



January 8, 2010

Schrader: Chemical Valley's pollutants hazardous to our health, too

Genocide right here in the Blue Water area?

Apparently, almost within walking distance of your home!

Tucked away in the December 2009 issue of Men's Health magazine is a lengthy article by Melody Petersen titled "The Lost Boys of Aamjiwnaang."

It asserts that just across the river from us on the Aamjiwnaang Reservation just south of Sarnia, next to the massive Canadian economic engine Chemical Valley, the boys of the Anishinabel Tribe are being treated with less concern than laboratory rats.

At best, it's a story of intentional neglect. At worst, it's a massive cover-up for economic gain, even as people are being harmed.

The tribe tells of having three girls baseball teams but only enough boys to fill one. They no longer have enough boys for a hockey team and their daycare center is becoming almost exclusively girls.

They talk of dead and abnormal animals, and of being told not to eat or drink from their land.

The tribe's birth ratio of boys to girls has changed. Instead of roughly 50-50, the ratio of girls to boys has shifted to 65-35.

Researchers around the world are finding that chemicals such as those produced in Chemical Valley are causing changes at conception that make it harder for boys to survive.

Chemical Valley has a long and sorry record of dumping its crap into our air and watershed that continues even today.

Many a night, you can drive along the waterfront of Port Huron and Marysville and smell what they are putting into our environment.

You would have to be the village idiot not to understand there is something terrible happening less than a half mile from us on the Aamjiwnaang Reservation.

How could it not be impacting our children on this side of the river as well?

It's a hoot how the people of the Blue Water Area and our elected officials get all cranked over Canadian trash passing over the Blue Water Bridge then briefly through our community on its way to be dumped in Lenox Township, 25 miles to the south.

Yet just across the river, Samia's Chemical Valley apparently is doing terrible things to our water and our air, not to mention the people living on both sides of the river, and not a word.

We local folks, born and raised here in River City, have always believed that St. Clair County has an abnormally high cancer and illness rate.

But they tell us it's not true. Nothing more than an urban myth, you know.

Well, with what is happening less than a mile from us across the river, maybe there is more to the story than your government wants to admit.

While you can comprehend the Canadians throwing their people under the bus to protect their economic machine, their cash cow, it's really hard to understand why on this side of the river our elected officials, our government is doing nothing to protect our children as the Canadians continue to trash our water, our air, our environment.

As Men's Health's Editor-in-Chief David Zinczenko wrote "Forget the whales ... it's time to save the males."

Several years ago, a map publisher printed skulls and crossbones along the St. Clair River. Everyone was outraged!

If the truth be told, it appears those maps were right on the money. If the truth be told, the Canadians should be ashamed of themselves.



January 14, 2010

Chemical Valley is under stringent public scrutiny

Re: "Chemical Valley's pollutants hazardous to our health, too," Cliff Schrader's Jan. 8 column: You can't get a handle on what is going on in Sarnia by reading a couple of articles and the spin they might include.

Do some research. Environmentalists (including the Aamjiwnaang First Nation), the people of Sarnia and Environment Canada are breathing down the necks of these chemical companies regarding everything they emit. Along the river, air and water monitor equipment are running constantly.

These companies have been working hard to keep themselves in good standing with the surrounding communities by controlling what they emit to government standards or better. Millions have been spent to correct what had been done poorly in the past. Great progress continues to be made.

I am a member of a community advisory panel for one of those companies. The members ask tough questions and get direct replies to them. The panel includes residents of Lambton and St. Clair countities, Native Americans, environmentalist and high school students who joined by answering ads in theTimes Herald.

For a good place to start to learn what is going on in the chemical Industry across the river, visit: www.friendsofstclair.ca/index.asp.

JIM FLEMING

Port Huron, Jan. 11
