

PORTHOPE PROJECT

Fall 2021

Cleanup activities at Port Hope waterfront well underway



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Proposed change to PHAI Cleanup Criteria: Update

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Preserving the tree canopy





Mark Hughey
General Manager

Safety is a core value we live by

This past spring PHAI work in the community ramped up for the season. That work was proceeding as planned until recently, when we made the decision to temporarily stop work following a safety incident that took place on one of our remediation sites. Thankfully, no one was hurt during that incident.

At CNL, safety is our number one priority and a core value that we live by.

At the time the incident occurred, we decided

to pause, refocus on safety and review PHAI protocols and practices; we directed our contractors to do the same. Work has restarted gradually and continues to ramp up. The more complex a job, the more safety considerations that must be addressed before the work could restart. This includes major activities like dredging in the harbour.

I want to thank residents and the community for your patience as we worked through this process.

Stay tuned and stay safe.

PHAI in action CNL currently has active work sites across the Municipality of Port Hope.



Highland Drive area

Cleanup is more than 60% complete at the Pine Street North Extension Consolidation Site.



Strachan Street

To facilitate cleanup work at the Strachan Street Ravine, the street has been temporarily closed to through traffic.



Port Hope Long-Term Waste Management Facility

PHAI trucks continue to transport waste along designated routes to the Long-Term Waste Management Facility where the waste will be safely stored for hundreds of years. The facility is in full operation, with construction of the engineered aboveground mound progressing as planned.

A cleaner waterfront

Cleanup activities under the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) continue despite the challenges of the pandemic. Port Hope residents are witnesses to the many changes along the waterfront, with the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste continuing at a number of sites there and across the community.

Mechanical dredging has resumed in Port Hope's inner harbour and turning basin. The dredging involves the removal of large objects from the water. Since 2019, this has resulted in the removal of motor vehicles, buoys and large scrap metal pieces. The items deteriorate rapidly once exposed to the surface, where CNL carefully monitors them in a controlled area.

Once the cleanup of the Port Hope Harbour is completed, the expectation is that the site will be removed from the Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Following the remediation, the harbour will undergo habitat restoration that includes improved habitat for fish and other species that exist in that region.



Mill Street site

Additionally, the remediation of Mill Street South is now complete. Restoration is underway with replanting of trees and grass ongoing. CNL has also recently completed remediation of the Waterworks East site near Port Hope's West Beach area, and the cleanup of the Waterworks West area is expected to start later this year. Remediation of the Port



Dredging resumes in Port Hope Harbour

Hope viaducts is now underway.

Despite several province-wide lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, PHAI activities

continued as essential work under Ontario regulations. Fieldwork is carried out with strict protocols and oversight in place.

"We have been working closely with our contractors to keep on track with the cleanup and restoration of the waterfront area, all while following strict protocols for safety, including specific measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19," said Harvey Seto, Director, Major Sites. "This work is moving us toward the ultimate goal of returning a cleaned up and restored waterfront to the Municipality of Port Hope for the enjoyment of the community for years to come."



CN/CP Viaducts



Waterworks East

Proposed change to PHAI Cleanup Criteria

As a community-requested cleanup, the PHAI includes a robust public information program to address feedback from stakeholders. CNL has been listening to residents of the community who have voiced concerns about some of the disruptive impacts that the cleanup is having in their neighbourhoods and on their properties.

Since the cleanup of private properties began in 2018, residents have expressed concerns about the extent of work required on their properties, and the length of time it takes to complete the cleanup in their neighbourhoods. Additionally, community members and stakeholders have expressed concern about the impact of the cleanup on the local tree canopy.

CNL has closely examined the data gained from years of soil sampling, which confirms that the area of cleanup within the municipality is larger than originally estimated. This means that a significant portion of trees in woodlots and on public property would need to be removed in order to fulfill the PHAI mandate as it stands today.

CNL remains committed to responsible environmental stewardship throughout the PHAI cleanup.

Like community members, stakeholder groups and the broader public, CNL sees value in preserving the local tree canopy by balancing the safe removal of historic waste from public and private properties with efforts to minimize the removal of trees during the PHAI.



