

## Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC)

Oct 1, 2016 Open House Event on site on Quesnel River, Likely

The research scientists did not provide handouts and I did not bring my pad and pen as I wasn't really expecting to have anything to take notes on so this is coming from our memories of the talks;

We heard from a number of scientists doing research for their phd's or Masters, all students very enthusiastic about the area and the Lake/River, some were from UNBC, UBC and U of Lethbridge. Dr. Ellen Pettigrew, Dr. Phil Owens and Michael Allchina, Centre Manager gave a general over view of what centre is working on.

The UNBC QRRC has been gathering results and information over the last couple of years, but were without funding to do anything with the information they were gathering. The information they were gathering needed to be compiled, analyzed and results reviewed. Just recently, the end of August the centre received a FEDERAL grant of \$800,000.00 over 3 years to allow the centre to fund these research projects. This is not enough money to do thorough independent research, study of the spill and the resulting pollution to the lake. It's a good start though! Normally this centre would have some access to moneys (through the grant system) the Provincial government would have accumulated from penalty's levied against Industry from environmental damage or disasters, in the case of Mount Polley there have been no penalty's levied so there is no provincial monies awarded.

The centre had about 10 researchers/scientists presenting the results they had so far and what their research is going to entail. All findings so far were very preliminary however we were told that as the results become available they will post the information on their website. As much as they are able to will keep us up to date about how they are doing.

The centre has been analyzing and testing core samples of the tailings sediment in the lake as well I believe as tailing deposits in Hazeltine Creek.

The centre is also tracking, analyzing and testing the turbidity looking at the green water in the river and lake, especially throughout the winter and lake turnover.

The centre will be monitoring water quality.

The centre will be monitoring, analyzing and testing the slim (natural) found in the bottom of the lake.

The centre will be monitoring, analyzing and testing the "grazers" in the lake (there are a number of different types of microbial) the grazers scrape the slim off the rocks and ingest the slim. Some fish eat these grazers.

The centre will also monitoring, analyzing and test the copper and metals entering the lake as well as the metals in the tailings in the bottom of the lake.

In speaking with some of the scientist, they did indicate that their test results are in some cases showing very different information than the information that MPNC and MoE have been reporting, we will hear more of this when their results are confirmed.

Dr. Philip Owen towards the end of the meeting and in response to an audience question re the drinkability of the lake water ( " would you drink the lake water? and would you eat the fish?" ), the response from Dr. Phil Owens after pondering the question for a moment, was an unqualified NO! A very interesting comment!

Check out the centres website <http://www.unbc.ca/quesnel-river-research-centre/mount-polley>

The Centre holds this "open house" once a year (1st week of October), but just a note, the centre is open all year long during the week days and has an open door policy and I believe they said they will be happy to share their findings.

The centre also encourages the lake residents who see anything happening on the lake that is not normal events to let them know via e-mail, please include pictures, dates and times, description of the event and area of the lake the event was witnessed, we used the grass that one of the residence found on the beach last February, an unusual sighting on this lake, or green plum etc.,

Christine