



WABIGOON LAKE OJIBWAY NATION

English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel
2020 Community Engagement Report

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY
— & —
KGS
GROUP





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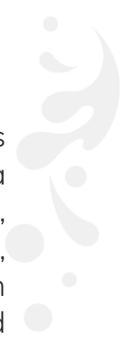
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the 2020 community involvement plan for English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel (EWRRP) was developed in late 2019 and early in 2020, no one could foresee that we would endure a global pandemic during the implementation. Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM) led the engagement program alongside Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and KGS Group (KGS). The ability of our project team to pivot and provide flexibility was valuable as we navigated the public health concerns arising from COVID-19 and the changes that would affect engagement throughout the year ahead. One of SMM's favourite engagement mantras is; 'while the landscape is changing, the road-map remains the same'. In other words, the goals and objectives set out for engagement must still be honoured while the methods to achieve similar outcomes must be entirely re-imagined. This meant that the members of our team living in Winnipeg needed to achieve the project's engagement goals with the possibility of not visiting the community, meet with people in-person, and gather face-to-face. With the first event on our schedule being an in-person community workshop in spring, our plan was quickly adapted to include virtual community meetings and the creation of a project webpage to be hosted on the existing WLON website.

The introduction of the webpage allowed us to offer a summary of the previous engagement events and materials presented so that those who were unable to attend the previous workshops are brought into the project fold and able to provide input. The materials on the webpage include project history, background of the mercury contamination, the work of the EWRRP Panel, and information on the technical studies taking place. The webpage was launched on July 7, 2020 and created a resource tool to provide easy to access and ever-present information for community members to refer to and keep up to date on approaching activities.

With travel restrictions being unpredictable over the summer, the team facilitated a virtual community meeting using the Zoom platform. The event was held on September 2, 2020 at 7:00pm with two community members participating. The event provided a walk-through of the webpage and opportunity to test the ease of the registration system and access to the platform. SMM was able to learn from this experience and make plans to adapt promotional methods and simplify the registration process for future virtual meetings to help increase attendance and make it more accessible.

Our second community event was on Friday September 18, 2020, SMM and KGS, together with the WLON coordinator, facilitated a day camp for youth of all ages at the Pow Wow grounds. The ease of travel restrictions combined with COVID-19 testing and quarantining allowed a staff person from both SMM and KGS to visit the community and help facilitate the camp. In total, 13 youth joined the activities between 9am to 4pm. There were also several



young children (2-4 years old), present throughout the day and with help from their parents they participated in most of the activities. The day began with a blessing followed by a water ceremony led by two community Elders, who participated throughout the day. Youth, with the help of volunteer teachers, parents, and facilitators, enjoyed a day full of activities, which consisted of a scavenger hunt and puzzle, t-shirt painting, sediment sampling, fish dissection and examination, and a soil erosion experiment. Afterwards, the Elders led everyone in a sharing circle and prayer around the fire, where people were encouraged to share something about the day. All participants shared what they enjoyed about the day, what they were grateful for, what they learned, and what they hoped to see next time.

The third community engagement event was a second virtual community meeting held on November 27, 2020 at noon. Participants were able to join from four community locations (health centre, school, small business centre, and conference centre) or from the comfort of their own home. Computers or devices were set up by the WLON coordinator at each location for community members to join and participate. In total, 19 community members joined the virtual meeting. The presentation was shared virtually by KGS and SMM and updated the community about the new project webpage, the Youth Day Camp, and the 2020 Field Program. We were able to share information about the data the team (comprised of KGS and local environmental technicians) collected in the field from background reference lakes. Facilitators used virtual break out rooms in Zoom to facilitate smaller discussions about the nine clay-dominated lakes within WLON's traditional territory. We had many great discussions with community members and SMM was able to collect a lot of information about the lakes which will inform future sampling.

Overall, the year had its obvious challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limited our ability to meet in-person. However, the community engagement team at SMM was able to adapt to successfully meet our goals to provide: further education regarding various concerns about mercury contamination; opportunities for community members to become involved in the project and provide their input and knowledge; and a forum for sharing information pertaining to technical studies and panel activities. We were able to continue to share information with the community, gather feedback, and learn from community member's knowledge in community meetings, in addition to building capacity through the resources we provided on the project website. The Youth Day Camp was an all-day community event that brought together Elders, parents, teachers, and most importantly, the youth of WLON. The camp was fun, educational, and inspiring for youth, helping them develop an interest in the environment that will impact the future of their community. We look forward to continuing to build on the relationships that grow each time we meet with community members, whether in-person or virtually.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

OVERVIEW



The 2020 community involvement plan for English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel (EWRRP) was developed and implemented for the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) community. The program built upon the previous engagement program that was delivered in 2019. The plan and engagement activities are funded under the 2020 EWRRP Participation Capacity Budget.

The plan provided a strategy for the community engagement planning process and the engagement activities and highlighted all engagement goals, objectives, methods, materials, and timelines. The plan was developed together with the Project Team which included: Tyson Williams, the WLON Project Coordinator; Robert Parenteau, EWRRP Participant and WLON representative; Chief and Council, with Conan Pitchenese as the lead contact; Alex Man, Cheryl Dixon, Meaghan Pauls, and Sam Blatz from Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM); and Jason Mann and Annie Dietrich from KGS.

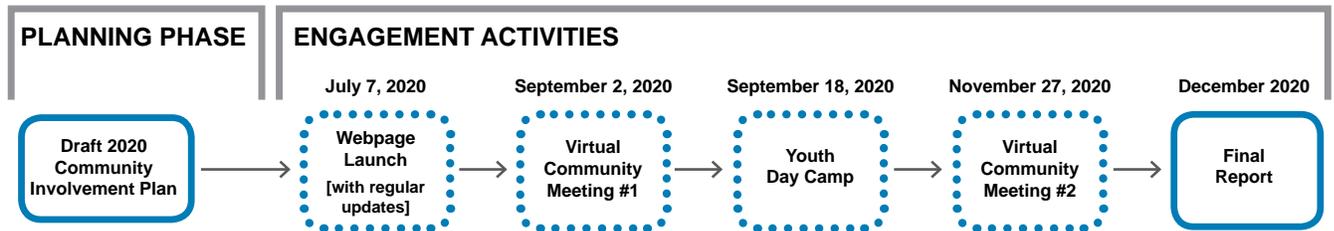
1.1 OVERALL ENGAGEMENT GOALS

The overall engagement goals include:

- For the WLON community and its members to have a better understanding of the project
- Build capacity in the community for future environmental activities
- Ensure an open and transparent process with clear communication
- Provide opportunities for ongoing involvement and meaningful engagement
- Understand local issues pertinent to this project
- Engage members, to gather insight into historically significant information
- Obtain knowledge for current resources and land uses
- Gather information from the WLON members to identify any impacts to cultural or spiritual areas
- Gather information regarding any necessary changes to historical and current traditional practices
- Create an iterative process that is flexible based on feedback, results, and evaluated targets



1.2 TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES



2.0

PROJECT WEBPAGE

SUMMARY

Webpage Launched on July 7, 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person community engagement events were canceled to respect Provincial public health orders in both Manitoba and Ontario. To continue to engage with the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLO) about the ongoing study and the EWRRP, we shifted to a virtual platform.

SMM worked with Ursula Chief, the WLO website administrator, to create a new page on the WLO website. The webpage was launched on July 7, 2020 and promoted in community digitally, via facebook and the WLO website home page. The project webpage provided an overview of 2019 community engagement activities and materials and promoted upcoming engagement events in 2020. The webpage was intended to be a resource of information to the WLO community and a method to continue communication with community members.

In early September, access to the webpage was improved to ensure all community members can access the information easily with a single click.





UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Join the virtual meeting on Zoom from the safety of your home.

