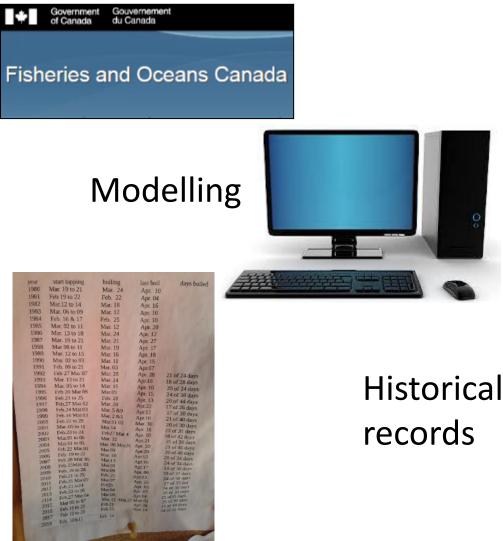
### Item 8.3.1 Monitoring efforts



Local observations & Indigenous knowledge

## What sediments tell us about lake health

Dr. Josh Kurek Mount Allison University jkurek@mta.ca

Natural

archives

environmental

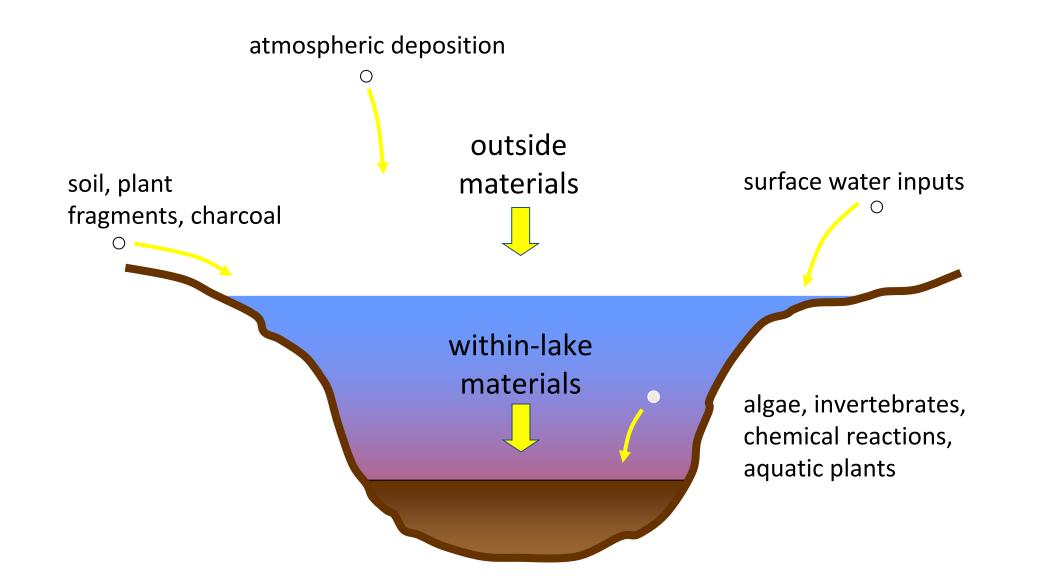
## Lake Charles, NS May 2019

Sediments: help to "reconstruct" past conditions of lakes

We use multiple sedimentary measures:

physical geochemical biological

## Sediments accumulate in chronological order



# In absence of monitoring data sediments can help determine...

What were pre-impact conditions?

What is considered natural?

Have conditions changed? Importantly...Why?



Mining **Starts** 

## Key lake sediment studies, lots of great work by others too!



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv

Arsenic and mercury contamination and complex aquatic bioindicator responses to historical gold mining and modern watershed stressors in urban Nova Scotia, Canada



Allison J. Clark<sup>a</sup>, Andrew L. Labaj<sup>a</sup>, John P. Smol<sup>b</sup>, Linda M. Campbell<sup>c</sup>, Joshua Kurek<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Geography and Environment, Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada
<sup>b</sup> Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, Canada
<sup>c</sup> Environmental Sciences Department, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

#### Establishing realistic management objectives for urban lakes using paleolimnological techniques: an example from Halifax Region (Nova Scotia, Canada)

