



216769

St. Regis Paper Company Superfund Site Interview Project

by [REDACTED]

Wednesday, November 27, 2002

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved)?**

Did you have your own well water for drinking and cooking? *The family drew well water from a hand pump.*

Did you have a garden? *Yes, the family had a garden. The family would prepare the food from the garden, by washing, cooking and at times they would can the food from the garden.*

How did you water during dry times? [REDACTED] *doesn't remember hauling water to water the garden.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweat lodges. However, his grandfather did have "Midewewin" Ceremonies (Native American Spiritual Ceremonies). At these ceremonies, water was used for washing and cooking of the food needed for a ceremony.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? [REDACTED] *remembers swimming at Pike Bay and in the channel as a child.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato, etc.), ceremonies, medicine plants? *There were no wild rice gathered from the area.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *John does not remember doing arts and crafts, however, his uncle [REDACTED] would do artwork such as painting pictures.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? *Family members would pick birch bark and the materials needed for making birch bark items- these materials would be gathered from the area. Items picked include: Birch bark, basswood bark, and willow sticks. Because these items were made by hand, the materials would at times be soaked in water to be pliable so that crafts and storage items can be made.*

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? What parts were eaten? (fillets, eggs, liver?) How were these things prepared? *At times family members would spear fish from the channel - the family would eat bullheads 3-4 times a week.*

Ducks, geese, deer rabbits, grouse? What parts eaten? How prepared? *Family members would also snare rabbits from that area. The older members would hunt grouse, turtle and porcupine, however, [REDACTED] does not know where these food items were taken from.*

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *NA*

Burning site wood scraps? *Firewood was gathered from the nearby forests.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *After the family moved to a northern part of Cass Lake (Tract 33 area), they would continue to return to the old neighborhood and have family dinners there. As children, they would play on and near the treated logs. [REDACTED] remembers his mothers side of the family [REDACTED] worked in the mill at some time or another.*

St. Regis Paper Company Superfund Site Interview Project

by [redacted]

Tuesday, November 26, 2002

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)>**

Did you have your own well water for drinking and cooking? *The family had their own well that would need to be hand pumped in order to draw water. The family would haul water from this pump to the home until the year 1972 when they got indoor running water.*

Did you have a garden? *The family had a very large garden. At the time the family had four acres of property located just south of the Fox Creek area. Their garden covered nearly all of those four acres with vegetables that the family produced*

How did you water during dry times? *The family watered the garden with water carried from the hand pump.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Margaret remembers she would at times swim in Pike Bay.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato, etc.), ceremonies, medicine plants? *The family would pick and prepare for eating wild berries located on and near their property. The mother would can these berries for future consumption.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *N/A*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? *Berries would be hand washed and later canned in jars.*

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? What parts were eaten? (fillets, eggs, liver?) How were these things prepared? *Fish was prepared and eaten by family members, however, [redacted] doesn't know where the fish came from.*

Ducks, geese, deer rabbits, grouse? What parts eaten? How prepared? *Wild rabbits were snared from near and on the property. Deer were also hunted in the area. So rabbit meat and venison were eaten by the family members. These two meat products were either prepared fresh and eaten or canned for later consumption.*

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *N/A*

Burning site wood scraps? *The family would burn own firewood, however, none of the wood from the treatment plant was used by the family.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *The family hand process all food - they would pick wild blueberries and would can these products. Vegetables, berries, fish, and deer meat were all home prepared and canned. Throughout the years, [redacted] remembers seeing the trucks driving by her place and she knew they were riding down to Landis' field to dump from the plant. She remembers many of the families that grew up in and lived in the area. She can tell a story of nearly one member from each family whom may have and had cancer of some sort.*

Thursday, December 5, 2002

Introduction We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? Had own well – hand pump inside the house. Mom had indoor plumbing installed when she started working.

Did you have a garden? Yes

How did you water during dry times? Water hose. Doesn't remember hauling water.

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? No

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? Swam in all three areas.

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? Did not have wild rice - the rice plants grew in the water but there were not rice in the stalks. They were empty and hollow.

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? Grandmother picked sweet grass along the swamp.

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? Doesn't remember what she did with it after she picked it.

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? Her brother fished. She doesn't know where the fish came from.

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) The fish eggs would be cooked.

How were these things prepared? When mother was away at work, the family children gathered frogs from the pond, cut the legs off the frogs and fried them in a pan and ate them. When their mother returned, she scrubbed out the pan.

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse Doesn't know if father trapped and hunted in the area.

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? remembers there was this ditch on the north side of the railroad tracks filled with thick (almost pure) creosote. At times she remembers this creosote would catch on fire. She doesn't know how this caught on fire but she remembers the fire trucks would have to come out there to extinguish the fire. She thinks perhaps the neighborhood children would spark the fire.

Burning site wood scraps?

Stories of life growing up in the area? As a child, she remembers playing at the Box Factory in the woods. They also played at the bridge. Her father's family lived on the south side of the railroad tracks. Her aunt died of cancer. She had another aunt, whom also died of cancer. Mother had breast cancer and had a breast removed.