JOIN THE VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZOOM HERE

If you are not able to join the meeting on a computer, tablet or smart phone, join us by calling in on your phone:

Call: 855 - 703 - 8985 (toll free)

Meeting ID: 898 1511 5706

Passcode: 803230

- THE ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS REMEDIATION STUDY
- THE WABIGOON LAKE STUDY
- PAST ACTIVITIES
- OUR PROCESS

- What is the Problem?
- Mercury in the Environment
- The River System
- The English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Study

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The Problem: The English and Wabigoon River Systems have been contaminated with mercury from the pulp and paper mill in Dryden.

1960s & 1970s
CONTAMINATION HAPPENED
 The pulp and paper mill in Dryden released 10 metric tonnes of mercury in the Wabigoon River.* Mercury traveled into the English River.

1960s & 1970s
 Water is unsafe to drink.

1970s
THE CONTAMINATION SPREAD
 The mercury affected drinking water, fish, and the people of the communities that live near the lakes and river system and continues to affect people today.

1970s
 Ontario warns residents to stop eating fish.

2015
FUNDING RECEIVED
 In March 2018, the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Study is funded by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. Funds, totaling \$85 million are transferred to BMO Trust Company.

2015
 An illegal mercury dump site is identified near the pulp mill site.

2017
THE PANEL IS FORMED
 On December 14, 2017, the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Funding Act comes into force and forms The Panel (EWRRP).

2019
 A second illegal mercury dump site is identified near the pulp mill site.

SCALIFF • MIDER • MURRAY
KGS

* Source: Province of Ontario (2019, March 28). Mercury contamination in the English and Wabigoon Rivers near Grassy Narrows and Wabaseemung Independent Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.ontario.ca/page/mercury-contamination-english-and-wabigoon-rivers-near-grassy-narrows-wabaseemung-independent-nations>.

2.1 WEBPAGE KEY OBJECTIVES

- Provide an easy-to-access format
- Create a hub for the community to access past and new project information
- Provide a resource to the community that includes all of the 2019 engagement materials and a summary of the findings and feedback from the Fall 2019 Community Workshops.
- Use a new section on the WLON website webpage to provide regular updates to the community by creating tabs to include: past activities, project information, EWRRP newsletter, etc.
- Build capacity in the WLON community to update the website in the future for this project.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

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THE ENGLISH AND WABIGON RIVERS REMEDIATION STUDY
THE WABIGON LAKE STUDY
PAST ACTIVITIES
OUR PROCESS

What is the Problem?

Mercury in the Environment

The River System

The English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Study

MERCURY IN THE ENVIRONMENT 2

Mercury exists naturally in the air, land, water, fish, and wildlife.

01 Mercury Contamination: Mercury is a toxic metal produced naturally from volcanic eruptions and human activities like the burning of coal and power plants. It can be found in the air, water, and soil.

02 Other Sources: Mercury pollution is produced by a variety of natural processes and human activities, including coal-burning power plants, mining and burning waste (garbage).

03 Bacterial Methylation: The dangerous form of mercury is produced by a group of bacteria in lakes and rivers. These bacteria are found in the water, soil, and sediments.

04 The Food Chain: Mercury builds up in the food chain as it moves from one organism to another. Fish and wildlife that eat smaller fish and animals that eat smaller animals accumulate higher levels of mercury.

05 Movement of Mercury: Mercury is transported through the atmosphere, water, and soil. It can be found in the air, water, and soil.

06 Consumption: Mercury is found in fish and wildlife. Consuming these animals can lead to mercury exposure.

Source: Province of Ontario, 2019, March 23. Mercury in Ontario. Retrieved from: <http://www.mercury.ca.gov/mercury.html>

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THE ENGLISH AND WABIGON RIVERS REMEDIATION STUDY
THE WABIGON LAKE STUDY
PAST ACTIVITIES
OUR PROCESS

Our Team

What we heard from the Community

Learn About Safe Walleye Consumption

What is Being Done?

WLON Surface Water Sample Results

Mercury and our Health

LEARN ABOUT SAFE WALLEYE CONSUMPTION 3

There are many good reasons to catch and eat fish, including excellent source of nutrition, opportunities for physical activity, connection to the land, and economic benefits. Unfortunately, humans are mainly exposed to methylmercury, the most toxic form of mercury, through consumption of fish and wildlife.

The Province of Ontario has established safe consumption guidelines based on mercury levels found in different types of fish for different lakes.

In Workshop #1, we heard that Walleye is the most consumed fish. Learn more about safely eating Walleye.

WALLEYE IS AT THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN FOR FISH. IT USUALLY HAS THE HIGHEST MERCURY LEVELS.

NEED TO KNOW: There are 3 factors that determine mercury levels in fish:
 1. type of fish
 2. where it's from
 3. size of fish

RECOMMENDED WALLEYE CONSUMPTION GUIDE - DINORWIC LAKE*
 (Province of Ontario)

Walleye Size	12"	12"-22"	22"-28"	28"
Meal Size	1 meal - 4 fillets	1 meal - 12 fillets	1 meal - 0.5 fillets	1 meal - 0.5 fillets
Safe Monthly Consumption from Dinorwic Lake	4 meals / month	1 meal / month	2 meals / month	2 meals / month

* Dinorwic need to 22 grams of fillets of walleye

Women of child-bearing age & children under 6: The Province of Ontario recommends that children under 15 and women of child-bearing age should not consume walleye larger than 12" from Dinorwic Lake.

All others: The Province of Ontario recommends that you should consume Walleye larger than 28" from Dinorwic Lake.

To learn more about safe consumption of fish from other lakes in Ontario, go to: [The Province of Ontario's Guide to Eating Ontario Fish](#). <http://www.mercury.ca.gov/mercury.html>



2.2 WEBPAGE CONTENT

The webpage includes the following information:

- Upcoming activities
- Presentation boards from Fall 2019 Community Workshops on the English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Study and the Wabigoon Lake Study
- Past activities, reports and feedback including:
 - 2019 Community Engagement Report
 - Workshop #1 Exercise Results (October 2019)
 - Workshop #2 Exercise Results (November 2019)
 - English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Panel - 2019 - 2020 Annual Report
- Project timeline

To review the entire webpage, visit: <https://www.wabigoonlakeon.ca/english-and-wabigoon-rivers-remedia>.

The screenshot displays the project webpage layout. At the top, there are two 'UPCOMING ACTIVITIES' sections, each for a 'VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING' on Thursday, November 27, 2020, from 12:00 to 1:00 PM. Below these are navigation tabs for 'THE ENGLISH AND WABIGOON RIVERS REMEDIATION STUDY', 'THE WABIGOON LAKE STUDY', 'PAST ACTIVITIES', and 'OUR PROCESS'. A list of documents is shown under 'PAST ACTIVITIES', including an Engagement Report and two Workshop Exercise Results reports. The main content area features a large card for the 'WABIGOON LAKE OJIBWAY NATION' report and a grid of smaller activity cards. A 'CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DOCUMENT' button is positioned over the large report card.



2.3 UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The project webpage provides WLON community members with the most up-to-date information on upcoming activities, both virtual and in-person. Opportunities and links to register for the community engagement events included:

- Virtual Community Meetings (September 2, 2020 and November 27, 2020)
- Youth Day Camp (September 18, 2020)

The following are screenshots from the project website that highlight the “Upcoming Activities” section of the webpage as it was updated throughout 2020.

