



Community Voices Support for The Port Hope Project

The following comments (used with permission) have been excerpted from presentations offered during the CNSC licensing hearing for the Port Hope Area Initiative, held August 26-27, 2009:

Expertise and scientific knowledge

"I have to say ... that the Port Hope Area Initiative has my fullest confidence. They have done everything one could think of to cover all concerns relating to this issue. The work of the CNSC has also been diligent, forthright and forthcoming. They, after all, do have the expertise and scientific knowledge and that is why I trust them and their recommendations."

Julie Thompson, 40-year Ward 2 resident

The most beautiful and the cleanest

"Wouldn't it be nice in 10 years to be able to say that not only is Port Hope the most beautiful, but also the cleanest Municipality in Ontario? ... Let's get started!"

Renee and Peter McLachlan, residents and business operators

Improving Port Hope's image

"I know of people who have not located businesses here and who have chosen not to live here because of the stigma Port Hope has. I believe ... granting the licence for the cleanup and consolidation of the waste in an engineered mound will go a long way in improving the image of Port Hope ... I have absolute faith in [Port Hope Area Initiative's] ability to carry out the consolidation of the waste in a safe and timely manner with as little disruption to everyday life as possible."

Dave Henderson, local businessman and resident for 20 years.

Huge amount of work by experts

"Port Hope has waited a long time for action in dealing with the residual low-level waste problem. A huge amount of thought and work has been expended by experts to develop a comprehensive management strategy. The current proposal will be a major step forward in safely resolving the issue. In my view the removal of the waste should proceed without any further holdups, and as soon as possible."

*James B. Campbell, Ph.D, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Molecular Genetics,
Faculty of Medicine. University of Toronto, four-year Port Hope resident*



Greater good of our citizens

“Why is the cleanup important to me and my family?

“Because:

1. After so many years of unrest, our citizens will at long last have the peace of mind they so richly deserve.
2. This very carefully monitored cleanup is, in my view, responsible environmental stewardship.
3. The cleanup will provide my children, grandchildren and generations as yet unborn with an “honourable legacy.”
4. The potential for increased investment in our community due to the removal of environmental health concerns will benefit all citizens who are paying taxes and their families.
5. Port Hope has waited for too long to see the comprehensive long-term waste management strategy become a reality.
6. ...I believe CNSC is proceeding with its plans for the greater good of our citizens based on sound scientific research.”

Nancy Cumberland Redner, 7th generation resident

The world is watching

“Residing here for over 50 years, I also have raised my children here. ... For too many years, Port Hope has had this “Contamination Cloud” hanging over its head. I have talked to both people and businesses that have chosen to locate in surrounding areas because of their uncertainty with our current situation (perceptions are very powerful)...We need to move forward in a positive and beneficial manner...and the world is watching.”

Barb Pemberton, lifelong resident, community volunteer

Community input

“There should be regular opportunities for review and input from the residents of the area and this has been happening. And I am pleased to see that a great percentage of the residents have a better understanding of the project and there is a high acceptance of the project . . . With the radiation stigma and environmental concerns removed, I believe that Port Hope will attract more residents, businesses and investment and become a stronger community with a great future. . . I know [this process] will result in a completely acceptable and reliable solution to the problems.”

*Dean Ross, 20-year resident, professional engineer, retired;
member of numerous local committees working on a
solution to safe longterm management of LLRW*



Trust expertise at CNSC and AECL

“Since 1973, I’ve made Port Hope my home... The nuclear industry has, and always will have supporters and detractors, like many other industries. And, as in any community faced with complicated issues, Port Hope has a frustrated silent majority and a very active vocal minority on this broad subject...I trust personally the level of expertise at the CNSC and the AECL; ...I trust professionals who are specialists in all aspects of my daily life...I don’t understand residents who express mistrust of a proposed cleanup and the process. How can they not see this is a valued, honourable solution to deal with the management of historic low-level waste? ... We have long anticipated a restoration of our environment, our reputation, of our self-respect and of our dignity as a community.”

