

Soil & Water Conservation Society of Metro Halifax (SWCSMH)

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Ref.: Regional Council-Lawn Fertilizers (3 pages)
To: **Mayor Mike Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council**
From: S. M. Mandaville Post-Grad Dip., Professional Lake Manage.
Chairman and Scientific Director
Date: June 21, 2013
Subject: Our additions/comments on the staff report to the Regional Council (agenda of June 11, 2013) titled, "Ban on Lawn Fertilizers Containing Phosphorus" which also discusses phosphorus sources in lakes

(Formulated on an informal, nonscientific level. Kindly pardon any typos.)

We are disappointed that staff did not include our North American based scientific group's name in their said report to Regional Council. It may be because the present staff of the relevant department did not research the topic sufficiently, but staff of the former Environmental Services group of the HRM (now with Halifax Water, especially Dr. Tony Blouin PhD) would be quite aware of, especially since he and I discussed those at quite great length, primarily on a scientific basis via lengthy/laborious emails.

Our scientific group had made numerous written submissions not only to the Regional Council during relevant public hearings, but also to your various Community Councils, to the former Halifax Watershed Advisory Board (HWAB), as well as to the former Halifax County, and to the former City of Dartmouth on this related topic. We herewith provide select evidence of it in addition to our comments as necessary. The following are itemized in no particular order. Our relevant web links are also provided and the URLs are case sensitive. On request, we can provide a copy in MS Word format which would allow any councillor to right-click on the links to instantly launch the relevant websites.

[1] Kindly read a selection of our submissions in our web page titled, "Submissions relating to Applied Limnology vis-a-vis land planning/development" (<http://lakes.chebucto.org/HRM/SUBMISSIONS/submissions.html>).

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[2] **Important**:- Lawn fertilizers are not the only sources of elevated phosphorus concentrations in a lake. In some cases, it can be animal feces, bird feces, septic systems, extensive recreational boat use in shallow lakes (resulting in stirring up of bottom sediments, thus releasing sediment phosphorus), cross-connections between storm and sanitary laterals, golf courses, farms (even former farmlands), sanitary pumping stations/STP overflows, and others. This is based on extensive research in the USA, and on our team's own supplemental local research of approximately two thousand (2,000) lakes/ponds over 1 hectare in size within four (4) counties of Nova Scotia. Our detailed scientific research is still continuing and is relentless.

[3] We had provided a selection of extensive scientific info on this, principally to the former Halifax Watershed Advisory Board (HWAB) (see <http://lakes.chebucto.org/HRM/SUBMISSIONS/submissions.html#hwab>).

[4] Submission to the RP+5 process d/April 17, 2012 (http://lakes.chebucto.org/HRM/SUBMISSIONS/RP/2012/RP+5_Submission1.html).

[5] Submission to the Sustainable Environment Management Office (SEMO), (http://lakes.chebucto.org/HRM/SUBMISSIONS/2011/Protectingourlakes_May06_2011.pdf).

[6] Submission, d/January 30, 2006 to the Regional Plan process (http://lakes.chebucto.org/HRM/SUBMISSIONS/RP/2006/PH_Draft2RP2006.pdf)

[7] Former Halifax County: We had made somewhat detailed submissions to the following three (3) planning strategies in year-1995 (also see the former County's acknowledgement on next page):-

- (i) County Planning Districts 1/3 (St. Margarets Bay Plan area of HRM)
- (ii) County Planning Districts 14/17 (Shubenacadie Lakes area of HRM)
- (iii) County Planning Districts 15/18/19 (Hammonds Plains/Upper Sackville/Beaverbank area of HRM).

[8] Former City of Dartmouth: This was mostly during the time of Mayor Dr. John Savage MD, and Mayor Gloria McCluskey (extensive written submissions).

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A kind acknowledgement of some of our submissions to the former Halifax
County from a senior staff planner (Maureen is still with HRM now):-



Halifax County Municipality

Planning & Development
Policy Division

Administration Centre

2750 Dutch Village Road
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4E5
902-453-7468/69
902-453-7495 (Fax)

February 27, 1996

Shalom Mandaville
Soil & Water Conservation Society
of Metro Halifax
P.O. Box 911
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 3Z6

Dear Mr. Mandaville:

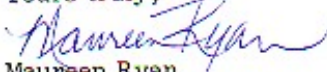
As per your request of February 26, 1996, please find enclosed the two disks containing the lake carrying capacity models of Halifax County lakes which you supplied us with on December 17, 1995.

As per your submission to the Planning Districts 15/18/19 and 14/17 plan review processes and our meeting with you on December 17, 1995, we had understood that you were providing us with these disks to familiarize ourselves with the lake carrying capacity modelling that the Soil and Water Conservation Society had conducted on 326 lake within Halifax County. We also understood that you were providing us with this information to facilitate your request to have the concept of lake carrying capacity recognized under the municipal planning strategies for Planning Districts 15/18/19 and 14/17. Unfortunately, however, we have been unable to review this information at this point in time, but may request a future loan of these models as per your generous offer. We will also keep the lake data you supplied to us for future reference.

At this point in time, we are unable to advise of what committee will be established to assume responsibility for the review of the above-noted municipal planning strategies under Halifax Regional Municipality. It is our understanding, however, that the plan review processes will continue after amalgamation and we will notify you when your submission is tabled for discussion.

Thankyou very much for the loan of the lake carrying capacity models and the data you supplied us on Halifax County lakes.

Yours truly,


Maureen Ryan
Senior Planner
Policy Division