Posted on July 7, 2020:

Posted on August 25, 2020:

Posted on November 23, 2020:

3.0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #1

SUMMARY

September 2, 2020, 7PM

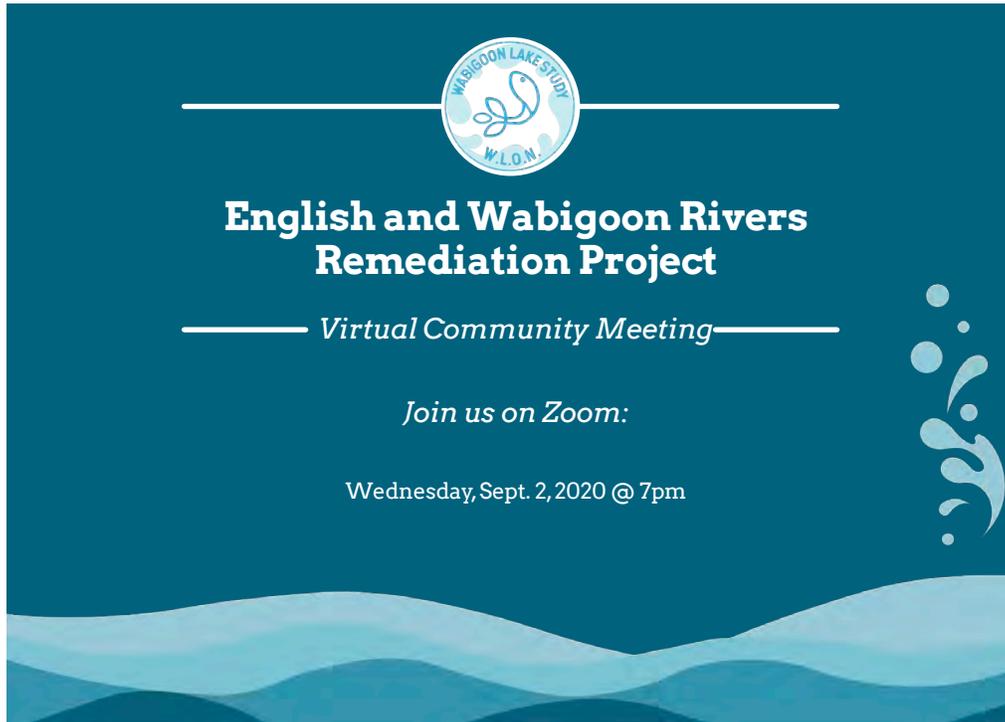
The first virtual meeting was intended to provide a project update on past engagement and technical program activities and promote the new webpage and upcoming events to the community and its members. The meeting was also planned to test the platform as a potential communication tool with community. SMM wanted to gauge the interest and receptiveness to the method, ease of participation with Zoom, success of promotion, accessibility for the technology (clarity for visuals and audio), and success for interaction while physically apart. On September 2, 2020, SMM, KGS and the WLON Coordinator hosted the virtual community meeting with two participants, one filling out an online comment form afterwards. The meeting included presentation slides and explanations from the SMM and KGS teams, live polls, a prize draw, and questions.

3.1 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Present the community with the findings from the 2019 technical study and introduce the 2020 technical field program.
- Communicate and summarize the key findings from the 2019 Wabigoon Lake Background Environmental and Water Regime Study in an easy-to-understand format
- Promote and provide an orientation to the project webpage
- Preview the activities for the fall 2020 field program
- Promote the Youth Day Camp and registration process
- Recruit volunteers for field programs (and camp)
- Foster community involvement in the project
- Obtain feedback from the community on the process
- Review next steps
- Respond to comments and questions

3.2 EVENT PROMOTION

The virtual meeting was promoted throughout the community via a digital poster campaign, the WLON Facebook page, the WLON website, and word of mouth via the WLON Project Coordinator. The promotional digital poster is below and included a live link to register for the Zoom meeting. The invitation also included instructions about how to join a Zoom meeting.





English and Wabigoon Rivers
Remediation Project

Virtual Community Meeting &
Project Web Page Launch

Join us on September 2nd

- Tour of the new project web page
- Learn the latest about the project
- Hear about upcoming events

To visit the Project Web Page,
look for the button below on the
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation Website



Join a Community Meeting on Zoom:

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 @ 7pm

Register for the Virtual Meeting
on the Project Web Page



English and Wabigoon Rivers
Remediation Project

Virtual Community Meeting

Join us on Zoom:

Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2020 @ 7pm

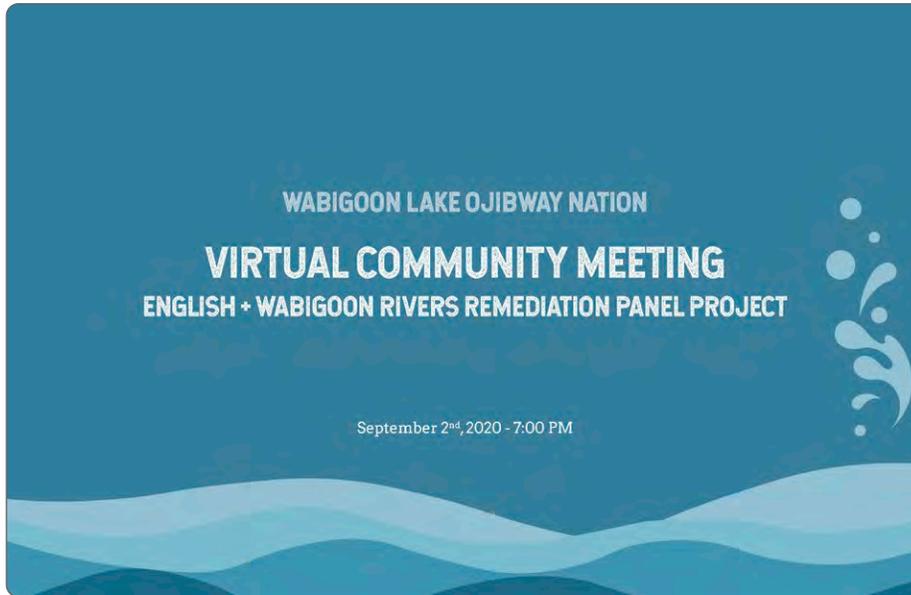
Top: Poster; Bottom: Facebook post



3.3 PROJECT TEAM ATTENDANCE:

- WLON: Tyson Williams (Project Coordinator)
- KGS: Annie Dietrich (Senior Hydrological Engineer)
- Scatliff + Miller + Murray: Cheryl Dixon and Meaghan Pauls (Public Engagement)

3.4 PRESENTATION SLIDES





OUR PROCESS

2



WATER + SEDIMENT SAMPLING 2019

3



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2019

4





2020 PROGRAM 5

**Water,
Sediment, and
Fish Sampling**

**Community
Engagement**

TOUR OF THE PROJECT WEB PAGE 6

WWW.WABIGOONLAKEON.CA

WHAT WE HEARD 7

October 28, 2019

Approximately 30 people attended the workshop, viewed the presentation boards, and participated in the exercises.

FISHING

What species of fish do you eat most often?

1. Walleye
2. Whitefish
3. Pike

LET'S LEARN MORE

What do you want to learn more about?

- Contaminants in water and sediment
- What are the effects of moose eating water plants?



WHAT WE HEARD

November 27, 2019

8

Just over 30 people attended the workshop, viewed the presentation boards, and participated in the exercises.

LET'S LEARN MORE

What do you consume off the land?