Anita Blackwood, resident

Transparent problem-solving

“My family and I moved to Port Hope in 1994 and a year later we opened a bed & breakfast here in town. We fell in love with the community and continue, to this day, to appreciate the beauty of the town. ... I have come to believe that the PHAI is a comprehensive waste-management strategy that will deal with the Port Hope radioactive waste problem in a truly transparent way and will convince the skeptics that the Eldorado wastes are finally being attended to.”

*Bob Harrison, resident
30-year veteran of the nuclear industry*

Environmental, social and economic benefits

“As an active volunteer with many and various groups in our community, I believe that my view represents that of a large contingent of Port Hope residents; one might call them the “silent majority.” ...Vocal groups and individuals ... have only exacerbated fears and increased the stigma and the losses. These individuals and groups represent a tiny minority of Port Hope residents, but their high media visibility has been out of all proportion to their numbers. I hope the Commission will consider me as a representative of the vast majority of people in Port Hope who believe we need this cleanup for environmental reasons, of course, but also for social and economic reasons... My family and I believe the future of Port Hope is largely dependent upon the successful completion of the Port Hope Area Initiative.”

Liz Stewart, resident



Port Hope, then and now

“In 1975, I was in my final year at Port Hope High School. A state-of-the-art pocket calculator cost \$150. It was the size of a dictionary and it could only add, subtract, multiply and divide. Pierre Elliott Trudeau was 58 years old and he was the Prime Minister of Canada...In 1975, the Vietnam War ended. Gas was 36 cents a gallon and Bill Gates tried to get his new company, Microsoft, off the ground.

“In 1975, the world learned that Port Hope was contaminated with hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste.

“Today, I am well over 50; I’m eagerly looking at retirement. You can now buy a pocket calculator the size of a credit card at the dollar store. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, he’s been dead for nine years. He passed away at the age of 81. Gas is \$4 a gallon. Bill Gates is the richest man in the world and Port Hope still has hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of low-level radioactive waste...

“I urge ... the Commission to approve this application so that Port Hope can finally, finally start to move forward again.”

Blake Holton, longtime resident and business owner

LLRW an obstacle to progress

“We support the proposed [low-level radioactive] waste facility and would like to see it move forward as quickly as possible. The issue of nuclear waste and related issues has divided our community on many fronts, it has been an obstacle to progress within the town and a deterrent for any kind of development in Port Hope.

The proposed waste facility has been well studied and I believe it is a practical and safe solution. We need to ‘get on with it,’ so the town can move forward and thrive.”

John and Donna Quantrill, residents, entrepreneurs.

Growth and development will improve

“I am a businessman who has lived in Port Hope for 50 years...The proposed cleanup of historic low-level radioactive waste in Port Hope is a very important project for this community. It will generate peace of mind, not only for residents, but for businesses, their employees and potential investors in this community.

Environmentally speaking, the cleanup is the responsible thing to do, taking care of a long-standing situation that has had negative effects on the perception, and hence the growth and development of Port Hope.”

Stewart Raynor, President, Norpak Handling Limited



212-year history of health, longevity

"I tease (my husband) now that he had to marry a girl from out of town because his family has lived in Port Hope, both Ward 1 and Ward 2, continuously for 212 years...I am reminded of my husband's great-uncle who hardly left Port Hope his entire life. He raised his family a block from the waterfront and worked every day at the old water plant next to Eldorado and Cameco ... Despite all that, when he passed away a couple of years ago, he was in very good health, especially for a 104-year-old. His sister predeceased him at 100, still living alone in her own house in Port Hope..."

I am satisfied with the process undertaken to resolve the historic waste issue here, with the transparency and its conclusion. Port Hope citizens need to have this critical issue resolved now that we have finally reached the licensing state to take action on the historic waste. It is about time."