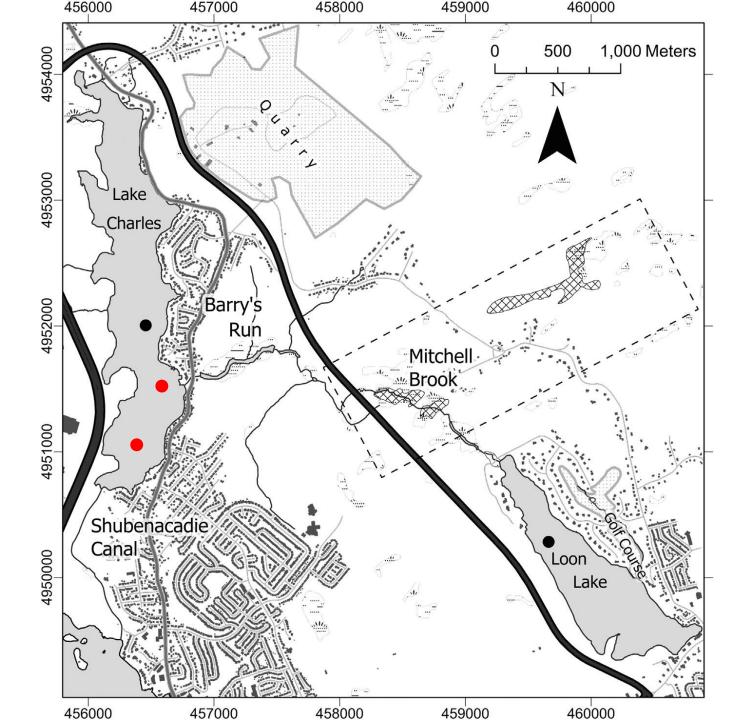
#### Brian K. Ginn\*<sup>†</sup>, Thiyake Rajaratnam, Brian F. Cumming, and John P. Smol

Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory (PEARL), Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, Canada K7L 3N6

## Anthropogenic activity in the Halifax region, Nova Scotia, Canada, as recorded by bulk geochemistry of lake sediments

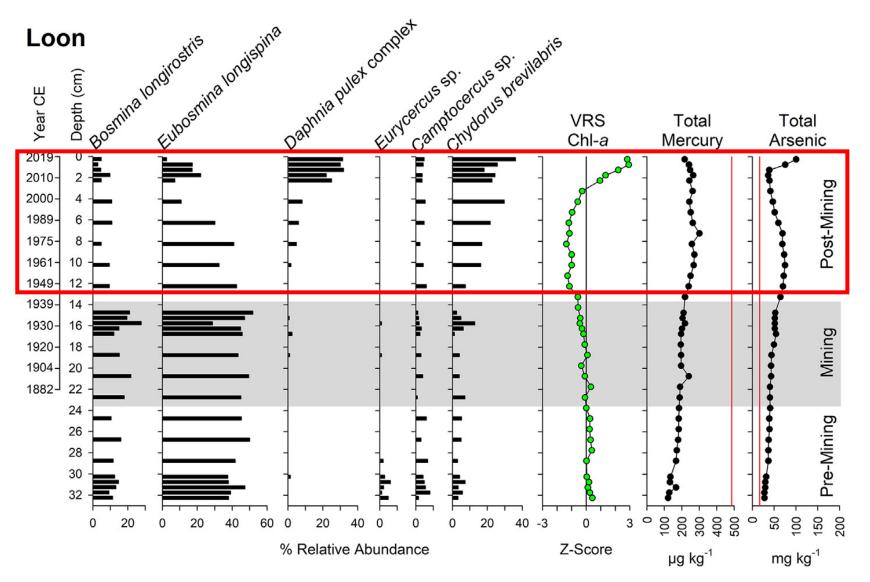
Dewey W. Dunnington <sup>(a)</sup>, Ian S. Spooner<sup>b</sup>, Wendy H. Krkošek<sup>c</sup>, Graham A. Gagnon <sup>(b)</sup><sup>a</sup>, R. Jack Cornett<sup>d</sup>, Joshua Kurek<sup>e</sup>, Chris E. White<sup>f</sup>, Ben Misiuk<sup>g</sup>, and Drake Tymstra<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Centre for Water Resources Studies, Department of Civil & Resource Engineering, Dalhousie University, 1360 Barrington St., Halifax, NS, Canada; <sup>b</sup>Department of Earth & Environmental Science, Acadia University, 12 University Ave., Wolfville, NS, Canada; <sup>c</sup>Halifax Water, 450 Cowie Hill Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada; <sup>d</sup>Andreé E. Lalonde Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Lab, Department of Earth Science, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada; <sup>e</sup>Department of Geography and Environment, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, Canada; <sup>f</sup>Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Halifax, NS, Canada; <sup>g</sup>Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada

