

**Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) Neighbourhood
Liaison Committee (NLC)
Meeting #99**

Mennonite New Life Centre, 1774 Queen Street East
July 27, 2010
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Karen Buck – Co-chair; Citizens for a Safe Environment
Karey Shinn – Co-chair; Safe Sewage Committee
Rivka Bolinska – resident
Caron Court - resident
David Done – resident
Edythe Gerrard – Beach Triangle Residents’ Association
Zenon Godzyk
Lino Grima
Nancy Hawley – resident
Sandra Iseman – resident
Andrew James
Hans Looije - resident
Puneet Luthra - resident
Doug Phillips – resident
Michael Rosenberg – Economics of Technology Working Group
Gus Sandusky - resident
Greg Smith – resident
Peter Smith
Stephen Whyte – ICMC; resident
Chris Yaccato - resident

CITY OF TORONTO:

Mike Logan – Public Consultation Unit

OTHER:

Michael Brothers – Council of Canadians
Satya Mohapatra – Council of Canadians; Canadian Environmental Law Association

REGRETS:

Gisselly Anania
Jim Neff

Karen Buck called the meeting to order at 6:40p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Karen Buck welcomed everyone to the meeting. All present at the meeting introduced themselves.

1.1. Review and approval of agenda

Karen Buck reviewed the agenda. She indicated that New Business could include the adoption of Motions.

Nancy Hawley asked when the TTC Maintenance & Storage Facility would be discussed. **Karen Buck** pointed out that that would be Item #3 on the Agenda.

Peter Smith asked if it would be possible to change the name of the ABTP.

Karen Buck indicated that that could be brought up under New Business (Item #6). She commented that it was great to see so many new faces at the NLC meeting, as often it is the same people out saying the same things. This turnout might show the City that community members care about plant operations.

Karey Shinn moved to adopt the Agenda. Seconded by **David Done**.

2. Mini-updates

Karen Buck explained that she had asked for two further updates that do not appear on the Agenda: By-passes last weekend, and the construction at the east end of the berm.

Mike Logan reported on these issues from a written report submitted by Shabbir Dato.

2.1. Odour Control Project

There are no updates on the Odor Control Project. The schedule presented earlier remains current. D Building upgrades have commenced. This work can be seen at the east end of the berm.

Karen Buck suggested that the construction could not be part of the Odour Control upgrades at D Building.

Mike Logan reiterated that the construction Karen enquired about in both e-mail and voice mail is the Odour Control Project upgrades at D Building.

2.2. BMP & Pelletizer Status

There have been no updates to the BMP since the last NLC meeting. The pelletizer continues to run smoothly.

Karen Buck said that the NLC should be made aware of where biosolids are being applied.

Caron Court said that she was at the Council meeting where the beneficial use of biosolids coming out of the Highland Creek Treatment Plant was approved. Council promised that the trucks leaving the facility would be covered. She asked if the trucks leaving the ABTP are covered.

Karen Buck said that the NLC could pass a Motion asking for this.

Karey Shinn said that the trucks are already covered. **Karen Buck** said that the cover is just a tarp. The trucks carrying biosolids used to be sealed.

David Done asked if the biofilters on the truck loading facility have been replaced.

Mike Logan replied that the Odour Control Project is on track and on schedule, and the upgrades to D Building are currently being implemented. Upgrades to the truck loading facility will be implemented according to the project schedule.

Nancy Hawley asked when the committee would be updated on the disinfection system.

Karen Buck said that would be Item #4 on the Agenda.

Doug Phillips said that he heard Lou Di Gironimo on CBC Metro Morning today. Lou Di Gironimo was saying that UV disinfection was working well at the Humber River. Does this not mean that UV should also be implemented at the ABTP?

Mike Logan explained that Lou Di Gironimo was being interviewed about a pilot study at Sunnyside Beach, which involves UV disinfection of lake water at the designated swimming area. This has nothing to do with wastewater treatment.

Doug Phillips went on to say that biogas treatment is needed at the truck loading zone.

