



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 21, 2010

Dear Owner/Occupant,

On behalf of Town of Newmarket Council, we would like to provide an update on the status of the Risk Assessment being conducted on the woodlot and trail areas in the vicinity of Bathurst Street and Mulock Drive.

As you may recall, in December 2008, we sent a letter to the residents in the Bathurst Street and Mulock Drive area to provide information on a local soil quality issue. Testing revealed that all topsoil in the residential areas met the appropriate Ministry of the Environment (MOE) standards and that no further work was necessary in any of the subdivisions.

Some elevated levels of arsenic and lead were detected in the woodlot and trail areas due to pesticide use when the lands were used as orchards. The Town enlisted a team of independent environmental specialists to conduct environmental studies and a Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment was conducted by Intrinsik, a company specializing in toxicology and risk assessments.

At a public meeting in January 2009, Intrinsik presented the MOE approved Risk Assessment process to area residents. Intrinsik explained that a Risk Assessment may take up to a year and half to complete. In December 2009 correspondence providing an update on the progress of the Risk Assessment was sent to area residents.

In a memo to the Town of Newmarket, Intrinsik provided the following comments on the preliminary results with respect to the open space lands (i.e. the walking trail, natural woodlot and parkland area):

“Potential unacceptable risks are predicted for the parkland user in some areas. Under the parkland scenario, the areas of the Site that contain lead and arsenic soil concentrations that result in the prediction of unacceptable risks are relatively small. These results are indicative of the need for a limited amount of targeted removal of impacted soil as part of an overall Risk Management Plan. Preliminary results indicate that the extent of soil removal would be small enough to ensure that the woodlots remain undisturbed.”

To bring you up to date, a draft Risk Assessment, conducted in accordance with Ministry of the Environment regulations, has been filed with the MOE and copied to the York Region's Medical Officer of Health.

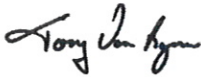
The estimated time frame for Ministry review of the submission is approximately 19 weeks. Based on Ministry comments, there could be a requirement for revisions or more details in certain areas and the Town has been advised by the MOE that these additional requirements could extend that timeframe. The environmental consultants will be addressing any Ministry comments or requirements as quickly as possible in order that the MOE can finalize and accept the Risk Assessment. The Town anticipates that remediation options will be identified and presented to Council and local residents in the fall of 2010.

We are pleased with the preliminary results and we will continue to provide updates on the Risk Assessment process. Please see the attached Chronology of Work Conducted to Date.

If you have any questions, please call the Town of Newmarket at 905-895-5193. For more information on the Ministry of the Environment process and standards, please visit www.ene.gov.on.ca or visit the Town of Newmarket's website at www.newmarket.ca.

The Town of Newmarket Council and Staff are committed to taking every precaution to ensure that we have a safe and healthy community. We appreciate your continued patience during this process.


Sincerely,



Tony Van Bynen
Mayor



Dennis Ramsarran
Ward 6 Councillor



John Taylor
Regional Councillor

Chronology of Work Conducted to Date

- January 2009 – Public Meeting outlines the Risk Assessment process with an estimated timeline 12 to 18 months
- February through April 2009 – Preparation of the Pre-Submission Form and site characterization support documents
- April 20, 2009 – Submission of the Pre-Submission Form to the Ministry of the Environment copying York Region Community and Health Services
- May 19, 2009 – Comments regarding the Pre-Submission Form received from York Region Community and Health Services
- June 1, 2009 – Ministry of the Environment response to Pre-Submission Form received
- July 15, 2009 – Recommendations made for additional site characterization studies to address Ministry of the Environment and York Region Community and Health Services comments
- August 2009 – Bioaccessibility study started
- September and October 2009 – Site characterization and Bioaccessibility field programs completed.
- November 2009 to March 2010 – completion of the Draft Risk Assessment document including addressing regulatory changes issued in December 2009
- April 9, 2010 – submission of the Draft Risk Assessment to the Ministry of Environment and York Region Community and Health Services.

The time line for the next steps is estimated as follows:

- Ministry of the Environment review period – 16 to 22 weeks – approximately late August 2010
- Submission of the final Risk Assessment to the Ministry of the Environment – approximately 3 weeks after receipt of Ministry of the Environment comments – approximately September 2010
- Final Ministry of the Environment review and acceptance – fall 2010.
- Further updates will be provided as the Risk Assessment process proceeds.