Thursday, December 5, 2002 [REDACTED]

Introduction: We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had own well for drinking and cooking. It was a large hand pump outside the house.*

Did you have a garden? *Yes, they had a garden.*

How did you water during dry times? *Family hand pumped the water and hauled the water to the garden.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *Never had sweat lodges.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *She swam in all three places all the time.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Did not gather wild rice.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *Did not make baskets.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Fish.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *No innards were eaten.*

How were these things prepared? *Fried and baked*

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Deer - meat was baked and fried. Raised rabbits- these were baked and boiled. Partridge were baked.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *Burned firewood cut from the woods off the property.*

Burning site wood scraps? *Picked coal from railroad tracks.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *All children spent time playing in open field. As a child, she remembers picking wild flowers from the creek and bringing them home. Her mother put them in a vase and a little later in the day, the cut flowers would smell terrible.*

Thursday, December 5, 2002 - [REDACTED]

Introduction: We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had own well for drinking and cooking.*

Did you have a garden? *No*

How did you water during dry times?

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No ceremonies*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Waded in water, did not know how to swim.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Does not recall any use of plants.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts?

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Snapping turtles were eaten. Everything from the turtle, except the innards and shell would be fried and eaten.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?)

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Deer meat was fried - he would eat only the hind quarter and tenderloin. The family raised rabbits also would snare wild rabbits from the area. Rabbit meat was either fried or boiled.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires?

Burning site wood scraps?

Stories of life growing up in the area? *As a child he played on piles of treated logs daily. He would watch neighborhood children swim in pond on the site. He would not swim in there.*

Thursday, December 5, 2002 [REDACTED]

Introduction: We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had own well for drinking and cooking.*

Did you have a garden? *Had a garden.*

How did you water during dry times? *He hauled water from the hand pump to the garden.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *As kids they went to Pike Bay to swim as there was a better beach there plus more privacy.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *He gathered wild rice from different areas as these lakes did not have rice – the wild rice plants were hollow and empty. They would gather rice from different areas and sell it immediately. At time they would bring some rice home for finishing.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *Did not make baskets.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Bullheads were caught and boiled.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?)

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Rabbits were baked or boiled. Partridge was baked. Deer was taken from the Box Factory area. The neck would be baked; the shoulders would be fried. Everything was eaten except the head, hide and innards.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *Leaves were burned, shrubs, brush and grass were burned each spring and fall.*

Burning site wood scraps? *Blocks and bundles of untreated slab wood were burned.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *As a young man, [REDACTED] would deliver newspapers (Grit & Pioneer) to neighborhood. He remembers building forts in the woods that is now the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Administrative Office site. They would also slide using car hoods and flattened boxes during the winter. At the current county garage area, children would play softball in the fields. [REDACTED] noticed that females would get Lupinus. He also worked at Wheelers for almost two years. They workers would have to bring out "stuff" in big barrel drums and dump them, the drums would be dripping with that "stuff". He also said, workers would also have to clean out that big cylinder in the wood treatment plant. His co-workers asked him to clean it out but he would not go near there.*

Saturday, November 9, 2001 [REDACTED]

Introduction: We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Yes. Family had raised pork and chickens and chicken eggs as a food source. Home grown food items were prepared by roasting, frying, boiling or baking. Also, the fat from the pig was rendered for lard for cooking and baking.*

Did you have a garden? *Yes*

How did you water during dry times? *Watered garden from well water*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in all three listed. Pike Bay, Cass Lake and Channel that goes through to the Box Factory and under the bridge.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Cooked all food with water.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *Crafts included water and oil painting.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? *Canning of food was done. Food items grown in garden that were canned include: pickles, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, peas, onions (these items were eaten fresh also. Items were grown in the garden were rinsed in water, cooked and canned.*

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Fish (bullheads & northerns) were caught from the bridge and brought home to be prepared and eaten.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *fillets*

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *None*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *Burned grass. Garbage was burned in barrels.*

Burning site wood scraps? *Did not burn wood scraps. The neighbor used firewood from company for parching rice.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *During the winter months, children skated on the frozen pond. Children shoveled the area. Snow piles were made into forts with snow plowed that Wheelers plowed. During the summer months, children swam in the "Box Factory". Also during the summer, summer youth workers cleaned, brushed, and removed boxes, and glass out of the lake. The children walked through the log yard daily. As teenagers, children sat on logs for hours with friends. When climbing on the logs, pitch would get on hands.*

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Saturday, November 9, 2002 - [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? Yes. Family had raised pork and chickens and chicken eggs as a food source. Home grown food items were prepared by roasting, frying, boiling or baking. Also, the fat from the pig was rendered for lard for cooking and baking.

Did you have a garden? Yes

How did you water during dry times? Watered garden from well water

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? No

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? Swam in all three listed. Pike Bay, Cass Lake and Channel that goes through to the Box Factory and under the bridge.

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? Cooked all food with water.

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? Crafts included water and oil painting.

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? Canning of food was done. Food items grown in garden that were canned include: pickles, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, peas, onions (these items were eaten fresh also. Items were grown in the garden were rinsed in water, cooked and canned.

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? Fish (bullheads & northerns) were caught from the bridge and brought home to be prepared and eaten.

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) filets

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? None

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? Burned grass. Garbage was burned in barrels.

