In the above photo, taken on May 4th, silt can be seen in the foreground, whereas the "Bay Street Ditch" in the background is clear.

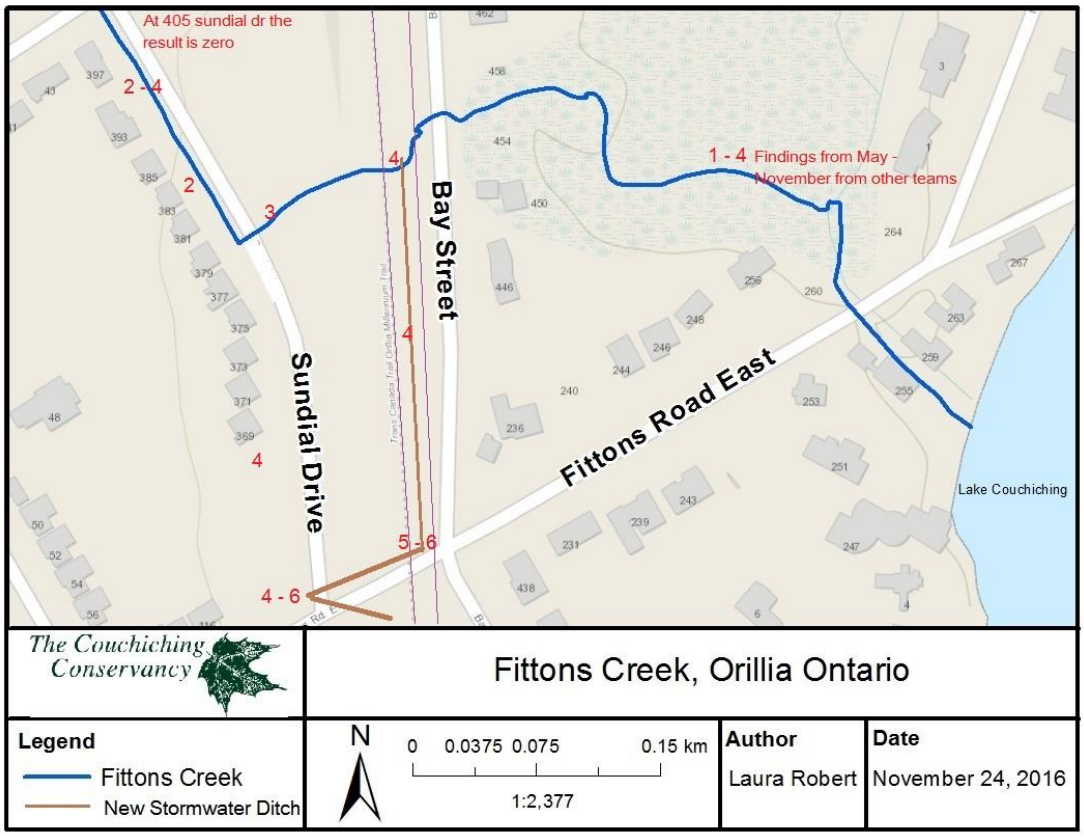
Deputation to the City of Orillia Environmental Advisory Committee

Many of you have been to Fittons Creek in Grant Wetland, and are aware of the high Nitrate-Nitrogen levels we have been getting at this site.

After 7 months of data collection, it was clear that the problem was long-term, and it was time to try and pinpoint the source. Water Team volunteer Dan Gilchrist made several trips to Fittons Creek with the Nitrate-Nitrogen kit, moving upstream until the Nitrate-Nitrogen level dropped to zero. His findings are summarized in the map below, created by Water Team volunteer Laura Robert.

The results indicate that high Nitrate-Nigrogen levels can be found along Sundial Drive until Galley Avenue, when the results drop to zero. The highest readings appear to originate from the small wetland at the corner of Fittons Road and Sundial Drive, and are being diverted into Fittons Creek from a new culvert which was built this past spring.

This new culvert may also explain the heavy siltation we witnessed in May, as construction proceeded on new stormwater drainage and culverts along Fittons Road. We did not, however, see siltation entering the stream from this source since the construction area was blocked off.



On December 6th Dorthea, Dan, and Laura presented their findings to the City of Orillia's Environmental Advisory Committee. Sorry we couldn't invite you all but they had limited space.

The request to the EAC was to:

1. Look into the problem of siltation in Fittons Creek, which could suffocate fish eggs, and determine if the problem can be remediated.
2. Try and determine the source of the Nitrate-Nitrogen and have the problem removed.

Our presentation was well-received and we are hopeful that the committee will take on our request. We'll keep you posted!

In the mean time, Laura Robert and Alyson Karson continue to monitor Fittons Creek.