



One of Canada's Most Comprehensive Studies

The Sudbury Soils Study is an undertaking to evaluate soils in the Greater Sudbury Area. This is a comprehensive study to determine whether the contents of the soils in our communities have the potential for an adverse impact on our lives.

For more than a century, Sudbury has been a premier mining community in Canada and throughout the world. Our massive deposits of nickel, copper, and precious metals still contribute significantly to the Canadian economy and



are valued as resources around the globe. High natural concentrations of nickel and copper provide the resources, and economic basis, for mining and smelting in Sudbury. However, these industrial processes have changed the distribution and concentration of these substances in our environment over many years. The partners in this effort recognize that community members have concerns about possible risks that these changes present to their health and to the environment.

Building on the tradition of Sudbury's award-winning re-greening program

Over the past few decades, the people of the Greater Sudbury Area have demonstrated their commitment to protect the environment. Sudbury's re-greening program, an award-winning showpiece of environmental reclamation, has become a

model for the world, with dramatic new growth covering once barren hillsides. The Sudbury Soils Study continues to build on the tradition of the re-greening program, as residents of Sudbury work together to improve their community.

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"Have Your Say" Workshops

Week of May 12, 2003

Public input and participation will help the Sudbury Soils Study move forward more effectively. "Have Your Say" Workshops, planned for the week of May 12, 2003, will enable community members to have input into the design and implementation of the study. See the Current Study Activities section of this newsletter for details of dates, times and locations.

The "Have Your Say" Workshops will focus on several key tasks, including the identification of the valued social, economic and natural components of the environment. These "Valued Ecosystem Components" or VECs, as they are termed, might include key animal species, recreational areas, game, berries, and key commercial opportunities. By combining local knowledge, scientific evidence, and expert opinion, the study team will identify the social and natural components of the environment that are of value in the study area.

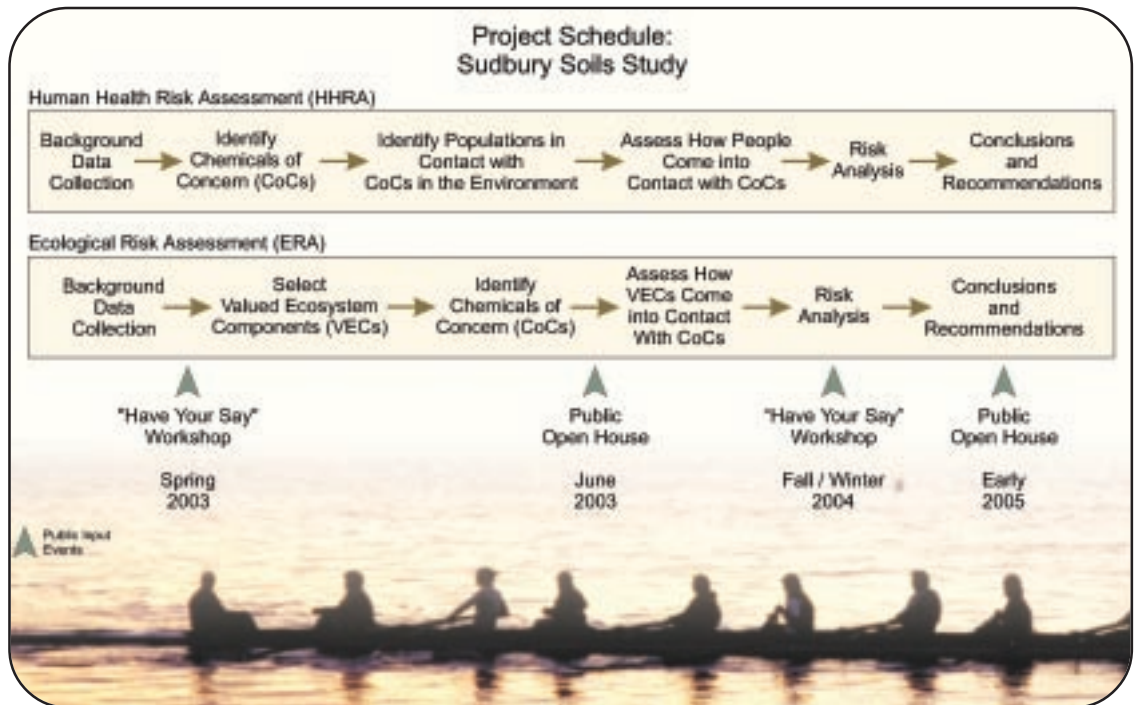
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Why the Sudbury Soils Study?

In 2001, the MOE published a report that summarized the results of soil surveys conducted in the Sudbury area between 1971 and 2000. The report was presented at an open house at Science North on July 31st, 2002. That report identified a number of substances which were elevated in area soils, particularly near the historic smelting centres of Coniston, Copper Cliff and Falconbridge, and recommended further detailed evaluation of soils throughout the community. The partners in the Sudbury Soils Study are now undertaking: a) a more detailed soil survey, and b) a human health and ecological risk assessment.

As part of this detailed soil survey, Inco and Falconbridge, in cooperation with the MOE, had soil samples

collected and analysed from approximately 820 sites throughout Sudbury and the surrounding areas. These sites included residential properties, schools and parks within the City of Greater Sudbury, and areas throughout the Sudbury basin. The MOE also undertook a preliminary survey of vegetables and other produce grown locally.