*Catharine Tozer, resident, doctoral candidate
University of Toronto (child development)*

Initiative becomes part of community

"... [W]e're coming through a milestone in the process where NRCan and AECL are going to become a member of the community... they're going to be an integral part of the community for quite a number of years. ... The Municipality should continue to work with Natural Resources Canada and the CNSC to ensure that [the Municipality] has access to, provides comment on, and is consulted on, the detailed engineering design and technical documentation."

Rick Norman, Ward 2

Great-grandmother identifies with legacy

"I am particularly motivated by the "honourable legacy" aspect of the cleanup. We must look to the future of this historic community and the cleanup is vital to that future. This cleanup should take place sooner rather than later. Please get on with the job!"

*Sascha Armour, longtime resident,
mother, grandmother, great-grandmother*

Citizens well informed, supportive

"Given my direct involvement with the community regarding this issue, I can say with confidence that the citizens of Port Hope are well informed of the Port Hope Area Initiative due to the open houses, exhibits, fairs and surveys conducted by the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Office...."

"I could go on at length about the positive benefits that this project will bring to this community and its citizens, but instead I will simply ask you to move forward with the cleanup as soon as possible."

*Rick Austin, former Councillor, Mayor,
and Warden of Northumberland County*



Turning the talk to action

“Over 25 years ago, I wrote a paper on the history of the nuclear industry in our town and the problems associated with managing waste in an urban environment. At that time there was ‘talk’ of a cleanup and ... I am delighted that the ‘talk’ will finally turn to action. The cleanup and consolidation of low-level waste demonstrates responsible environmental stewardship and will provide peace of mind for the citizens of our town. It also has the potential to lead to future economic growth in Port Hope as perceived health and environmental concerns will be removed.”

Gwen Duck, third-generation resident, mother

Peace of mind top of mind

“I believe the low-level waste cleanup is a very important issue for our community for the following reasons:

- Community peace of mind;
- Responsible environmental stewardship;
- Possible increase in investment due to removal of environmental and health concerns;
- The delay in removal of low-level waste has contributed to the deteriorating relationship between the supportive silent majority and the special interest groups;
- Desire by residents to see the cleanup move quickly and safely to its long-anticipated conclusion
- Should result in an ‘honourable legacy’ for future generations.”

David C. Monteith, farmer, 47-year Ward 2 resident

Enhanced natural environment

“The result of containing all the radioactive and chemical (waste) in one safe area, using responsible environmental stewardship, will be peace of mind for the community and the freeing up of numerous areas which have been “off-limits.”

“In addition the removal of ground-source and water-source contamination will ... lead to the possible increase in investment opportunities for the town. ... Residents will be more than pleased to have this long-awaited project under way.”

*Jack Goering, 48-year Port Hope resident involved with
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (LLRWC)
and the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI)*



Cleanup presents business opportunities

“The Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce is well aware of the benefits the Port Hope Project will bring to the community and recognizes that the Project will ensure environmental health and safety in the community and, most importantly, the protection of residents...It should also be noted that economic benefits will arise from the Port Hope Project...Local contractors will have the opportunity to bid on construction-related activities that will result from the cleanup process. Furthermore, there will be opportunities for local hiring and youth training during the Project’s construction phase. The Port Hope Area Initiative and Municipality of Port Hope will be working with local colleges to facilitate access to knowledge regarding the skills necessary for the upcoming construction process...”

*Jennine Huffman, President
Port Hope and District Chamber of Commerce*

Reality vs. perception

“Our members understand that there are no immediate health effects from the radioactive waste that is currently in the community. However, the public’s perception has been different, particularly among people who are not from Port Hope...I speak for our members when I say that we look forward to the resolution of these issues and the completion of the cleanup process in order to remove the stigma that has been attached to the community, enabling us to promote Port Hope as an enjoyable and healthy destination for business and pleasure.”

*Kelly Morgan MacKenzie
Chair, Heritage Business Improvement Area*