

# Pollution Report Indicates Safe Swimming In Harbor

By RALPH CAMERON  
Combining a blueprint for amalgamation with a solution to the present Charlotte Harbor pollution problem, the engineer's report on the matter, released yesterday, indicates swimming may be safe in many parts of the harbor.

The report was prepared at the request of the Water Pollution Committee set up by the provincial government and the municipalities of Charlotte, Parkdale and Shearwater. In effect the report offers a blueprint for amalgamation of the three communities by suggesting a method of financing a phased program to end the pollution problem and sharing the cost on a population basis.

It concludes there is significant pollution of the harbor area extending from Victoria Park to Riverside Hospital, but that there is no evidence of serious over-all pollution of the entire harbor and estuaries.

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However, it adds there is serious pollution in the two bays at the Charlotte end of the Hillsborough Bridge because of wastes from Canada Packers, the overflow from the old pumping station at the lower end of Deceitler Street. It recommends the building of a new interceptor sewer and force main commencing at the Parkdale outfall sewer and the Exhibition Grounds and leading to the shore end of the 60 inch outfall sewer at HMCS Queen Charlotte. This would result in elimination of the Parkdale sanitary sewer outlet, Island Fertilizer septic effluent outlet, the septic tank serving Park and Beech Streets, Canada Packers wastes outlet, the pumping station overflow and the main Pownall Street outlet sewer at the Charlotte Yacht Club.

The report points the finger of blame for conditions at Canada Packers, Village of Parkdale and the city's building of combination storm sewers. It proposes an industrial wastes by-law regulating the strength of wastes allowed into the sewer system and says this would require treatment of packing house wastes by Can-

ada Packers. It further suggests putting a fast stop to the dumping of raw sewage into the water at the docks by government agencies and private firms along the waterfront; and the construction of a parallel Bridge and the Maritime Electric plant hundreds of large bobbles were noted coming from the bottom and releasing smelting gas. "This could indicate the presence of sludge banks formed by settled solids discharged from the sewer," it also said "only the presence of 300 or 400 seals from the sewer outlet kept the situation from being unbearable as they ate entrails and bits of fish."

Severity of the situation was emphasized by the statement that the amount poured into the sewer outlet by Canada Packers was roughly equivalent in terms of domestic waste to the sewage from 11,000 persons — almost two-thirds the population of Charlotteville.

However, not all the blame for conditions was confined to one industry and the report dumping of battermilk or spoiled milk into city sewers by Central Creameries should be stopped.

It stated ordinary wastes from this plant were equivalent to those of a population of 500 to 1,000 people and 250 gallons of battermilk would represent an additional 500 people. It said during last summer an estimated average of 200 to 300 gallons of battermilk per day was dumped into the city sewer.

The report appears to be inconclusive regarding the advisability of swimming at nearby Charlotteville areas. A large number of water samples was taken during the testing periods early in July and again in early September. Six

the United States as well as several of the states permit the MPN and MF coliform values to be used interchangeably and says it is concluded the difference in laboratory technique would not necessarily cause the difference noted in coliform values this year and in the sampling of 1967.

It suggests the sampling technique previously used may not have been of the best quality. And maintains it is important when taking samples to wear hip rubber boots and wade out knee deep and use the deep dip system to scoop up the water. This it says avoids floating debris or scum. At the same time the report maintains if the sample bottle is merely skimmed along the surface from the shore the results may be expected to be erratic and misleading.

(The average swimmer seldom swims under water and at most times his mouth is at or on the surface.)

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