

Highland Creek Resource



Fall 2003

The Highland Creek Resource is produced by the City's Water and Wastewater Services Division. This newsletter is to update residents living around the Highland Creek Treatment Plant, located at 51 Beechgrove Drive.



Odour study set to begin

Toronto Water and Wastewater Services is conducting a study to address the odours generated from the Highland Creek Wastewater 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.

The study will take 8-12 months to complete and implementation of the recommendations will tentatively start in 2005.

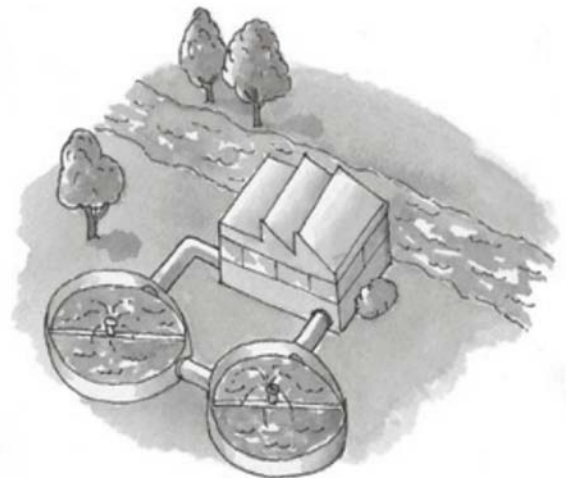
Digesters at the plant

Toronto Works and Emergency Services has constructed four new anaerobic digester tanks at the Highland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (HCTP).

In 1992, the anaerobic digestion process was abandoned at the HCTP, when extensive repairs and costly upgrading to the existing digesters were required to meet the new building and gas codes. The plant is presently operating without a digestion process and is incinerating its dewatered raw sludge. By re-introducing the anaerobic digestion process, we will provide several benefits, which include:

- the generation of methane gas to use in heating the plant
- a reduction in the volume of volatile sludge solids by as much as 40 percent
- destruction of pathogens (bacteria) in the sludge

The digesters were constructed on plant property, west of Beechgrove Drive, opposite the existing plant entrance. The tanks are fully enclosed and partially buried. As part of the project, the area has been landscaped after construction with the addition of trees and plants.



More information on the wastewater treatment process at Highland Creek 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 efficiency 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).

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

Facts about us

Located at 51 Beechgrove Drive in the Scarborough Community, at the mouth of Highland Creek, the Highland Creek Treatment Plant provides wastewater treatment services to more than 350,000 people. The plant treats 165,000 cubic metres of wastewater per day. That's like filling the nearby Heron Park swimming pool 160 times - and that's only about 75 percent of the plant's design capacity.

Find Out More...Get Involved!

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

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Numbers at a glance

Odour complaint line (24 hours)
416-392-4691

Household hazardous waste hotline
416-392-4330

Illegal dumping to stormwater sewer
416-392-9940

Hazardous spills (24 hours)
416 396-4808

24-hour Comment Line
416-397-7777

Highland Creek Office
416-392-2353

Waste and Water Info Line
416-392-4546

Public Consultation - Mae Lee
416-392-8210

You can also visit our website at
www.toronto.ca/services/index.htm