

BISHOP STREET COMMUNITY:

What you need to know

Some residents have asked to hear from government agencies more often about the TCE remediation that is on-going in the Bishop Street Community. This newsletter has been developed to share updates about how the remediation process is being monitored, reviewed and regulated. Every step of the way, staff from the **Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Region of Waterloo Public Health, Region of Waterloo Water Services, City of Cambridge, and Grand River Conservation Authority** want to help you understand what it all means for you and your family.

PUBLIC MEETING REMINDER: "Update on Remediation in the Bishop Street Community"

Representatives from Northstar Aerospace and General Electric Canada will host public meetings during both the afternoon and evening of Wednesday June 29th, 2011 (details in the blue box below). All current residents in the community should receive an invitation from the Bishop Street Community Information Centre to attend. The purpose of the meeting is for the companies to update residents on current and future plans for trichloroethylene (TCE) remediation in the Bishop Street Community. Residents will also be able to provide comments and ask questions. Staff who monitor and provide oversight for the remediation process will be attending from various government agencies.

These government agencies have already been given the opportunity to review and provide preliminary comments on the draft updated remedial plans that are to be presented at the June 29th public meeting. In addition, Ministry of the Environment staff continue to closely monitor the progress of the remedial efforts in the Bishop Street Community, and review and comment on the technical aspects of the work being completed.

Public meetings to provide an update on remediation in the Bishop Street Community

Hosted by: Northstar Aerospace & General Electric Canada

Date: Wednesday June 29th, 2011

Afternoon session: 3–5 p.m. **Evening session:** 7–9 p.m.

Location: Fairview Mennonite Home, 515 Langs Drive, Cambridge



Indoor air TCE concentrations in the Bishop Street Community

An update from Region of Waterloo Public Health & Ministry of the Environment

For the area of investigation, the following table shows the number of homes that currently fall into specific indoor air concentration ranges. For comparison purposes, the table also shows how many homes fell into each category based on their highest TCE concentrations ever measured.

| | number of homes with indoors air concentration of TCE: | | | total homes |
|---|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | less than or equal to 0.5 µg/m ³ | greater than 0.5 but less than or equal to 5 µg/m ³ | greater than 5 µg/m ³ | |
| historically (based on highest values recorded) | 113 | 220 | 305 | 638 |
| currently (as of May 4, 2011) | 367 | 238 | 33 | 638 |

Recommended action levels associated with the indoor air concentrations of TCE:

Less than or equal to 0.5 µg/m³

No further action required for these homes (i.e. no monitoring or remediation required).

Greater than 0.5 but less than or equal to 5 µg/m³

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 µg/m³

Assessment for indoor air remediation (i.e. active TCE removal from indoor air) is recommended while groundwater remediation is on-going (i.e. remediation of the source contamination in the groundwater).

If you have been contacted, and you have not had your home tested for indoor air concentrations of TCE, we would recommend that you participate in this winter's indoor air sampling program.

The Ministry of the Environment continues to independently collect air samples to verify the indoor air testing being undertaken in the community.

To arrange for indoor air sampling, get in touch through the Bishop Street Community Information Centre:

695 Bishop St. N., Cambridge
Phone: 519-653-5774
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

TCE information package provided to local family doctors

An update from Region of Waterloo Public Health

The Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion (OAHPP) has also prepared an informative resource specifically for local family doctors who may see patients who have experienced trichloroethylene (TCE) exposure.

Public Health is in the process of organizing distribution of this resource to all family doctors in Cambridge and across Waterloo Region. For more information on this initiative, contact Public Health: 519-883-2008, ext. 3418

OAHPP report now available

An update from Region of Waterloo Public Health

One responsibility of the Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion (OAHPP) is to provide technical and scientific assistance to local public health units on environmental health matters.

In June of 2010, in response to the health concerns voiced by residents of the Bishop Street Community, Region of Waterloo Public Health requested that OAHPP assist them in answering the residents' concerns about potential health effects related to trichloroethylene (TCE).

Options for viewing OAHPP's full report regarding the potential for adverse health effects from TCE in the Bishop Street Community:

- **Go to www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph** (See details on last page)
- **Visit the Preston Library:** 435 King St. E., Cambridge, ON
- **Visit the CIC:** 695 Bishop St. N., Cambridge, ON

A fact sheet on TCE can also be obtained from the above locations.

OAHPP's investigation included a review of available scientific literature on specific health-related questions posed by the community, including thymus cancer, reproductive toxicity and neurological toxicity, as well as other cancer and non-cancer effects. OAHPP's methods, results, and analysis were also reviewed by a "third-party" environmental health expert, Dr. John Eyles of McMaster University, who concurred with the findings of OAHPP.

