

NEWS RELEASE #3 – November 02,2020

This News Release provides an update on the agricultural runoff into Lake Simcoe from the Goodyear Farm (GYF) operating north of Beaverton. SOS Beaverton's legal efforts, social media presence, letter writing, phone conversations, meetings, and petition which have resulted in a first key step to fix the problem. Thank you to all those who have assisted in these efforts.

Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA) approved a comprehensive plan in November 2019 to address approximately 80% of the GYF runoff. Construction and other activities were completed by Spring of 2020 focused on fields between Thorah Concession 8 and Concession 9 where we were experiencing the most runoff in previous years. This included two storm water ponds, three Wascobs (Water and Sediment Control Basins), addition of 1.4 km of ditches, stabilization of 16 km of laneways, replacement of culverts, buffer and wind break plantings, grassing of waterways, and planting of cover crops.

Weaknesses remain. Up until midyear, we had a relatively clean lake in our area with only 1 small runoff event on March 13. The lake (the area between Beaverton pier and Talbot River) looked like it used to look, clean and sparkling. However, three major runoff events, coincident with large rainstorms on July 19, Aug 27, and Aug 29, resulted in farm run-off into the lake leaving this area a mess for much of the remainder of the summer/fall season.

So there is more work to do. Through LSRCA, further restoration activities are planned including additional Wascobs and grassed waterways, pond expansions to increase capacity and irrigation efficiencies, additional linear ditches to channel surface water into the water management ponds, and fall / spring tree plantings for berm stability and erosion control.

Lastly, as noted in our previous News Release, this plan does not address field runoff to the north of Concession 9, some of the field runoff between Concession 7 and 8, and GYF – Ramara Operations which runoff into the Talbot River / Trent Canal and ultimately Lake Simcoe.

Comments and requests to be added to our email distribution list can be directed to us at sosbeaverton@gmail.com.