2.3. Update on By-passing

Bypassing means that secondary treatment capacity is exceeded, in accordance with the terms of ABTP Certificate of Approval. All bypass events are reported to the Ministry of Environment. Details of bypass events (including volumes and frequencies) are provided in the Annual reports, which are released around March or April the following year.

Karen Buck said that it is important that the NLC be updated with details of bypass events in a timely manner.

Gus Sandusky asked how many bypasses occurred in 2009.

Mike Logan reiterated that this information is in the 2009 ABTP Annual Report. The Annual Report was sent out to all members of the NLC in June, but he did not have a copy with him to refer to.

Karen Buck said that the information in the Annual Report is not useful because it does not indicate which storms caused the bypasses.

David Done asked how many times primary treatment had been bypassed.

Mike Logan repeated that the term bypass means a bypass of the secondary treatment, and that it is not possible for primary treatment to be bypassed. This is in accordance with the ABTP's Certificate of Approval.

Michael Rosenberg asked if Toronto Water reports each bypass to the Ministry of the Environment (MoE) as each event happens.

Mike Logan said that he did not know how long it took to report a bypass event.

3. Toronto Transit Commission Maintenance & Storage Facility

Nancy Hawley said that a lot of people in the community were disappointed with the decision of City Council to approve the change in land use. She would like the NLC to take a position, and would like an update.

Karen Buck explained that on June 24, the TTC issued a Notice of Commencement for the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) associated with the proposed Maintenance & Storage Facility (M&SF). There is a draft TPAP report already available. The TTC has 120 days to finalize the report before a 30 day public review period. The MoE is not likely to do anything unless there is a huge groundswell of opposition. The City had to change the land use and transfer the land to allow the development to go ahead.

Karey Shinn asked when the final TPAP Report is expected.

Nancy Hawley repeated that it has to be released within 120 days after the Notice of Commencement (June 24, 2010). She went on to say that she thought the NLC should request City Planning to report on their position with respect to the M&SF.

Karey Shinn said that the land is zoned I-3, which allows pretty much anything. She suggested that Nancy propose a motion asking for City Planning's position.

Karen Buck said that the land use was stipulated by the Toronto Port Authority (TPA) as a deeded use. She is not sure how that can be changed.

Nancy Hawley asked if what the TTC is proposing is allowed, and if a site plan agreement is required.

Michael Rosenberg asked if anyone had considered appealing the approval to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) given how infrequently the MoE grants community wishes. He then drew attention to the document that was distributed at the meeting, outlining the land use criteria that had been developed by the NLC based on discussion at NLC Meeting #98, and the evaluation of the proposed M&SF against those criteria. He indicated that even though the document indicates that it was received on July 27, that was the date it was received by the City's Public Consultation Unit. This document was given to the TTC on June 2.

Karen Buck said that she spoke to planning about this issue and found out that once an area is zoned I-3 no further zoning changes are required.

Nancy Hawley suggested that site plan approval and soils testing are required, even if a change in zoning is not. She said that the NLC should get this information from City Planning. She suggested that the City Solicitor would have to comment on the change in the deeded use.

Stephen Whyte added that the City can determine the requirements for Site Plan Approval.

Nancy Hawley agreed, and added that the community just needs to understand what the requirements are.

Lino Grima suggested that it is an excellent idea to ask various departments of the City to consider this decision, as it does not make much sense. It should also be considered by the Board of Health because the ABTP is almost at capacity. More and more development is being added, perhaps up to 70 000 people near the plant. We need to know what will happen to the sewage when the ABTP gets to capacity. The City wants to hide the fact that they need the land for expansion.

Nancy Hawley pointed out that Lou Di Gironimo said that the plant is treating less sewage because of conservation and efficiency.

Lino Grima reiterated that the ABTP is close to capacity.

Michael Rosenberg suggested that solids will increase with population regardless of conservation efforts. We don't know whether more secondary treatment will be required. Is secondary treatment more dependent on the amount of solids or liquids?

Sandra Iseman asked how much water will be used by the M&SF.

Stephen Whyte suggested that wastewater is the important consideration because it appears as though stormwater is being managed fairly well.

