



Port Granby workshop participants: Rae Coakwell, Mel Edwards and John Stephenson.

Workshops in New Year

Workshops in Newtonville and Port Hope are planned for early 2003. The sessions will be a continuation of earlier alternative means workshops and will focus on the criteria for evaluating alternative means ideas.

Membership *continued from Page 1*

about the project, reflecting the views of local residents. The newly appointed CAC community members are James DaCosta, Andrew McCreath, Rupert McNeill, Jean Payne, Sarwan Sahota, Ken Shrivies and Barbara Spencer. Also on the CAC are a representative of the Durham Region Health Department, Councillor Charlie Trim and Clarington Senior Planner Janice Szwarc. Technical expertise is available to the CAC through an independent technical team coordinated by Clarington's consultant, Hardy Stevenson and Associates.

New pamphlet answers frequently asked questions



A new pamphlet on the Port Hope Area Initiative answers some of the questions frequently asked by newcomers to the area, especially people thinking of buying a house or property.

The pamphlet was prepared by Property Value Protection staff with the help of the Cobourg-Port Hope Real Estate Board. It takes the mystery out of the historic low-level radioactive waste issue by answering questions like: *What is historic low-level radioactive waste? Does it pose a health risk? and What does the long-term environmental solution actually involve?* Copies are

available through local real estate offices or the Project Information Exchange.

Here's how to reach us:

Project Information Exchange

110 Walton Street, Port Hope

New Hours:

Open 1:00 p.m to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday by appointment.

Telephone: 905-885-0291

Toll-free: 1-866-255-2755

Fax: 905-885-0273

email: info@llrwmo.org

Website: www.llrwmo.org

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Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office



Natural Resources Canada

Ressources naturelles Canada



AECL Atomic Energy of Canada Limited



EACL Énergie atomique du Canada limitée

Canada



News

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Ways to offer input keep expanding

Opportunities for public involvement are increasing as the environmental assessment phase of the Port Hope Area Initiative unfolds. To assist the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO), two consultants, experienced in public consultation, have joined the team.

Based on its previous community profile work, Haussmann Consulting has developed public consultation plans including more open houses and workshops, beginning in the New Year.

Bancroft-Wilson Associates will be implementing a plan to bring the unique perspective of First Nations

communities to the projects. Aboriginal communities that may be interested in contributing to the environmental assessment are being contacted to plan their involvement.

CAC appointed in Clarington

The newest partner in the public consultation process for the Port Granby Project is a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) of citizens appointed by Clarington council in November.

The citizens committee was selected to provide advice to Clarington council

See membership on Page 8.

Port Hope residents Ruth Kerr and Joyce Buttars talk with consultant Brian Betts at Expo '02. See pages 4 & 5.



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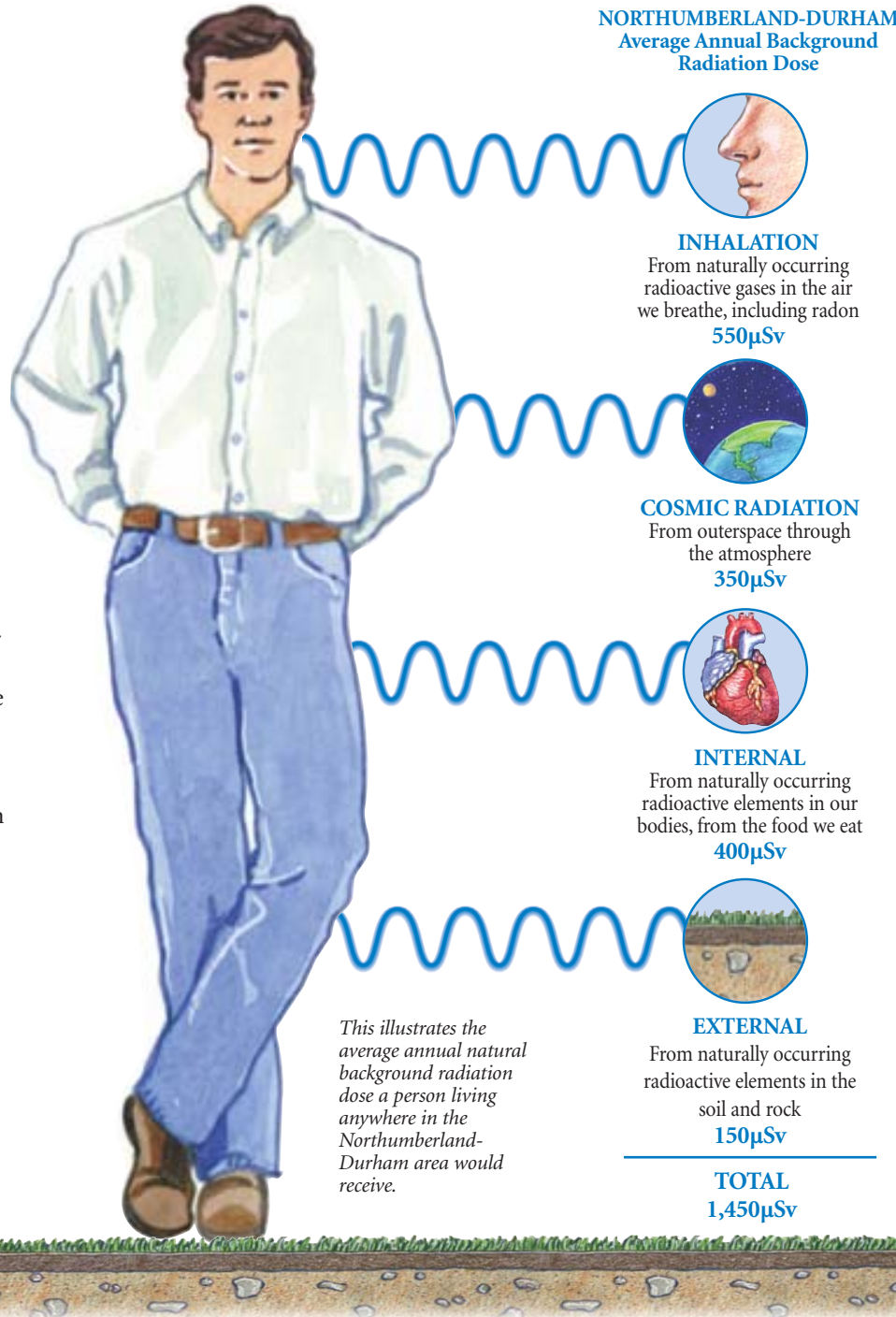
- Airborne survey has no surprises
- Hundreds tour Expo '02
- Answers to your questions
- New video available on loan
- Pamphlet answers many questions

Local background radiation within typical range

Everyone is exposed to naturally occurring background radiation from the air, ground and food we eat. The radiation exposure of a person engaged in normal, daily living activities in Port Hope is not much different than the exposure of a person living in most southern Ontario communities.

Residents of Port Hope receive lower background radiation than people living in Banff, Alberta, for example, where higher altitude results in increased cosmic radiation. Slight regional variations in external radiation, or the radiation occurring naturally from rock and soil, result from the differences in geological make-up. For example, the external radiation dose in communities on the Canadian Shield is higher than in Port Hope.

The average Canadian receives an annual dose of between 1,000 and 2,000 microsieverts (μSv) from natural, background radiation. This accounts for about 80 per cent of our radiation exposure, with the remainder coming from artificial sources such as medical applications like x-rays.



No surprises: airborne gamma radiation survey findings

The results of an airborne radioactivity survey show no previously unidentified areas contaminated with low-level radioactive waste.

Both aerial and roadway gamma radiation surveys were conducted throughout the Port Hope Area Initiative area in Fall 2001 to collect detailed data for the cleanup of low-level radioactive waste in the Port Hope area. The aerial survey recorded gamma radiation levels in the southern portion of the municipalities of Port Hope and Clarington. The road survey measured radioactivity along 320 km of municipal roads in Ward 1 of Port Hope and along former truck routes to the Welcome and Port Granby Waste Management Sites.

A map produced using the aerial data was compared to a map produced after a 1976 airborne survey. The new results show reduced radiation levels as a result of past clean-up and interim waste management activities.

What the airborne survey found:

- No new sites of low-level radioactive waste;
- Port Hope area background radiation levels are typical of levels found throughout the Northumberland-Durham geographic area;
- None of the contaminated sites exceeds the allowable annual dose limit set by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC);
- Radiation levels at contaminated sites are reduced compared to the 1976 airborne survey.

What the road radiation survey found:

- Many small pockets of contaminated soil that will be incorporated in final clean-up plans.

Hundreds tour Expo '02 to learn more about the issues

Bringing people together to talk about low-level radioactive waste – that was the aim and accomplishment of Expo '02. Hosted by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office, (LLRWMO), the event at the Royal Canadian Legion in Port Hope gathered residents, community groups, a variety of agencies and LLRWMO project staff to discuss the cleanup and long-term safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in the Port Hope area.

By the time the doors closed, over 300 people had visited or participated in the trade show-style open house that ran from Friday evening, November 1, to Saturday afternoon, November 2. In conversation and on comment sheets, visitors appreciated the open atmosphere and accessible information, especially the balanced viewpoints presented. Comments on the projects included concerns about the location and safety of the proposed facilities, questions about the legal agreement that defines the projects and an eagerness to “get on with it.”

Participating with the LLRWMO were:

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- Municipality of Port Hope
- Municipality of Clarington
- Natural Resources Canada
- Durham Nuclear Health Committee, Region of Durham
- Cameco Corporation
- Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee
- Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce
- Community Awareness Emergency Response group, Port Hope
- Port Hope Nuclear Environmental Watchdogs
- Radiation Safety Institute of Canada
- Jack Goering, a citizen with an educational/monitoring concept

Bob Steane and Rita Mirwald of Cameco Corporation take time out from their own exhibit to look at others.



Andrea Storm and son, Ben, of Port Hope look over the displays.