1. Wild Rice
2. Blueberries
3. Raspberries
4. Moose
5. Wiike (Weekay)

2020 FIELD PROGRAM

The 2020 Field Program includes two field programs to begin October:

9

1 Wabigoon Lake Background Assessment - Year 2

WHAT

- Sample fish and sediment for mercury and other pollutants
- Document stomach contents

WHERE

- Areas of importance to the community:
- Dinorwic Lake,
 - Stanawan Bay,
 - Kagwiosa Bay,
 - Rock Lake

WHY

- To establish pre-Mill background conditions

2020 FIELD PROGRAM

10

2 Wabigoon River Aquatic Biota Assessment

WHAT

- Sample fish for mercury
- Document stomach contents

WHERE

- The most mercury contaminated portion of the Wabigoon River from Dryden to Clay Lake

WHY

- To see how much mercury is in the fish and what the fish have been eating
- Part of a bigger study with ELFN and ANA

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

11



WLON YOUTH DAY CAMP

12

September 18, 2020

Join us for the WLON Youth Day Camp on September 18, 2020 for a full day of activities to learn about:

- The Food Web
- Ecological Testing
- Environmental Remediation

Camp groups by age:



WLON YOUTH DAY CAMP

13





REGISTRATION COMING SOON! 14
Join the fun on September 18, 2020

REGISTER FOR CAMP ON THE PROJECT WEB PAGE

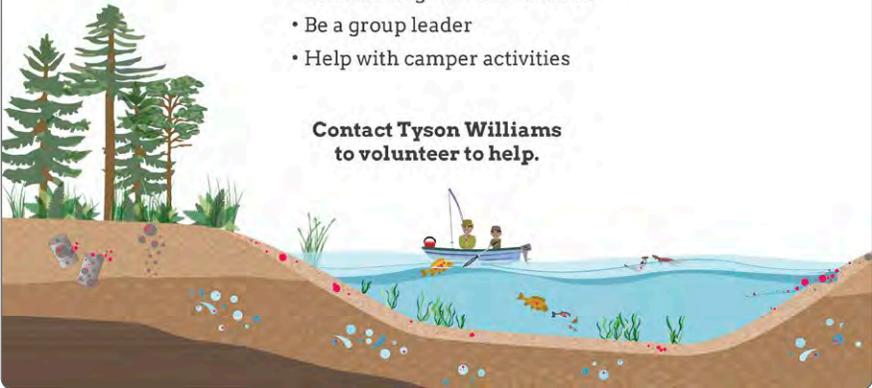


WE NEED YOUR HELP! 15
Volunteer for the Youth Day Camp

We are looking for volunteers to:

- Be a group leader
- Help with camper activities

Contact Tyson Williams to volunteer to help.



3.5 MEETING RESULTS

Meeting Participation

SMM received positive feedback from the two meeting attendees that the presentation was informative and they indicated that they appreciated the amount of effort both by the technical engagement and programs. Although the participants indicated the meeting was very educational and valuable, the team determined the lack of participation was due to the following factors (all of which were easily remedied for further events):

- Timing – the event was held during wild rice harvest season;
- Other events – there were other community activities taking place at the same time;
- Registration process – the two-step registration process was cumbersome; and
- Access – the meeting was promoted on the band-members only portion of the website.



Online Survey

Participants were emailed an online survey following the community meeting. One participant completed the online survey and provided feedback on the meeting and answered the eight questions.

Comment Form Response:

1. How did you hear about this Virtual Community Meeting? (check all that apply)

Email	Poster	Facebook	WLON Website	Word of Mouth	Other
0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

2. How easy did you find attending a Zoom meeting?

Very Easy	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Very Difficult
1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

3. Please provide feedback on the Zoom meeting format:

The one respondent found it easy to communicate via Zoom with the project team.

4. Are you?

Under 18	19-40	41-59	60+
0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

5. Was the information presented during the virtual meeting helpful to you?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

6. What should the priorities be for future mercury related studies?

The respondent believed it is important to understand how to reduce mercury contamination in the lakes and rivers.

7. Please share your questions for the Youth Camp on September 18th.

The respondent wanted to know what kind of supplies kids will need for the activities and if meals and snacks will be provided.

8. Any other comments that you would like to share?

The respondent had a positive response to the virtual meeting and liked the use of poll questions throughout the meeting. They suggested it would be helpful to circulate the presentation materials after the meeting on the project website.

YOUTH DAY CAMP

SUMMARY

September 18, 2020



The Youth Day Camp was planned to inspire youth from the community to pursue future studies in science and the environment. On Friday September 18, 2020, SMM and KGS, together with the WLON coordinator, facilitated a day camp for youth of all ages at the Pow Wow grounds. In total, 13 youth joined the activities between 9am to 4pm. There were also several young children (2-4 years old), present throughout the day and with help from their parents they participated in most of the activities, such as the scavenger hunt and puzzle, t-shirt painting, and sediment sampling.

The ease of travel restrictions combined with COVID-19 testing and quarantining allowed a staff person from both SMM and KGS to visit the community and help facilitate the camp with the WLON Project Coordinator. However, the camp was planned to be facilitated by community volunteers anticipating KGS and SMM staff may not be able to travel (due to frequently changing public health restrictions). A group of community volunteers, including teachers, parents, and grandparents, helped facilitate activities and made the day a success.

The day began with a blessing and a water ceremony led by community Elders, Paul Watts and Kathy McIvor, who participated throughout the day. Following the water ceremony, youth, along with volunteer teachers, parents, and facilitators, met at the bleachers to begin the first activity of the day. Please see the following pages for a detailed description of each activity.

Throughout the day, a fire was going for Elders, grandparents, and parents to gather around. The grandparents and parents also took part in the day's activities, shared a meal, and spent time talking and laughing with other community members. Breakfast, a snack, and lunch were provided by a local caterer and served at the picnic tables and around the fire.

After the activities were complete, Paul Watts led everyone in a sharing circle around the fire, where people were encouraged to share something about the day. Youth, parents, grandparents, teachers, and facilitators all shared what they enjoyed about the day, what they were grateful for, what they learned, and what they hoped to see again. Paul ended the sharing circle with a prayer.



4.1 KEY OBJECTIVES

- Inspire youth from the community to pursue future studies in science and the environment
- Inform youth of the current environmental situation and ongoing work toward remediation
- Involve youth in sampling activities with KGS field staff to learn about their work
- Design fun, engaging, and specific activities for a variety of age groups





ACTIVITY 1: FOOD WEB PUZZLE

How is nature harmed?

Location: Under the Arbour at the Pow Wow Grounds

Led by Sam Blatz

GOALS

To learn about:

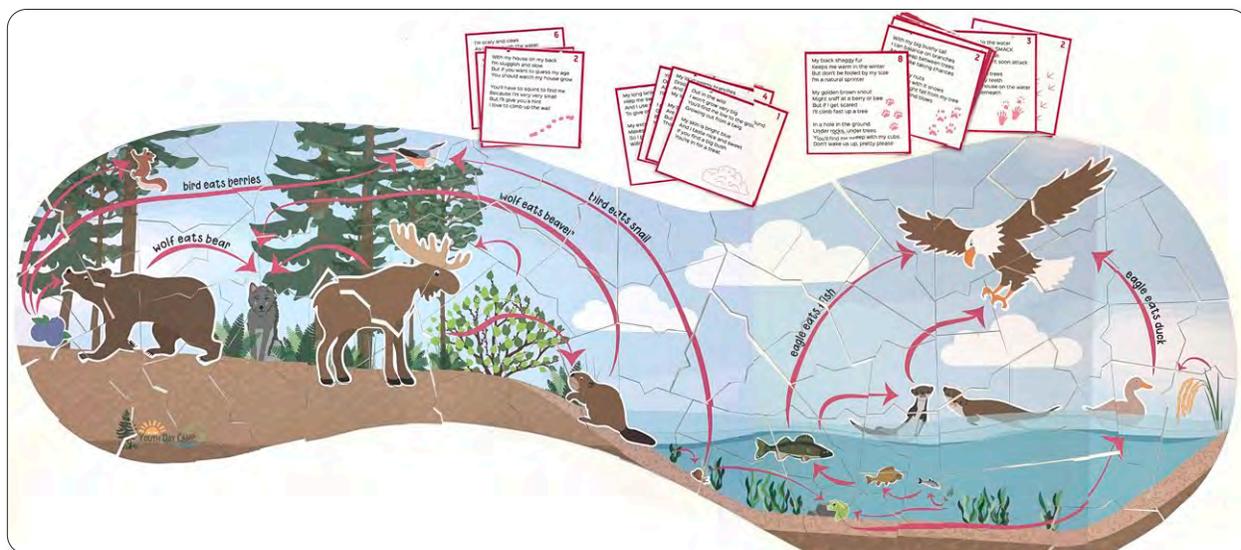
- the food web and how it is interconnected,
- how harmful contaminants can cause damage to nature and the ecosystem, and
- the background of mercury contamination in WLON

OBJECTIVES

To teach youth about different contaminants (such as mercury, motor oil, plastics and herbicides) that cause harm to the food web and the environment.

