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**Some pictures of Halloween decorations in the Beaches Triangle area, as taken by local resident Stephen Erochko**



# TRIANGLE TOPICS

## Neighbourhood News and Information

Winter 2004

Published by

The Beach Triangle Residents Association  
Toronto, Ontario

### What's going to happen to the air we breathe?

by Philip A. Knox

“Who is watching our air Quality?” It would appear that the answer to this question is that “we will have to do it ourselves.”

Over the summer Works and Emergency Services (WES), Wastewater Treatment group had been doing public consultations on a draft Biosolids and Residuals Master Plan (BRMP) that looked at ways to treat the wastewater at the city's 4 treatment plants and the residuals that come from our 4 water treatment plants until the year 2025.

(An executive overview of this document can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/wes/techservices/involved/wws/biosolids/index.htm>

For the east end of Toronto area the public consultation was held in July on a Saturday morning with about 12 people in attendance. A subsequent meeting held on October 12<sup>th</sup> brought close to 300 people out as concern mounted over the draft BRMP recommendations.



The current “intended” plan at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP) is 100% beneficial use of the biosolids, with 50% of the biosolids used on agricultural land and 50% directed to pelletization, with landfill, as the plant's contingency option.

As a result of the Walkerton water contamination tragedies, the Federal Government has modified the standard of the biosolids quality that farmers can put on their fields. Farmers can no longer dump raw untreated animal manure on their lands and the current quality of the “fertilizer cake” produced from the biosolids does not pass the new Federal land application specification. In addition the farmers will now have to record what fertilizer they have put on which fields to aid in the tracking and monitoring of biosolids applied to agricultural lands. These new regulations have reduced the amount of “fertilizer cake”, in its current form, that can be used in this application for 50% of the plan.

In the summer of 2003, the Ontario Fire Marshall's office told the media that a fire started in the basement area where pumps for the new pelletizer, which circulate hot oil, are found. Oil used in the heating elements to dry the biosolids and form the pellets

sprayed out from one of the pumps, fuelling the fire. Since the construction company that had been hired to build the new pellitizer was still in the midst of testing the facility and had not turned it over to (WES) to begin operations, a legal battle between the city, the construction company and the insurance companies has stalled any attempts or decision to repair the \$25 million dollar project. So there went the other 50% of the beneficial use of biosolids.

Both of the above conditions is what forced (WES) to go to its contingency plan and that is why we are trucking most of biosolids to a landfill site in Michigan. Even though we have a contract with the landfill site for a 10 year term, their have been concerns from citizen groups in Michigan putting pressure on their governments to shut the borders.

The draft BRMP had two suggested plans for the ABTP:

Potential Strategies Evaluated

1. Maximize the beneficial use of cake and pelletization with remaining capacity and contingency provided by fluidized bed incineration.
2. Maximize the beneficial use of cake and pelletization with remaining capacity and contingency provided by industry.

The WES analysis and recommendation gave the Highest Ranking Strategy to Strategy #1

Reasons for their choice include:

- Least community impact from traffic and odours,
- Low greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions,
- Most reliable biosolids management option, and
- The lowest life-cycle cost. (Development costs plus ongoing maintenance)

What was not included in the draft BRMP were the results of the Toronto Public Health Department's three ongoing studies that are relevant to development of the draft BRMP: These are:

1. A review of the potential hazards, risks and benefits of the application of fertilizer pellets,
2. ABTP emissions modeling
3. Epidemiological studies in ABTP neighbourhood (before and after biosolids incinerators were shut down in 1999).

Do you think that these should be looked at before the Works Committee and the City councilor's vote on a plan for ABTP?

Do you think you should get to see these so that you can make an informed opinion and represent your thoughts to your elected representatives?

**Woodbine Park Playground**

By J. David Windrim

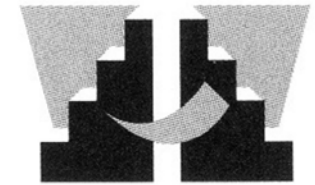
Following a series of public consultations work was started on the new playground in November of 2003. The project resumed in the spring of 2004 and continued until completion in July of 2004. Ward 32 Councilor Deputy Mayor Sandra Bussin presided over the opening ceremonies on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The event was well attended by members of the community as well as officials from City Hall and the press who reported the event in the local newspapers. The final design was influenced by the community through the public consultation process.

