



Moving Ahead

New hours at the Project Information Exchange

New hours at the Project Information Exchange, 110 Walton Street in Port Hope, mean the public can now drop in five afternoons a week for information about the Port Hope Area Initiative. Other visits may be made by appointment. Sandy Holmes staffs the storefront information office Monday through Friday, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., and is busy answering questions about the Initiative and Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLRW), receiving public input and helping people find the documents they need. Today's column includes three questions Sandy frequently receives.

How will you make sure all the waste is cleaned up?

Recently completed airborne and roadway gamma radiation surveys are two of the many ways the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office (LLRWMO) will use to locate and catalogue areas of contamination in the Port Hope area. Later this year, an exterior and interior property resurvey in parts of Port Hope will also begin. The ongoing Construction Monitoring Program and the Radiological Status Letters issued for property transactions are two additional ways the LLRWMO updates existing information or checks previously unsurveyed sites.

Does living here pose an extra health risk?

Several studies, including a Health Canada/Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission study released in 2002, indicate that living with low-level radioactive waste in the Port Hope area does not increase a person's risk of cancer or other diseases.

In the present circumstances, the radiation exposure of a person engaged in normal, daily living activities in the Port

Hope area does not differ measurably from that of a person living in most communities in Southern Ontario.

Radiation is a fact of life. Natural radiation comes from outer space, the ground and the food we eat. The background level of radiation in the Port Hope area is lower than that of Banff, Alberta, or Denver, Colorado, the "mile-high city," where higher altitudes result in increased cosmic radiation.

What does the long-term solution involve?

Local municipalities, with the support of the Canadian government, have proposed community-driven solutions to consolidate, isolate and manage LLRW for future generations. This \$260-million major cleanup project also includes remuneration for the host municipalities, economic benefits and remediation of non-radioactive industrial sites, area roads and the Port Hope harbour.



Sandy Holmes at the Project Information Exchange has lots of information on LLRW and the Port Hope Area Initiative.

Detailed environmental and technical studies and extensive public consultation are under way to support the Port Hope Area Initiative, ultimately leading to licensing of the long-term low-level radioactive waste management facilities by federal regulatory authorities.

These facilities to safely isolate and store the waste are expected to be completed in about 10 years. Facilities constructed in Port Hope and Clarington will handle only local historic LLRW, along with specified historic local industrial wastes.



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This regular column is published by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office to inform local residents of progress on the clean-up and safe long-term storage of low-level radioactive waste in the area.

For copies of this column or additional information call 905 885-0291, or visit the Project Information Exchange at 110 Walton Street in Port Hope.

Visit the Project Information Exchange, 110 Walton Street, Port Hope 1:00-5:00 Monday to Friday
Call (905) 885-0291 www.llrwm.org
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office