IN THE KIT:

- Puzzle pieces
- Animal & Plant Clues





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Facilitators hid puzzle pieces around area before the kids arrived in the morning
- Clues were tied to posts around the bleachers at kids' eye level for them to read and determine where puzzle pieces were hidden
- Kids worked in groups of two or three to read the clues and find the puzzle pieces
- All kids worked together to assemble the puzzle, with some help from parents, teachers, and facilitators

The first activity of the day was a Scavenger Hunt Puzzle, which focused on the food web, including plants and animals commonly found in the local region. The activity began with everyone sitting on the bleachers to hear a brief overview of the Dryden Mill story and the sampling work KGS is conducting. While together in one group, the kids received instructions about their first activity. After receiving the instructions, the group split into smaller groups of two or three, each going to take their own clue from the posts. Most of the kids were able to work out the plants and animals on their own and used the clues to help them search for where the puzzle pieces would be hidden. The younger kids were helped along by teachers and parents throughout the activity. The puzzle was 4 feet by 8 feet, and included large and small pieces, which allowed for multiple kids and adults to be working together to assemble the pieces. The kids enjoyed running around finding the clues and older kids were tasked with finding clues missed by the younger kids. This task helped them feel a sense of responsibility within the activity and contributed to their continued engagement.





ACTIVITY 2: T-SHIRT PAINTING

Team Building

Location: Picnic Tables

Led by Sam Blatz

GOALS

To paint a t-shirt inspired by the food web and the environment.

OBJECTIVES

To make sure each youth has a t-shirt as a souvenir from the Day Camp and a reminder of what they learned.

IN THE KIT:

- Youth T-shirts
- Stencils
- Paints
- T-Shirt Markers
- Brushes and sponges
- Drop Cloths





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Plastic sheeting was put down on three picnic tables
- Backpacks were distributed at this time with kids picking their own colours - backpacks included t-shirt, water bottle, and hand sanitizer
- Paints, stencils, and fabric markers were set up on the picnic tables
- Following the activity, t-shirts were left to dry in the sun, weighted down by water bottles and rocks

The second activity of the day was t-shirt painting. Three picnic tables were set up with paints, brushes, fabric markers, and stencils. The younger kids in the group were helped by parents and teachers to use the stencils and markers while the older kids used the paints in a free-style fashion. The t-shirts provided included the day camp logo. The kids enjoyed the freedom of designing their own t-shirts.



ACTIVITY 3: WATER + SEDIMENT SAMPLING

How do we test for ecological damage?

Location: On the community dock

Led by Dan Leitch

GOALS

To learn about the different ways KGS and local environmental technicians are sampling water and sediment to test for mercury contamination.

OBJECTIVES

To teach youth what local environmental technicians are testing in the lake.

IN THE KIT:

- Ponar Sampler
- Screen for benthic samples of invertebrates
- Bug ID Cards





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- This activity was hosted on the community dock with plenty of adult supervision with the presence of volunteer teachers and parents
- Dan Leitch gave a demonstration of the sampling equipment, explaining the process and the sample results
- Kids were able to use the equipment themselves and practice taking sediment samples
- Kids worked together to identify the bugs using the bug identification cards

The third activity of the day was water and sediment sampling combined with bug identification. Dan led this activity on the community dock. He demonstrated to the kids how sediment sampling is conducted using a dredge tool (ponar sampler) to collect sediment from the lakebed. With Dan’s assistance and guidance, kids were able to use the dredging equipment to pull sediment samples from the lake, sift the contents, and identify the different bugs they found there. Kids, parents, and teachers all worked together to identify the bugs found during the activity and mark them on the bug identification cards. The younger kids really enjoyed using the dredge and examining the contents of their sediment sample. The older kids were more interested in examining the bugs in the sediment and identifying them using the bug identification cards.





ACTIVITY 4: FISH DISSECTION

How do we test for ecological damage?

Location: Picnic Tables

Led by Tyson Williams

GOALS

To learn about the different ways KGS and local environmental technicians sample fish to test for mercury contamination.

OBJECTIVES

To teach youth about the fish's connection to other animals and plants in the food web which they learned about in the Food Web Puzzle (Activity 1).

IN THE KIT:

- Fish stomach content analysis lesson cards
- Bug ID Card
- Fish Anatomy Card
- 4 Fish
- Cutting boards & plates
- Fillet knife
- Dissection Kit
- Tweezers





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Tyson Williams led the fish dissection – cutting the fish open first and extracting their stomachs and other internal organs
- Kids took guts of each fish and put them on a separate tray and either individually or in pairs picked through them with tweezers, using the fish anatomy card to identify the different parts of the fish

The fish dissection activity was hosted after lunch at the picnic tables. Tyson started by dissecting four fish (3 walleye and one sauger, all different sizes) and removing their stomachs for the kids to examine. As he dissected, Tyson explained to the kids what they should look for and the connection between what fish are eating and the accumulation of mercury in their bodies. This activity engaged mostly older kids, with some younger kids participating with help from older kids or teachers. The kids used tweezers and magnifying glasses to examine the contents of the fish stomachs. Parents and teachers helped to supervise the dissection and examination process, listened to Tyson’s explanations, and were interested in learning more about the mercury issue. The facilitators discussed the fish consumption guidelines put forward by the Province of Ontario. The kids enjoyed working with the tools and examining the contents of the fish stomachs with the magnifying glass, especially where they found identifiable specimens, such as bugs and minnows.



ACTIVITY 5: EROSION EXPERIMENT



How do we fix the problem?

Location: Picnic Tables

Led by Sam Blatz

GOALS

To inspire youth to pursue future studies in the environment and science.

OBJECTIVES

To learn:

- how existing damage in the environment is remediated,
- how to prevent future damage to nature and to understand the power of plants, and
- to help fix human harms in the environment.

IN THE KIT:

- 2L empty pop bottles
- 3 measuring cups
- Clear cups to catch water
- String
- Soil
- Sod
- Sand





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Kids worked together in groups of three to construct the three soil filters needed for each erosion experiment
- Kids used measuring cups to run down to the lake and get water to pour over the materials
- After kids had poured water over the materials the collecting cups were put on the table to compare the cleanliness of the water. While examining the different water cups, kids were asked questions about why they thought some of the water cups were cleaner than others.

The fifth activity was an experiment to illustrate soil erosion and the possible mitigation measures that can be taken to remedy this issue. The activity started with a brief description of soil erosion and the problems it can cause for rivers and lakes. After this, the kids were given materials from the kit to assemble their own soil filters. Each erosion experiment had three different soil filters: 1) a filter with only soil; 2) a filter with soil and some leaves and small rocks; and 3) a filter with soil and grass with roots. The kids were grouped into two groups of three, with each kid building a different soil filter in the erosion experiment. As it was primarily older kids participating in this activity, most were able to assemble their filters with minimal help from teachers and facilitators. Once the filters were constructed, the kids used measuring cups to bring water from the lake to pour over the filters. Once the cups from the experiment were filled, all cups were placed on the table for comparison. Kids were the able to make deductions, based on what they had learned about erosion at the beginning of the activity and their observations, as to why the water in some cups was cleaner than in others. Kids learned that roots, mulch, rocks, and other materials help to filter water and help to prevent dirt from washing into a lake or river (erosion). Kids enjoyed the hands-on nature of this activity and the ability to see results in real-time based on what they were learning.





