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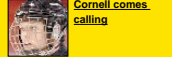
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NEWS

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

Construction-site silt defiles Shubie Canal

Save our Shubie Group blames problem on Dartmouth Crossings project

By Cathy Nicoll
The Daily News

Heavy rain on the weekend may have washed lots of dirt from the Dartmouth Crossings project into nearby Lake Micmac and, for the first time, into the Shubenacadie Canal.

"There's runoff into the Shubie Canal and it's really muddy," Lorraine DeVanthey of the Save Our Shubie group, said yesterday. "The canal is being contaminated."

DeVanthey said the problem surfaced after heavy rain fell on metro over the weekend.

"It rained about two and one-half inches. It was a fairly good rainfall, but not a massive rainfall," she said. "So I think it is a harbinger of the future."

Environment Department spokesman Bill Turpin confirmed there is siltation getting into the Shubie Canal, but where it's coming from hasn't been pinned down.

The silt running into Lake Micmac is coming from one of two holding ponds from the construction site, Turpin said. One of the holding ponds is leaking into a brook that leads through a culvert that runs under under Highway 118, and into the cove directly across from the construction site.

"We are working quite hard to repair the problem with the holding pond," Turpin said.

It's not known if the heavy rain is connected to the leak; there is still capacity in both ponds.

DeVanthey's group complained in the spring about runoff into Lake Micmac on three consecutive weekends.

The provincial Environment Department intervened then, and the problem seemed to be fixed when the developer placed two booms in the lake to catch the silt.

"The problems haven't been solved," DeVanthey said.

"And we have a new one."

cnicoll@hfxnews.ca

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Daily News

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