

# LONG LAKE GOLD MINE

APRIL 2019



Abandoned gold mines have led to expensive reclamation/remediation projects in Ontario. The Long Lake gold mine is no exception. The Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (ENDM) has held public forums, met with the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation and made a presentation at a Long Lake Stewardship Annual General Meeting.

Long Lake Stewardship has followed developments since its inception in 2008 and witnessed the complications and delays along the way. We have established a good working relationship with ENDM. In 2012 the Sudbury District Health Unit issued a Drinking Water Advisory to property owners located **in the affected area of the lake**. Project Manager Steve Reitzel gave a presentation at our 2016 AGM and informed us that the plan was to remove, consolidate and encapsulate contaminated tailings and to re-establish drainage around Luke Creek and the wetland; he explained the archaeological assessment, soil sampling, fish tissue sampling and advised that contamination in the lake itself is relatively shallow.

Members of LLSC attended the ENDM public meeting in November 2017. This past December we requested an update from current project manager Kurt Westhaver, and shared his detailed reply with our contact list. You will note in the comprehensive report that water samples have been routinely collected. The arsenic is concentrated in the southwestern section of the far end of Long Lake. Recently the ENDM has been actively exploring potential sources of aggregate on-site and nearby to reduce the need for importing large truckloads of material on camp roads.

The LLS Committee has had ongoing and transparent communication with ENDM. Due to the environmental health concerns, we are encouraged that the remediation project will be reactivated in 2019. We are appreciative of the efforts of MPP France G elinas to raise awareness and prompt a response from the ENDM Minister, Greg Rickford (letter posted on our Facebook page). The news of the cleanup restarting this summer has generated media attention, and this week our Chair Scott Darling responded to several requests for radio, print, and TV interviews.

To be more informed of the history of the gold mine and the ENDM project and progress, you may wish to

- Visit the ENDM website to learn about all gold mine remediation projects [www.mndm.gov.on.ca](http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca)
- Review our December 6/18 email with Kurt Westhaver's most recent update and attachment
- Visit [longlakestewardship.com](http://longlakestewardship.com) where all studies or reports on Long Lake are available
- Listen to Markus Schwabe interview our chair  
<http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/morning-north/segment/15683908>
- Read the Northern Life article  
<https://www.sudbury.com/local-news/cleanup-of-toxic-tailings-in-long-lake-could-begin-soon-1352995>
- View CTV segment  
<https://northernontario.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1650130&binId=1.1142313&playlistPageNum=1>
- Read the 2017 article explaining the delay  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/long-lake-gold-mine-remediation-1.4385338>
- View the aerial videos of the gold mine tailings on YouTube: "The Long Lake Gold Mine – The Forgotten Mistake in Northern Ontario" <https://youtu.be/JMgssQcXBFA> and part 2  
<https://youtu.be/JMgssQcXBFA>. Note that it is strongly recommended citizens do not try exploring this site. Drones filmed these videos.

**"Long Lake . . . Ours to Love . . . Ours to Protect!"**

Your LLS Committee: Scott, Bill, Forbes, Sandi, Lori, Richard, Susan, Mary