Burning site wood scraps? Did not burn wood scraps. The neighbor used firewood from company for parching rice.

Stories of life growing up in the area? During 1974 - 1982 [REDACTED] was employed at Wheelers. At this site wood scraps were burned before they were treated. End cuts from the treated wood were dumped down by Pike Bay. This swamp was being filled up with this treated wood. When younger, [REDACTED] would swim in the channel and at the Box Factory. For food, fish (northerns) were speared, cooked and eaten. He would also fish from the train bridge. The waste water from the plant was dumped at the city dump. Ditches were made from the plant site were made for water to run east into the lake. He mentioned [REDACTED] worked at the plan also and inquired whether or not he was interviewed.

3



Saturday, November 9, 2002 - [REDACTED]

Introduction: We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? Yes. Family had raised pork and chickens and chicken eggs as a food source. Home grown food items were prepared by roasting, frying, boiling or baking. Also, the fat from the pig was rendered for lard for cooking and baking.

Did you have a garden? Yes

How did you water during dry times? Watered garden from well water

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? No

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? Swam in all three listed. Pike Bay, Cass Lake and Channel that goes through to the Box Factory and under the bridge.

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? Cooked all food with water.

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? Crafts included water and oil painting.

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? Canning of food was done. Food items grown in garden that were canned include: pickles, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, peas, onions (these items were eaten fresh also. Items were grown in the garden were rinsed in water, cooked and canned.

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? Fish (bullheads & northerns) were caught from the bridge and brought home to be prepared and eaten.

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) fillets

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? None

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? Burned grass. Garbage was burned in barrels.

Burning site wood scraps? Did not burn wood scraps. The neighbor used firewood from company for parching rice.

Stories of life growing up in the area? [REDACTED] recalled playing on the logs that were stacked up near the neighborhood. Children would play games such as hide and go seek. They would also climb on the logs even during heavy rains. Her brother, [REDACTED] fell into water and went under as he was floating on a raft or was in a canoe. He was pulled to safety. During school days, children would walk across the log yard. Children would play in puddles of water and often times walked right through the puddles. During the summer time, children would play in the sand - activities played were marbles, cars. During the winter months, children would skate on the frozen pond. [REDACTED] also recalls walking through the log yard when she lived down the road at one other time. Other activities done were washing clothes in water.

④

Saturday, November 9, 2002 [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have you own well for drinking and cooking? Yes. Family had raised pork and chickens and chicken eggs as a food source. Home grown food items were prepared by roasting, frying, boiling or baking. Also, the fat from the pig was rendered for lard for cooking and baking.

Did you have a garden? Yes

How did you water during dry times? Watered garden from well water

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? No

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? Swam in all three listed. Pike Bay, Cass Lake and Channel that goes through to the Box Factory and under the bridge.

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? Cooked all food with water.

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? Crafts included water and oil painting.

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored? Canning of food was done. Food items grown in garden that were canned include: pickles, tomatoes, carrots, lettuce, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, peas, onions (these items were eaten fresh also. Items were grown in the garden were rinsed in water, cooked and canned.

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? Fish (bullheads & northerns) were caught from the bridge and brought home to be prepared and eaten.

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) fillets

How were these things prepared? Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? None

What parts were eaten? How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? Burned grass. Garbage was burned in barrels.

Burning site wood scraps? Did not burn wood scraps. The neighbor used firewood from company for parching rice.

Stories of life growing up in the area? Activities included horseback riding, playing in and near the ponds. [REDACTED] fell into the water and almost drowned at one time. His brother pulled him out of the water and [REDACTED] was taken to the Bemidji Hospital to get the water pumped out of his stomach. [REDACTED] worked at Wheelers for about six months back in 1977. Some nights he couldn't sleep at night because the smell from the factory was too strong in the air. [REDACTED] remembers playing on the logs that were piled outside the factor. Children also played in the cooled burners (these burners were where the tops of logs were burned before they were treated). This plant ran 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The smell was present daily, yearly, and worse in the winter. Logs were pulled out to drip dry onto the ground. The company kept expanding with more buildings. Logs were piled everywhere - right next to houses. The children also played on the trams that the lumber was hauled on.

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Thursday, December 12, 2002

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had a well outside.*

Did you have a garden? *Yes, had a garden.*

How did you water during dry times? *Don't remember*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *Don't remember sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Played around "shit creek". Played on the bridge. At around 8-9 years old she remembers swimming at the box factory.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *None that she remembers*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *None that she remembers*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Father set net on south Pike Bay. The kids would fish off the train bridge. They would catch bullheads.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *She doesn't remember*

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse?

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires?

Burning site wood scraps?

Stories of life growing up in the area? *Wasn't allowed to go past the "shit creek" bridge, however, the older children were allowed to walk through the Wheeler property. As a child she would pick blueberries in the nearby forest for years. There hasn't been any blueberries in that area for a long time mentioned to me that she has cancer. The doctors have told her that there is still cancer in the lymph nodes.*

Friday, December 13, 2002 [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had city water*

Did you have a garden? *No garden*

How did you water during dry times?

