatively calm fall (until the last couple of days) only one event had winds of >15-20 knots (on Oct 7). The lake has been relatively warm for October, the water temperature is still warm enough to support cyanobacteria growth (>15 C or >59 F). Tonight (Thursday) and Friday winds of up to 20 knots are expected, and cool air has entered the region. The combination of strong wind and dropping temperature should continue to reduce the bloom intensity.

Eastward to northeastward transport is likely today and tomorrow, favoring reduction of the bloom near shore. No impact is expected on the Ohio shoreline. While elevated concentrations were present earlier this week along the coast west of Point Pelee, Ontario; the concentrations have diminished and should remain so.

- Stumpf, Dupuy



“We regret the interruption to the bulletin due to the US government shutdown.”

“The cyanobacteria bloom in western Lake Erie has persisted...”

March of Folly

From Bob Sandford “Saving Lake Winnipeg”

A failure to see and act upon a serious threat to the stability and future of our society until it is too late to do anything about it but accept the consequences.

Barbara Tuchman (1984)

FOCA Fall Meeting 2013

WATER WOES **Higher Highs & Lower Lows**

Featured speaker: *Robert Sandford*



Freshwater expert Bob Sandford will speak about climate change and impacts on our freshwater systems. Bob is the EPCOR Chair in support of the United Nations "Water for Life" Decade. This initiative aims to translate scientific research outcomes into language that decision-makers can use to craft timely and meaningful public policy.

What your community needs to know

only 2 weeks away

Saturday, November 2nd, 2013 3:30pm-6:00pm

Toronto International Centre, Airport Road

\$40 per person

Includes: 1 free entry ticket on Saturday, Nov. 2nd to the Fall Cottage Life Show, next door at the International Centre. Plan to make a day of it!

Get your ticket from FOCA, today!

What can I do?

- 1) Write a letter to your municipal councillor, MPP, MP or political candidates
- 2) Call their office, and ask them specifically what they propose to do about your issue or situation
- 3) Schedule a visit with your elected official or candidates, attend their events or invite them to attend yours. Introduce yourself if there is a meet-and-greet.
- 4) Encourage your neighbours to do the same
- 5) Encourage your neighbours to support the local lake association
- 6) Support FOCA's advocacy efforts through membership and/or donations

Who's REALLY in Charge?



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead