

The Tailings Pond Beer Saga



Tailings ponds are lakes of chemicals left over from extracting bitumen (tar) from the Alberta tar sands. Nearly 200 square kilometres of Alberta tailings ponds contain toxic chemicals like cadmium, mercury, lead, and arsenic.

What to do with this ballooning toxic mess leaking into our waterways? Prime Minister Harper came up with a great idea, and the Tailings Pond Beer Saga documents his national project. Hubris, duplicity, revenge, and sex all make their appearance in this riveting tale in five episodes. Read the story no one is talking about on the campaign trail.

Episode 1 -- Harper's Grand New Scheme for Jobs and Votes



“It doesn’t look like the price of oil is going up any time soon so we’ve gotta diversify our economy. Even though I know it’s politically incorrect for a Conservative government to meddle in the business of picking winners, I just can’t resist this Tailings Pond Beer idea.

“I know it will work. Not just here in Alberta. With our patented tailings pond refining technology, we can open refineries all across

Canada -- from coast to coast -- and even around the world. There are tailings ponds everywhere just waiting to be refined into Tailings Pond Beer. It'll be a mini industrial revolution!

"But we've got to get ahead of the game. Once this idea gets out, the competition could get fierce. After all, they have to get rid of their tailings ponds too. Hey, maybe we should buy them up in advance. Nah, I think I'd have a rebellion on my hands. We'll just finance a private sector company to do it.

"This would solve so many problems: more money for hairdos, photographers, war machines (I really like those new killer drones), and shutting down environmental terrorists. And if it works, think about the jobs that will be created. Just think about the votes!

"Btw, I hope this new photographer is getting good pictures. The last one just didn't get me. I'm a nerd who got to be prime minister and I get to have my hair done and my clothes picked out for me, just like on Down Town Abbey, and I'm going to milk it for all it's worth. Or should I say ale it? I want the best and lots of it. If I could, I would record every minute of every day, yes every minute, of my life, just like Mike Duffy did in his diaries. I don't know how he does it. Too bad I threw him under the bus; he could have given me some useful tips. Oh well, at least I'll have the photographic record."

Episode 2 -- Tailings Pond Beer Gets Caucus Approval



As usual, the Caucus has been bullied into acceptance and has no choice but to go along with the Tailings Pond Beer project, but not before some members expressed their concern about their dry ridings and how they were going to explain this alcoholic enterprise to their constituents. Others were worried about how it was going to look to their corporate supporters.

Harper told them:

"Don't worry. Tailings Pond Beer is going to save Canada. Eddie Norton, the industry minister, is devoting billions to this project, and, with the big tax

breaks and interest free loans we'll give investors, they'll be banging down the doors to get in on the deal. We'll be raking it in soon.

"And now that bitumen has tanked, we're going to use the Energy East pipeline to transport the refined Tailings Pond Beer to the east. That would put some bottling jobs in our ridings in Ontario and Quebec and maybe even the Maritimes, although we're keeping the refineries for Alberta, even if we have to pay a fine to the Koch brothers, who have refining rights.

“The good news is we don’t have to have an environmental assessment on the pipeline and the National Energy Board won’t be involved either. As a bonus, pipeline residue will add a more intense bitumen flavour to the beer.

“I might even be able to retire, although with these new and ever expanding job numbers I’ll be Prime Minister till I die.”

Episode 3 -- Tailings Pond Beer Now on Tap!



Harper is hosting an over-the-top launch of Tailings Pond Beer with F-18s flying overhead, soldiers marching in the streets with Canadian flags, and TPB banners billowing in the wind.

Humans vs Harper attended the launch. Listen in:

“My dear

Canadians – that is, the 25 per cent who voted for me – I proudly present Tailings Pond Beer, the beer that will save Canada (and my job heh heh).

“Rejoice Canada, for we are now the World Tailings Pond Beer Superpower due to our vast reserves of tailings ponds. International investors are clamouring to get in on our new refining technology. Restaurants, pubs and bars are ordering two-fours by the dozen.



“This invaluable resource is being refined in Alberta and shipped via pipelines all across Canada to bottling plants in every town in every province, creating thousands of new jobs just like we promised.

