Environment Minister reorganizing Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory Committee

(By Dr. Boyd Upper)

John Budz, District Director of the Ministry of the Environment for Halton and Peel Region appointed the Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory Committee (CASAC) in early 2007. This followed the November 2006 publication of the Phase II Report of the Clarkson Airshed Study.

CASAC was mandated to develop an airshed management program which would include a multi-year monitoring program of the Clarkson Airshed and to begin a series of meetings with industries in the Airshed. With regard to the latter, CASAC was to use “moral suasion” to get these industries “to go beyond compliance” and reduce their current emissions to levels below those established by MOE’s own guidelines.

Those appointed to the committee included officials from the Halton and Peel Regional Health Offices, representatives from the Town of Oakville and the City of Mississauga, representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, two representatives of a newly organized 11-member industry group to be called the Clarkson Airshed Study Industry Association (CASIA), and six independent residents of Clarkson.

The Co-chairs were Julie Desjardins, one of the independent representatives, and Stephen Harkness, General Manager of St. Lawrence Cement.

The 11-member industry committee, CASIA, was also asked to finance the acquisition of four monitoring stations and to commit to funding their annual operations. The sites for the monitoring stations were eventually established, municipal clearances obtained, and funding raised after CASIA was incorporated so that their monitoring activities could be insured.

The original target for the start of monitoring in the spring or early summer of 2008 could not be met because of the time it took CASIA to meet organizational and legal requirements.

In July of 2008 the Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory Committee passed three resolutions which were sent to the Ministers of Environment, Energy, Health and to Premier Dalton McGuinty.

The first resolution called on the Premier to block the location of a gas-fired generating station in the Clarkson air shed area because it would add substantial quantities of toxic pollution to an already “stressed” airshed.

The second called for MOE, and not CASIA the industry association, to be responsible for the collection of data from the air monitoring program. It also asked that MOE provide CASAC with proper scientific interpretation of the data as well as a health risk analysis.

The third resolution asked MOE to release the findings of its 2007 follow-up study of the presence of acrolein and acrylonitrile which had been detected in the Clarkson Airshed as early as June 2003.

MOE’s response was to discontinue meetings of CASAC, to employ an expert in conflict resolution to meet individually with members of CASAC, and to report back to the Ministry. The consultant’s report concluded that CASAC was dysfunctional and recommended that it either be disbanded or reconstituted with emphasis on adding technical expertise on air pollution to the group.

Minister of Energy, John Gerretsen, at an April 21, 2009 Ontario Racquet Club meeting attended by Mayor McCallion, Councillors Mullin and Corbasson, Julie Desjardins, and nearly a dozen presidents of ratepayer associations in south Mississauga, including this association, said that he would announce shortly the reconstitution of CASAC and that he would be naming one of his senior staff...
Local residents united at an April 7th public meeting to loudly oppose a proposal by Jacan Construction to build a professional building on a vacant piece of land located at the corner of Lorne Park Road and Albertson Crescent. Councillor Pat Mullin called the meeting to gage community reaction to the initiative. The development, pictured above, would have a total gross floor area of 8,490 sq. ft. and a height of about 30 feet. There would be 22 parking spaces with approximately 50% of the building occupied by Jacan and its four employees. The remainder of the building would be used for professional offices (lawyer and/or accountant) with Jacan committing to not accept medical offices with their increased requirement for parking. Objections centred around concerns that increased traffic to and from the complex would add to congestion on local streets. There was also concern that 22 parking spots would not be adequate and that cars would park along Albertson.

The meeting concluded with Councillor Mullin undertaking to set up a focus group to review this proposal in more detail. A second public meeting will be held after this group completes its work.

Residents Oppose Development Proposal

as Chair.

During this April 21 meeting, which was called by Mississauga South MPP Charles Sousa, the Minister also heard a unanimous opinion from those attending that the location of an 850 MW gas-fired generating station in Clarkson, as is being proposed by Energy Minister George Smitherman, is unacceptable. The Minister acknowledged that he had heard the comments and that he was preparing to strengthen air quality requirements by looking at the cumulative impact of new polluters in a stressed air shed.

Since then MOE has announced that a senior MOE official would be interviewing prospective future members of CASAC individually during the month of May and prior to the announcement of a newly reconstituted committee. Representatives of resident groups are expected to be asked to serve on this reconstituted committee.
It has also been announced that an Inter Agency Health and Environmental Working Group is to be formed. It will include representatives of local health units in Halton and Peel as well as appointees from the Ministries of Health and the Environment.