Sue Stickley of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office talks with Port Granby resident Dr. Sarwan Sahota.



Northumberland MP Paul Macklin signs in at Expo '02.



Chuck Trenouth of Port Hope discusses the aerial gamma mapping with consultant Bob Grasty.



John Elliot of Port Hope talks with LLRWMO project specialist Mark Gardiner.

Public workshops explore alternative means

With two rounds of alternative means public workshops now completed, an important part of the environmental assessments for the two projects has entered a new phase.

Alternative means workshops to identify and evaluate alternative ways of carrying out the Port Hope and Port Granby projects were held in June and October in both Port Hope and Newtonville. Local citizens actively explored the issues and alternative ideas and concepts for the Port Hope cleanup and the three long-term low-level radioactive waste management facilities proposed for Port Hope and Port Granby.

Participants took part in lively discussions with members of the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management project team and their engineering consultants. New ideas and firmly held beliefs were expressed. The next steps involve development of the criteria to evaluate the alternative means ideas brought forward so far, more workshops and community consultation to produce a short list of concepts. Detailed technical review of the short listed concepts will follow.

Each workshop on the Port Granby Project brought together about 25 people. In Port Hope, 40 to 50 local citizens attended each of the workshops.

You asked?

Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we receive. If you would like a particular question answered in an upcoming issue of *Port Hope Area Initiative News*, please email or call us at info@llrwmo.org or 905-885-0291.

How can you prevent the long-term management facilities, once built, from becoming repositories for waste from outside the area?

The legal agreement between the federal government and the municipalities that defines the Port Hope Area Initiative clearly identifies the wastes that will be handled at the three proposed sites. No wastes from outside the municipalities are included in the projects. The conceptual designs call for the facilities to be closed with an impermeable cap and cover system. They will not be

designed to accept waste on an ongoing basis. Also, including waste from outside Port Hope or Clarington would redefine the projects, requiring an entirely new environmental assessment that would involve extensive studies and public consultation.

How are you going to make sure that all the waste is cleaned up, so we don't find out you've missed something after the facilities are built and closed?

The airborne and roadway gamma radiation surveys are two of many ways the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) will use to locate and catalogue areas of contamination in the Port Hope area. In the coming year, the LLRWMO will also begin an exterior and interior property resurvey of Ward 1 and parts of Ward 2. The ongoing Construction Monitoring Program and the Radiological Status Letters issued for property transactions are two additional ways the LLRWMO

updates existing information or checks previously unsurveyed sites.

What are you going to do with all the information you're collecting during the environmental assessments?

The many studies being done during the environmental assessments have one key thing in common – they assess the potential effects of the projects on the existing environment. The information being collected will be used as baseline data. In order to assess potential effects of the long-term waste management facilities and the cleanup, it's necessary to know what the state of the environment is before the work begins.

Why aren't you studying the effects of low-level radioactive waste on the health of the Port Hope community over the last 50 years?

The environmental assessment of the Port Hope Project requires the LLRWMO to study the effects of the project on the environment as it currently exists before the project

begins. The environmental assessment began in November 2001. Studying past health effects, just as studying any past environmental condition, is not part of the environmental assessment process for the project.

However, several health studies have been conducted, each indicating that living in Port Hope does not increase a person's risk of cancer or disease. Among these studies is the Study of Health Effects of Low-Level Exposure to Environmental Radiation Contamination in Port Hope, done by Queen's University in 1984, looking specifically at lung cancer occurrence. More recently, two studies were conducted by Health Canada for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – Cancer and General Mortality in Port Hope, 1956-1997, published in 2002, and Cancer Incidence in Port Hope, 1971-1996, published in 2000. These studies are available at the Project Information Exchange.

Initiative's project manager takes aim at long-term solutions

As Project Manager with the Port Hope Area Initiative, Gary Vandergaast juggles a complex array of engineering and scientific studies, schedules and budgets, all leading to the long-term waste management solutions for the Port Hope and Port Granby projects. Gary's involvement in the environmental issues surrounding Port Hope's historic low-level radioactive waste dates back to the 1980s when he worked for Eldorado



Nuclear as an environmental scientist on improvements at the Port Granby and Welcome Waste Management Sites. Before joining the LLRWMO in 1999, he worked as an environmental specialist with the Siting Task Force on low-level radioactive waste management. Originally from Bowmanville and Newtonville, Gary currently divides his time between Port Hope and Ottawa, where he and his family now live.

Video spotlights projects and people

The Port Hope Area Initiative video, shown for the first time to local audiences at the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office's (LLRWMO) Expo '02, is now available on loan from the Port Hope and Clarington libraries and the Project Information Exchange.

Requests from the public to see the video have exceeded expectations. Filmed in Port Hope and Clarington, the 20-minute video explains the



Video crew with Port Hope businessman Blake Holton
Photo by Ted Amsden, Port Hope Evening Guide

historic low-level radioactive waste problem and proposed solutions. It features varied comments by area residents.

The video was a cooperative undertaking by Natural Resources Canada and the LLRWMO.