

# **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

ISSUE# 4

March 2016

This newsletter has been developed to share updates about how the environmental work in the Bishop Street Community is being monitored, reviewed and regulated by staff from the **Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Region of Waterloo Public Health, Region of Waterloo Water Services and Grand River Conservation Authority.**

## **Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) Update**

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), in consultation with Region of Waterloo Public Health, continues to oversee environmental work at the former Northstar Aerospace (Canada) Inc. (Northstar) property and within the Bishop Street Community. In November 2014, the MOECC completed a competitive procurement process and contracted the services of AET Group Inc. (AET) to manage day-to-day activities, including operating and maintaining the mitigation systems, routinely collecting samples and acting as a resource for the community via the Community Information Centre (CIC).

The Groundwater Extraction System (GES) continues to operate at the former Northstar property, which now has the new address of 679 Bishop St. N. This GES extracts over 100 000 L of contaminated groundwater per day and treats it to acceptable levels prior to discharging to the municipal storm sewer. The GES helps contain contaminated groundwater which prevents the further migration of contaminants into the Bishop Street Community. CIC staff operate and maintain the GES.

The MOECC has taken steps to ensure that the ongoing environmental work is not being interrupted by the recent demolition and renovation activities being completed at the 695 Bishop St. N. property by King & Benton. The MOECC expects that the necessary renovations will be completed shortly, and that King & Benton will proceed with their offer to purchase this portion of the former Northstar property. For any inquiries related to the renovation activities please contact Steve Charest, President of King & Benton, at 519-752-2714.

## **GE Canada Activities**

Since 2007, GE Canada has been undertaking investigations and remedial efforts at 610 Bishop Street North and has shared in mitigation efforts in the Bishop Street Community. GE Canada provides support to both indoor air mitigation and monitoring work conducted by the CIC.

In 2009, GE Canada began treating soil and groundwater in the southwestern portion of the 610 site with potassium permanganate. GE Canada's remedial efforts have been effective in destroying TCE in the soil and groundwater. In consultation with the MOECC, GE Canada will continue to monitor the long-term effectiveness of the treatment program during 2016.

## Ongoing Operations

**Various sampling programs for indoor air, groundwater and surface water continue to occur throughout the Bishop Street Community and will continue throughout the year.**

### Indoor Air Sampling

The purpose of indoor air sampling in select homes is to ensure levels of Trichloroethylene (TCE) remain below acceptable levels as well as aid the CIC in determining whether any active mitigation is required. Please refer to page three for Region of Waterloo Public Health's summary of the 2016 winter indoor air details. Thank you for taking our calls, responding to our messages and reading our letters. If you have received a letter from the CIC and have not had a chance to respond, we would still like to hear from you. Call us at your earliest convenience.

### Groundwater Sampling

Annual groundwater sampling and water level measurements continue to be conducted throughout the Bishop Street Community. The next scheduled groundwater sampling event will occur in late May 2016. This annual activity requires environmental technicians to coordinate several sampling teams to complete the work within one week. Technicians may be seen during that week working diligently to acquire groundwater samples from monitoring well locations in the roads, boulevards and parklands. The sampling data continues to be submitted to the MOECC for their review and provides an updated snapshot of the current groundwater TCE concentrations.

### Surface Water Sampling

The spring and summer surface water sampling continues on the Grand River. AET staff will be out late May and mid-summer 2016 to sample the Grand River as well as the seeps coming from the bank of the river throughout the Bishop Street Community. As with past sampling events, the water samples will be sent for analysis and reviewed by the MOECC to ensure water quality meets applicable provincial guidelines.

### Indoor Air Mitigation Systems (IAMS)

The CIC continues to provide support for various IAMS in the community. In addition to the weekly/monthly Soil Vapour Extraction (SVE) monitoring, the CIC coordinates the annual Fall Heat Recovery Ventilator (HRV)/Photo Catalytic Oxidizer (PCO) maintenance. Homeowners who have an HRV and/or PCO will be contacted in the Fall for this maintenance. Please refer to page four for maintenance tips and CIC contact information.