Karen Buck said that Sandra Iseman was referring to wastewater generated by the M&SF.

Karey Shinn asked who would pay for the water infrastructure associated with the M&SF. She speculated that it would be Toronto Water.

Andrew James said that Lou Di Gironimo said that any expansion of the ABTP would be to the west, not the north.

Karen Buck agreed that Lou Di Gironimo said that the area for the M&SF was not needed for expansion. The question is if secondary treatment is expanded with nitrification, does the primary treatment capacity also need to be expanded? It is debatable whether the High Rate Treatment (HRT) facility needs to be placed to the south. It could be built without lakefill. How will lakefill impact yacht clubs?

Doug Phillips asked for flow statistics. The NLC needs proper information about how much water flows through the plant.

Nancy Hawley proposed Motion 99.1:

The NLC request to the Planning Department to comment on the proposed TTC streetcar variance and land use, whether it requires a Site Plan Approval process, and public input.

Karey Shinn proposed a friendly amendment to Motion 99.1:

The NLC request the City Solicitor to comment on the deeded use of the ABTP Site and any process that may be used to change the original deeded use (from Sanitary Sewage Treatment).

Lino Grima proposed a second friendly amendment to Motion 99.1:

The NLC request the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health to comment on changes to the ABTP in light of the fact that the ABTP is close to capacity.

Agreement on the amendments was unanimous.

The consolidated Motion 99.1 was proposed:

The NLC request to the Planning Department to comment on the proposed TTC streetcar variance and land use, whether it requires a Site Plan Approval process, and public input.

The NLC request the City Solicitor to comment on the deeded use of the ABTP Site and any process that may be used to change the original deeded use (from Sanitary Sewage Treatment).

The NLC request the Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Health to comment on changes to the ABTP in light of the fact that the ABTP is close to capacity.

Lino Grima seconded the Motion. Motion 99.1 passed unanimously.

Karen Buck announced that she was going to change the Agenda. She had asked Michael Brothers from the Water Caucus of the Council of Canadians (CoC) to present to the NLC. They are interested in how the City treats its water.

4. Don & Central Waterfront Environmental Assessment

Michael Brothers made a presentation on the CoC's position on the Don & Central Waterfront Environmental Assessment (EA). This presentation is attached to these minutes. Michael indicated that CoC has been working on this issue since the public workshop in May. The group decided to put together a position paper and plan of action based on what they were doing. He said that the community needs to act quickly because the City is moving quickly on this project.

Michael Brothers indicated that he had presented the same material to the Don & Central Waterfront EA project team and has a meeting with Toronto and Region Conservation in August to present it to them as well. The CoC is looking to work collaboratively, and not attack the work that has already been done.

After the presentation, a short discussion ensued.

Karey Shinn suggested that the City's plans still include transmitting and treating stormwater, when it really should be collected and reserved for drinking water and irrigation.

Doug Phillips said that pervious surfaces should be used so that stormwater does not need to be collected.

Lino Grima commented that a 'rainwater utility' is not necessarily required, but the main concept should be that rainwater is a resource. **Michael Brothers** agreed, and said that a utility was only one option.

Karen Buck thanked Michael Brothers for coming. She said that there are more and more people interested in stormwater management.

David Done proposed Motion 99.2:

Whereas the TTC Facility is in contravention of the Guiding Principles of the Mediation Agreement in terms of land use, and

whereas the Don River and Central Waterfront Project has massive land use requirements at the Main Treatment Plant as was brought out by Lou Di Gironimo at the public meeting back in the winter,

the NLC oppose the movement towards the development of this TTC Facility and direct the Works Committee to present to Council to rescind its approval of the TTC Facility.

Sandra Iseman seconded the Motion. Motion 99.2 passed unanimously.

Michael Rosenberg said that the NLC needed to approve the land use criteria. He had indicated in his submission to the TTC that this was an interim criteria and would be approved in the future.

Mike Logan advised that this was not a good idea procedurally. This item is not on the Agenda, and the draft criteria has not been distributed to the NLC membership of about 225 people. Since the land use criteria was based on discussion at Meeting #98 and more than 50 people attended that meeting, he suggested that those people should have the opportunity to review it or the criteria may not be considered legitimate. Mike clarified that he is not a member of the NLC and the decision is up to the members and the Chair.

