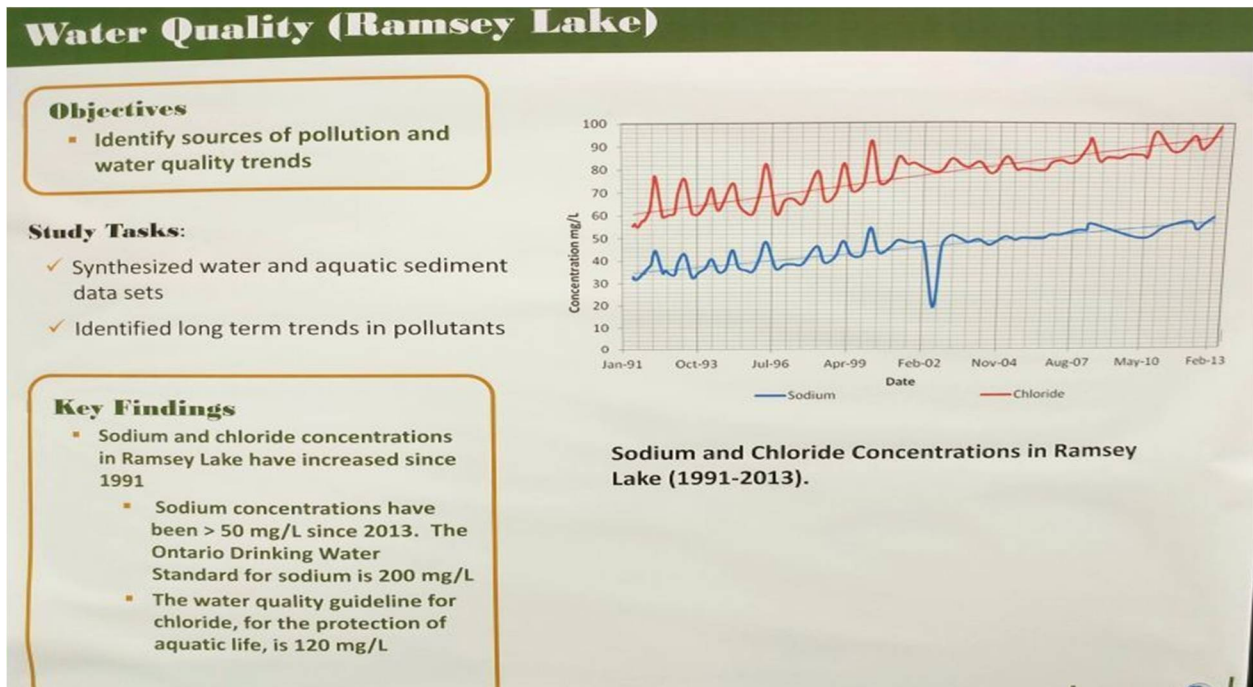


Growing Salt Levels in Lake Ramsey – A growing Concern

The Sudbury Ramsey Lake Sub- Watershed Study recognizes increasing sodium and chloride levels in Lake Ramsey with sodium levels in excess of 50mg/L considerably above the 20mg/L level which **Ontario Drinking Water Regulation (170/03)** says could put those on sodium restricted diets at risk and which some Health Units (see notice below) inform the public with posted notices in public venues (more information on reverse). The study, however, only quotes the 200 mg/L provincial limit at which water actually tastes “salty”.



North Bay Ferry Sound District
Health Unit

1-800-563-2808
www.myhealthunit.ca

Drinking Water Advisory Public Notice

This notice is to advise you that the water may be unsafe for persons on sodium restricted diets.

The water at this site has been tested for sodium and levels exceed 20 mg/l. Levels above 20 mg/l might be unsafe for persons on sodium restricted diets.

To ensure safe drinking water the Medical Officer of Health recommends: *If you are on a sodium restricted diet use water obtained from an alternate safe drinking water source.*

See over for more detailed information on this situation.

Salt in the Sudbury Environment – An Inconvenient Reality:

The Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance (GSWA), The Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee and the Minnow Lake Restoration Group have addressed the issue of increasing sodium and chloride levels in Ramsey Lake through letters and e-mails to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and the city of Greater Sudbury.

Of significant concern is the Sub-Watershed study “omission” of the Ontario Drinking Water Systems Regulation (170/03) of 20mg/L at which level persons on sodium restricted diets could be at risk. The current level in Lake Ramsey is over 50mg/L. The Ramsey Sub- Watershed study only currently references the 200mg/L aesthetic level at which water tastes salty and chloride (the other element of road salt) at 120mg/L, the level at which aquatic life can be harmed. The current chloride level is almost 100 mg/L. As there are no effective mitigation or treatment measures available, levels of both sodium and chloride can be expected to rise over time. Even with current levels of road salt application it can be projected that Lake Ramsey water would be undrinkable eventually by even those with no health problems and aquatic life harmed even earlier. It is felt that the Watershed study should recognize the 20mg/L level at which those on sodium restricted diets can be affected and consider in their recommendations measures to address this concern such as reduced development in the watershed that could increase the use of salt.

According to current city salt application levels the expanded road surface of the reconstructed Second Avenue will result in approximately five additional tons of road salt into the watershed and subsequently Lake Ramsey annually. City planned new roads and widening of roads around the lake will contribute tons more salt yearly and this concern has been reflected in letters to the MOECC and the City.

The proposed Events Centre on the Kingsway, it was recently learned, will also have a portion of the property in the Ramsey Watershed. 1500 to 2500 hundred parking spots are being considered which will result in potentially 25 more tons of salt yearly into the environment, a portion into the Lake Ramsey Watershed. Note: Now up to 7000 parking spaces could be developed with subsequent more salt entering the watershed.

There is no way practical way to remove salt from the environment including holding ponds etc. as once in the watershed the salt will eventually enter waterways including streams and lakes. There is no practical substitute for road salt.

We are most interested in what the Ramsey Lake Sub-Watershed study will recommend with respect to protecting the environment and in particular with increasing salt levels.