

# PHAI office to relocate

The Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office will soon move to a new location in Port Hope, 115 Toronto Road, approximately 1.5 km south of the Highway 401 Welcome interchange on the east side of Toronto Road, south of Pineview Plaza.

The new location will provide room for growth, as the Port Hope and Port Granby projects move closer to the start of the construction phase. The Project Information Exchange as well as engineering, communications, administrative and property value protection program staff will relocate to the new office space during June and July.

Until then, visitors are invited to drop in to the Project Information Exchange at 5 Mill Street South in Port Hope, located at the foot of Walton Street, to talk with staff and pick up information about the Port Granby Project. The office is open Monday to Friday, but if you can't visit in person, please feel free to contact us at:

Telephone: (905) 885-0291  
Fax: (905) 885-9344  
e-mail: [info@phai.ca](mailto:info@phai.ca)  
Web site: [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca)

## Project awards major design contract

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excavation and haulage of the waste from the existing site and construction of the long-term waste management facility. Information on all of these designs will be presented to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission at a licence hearing for the Port Granby Project, which is expected next year.

*For more details on the follow-up to the Environmental Assessment Screening Report, please see page 7. Copies of the report are available at the Project Information Exchange or by phoning 905-885-0291.*

## What happens next?

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construction of the new long-term waste management facility will begin in 2012. About 450,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste and contaminated soil from the existing Port Granby site will be relocated and safely stored at the new facility. This process is expected to be complete by 2018.

The PHAI MO will continue to update residents about the Project and respond to feedback and ideas. For more information on the Port Granby Project, please visit our Web site at [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca) or call (905) 885-0291.

### Project Information Exchange and Property Value Protection Program

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Port Hope Area Initiative

Spring 2010

# News



*Details on the Port Granby waste management facility were provided to the AECOM Canada consulting team by PHAI MO Senior Project Specialist Gary Vandergaast during a recent site tour.*

## Project awards major design contract

2010 is shaping up to be an important year for the Port Granby Project, particularly with the recent award of the \$10.8 million detailed design contract to engineering firm, AECOM Canada Limited, based in Markham, Ontario.

“Both the award of the detailed design contract and last year’s approval of the Environmental Assessment Screening Report by the

Responsible Authorities (RAs) are major steps for the Port Granby Project,” said Christine Fahey, Director of the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO). “Achieving these milestones moves the Project forward significantly toward the goal of ensuring the safe long-term storage of the historic low-level waste.”

Clarington Mayor Jim Abernethy added: “The announcement of this contract is good news for the residents of Port Granby and the surrounding communities. This contract brings us one step closer to the environmental cleanup we need, as promised by the federal government.”

Over the next year, AECOM will develop detailed designs for

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# PHAI MO named lead federal agency for the Port Hope Area Initiative

Responsibility for management of the Port Hope Area Initiative is now in the hands of a new organization – the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO).

The PHAI MO continues on from the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO), which managed the Port Hope Area Initiative from 2001 until March 2009.

The PHAI MO management team draws from a depth of experience and expertise needed to lead the Port Granby Project through the current phase of regulatory approvals to AECL's assumption of responsibility for the existing Port Granby facility and planned start of construction on the new long-term waste management site, which is now expected in 2012.

The Management Office brings together the combined resources of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). NRCAN sponsors the Project and provides the funding, AECL manages the Port Granby Project and regulatory processes and PWGSC tenders and manages the major project contracts.



PHAI MO management team (seated: left to right): Glenn Case, Christine Fahey, Marcia Blanchette, Tim Palmeter, (standing): Andy Choate, Dave Boyce, Bob Neufeld. Not pictured: Andrea Denby

Members of the PHAI MO Management Team are:

- Christine Fahey – Director, PHAI MO
- Andrea Denby – Deputy Project Director
- Glenn Case – Manager, Project Engineering
- Andrew Choate – Manager, Planning, Control & Operations
- Bob Neufeld – Manager, Stakeholder Relations & Communications
- Dave Boyce – Manager, Waste Facility Operations
- Tim Palmeter – Major Contracts Program Manager
- Marcia Blanchette – Client Advisor

## What happens next?

The Port Granby Project continues to take steps to prepare for the construction of a new waste management facility and relocation of the existing waste. While activities such as the planned tree planting along the construction material haul route and public consultation will be visible to local residents, important behind-the-scenes work is also underway.

### Facility design

AECOM Canada Ltd., guided by the PHAI MO, will develop the detailed design plans for waste excavation at the existing

Port Granby waste management site and construction of the proposed new long-term waste management facility. The new facility will be located north of Lakeshore Road and about 900 metres inland from the Lake Ontario shoreline.

AECOM's work will also include the design of the internal waste haul route and underpass at Lakeshore Road and other operational and maintenance buildings, all of which will consider community needs and environmental protection.

