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Structural steel erected at new waste water treatment plant

Waste water treatment plant makes steady progress

Contractors have installed the footings and assembled structural steel that will support the new waste water treatment plant at the site of the Port Hope Project long-term waste management facility. This follows steady construction progress throughout the winter and spring.

The plant will use advanced technology to treat all surface water and groundwater collected at the facility site during placement of the historic low-level radioactive waste in the engineered aboveground mound as well as contaminated water (leachate) from within the mound after it is capped and closed.

Construction of the plant by Kenaidan Contracting Ltd. began in Fall 2012. Over the winter, the foundation was built, and improvements to an internal roadway were completed.

Continued on page 3...

Message from the Port Hope Project Director

It's a pleasure to provide you with this spring edition of the *Port Hope Project News*.

Many of you are seeing, firsthand, the project's progress. At this time last year, the Property Radiological Survey – to test every property in Ward 1 and a few properties in Ward 2 Port Hope – had not yet begun. We are making steady progress, and this summer we expect to complete initial testing at the first 457 properties in Campaign 1. Campaigns 2 and 3 have begun with over 2,000 property owners now participating in this important step for the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope.



Construction is proceeding steadily on the new waste water treatment plant at the site of the long-term waste management facility. The plant will contribute to the protection of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem by using advanced technology to treat water discharged to Lake Ontario.

Keeping you informed about the project's progress and plans while providing meaningful opportunities for your input continue to be important to us. The newly formed Citizen Liaison Group offers a new forum for the exchange of ideas between the project and the community, complementing the varied ways we communicate with you and gather your feedback.

All of these activities – as well as others featured in this newsletter – will contribute to advancing the cleanup and long-term safe management of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope while fulfilling our commitments to safety, protection of the environment and minimizing project effects on community life.

Together with residents and the municipality, the Government of Canada is working to achieve this project that will result in significant environmental and social benefits. We appreciate your interest and value your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W van Veen".

Walter van Veen, M.A.Sc., P.Eng.
Port Hope Project Director

Waste water treatment plant ...continued from page 1

The new waste water treatment plant must be operational before any waste can be placed in the engineered aboveground mound.

The plant will use state-of-the-art equipment manufactured specially for the project by ROCHEM Membrane Systems. The ROCHEM units use reverse osmosis technology as part of a two-stage process that begins with chemical precipitation. Earlier testing has shown that this treatment process will ensure the quality of water being discharged into Lake Ontario meets or exceeds stringent Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission requirements.

The plant is expected to be operational in Summer 2014. It is being built south of Highway 401 and west of Baulch Road.



ROCHEM water treatment equipment

Next Steps:

Building the long-term waste management facility

- Site preparation
- Construction of facility operations centre, vehicle decontamination building and truck weigh station
- Construction of Cell 1 baseliner of engineered, aboveground mound
- Excavation and placement of on-site waste in Cell 1
- Construction of remaining cells; cleanup of historic waste sites in community for transfer and placement in mound

Property Radiological Survey: on to Campaign 3

The third campaign of the Property Radiological Survey is underway. Signed consent forms are being returned by property owners and appointments will be scheduled for radon gas monitoring.

This is the third of five planned campaigns that will test all 4,800 private and public properties in Ward 1 and a few properties in Ward 2 Port Hope over the next four years. The survey will determine if historic low-level radioactive waste is present on a property. About 90 per cent of properties are not expected to require any cleanup. For the remaining 10 per cent, follow-up investigations will determine the extent of cleanup required and permit the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office to plan the remediation on a property-by-property basis.

Campaign Update

Campaign 1: Began Summer 2012

- Initial investigations will be completed by early summer at 450 properties

Campaign 2: Began Winter 2013

- Radon gas monitors will be picked up this summer at 950 properties
- Interior and exterior gamma radiation surveys and borehole drilling/soil sampling will follow

