

Hello Kari -

I want to offer a perspective on the blue green algae issue. I worked on the waterfront staff at the Tyler Place in 1968 and recall small, ugly algae blooms in August around a few parts of that petri dish we call Missiquoi Bay. My brother Fred, whom you know, did a thesis study on pollution in Lake Champlain when he was a UVM student in the early 1970's. His conclusion was that farm runoff containing phosphorus was a major non point cause of lake pollution. My daughter Gwen, whom you also know, essentially replicated Fred's study - with the same conclusion - in 2008 while working for the Lake Champlain Islands Trust. I rather suspect that polluted stormwater runoff is still running out of the same pipes. Points then are points now. We certainly weren't the only ones with these conclusions. Everybody has known for decades what the cause of the problems are.

I think it's easy to give voice to the obvious barriers to obvious solutions. People would never agree to that. It's too expensive. We couldn't enforce that. etc, etc.

At one point, we decided, as a world, to ban fluorocarbons. We did that and stopped aggravating the ozone problem. How was that possible? How were the agencies able to cooperate? What approach was used with the myriad of manufacturers? What about this is any more intractable than that? Why don't we seem to be able to do this for Lake Champlain?

That's what I would like you to address in the upcoming forums.

Best regards,

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*Change is always in the wind. Just set your sails.*