Lino Grima agreed with this advice, and suggested that the draft criteria should be distributed to the entire NLC membership, and they should be given a period of time during which to comment.

ACTION ITEM #1: Mike Logan to send the draft land use criteria, to all NLC members, and indicate that they will have 30 days to object to it.

Michael Rosenberg proposed Motion 99.3:

The land use criteria distributed to the NLC at Meeting #99 shall be approved if no ABTP NLC member objects within 30 days. If a member does object, the proposed land use criteria will be voted on at NLC Meeting #100.

Nancy Hawley seconded the Motion. Motion 99.3 passed unanimously.

Karen Buck said that Toronto Water is severing the NLC from the political process. The NLC is supposed to meet before each Public Works & Infrastructure Committee (PWIC) meeting, but Toronto Water is only allowing the committee to meet quarterly.

Stephen Whyte asked if the NLC could send the land use criteria and evaluation of the M&SF to Councillors directly.

Mike Logan clarified that anyone can contact members of Council at any time.

Nancy Hawley asked who created the ABTP NLC.

Stephen Whyte said that MoE created it through the ABTP EA, but it was approved by Council.

Mike Logan asked if everyone was familiar with the purpose and Terms of Reference of the NLC. He clarified that the NLC was required to meet at least once per year, not before each PWIC meeting. He said that the purpose of the NLC is to liaise with Toronto Water about community concerns with plant operations and potential developments of the ABTP Site. He also clarified that the City generally provides support for quarterly meetings because there is not much to update the community on more frequently; if there are other updates, other meetings are held.

<p>ACTION ITEM #2: Mike Logan to send a copy of the Mediation Agreement, including the NLC Terms of Reference, to all NLC members.</p>

Lino Grima said that it is clear that people can meet whenever they want, but we should not just meet for the sake of meeting. He said the only time that east end people have had a big impact on the City was when we turned up in big numbers to get the incinerator at the ABTP shut down. It is not useful to continually have small meetings where everyone continues to get frustrated.

Doug Phillips suggested that getting out to all public meetings is important. The Mayor and Councillor Bussin have told him that “Public Works has a fiefdom of engineers who only do what they want”.

Michael Rosenberg suggested that there should be a discussion about the Disinfection EA.

Karey Shinn suggested that the next NLC meeting should be before the next PWIC meeting on August 18. **Nancy Hawley** added that there are no more Council meetings after August due to the election cycle.

Doug Phillips asked if there is more information going to the PWIC meeting.

5. Disinfection Environmental Assessment

Karen Buck said that she would be making a presentation on the Disinfection EA because the recommendations of the study are in contravention of the original ABTP EA’s Conditions of Approval. The recommendations of the Disinfection EA did not go to

PWIC or Council for endorsement. Council has just gone along with staff. At this point, MoE is unlikely to order a change.

Michael Rosenberg said that the Don & Waterfront EA is supposed to result in fewer bypasses at the ABTP. The NLC should be taking the position that UV disinfection is more feasible because bypasses can be eliminated. Failing the elimination of bypasses, the second choice for disinfection should be UV. Chlorination/dechlorination should be the third choice.

Stephen Whyte said that one of the problems with this is that UV needs low suspended solids. Treating bypass is very tricky. What strategy do they want to pick? We can submit Part II Orders, but they will never be granted because there is no political support. So MoE will not stand up for the Conditions of Approval they created.

Nancy Hawley said that she would like to know what happened to the disinfection system.

Nancy Hawley proposed Motion 99.4:

The NLC requests that the General Manager of Toronto Water report on what caused the delay in the implementation of an ultraviolet disinfection system.

Sandra Iseman seconded the Motion. Motion 99.4 passed unanimously.

Michael Rosenberg proposed Motion 99.5:

The NLC recommends that the preferred solution for bypass effluent is the elimination of bypasses at the ATBP by implementation of upstream stormwater controls, and

That the second choice be UV.