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and in the channel.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Wanted to harvest the wild rice from near the bridge between Pike Bay and Cass Lake but the DNR and Game Wardens would allow ricing in that area No medicine plants were used.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *He gathered birch bark, willow and basswood bark to make baskets.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Had eaten fish – whitefish, tullabees, walleyes – before Wheelers got there. He quit eating the fish after Wheelers came there.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *Ate the whole thing.*

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Deer was eaten – the whole thing – nothing was wasted.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires?

Burning site wood scraps? *He burned wood but did not use the wood from the plant.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *He worked at Wheelers for about 5-6 years back in the '60's. The smell was strong from the treated poles. There were treated poles lined up from the railroad crosses on the road all the way east to the [REDACTED] had some friends who worked at Wheelers, however, they passed away from cancer. [REDACTED] gave permission for John Persell or Shirley Nordrum to contact him if they wish.*

Friday, December 13, 2002 [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had a well – it was a hand pump then eventually got an electric pump.*

Did you have a garden? *No garden.*

How did you water during dry times?

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in back at the Box Factory. Also swam on the loop road.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Picked pin cherries, choke cherries.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *Doesn't recall any arts and crafts being done.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Fished from the train bridge. They would catch bull heads.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *The fillets and eggs would be eaten.*

How were these things prepared?

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse?

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *Her dad would burn the grass and leaves every year.*

Burning site wood scraps?

Stories of life growing up in the area? *As a child [REDACTED] would walk across the log yard to get to school.*

*She remembers the big pits of creosote – they would always be black. Her family didn't live there very long. She also remembers when it rained, the puddles would be black. There were always piles and piles of creosote logs at the site.*

Monday, December 16, 2002

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had inside hand pump.*

Did you have a garden? *No garden.*

How did you water during dry times?

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in Cass Lake, Pike Bay and in the channel around that train bridge.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *No plants used for food.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *No arts and crafts.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Fished from the train bridge in the channel.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?)

How were these things prepared? *The fish was cleaned and cooked by boiling the meat.*

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *None.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *Wood on south side of the tracks near the forestry was cut and used for firewood.*

Burning site wood scraps? *Old logs were burned. The logs may have been treated, however, they were weathered. The family would use the tops of the poles and cut them up for firewood.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *He lived in the area from about 1959 'til 1966. The children played marbles in the sand. There was a lot of creosote in certain areas. The creosote would stick to tennis shoes and would be hard to come off. They would use kerosene or fuel oil to remove the creosote off the shoes. As a child, he would be attracted to the log piles. When he got older there were drinking parties on and near the log piles. Sometimes he would sleep under the logs on top of flattened cardboard boxes.*

December 16, 2002 [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Yes, had a shallow well.*

Did you have a garden? *Yes, the family had a garden.*

How did you water during dry times? *Ran the water and hauled it to the garden.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in all three areas.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plants? *Family picked berries and harvested wild rice. They grew their own vegetables. They also gathered hazel nuts. Basically, the family would eat anything edible.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *Her mother would make corsages, wreaths, and sprays to give away as gifts. Princess pine was used for the crafts.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *The family ate fish.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *Filletts.*

How were these things prepared? *Usually fried and occasionally smoked.*

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Her dad was a hunter so he would hunt rabbits, ducks, grouse, partridges, deer.*

What parts were eaten? *The meat would be eaten from these animals. Occasionally, the heart or liver of the deer would be eaten.*

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *The family would have open fires during the summer for cookouts at South Pike Bay (sometimes East Pike Bay). At home they would sometimes cook outside the home over an open fire.*

Burning site wood scraps? [REDACTED] *remembers using the family would use the untreated site wood scraps for firewood.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *They would play hide and seek in and amongst the logs. This was a playground for the children. As children they would walk through the piles of logs to get to school every day. At night it was scary walking home from the movie theater. The town used to be a busy town for at time they thought it would grow to be as large as Bemidji. [REDACTED] approached the city, however, they were turned down by the powers-that-be. She thinks others may have signed a statement regarding the contamination of the property.*

December 17, 2002 [REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *Had own well for drinking and cooking. It was an electrical well.*

Did you have a garden? *The family had a garden and the vegetables were harvested every year. They kept the potatoes and onions.*

How did you water during dry times? *Her father had a container that caught rain water, otherwise, they used well water.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in Pike Bay.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *Did not have traditional uses.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts?

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *Fish was caught and eaten.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *Doesn't remember.*

How were these things prepared? *Fried or bakes.*

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *Wild ducks, rabbits and squirrel.*

What parts were eaten? *The meat was eaten.*

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires?

Burning site wood scraps? *The family burned wood but none from the plant.*

Stories of life growing up in the area? *Kids would play in the logs. You could smell the creosote at all times. The children walked through the log yard into town. At one time there were a lot of houses up and down the south side because people worked for wheelers and for the railroad [REDACTED] was born premature and has had a lot of health problems. She also mentioned that she cannot have children of her own.*



December 17, 2002

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water? (How are children involved?)**

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? *The family had their own well - a hand pump.*

Did you have a garden? *His grandmother had a garden. [redacted] family lived close by her.*

How did you water during dry times? *He had no idea how she may have watered the garden.*

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats? *No sweats.*

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? *Swam in all three areas.*

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved)**

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plant? *There was never any rice in that place. He remembers picking and eating blueberries.*

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts? *No arts and crafts.*

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas? (How are children involved?)**

Fish, crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? *[redacted] fished in the channel and caught bullheads.*

What parts eaten? (filets, eggs, liver?) *The whole fish was eaten.*

How were these things prepared? *Deep fried or fried.*

Ducks, geese, deer, rabbits, grouse? *No other animals were eaten.*

What parts were eaten?

