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Seven sites in Acton received possibly contaminated fill

Continued from page 1

In addition, electrical conductivity was measured in three of the nine samples at levels that could present an unacceptable risk to plants and soil organisms, added the ministry in the report.

The Cayuga site was identified as one of the three most sensitive dumping sites among among the original 15 flagged by the Ministry, along with one in Selkirk and another in Acton. All three sites were to be tested by Terrapex Environmental Ltd. in an agreement with the City of Mississauga.

According to Terrapex, the Selkirk site also showed samples containing lead and risky electrical conductivity. The owner of the sensitive site in Acton refused to allow testing on the premises.

For its part, the City of Mississauga is disputing the ministry and Terrapex's findings in an ongoing appeal, claiming no risk to the public and millions in costs for its taxpayers should the city ultimately be held responsible for removing the allegedly contaminated material.

There is no risk to human health or the environment from the materials delivered, said a lawyer representing the town in corporate report last year while specifically referencing the Cayuga site.

With respect to the remaining sites, based on a preliminary risk evaluation, the city expert's opinion is that the risk to

human health or the environment from the materials is unlikely, added the lawyer.

Between 2004-11, the report shows seven sites in Acton receiving approximately 577 loads of possibly contaminated dirt.

The most was delivered to a site near Hwy. 7 and Worden View Rd., which received roughly 276 loads between 2004-09. Other dump sites in Acton include sites near Hwy. 25 and 25 Side Rd.; a property on Nassagawaya-Esquesing Townline between 22 and 25 Side Rds.; one site near on Townline Rd. near Regional Rd. 25; and another on Wellington County Rd. 50 near Fifth Line.

Two sites listed in Acton were not identified with addresses with one simply described as Acton farm. Another site was simply identified as somewhere in Acton.

According to a *Toronto Star* report on April 2, Mississauga stopped offering the sweepings as free fill in 2012 after the ministry raised some concerns.

For now, none of the controversial fill will be dug up. The ministry said it has taken mitigation measures to protect the health of property owners while it continues its investigations, wrote *the Star*.

Click here to view the entire ministry report and order.

With files from *The Toronto Star*

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