



26 July 2000:

CSIRO Scientists To Inspect Edmunds Bay

CSIRO Scientists will visit Edmunds Bay tomorrow (Thursday 27 July 2000) to explore the possible use of natural modified clays as part of a proposed remediation strategy. The use of modified clays is one of a range of options identified in a draft report prepared by WBM Oceanics following a comprehensive scientific study on the condition and processes occurring in Fennell and Edmunds Bays. Lake Macquarie and Catchment Coordinator, Jeff Jansson, said the report showed that sediments in Edmunds Bay were found to be highly nutrient enriched. "Investigation into the release of nutrients from the sediment into the water column through a study known as flux analysis, indicated the bay may have exceeded its capacity to naturally metabolise the existing organic loads," said Mr Jansson. "The report also identified that effluent from the Toronto Waste Water Treatment Works that ceased discharging in 1992, may still be causing residual effects." "Elevated levels of the indicator organism, faecal coliform, in the three creeks that feed into the bays suggest leaking septic tanks may also be a problem." The sedimentation rate was determined to be 200 millimetres in the middle of the bay since 1977, with a typical rate of approximately 10 millimetres per year. Other remediation options outlined in the report include dredging of Edmunds Bay and creation of an island or wind barrier, enhanced connectivity between Mudd and Stony Creek, chemical injection of sediments to promote oxidation, planting of seagrasses, as well as other localised removal of sediments. These actions would need to be supplemented with preventative works within the catchment to reduce ongoing contamination by stormwater.

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