How prepared?

**What other things do you recall about living in this area? Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?)**

Use of open fires? *No open fires.*

Burning site wood scraps?

Stories of life growing up in the area? *As a child [redacted] would play in the logs daily. He remembers there were black puddles of tar and creosote all over the area. [redacted] worked for the [redacted]*

*[redacted] for 15 years. He would use that water from those buildings for drinking until one day one of the DRM programs acquired bottled water for drinking.*

[REDACTED]

Pilot Project Interview Questions

[REDACTED]

**Introduction:** We are trying to determine how people, animals, plants, water and soils may have been polluted by activities at Wheelers.

**What activities do you recall about the use of water?** (How are children involved?)

we had 2 children. we lived there from 1990-1998

Did you have your own well for drinking and cooking? no

Did you have a garden? How did you water during dry times?

yes. City water

Did you use water for ceremonial uses like sweats?

no

Swimming in Pike Bay, Cass Lake and the channel? yes

my children & myself swam in Pike Bay + Cass Lake

**What activities do you recall that involved the use of plants in the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas?** (How are children involved?)

Uses for food (rice, water potato etc.), ceremonies, medicine plants?

We ate wild rice but I'm not sure that it came

Uses for baskets, pottery, painting, other arts and crafts?

off of Cass Lake or not

no

How were these things harvested, prepared and stored?

**What animals were used from the Cass Lake, Pike Bay and channel areas?** (How are children involved?)

My children ate fish off of Cass + Pike Bay

(fish), crawfish, turtles, muskrats, beaver? What parts eaten? (filets) eggs, liver?)

How were these things prepared?

fried - boiled & broiled

Ducks, geese, (deer), rabbits, (grouse)? What parts eaten? How prepared?

The whole animal was eaten except for internal organs. We fried or baked them.

**What other things do you recall about living in this area?** Using resources in this area? People coming from other places to fish, hunt, gather in the Cass Lake and Pike Bay area? (How are children involved?) we had relatives from other states come up to fish numerous times.

Use of open fires? we had small camp fires in our yard all the time. We burned wood in a small

Burning site wood scraps? wood burner in the middle of

no

our living room the first

Stories of life growing up in the area?

Two years we lived there.

While we lived there we also jacked up our house while we were living in it. We had a basement dug underneath it and then put the house back down on the foundation. So we had all this air borne

Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/16/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Yes, we lived in the middle of the site, from 1956-1967.

2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Hand pump outside of the house.

3. **Garden:**  
No. Neighbors all had gardens.

4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No

5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes, rabbits.

6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries, horse radish, hazelnuts.

**Fishing: (where)**  
NO, but would caught turtles to play with from Shitcreek.

**Picking :(where)**  
Yes, but not in that area.

**NO**

**(where/conditions)**  
logs. It was a smelly place.  
the middle of the log piles

**Yes, in the mud holes.**

**Some where 2 blocks long.**

**Would smell and feel greasy after swimming in it.**

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**

**Yes, family members have medical problems.**

**13. Other notes:**

**Remember the big black burners in the site area. Could smell and see black smoke when they would be burning the treated wood chips, (like tar and oil)**

**Remember the big tractors carrying bundles of treated logs. The ground was black where the logs were piled.**

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]  
**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/16/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Yes, we lived about a mile south of the site.  
All our life, still live there.  
Family members worked there.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Hand pump.
3. **Garden:**  
Yes.
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes, rabbits.
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries.
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
NO
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
No
9. **Crafts: NO**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Would swim at Pike Bay.
11. **Swimming: (where)**



**Yes, at Pike Bay.**

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?  
Yes, family members have medical problems.**

**13. Other notes:  
Remember the smells, like tar and oil.  
Burning at the dump.  
Would see burning at the site area.**

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]  
**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/16/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Yes, we lived about a mile south of the site.  
All our life, still live there.  
Family members worked there.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Hand pump.
3. **Garden:**  
Yes.
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes, rabbits.
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries.
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
NO
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
No
9. **Crafts: NO**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Would swim at Pike Bay.
11. **Swimming: (where)**



**Yes, at Pike Bay:**

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**

**Yes, family members have medical problems.**

**13. Other notes:**

**Remember the smells, like tar and oil.**

**Burning at the dump.**

**Would see burning at the site area.**



**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/16/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Yes, we lived about a mile south of the site.  
All our life, still live there.  
Family members worked there.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Hand pump.
3. **Garden:**  
Yes.
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes, rabbits.
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries.
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
NO
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
No
9. **Crafts: NO**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Would swim at Pike Bay.
11. **Swimming: (where)**

