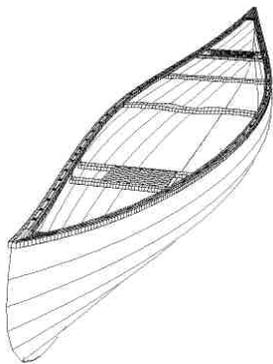




**Sudbury  
Soils  
Study** | **Étude  
des sols  
sudburois**

metals • health • environment  
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# Have Your Say Workshop Summary Report

*June 2003*

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## 1) Have Your Say Workshop – Background

Have Your Say Workshops were conducted in:

Copper Cliff – Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM to 9 PM  
Falconbridge – Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM to 9 PM  
Coniston – Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM to 9 PM

To ensure maximum participation at the workshops, they were widely advertised in local newspapers, invitation letters were mailed to a list of about 400 individuals and organizations in the Greater Sudbury Area, posters were placed at public facilities across the region, and press releases were distributed to generate newspaper articles and radio coverage.

A total of 115 Sudbury stakeholders participated in the three workshops. At each workshop participants were provided with background on the Sudbury Soils Study, and then asked to form small discussion groups to provide input on three key topic areas:

- 1) Local recreation and environmental priorities – camping, canoeing, hiking, swimming, forest recovery, wildlife population health, etc.
- 2) Local food – gardening, market gardens, etc.
- 3) Local fishing, hunting and trapping

Discussion groups spent about one hour addressing questions around each topic, including a key question about specific items that should receive special attention in the Sudbury Soils Study. Groups reported back to everyone in the workshop and provided the workshop organizers with summary sheets detailing their input.

## 2) Summary of Results

We received very detailed input on specific plants, animals and natural areas that should receive special attention in the Sudbury Soils Study. These include water bodies, wildlife, fish, swimming beaches and the interconnected green spaces throughout Greater Sudbury.

Participants were very clear about the importance of the links between these areas of specific attention and human health, including drinking water, edible foods from natural areas, and recreation – particularly areas where children play. Participants also expressed concerns about biodiversity, the viability of recovering ecosystems, and economic impacts on tourism (including ecotourism). Also, many participants were concerned about the health of their dogs and cats and suggested the Sudbury Soils Study pay specific attention to the health of domestic animals.

In addition to the detailed input, we received six primary messages from participants:

- 1) We are concerned about our health, especially the health of our children
- 2) We are concerned about our property values
- 3) We are concerned about the health of our recovering ecosystems
- 4) We are concerned about the negative publicity that might emerge from the soils study and its impact on the overall local economy
- 5) We are concerned about the complexity of the risk assessment process and the possibility it will lead to inconclusive results
- 6) We want additional opportunities to hear directly from the researchers as the study progresses

### **3) Impact on Sudbury Soils Study Project Design**

This input is now helping focus the Sudbury Soils Study's Technical Committee's management of study design and reporting, and the SARA Group's study plan and approach. In particular:

- 1) We will pay special attention to the health of children
- 2) We will ensure that concerns about property values are addressed throughout the study and in final reports
- 3) We will look closely at biodiversity and links between recovering ecosystems and metals
- 4) We will endeavour to communicate results clearly and professionally, in a manner that is easily understood
- 5) We will conduct the Sudbury Soils Study in a transparent manner that assures community members that the results will be conclusive
- 6) We will make an increased effort to provide additional opportunities for public workshops and information sessions

The public input on specific plants, animals and natural areas that should receive special attention in the Sudbury Soils Study will frame many of the study activities. We will make specific reference to this input in future reports.

### **4) Specific Plants, Animals and Natural Areas**

**Specific water bodies singled out for attention included:**

Minnow Lake	Wahnapitae Lake	McFarlane Lake
Junction Creek	Red Pine Lake	Nickel River area
Ashigami Lake	Bocagami Lake	Mepawan
Kelly Lake	Ramsey Lake	Trout Lake
Vermillion River – home for rare turtles	Peat bogs, swamps and marsh/delta areas	Spanish River system

### **Specific wildlife singled out for attention included:**

Elk	Peregrine falcon	White-tailed deer
Blanding's turtle	Blue heron	Moose
Beavers	Loons	Bears
Foxes	Grouse	Hare
Blue Jays	Partridges	Field mice
Robins	Swallows	
Canada Geese – metal content may be magnified due to less migration	Amphibians – ecosystem indicators	

### **Specific fish singled out for attention included:**

Walleye – top predator	Pike	Whitefish
Catfish – bottom dwelling	Trout – long-living fish & top predator	
Minnnows – easy to catch and analyze, food for other fish		

We also received a good deal of input to assist with the design of a vegetable garden survey. The diversity of food grown in local gardens and harvested from natural areas was a surprise to Sudbury Soils Study researchers. There was overwhelming interest in the impact of soil quality on blueberries, strawberries, carrots, potatoes, lettuce, beans and peas and tomatoes.

Along with wild blueberries and wild strawberries, participants also identified wild mushrooms, wild leek, rhubarb, and fiddleheads as important local foods. Concern was also expressed for the quality of key local food products including maple syrup, milk, eggs and meats from local growers (beef, pork, lamb, chicken, duck, etc.).

Several participants also recommended that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food be included as a key stakeholder in the Sudbury Soils Study, particularly for information about local farm practices and produce.

## **5) Conclusion**

As a vehicle to obtain detailed and comprehensive public input for the Sudbury Soils Study, the Have Your Say Workshops were very successful. We wish to thank everyone who participated for their time and effort. Based on the success of these workshops, we will continue to hold community-based public workshops as the study progresses.