



Powered by **Oakville Beaver**

Small - Large | Print | Email | Add to Favourites |

| Jun 25, 2010 - 5:21 PM | 0

Air quality task force releases report

Recommends banning new sources of air pollution

The South West GTA Air Quality Task Force has recommended that no new major sources of pollution be developed in the already taxed Oakville-Clarkson Airshed.

The task force, which was created by the Minister of the Environment in September, unveiled its more than 30 recommendations, Thursday, for an Action plan to reduce vehicular, industrial and residential emissions.

"The Action Plan creates a unique opportunity for the Ministry of the Environment and its many potential partners to make a real difference through sustainable improvement in air quality in this airshed," said Task Force Chair Dr. David Balsillie in his report.

"We all appreciate what it means to have cleaner air for ourselves, our children and the environment. The Ontario government has done much to improve air quality in the province. It can do more, beginning in the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed by breaking new ground through a new model of airshed management. This model also has the potential for implementation in other problematic airsheds across Ontario."

One of the recommendations discussed in the task force's report called for the creation of an Airshed Management System that looked at air quality impacts on a cumulative rather than case-by-case basis.

This would be significant. It would mean that when a newly proposed emissions source is being considered for an area, government officials would not look solely at how much

Related Stories

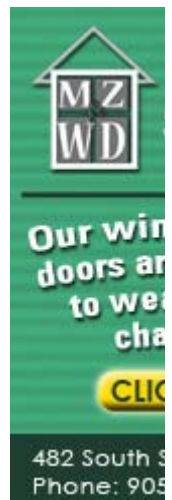
- [C4CA takes the fight to Ford](#)

We all appreciate what it means to have cleaner air for ourselves, our children and the environment. The Ontario government has done much to improve air quality in the province. It can do more, beginning in the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed by breaking new ground through a new model of airshed management. This model also has the potential for implementation in other problematic airsheds across Ontario."- Task Force Chair Dr. David Balsillie.

Featured



Featured



pollution that source was bringing to the area, but how much pollution is already there due to all other emitters.

Recommendation 4 states 'all applications for Certificates of Approval for new or modified industrial activities, which will increase emissions within the airshed, must be considered in light of the current capacity of the airshed. This recommendation would apply to the issuance of a Certificate of Approval for the (900-megawatt TransCanada) power plant.'

The report went on to state that the approval of new emissions in the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed should only be granted if there is no new net contribution to existing pollution levels.

With this in mind, the report says no new major pollution sources should be permitted within the already taxed Oakville-Clarkson Airshed unless there is some kind of plan to fully offset key air contaminants like PM (particulate matter) 2.5, PM 10, Nitrogen Oxide (NOX) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

Oakville MPP Kevin Flynn has given the report his approval calling it a positive step to cleaning up the airshed.

He also said the major recommendation of no new major emitters sends a clear message to TransCanada that its 900-megawatt gas-fired power plant, proposed for the Ford-owned lands of 1500 Royal Windsor Dr., has no place in Oakville.

"The addition of a new industrial emitter is a giant step backwards and the task force made it clear we cannot wait any longer to take action," said Flynn.

"I remain committed to ensuring that the TransCanada power plant is not built on the proposed Ford property site and as we go forward, I will be engaging every citizen, industry, small-business and community organization in an effort to reduce energy consumption and overall emissions. I have every faith in our community that we will take a powerful first step by committing to emission reductions, which will set an example for the rest of the province on how to clean up our air."

The recommendations also drew praise from Oakville Mayor Rob Burton.

"The province appointed Dr. Balsillie to identify forward-looking solutions and he has responded to this challenge," said Burton.

"The town agrees that a new Airshed Management System that looks at cumulative impacts of emissions and sets specific air quality improvement targets and strategies is required to achieve real improvements in local air quality. Oakville's innovative health protection air quality by-law recognizes the harmful effects of PM2.5, so we fully support Dr. Balsillie's call for a provincial standard to regulate the emission of this harmful substance."

Burton also agreed with the task forces recommendation regarding the proposed power plant.

"Council is committed to protecting the health and safety of our community and the proposed power plant puts both of these at risk," said Burton.

"Dr. Balsillie's findings confirm that it would be irresponsible to locate a power plant in the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed given the current levels of pollution that already exist in the airshed."

While the task force may have called for a halt to new emissions in the airshed, it also pointed out that the emissions currently being produced here are also unacceptable.

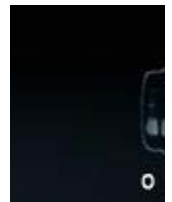
In this portion of the report the task force states that pollution from transportation, industrial and residential sources must come down and that municipal and regional governments, local industry and residents will all have to participate to make these reductions happen.

