

Open Houses on "Alternative Means"

PORT GRANBY
June 24, 2003: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Newtonville Community Hall

PORT HOPE
June 25, 2003: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre

Technical study highlights *continued from page 3*

modifications. Adjacent unprotected properties would not be significantly affected and would continue to recede naturally, causing the protected shoreline to form a promontory extending into the lake. It concluded that ongoing maintenance and major reconstruction would be required over the facility's 500-year life, and that further studies would be needed to determine the extent of fish habitat loss resulting from the construction.

Port Granby Groundwater Flow and Transport Modeling Study

This study investigated the current groundwater flow patterns and effectiveness of the community-suggested concept to prevent the buried contamination from migrating off the waste management site into Lake Ontario. It concluded that the proposed groundwater diversion system (with a 10m deep sheet pile wall) would not prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater. Complete removal of the

low-level radioactive waste and marginally contaminated soil from the East Gorge would essentially prevent contaminants from entering the groundwater and lake. The study estimated it would take between 100 and 500 years for residual groundwater impacts to substantially dissipate from the Northeast and East Gorges following waste removal.



CAC elects chair

Andrew McCreath is the new Chair of the Port Granby Community Advisory Committee (CAC). He replaces interim Chair, Clarington planner Janice Szwarc, to lead the CAC through study reviews and communication with the public and council. Andrew and his family have a weekend residence on the lakeshore, west of Port Granby.



Here's how to reach us:

Project Information Exchange
110 Walton Street, Port Hope
New Summer hours:
Open 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday

Telephone: 905-885-0291
Toll-free: 1-866-255-2755
Fax: 905-885-0273
email: info@llrwmo.org

Be sure to visit our updated website at www.llrwmo.org

Publié aussi en français

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



◀ This hard-at-work group at the recent Alternative Means workshop in Canton includes community members Lorraine Oliver and Marilyn Curson.

Integrating local values into the projects

Community values and the importance people place on them are helping develop the evaluation criteria used to select alternative ways of carrying out the Port Granby and Port Hope long-term low-level radioactive waste management projects.

Participants at a spring workshop, sponsored by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office

(LLRWMO), proposed the goal: *Leaving a clean and honourable legacy.* Everyone burst into spontaneous applause, suggesting this was a value they could all endorse. Open Houses will take place this summer to present the project concepts that have been short-listed using community input. *See pages 4 & 5 to learn more.*

What you had to say...

How knowledgeable are Port Hope and Port Granby residents about the Port Hope Area Initiative? Are they confident the low-level radioactive waste can be cleaned up and safely managed for the long term?

These are some of the questions local residents were asked during a telephone survey of public attitudes conducted for the LLRWMO.

Turn to page 2 for survey highlights

In This Issue

- Telephone survey results
- Technical study highlights
- Alternative means, step-by-step
- PVP offers sense of security
- Questions and answers

Taking the community's pulse

Were you one of the 600 surveyed?

Here are some highlights of a telephone survey, conducted for the LLRWMO, by IntelliPulse Research, a national survey research firm. A total of 600 residents of Wards 1 and 2, Port Hope, and Ward 4, Clarington,¹ were surveyed between April 8 and 13, 2003. The results are considered accurate within 4.1%, 19 times out of 20.

Have residents heard of the Port Hope Area Initiative?

Awareness of the Initiative has gone up dramatically in all the areas. In Port Hope Ward 1, 68% (up from 40% in 2002) know about the Initiative; in Ward 2, 46%, and in Clarington's Ward 4, 44% said they are aware of the Initiative. Last year only 30% of residents in these two wards had heard of it.

How confident are residents that the Initiative can clean up the waste and manage it over the long term?

Overall result: 67% are "somewhat" to "very" confident (up from 62% in 2002) that contaminated soil can be cleaned up; 71% (up from 62%) are "somewhat" to "very" confident the waste can be safely managed over the long term.