The equipment installed accommodates pre schoolers, entry level and grade level children. Two soccer fields are located adjacent to the North end of the play area. Since completion the playground has been very popular with children and their families from the immediate community as well as with visiting families to the Park and the Beach. Work on the toilets and rest rooms are scheduled to begin this fall for a spring completion. They will be located West of the playground closer to the berm just East of the Band shell. The playground and splash pad has been a wonderful enhancement of the



new Woodbine Park and is much enjoyed by many children from our community and beyond.

For those of you who may not know, the playground is located on the West side of Northern Dancer close to the intersection of Boardwalk Drive.



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## ShakespeareWorks 2004

by Philip A. Knox

Well after much anticipation we finally got to see the first work of ShakespeareWorks on the shores of Lake Ontario at Ashbridges Bay this past summer. The rendition of Romeo and Juliet went back to the original text as "The Bard" himself created it. The new Home Depot Theatre was an excellent venue for this production with every seat providing a great view to the action. My "Chief Family Officer", Pat had wisely brought a blanket and insisted on extra sweaters, which turned out to be a lifesaver as the open theatre became increasingly chilly as the night went on.

Having seen past productions and other versions of this play it was refreshing to see the play in its entirety. Hats off to R. H. Thomson and the entire cast for a great evening's entertainment.

Of all of the activities that come to the beach area this is one that I would dearly like to see grow. It can bring additional tourist dollars to the beach restaurants and bars and with the TTC's graciously extended bus service hours of operation and route extension it helped to relieve parking burdens. I believe that this activity is a great contribution to the area and we should continue to support the great work they are doing.

This past summer along with the evening performances, the ShakespeareWorks provided a day theatre school for children at the site. Unfortunately, in 2004 the cold weather was a major factor in effecting the number of people who made it out, and the goal on a go forward basis will be to grow the audience base.

The plan for 2005 programme is hoping to see sufficient funding to expand the offering to two different productions, along with the continuation

of the day children theatre school. If you are interested in getting involved with the ShakespeareWorks or finding out more about the plans, you can reach them at their web site:

<http://www.shakespeareworks.com>


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### What's it going to cost?

Another consideration that was not included in the draft BRMP report was an evaluation of the "downstream costs" in the life-cycle costs of any proposed solution.

In July 2004 the Toronto Public Health Department issued a report entitled "Air Pollution Burden of Illness in Toronto: 2004 Summary"

(A complete copy can be obtained from: [http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/health/hphe/pdf/air\\_and\\_health\\_burden\\_illness.pdf](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/health/hphe/pdf/air_and_health_burden_illness.pdf))

In that report it states....

"A previous study, released in May 2000, estimated that exposure to five common smog-related air pollutants contributed to 1,000 premature deaths and about 5,500 hospitalizations each year. That study based its risk estimates on information in the scientific literature regarding acute (short-term) exposures to air pollutants. When scientists track peak air pollution levels over time, they notice that more people experience health problems (such as severe heart and breathing difficulties that require admission to hospital) and early death right after pollution peaks than on days when pollution levels are much lower. ...

Based on the current burden of illness study, Toronto Public Health estimates that air pollution in our city contributes to about 1,700 premature deaths and 6,000 hospitalizations on an annual basis. The current mortality estimate is based on the health risk associated with acute exposures to ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide, as well as the health risk associated with chronic exposure to fine particles (PM2.5). Scientific studies by others have demonstrated that fine particles are associated with chronic endpoints such as cancer. ...

Air Quality Valuation Model. This model additionally assesses economic costs

associated with health burdens in the population. The Ontario Medical Association used this methodology in its 2000 study that estimated that the illness costs of air pollution in Ontario were more than \$1 billion a year in hospital admissions, emergency room visits and absenteeism. (Source: Ontario Medical Association. The illness costs of air pollution in Ontario: a summary of findings. June 2000.)"

### What could happen to our air?

Now another key comparison that was not in the draft BRMP report. I was concerned to note that in the full-expanded version of the draft BRMP (Appendix 6 pg. 4), that several "known pollutants" were not listed in the comparison of Multiple Hearth vs. Fluidized Bed Incinerators. Neither the quantities of these pollutants that fluidized bed incinerator would put into the air in Toronto, nor the associated human health hazards were mentioned. Some of the pollutants omitted are known carcinogens, while others are suspected to be carcinogens.