Event Photos - Youth Day Camp

5.0

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING #2

SUMMARY

November 27, 2020, 12PM

The second virtual community meeting was intended to provide an update to the community with an overview of the project webpage, a summary of the youth camp, and an update on the 2020 technical field program, and to gather information from community members.

On Friday, November 27, 2020, SMM hosted a virtual community meeting on Zoom. Participants were able to join from four community locations (health centre, school, small business centre, conference centre) or from the comfort of their own home. Lunch was provided to participants that joined from one of the four community locations. Provincial health guidelines for the Province of Ontario were abided by and groups were limited to 10 people at each location. The virtual meeting was projected in all four meeting locations and started with a presentation by SMM and KGS. 19 participants joined the meeting and 16 filled out a comment form providing their feedback on the Zoom meeting format, opinions about the project, and more information about clay-dominated lakes in the area.

Using Zoom's breakout rooms, we divided into smaller groups to facilitate group discussions about the clay-dominated lakes in the area. Community members shared information about the lakes including: access, lake depth, and fish. Facilitators screen shared a Google Jamboard with a map of the area, highlighting the clay-dominated lakes.

5.1 KEY OBJECTIVES

Our team provided the following information to the community:

- Provide an overview of all 2020 engagement and field work to date
- Provide an overview of the project webpage on the WLON website
- Provide a summary of the WLON Youth Camp on September 21, 2020

Our team listened to and gathered information from the community about the following:

- Learn about the clay dominant lakes within WLON's traditional territory to support future sediment sampling these lakes

5.2 EVENT PROMOTION

The virtual meeting was promoted throughout the community via a poster campaign, the WLON Facebook page, the WLON website, and word of mouth via Tyson Williams. The promotional digital poster is below and included a live link to the Zoom meeting.



English and Wabigoon Rivers Remediation Project

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Join us on Friday, November 27th

- Hear about and see photos from the Youth Day Camp
- Learn about latest field work for the project

Prize
Draws!

Friday, November 27th, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Join the Virtual Community Meeting on Zoom here:

JOIN THE MEETING

How to Join the Virtual Community Meeting on Zoom

Before the meeting:

1. Download the Zoom app before the meeting.
Visit <https://zoomgov.com/download> to download the app.

To join the meeting:

2. Click the link above.
3. Open the Zoom app.
4. Wait for the meeting host to admit you into the meeting.

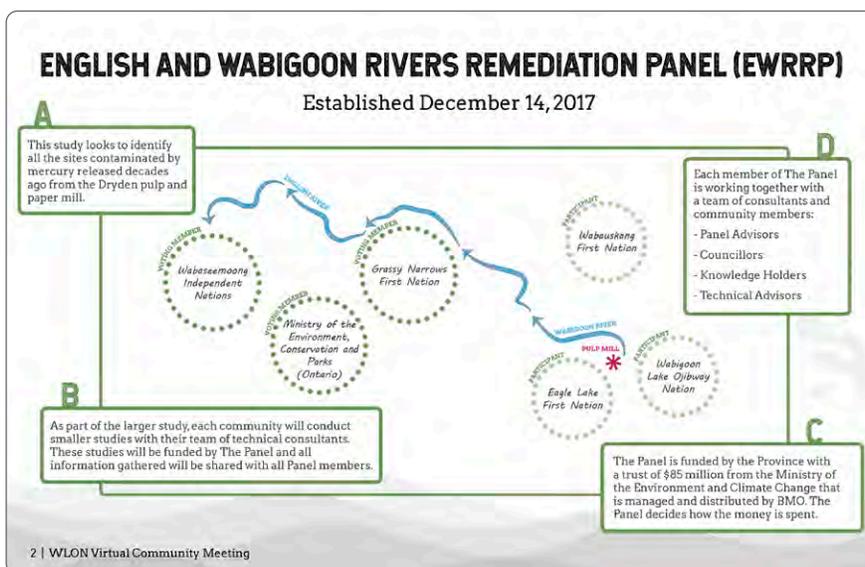
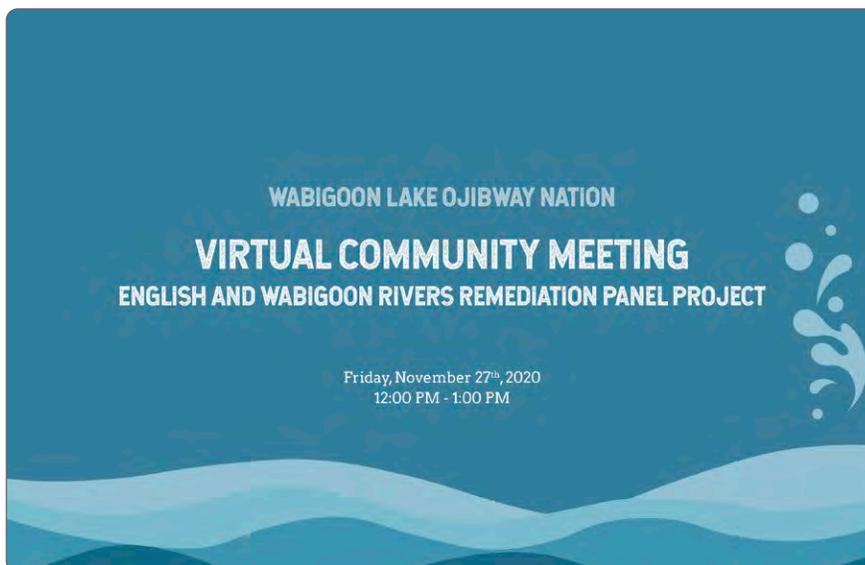




5.3 PROJECT TEAM ATTENDANCE

- WLON: Tyson Williams (Project Coordinator)
- KGS: Annie Dietrich (Senior Hydrological Engineer), Dan Leitch (Environmental Scientist)
- Scatliff + Miller + Murray: Sam Blatz and Meaghan Pauls (Public Engagement)

5.4 PRESENTATION SLIDES





PROGRESS TO DATE



3 | WLOJ Virtual Community Meeting

PROJECT WEBSITE



4 | WLOJ Virtual Community Meeting

PROJECT WEBSITE



5 | WLOJ Virtual Community Meeting



PROJECT WEBSITE



6 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting

PROJECT WEBSITE



WWW.WABIGOONLAKEON.CA

7 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting



YOUTH DAY CAMP

- Campers ranged in age from 3 to 17
- Elders Paul Watts, Tom Favell, and Kathy McIvor joined youth for the day of learning and sharing
- The camp was led by Tyson Williams with Sam Blatz and Dan Leitch from SMM and KGS joining for the day
- Youth participated in five different activities throughout the day
- The day ended with a sharing circle with the Elders



8 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting



ACTIVITIES

Campers learned about:

- The Food Web
- Ecological Testing
- Environmental Remediation



How is nature harmed?



How do we test for ecological damage?

9 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting



ACTIVITIES



How do we test for ecological damage?



How do we fix the problem?

10 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting

2020 FIELD PROGRAM

From October 6 to 15, KGS Group in partnership with North/South Consultants and WLO members conducted two field programs:

1 Wabigoon Lake Background Assessment

WHAT

- Sample fish and sediment for mercury and other pollutants
- Document stomach contents

WHERE

- Areas of importance to the community:
- Dinorwic Lake
 - Stanawan Bay
 - Kagiwiosa Bay
 - Rock Lake

WHY

To establish pre-mill background conditions



WLO team members, John Harrison Sr. and Clarence Shabaquay, after pulling an index gill net on October 10, 2020.