## Region of Waterloo Public Health Update

### Environmental work continues to improve indoor air in the community

Region of Waterloo Public Health, together with the MOECC, continue to monitor and oversee the environmental work, including indoor air sampling and mitigation, within the Bishop Street Community. The work done to date has been effective at lowering overall TCE levels in homes in the Bishop Street Community and reducing exposure to TCE.

The health-based indoor air action levels for TCE were developed for monitoring purposes and to prioritize mitigation in homes in the Bishop Street Community. The recommended indoor air action levels are set very low to be health protective to ensure that the levels of TCE in homes are not likely to cause adverse health effects.

Indoor air levels of TCE continue to trend down in homes in the community. The vast majority of homes (99%) are below the action level recommended to be assessed for indoor air mitigation. The number of homes currently above  $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  has significantly decreased over time with the ongoing environmental work and implementation of effective mitigation systems. Over the past several years many homes have been removed from the indoor air sampling program as the indoor air TCE concentrations required no action.

Region of Waterloo Public Health will continue to work with the MOECC, the community and our other partners to reduce exposures to TCE. For more information, please refer to the [TCE Fact Sheet](#) on Public Health's website or contact Public Health at 519-575-4400.

### Indoor Air Action Levels

The recommended action levels are as follows:

***Less than or equal to  $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$***

No further action required for these homes (i.e., no sampling or mitigation required).

***Greater than  $0.5$  but less than or equal to  $5.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$***

Annual indoor air monitoring recommended, while groundwater remediation is on-going (i.e., remediation of the TCE source contamination in the groundwater).

***Greater than  $5.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$***

It is recommended that homes be assessed for indoor air mitigation (i.e., active TCE removal from indoor air) while groundwater remediation is on-going.

To access the  
[TCE Fact Sheet](#),  
provincial report, or other  
resources about TCE in the  
Bishop Street Community, go  
to:  
[www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph)  
and search for "TCE".

## \* Friendly Reminders \*

### Indoor Air Mitigation Systems

#### HRV

The CIC reminds homeowners who are asked to run their HRV mitigation equipment to turn the dial to the

sunshine icon in  summer and the snowflake  setting in winter .

#### Sub-slab depressurization (SSD) systems

The CIC reminds homeowners who have SSD systems installed in their homes to check the SSD alarm which is located in the basement. **The alarm should have a green light showing. This means that the system is working properly. A red light and an audible alarm means there has been a pressure loss in the system.** If you do not see a green light, please contact the CIC at your earliest convenience.

#### Soil vapour extraction (SVE) systems

On a monthly basis, CIC staff check the pressure in ports located in the lawns of homes and SVE sheds in some back yards that are serviced by SVE systems. **The CIC kindly asks that homeowners who have pressure ports in their lawns to clear their ports of snow so technicians can access them easily.** The CIC thanks everyone who has helped this year by clearing paths for the technicians and making sure gates can be opened! We appreciate it!

### 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.

### Meet the CIC Staff!

The CIC continues to be managed by AET Group Inc., an environmental consulting firm based out of Kitchener, Ontario. The regular CIC team consists of:

**Janet McKenzie – Project Manager**  
**Laurel Adams – Environmental Technologist**  
**Ryan Bourner – Environmental Technician**

Thanks to **Steffie Wong, AET Group Inc.** for helping us with indoor air sampling appointment scheduling this winter and to **Ryan Dignard, AirZoneOne** for helping us with indoor air sampling.

### For more information contact:

Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change..... 519-826-4262 or toll-free: 1-800-265-8658 ext. 4262  
 Region of Waterloo Public Health.....519-575-4400 ext. 5147  
 Region of Waterloo Water Services.....519-575-4426  
 Grand River Conservation Authority .....519-621-2761  
 Bishop Street CIC.....519-653-0680 ext. 311