Area residents enjoy photos of home with socio-economic study consultant Anneliese Grieve.

How effective is the LLRWMO at addressing people's questions?

Almost 90% of Ward 1 Port Hope residents who said they had questions rated the LLRWMO as doing a "fair," "good" or "very good" job at answering their concerns. More than 75% of Ward 2 Port Hope residents and 80% of Clarington Ward 4 residents gave similar ratings.

How satisfied are residents living in Port Hope and Clarington?

Across all three wards, 95% of people said they are "somewhat" to "very" satisfied with living here – almost identical to last year's survey results.

How do residents prefer to receive information about the projects?

Unchanged from a year ago, residents (46%) prefer information, such as brochures or newsletters, mailed directly to their home. The community newspapers continue to be the key source for local news and information according to 66% of residents.



¹ The Clarington Ward 4 survey includes residents of Newcastle, Kendal and Orono, who may be less familiar with the issues than residents living nearer to the Port Granby facility.

Highlights... from four technical studies



Port Hope harbour, Centre Pier

Four technical reports for the Port Granby Project were presented to the Port Granby Community Advisory Committee (CAC) earlier this month. In Port Hope, four studies on historic industrial waste sites have undergone independent third-party review by the municipality's consultant team.

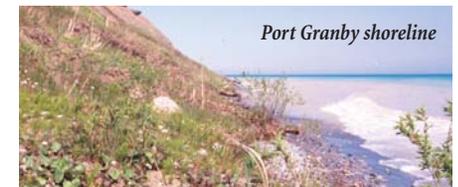
The findings of some of these studies are summarized below. More studies, including the Thorium-230 and contingency plan reports for Port Granby, will be featured in future newsletters.

Port Hope Harbour Centre Pier Site Characterization

This 4-hectare property was originally an island and marsh area filled in to form a wharf for industrial use in the late 1800s. Studies identified soil mixed with low-level radioactive waste from former radium and uranium refining operations in the upper areas of fill, heavy metal contamination from former foundry operations deeper in the pier structure and petroleum contamination around former underground storage tanks. Some groundwater impacts were detected. Various clean-up approaches are being reviewed.

Port Hope Lions Recreation Centre Park Area

The 3-hectare area was used as a fill site during the 1950s. The study found fill materials in a ravine at the northern property limits contaminated with heavy metals. Soil contaminated with boron extends deeper and to the east of other metal contamination. Some off-site contamination is known to exist to the north and east of the site. A risk assessment study to determine potential clean-up approaches is being performed.



Port Granby shoreline

Port Granby Assessment of Shoreline Protection

This study investigated the harsh marine environment and its effect on the shoreline protection proposed as part of the preferred community concept to manage the waste in situ (on site). The study confirmed that if the shoreline were not protected, it would continue to recede by about one foot a year. It concluded that the proposed bluff stabilization concept, that includes a 1 km-long sloped boulder wall along the water's edge, is technically feasible with

continued on page 8

The Alternative Means Process

The Alternative Means Process is a step-by-step progression involving the public and technical advisors to propose, evaluate and narrow down ideas for various ways to carry out the projects.

Gather public input

More than 150 people offer over 100 new ideas



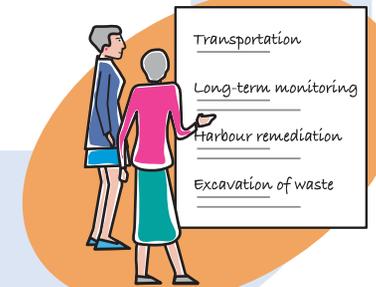
Port Granby and Port Hope Workshops: June and October 2002

