

**Summary of Results from the
Town of Amherstburg – Big Creek Watershed Study Questionnaire – November 17, 2008**

For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement, ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
<p>1. The Town or ERCA should undertake an educational program about appropriate planting programs on property adjacent to the shoreline.</p> <p><i>Comments: Is this to counter “inappropriate” plantings; or to encourage any planting as being appropriate.</i></p>	4	8	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. The Town or the Ministry of the Environment should undertake an educational program about the importance of having septic tanks inspected to determine if it was operating properly.</p> <p><i>Comments: The Town should lead this followed by the Health Unit; then ERCA.</i></p>	4	7	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. The Town, ERCA or MOE should undertake an educational program about the impact of livestock getting to close to the waters edge.</p> <p><i>Comments: How much of this is occurring? Perhaps simply engage the few directly?</i></p>	3	7	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4. The Town should impose a ban on the use of fertilizers or chemicals within the watershed or within a specified distance of the waters.</p> <p><i>Comments: Already chemical restrictions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Province is/has developing ban on cosmetic use of pesticides/herbicides. This question seems to broad.</i> 	3	6	1	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. In your opinion, area residents are aware of how they should use pesticides and fertilizers.

3

4

3

3

1

Comments: Probably yes.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
<p>6. In your opinion, the Town, ERCA, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Rural Affairs, etc. are doing enough to educate property owners, farmers, tourists, etc. about the importance of protecting the watershed, water quality and habitat.</p> <p><i>Comments: Probably could re-focus this on encouraging management-for beneficial uses.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	6	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>7. In your opinion, farmers in the area are aware of Beneficial Management Practices for manure storage, for manure spreading, soil conservation practices, fertilizer and pesticide storage and application, fuel storage and livestock access restrictions.</p> <p><i>Comments: As for Q3; how much of this is occurring?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
<p>8. In your opinion, well users in the area know about why they should get their water tested and where and how often.</p> <p><i>Comments: Probably if they use their wells.</i></p>	1	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4
<p>9. In your opinion, local wildlife / hunt clubs are educated enough on best management practices.</p> <p><i>Comments:</i></p> <p><i>These “hunters” start hunting in August, trespass openly& brazenly and shoot anything that walks/crawls/flies. These “sportsmen” have 0 interest in conservation.</i></p> <p><i>Yes, for wildlife mngt; probably could be encouraged to collaborate on complimentary natural heritage values.</i></p>	2	5	3	1	1

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
10. There should be an educational program aimed at public school children on the importance of the watershed and all the activities that take place within the watershed. <i>Comments:</i> - As long as all rider of environmental and farming issues are presented. - Would benefit from curriculum development that included access to the watershed.	4	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. If a source of pollution is found, to what extent do you agree that the following steps are appropriate for the Town to take:					
a) fine	4	4	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) correct and bill the property owner	3	3	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) correct and absorb the cost	1	1	1	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) inform the property owner and suggest they correct the problem	7	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) do nothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Comments:</i> - Notify offender give opportunity to correct problem; if not corrected apply a and b. - Within a given time limit, if not corrected then go to b). - If the property owner continues to pollute they then should absorb the cost. - All of these are inter-related and often escalate from e) to the others. Strictly speaking, e) is not an option still it is against the law not to report pollution.					

12. What should be the Town and ERCA's priorities?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
a) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Eradicating invasive species -Protecting watershed. -Businesslike decisions -Water quality -Drainage -Keeping control down and parameters of ERCA in check -“Return” water levels back to mother earth - Highest possible quality of the water in our watershed. - Inform 					
b) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Protecting the environment. -Protecting wildlife. -Make trees available -Water quality -Erosion -Put back into nature more than you have taken out - The environment of this watershed for plants and animals - Encourage 					
c) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stop development completely in the watershed area. -Police hunting/hunters -Phragmites “control/eradicate” -Get the hunt club to “quit” pumping everyones water out of the waterway. Their priorities are just “ducks” and everyone elses priorities are to use the waterway much differently - Regulate 					

	Yes	No	No Opinion
13. Did you know that ERCA offers grant programs for things such as:			
a) helping repairing septic tank systems	2	7	2
b) capping of abandoned well heads	1	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) safe sealing of used wells	1	9	1
d) extending well heads so that they are at least 16 inches above the ground	2	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) grading or seeding soil surface around private wells	2	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) preparing Conservation Farm Plans for individual farmers	3	7	1

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
14. Providing funding for programs such as those identified in Question 13 is a good idea.	1	8	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Comments:</i>					
- We are presently overtaxed.					
- Maybe best if cost shared. I will speculate that people also value service (knowledge, advice) more than money.					

	Yes	No	No Opinion
15. Did you know the Town has set up a web site to keep people informed, educated and to allow complaints to be filed or suggestions made?	3	9	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Comments: I do now.</i>			
16. Is there anything else you want to add to what you have already commented on or on issues not raised?			

	Yes	No	No Opinion
<p><i>Comments: 1. Wildlife/nesting areas need to be protected;</i></p> <p><i>2. Private interests ie. Hunters should not be dictating watershed action.</i></p> <p><i>3. Suggest alternatives to pesticides.</i></p> <p><i>4. Suggestion to have a water quality monitoring station at the culvert beside 3157 Meloche since it collects the runoff from the subdivision to the west, almost exclusively.</i></p> <p><i>5. We wouldn't be here tonight if the Hunt Club would stop pumping the waterway and return it to its original condition.</i></p> <p><i>6. I am particularly concerned about the individual homeowners use/misuse of herbicides and pesticides. Lack of knowledge often themselves and those they hire.</i></p> <p><i>7. I'll keep in touch. Hal Shraeder MOE, (519)873-5109.</i></p>			

Priorities List

Of all the things we have talked about tonight, what are the top 5 actions or issues that should be addressed first?

Please record your first priority with a #1, second priority with a #2, and so on until #5. A maximum of 5 boxes should be marked.

- a) Undertake or require septic tank inspections
2, 1
- b) Regulate the application of fertilizers and pesticides 3,5
- c) Educate property owners on best management practices 2, 4, x
- d) Provide funding for specific improvements like septic tanks, capping wells, testing wells, preparing environmental plans x, 5
- e) Encourage planting along water's edge 3,
- f) Fence of livestock from water's edge 1,
- g) Undertaking an educational campaign
4,4,3,2
- h) Other (specify)
 - control of phragmites/muskrats.
 - drainage 1,
- i) Conduct more workshops 5,x,3
- j) Better communications 4, 3, x,1
- k) Provide more funding to property owners to do any of these projects 3,
- l) Impose stiffer fines for poor environmental practices 2,
- m) Increased monitoring of water quality 3,1,4,1, x,4
- n) Do more clean ups 2,2,5,2
- o) Stricter enforcement of existing legislation and regulations 1
- p) Other (specify)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No opinion
--	---------------------------	--------------	-----------------	------------------------------	-------------------