11 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting



2020 FIELD PROGRAM

2 Wabigoon River Aquatic Biota Assessment

WHAT

- Sample fish for mercury
- Document stomach contents

WHERE

The most mercury contaminated portion of the Wabigoon River from Dryden to Clay Lake

WHY

- To see how much mercury is in the fish and what the fish have been eating
- Part of a bigger study with ELFN and ANA

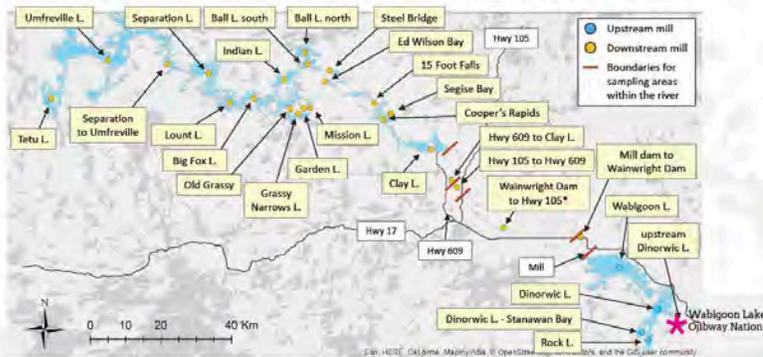


WLOL team members prepare to retrieve gill nets from the Wabigoon River, Reach 3, on October 12, 2020.

12 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting

MERCURY IN FISH IN THE RIVER SYSTEM

Locations of Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) fish sampling sites in the English-Wabigoon River system.



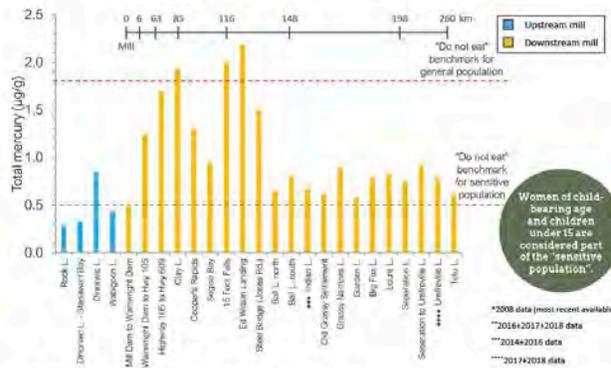
Source: MECP 2020 presentation to EWRRP Panel and Technical Subcommittee

13 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting

MERCURY IN FISH IN THE RIVER SYSTEM

• We have revisited locations where the most recent available data is from 2008.

• Additional fish and sediment sampling is being conducted downstream by other communities.



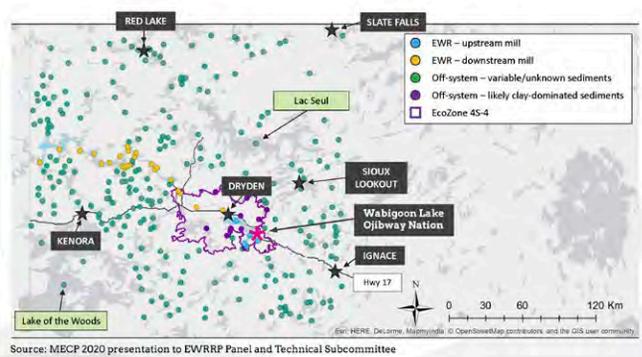
Source: MECP 2020 presentation to EWRRP Panel and Technical Subcommittee

14 | WLOL Virtual Community Meeting



MERCURY IN FISH IN THE REGION

Data from background reference sites will help the EWRRP scientists estimate what the mercury levels would be like downstream of the Mill if the system had not been contaminated by the Mill in the 1960's.



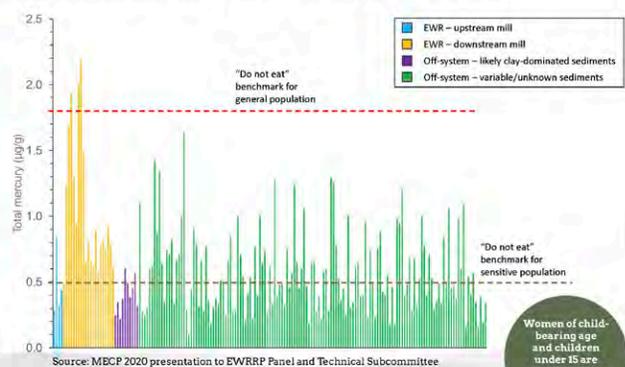
Source: MECP 2020 presentation to EWRRP Panel and Technical Subcommittee

15 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting

MERCURY IN FISH IN THE REGION

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Mercury levels of Walleye at all locations downstream of the mill, as well as in many off-system lakes and rivers, are at or above 0.5 µg/g, which is the concentration above which the sensitive population should not eat fish.



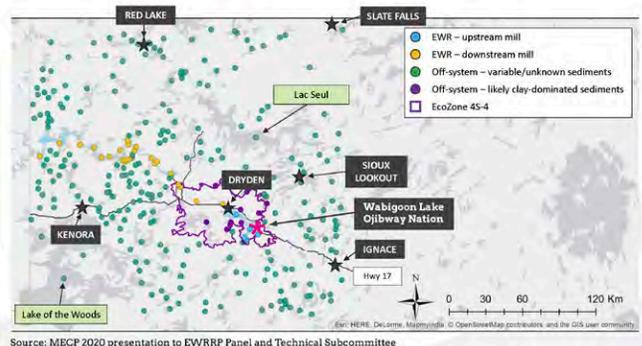
Source: MECP 2020 presentation to EWRRP Panel and Technical Subcommittee

Women of child-bearing age and children under 15 are considered part of the "sensitive population".

16 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting

MERCURY IN FISH IN THE REGION

- More mercury data in fish and water is needed from the "off-system clay-dominated lakes" (purple).
- These systems could be used as background reference areas for the upper Wabigoon River.



