



**VISIT US AT THE PORT HOPE FALL FAIR**  
September 17, 18 & 19 – Drop by the PHAI booth at the Quonset hut

## New location and new look



The PHAI MO moved into new and larger office space this summer to make room for our expanding staff as the Port Hope and Port Granby projects prepare for the construction and clean-up phase.

Located on the first floor of 115 Toronto Road, just south of Jocelyn Street in Port Hope, the office is home to the Project Information

Exchange, Property Value Protection Program and all engineering and administrative departments. Our phone number remains unchanged at 905-885-0291.

Please join us for our **official opening on Thursday, September 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Stop by for a visit, talk with staff and enjoy light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you!

## PHAI assumes responsibility for Welcome site

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site to Lake Ontario. They are responsible for on-site environmental monitoring and upgrades to various operational systems. Part of their responsibility includes working with contractors to develop detailed design plans for the engineered aboveground

mound that will be built at the site to store about 1.2 million cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste that will be cleaned up in Port Hope. They continue to communicate with residents who live near the Welcome site to keep them informed about what's taking place.

### Project Information Exchange and Property Value Protection Program

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Publié aussi en français



Port Hope Area Initiative  
Autumn 2010

# News

## Trial resurvey provides valuable lessons

A trial radiological resurvey of 35 properties is taking place this summer and fall in Ward 1. The resurvey is offering valuable insights into technical procedures, communications methods and cost estimates in preparation for the cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope.

Lessons learned from the property visits, radiological surveys and clean-up work will assist the Project when it undertakes the full resurvey of approximately 4,500 properties during Phase 2 of the Port Hope Project, expected to begin in 2012.

This summer's work has involved interior and exterior gamma radiation and radon investigations at the properties, selected with the permission of the owners. Starting in September, up to six properties will be



*Sophisticated GPS-based instruments enable a consultant to plot 100s of radiological readings on maps and aerial photos*

cleaned up as part of the trial. A small observer group of local residents will watch and learn from the cleanup of one of the sites. The group's report and recommendations will be made public at the end of the trial project.

The trial resurvey is being conducted by SNC Lavalin and managed by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office for the Port Hope Area Initiative.

*For pictures and a step-by-step look at the trial resurvey, turn to pages 4 & 5.*

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# Port Hope Project Update:

*Nearly a year after receiving a licence from the CNSC, what have we done and where are we going?*

In October 2009, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) received a licence from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to carry out the Port Hope Project. Since that time, the Project has been busy undertaking activities to prepare for the construction of the long-term waste management facility and cleanup of contaminated sites.

Here are a few of the key accomplishments of the past year and some of the project activities you're bound to notice around town:

## Detailed design

On March 1, 2010 a \$20 million contract was awarded to the joint venture of MMM Group Limited and Conestoga-Rovers and Associates for the detailed design of the Port Hope Project. Work has begun on designs for the aboveground engineered mound, support facilities, cleanup of waste sites and related works. Designs and site clean-up schedules are expected to be completed within a year.

## Field work and assessments

As part of the detailed design, contractors are working throughout the town conducting standard land surveys, soil sampling and other investigations. In May, divers inspected the condition of the Port Hope harbour in preparation for cleaning up contaminated sediments. Other field work involves assessing the condition of roads and bridges in preparation for the transportation of waste and construction materials during Phase 2 of the Project.



*Port Hope harbour investigation*

## Responsibility for Welcome Waste Management Facility

AECL assumed responsibility for the existing Welcome waste site on March 31, 2010. Operations staff is nearing completion of a six-month training program led by Cameco, the former licence holder for the facility. The site is the location of the future long-term waste management facility. See story on page 7 for details.

*Many other activities leading up to Phase 2 are featured in this edition of the newsletter including the trial resurvey, environmental monitoring and the launch of an expanded PHAI website.*

# Renewed environmental monitoring underway

Port Hope's air, groundwater, rivers and streams are back under the microscope as the PHAI MO updates and confirms baseline monitoring data collected during the Environmental Assessment between 2002 and 2006.

The new data will be used during the construction phase to make sure effects of the Project, such as dust and noise, are being effectively managed and reduced. Monitoring currently underway includes:

- **Groundwater:** Sampling at the site of the future Long-Term Waste Management Facility (LTWMF) and at various future clean-up sites;
- **Air quality:** Radon and dust measurements on Cavan Street, at Jack Burger Sports Complex and at the future LTWMF;
- **Noise:** Monitoring at the LTWMF site, clean-up sites and along designated

transportation routes;

- **Surface water:** Water quality, flow and sediment sampling at Brand Creek and Highland Drive South Creek; and
- **Weather:** Temperature, precipitation and wind data collection at the Project meteorological station on Baulch Road.

Monitoring results will be made available on [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca) over the coming months.



*PHAI co-op student Charles Groulx helps conduct water sampling*

## New access to radiological information

A new policy is in place that allows any member of the public to obtain information about the radiological history of properties in Port Hope.

Developed jointly by the Port Hope Area Initiative Management Office (PHAI MO) and Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO), the guideline enhances public access to the radiological information on file with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Most of the information describes radiological investigations and clean-

ups that may have taken place at a property from the mid 1970s to present. Information can be requested about both public and private properties.