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## Project delivers on community requests Community consultation produces results

Over the past eight years, discussions between the PHAI, Port Granby residents and the Municipality of Clarington have led to design modifications to address local concerns about the Port Granby Project. The list below offers examples of just some of the input that produced concrete results:

- The dedicated waste haul route between the existing and proposed long-term waste management facilities will pass under Lakeshore Road to avoid conflicts with local traffic. The underpass will be removed after the Project is completed.
- Extra protective layers will be added to the aboveground mound cover system. This capillary drainage system will further reduce the potential for moisture to enter the waste, thereby minimizing the amount of leachate produced.



- Owners of properties close to the existing and future waste management facilities will be offered a radiological survey before construction starts to provide a baseline.
- A weather station will be erected at the site of the existing Port Granby waste management facility to collect monitoring data.
- A community-recommended plan to restore project lands after the Project is completed was developed and advanced for consideration by government authorities (see pages 4 & 5).

# Ecology First

## Naturalizing project lands — goal of advisory committee

Since 2008, an advisory committee comprising residents, Clarington municipal staff and Port Hope Area Initiative staff has worked with landscape architects and the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority on a vision for the future of the existing and proposed waste management sites after the Project is complete.

Their recommendations place ecology first by proposing that much of the area be reverted to its native ecology. The concept would improve wildlife corridors, provide specialized habitats and have other ecological benefits. Some continuing agricultural use would also be integrated into the concept.

At the heart of the concept is the aboveground mound waste management facility which would be reshaped to resemble a natural landform. The existing waste management site on Lake Ontario would be restored and returned to a natural shoreline landscape after the waste is removed and placed in the new facility.

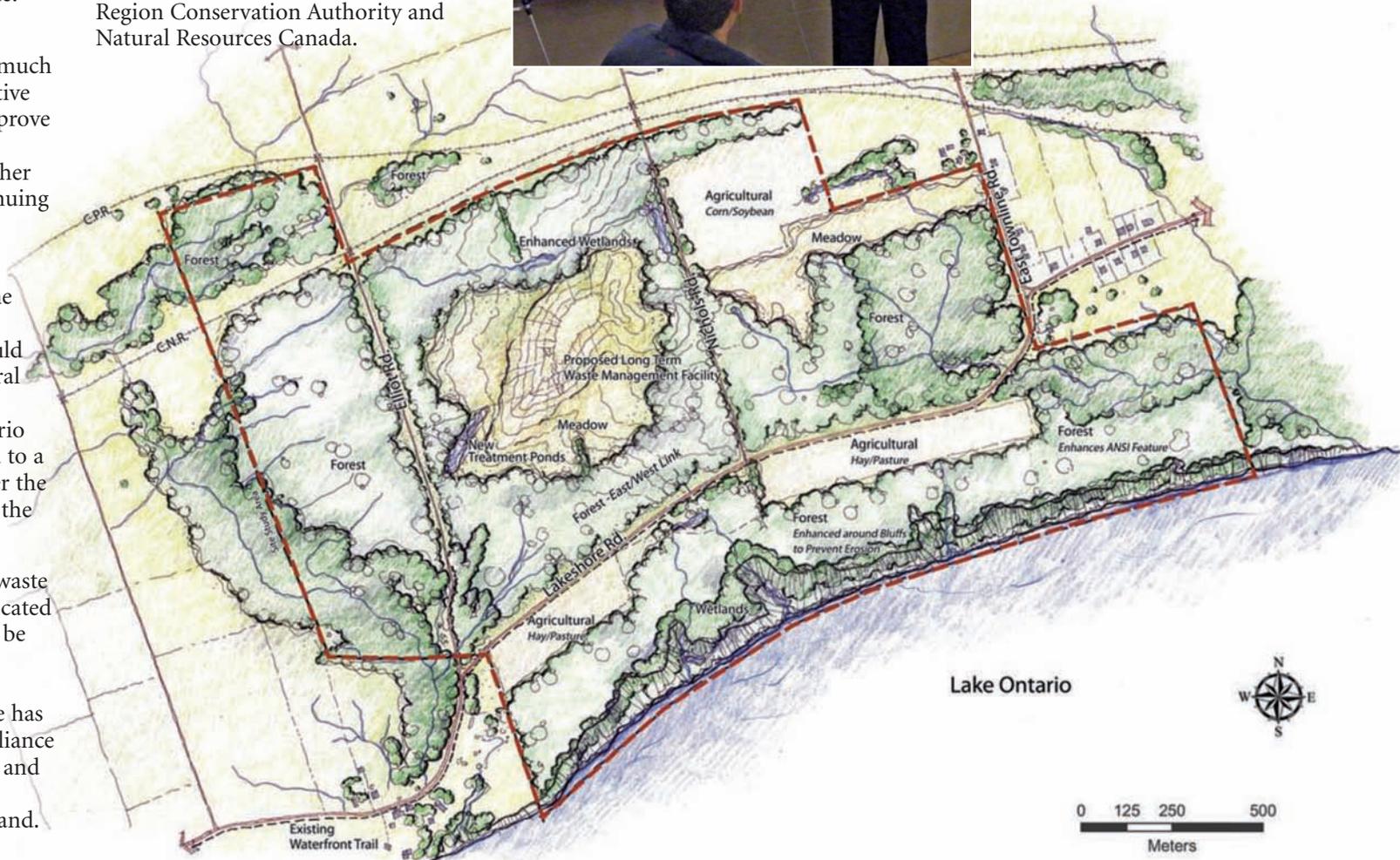
Together, the new and existing waste management facilities will be located on about 96 hectares of land to be owned by the Government of Canada for the lifetime of the facility. The advisory committee has also suggested a land trust or alliance organization be formed to own and manage the surrounding approximately 175 hectares of land.

