

***This newsletter has been developed to share updates about the on-going environmental work in the Bishop Street Community.***

## **Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Update**

The ministry is committed to protecting the health and safety of the residents of the Bishop Street Community.

We continue to oversee the environmental work to address trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in groundwater resulting from historical operations at the former Northstar Aerospace and former Borg-Warner (GE Canada) facilities on Bishop Street, as well as the indoor air mitigation systems and a number of monitoring programs.

We are working in consultation with Region of Waterloo Public Health and GE Canada and keeping the City of Cambridge informed of progress and developments.

AET Group Inc. (AET) is contracted by the ministry to operate, maintain and monitor the groundwater extraction system surrounding the Northstar site, the indoor air mitigation systems in homes and environmental monitoring programs within the Bishop Street Community.

### **Vendor selection process underway**

The ministry's current contract with AET expires in November 2022. A competitive process is underway to establish a new contract and ensure a qualified service provider is in place to carry out these important programs without interruption.

### **When do you need an indoor air mitigation system?**

The air mitigation systems are necessary for homes with elevated TCE levels to ensure indoor concentrations stay below 0.5 micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), which is the protective level recommended by Public Health.

The Ontario government provides and maintains air mitigation systems for existing homes in the Bishop Street Community with elevated levels of TCE. AET will contact homeowners directly to provide information about the installation of an air mitigation system at no cost and answer any questions.

Each year, we conduct indoor air testing in the neighbourhood to determine which homes need air mitigation systems and to confirm the installed systems are working effectively.

### **Progress on groundwater treatment**

The continued operation of the groundwater extraction system (or 'pump and treat' system) at the former Northstar Aerospace site is an essential part of the ministry's on-going commitment to the Bishop Street Community.

Successive years of testing confirm this system is working to prevent the migration of contaminated groundwater off the site and treating it to acceptable levels.

Groundwater samples are taken annually throughout the neighbourhood to monitor and confirm the groundwater extraction system is effective and that contaminants are no longer migrating off the former Northstar site.

## GE Canada Update

Since 2009, GE Canada has completed soil and groundwater remedial efforts at 610 Bishop Street North and continues to share in indoor air mitigation efforts in the Bishop Street Community. GE Canada provides support to both indoor air mitigation and monitoring work conducted by the CIC.

GE Canada's remedial efforts of injecting potassium permanganate in the southwestern portion of 610 Bishop Street property from 2009 through 2015 have been effective in destroying TCE in the soil and shallow groundwater. In 2015, the potassium permanganate injections had reached the limit of their ability to destroy TCE and GE Canada has since verified that the long-term effects of the remedial efforts have resulted in a sustained decrease to near background levels in shallow groundwater. All ongoing monitoring and mitigation efforts are being conducted in consultation with the ministry.

## Region of Waterloo Public Health Update

Mitigation measures in homes continue to be successful at reducing levels of TCE in indoor air, and have resulted in the large majority of homes having concentrations of TCE below  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The long-term goal of this program is to bring all homes down to  $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  or less. Region of Waterloo Public Health will continue to review the results of the indoor air sampling program, which is carried out by AET and overseen by the ministry, to ensure these levels remain low.

To access the Public Health Fact Sheet on TCE or additional information, visit the Region of Waterloo Public Health website on TCE [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/TCE](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/TCE)

## CIC Update

AET continues to manage the CIC as a one-window access point for the community. All relevant information pertaining to the Bishop Street Community can still be obtained by contacting the CIC at AET's Cambridge office (see CIC contact information below).

### Emergency Contact Information

It is important to remember that the mitigation systems have mechanical components that may fail on very rare occasions. This may result in a noise coming from the system fan or other indication there is an issue. If you encounter an issue with any mitigation system (SVE, SSD, HRV, PCO) please unplug the system, if possible, and call the CIC. For SVE sheds, there is an emergency contact list posted in each shed for you to call in an emergency. We will respond to all emergency calls by the next business day.

### Indoor Air Monitoring: Winter 2022

CIC staff wish to thank everyone for their continued cooperation during the winter air sampling programs. From adhering to COVID-19 protocols to shoveling your walkway, we appreciate your help.

### Selling or Renovating your Home?

Please consider letting the CIC know if you are selling your home. We can provide assistance with questions which real estate agents or potential buyers may have about this project. If you are planning a basement renovation (i.e. installing a sump, changing the basement plumbing, adding a bathroom, deepening the basement, etc.) also give us a call to let us know.

### CIC Reminders

- \* Check your SSD alarm to ensure it is showing a green light. If no green light is visible, this means there is an issue with the system. Please contact the CIC to let us know.
  - \* HRVs should be on the SUMMER setting
- \* If your home is on a SVE system, call the CIC before you dig deeper than 2 feet in your front or back yard.
- \* CIC staff continue to monitor mitigation equipment located in backyards throughout the year.

### Contacting the CIC

Call the CIC through AET's Cambridge office at **519-653-0680** or email us at [info@aet98.com](mailto:info@aet98.com) to reach Janet, Laurel, Matt or Aleesha.