**Yes, at Pike Bay.**

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**

**Yes, family members have medical problems.**

**13. Other notes:**

**Remember the smells, like tar and oil.**

**Burning at the dump.**

**Would see burning at the site area.**

Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/15/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Yes, in 1962. Lived there almost 8 years. South of the mill. In the middle of  
piles of treated logs.  
Worked their treating telephone poles. Lumber also. Did the whole process.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Shared the pump with another house. Private shallow well. Hand pump.
3. **Garden:**  
No
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes, would snare rabbits. Lived on them. After the clean up started the rabbits  
disappeared and the hazelnut bushes did too!
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
No
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
NO
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
Yes, at the train bridge.
9. **Crafts: NO**

10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**

11. **Swimming: (where)**

**Yes, the bridge, the channel, boat landing and the box factory.**

12. **Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**

**Yes, would get headaches from having to smell it all the time.**

**Home & work!**

13. **Other notes:**

**Were a lot of hazelnuts that we would pick and eat? Had daily contact with the affected area. Remembers the water run off in the spring. Also still remembers the smell from over there. (Creosote)**

**Can't stand the smell of tar because it reminds him of working there, also from smelling it all the time at home.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/15/02

Interviewee [REDACTED]

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?  
yes [REDACTED] 8yrs. south bound of the mill - logs
2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?  
hand pump -
3. Did you have a garden?  
no.
4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?  
ricing - train bridge
5. What did you harvest?  
both
6. How did you use it?
7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?  
Yearly -
8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?  
canal - pike Bay area bridge | Boat landing |
9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

rabbitts

worked there 2-4 yrs

Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/16/02


1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
**Yes, we lived in the center of the site from 1963-1981.**
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
**Private shallow well. Hand pump.**
3. **Garden:**  
**Yes, always. It was a veggie garden. Would water from the our shallow well.**
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
**No**
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
**No hunting.**
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
**Yes, berries & nuts**
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
**NO**
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
**Yes, at the train bridge.**
9. **Crafts: NO**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
**The area had pools of oily water. Played on the logs. It also was smelly all the time.**

Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/15/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Lived 2 blocks from the site, and later moved a block closer. Lived there 20 years.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Hand pump. Private well.
3. **Garden:**  
Yes, all the usual veggies.
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
NO
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries and hazelnuts.
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
NO, but remembers other people from that area would fish at the train  
Bridge.
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
Father would but NOT in that area.
9. **Crafts: NO**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**

- 
11. **Swimming: (where)**  
**Yes, in the mud puddles in the site area. Pike Bay area, still go there. Also swan at the box factory.**
  
  12. **Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**  
**Yes, family members have medical problems.**
  
  13. **Other notes:**  
**Remember the pools of smelly, oily water also all the log piles.**  
**Had daily contact with the affected area.**




Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/13/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Lived 3 blocks from the plant, but across the road from the treated log piles. Nothing grew by to log piles.  
Lived there from 1950-1967.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Shallow well, hand pump.  
Used for cooking, drinking, bathing, watering the garden.
3. **Garden:**  
Yes, all the usual veggies.
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes – partridges
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, berries and nuts.
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
Yes – Pike Bay & Bridge
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
Yes
9. **Crafts: Yes**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Walked in it everyday.

- 
11. **Swimming: (where)**  
**Yes – But was told not to!**
  
  12. **Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**  
**Yes, it also affected his dogs.**
  
  13. **Other notes:**  
**Remembers seeing fire burning in the plant area. Also still remembers the smell from over there. (Creosote) Remembers seeing something that was yellow in color that was used on the logs.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer [redacted]

Date: 5/13/02

Interviewee [redacted]

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?

3 blks away / 1 blk from Logs - South side of logs

2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?

hand pump

3. Did you have a garden? Yes - veggies -

4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?

berries - nuts -

5. What did you harvest?

hurd - fish - from Pike Bay / Picing

6. How did you use it?

7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?

8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?

Swimming

puddles.

Yes - Pike Bay / Box factory /

9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

Nothing growing by logs  
tree / bushes / plant.

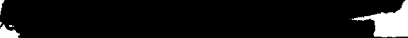
\* daily contact in the area.

11. **Swimming: (where) :**  
**Yes – In the creosote puddles. Also swan at the Box Factory, Cass Lake & Pike Bay.**
12. **Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**  
**Yes, major lung surgery. We would walk threw the creosote area at least once a day.**
13. **Other notes:**  
**Daily contact with area. Always lots of black smoke from the plant area. It would burn your eyes. What ever they were burning, it would burn for days. When the wind would blow you could smell the creosote. Sometimes it would smell like rotten eggs. Every family member that lived over there is either sick or died. For the amount of people that lived there over the years every family member has been touched by some type of illness. I blame that on living in that area.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5-13-02

Interviewee 

1. When did you live <sup>IN</sup> the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?  
1950 - 1967
2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?  
we had hand pump - well
3. Did you have a garden? yes - veggies  
we watered it from the well
4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area? yes - berries, hazel  
nuts, rubbarb, corn, tomatoes, potatoes
5. What did you harvest? ~~potatoes~~, all - berries, hazel nuts,  
rubbarb, corn, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes
6. How did you use it? ~~rubbarb~~ we ate them.
7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?  
for food - every year.
8. Did you or others you know swim in the area? yes - Pike Bay (small loop)  
and box factory
9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?  
all my relatives lived on the Southside,

Person Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Interviewed by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/13/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Lived on the southwest side of site. Had to walk by a lot of treated log piles everyday just to go to school or town. Could see the creosote that soaked into the ground.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Private well – hand pump.  
Used for cooking, drinking, bathing.
3. **Garden:**  
No
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes – Deer
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes, blueberries
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
Yes – Car Bridge
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
Yes
9. **Crafts: Yes**
10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Walked in it everyday.

