

Oxbow Lake Oil Spill Report

July 1, 2022

On March 24th, I received pictures of what appeared to be oil or diesel fuel running from the logging area, located just off West Oxbow Lake Road, near the Public Boat Ramp. I forwarded these pictures immediately to Steve Peace at LOB Public Works, and asked him to get involved, he made calls right away and had people respond the very next day. The OLCA Board of Directors asked me to follow this through and report back when clean up was completed. The following is my account of the process.

It is my understanding that Tracey Nesbitt Logging was hired to manage the tree removal for this project, and at the time of the spill, operations were shut down. At the time I suspected they were in a pause due to half load road restrictions, but as logging did not resume following this, I now believe that they had completed their contract. Equipment left behind on site appeared to be leaking Diesel Fuel and Hydraulic oil, causing the problem.

A clean up team from Tracey Nesbitt Logging, under MOE Supervision, was observed over the next two weeks, adding absorbent pads, and hay bails downstream to control the spill. The equipment was repaired to eliminate the cause, and contaminated soil was removed from site. All equipment has now been removed from site and no further runoff has been noticed or reported.

On April 7th, 2022, Jennifer Barnett, an MOE officer at the Barrie Office, closed report #1-1PUGWU stating that cleanup had gone as planned, contaminated materials had been properly removed, frost has come out in the area, spillage was corrected and contained, and no further action would be required. Some site control mitigation measures remained in the ditch downstream for much of the spring and have now been removed. I think it is safe to call this issue closed.

West Oxbow Lake Road Report July 1, 2022

Over the last few years, West Oxbow Lake Road residents have enjoyed many LOB Public Works upgrades, including new gravel, significant tree trimming, ditching, and asphalt topping repair at Wiley hill. LOB has provided one road grading and one dust control so far this year. The recent dry weather and higher seasonal traffic are causing wash boarding on steeper areas, which is unfortunate but normal. A second grading is usually provided first week in August. The township continues to respond to my calls for road related concerns quickly and efficiently, so if you have any serious concerns, or improvement recommendations, please let me know and I will table them with Public Works for resolution.

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