Ideas that meet project purpose proceed



First filter

LLRWMO sorts and organizes ideas



Identifying approaches

Public reviews short list of concepts



Port Hope and Port Granby Open Houses: Summer 2003

Staff applies evaluation criteria to develop concepts



Second filter

Public helps develop evaluation criteria

Residents express community values



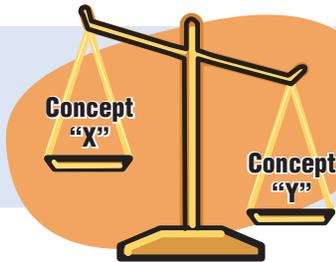
Port Granby and Port Hope Workshops: March/April 2003

LLRWMO adds engineering design detail to short-listed concepts



Engineering studies

Concepts are compared using evaluation criteria



Third filter

Qualified concepts are presented to municipalities and public



Port Hope and Port Granby Projects: Late 2003/Early 2004

PORT HOPE AREA INITIATIVE
Qualified concepts undergo detailed environmental assessments

You asked?

In this issue of *You asked?*, we've included a variety of your questions received at workshops, on comment sheets and in conversation.

How is the Port Hope Area Initiative studying the effects of the projects on human health?

Each technical study – geophysical, atmospheric, aquatic, terrestrial and socio-economic – considers human health to be a Valued Ecosystem Component, that is, a valued and potentially vulnerable part of the environment against which project effects must be assessed. For example, the geophysical study will investigate groundwater quality and flow. The human health effects that might result if groundwater contamination occurred will be investigated.

Likewise, the atmospheric study will identify potential pathways to human health effects via the air we breathe.

How is the Initiative organizing all of the ideas for alternative means?

For the Port Granby Project, alternative means ideas have been organized into two main approaches: either manage the waste on the current site or excavate the waste and move it to a new long-term management facility in the vicinity.

Organizing the ideas for the Port Hope Project is more difficult because of the number of options for cleanup and development of the long-term waste management facilities. So far the approaches are based on two proposed facilities – one in each of the Port Hope wards – or managing all of the waste in one facility. Each approach must consider important variables such as transportation.

Only a small percentage of the population of Port Hope or Clarington attends the public consultation workshops. How can a few people reflect the values of an entire community?

Opportunities to comment on the Port Hope Area Initiative extend far beyond the workshops. At this early stage in planning for the projects, only the most interested members of the public devote their time to workshops and other sessions offered as part of the public consultation process. The process is open to everyone, and we encourage as many people as possible to become involved. Before each event, we mail personal invitations to community members and groups and advertise in the local media and this newsletter.

We offer a variety of ways to exchange information with the public, including group presentations, Open Houses, the Project Information



LLRWMO Communications Officer Sue Stickley chats with John Elliot about the Initiative at the recent Port Hope Home and Trade Show.

Exchange, regular newspaper columns and the newsletter. At the recent Port Hope Home and Trade Show, project staff talked to over 300 people, provided comment sheets and added nearly 50 new names to our mailing list.

Understanding property values is second nature

Brendan Flynn brings over 30 years of experience in property valuation to his position as co-ordinator of the Property Value Protection (PVP) Program. As a former assessment commissioner and senior valuation manager in the City of Toronto, he developed a specialty in dealing with the effects of industrial contamination on property values. In the 1990s, Brendan was responsible for the valuation of properties



following the LLRWMO's Malvern Remedial Project for the cleanup of low-level radioactive soil in Scarborough.

Joining the PVP Program from its outset, he has helped establish the real estate market database and procedures used to evaluate claims. While often making community presentations on PVP, Brendan still finds time to be an avid sailor and community volunteer.



PVP offers owners sense of security

Owners who feel the selling price of their property has been affected by the Port Hope Area Initiative are eligible to file a claim for compensation under the Property Value Protection (PVP) Program.

The PVP Program was launched in October 2001. Its research shows that the local real estate market remains strong, with no generalized effects from the projects, says PVP Program Co-ordinator Brendan Flynn. Successful claims have been site-specific, such as a property located near a waste site to be remediated. "The Program's greatest benefit has been to provide property owners with a sense of security that their investment in their property will be protected," the co-ordinator says.

For more information about the Program, phone 905-885-2866.