



*Rochester Committee
for Scientific Information
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Sewage Pollution of Irondequoit Creek in East Rochester*

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THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

#36(w)

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SEWAGE POLLUTION OF IRONDEQUOIT CREEK IN EAST ROCHESTER

On 23 May the committee received a phone call from Mrs. Nancy Meyers, 50 Oak Hill Terrace, Penfield; she asked us to investigate some discharges into Irondequoit Creek upstream from Linden Avenue in East Rochester. A study was carried out on 25 May. Two outfalls were found; one from a large buried tank on the creek just behind a large grey building belonging to the East Rochester Car Shops, and another just below a small, red brick pumping station opposite 107 Bluff Drive, East Rochester. Measurements were made the same day on Thomas Creek and Allen's Creek. The following results were obtained:

Location and Comments	Total Coliforms per 100 ml.
Outfall from buried tank just behind East Rochester Car Shops. Odor of petroleum, some shreds of what appeared to be toilet paper in effluent. Residual free chlorine tests negative	58,000 34,000
Outfall just below small, red brick pumping station opposite 107 Bluff Drive. Extensive deposits of sludge and sewage solids noted on the bank, very strong fetid odor. Residual free chlorine tests negative. Sewage fungus, toilet paper, condoms noted.	greater than 10 million greater than 10 million
Irondequoit Creek at Linden Avenue, downstream from the above outfalls.	15,000
Irondequoit Creek at Panorama Trail South.	5,000
Thomas Creek, just downstream from Fairport's STP.	0
Thomas Creek just upstream from Fairport's STP	greater than 100,000
Allen's Creek, downstream from Brighton's Allen's Creek STP. Water quite turbid, some fetid odor.	0

The outfall behind the East Rochester Car Shops appears to be industrial run-off which may contain some sanitary sewage. We were informed by people living in the area that this discharge varies greatly from day to day in appearance and character, frequently being quite black with sludge. The outfall behind the brick pumping station is obviously undisinfected sewage, which constitutes a health hazard and results in the violation of Irondequoit Creek's state classification of B, as indicated by our results on the creek downstream from this outfall.

The committee has written to the Town of East Rochester and to the Monroe County Health Department, inquiring as to the ownership of the two outfalls in East Rochester. No reply has been received from East Rochester. We received,

however, a most helpful letter from Mr. G. Richard Sutherland, Associate Public Health Engineer with the Monroe County Health Department. The bulk of this letter is quoted below"

"The two outfalls discharging into Irondequoit Creek near Bluff Drive have been investigated, and work is in progress to abate one discharge and gather more information about the other,

The red brick building is a sewage lift station owned and operated by the Village of East Rochester. This discharge will be abated.

The large buried tank is the property of the East Rochester Car Shops, Inc. The discharge from this tank will be investigated further."

The RCSI commends the County Health Department for its prompt attention to this situation. We note that the water and bank of Irondequoit Creek in the vicinity of the East Rochester sewage lift station are not suitable for free access and play by children, and we advise parents in the neighborhood of Bluff Drive to warn children not to play near the creek. We hope that the Health Department will advise the parents in this neighborhood when their part of the creek is clean again.

The results on Thomas Creek and on Allen's Creek indicate that Fairport's plant and Brighton's Allen's Creek plant were effectively disinfecting the outflow of processed sewage on 25 May, as was the case when we ran tests earlier this year. We note that Thomas Creek upstream from Fairport's plant yielded a very high coliform count. This pollution should be a matter of concern to Fairport residents. We would like to know whether someone is discharging untreated sewage into upper Thomas Creek, and we hope that our neighbors living near the creek will help us answer this question.

6 July

David J. Wilson
for the
Water Pollution Subcommittee