“Have Your Say” Workshops Continued from page 1

Study team seeks local knowledge about back yard gardens and local produce and berries

The “Have Your Say” Workshops will also seek local knowledge about home gardening, local produce and local berries. We know that eating locally produced vegetables and berries is important to people in the Greater Sudbury Area. Gardeners, people who like to buy local produce, and people who have good knowledge of local berries can provide a wealth of information to the study team. If you are an active gardener, enthusiastic consumer of local produce, or a berry picker, we encourage



you to participate in the May workshops. The study team needs to learn from you about the type of vegetables you plant in your garden, your favourite home garden vegetables and local produce, how you preserve your home garden vegetables and local produce, and what kinds of local berries you eat.

Information about home gardening, local produce and local berries will strengthen the study by enabling us to incorporate information on local lifestyle habits into a community vegetable garden survey (May – August 2003). If you have a home vegetable garden and would like to take part in the vegetable garden survey, please contact us – see the **Contact Us - Have Your Say** section of this newsletter, or send us the accompanying form.

Building on the tradition of Sudbury's award-winning re-greening program Continued from page 1

The Sudbury Soils Study will determine whether the levels of substances in the soil pose a risk to us or to our environment. Six major partners are working together to manage this endeavor – the City of Greater Sudbury, the Sudbury & District Health Unit, Inco Limited, Falconbridge Limited, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), and

the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada. Their collective responsibility and commitment is to ensure “a transparent process that provides a thorough scientifically sound assessment of the environmental and health risks to the Sudbury community, and effectively communicate the results so that future decisions are informed and valued”.



Sudbury Regreening Project - Martindale Road

Sudbury Partners Oversee Study

The six partners formed a Technical Committee to oversee the implementation of the Study. This committee is comprised of representatives from each partner. The Partners are committed to conducting the Sudbury Soils Study in a fashion that ensures public participation and ongoing communication. To achieve these goals, a volunteer Public Advisory Com-

mittee of representative citizens from the community has been appointed. This group holds regular meetings that are open to the public and provides valuable input into the study process.

To further assist in building public awareness, and to act on behalf of citizens and the environment, Franco Mariotti has been appointed as an independent

Process Observer. Among his duties, he will regularly review the study process, make recommendations, and comment on decisions made by the study's management team, and report to the public.

His reports are available at Science North or on the Sudbury Soils Study website at www.sudburysoilsstudy.com.

Sudbury Soils Study OPEN HOUSE

June 11, 2003

On June 11, 2003, the public is invited to an Open House at Science North, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm.

The Open House will be an opportunity for you to meet members of the study team and learn more about Study activities.

It will also be an opportunity to learn how input from the “Have Your Say” workshops has been included in the study design.

SARA Group to conduct risk assessments

To conduct the human health and ecological risk assessment, on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, Inco and Falconbridge contracted the SARA Group, a consortium of firms and experts based in Ontario. The SARA Group reports directly to the Technical Committee and provides progress updates to the Public Advisory Committee. Each firm in the SARA Group is a recognized leader in its field, and includes:

- ESG International Inc.
- Goss Gilroy Inc.
- Cantox Environmental Inc.
- Dr. Lesbia Smith
- RWDI
- SGS Lakefield Research

Further information on the SARA Group is available at www.SARAGroup.ca.

Have your say

contact us

Here's how:

- Give us your comments using the form below
- Attend workshops and open houses
- Call our toll free project information number at **1.866.315.0228**
- Send an email with your comments to **questions@sudburysoilsstudy.com**
- Send written comments by mail or fax to:

The SARAGroup
933 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, ON P3E 6B5
Fax: (705) 675-4866

Further information and frequently asked questions can be found at the project website **www.sudburysoilsstudy.com**.

Get Involved

- Please sign me up to receive Sudbury Soils Study Newsletters and Process Observer Reports.

Please send materials by: Canada Post Email

- I have a vegetable garden and I am interested in participating in the Community Vegetable Garden Survey – please contact me

Name: _____

Organizational Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

We welcome your comments. Please feel free to use this form to provide your comments to Sudbury Soils Study partners at the accompanying address. (The SARA Group, 933 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, ON, P3E 6B5, Fax: (705) 675-4866)

Current Study Activities

There are many activities that will take place in the community during the next two years.

Winter, Spring and Summer of 2003

- Detailed analysis of the soil samples collected in 2001
- Development of additional air quality monitoring for the region to support the study
- Fishing surveys of local lakes
- “Have Your Say” Workshops to obtain public input:

COPPER CLIFF

Tuesday, May 13 - 6 pm to 9 pm
Italian Club, 7 Craig Street

FALCONBRIDGE

Wednesday, May 14 - 6 pm to 9 pm
Royal Canadian Legion Br 336,
Falconbridge, Garson Branch
36 Edisson Street

CONISTON

Thursday, May 15 - 6 pm to 9 pm
Club Allegri, 47 Caruso Street

- Community vegetable garden survey (May - August 2003). *If you have a home vegetable garden and would like to take part in the survey, please contact us.*
- Technical Committee to assist in sharing the results of the Ontario Ministry of Environment's 2001 soil survey data
- Public Open House:

Wednesday, June 11, 2003 – 3 pm to 9 pm
Science North, Inco Cavern
100 Ramsey Lake Road, Sudbury, ON

(Note: parking is free for Open House participants)



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www.sudburysoilsstudy.com