Through study and analysis of the situation, CNL has determined that removing arsenic in soil to meet the very conservative PHAI Cleanup Criteria is the primary factor driving this unanticipated impact. To address this issue, CNL submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in 2020 proposing a change to the cleanup criteria for arsenic and uranium.

As part of its application, CNL commissioned third-party studies by leading industry professionals to determine any potential risk to human health related to the proposed new levels for arsenic and uranium. In particular, the studies examined other communities in Canada where community-specific solutions were successfully implemented as an alternative to meeting the generic province-wide criteria for cleaning up arsenic left in soil by industry in the previous century.

In addition, CNL completed public and Indigenous engagement on this proposal, and addressed input from regulators requesting more information to support our conclusions that the recommended levels will not pose any additional risk to the health

of the community.

“We are continuing to work with the regulators to provide additional information. While we had hoped to have this issue addressed this year, at this time we expect that a Commission hearing to review the application and make a decision will happen in 2022,” said Mark Hughey, CNL’s General Manager responsible for the PHAI.

It is important to note that the current PHAI Cleanup Criteria will not change before there is an official decision at that hearing.

CNL will continue to incorporate feedback from regulators, stakeholders and Indigenous communities throughout the CNSC application and review process, and to work closely with the Municipality of Port Hope to ensure Council and staff are kept informed.

Ongoing public communications by CNL on the application will include addressing questions and recording feedback, providing presentations on

request, and sharing information through the PHAI website and social media feeds.

Once the CNSC has set a hearing date for the application, CNL and the CNSC will provide the public and Indigenous communities with information on how to participate in the hearing.

“I encourage anyone with interest to provide feedback about this proposal to CNL or directly to the CNSC,” added Hughey.



Next steps in the process

CNL continues to work with regulatory agencies to address comments on the proposal to amend the criteria.

PHAI work now underway on private and public properties in Port Hope will progress according to current Remediation & Restoration Agreements for private properties, which reflect the existing PHAI Cleanup Criteria. However, we continue to review our plans to determine if we can minimize or even avoid removing trees in certain areas while still fulfilling the PHAI mandate.

Join us!

Virtual Public Information Session

Thursday, October 21, 2021 • 6:30 - 8 p.m.

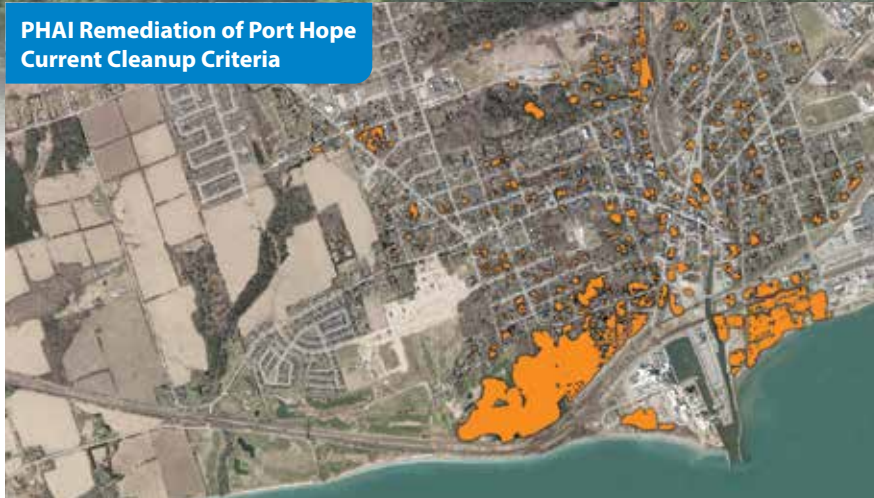
REGISTER IN ADVANCE
PHAI.ca for online participants or
905.885.0291 for call-in option

Join us for an update on the cleanup of historic waste in Port Hope and to learn more about proposed changes to the PHAI.