Karen Buck seconded the Motion. Motion 99.5 passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM #3: Mike Logan to forward the five motions passed to Toronto Water for action.

Karen Buck said that the largest amount of outflow from the ABTP is secondary effluent. Bypass only represents 1-2% of outflow into the lake.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

7. Next meeting

Karey Shinn suggested that the next meeting should be on September 14, 2010. All agreed that this would be appropriate.

8. Adjournment

Karen Buck adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Don River and Central Waterfront Project

Toronto Chapter of The Council of Canadians (TCoC) - Position
statement for the:

Don River and Central Waterfront Project

Towards a Sustainable Solution

Toronto Council of Canadian Chapter (TCoC) Wastewater Planning Session

Proposed General Strategy and Plan:

ONE

1. Create a position paper, with input from the project team
2. Submit initial comments and questions based on the citizens workshops

TWO

1. Review TCoC Position with the City Project team and the RAP owners (TRCA)
2. Support parts of project that need support
3. Identify other related areas outside the scope of the first presentation that need attention

THREE

Continue promotion of “**No Rain in the Sanitary Drain**” to:

1. The Public
2. Industry
3. Politicians at all levels of government

We will also continue to play an active role at upcoming Project meetings in support of the interest of Toronto and its citizens.

Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

Current situation: Toronto and Region has been declared a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC)

1. 2000² km of land and 42Km of shoreline

2. 80 Combined Sewer Outfall locations in 2006 (30+ directly into the Lake)

3. 2600 Storm Sewer Outflows (70 directly into the lake)

4. Toronto puts 14 billion litres of sewage contaminated water bypasses (i.e. no primary and/or secondary treatment) into the Lake from Ontario annually

(Source: Green Cities Great lakes – 2006)

Remedial Action Plan focus
in the past is mostly on “Green
City” concepts, not wastewater
infrastructure

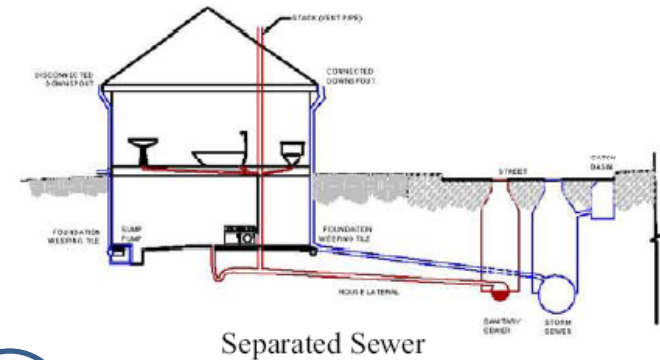


Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

Current situation: The wastewater infrastructure in the city is old and often in need of repair

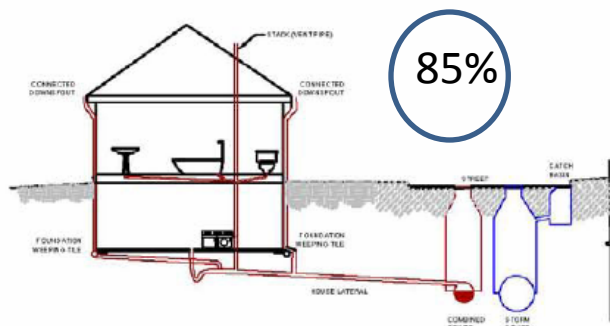
1. Old system crumbling e.g. Coxwell Trunk Sewer needs immediate attention; capacity constraints are being addressed by building new offline storage
2. New residential growth (esp. downtown) is adding to the capacity issues of current facilities
3. City has a 19th century design vs. a 20th century approach in the suburbs. We need more innovative implementations in the combined sewershed.