Source: MECP 2020 presentation to EWRRP Panel and Technical Subcommittee

17 | WLO Virtual Community Meeting



5.5 MEETING RESULTS

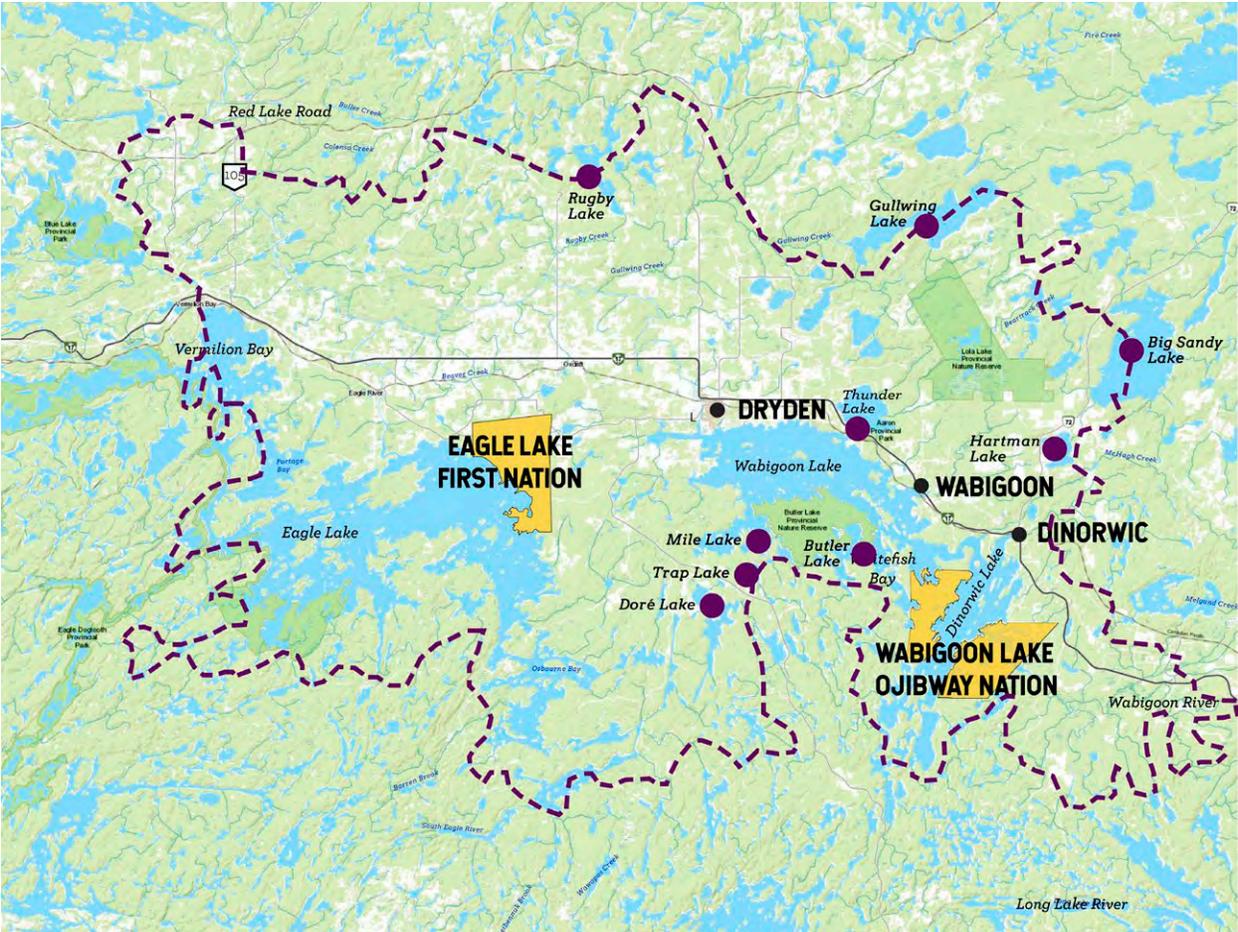
Meeting Participation

Approximately 19 people attended the meeting virtually via Zoom to view and listen to the presentation and participate in the discussion. Tyson Williams welcomed participants to the meeting and facilitated the meeting at four community locations by setting up computers and joining the Zoom meetings to encourage participation. Participants joined virtually from the school, business centre, health centre, and conference centre.

Every person who attended the meeting was entered in a draw prize and three people received gift cards as 'door' prizes.

Clay-Dominated Lakes Discussion

Participants were divided into four break out rooms in Zoom to facilitate discussions with participants at each meeting location. Participants were asked to share information about 9 clay-dominated lakes within their traditional territory: Rugby Lake, Gullwing Lake, Big Sandy Lake, Hartman Lake, Thunder Lake, Butler Lake, Mile Lake, Trap Lake, and Doré Lake.





We learned about access to the lakes, depth, what kind of fish are caught in these lakes, if the lakes turn blue/green in summer, and how these clay-dominated lakes compare with “on-system lakes”. Participants did not identify that they have seen blue-green algae on any of the lakes except for Butler Lake. One discussion group identified that fish are caught in nearly all lakes, mostly walleye, white fish, suckers, perch, bass, and jack northern pike.

The results of what we learned about each lake are below:

Rugby Lake	Accessible via harvesting road, no public access Fish: lots of walleye and crappie Shallow lake (20 - 30 feet) Fishing lodge located on lake
Gullwing Lake	Accessible via harvesting road
Big Sandy Lake	Accessible by highway Fish: suckers Shallow lake, wild rice
Hartman Lake	Accessible by highway; launch is difficult do to rough clay
Thunder Lake	Accessible through provincial park Fish: walleye, trout Deep, sandy lake, spring-fed Family traplines on lake
Butler Lake	Accessible by boat only via other lakes Fish: walleye (fish derbies are hosted here); ducks are also harvested here Farly shallow lake Some green algae in summer
Mile Lake	Accessible by boat from Trap Lake and Wabigoon Lake Shallow lake, wild rice
Trap Lake	Accessible by vehicle, accessible by boat from Mile Lake Wild rice between Trap and Mile Lakes
Doré Lake	Accessible Pronounced ‘door’

We also asked who else inside or outside community we should talk to about these lakes. In the four break out rooms and discussions, we heard the following people: Mike Parenteau, Robert Parenteau (re. Big Sandy Lake, Hartman Lake), Roddy Brown, Kathy McIvor, Bob Gardner (re. Big Sandy Lake), James Harrington (re. Rugby Lake, Lac Seul, Doré Lake), Eagle Lake First Nation.

Comment Forms

Participants were encouraged to fill out the following 11 question feedback form. Paper forms were provided for participants at each of the four meeting locations. An online survey link was also provided to participants during the meeting. A total of 16 forms were completed.



COMMENT FORM

We would like to learn what is important to you to better inform the planning process for the Wabigoon and English Rivers Remediation Project.

1. How did you hear about this Virtual Community Meeting? (check all that apply)
 Email Word of mouth Facebook WLON Website
Other: _____

2. Is this the first Zoom call / meeting you have joined?
 Yes No Not Sure

3. How easy did you find attending a Zoom meeting?
 Very Easy Easy Neutral
 Difficult Very Difficult

4. Please provide feedback on the Zoom meeting format:

5. Are you?
 Under 18 19-40 41-59 60+

6. Was the information presented during the virtual meeting helpful to you?
 Strongly Agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly Disagree

7. Did you attend either the October and / or November 2019 Community Workshops?
 Yes No Not Sure

Virtual Community Meeting - November 27, 2020

Turn Over Please →



8. **Have you visited the project webpage?**

_____ Yes _____ No _____ Not Sure

9. **What should the priorities be for future mercury related studies?**

10. **Are there any other things we should know about the clay-dominated lakes we discussed in today's meeting?**

11. **Please provide any other comments you would like to share:**

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!

If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact:

Meaghan Pauls
Scatliff + Miller + Murray
Email: mpauls@scatliff.ca | Phone: 204-927-3444 ext. 231

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY

KGS
GROUP

The responses provided will help inform the goals, objectives, format, and content of future virtual meetings, as well as potential future projects with the community and its members.



Comment Form Responses:

1. How did you hear about this Virtual Community Meeting? (check all that apply)

Email	Word of mouth	Facebook	WLON Website	Other
1	13	3	3	2

Responses for "Other" included: Poster and Ursula Chief

2. Is this the first Zoom call / meeting you have joined?

Yes	No	Not sure
4 (25%)	12 (75%)	0 (0%)

3. How easy did you find attending a Zoom meeting?

Very Easy	Easy	Neutral	Difficult	Very Difficult
8 (50%)	7 (44%)	1 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

4. Please provide feedback on the Zoom meeting format:

67% of the comments were positive about the format of the meeting. 5 comments (42%) were about technological challenges - several people has challenges with volume and microphones.

5. Are you?

Under 18	19-40	41-59	60+
1 (6%)	4 (25%)	7 (44%)	4 (25%)

6. Was the information presented during the virtual meeting helpful to you?

Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 (6%)	13 (81%)	2 (13%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

7. Did you attend either the October and / or November 2019 Community Workshops?

Yes	No	Not sure
6 (40%)	7 (47%)	2 (13%)

8. Have you visited the project webpage?

Yes	No	Not sure
3 (20%)	12 (80%)	0 (0%)



9. What should the priorities be for future mercury related studies?

Most of the comments revolved around concern for the effects of mercury on the lakes and the animals within them. There were several comments about knowledge about the safe consumption of fish, not only for First Nations, but also for the public. We also heard that it is important to involve and educate youth about the study.

10. Are there any other things we should know about clay-dominated lakes we discussed in today's meeting?

There were not many comments regarding additional feedback following the discussion about clay-dominated lakes. The only comment with an additional question was regarding the effects of erosion to Wabigoon Lake.

11. Please provide any other comments you would like to share.

Responses indicated participants appreciated the information provided during the meeting. One respondent requested photos and the report of the Youth Camp and any new reports to be accessible on the study website. Finally, one respondent informed us that we should open the meeting with a prayer when discussing water, fish, and animals.