Please see the "You asked" section on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter for more details.

If you have questions or would like an information request form, please contact:

- PHAI MO, 115 Toronto Road  
905-885-0291 [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca)
- LLRWMO, 196 Toronto Road  
905-885-9488 [www.llrwmo.org](http://www.llrwmo.org)

# Port Hope Project Trial Resurvey: Step by Step

*These photos depict the step-by-step process for carrying out the trial resurvey and remediation, explained on page 1.*

## Step 1: Property selection



35 properties in urban Port Hope are selected based on varying levels of potential contamination, location and type of property.

## Step 2: Obtain property owner permission



During a home visit, the process is explained to the property owner. Neighbours are then informed of the upcoming resurvey work.

## Step 3: Survey interior and exterior



The interior and exterior of the property are surveyed. Radiological information is collected for analysis and reported to the owner.

## Step 4: Boreholes and soil analysis



To investigate the property for below-surface contamination, soil samples are extracted and tested.

## Step 5: Cleanup



Six trial properties are planned for cleanup. The contaminated areas are excavated, and the material is safely transported to a licensed storage facility. Most Port Hope properties will not require cleanup.

## Step 6: Property restored



Once cleared of contamination, the property is restored to its former state and a Clearance Letter is registered on title.

# You asked?

The new guideline on the release of radiological property information is explained on Page 3. This edition of *You asked?* features additional questions and answers.

## Why did you bring in a new guideline?

The guideline was prompted by changes made to the Government of Canada's *Federal Accountability Act*. Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) also made a commitment to review its policies on the release of radiological information at the August 2009 licence hearing on the Port Hope Project before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

## How does the new guideline differ from past practices?

The new guideline enables anyone – owner or non-owner – to request and receive information about Port Hope properties, private or public, for which radiological information is on file with AECL. In the past, only property owners or those who had permission from the owner could obtain this information.

Requesters may ask for the full property file, a specific portion of the file or the Radiological Status Letter that is typically prepared to summarize the information in order to facilitate real estate transactions in urban Port Hope.

## How long will it take to receive the information?

The length of time needed to respond to a request will depend on the complexity of

the request and file. The office will attempt to respond to most requests in about two weeks. However, in the case of complex files that contain a lot of personal information that has to be removed, the request may take longer to satisfy. Requests will be dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. Requesters can assist by specifying the precise information they want. For example, if a requester is interested only in the monitoring results for a specific time period when they lived at a property, they should specify this in their request. No charges will apply for most requests for information, however, more complex or multiple requests will be sent to AECL's Access to Information and Privacy Office, and standard charges may apply.

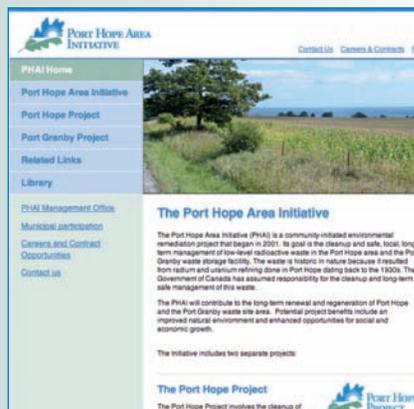
## What if someone files an information request about my property and I don't want them to have it?

Radiological property information gathered by the federal government is available to anyone who requests it. Whenever a request is received from a non-owner, the owner will be notified and offered the same information being released to the requester, including a meeting with staff to have the information interpreted. The owner will be assured that only information deemed public – radiological information – will be released. No private information will be provided under the access guideline. The name of the requester will not be released.

## www.phai.ca has more info, new look

Communicating with you is a Port Hope Area Initiative priority. That's why we've rebuilt our website from top to bottom to give you easier access to a lot more information. At the new and improved [www.phai.ca](http://www.phai.ca) you'll find a broad range of information, from the basic to the complex, including project histories, current activities, future plans, maps, photographs, videos, scientific studies, updates and more.

Among the enhanced features are options that will permit you to ask a direct question about the Project, find out where and when we're working in the community and receive current environmental and operational monitoring information.



We will continue to develop new content and new tools to keep you up to date. Don't forget to join our email list for breaking news and electronic versions of our latest publications.

We hope you'll find our revamped site more user-friendly, fun to explore and simple to navigate.

## PHAI assumes responsibility for Welcome site

It's been a busy six months for the PHAI MO's Dave Boyce and Ramesh Doguparty, who are responsible for the safe operation of the Welcome Waste Management Facility. The facility, which covers 55 hectares, is located between Baulch and Brand roads in Port Hope and houses approximately 500,000 cubic metres of historic low-level radioactive waste. AECL assumed responsibility for the facility from Cameco Corporation on March 31, 2010.

"Ramesh and I spent several months working with our counterparts at Cameco, and the changeover process was seamless," says Dave, Manager of Waste Management Facilities. "We're pleased with the co-operation and sharing of operational experience



Dave Boyce and Ramesh Doguparty at the Welcome Waste Management Facility pond

we've received as we near the end of our six month phase-in period at the site."

Dave and Ramesh oversee site operations that include ensuring the safe management of the treatment ponds and dual pipeline that discharges treated water from the

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