Highland Creek Resource

Summer 2005

The Highland Creek Resource newsletter is produced by Toronto Water for residents living around the Highland Creek Treatment Plant at 51 Beechgrove Drive.

Odour Study Update...a source of information

Last time Toronto Water communicated with you, we told you about an odour study being done to find out where the odours are coming from within the Highland Creek Treatment Plant and how to reduce them. The study is to be completed in the fall of 2005 but here are the findings to date:

Odour Sources

According to the study, there are four major sources of odour at the plant:

Headworks – buildings where the first step of the wastewater treatment takes place: grit and screenings removal. Wastewater enters a grit tank where sand and other heavy materials settle to the bottom. Wastewater then passes through bar screens where large solid objects such as sticks and rags are removed. The solids are collected and removed from the site for disposal.

Primary clarifiers – open settling tanks where the suspended sludge from the wastewater settles. The raw sludge is then pumped to digesters for further processing.

Aeration tank exhaust – wastewater from the clarifiers is mixed with air and micro-organisms in the tanks, which sets in motion a biological process that helps clean the wastewater.

Incinerator Building and Stack – an area where devices such as centrifuges and incinerators are located. In this area the digested sludge (or biosolids) is 'dewatered' and burned, creating ash which is mixed with water and then stored in ash lagoons.

More than 120 samples taken

These sources were identified by a team of specialists which included AWS Engineers & Planners Corp., Odor and Corrosion Technology Consultants, RWDI and Canadian Ortech Environmental Inc. Together this group collected more than 120 samples, most of them from the Highland Creek plant site, although some samples were also taken up to 1.5 km from the plant. The team also looked at ways to treat odour emissions and provided input into design solutions.

Dealing with the odour sources

The group's recommendations will primarily focus on collecting odourous air and treating it before discharging. One possible treatment option is to use biofilters. A biofilter is a natural odour control system in which the odours in the air are fed to natural bacteria growing on the surface of the biofilter media. The bacteria clean the air by using the odourous chemicals as food. The odour study, with final recommendations, is to be completed in the fall of 2005 and submitted to the Toronto Works Committee for approval. If approved, construction would start in 2008 after the completion of the design process.

In the meantime...

Toronto Water is doing some work at the plant to improve the wastewater treatment processes. A side benefit to these improvements is that some of the changes may reduce odours. For example, changes to the grit collection system will increase reliability and could mean that tank covers are left in place for longer periods of time.

Public Meeting to be held

To learn more about the odour study come out to a public meeting that is being held on September 12, 2005.

TORONTO Water

You're Invited....

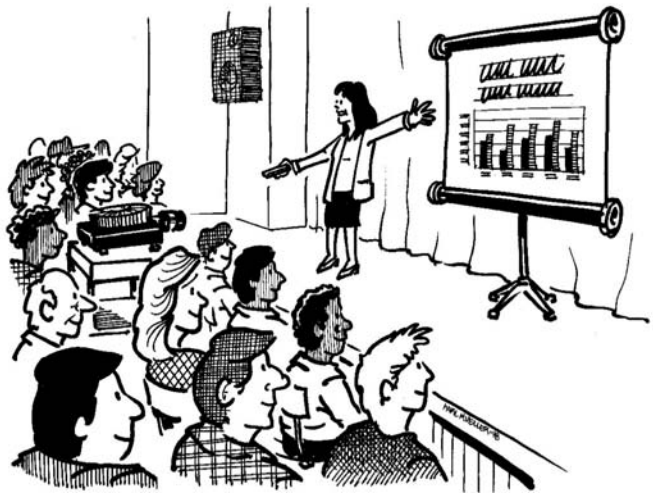
...to an open meeting of the Highland Creek Treatment Plant Neighbourhood Liaison Committee for an update on the odour study.

Date
Monday, September 12, 2005

Time
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location
Highland Creek Treatment Plant
51 Beechgrove Drive
(south of Lawrence Ave. East, and east of Morningside Ave.)

Did you know that your Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is made up of your neighbours and friends interested in providing input on issues related to the plant which could affect your community? Come out and join them!



For more information on the committee, or if you'd like to be added to the mailing list, contact:

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Have your say

...on Toronto Water's Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan.

Don't let the plan's title fool you. The name may be unusual but the plan is essential. That's because every time you take a shower, flush your toilet, or do a load of laundry, you're contributing to the daily volume of biosolids and water residuals generated by Toronto residents.

So what are they? Biosolids are nutrient-rich, fully treated organic material from the wastewater treatment process. The residuals are the inorganic materials left behind after the water filtration process.

As the city continues to grow and evolve, so must our water and wastewater treatment processes. That's why this draft Master Plan sets out to make sure we handle the biosolids and residuals we generate in a cost-efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable manner. Part of the draft plan includes management strategies for each of the treatment plants. The proposed stategy for the Highland Creek Treatment Plant is to put in a new fluidized bed incinerator to replace the older, multiple hearth incinerators.

Let us know what you think about the Master Plan. Read our executive summary of the draft plan by visiting www.toronto.ca/biosolids_masterplan. The full document is available at several Toronto Public Libraries including: Agincourt, Albert Campbell and Cedarbrae. Please submit your comments to:

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