The Working Group's first task will be "to consult with environmental experts to get solid, scientific answers on the adequacy of the Clarkson Airshed Study". This inter-agency group will report the results of this consultation at a public meeting to be called by MOE before the end of May, 2009.

MOE has also announced that it will be conducting additional monitoring for acrolein, acrylonitrile and dichloromethane along Royal Windsor Drive this summer.

Go Transit Update

(By Donna McCuaig, Ivan Sack)

GO Transit is in the midst of a $200 million expansion which will see a third rail line added to the two already operating on its Lakeshore West line with more, and longer trains also running each day.

In an effort to reduce the number of cars on local highways and, most prominently, the QEW, the Government of Ontario has adopted a transportation strategy which is encouraging (forcing) municipalities to approve more housing in areas in close proximity to public transit hubs.

In Clarkson, Go Station is one of these hubs which explains why we are seeing a large amount of new residential construction at the corner of Southdown Road and Lakeshore Road, and elsewhere around Clarkson Village.
A pedestrian walkway has also been built over Southdown Road to accommodate pedestrians walking to the station from the new housing at the corner of Southdown and Lakeshore.

Construction on the project began in May 2007. Work on two of the largest bridges, those over the Credit River and 16-Mile Creek, began in the fall of 2007 and was completed in summer 2008. Work to widen the bridges at Joshua Creek and Southdown Road is also complete.

The Mississauga Road bridge was finished in February 2009 with a pedestrian walkway over that road scheduled for completion this October. (CN is working on the pedestrian bridge at Mississauga Road as part of a cost-sharing initiative with the City of Mississauga.)

CN is presently installing the new third track. The first section is being laid at Kerr Street with the last rails going in at Clarkson and Oakville stations. Work at the Oakville Station wraps up late this year with Clarkson Station to be completed in late 2010.

Platform work to accommodate the third track at Port Credit also begins this summer and is due to be completed in October. Preparation for the Oakville Yard is underway with work on the Stavebank wall having begun. A new VIA building at Oakville is now operational.

Continued on page 6)
Dear Association Member:
For the past several years and, more intensely since last summer, this association, and other community associations and ad-hoc groups across southern Mississauga, have spent many hours organizing ourselves to lobby municipal and provincial politicians, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), and the media to press our position that the Liberal government of Premier Dalton McGuinty must not build a huge, 850 MW gas-fired generating station near Clarkson. Most recently we combined in a huge effort which had thousands of local residents sign a petition which M.P.P. Charles Sousa tabled in the Legislature.

We cited significant health concerns as identified in a study which the McGuinty government itself undertook several years ago as the reason for our objection. And while we accept that there is a requirement for additional hydro generation, we have said that a plant such as this should be built in a less densely populated area—either east of the GTA or at Nanticoke on Lake Erie.

The government will soon close a large coal-fired generating station at Nanticoke killing many jobs in that small community. Nanticoke already has the transmission lines OPA cites as a compelling reason for placing its generation plant here, and Nanticoke could be converted to a gas-fired generation plant for a fraction of the cost of building a new plant here. Even more, that community would welcome a gas-fired generation station.

The trouble with this argument is that since the government already owns Nanticoke it would have to pay for the conversion. By contracting out the financing and operation of the new plant it wants to build here, it manages to shift these costs to the private sector.

And so our health concerns become debateable to the point where, as Dr. Upper writes in this issue's lead article, the Environment Minister is now discrediting the study his own department wrote and initially supported.

While we met with OPA repeatedly, we always knew that Energy Minister George Smitherman and Premier McGuinty are our real targets. Mr. Smitherman’s directive to OPA stands without so much as a comma having been changed. If this was a First Nation issue the First Nation would blockade Royal Windsor Drive and bring the entire RFP process to a halt for many years to come. This won’t happen here and I very much expect the government to plough ahead and announce its winning proponent this summer.

Ivan Sack 
President
(Go Transit continued) with the old building slated for demolition.

Your executive has been following this initiative closely and at one point met with then-M.P.P. Tim Peterson, GO Transit, and CN officials to successfully lobby to have pads which reduce vibration inserted under the new third rail as it extends past our neighbourhood.

Frank MacTaggart resigns

Frank MacTaggart, who over the past seven years has served as Vice President, President, and most recently, as a Director of this association has resigned and will be relocating to a new home elsewhere in Mississauga. We thank Frank for his exemplary service to this association and community and wish him and his wife our very best!

Executive creates special parks committee
(By Ivan Sack)

At its April 15 meeting your association executive established a special Parks Committee to review outstanding issues associated with Whiteoaks Park and to work with Councillor Pat Mullin and City of Mississauga officials to address them.

Area represented by Whiteoaks Lorne Park Community Association

Committee members are: Ivan Sack (Chair), Donna McCuaig, Norm Dale, Ralph Coulston, and Ted Gittings.

Following the deadly canker worm infestations of four and five years ago, the city cut down over 300 dead trees in the park with the majority of these left on the ground to rot. As a result, residents have complained that these fallen trees, along with stumps and limbs, are unsightly and reduce their enjoyment of the forested portion of the park.

- The committee therefore identified the need to reduce the number of fallen trees as a priority.
- Given the number of trees that
Upcoming Annual Meeting
Whiteoaks Lorne Park Community Association
Annual General Meeting
September 29, 2009
7:30PM
Lorne Park Secondary School

were cut, another priority identified by the committee is the need to replant trees to eventually re-establish the tree canopy which once covered the forested portion of the park and prevented the growth of grape, raspberry and other foreign plants. The committee’s preference is to plant as many Red and Whiteoaks as possible to maintain the character of the forest.

- A third priority is the need to clear euonymus, garlic mustard and other invasive ground cover which choke the growth of trillium and other wild flowers which up until recently covered the forest floor.

- Park users will be familiar with a path which runs along the creek from Truscott Drive to the hydro corridor. The committee has identified the need to extend this path from the hydro corridor to a pedestrian walkway which runs from Lorne Park Secondary School to Birchwood Drive. This would make it possible for residents to follow the creek from Truscott to Birchwood. Lorne Park students now use a rough path and makeshift bridge (old door, stones, branches) to cross the creek. We will urge that the path be upgraded and that a small bridge be built over the creek.

- During the winter city officials also approached this association to ask if we would support the dismantling of the ball diamond which is located in Whiteoaks Park. Junior league baseball teams require a permit from the city to play at the city’s baseball parks. For the past several years the city says it has not ’permitted’ this ball diamond as baseball is declining across the city and there was a reduced need for this diamond. The city is also aware that residents along Whiteoaks Drive and adjacent roads object to baseball players parking their cars along the streets in front of their

“Gallery in the Garden”
Fine Art Show & Sale
&
Strawberry Fair
Benares Historic House
Sponsored by the Friends of the Museums
Featuring the fabulous Benares Strawberry Shortcake

Sunday, June 7, 2009
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
1507 Clarkson Road N. Mississauga

Come out and enjoy the beautiful grounds of this magnificent historic house,
wander the lawns, taste our strawberry shortcake and see local artisans
who will be showing and selling their work.
(Art, Pottery, Blown Glass, Jewellery, Mosaics, Silk Painting, Wood Working)

For more information call 905-615-4860
www.museumsofmississauga.com

FREE ADMISSION
Another sign of Spring!

(By Ted Gittings)

Christ Church Clarkson, located on Mazo Crescent, held its 17th annual ‘Spring Thing’ garage sale Saturday, April 25th.

This much anticipated event is the church’s biggest ‘friend raising event’ of the year. Items were donated by both church members and the local community with several hundred shoppers lined up before the 8:00AM opening.

Proceeds from the sale support the life and work of Christ Church, The United Church of Canada. Christ Church also responds to national and international crises and natural disasters with monetary gifts. Christ Church and its’ predecessor congregations have been an integral part of the Clarkson community since 1826.

School Board changes boundaries
(By Paul Koreen)

Trustees voted at the February 24, 2009 meeting of the Peel District School Board to expand Lorne Park Secondary School’s boundaries.

The boundary change will be phased-in beginning this September with Grades 9 and 10. One subsequent grade will then be added in each of the following years. As a result of this change an area generally referred to as ‘Watercolours’ will shift from being within Port Credit Secondary School’s boundaries to those of Lorne Park Secondary School.

For more information on Lorne Park Secondary’s new boundaries please visit: www.peel.edu.on.ca/

Thoughts or Ideas?

We welcome member feedback on issues and activities which impact our neighbourhood.

Feel free to contact any member of the executive (see page 3) with your thoughts.

This newsletter is produced by the Whiteoaks Lorne Park Community Association

Writer / Layout
Ivan Sack
905-855-5370