Bishop Street Community Information Centre

Issue# 11

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

September 2024

***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 working to ensure that environmental programs are in place 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.

### More Homes to Receive Free Indoor Air Mitigation Systems in 2025

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

The Ontario government provides and maintains air mitigation systems for existing homes in the Bishop Street Community with elevated levels of TCE at no cost to the homeowner.

Eligible homeowners will be contacted and provided with additional information about installing a new indoor air mitigation system at no cost.

### Winter Indoor Air Sampling will begin in December 2024

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.

The next indoor air monitoring is planned for December 2024 through March 2025. Eligible homeowners will be contacted by the CIC to schedule an indoor air sampling appointment.

### Planned removal of older Soil Vapour Extraction Systems

The ministry is targeting 2025 to begin replacing the older backyard soil vapour extraction systems (SVE) with new, sub-slab depressurization (SSD) systems which will ensure their indoor air quality remains safe.

A key benefit of the SSD systems is that each home will have their own independent unit and no longer need to be linked to a shared system housed in a backyard shed.

Homeowners connected to an SVE system will be directly contacted through the Community Information Centre (CIC) with more information as the project progresses.

# 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. 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 $\mu g/m^3$. The long-term goal of this program is to bring all homes down to 0.5 $\mu g/m^3$ 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

# 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.

## Contacting the CIC

Call the CIC through AET's Cambridge office at 519-653-0680 or

email us at info@aet98.com to reach Janet, Matt, Lisa or Dayna.

## Selling or Renovating your Home?

- Please contact the CIC if you are selling your home. We can help with information which may be required during the sales process.
- 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.
- 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.