Campaign 3

- Radon gas monitors to be installed at approximately 1,300 properties

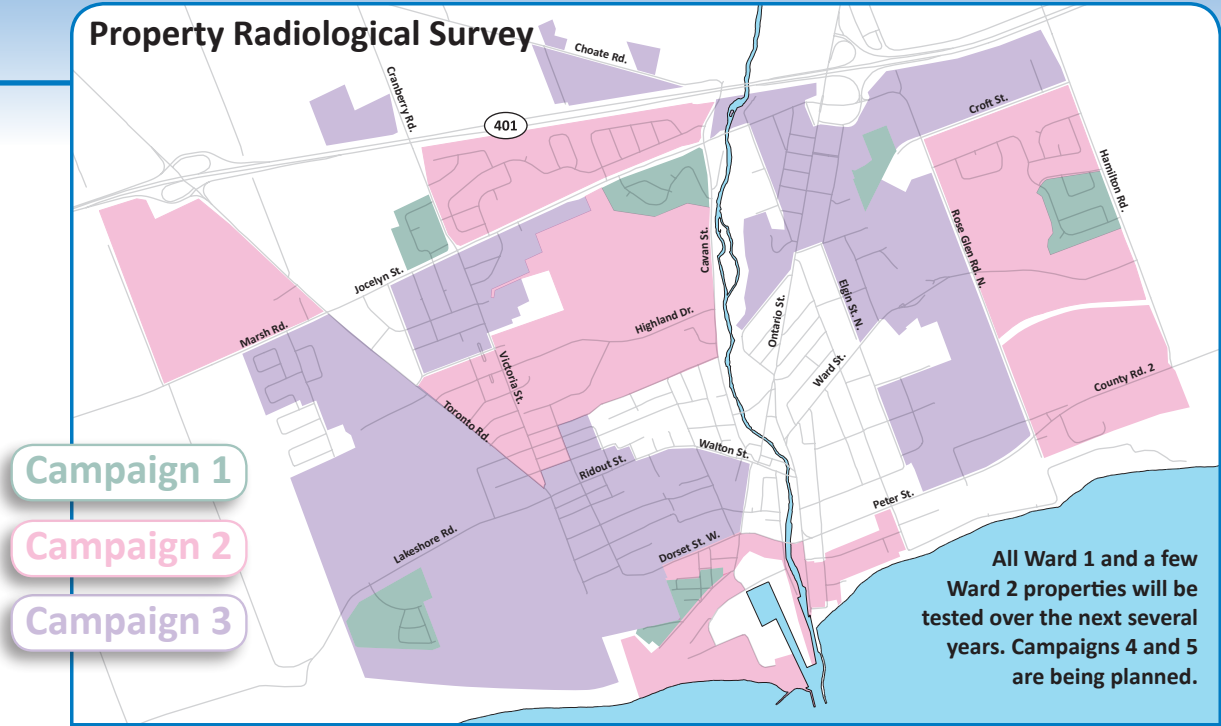
In each campaign, property owners can expect at least five visits from contractors working on behalf of the PHAI. On the first visit, radon gas monitors (small hockey puck-like devices) are placed in the basement and on the first floor. The monitors remain in place for approximately six months. Subsequent tests involve interior and exterior gamma radiation investigations and borehole drilling/soil sampling. As a personal security measure, each property is issued a Site Identification Number that will be used during all communications between the resident and the PHAI survey team.

Within a year of the final test being completed, property owners will receive a summary of the test results. For properties where historic low-level radioactive waste is identified, clean-up activities will begin after 2015 when the new long-term waste management facility is ready to receive waste.

The benefits to property owners of taking part in the survey are significant, says Port Hope Project Director Walter van Veen. “Every owner will receive a compliance letter after testing or after a cleanup - if one is necessary. The letter will confirm that the property meets the PHAI Clean-up Criteria and no further PHAI investigations will be needed.”

Once a compliance letter is issued, owners will no longer require radiological investigations through the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office’s Construction Monitoring Program when carrying out home renovations or applying for a building permit. Radiological Status Letters will no longer be needed when selling the property.

Property Radiological Survey



Field work updates

Non-residential sites:

Radiological investigations have been completed or are well underway at four non-residential Port Hope sites. The testing will determine the extent of future clean-up activities that may be required. These sites are:

- **Peter Street Interim Mound:** Initial investigations complete with late summer removal of radon monitors
- **Welcome Waste Management Facility abandoned pipeline route:** Initial investigations complete
- **Former St. Mary’s School property:** Initial investigations complete with late summer removal of radon monitors
- **Caroline Street Park:** Investigations ongoing

Industrial sites:

The PHAI will undertake the cleanup of 51,250 cubic metres of non-radiological historic industrial waste as part of the Legal Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Municipality of Port Hope. Investigations at five municipal properties include:

- **Chemetron Lagoon; Centre Pier; Lions Recreation Centre Park:** Field investigations largely complete with additional borehole drilling planned for July
- **Former Coal Gasification Plant; Sewage Treatment Plant Storage Cell:** No current investigations necessary

Project forms new Citizen Liaison Group

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Management Office has named its new Citizen Liaison Group (CLG) for the Port Hope Project. The group met for an inaugural meeting on March 9.

The 12 volunteer members represent a wide range of perspectives, sectors and community interests including health, education, business, industry, conservation, the environment and arts & culture. Members will offer input to the project management team, develop a technical understanding of the project and help to strengthen awareness in the community.

Led by an independent facilitator, the group will meet four times a year, including a public roundtable in December. Subjects of discussion will include construction progress, regulatory matters such as occupational health and safety, environmental monitoring and protection, radiation protection, overall project safety and activities that may affect the social and economic life of the community.

The CLG will benefit the project by:

- Helping to inform the community about the project and addressing misinformation;



Port Hope CLG members (l-r): Pat Lawson, Sam Majic, Ted Harp, Jenny Fulton, Terry Hickey, Erin Brown, Robert Anglin, Wendy Giroux, Stephen B. H. Smith and Julie Mavis. Absent: Branden Fonovic, Catharine Tozer.

- Participating in project outreach events;
- Communicating the project’s economic, environmental and social benefits.

