

Humber Resource

Update

Spring 2003



The Humber Resource is produced by the City's Water and Wastewater Services Division. This newsletter is to update residents living around the Humber Treatment Plant, located at 130 The Queensway.

Odour study set to begin

Toronto Water and Wastewater Services is conducting a study to address the odours generated from the Humber Sewage Treatment Plant. The study will determine where the odours come from within the plant, the strength and volume of odour emissions and make recommendations to address odour impacts. Specialized odour sampling and measuring equipment, computer modelling and the good old-fashioned human nose will be used in the study.

City staff are currently drafting a Terms of Reference to hire a consulting firm to assist with the study. It is expected that the study will take 8-12 months to complete and implementation of the recommendations will start in 2005.



Biosolids and Residuals Management Master Plan

Toronto Works and Emergency Services is developing a city-wide master plan to address the management of biosolids produced at wastewater treatment plants and residue from water (supply) treatment plants. "Biosolids" are solids that are left over from the digestion of wastewater. A "residual" is a solid that is produced during the water filtration process and has no nutrient value. Biosolids have a nutrient value while water residuals do not.



Currently, sludge produced from the wastewater treatment process at the Humber plant goes to the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant for final treatment. As of December 5, 2002, the City no longer

incinerates at Ashbridges Bay and the biosolids are shipped out either as fertilizer (pellets), in a cake form to be applied to agricultural land, or sent to landfill in Michigan.

The Humber plant will be considered as part of the city-wide master plan. Some of the questions that will be asked during the plan development include:

- Will this plant continue to send its solids to the Ashbridges Bay plant for treatment?
- How will they get there?
- Should we be looking at treating them on site here?

All options will be up for evaluation.

A Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan Public Advisory Committee (BRMPAC) has been formed to provide advice to the City and its staff during the development of the master plan. The general public is invited to attend BRMPAC meetings. For more information, please contact James Yacoumidis at 416-392-4331.

More information on the wastewater treatment process at the Humber is available on our website at: www.toronto.ca/water



City programs pay you to save water

The *Water Efficiency Plan*, which was approved by Council in February 2003, sets the City on course to reduce water use city-wide by about 212 million litres a day by 2011. The Plan identifies capital costs and water volume savings and sets out water efficient programs to reduce



water use, water loss and wastewater flows over the next eight years. On average, each Toronto resident uses about 253 litres of water per day. Implementing a series of water efficiency programs is the City's alternative to building or expanding costly water and wastewater infrastructure, which will be required for handling future population and employment growth. The cost of implementing water efficiency programs is \$74 million compared

to \$220 million – the estimated cost of expanding the infrastructure.

The *Toilet Replacement Program* will help get rid of old water guzzling toilets which are responsible for using the most water in residential homes. The City hopes to replace about 730,000 inefficient toilets in single family homes and multi-unit buildings with six-litre models by 2011. This will reduce water use by 100 million litres a day. The City is offering a cash incentive to residents (\$60 or \$75 per inefficient toilet replaced) and businesses (up to \$100).

A *Clothes Washer Rebate Program* is planned for spring 2003; and an *Outdoor Water Audit Program* for single-family homes, apartment buildings and industrial, commercial and institutional buildings for summer 2003. An *Indoor Water Audit Program* is recommended for the industrial, commercial and institutional sector.

The full report on the Water Efficiency Plan can be accessed at www.toronto.ca/water or call 416-392-7000.

Plant Security

Although it's a part of your neighbourhood, the Humber Treatment Plant is an industrial site that is not meant for public access. Recent vandalism at the plant has highlighted the need to remind the community to exercise caution and not enter the plant grounds. Please remind your children of the dangers of trespassing on industrial sites. Acts of vandalism on the plant grounds will be investigated and prosecuted.

Find Out More! Get Involved!

If you would like to find out more about projects and issues around the Humber plant, join the Humber Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee. To do so, please contact:

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Plant Water Treatment Project

Toronto Works and Emergency Services is also looking at its own operations to reduce water consumption. The Humber Treatment Plant uses approximately 500,000 cubic metres of City-supplied tap water per year during the course of normal operations. At the same time, it discharges 386,000 cubic metres of treated wastewater (final effluent) into Lake Ontario each day. The aim of the plant water treatment project is to develop a facility at the plant where some of the effluent can be treated and re-used for the cooling systems and other plant activities and processes. This would reduce the need to use City-supplied tap water.



The project involves a plant water utilization analysis, a plant water distribution system upgrade and construction of a filtering facility. The facility will be a one-storey building located near the north end of the plant. The project started in mid-January 2003 and should be completed by mid-July 2004.