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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

" There are two kinds of people

## Developer told to prevent lake run-off

By BILL POWER Staff Reporter

The developer operating near Russell Lake in Dartmouth was directed Monday to get a better plan in place to protect the water body from run-off during heavy rainstorms.

"Inspectors were at the scene and have issued a directive requiring better control of sedimentation," said Bruce Nunn, spokesman for the Department of Environment and Labour.

The directive asks Clayton Developments Ltd. for immediate enhancements due today and more comprehensive plans in the long term to control run-off at its Russell Lake West development site.

"The company was asked to prepare a long-range plan for immediate and future rain events and to submit this to provincial inspectors," Mr. Nunn said.

Some local residents sounded an alarm Friday after a heavy rainfall when the little lake was transformed into a big mud puddle.

There was some initial speculation the dirty water entered the lake via a culvert at the north end of the lake, but subsequent investigation has implicated the Russell Lake West site.

Clayton Developments had divers near its site on the west side of the lake on Friday and an official with the company said the dirty water was not coming from the project.

Ben Jenkins, with the Russell Lake Residents Association, said the muddied lake was the result of overzealous land clearance and weak development controls.

"It would only make sense that some areas be allowed to stabilize before a developer moves on to another," Mr. Jenkins said of the significant land clearance underway near Russell Lake.

He said the association has for years called for more aggressive controls to protect the lake.

Dirty water could be coming from one of the big residential developments in the immediate vicinity of the lake and also from the nearby Highway 111 interchange project, he said.

"We'll soon have to post a sign that welcomes people to the City of Dead Lakes."

Shalom Mandaville, an expert in lake biology who has studied various lakes in the province, said Nova Scotia should be leading the country in devising controls to protect urban lakes and waterways instead of lagging behind with "minimal" and "ineffective" regulations.

"The technology is available to ensure that no silt gets into a lake and this is obviously the best way to protect it," said Mr. Mandaville, with the Soil and Water Conservation Society of Halifax.

"Russell Lake was just starting to restore itself after problems that go back to the 1970s," he said.

who never amount to much: those who cannot do what they are told, and those who can do nothing else. "

Cyrus Curtis

"There should be zero tolerance for silt entering a lake when development is underway."

Dorothy Cuffe, a regular visitor to the lake on the north side of Portland Street, said Friday the quality of the lake water is declining rapidly.

"Last year, it was so clear you could even see the little schools of fish," she said.

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