Through the CLG, the PHAI Management Office is fulfilling an important commitment to create opportunities for meaningful public involvement by recognizing that members of the community have a role to play in seeing the cleanup carried out safely, efficiently and with efforts made to minimize community disruption.

Meet the CLG

Robert Anglin
Representative:
Architectural Conservancy
of Ontario (Port Hope)

- Interests – conservation,
arts & culture

Erin Brown
Citizen at large

- Interests – real estate,
education, service clubs

Branden Fonovic
Representative: Knights of
Columbus Council #6490

- Interests – environment,
education

Jenny Fulton
Citizen at large

- Interests – environment,
education

Wendy Giroux
Representative: Port Hope
Minor Hockey

- Interests – youth
organizations, real
estate, business

Ted Harp
Representative: Port Hope
Rotary Club

- Interests – service clubs,
business

Terry Hickey
Representative: Port Hope
Ratepayers’ Association

- Interests – citizens
associations

Pat Lawson
Citizen at large

- Interests – public health,
environment

Sam Majic
Citizen at large

- Interests – real estate,
service clubs

Julie Mavis
Representative: Port Hope

and District Chamber of
Commerce

- Interests – business

Stephen B.H. Smith
Citizen at large

- Interests – business,
environment/
conservation

Catharine Tozer
Representative:
Northumberland Hills
Hospital

- Interests – public health,
education

Complaints Resolution Process

The Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) Complaints Resolution Process (CRP) is in place to resolve complaints arising from the Port Hope and Port Granby projects. The process is an Environmental Assessment commitment and is designed to address complaints about tangible problems caused directly by project activities.

Focusing on prevention

PHAI staff place a strong emphasis on preventing formal complaints by resolving most issues before they escalate. Prevention includes:

- Preventing problems from occurring by anticipating potential issues and building in mitigation measures;
- Preventing complaints by responding quickly to concerns.

Handling Complaints

The CRP consists of a two-tier process that permits straightforward complaints (Tier 1) to be handled quickly while giving more time and

consideration to complex complaints (Tier 2).

PHAI complaints resolution staff meets with the complainant to better understand the problem. While this can often lead to a quick resolution, some complaints will require further investigation. This could involve reviewing monitoring data or consulting technical experts. If necessary, an independent mediator may be brought in to help facilitate a resolution.

How to use the CRP

Notify the PHAI Management Office about a complaint as soon as possible. You may file a complaint in person, by phone, email or using the on-line form available on the PHAI website, www.phai.ca, under the tab, “Handling Complaints.” More information about the CRP, including the complete CRP document and a fact sheet, are posted on the website. The form and document are also available in print format at the Project Information Exchange at 115 Toronto Road in Port Hope.

Doing business with the Government of Canada

Twenty “Doing Business with the Government of Canada” seminars have been held through Public Works and Government Services Canada to help local businesses learn how to access federal contracting opportunities – not only with the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) but across Canada.

Co-hosted by the PHAI Management Office and the Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce, the seminars have attracted about 400 area business people. Participants learn how to access federal government contracts through the Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS) at www.buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders

(formerly on MERX).

“The PHAI will bring millions of dollars of contracts to our community for everything from major construction to catering,” says Chamber Manager Bree Nixon. “These seminars show local businesses how to connect with the PHAI.”

Through its recently developed online contractor portal, www.porthopecontractorportal.com, the Chamber assists local trades people and suppliers to network, increasing their capability to work on the major PHAI contracts. The portal can be accessed at any time to view bid opportunities and find suppliers.

Get to know our staff

Brendan Smyth

Brendan joined the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) a year ago as the Port Hope Project Interface Specialist. He acts as the liaison between the PHAI Management Office, the Municipality of Port Hope and other external government offices and private sector companies.

An organic chemistry graduate from Liverpool University in England, Brendan immigrated to Canada 17 years ago and became a Canadian citizen in 2000. He is currently completing his Masters in Business Administration. His professional experience includes financial positions with provincial and regional levels of government as well as the private sector.

"This is a large and really interesting project that is doing something good for the community," he says. "It allows me to make a worthwhile contribution."



Paige Shaw

Paige is a Project Control Coordinator responsible for scheduling, budgeting and progress reporting for the Property Radiological Survey program.



Paige graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, majoring in international development and environmental studies from Trent University. Prior to joining the PHAI in March 2012, she worked as a marine conservationist for three years in Melbourne, Australia.

"Working on a large-scale environmental remediation project is an opportunity to combine my passions for the environment, community development and community engagement," says Paige.

Having moved to Port Hope last November, Paige says she enjoys the architecture and character of the community.



Upcoming PHAI site tours

Tour times: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Port Hope Project

Wednesday, July 17

Saturday, July 20

Wednesday, August 14

Saturday, August 17

Port Granby Project

Wednesday, July 31

To reserve your spot:

Contact the PHAI at

905.885.0291 or

info@phai.ca

Project Information Exchange & Property Value Protection Program

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