



December 2005

Media Backgrounder

Newmarket and Aurora Equalization Tanks

The Regional Municipality of York provides sanitary sewage servicing to the communities of Aurora and Newmarket through the York Durham Sewage System. A comprehensive York Durham Sewage System (YDSS) Master Plan was completed, through an Environmental Assessment process, in 1997 and updated in 2002. The Master Plan documents identified the need for flow balancing or equalization within this part of the system and the potential for servicing extensions to the communities of Queensville and Holland Landing. A subsequent Class Environmental Assessment, completed in 2002, reaffirmed the need for equalization tanks in Newmarket and Aurora.

Newmarket Equalization Tank Project Description:

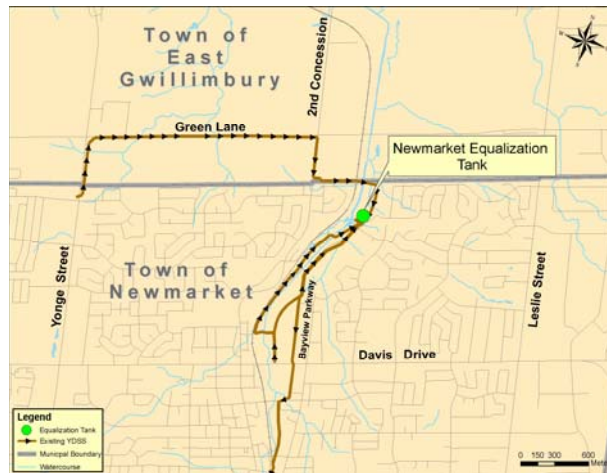
The Newmarket Equalization Tank project has received a Certificate of Approval (C of A) from the Ministry of the Environment to proceed with construction.

The Equalization Tank will be built entirely underground and will fill by gravity from the existing pumping station during times of peak flow. When the peak flow subsides, the sewage returns to the pumping station's wet well and the freshly emptied Equalization Tank is automatically washed.

The project will assist in optimizing the YDSS capacity to meet the Region's planning objectives to the year 2021.

Project Status:

The contract for the Newmarket Equalization Tank project was tendered in August 2005 and awarded in November 2005. Construction is due to start before the end of 2005 and is scheduled for completion before the end of 2006.



Cost:

The estimated cost of the Newmarket Equalization Tank is \$10.5 million.

Construction Phases:

- Mobilization
- Demolition of the old Operations Centre
- Excavation for the Equalization Tank
- Construction of physical structure
- Mechanical and electrical equipment installation
- Roads and landscaping
- Commissioning
- Demobilization

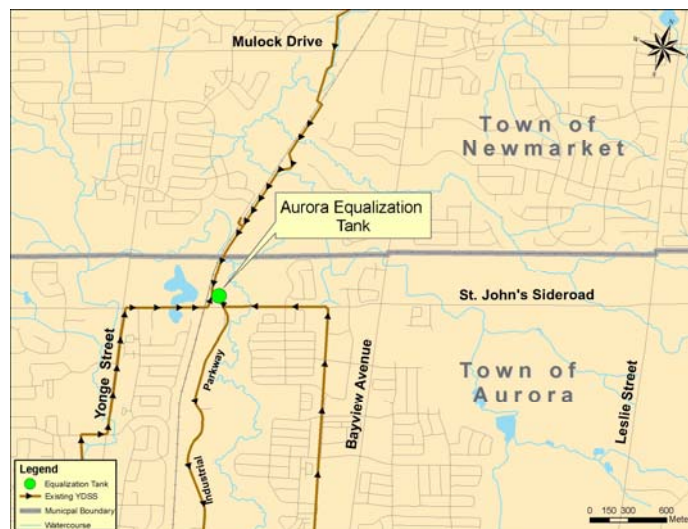
Aurora Equalization Tank Project Description:

A Class EA report for this project was filed with the Ministry of the Environment on September 22, 2005.

Present projections of the sewage peak flow coming into the Aurora pumping station are exceeding the station capacity and could result in overflows into the Tannery Creek and/or basement flooding. To prevent this from occurring, the construction of two Equalization Tanks, one in Newmarket and one in Aurora, was recommended. The Class EA Report for the Aurora pumping station holding tank recommended construction of an Equalization Tank in its vicinity.

The Equalization Tank will be built entirely underground and will fill by gravity from the existing pumping station during times of peak flow. When the peak flow subsides, the sewage returns to the pumping station's wet well and the freshly emptied Equalization Tank is automatically washed.

The project will assist in optimizing the YDSS capacity to meet the Region's planning objectives to the year 2021.



Project Status:

The project is in the pre-design and final design stage and is scheduled to be tendered prior to April 2006 and awarded no later than May 2006. Construction will start in 2006 and be completed by mid-2007.

Cost:

The estimated cost of the Aurora Equalization Tank is \$10.5 million.

Construction Phases:

- Mobilization
- Excavation for the Equalization Tank
- Construction of physical structure
- Mechanical and electrical equipment installation
- Roads and landscaping
- Commissioning
- Demobilization

For more information, the media should visit the York Region Web site: www.york.ca or contact:

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