The committee believes public ownership would be the best way to encourage overall ecological restoration of this southeast corner of Clarington.

The ecology-first concept and recommendations have been accepted by the Municipality of Clarington and are being submitted to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and Natural Resources Canada.



**Committee recommendation:**  
*End Use Advisory Committee member Frances Brooks presents the concept for the future of Port Granby Project lands to community residents.*



# You asked?

## How will you protect Port Granby Creek from leakage at the waste management site?

The multi-layered engineered aboveground mound will be designed and constructed to prevent the waste from coming into contact with the environment. Leachate generated within the mound will be collected and treated at a new water treatment facility before being released to Lake Ontario. During construction, all water from rain, melting snow and surface runoff at the construction site will be collected and treated before release. No treated leachate will be released to Port Granby Creek. Groundwater around the base of the

aboveground mound and at the perimeter of the facility site will be monitored before, during and long after construction is completed to make sure leaking does not occur.

*More information on groundwater protection and monitoring can be found in the Port Granby Project Environmental Assessment Screening Report, available at the Project Information Exchange or by phoning 905-885-0291.*

## How will dust be controlled during waste excavation, haulage and placement in the new facility?

Measures to reduce dust include keeping soil moist, use of dust suppressants, following strict waste handling practices, installing fencing or other barriers and suspending work during periods of high wind or other

inclement weather. Trained personnel will be on site to take immediate corrective actions if dust is observed. Disturbed ground will be covered at the end of every work day.

Trucks carrying waste along the internal access road between Lakeshore Road and the aboveground mound will be covered and monitored. Access to all construction areas will be controlled.

## How will air quality be monitored and residents kept informed of the results?

For at least six months before construction begins, air and other aspects of the natural environment will be monitored to update baseline information that was collected during the Port Granby Project Environmental Assessment from 2002-2004. Air quality monitoring will include dust sampling for radiological and non-radiological

contaminants as well as noise monitoring.

The total amount of dust in air will be measured on a continuous basis. During construction, weekly analysis of air samples from the work sites, at off-site locations and along haul routes (internal waste transportation route and Concession Road 1 clean construction material haul route) will be done. The Project will install a dedicated weather station at the site of the existing waste management facility to collect temperature, precipitation, wind speed and wind direction data.

Through public consultation the public will determine the best way to communicate these monitoring results. Current suggestions include Web site postings, community presentations, newsletters and formal reports to agencies and authorities.

## Port Granby farmer new community representative

A Clarington farmer, Rosemarie Tisnovsky, is the newest official member of the Port Granby Project Discussion Group. Mrs. Tisnovsky was nominated by local residents to represent their interests at the regular meetings of this liaison group.

Mrs. Tisnovsky and her family, whose properties are located in the hamlet near the existing and proposed waste management facilities, regularly attend Discussion Group meetings. She has been involved in the issue of the Eldorado historic waste and advocated for improvements to the Port Granby



Waste Management Facility for almost 40 years.

Her commitment to the Discussion Group is to help ensure that decisions are made in an open way with community involvement. "More than anything else, I want to make sure nothing happens behind closed doors, that we are always kept informed," she said.

## What happens next? *continued from page 3*

Once the detailed plans have been developed, they will be reviewed by municipal officials. The plans will also be submitted to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), which will review the Project's application for a licence at a hearing in 2011.

### Implementing the EA

Following up on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening Report will keep the Port Granby Project team busy over the next year.

Last August, the federal Responsible Authorities — Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the CNSC — approved the Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the

Project. The report found that the Port Granby Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, taking into account measures which will be put in place to reduce effects on the natural and social environment.

Over the next several months, the Project will develop an EA follow-up program and invite local residents, groups and agencies to provide input on the environmental protection and monitoring plans. The results of this consultation will be taken into account when the plans are finalized.

### After a licence is issued

Subject to CNSC approval,  
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