Minimizing the loss of trees

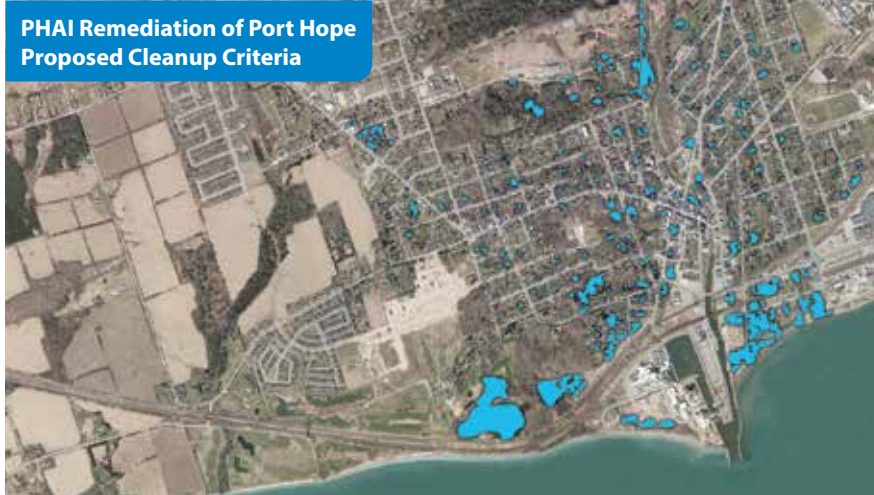
Trees are essential to a healthy ecosystem, they clean the air we breathe, provide habitat for many different species of wildlife, and beautify our neighbourhoods. CNL is developing solutions intended to preserve as many trees as possible while undertaking the cleanup of historic waste. For example, the proposed change to the PHAI cleanup criteria aims to significantly reduce the impact of the cleanup on the tree canopy by limiting the amount of soil to be removed in local ravines and woodlots. Moreover, a Special Circumstances Protocol has been developed in consultation with the Municipality of Port Hope to give property owners the choice of leaving waste behind during the cleanup of their properties to save property features such as trees, while still fulfilling the PHAI mandate.

PHAI Remediation of Port Hope
Current Cleanup Criteria



This data is used for representational purposes only. It is derived from soil testing primarily focused on the four signature parameters of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope (Arsenic, Uranium, Radium-226 and Thorium-230).

PHAI Remediation of Port Hope
Proposed Cleanup Criteria



The assumption is that with a smaller remediation footprint, the impact to trees will be lessened. There will be a reduced need to remove trees for access to sites or excavation purposes.

When will CNL clean up my property?

If you have been notified of historic low-level radioactive waste on your property, here is an overview of what takes place before the work starts:

1. A property design is developed and reviewed with you, the property owner.
2. A Remediation & Restoration Agreement is signed by the property owner and CNL to allow us to complete the cleanup on your property according to the final property design.
3. A Neighbourhood Information Session will be held about two weeks before the work starts to provide details about what can be expected in your neighbourhood (e.g. parking, fencing, traffic).



While you are waiting for your cleanup

1. Enjoy your property. Don't be afraid to make renovations, plant a garden or do landscaping.
2. Continue with any plans to remove or relocate soil on your property by contacting CNL's Construction Monitoring Program. CNL will work with you to remove soil from your project area at no additional cost to you.
3. Request a Radiological Status Letters (RSL) if you plan to list your house for sale. The RSL is a summary of all property testing completed to date and includes important information for prospective buyers.
4. Speak with a Communications Officer who can identify where your property is in the PHAI process. If there are final property testing reports available you are welcome to have a copy and review them with a technician.

CNL continues to prioritize the health and safety of our employees and residents. PHAI cleanup work inside residences and other buildings will resume when public health guidelines allow and we enter the final phase of the CNL COVID-19 protocol.

Donation of wood to Port Hope High School

Recently, CNL donated logs from trees felled at a PHAI site to Port Hope High School, where they will be used to teach woodworking skills. As environmental stewardship is one of CNL's core values, the project team was enthusiastic about working with the school community to find a sustainable use for trees removed to facilitate PHAI work in the Highland Drive area.

Two local media outlets covered the story. High school principal Ronald MacDonald, who was delighted with the donation, was described as "like a kid in a candy store."



Historic Waste Program Management Office

25 Henderson Street, Port Hope, ON L1A 0C6

Tel: 905.885.0291 • Fax: 905.885.9344

info@phai.ca • PHAI.ca



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