**SANDRA BUSSIN**  
City Councillor  
Ward 32  
Beaches - East York (South)



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### In summary

There are better ways to deal with our biosolids then resorting to technology of the past that has "know consequences on human health". The Ontario Provincial budget of \$80 billion a year spends \$30 billion of that amount on Ontario Health care, and it will have to keep on increasing as our air quality continues to deteriorate.

I believe the second option listed in the draft BRMP is the one that we should be exploring. We should be spending money on better anaerobic digestion of fertilizer cake to meet Federal land application guidelines. Spend the money to fix the pellitizer, in fact spend the money to build a second pellitizer and deal with 100% of the biosolids. The pellitizer gets rid of just about all of the water and the reduction in the number of trucks to ship "a profitable, marketable, more compact product" would be a lot less then the trucks required to ship fertilizer cake thereby further reducing the Cities already overburdened air quality.

These things will not happen by themselves. I started by saying, "Who is watching our air Quality?" and answering, "we will have to do it ourselves." I urge you to check out the sources, become informed and make up your own mind. If, after that, you feel that Toronto's air shed is worth protecting...

You need to let the Works and Emergency Services, know what you think:  
Send your thoughts to:  
Nancy Martins, Public Consultation & Community Outreach  
City of Toronto – Works and Emergency Services  
55 John Street, 19th Floor  
Toronto, ON, M5V 3C6  
Fax: 416-392-2974  
Email: biosolids@toronto.ca

You need to let your elected Councillor know what you think:  
(Below is a web page of your councillors mailing address, fax number or email address)  
<http://app.toronto.ca/im/council/councillors.jsp>

You need to let your elected Mayor know what you think:  
Mayor David Miller  
Mail: Toronto City Hall, 2nd Floor, 100 Queen St. West, Toronto ON M5H 2N2  
Fax: 416-696-3687  
Email: mayor\_miller@toronto.ca

**The deadline for submissions of your comments was originally set at Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004, that has now been extended to Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004.**  
**Remember, saying nothing is a vote for incineration and acceptance of the associated health risks.**

**Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant (ABTP)**  
[http://www.toronto.ca/water/wastewater\\_treatment/treatment\\_plants/ashbridges/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/water/wastewater_treatment/treatment_plants/ashbridges/index.htm)



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### History of Triangle Homes

#### By John Ellis

As we accumulate more histories on Triangle homes, we see how much more there is to learn. One of our pursuits is to determine the time frames in which different parts of the area were developed.

For example, we have published a photo from 1912 of the original Woodbine Racetrack on the south side of Queen, that shows homes on Woodbine but none on the north side of Queen and none on the streets that then ended at Queen. It appears that homes along Queen and the lower ends of Lark, Lockwood, Brookmount, and Rainsford were developed later than 1912.

We have established that at least one home, at 232 Woodbine, was built in 1907. This supports evidence in the photo of the racetrack – housing was already on Woodbine by 1912.

The original zoning plans we published earlier seem to suggest that the first homes in the Triangle would be along Kingston Road and Woodbine Avenue. These plans suggested that development would have spread west and south from the intersection, perhaps as early as the latter decades of the nineteenth century, but we have little direct evidence of this.

Meanwhile, the history on the home at 29 Lockwood established that houses in that block were built in 1917. However, some

Triangle residents on interior streets have established that their homes were built as early as 1910. For example, our two-storey detached home, at 52 Rainsford Road, was built in 1910. Our neighbour's home, at 50 Rainsford, is also detached but is a three-storey home with a *stone foundation*. The rest of the homes in the block are all semi-detached. The "elderly sisters" that were the first occupants of the semi at 54/56 Rainsford told us that our house "was already there when their house was built".



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Also, our home is on the *north half of one lot and the south half of the next*. What do we take this to mean? Clearly, the street lots were rearranged to accommodate different planning needs. *Is it possible that the houses at 50 and 52 Rainsford were among the earliest in this block and the semi-detached houses came later under a revised lot plan?*

We'd also love to know the histories of the fine homes at the intersections throughout the Triangle, for example, at the intersection of Dixon and Rainsford or Columbine and Rainsford. *Were these*

*homes built at the same time as the semi's, or earlier, or later?*

Do you have any historical records for your Triangle home? Please share it with us so we can build on our knowledge of the very special part of the Beach in which we live. Contact John Ellis at [ellisjohn@rogers.com](mailto:ellisjohn@rogers.com), or by mail at 52 Rainsford Road or by phone at 416-694-3288.