**11. Swimming: (where)**

**Yes – In the Wheelers yard when it rained a lot. It would discolor our clothes. Box Factory, Cass Lake & Pike Bay.**

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you?**

**Yes, a lot of my relatives that lived over there have gotten sick And passed away. Some of the health problems: Mother had Lung Disease. Also a lot of relative and friends have died from Cancer. I myself have had 3 miscarriages and one baby died at the age of 9 days old. He was born premature. I have thyroid problems.**

**13. Other notes:**

**Always a lot of smoke from the plant area. The area would really stink like oil. Big oily tanks were left open at times. A puppy fell into one of the tanks, someone fished it out. It was full of oil and died a couple days later.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/13/02

Interviewee \_\_\_\_\_

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?

yes -

SW. of plant

2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?

hand pump cooking /

3. Did you have a garden?

no -

4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?

blue berries / rabbits / fish / rice

5. What did you harvest?

6. How did you use it?

7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?

yes -

8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?

yes - in the greasy water / oily /

9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

box factory  
Canel  
Puke Bay  
South

Smoke from that area

Smelly area -

see smoke.



**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/13/02

1. **How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
**Lived south of the Treating plant for about 4 yrs with his parents.**  
**Worked there in 1969 – 70's. Was a treating plant helper.**  
**Also worked building bridge decks.**
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
**Private well, shallow well, hand pump.**  
**Drinking, cooking.**
3. **Garden:**  
**Yes, a small veggie garden.**
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweetgrass –sweats)**  
**NO**
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
**No**
6. **Gathering/Picking (what)**  
**Yes, would pick wild strawberries to eat.**
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
**Yes, Pike Bay.**
8. **Ricing: (where)**  
**No, but brother did.**

9. **Crafts**  
**NO**

10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**

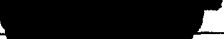
11. **Swimming: (where)**  
**Yes, at the Box Factory, and in the channel.**

12. **Other notes:**  
**Had daily contact with the area. Had to go into the long tubes that did the treatments when things were stuck. Also went into them to clean. Would go in when it was still very warm inside of it. Once he learned of all the poison he was working with he decided he didn't want to work there any longer.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/13/02

Interviewee  \_\_\_\_\_

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?  
YES - south of treating plant - 10yrs. parents  
4yrs - high school
2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?  
Private water -
3. Did you have a garden?  
veg. garden / hand pump. Swimming Canal & Box factor
4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?  
Berries -
5. What did you harvest? ↓
6. How did you use it?
7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?  
ricing  
Brother did.
8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?
9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

- worked 69 - 70's

- treating helper

- bridge decks  
water from  
private well

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/9/02

1. **How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
**Lived across the road from the actual site.**  
**Lived there for 18 years.**
  
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
**Private well, shallow well?**
  
3. **Garden:**  
**Yes, always. Had all kinds of veggies and also grew berries.**
  
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweetgrass –sweats)**  
**NO**
  
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
**Yes, rabbits for food.**
  
6. **Gathering/Picking (what)**  
**Yes, would pick wild strawberries to eat, also hazelnuts.**
  
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
**Yes, Pike Bay.**
  
8. **Ricing:(where)**  
**Yes, Mother and Father riced in the Pike Bay and in the channel.**

9. **Crafts**  
**NO**

10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**  
**Played in the logs and the mud puddles that were filled with creosote.**

11. **Swimming: (where)**  
**Yes, at the Box Factory, and in the mud holes.**

12. **Other notes:**  
**Had daily contact with the area. Remembers burning in that area. Would see flames and the smoke. Log piles on fire. Puddles that she played in had a thick oil substance in it. Smelled all the time. Feels there was an effect on people who lived in the area.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/9 \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewee \_\_\_\_\_

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?

Grant Watsley #1 SE. 10 yrs. 18 yrs. 2 hrs away.  
located next to

2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?

3. Did you have a garden?

yes corn tomatoes potatoes carrots - berries

4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?

strawberry in the woods

5. What did you harvest?

hazelnuts.

6. How did you use it?

hunted rabbits - / yes - pike bay  
canal area.

7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?

8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?

box factory - mud holes.

9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

[REDACTED]

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 5/2/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
Lived in the area of the treated piles of wood when he was going to school. Worked there for a number of yrs. Jobs were: a tractor man – loader operator – treating engineer. Would use the tractor to dump chemical at different sites.
  
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Private well – ground water - hand pump
  
3. **Garden:**  
No
  
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweet grass –sweats)**  
No
  
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes – In the Pike Bay area.  
Ducks
  
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
No
  
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
Yes – Pike Bay
  
8. **Ricing :(where)**  
Yes, but not in that area.
  