Suburb Sewers



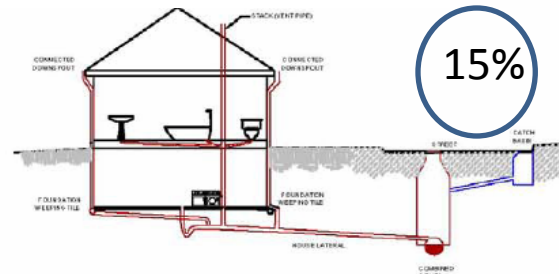
Separated Sewer

Toronto City Sewers



85%

Partially Separated Sewer



15%

Combined Sewer

Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

Current situation: Problem being defined as primarily a combined sewer overflow issue:

1. In the project area the city plan is to
 - a) Catch contaminated water from 52 CSO outflows (out of 80 in the region)
 - b) Build satellite CSO treatment plants and CSO storage sites for direct release or subsequent treatment at a central facility
2. Repair Coxwell Trunk and create a twin sewer for backup and CSO storage with offline storage tanks as buffers
3. No change of overall design

Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

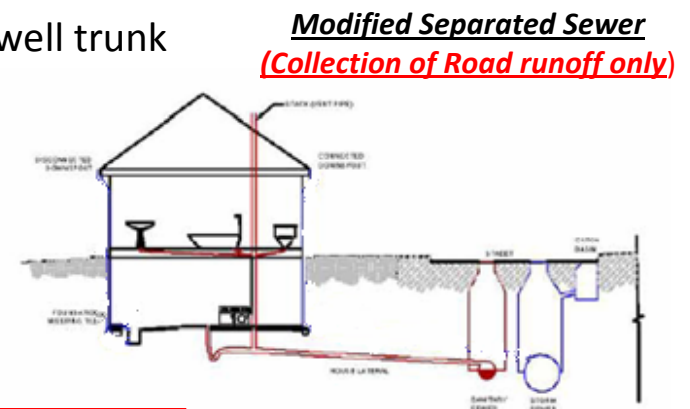
TCoC Alternatives Position

1. The Don River and Central Waterfront Project might be provide a short-term fix for the city's current problems
 - a. The Coxwell trunk project is well overdue
 - b. Parts of the current system need immediate action

BUT

2. Equal if not greater emphasis must be shifted to a sustainable, long term answer
 - a. There must be total separation of road runoff from sanitary system
 - b. As well as “Green City” measures “Treatment Train” facilities must be built to handle stormwater
 - I. Done in Parallel and same priority as existing planned work
 - II. Allow for flexible use of current facility (ie. Use Coxwell trunk alternate pipe for stormwater)
 - III. Phased approach for most polluting sewers

3. Several other Related Issues need to be addressed



Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

Related Issues that need to be addressed:

1. New Development must show zero or negative stormwater impact for approval
2. There are valid concerns that deal with some of the techniques planned for treating sewage and wastewater. There needs to be a means of addressing these
3. New financing and cost charging formulas need to be implemented (eg. Rainwater Utility)
4. The relationship of the Toronto City Sewer plan relative to the Toronto and Region AOC and associated RAP need to be better explained to the public
5. There needs to be a permanent citizens group established to:
 - a) Explain and prepare the way for new cost structures
 - b) Understand the need and role of Stormwater treatment trains
 - c) Implement Green City solutions
 - d) Communications with Federal/Provincial/Municipal governments
 - e) Communicate with TRCA and Overview committees

Toronto Council of Canadian Chapter (TCoC) Wastewater Planning Session

Proposed General Strategy and Plan: **THREE**

Continue promotion of “**No Rain in the Sanitary Drain**” to:

- 1.The Public
- 2.Industry
- 3.Politicians at all levels of government

We will also continue to play an active role at upcoming Project meetings in support of the interest of Toronto and its citizens.

Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

A team consisting of all levels of government, as well Ontario citizens groups and Conservation Authorities, must be formed immediately, with equal funding and emphasis as the current plan, to build on the work so far and to set the ground-rules for a Sustainable Stormwater Solution.

We are forming a collaborative group to move this forward in a positive way

Don River and Central Waterfront Project – TCoC Position Statement

The current plan

IT IS LIKE PUTTING A CATALYTIC CONVERTER EXHAUST SYSTEM ON A 1950s CAR

It solves an immediate problem

It might get it through emissions tests for a few more years

BUT

It's a makeshift and unsustainable solution

