

# Humber Resource

## Update

Summer 2007



### HUMBER TREATMENT PLANT



The Humber Resource newsletter is produced by Toronto Water to update residents living around the Humber Treatment Plant located at 130 The Queensway.

The Humber Treatment Plant is one of four City of Toronto wastewater treatment plants and began operating in 1960. It is located on the west bank of the Humber River near Lake Ontario, on the north side of The Queensway. The Humber Treatment Plant treats the wastewater that local residents and businesses send down

their drains including water from toilets, showers and washing machines.

The Humber Treatment Plant is the second largest wastewater treatment plant in the city and serves a population of approximately 656,000 in the communities of Etobicoke, York, and a portion of the west end of North York and Toronto. The plant treats a daily average of 341,000 cubic metres of wastewater that's 140 Olympic-sized swimming pools each day!

### Odours

Odours can be caused by the day-to-day operations of the plant which manages and treats wastewater 365 days a year. Certain weather conditions including heavy rains, heat and wind patterns will contribute to the odours detected in the community.

The plant is closely monitored by staff 24 hours a day to ensure wastewater treatment processes are functioning effectively. Despite close monitoring, breakdowns of equipment and disruptions to plant processes do occasionally occur and may result in increased odours.

To report odours, call 416-392-2389. Be sure to provide information on when and where the odour was detected. Complaints are logged and investigated by plant staff

to ensure plant operations are functioning properly.

#### Odour Assessment Study Update

The City of Toronto has conducted a plant wide odour assessment study as part of their "good neighbour" initiative. Similar evaluations have also been performed at other City wastewater treatment facilities.

The primary intent of the Odour Assessment Study is to investigate the source and volume of the odour emissions resulting from the wastewater treatment operation and to develop recommendations for reducing odours to acceptable levels.

The study began in 2004 and recommendations should be finalised this fall. Implementing the recommendations in the Odour Study

will be costly in the range of \$50 - \$75 million and the City is currently confirming that the recommendations are accurate before implementation begins.

The three main sources of odours were identified as:



North primary tank

**North and South Primary Tanks** — open tanks where solids and greases separate. Solid particles settle to the bottom of the tank and oils and greases float to the top.



**Headworks** — buildings where the first step of the wastewater treatment takes place. Bar screens remove large solid objects such as sticks and rags. Water then enters a grit tank where sand and other heavy materials settle to the bottom.

**Odour Scrubber** — takes odorous compounds and oxidizes them into small molecules such as carbon dioxide and water, yet some odours escape due to limitations of the scrubber system.

The recommendations for addressing odours at each source will be explained at a future meeting of the Humber Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (see NLC for more information).

Due to the size and complexity of the project, implementation of the Odour Study recommendations will likely be carried out in three phases over a period of 10 years. Where possible, phases will be prioritized so that the phases with the greatest odour reductions can be built first. Design work for the first phase will begin later this year and construction is expected to begin by mid 2008.

**Rehabilitation of six of the ten digesters at the Plant began in Feb 2005 and is expected to be completed in 2008. Ongoing rehabilitation is important to keep the Plant in tiptop shape to provide reliable service on a 24/7 basis.**



## You Asked Us?

***Is the city expanding the Humber Treatment Plant in order to service the new condominium and other residential developments that are popping up?***

The plant has an approved treatment capacity of 473,000 cubic metres of wastewater per day and is currently treating a daily average of 341,000 cubic metres. No expansion of the Humber Treatment Plant is taking place, and according to the City's forecast report which calculated wastewater flows to the year 2024, no expansion will be necessary. To determine future wastewater flows, population growth projections, infiltration, water conservation measures and control of combined sewer overflows were considered. The projected flow in 2024 will be lower than the current flow.

## Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (NLC)

Are you interested in hearing more about what is happening at the Humber Treatment Plant? Become a member of the Plant's NLC. All you need to do is come to a meeting. Being a member means giving input on issues related to the plant which could affect the community. Meetings take place at the plant on a weekday evening.

If you would like to join the NLC and be added to the mailing list, please contact:

Nancy Martins, City of Toronto, Public Consultation Unit, 416-392-4390 or [nmartin@toronto.ca](mailto:nmartin@toronto.ca) .

Leave your name and complete mailing address and you will be contacted with updates and invited to NLC meetings. The next meeting will take place in the fall and will include a presentation on the recommendations in the odour study. Information on wastewater is posted on the City's website at [www.toronto.ca/water/wastewater\\_treatment/](http://www.toronto.ca/water/wastewater_treatment/)