One key finding of the investigation was that *"the risks from the TCE contamination in the Bishop Street neighbourhood are not expected to result in an excess of cancers that would be detectable through a community health study"* (page 26 of OAHPP's report). To read OAHPP's full report or to read a fact sheet on TCE, choose one of the options in blue box on the left.

No TCE detected in well P6, closest to Bishop Street Community

An update from Region of Waterloo Water Services

Region of Waterloo Water Services has been an active member of the Bishop Street Community technical team since the outset of the project. Water Services' role is to provide technical input on the groundwater monitoring activities and assess any impact of remediation on the Region's water supply.

The drinking water supplied by the Region of Waterloo to area residents continues to be monitored, is safe and is currently unaffected by the contamination.

The nearest Regional well (P6) is located in the Dumfries Conservation area, 750 m south east (and not directly down gradient of) the TCE source. P6 is constructed in a deep bedrock aquifer and extracts groundwater from depths of greater than 30 meters. P6 has been monitored on a monthly basis for TCE since August 2005. There have been no detections of TCE in P6. The last sample was taken on May 2nd, 2011.

Supports & resources for residents in the Bishop Street Community

At the public meeting on November 1st, 2010, Dr. Ray Copes from the Ontario Agency for Health Protection & Promotion explained that trichloroethylene (TCE) exposures in the Bishop Street Community would not be expected to cause a detectable increase in cancer rates in the population, which was supported by Dr. John Eyles of McMaster University. Although residents appreciated

hearing an assessment from experts in environmental medicine and toxicology, some expressed that it was still difficult to feel “emotional closure” after such an experience, particularly as many are still involved with mitigation efforts.

Recognizing this challenge of “emotional closure”, we conducted a scan of services and resources available in the community that might help some people cope with this situation. Our search revealed that there are a variety of community services available to residents, including counselling, peer support groups, and a drop-in “Resource Centre”. We have developed a list of these services, and most are either free or priced on a “sliding scale” based on what a person can afford. To view more details about the community services we researched, about costing, eligibility and contact information, please visit Public Health’s website for a document that summarizes this information:

A list of support service providers in Waterloo Region that may be of assistance to residents in the Bishop St. Community.

Note: This is not necessarily an exhaustive list of supportive services and resources in Waterloo Region, and is up-to-date as of MAY 2011.

| SERVICE PROVIDERS | POTENTIALLY RELEVANT SERVICES PROVIDED | COULD BISHOP STREET COMMUNITY MEMBERS BE ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICE? | COST & AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1.) CAMBRIDGE ACTIVE SELF HELP (CASH) Part of the Self Help Alliance which serves Cambridge, Kitchener, and Guelph. http://www.self-help-alliance.ca/ Ph: 519 623 6024 Address: 9 Wellington St., Unit #1, Cambridge, ON | Peer Support Groups (NOT counselling) Some groups have a staff facilitator to help with the flow of the group's session, but even those staff have lived experience with mental health challenges so it remains a "peer" environment. | Yes. As long as a person is willing to accept responsibility for helping him/herself and also for helping others in the group, they are welcome to attend. It might even be possible (depending on CASH's resources and flexibility) to have a special group session with a staff facilitator for residents from the Bishop Street Community. | FREE to attend peer support groups. Drop-ins encouraged. Just look at the monthly schedule and show up to any group that is a good fit for you. No registration required. May Schedule: http://www.self-help-alliance.ca/files/pdf/may%202011%20ash%20calendar.pdf |
| 2.) FAMILY COUNSELLING CENTRE OF CAMBRIDGE & NORTH-DUMFRIES http://frcend.com/bc/index/ Ph: 519 621 5090 | Counselling for a range of issues. Counsellors are based out of the Family Counselling Centre, and also some counsellors work out of community centres and the Cambridge Food Bank. | Yes. For primary care physicians associated with HealthConnect, they can refer their patients to the Family Counselling Centre and service will be free. Service is also funded (i.e. free) for clients receiving service at a community centre or the Food Bank. | \$90 per hour, or less for counselling. Rates are set using a sliding scale based on income, and other personal financial factors. By appointment at the Family Counselling Centre. Right now it is taking 4-6 weeks to get an appointment. |

First page of the list of support service providers in Waterloo Region

Go to www.regionofwaterloo.ca/ph — under “Healthy Living & Health Protection”, choose “Environmental Health”, and then choose “Environmental Hazards” to find information and resources for residents of the Bishop Street Community. Or use the website’s search engine, type in “Bishop”.

For more information contact:

- Ontario Ministry of the Environment 519-826-4262 or toll-free: 1-800-265-8658 ext. 4262
- Region of Waterloo Public Health 519-883-2008 ext. 3418
- Region of Waterloo Water Services 519-575-4426
- City of Cambridge 519-740-4650 ext. 4601
- Grand River Conservation Authority 519-621-2761