9. **Crafts: No**

10. **Play area: (where/cond**  
**Walked in it everyday.**

11. **Swimming: (where)**  
**Yes – Cass Lake & Pike**

12. **Do you feel that living i**  
**No**

13. **Other notes:**  
**Had daily contact with t**  
**dump waste matter from**  
**weren't there to pick it**  
**was right into the sewer**  
**ground. Would need to**  
**chemical in bags:**



St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer [redacted]

Date: 4/30

Interviewee [redacted]

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?  
Worked there  
tractor man - loader operator - treating Engineer
2. Do you recall anything about your drinking water or your well?  
Drink the water at the site.  
hand pump - ground water    cooking/drinking
3. Did you have a garden?  
Lived in the area  
of the treated wood  
piles.  
going to school  
teen yrs.
4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?
5. What did you harvest?  
hunted in Pike Bay  
F-Riced but not in that area
6. How did you use it?  
no berries/nuts  
no crafts
7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?
8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?  
CL. area    Pike Bay
9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?  
Daily contact  
walking in it everyday

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 4/10/02

1. **Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
House was located 2 blks south of main mill – (south of railway Tracts)  
Lived there 20 yrs. Worked 1977-1982 & 1986-1988 in the clean up.
2. **Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Private well 15 ft deep  
Used for cooking/drinking/watering garden/bathing
3. **Garden: Yes- Veggies**
4. **Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweetgrass –sweats)**  
No but cedar was used for making wreathes
5. **Hunting: (what)**  
Yes - Grouse
6. **Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes – Berries/cedar
7. **Fishing: (where)**  
Yes – Train bridge & the channel  
Many of the families in that area would fish for food.
8. **Ricing :(where)**
9. **Crafts: Yes – cedar wreathes**

**10. Play area: (where/conditions)**  
Played on the logs

**11. Swimming: (where)**  
Yes – Box factory/Cass Lake/Pike Bay

**12. Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you.**

**13. Other notes:**

**Black cloud from the burning in the creosote pit.**

**Would take creosote down to the dump site by trailer and dump it. This would be left exposed for sometime and then set on fire. Creosote was used to start the wood products on fire.**

**A lot of water/oil from spring thaw and rain caused flooding in that area. A bridge had to be built to get to town.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer [redacted]

Date: 4/10/02

Interviewee [redacted]

worked there.  
77-82  
86-88 cleaning  
2015.

1. Where did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?

How long did your family live there?

Did you know anything about your drinking water or your well?

Private well / 15ft deep cooking/drinking/bath

Did you have a garden?

Yes

4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?

Yes

5. What did you harvest?

Berries

6. How did you use it?

7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?

Cedar for wreaths

8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?

Box factory / Cass Lake / Pike Bay

9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?

Burning in that area / black smoke  
Burn the pit until 1971 Burn wood scraps.

10. Where was your home located. also used cr to start fires

11. Worked there?

\* played on logs.

\* 3rd Street built a bridge to get over flooded area  
lots of water/ice

**Person Interviewed:** [REDACTED]

**Interviewed by:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 4/30/02

- 1. Where & How long I lived/worked there: (jobs held)**  
House was located 1 blk south of main site – (south of railway Tracts)  
House was surrounded by piles of treated logs, also puddles of Water & Creosote.  
Later moved 2 blks east.  
Lived there 10 yrs.
- 2. Water source: (private well – hand pump)**  
Private well – hand pump  
Used for cooking/drinking/bathing
- 3. Garden: No but neighbors did.**  
Got a lot of veggies from them.
- 4. Traditional use: (sage- cedar- sweetgrass –sweats)**  
No but cedar was used for making wreathes
- 5. Hunting: (what)**  
Yes – Rabbits & Deer  
Used for food.
- 6. Gathering/Picking: (what)**  
Yes – Berries/hazelnuts
- 7. Fishing: (where)**  
Yes – Train bridge.
- 8. Ricing :(where)**  
Yes in the area.

9. **Crafts: No**

10. **Play area: (where/conditions)**

**Played at shitcreek by the dump ground.**

**Played on the logs, that's where the kids would be.**

11. **Swimming: (where)**

**Yes – Box factory/Cass Lake/Car bridge**

12. **Do you feel that living in the area had any effect on you.**

*yes, thyroid problems and my grandkids have birth defects.*

13. **Other notes:**

**Open fires would be burning by the site.**

St. Regis Questionnaire  
(Residents)

Interviewer [REDACTED]

Date: 4/30/02

Interviewee [REDACTED]

1. When did you live the area of the St. Regis/ Wheeler Paper Company?  
1 BK South of the main site  
Wood piles of treated logs. 10yrs. 2 Bks away
2. Do <sup>Puddles</sup> you recall anything about your dinking water or your well?  
hand pump -
3. Did you have a garden?  
no yes.
4. Did you harvest natural resources in the area?
5. What did you harvest?  
Berries hazel nuts. frain bridge fishing  
Shit creek (dumping deer + rabbits.
6. How did you use it?  
fried. - boiled  
ricing
7. How often did you harvest and use these natural resources (for food or craft)?
8. Did you or others you know swim in the area?  
yes Box factory - car bridge sail star
9. Who else do you remember other families that lived in the area?  
play in the logs  
Sister + brothers.

0-10yr.