#### WHERE DOES ALL THE SEDIMENT GO? MODELLING THE SIXTEEN MILE CREEK SEDIMENT PLUME

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5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Natural Channel Systems

Niagara Falls, ON

September 27th, 2016



#### **Acknowledgments**

- The Regional Municipality of Halton
- Town of Oakville





#### **Study Aim**

- To determine the sediment plume extent and concentration for typical events that cause high levels of turbidity within a water purification plant (WPP) intake in Oakville, Ontario
- Will relocating the WPP intake reduce turbidity from the sediment plume?







#### **Presentation Overview**

- Introduction
- Field Sampling
- Numerical Modelling
- Results
- Potential Solutions





- Catchment size 371 km<sup>2</sup>
- Catchment landuse
  - Urban 16%
  - Agriculture 47%





**Sixteen Mile Creek Flows** 

Event	Discharge (m³/s)		
Regional	1198		
100-yr	311		
50-yr	279		
25-yr	237		
10-yr	190		
5-yr	160		
2-yr	100		
1-yr	68		
0.5-yr	30		



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Accumulation of 1700 m<sup>3</sup>/year Oakville Harbour 2010 to 2013



Creek

**Bed Sediment Composition** 

Feature	% Gravel	% Sand	% Silt	% Clay
SWM Ponds	3	15	65	17
Oakville Harbour	0.4	23	54	22
Bronte Harbour	0	31	53	16





Plume conditions at the entrance of Oakville Harbour on July 28, 2014



Plume extent offshore of Oakville Harbour on July 28, 2014





Plume conditions offshore of the mouth on September 11, 2014



Plume extent offshore of Oakville Harbour on September 11, 2014













#### **Numerical modelling – Computational Domain** [m] **Computational Domain** 4811200 4811000 4810800 4810600 4810400 4810200 4810000 4809800 4809600 4809400 4809200 4809000 4808800 Water Depth (m) Above 30 4808600 28 - 30 26 - 28 24 - 26 4808400 22 - 24 20 - 22 18 - 20 16 - 18 4808200 14 - 16 12 - 14 10 - 12 8 - 10 4808000 6 - 8 4 - 6 2014 DigitalGlobe 2014 TerraMetrics 2 - 4 4807800 Below 2 ----607000 607500 608000 608500 609000 609500 610000 [m]



#### Numerical modelling – Model calibration and validations



608500

[m]

### **Numerical Modelling – Modelling scenarios**

- 29 model scenarios
  - Discharge 30  $m^{3/s}$  to 310  $m^{3/s}$  (0.5 yr to 100 yr events)
  - Spring and summer temperature conditions
  - Onshore, offshore and southwesterly lake currents





0.5-yr event

1 cm/s SW



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





2-yr event

1 cm/s SW



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





4-yr event

1 cm/s SW



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





10-yr event

1 cm/s SW



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





100-yr event

1 cm/s SW









2-yr event

3 cm/s SW



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





4-yr event

3 cm/s SW







10-yr event

3 cm/s SW





100-yr event

3 cm/s SW









0.5-yr event

#### Offshore Current









Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)









 Spring; Q=146 m³/s (4yr Return Period); Offshore Current 3 cm/s

 0
 2
 4
 6
 8
 10
 12
 14
 16
 18
 20
 22
 24
 28
 30
 32
 34
 36
 38
 40
 42
 44
 46
 48

 Hours











Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)







2-yr event

#### Onshore Current







4-yr event

#### Onshore Current



Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





















Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)









Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)









Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)







 Summer; Q=68 m³/s (1yr Return Period); Offshore Current 3 cm/s

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 4
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 14
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 22
 24
 28
 30
 32
 34
 36
 38
 40
 42
 44
 46
 48

 Hours









Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)









Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)





Suspended Sediment Concentration at the Existing Intake (mg/L)



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## **Results**

Plume at Bed	Shore parallel currents	Cross shore currents	Creek discharge	Season
Greatest offshore plume extent	weak	Onshore (surface) Offshore (bed)	high	spring
Least offshore plume extent	strong	Offshore (surface) Onshore (bed)	low	summer
Highest TSS at intake	weak SW	Onshore (surface) Offshore (bed)	high	spring



#### **Potential Solutions**

- Turbidity will likely improve by relocating the intake further offshore for the more frequent, smaller flows less than the 1-yr return period, however, larger and less frequent flows could still impact an intake located 2 km offshore.
- Rather than relocating the intake, a more cost effective solution could be to obtain prior warning when high turbidity events may occur.
- Creek monitoring could be further augmented by real time measurement of currents and turbidity offshore of Oakville Harbour.







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