



17 Admiral Rd.
Toronto, ON M5R 2L4
January 23, 2006

Mayor Robert Klug and Members of Tiny Township Council
Tiny Township Offices, 130 Balm Beach Rd.
R.R. #1, Perkinsfield, ON L0L 2J0

Dear Mayor Klug and Members of Tiny Township Council,

As you know, the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations undertakes a volunteer swimming water monitoring program each year. Once every five years, together with the Health Unit, we monitor the full length of the shore of the Township. In the intervening years, interested Associations sample the water in their area. Our objective in setting up the program was to establish a base line of data against which subsequent results could be measured. However, even in 2001, its first year, we found areas of compromised water quality. The last Council and this one have responded by funding investigative work by the Severn Sound Environmental Association, and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit has increased the number of public beaches it monitors and has begun to do some analysis of conditions associated with high E. Coli counts.

We continue to be concerned about the number of beach postings each summer in Tiny Township (20 in 2005), and we urge Council to continue to fund investigative work to find causes of the pollution and remedies for it. We would very much like to hear a detailed presentation about the investigation the SSEA proposes for next year and what it hopes to achieve.

We feel that investigative work should be linked more thoroughly with the septic re-inspection program. Once an area has a clean bill of septic system health, we ask that its streams be monitored officially for a season to ensure that sources of pollution have been dealt with.

Children play in streams – whether they are clean or not. The volunteer program revealed that the stream that emerges on the shore at the 6th Concession Road West, for example, had E. coli counts during the summer of 2005 of 1,300, 460, 720, 790, 1,800, 1,300, 280, 11,000. The Severn Sound Association has found high E. coli counts in the Lafontaine Creek, the streams at Balm, the stream south of Jackson Park, and the streams at Woodland Beach. Many other streams had high counts in the years when volunteers

tested them. We ask for official sampling of at least those streams that volunteer sampling has shown to have high counts through one season, so that warnings can be posted at the beach in such streams. We ask that the Township create appropriate signs for streams that emerge at the shore on municipal property, and that it recommend wording for signs for streams emerging onto the shore on private property. Although the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit does not test streams, there are other official resources, notably the Severn Sound Environmental Association.

Each fall, we have drawn together all the data about swimming water quality that has been gathered in Tiny Township during the summer and put it into a spreadsheet on our website -- www.tinycottager.org. The data is public and hitherto the SMDHU has released it to us each year. Now that the township controls the data, we would be grateful if Council would authorize its release to us each fall.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Grant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Judith Grant
President, Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations