

Town hosting workshops for air quality bylaw reporting

The Town of Oakville will be holding several workshops in the near future to help local industry comply with the Town's Health Protection Air Quality Bylaw.

The workshops, which will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24, March 31 and April 14, will review the emission-reporting process to ensure compliance with Section 4 of the Town's bylaw.

Under the bylaw, all facilities that fit under Section 4, including all facilities with provincial Certificates of Approval for air emissions and major emitters, are required to submit a report to the Town on their fine particulate matter and health-risk air pollution emissions by May 1, 2011.

Facilities that are not major emitters and do not have a Certificate of Approval for air emissions have until September of 2012 to comply with the bylaw's Section 4 reporting requirements.

The compliance date for existing major emitter approvals under Section 6 of the bylaw has been extended to September of 2012.

The compliance date for proposed major emitter approvals under Section 5 of the bylaw remains unchanged as Feb. 1, 2010.

The Health Protection Air Quality Bylaw, which was passed Feb. 1, 2010, aims to make Oakville an easier place to breathe by requiring all facilities that emit fine particulate matter, or

other pollutants, which produce fine particulate matter, to make a one-time report of emission levels to the Town.

Further reporting is only required if there are changes in those emission levels.

Facilities classified as 'major emitters' of air pollutants, based on standards determined by the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), will need to go through a \$25,000 town approval process during which council will decide whether to allow such a facility to continue to operate in Oakville.

Existing facilities that agree to develop a five-year plan leading to a 25 per cent reduction in emissions will be given approval to continue to operate. Those that do not agree to a reduction plan will need to convince Town council there is a public interest in allowing them to continue to operate despite their emissions.

The bylaw also gives the Town the power to stop new major emitters from taking root in Oakville.

Guidance documents for Section 4, background information and presentations are available at www.oakville.ca/healthprotectionairquality.htm.

Anyone with questions or concerns regarding the bylaw can contact Jeffrey Lee at 905-845-6601, ext. 3149 or by e-mail at healthprotection@oakville.ca.

Oakville Harbours business plan approved

After months of public and stakeholder consultation the Town of Oakville has approved a plan that will govern the direction Oakville's harbours take over the next 10 years.

The Oakville Harbours Financial Strategic Business Plan, approved last week, seeks to ensure ongoing economic viability and sustainability and focuses on such things as maintaining and enhancing partnerships with boat clubs, dredging options and alternatives, lease renewals, transient moorings and parkland and harbour improvements.

"This is an adaptable business plan and a responsible financial model that allows us to evolve as the economy evolves," said Oakville Mayor Rob Burton.

"Our harbours have operated on a self-sustaining business plan with minimal support from the tax levy. The new business plan continues this model."

The approved financial model is based on several key principles intended to help

ensure the reserve funding is never completely used during the 10-year period, including:

- Achieving market rate for mooring slips and ancillary service;
- Achieving market rent for land licence/lease agreements;
- Maintaining dredging fees plus a three per cent annual increase starting in 2011 until 2021 or until completion of the Sediment Management Plan (subject to budget approval);
- Phasing-in internal support costs in accordance with town policy;
- Transferring dockwall and pier repairs, and maintenance to the tax levy subject to council approval;

The Town of Oakville operates both Oakville and Bronte Harbours. These natural harbours accommodate several hundred sail and power boats, as well as recreational facilities. For more details, visit www.oakvilleharbours.ca.



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