

April 19 2025

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Sediment Control in New Developments and Impact on Collingwood Harbour Water Quality

Dear Members of Collingwood Town Council,

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the evident lack of adequate sediment control measures in new developments and site plans within Collingwood. I have attached photographs as visual evidence of the significant amounts of sediment runoff originating from these sites, which are demonstrably impacting the water quality of Collingwood Harbour.

The attached images clearly illustrate the inadequate or non-existent implementation of best management practices to prevent soil erosion and the migration of sediment into our stormwater systems. This lack of control is leading to the direct deposition of silt and other pollutants into the harbour, threatening its ecological health and recreational value.

It is unacceptable that these preventable issues are allowed to persist. The responsibility for implementing and maintaining effective sediment measures lies squarely with the developers undertaking these projects. Collingwood taxpayers should not bear the financial burden of cleaning catch basins and remediating the environmental damage caused by the negligence of private developers. These costs should be incorporated and enforced through rigorous oversight and approval processes for site plans.

With Earth Day fast approaching, it should not be up to the residents to clean up debris in and around new development but should be the responsibility of the developers.

I urge the Council to take immediate and decisive action to address this critical issue. This includes:

- **Mandating and enforcing stricter and more comprehensive sediment and erosion control measures** in all new development and site plan approvals.
- **Implementing more robust inspection and enforcement mechanisms** to ensure compliance with these regulations.
- **Holding developers accountable** for the costs associated with cleaning up sediment that originates from their sites along with debris cleanup.

Protecting the health of Collingwood Harbour is a shared responsibility, and it is imperative that the Town Council takes proactive steps to safeguard this vital natural asset. Allowing developers to neglect their environmental obligations and then burdening taxpayers with the consequences is unsustainable and environmentally irresponsible.

I request that Council consider this matter with the urgency it deserves and implement the necessary measures to ensure that new developments are environmentally responsible and do not compromise the water quality of Collingwood Harbour.

I look forward to a detailed action plan with both short and long term objectives to address this problem. Who is paying for cleanup of silt and debris off site. What Departments are responsible for the enforcement of Site Plan and Subdivisions agreements.

Sincerely,

Mr Jody LaPlante



Note the different water colours due to sediment from Black Creek.

No silt fence installed, runoff flowing directly to catch basin,





Typical construction debris scatter throughout sites