Some of these recommendations included:

- That funding be made available to industries through the Province's Industrial Energy Reduction Program along with an incentive fund to assist industries with going beyond environmental compliance.
- That participation in airshed management be mandated through the Certificate of Approval process.
- That the Ministry of the Environment develop a strategy to deal effectively with air pollution originating from outside the Oakville-Clarkson Airshed.
- That outreach, education and moral-suasion be used to persuade residents to reduce their emissions into the community through such steps as using high efficiency gas furnaces and high combustion efficiency fireplace inserts, refraining from using gasoline powered gardening equipment (particularly during smog events), utilizing public transportation and avoiding the use of barbeques on smog days.

Most Pop

Today | This W



Featured

Sweers Masor
Done Right & F
Free! Our Sites
Spotless!

Storage Solut
Park in your ga
store with us. V
guarantee the l

**J. A. Towing
(Brampton) Li**
We are a family
business with s
values and a te

Oakville Elect
Sales - Service
Rebuild Motors
Pumps or New
Brands.

**Sundance Spa
Spas Sauna &
Tubs**
Come in and d
what The Sunc
Spa Store can
you!

D & S Signs
Installations &
Lamp Service.

- That the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) should proceed quickly with plans to plant trees and other vegetative barriers to absorb pollutants generated by the vehicles using the major highways in the airshed.
- That MTO, municipalities, industry and construction companies adopt best management practices to develop dedicated street sweeping programs for removing road dust materials so that the re-entrainment of particles by car and truck traffic is lessened.
- That industrial and construction sites adopt best management practices to lower fugitive dust emissions. Solutions range from the application of dust suppressants to the paving of parking lots and loading areas.
- That Metrolinx accelerate the timetable for modernizing its fleet of locomotives from diesel to electric technologies. Consideration should be given to making the electrification of the Lakeshore West Line the first priority.
- That transit, commuter and local forms of transportation be improved to encourage utilization of these facilities, including synchronization of buses and GO trains. Items such as one-fare tickets, right-size buses, structured and safe biking lanes and ample parking availability at all transit venues are also examples of possible improvements.
- That municipal and commercial fleets of motorized vehicles be converted to lower emission vehicles as soon as possible.

The task force is also calling on the Ministry of the Environment to work with the community to see these recommendations implemented and is advocating the creation of an Oakville-Clarkson Airshed Action Committee for that purpose.

Balsillie did not work alone to come up with these recommendations, but rather was aided by members of a Community Advisory Committee he assembled.

The members of this committee included Citizens for Clean Air President and Oakville resident Doug MacKenzie, Director of the Whiteoaks Lorne Park Community Association and former Clarkson Airshed Study member Dr. Boyd Upper, former Co-Chair of the Clarkson Airshed Study Advisory Committee Julie Desjardins, Mississauga Residents' Association Network Spokesperson Dorothy Tomiuk, Holcim (Canada) Inc., General Manager Dave Fletcher, Daimler Buses Environment, Health and Safety Specialist Irina Vassilieva, Petro-Canada Lubricants Plant General Manager Mark Hiseler, Town of Oakville Environmental Policy Director Cindy Toth, City of Mississauga Environmental Engineer Jeff Smylie, Peel Medical Officer of Health Dr. David Mowat and Peel Public Health Environmental Health Director Paul Callanan.

To see the full list of recommendations visit <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/air/swgta-air/message.php>.

[Small - Large](#) | [Print](#) | [Email](#) | [Add to Favourites](#) |

User Comments

[Login to comment](#)

Newest first 

More Stories

News

[Is Burlington too white?](#)

[Read before burning](#)

[Two new provincial highways for Halton?](#)

['Time for change': Ward 1 candidate](#)

[HST just another financial burden for seniors: Hudak](#)

[Missing teen found in T.O.](#)

[Councillor hosts Niagara to GTA corridor meeting](#)

[Act of vandalism leaves Nelson High School with water damage](#)

[OT teacher nominated for Governor General's Award](#)

[Community opposes condo on Lambert-Smye estate](#)

About Us	Announcements	BramptonGuardian.com	Goldbook.ca	The Guelph Mercury
Advertise with Us	Jobs	CambridgeTimes.ca	InsuranceHotline.com	The Hamilton Spectator
Contact Us	Cars	CottageCountryNow.ca	Leasebusters.com	The Toronto Star ©
Corporate Sales	Real Estate	DurhamRegion.com	MyHolidayHomeRental.com	The Waterloo Region Record
Newsletter Signup	Rentals	InsideToronto.com	OurFaves.com	
Order a Photo	Classifieds	Mississauga.com	Save.ca	
Print Editions	Flyers	Simcoe.com	Toronto.com	
Sitemap		YorkRegion.com		
Work for Us				