



Friday, October 14, 2005

Media Release

York Region provides wastewater progress report to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

16th Avenue project moving ahead well

NEWMARKET – Progress on the second phase of 16th Avenue trunk sewer is moving ahead well the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Sustainable Communities Board heard today.

York Region Commissioner of Transportation and Works, Bruce Macgregor, presented a number of items concerning the construction of the 7.2 kilometre pipe, including:

- York Region's \$30 million Environment Management Plan and Well Mitigation Process
 - \$20 million for the extensive monitoring of 471 sites, including fisheries, wetlands and woodlots
 - \$10 million to address over 550 resident calls and initiate well/water modification for 170 households (less than five per cent of the total wells in the area)
- York Region's \$1 million Constructive Engagement process to engage stakeholders in regular project updates
- Thriving fish populations in streams where water discharge is taking place
- No significant changes in the health of the ecosystem in wetland and woodlot monitoring sites
- De-watering rates significantly lower than predicted, with further reductions anticipated by January 2006

The 16th Avenue trunk sewer project is a critical element in the twinning of the York Durham Sewage System (YDSS), designed to meet approved growth in York Region. The YDSS is a series of trunk sewers that conveys 94 per cent of York Region's wastewater for treatment to the state-of-the-art Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Pickering – important infrastructure that underpins our sustainable communities.

For more information on the YDSS, please visit www.york.ca and follow the links on the main page titled "York Region wastewater infrastructure projects".

Residents who feel that de-watering along 16th Avenue has affected their well water levels are encouraged to call the Region's toll-free hotline at 1-888-445-4418. All calls will be returned and wells assessed within 24 hours.

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