“TPB is already being lauded as the revolution of the century. Listen to what International beer critic Merry Hops had to say:

‘I’ve had a chance to taste the new beer. Cold and murky, it’s characterized by a

metallic hop aroma, sugary graininess with distinctive greasy notes, and balanced by a dirty finish and unpleasant lingering bitterness. This beer will pair

well with Tar Sands Sausage or Oily Duck à l'Orange. (The Alberta Tar Sands is already renowned for it's oily ducks.)

'The brand new Tailings Pond Beer is produced by the Canadian government and is being hawked around the country by Prime Minister Harper. Canadians are urged to support this unique industry to help with the ailing economy.'

"Look everyone, the critics love it, the investors love it, I love it. You will love it too. So drink up for Canada!

"And remember, for every TPB two-four you buy, 80 per cent goes into government coffers and five new jobs are created in your area!"

Episode 4 -- Tailings Pond Beer Failure



HvH has received leaked information about [Harper's recent dismissal](#).

Documentation supporting his firing has surfaced enumerating in great detail the lies, corruption, and deception that led up to that fatal day.

One of the more illuminating reports was about Harper's performance on the Tailings Pond Beer file. Harper had made elaborate claims for this product, which was supposed to save the economy by creating refineries, pipelines, and bottling plants across the country. He launched

the beer earlier this year saying, "We are the World Tailings Pond Beer Superpower."

Harper was seen all across the country promoting (and drinking) the fowl tasting brew, accompanied by Merry Hops, the international beer critic. (Rumours abound about Harper and his travelling companion, but that's another story.)

According to the report, every town with a bottling plant or refinery was visited and baptized as bottles of the tasty ale were flung against factory walls in celebration. F-18s flew overhead. Citizens were ecstatic. Jobs were plentiful. Tailings Pond Beer was flowing!

The stench of a cover-up, however, surfaced to rival the aroma of the beer itself. In order to keep the price down (\$20.95 for a two-four), the Harper Beer Company (named by Harper himself) brought in Temporary Workers to work in the breweries. Secret legislation permitting the exemption from Canadian labour laws was buried in a 1000-page omnibus bill in the 2015 budget.

Reporters seeking basic facts on the file got no answers, as Harper claimed that the TPB formula, extraction methods and refining processes were all proprietary. Indeed, everything connected to the Harper Beer Company was classified TOP SECRET, and therefore unavailable through Access to Information.

Maybe you can hide Temporary Workers in cities (like the Royal Bank of Canada did) but you can't hide Temporary Workers in towns.

And so it was that the whole project began to unravel.

Episode 5 -- Tailings Pond Beer Takes Harper Down

Small towns across Canada were elated at the promise of Tailings Pond Beer refineries and bottling plants and the jobs that would come with the new factories.



Harper himself was rubbing his hands in anticipation of a fifth election win. But to curb competition from other tailings pond owners and to keep the price down, Harper had authorized Temporary Workers to be discretely introduced across the country in the Harper Beer Company factories.

No one noticed in the cities but, before long, the people in the towns noticed the TWs in

their midst and rose up in anger at this blatant attempt to cheat them of employment. Soon recall petitions were circulating everywhere. Conservative MPs ran for cover. Harper took an unscheduled trip to Ukraine (no photo ops on that trip).

But no amount of claims of ignorance or attempts at white-washing the use of Temporary Workers could counter the stink of the scandal that now hung over the PM's office like the chemical-laden stench of the Alberta tar sands. Harper's ratings fell to a new low.

To make things worse for Harper, new revelations emerged that Tailings Pond Beer was nothing more than a grand hoax perpetrated by disgruntled scientists who were angry with Harper for firing them, burning their books, and suppressing their research.

Using their own home experiments in beer making, the scientists concocted the cocktail to be known as Tailings Pond Beer, doctoring it for the discerning taste bud. But under



that deceptive taste was a bomb waiting to explode. After six pints of the Alberta brew, imbibers were suddenly overcome with violent stomach cramps and painful gassing. Students at the Nova Scotia dentistry college were the first to be affected but the affliction soon blew across the country like the North wind and the whole Tailings Pond Beer industry completely collapsed taking Harper with it.

Just one of the many scandals to bring Harper down, he was last seen hiding among the polar bears of Northern Canada, both now endangered species.



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