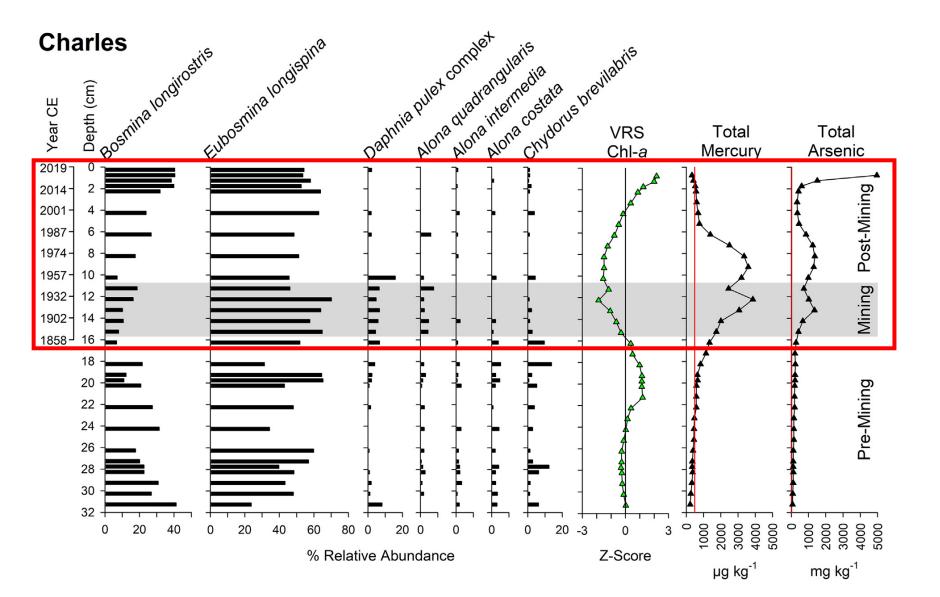


- Clark et al. cores (Excellent dates, ICP-MS, pXRF, Chl-a, zooplankton, midges)
- Acadia Uni. Cores (Undated and no ICP-MS)

## After 1950, urbanization and climate change caused bioindicator shifts at reference lake

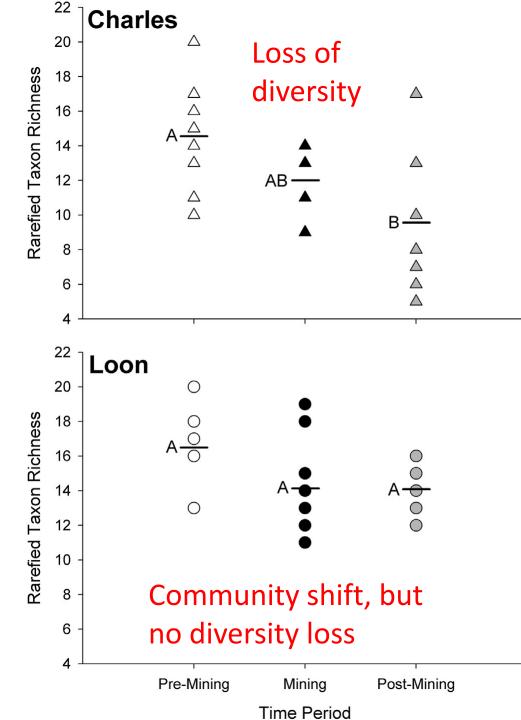


### Mining and other env changes resulted in bioindicator shifts



Arsenic: 300X above CCME guidelines

Mercury: Recovers to pre-mining levels



Recovery has not occurred despite mine closure ~80 years ago

Less diversity at impact lake

Urbanization and climate change alter recovery trajectory

Loss of deep-water O<sub>2</sub> a concern, further study ongoing

