

# BLUEWATER SHORELINE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

GMB 411 R.R. 2 Zurich, ON N0M 2T0

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July 29, 2003

Mayor and Members of Council

The Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater

14 Mill Street, Zurich, Ontario

**Re: Environmental Issue – Surface Water Quality**

The purpose of this letter is to present recommendations made by BSRA's Environment Committee and endorsed by the BSRA Executive. We would request the opportunity to make a brief presentation to Council to clarify the intent behind these recommendations.

BSRA's Environment Committee was formed at our Annual Meeting last September and has now had an opportunity to review environmental issues of concern to lakeshore residents and develop initial action plans. **The primary environmental concern of lakeshore residents is surface water quality both in the lake and in streams that flow into the lake.** One of the initiatives undertaken by BSRA is to expand the water quality testing that has been conducted at St. Joseph

Shores for the past five years to include three additional beaches in Bluewater: Houston Heights, Sunset Estates and Ridgeway. Seven other subdivisions within Bluewater are also implementing lake water testing. Another initiative is to undertake research in several areas related to water quality in the lake.

A third initiative is to make recommendations to Bluewater Council. In this regard, we would **propose that Council consider implementing the following:**

1. Assume a stronger leadership role in representing Bluewater interests in environmental issues with other levels of government and organizations outside of Bluewater.

Assume a stronger leadership role in representing Bluewater interests in environmental issues with other levels of government and organizations outside of Bluewater.

Upgrade sewage lagoon systems within Bluewater to ensure constant discharge systems that includes filtration and treatment of effluent are in place. This would require, at a minimum, upgrading of the Zurich lagoons and potentially others. Any upgrading should include creating the capacity to process effluent from septic tank pump outs and agricultural manure, thereby creating an alternative to spreading manure on fields.

Pass a septic system bylaw designed to ensure all septic systems in Bluewater are functioning correctly.

Increase the supports provided by Council to “family farm” operations. Family farm operators typically live in our community, are active members of the community,

live by the same values as a majority of Bluewater residents, and are a strong positive component of the Bluewater community. The existence of family farm operations is under threat primarily from the expansion of factory farms. Council should become

more involved in supporting this component of our community.

Impose a moratorium on livestock “factory farm” developments – either expansions or new operations. Our research to this point indicates that, while complex, a method of defining factory farms and family farms is possible. We believe that factory farm operations create an ongoing environmental risk due to the volume of manure produced and the common farming practice of applying manure to agricultural fields.

While we believe this issue will eventually be dealt with on a provincial basis, Council has the power to achieve a moratorium for the Municipality of Bluewater through its control of official plans, zoning bylaws, bylaw variances and building permits.

Impose a moratorium, pending provincial action, on any expansion or implementation of livestock operations that will use the application of liquid manure to agricultural fields as part of their nutrient/manure management plan.

We look forward to responding to any questions from members of Council, and seeing Council’s strategies for dealing with these environment issues that affect all of Bluewater.

Sincerely,

Bob Campbell

President

BSRA

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