



Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Inc.

P.O. Box 412, East Jordan, MI 49727

Phone/Fax 231 536-9947

Website www.friendsofthejordan.org e-mail foj@friendsofthejordan.org

Headlines About Leachate Were Misleading

On July 1st 2008, public health officials issued a revised advisory for areas along the Bay Harbor Resort shoreline. Petoskey News Review's front-page headlines read, "Leachate Danger Zone Scaled Back." While technically true, the accompanying article and CMS' preposterous advertising campaign lead the reader to believe that the problems at Bay Harbor are nearly fixed. This is not correct nor was the color-coded map accurate.

What the article failed to say was that only 870 feet of shoreline restrictions were lifted on one of five sites still releasing toxic caustic leachate into Little Traverse Bay. All of East Park, all of Village Harbor Lake, 930 ft. of Seep 1, 1000 ft. of Pine Court Seep and 800 ft. of Western seep are still leaching and considered too hazardous for contact or exposure by humans and animals. After four years and 60 million dollars, this is hardly a success story. That doesn't sound like the shoreline is clean or the Bay protected.

Lets not forget that the high caustic pH values are only one of the many hazards still uncontrolled. Dissolved within the leachate, some of it venting far out into the Lake and not even measured, are highly toxic heavy metals like mercury and arsenic. Unlike pH, these heavy metals don't dilute out in the water. They bioaccumulate. They don't go away and they build up in the environment over time. Despite assurances from CMS, we still don't know the amount or impact to the environment of these and other toxic compounds.

We acknowledge and are grateful that some pH values along the shore at Bay Harbor are improved. This is not however "Mission Accomplished." Nor is it the same as CMS saying, "cleaning our shore and protecting our Bay." Only when the CKD ceases to leach, the toxic releases halted and the accrued hazards removed will success be achieved.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Richter, President