

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2011

Oshawa community fights to keep an ethanol plant away from its waterfront

The proposed 30-acre ethanol production facility at the Oshawa Harbour would include four 38-metre high silos

OSHAWA – The City of Oshawa, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Friends of Second Marsh and Lake Ontario Waterkeeper are opposing an ethanol plant at the Oshawa Harbour. The City has launched a widespread public awareness campaign and is asking concerned residents to sign a letter of opposition.

The proposed production facility would be the only ethanol plant located along the Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario. In addition, it would be:

- situated in proximity to the 46-acre Lakeview Park that includes a sandy beach, boardwalk, playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and scenic trails
- situated near the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives, which is comprised of three provincially designated historic buildings
- adjacent to the Second Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest that is home to a rich diversity of wildlife species, including 361 vascular plants, 305 bird species, 57 fish species and 32 mammal species. In addition, Second Marsh is listed under the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest
- situated in proximity to the Montgomery Creek Provincially Significant Wetland
- adjacent to the heavily used Oshawa portion of the Waterfront Trail, which stretches through 41 communities, including Oshawa, from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Quebec border, along the shores of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River

The facility is proposed on a 30.4-acre site directly abutting the historic Gifford Hill. Among the tallest structures would be four grain silos, each standing 38 metres (125 feet) high – which would be equivalent to four 12-storey buildings.

This facility would be capable of producing 210 million litres of ethanol annually, which would require processing 525,000,000 kilograms of corn each year and would result in approximately 168,000,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) emitted annually as a byproduct of the fermentation process.

The shipment of raw materials and end product into and out of the plant would generate an estimated 200 daily truck trips.

In the interest of full and reasonable public participation, Oshawa Council is asking for an extension of the period for comments on the Environmental Assessment Screening Report released by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada from just 30 days (until July 28, 2011) to 90 days (until September 28, 2011).

For more information, visit www.oshawa.ca/harbour.

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Backgrounder:

The City of Oshawa and the public were given just 30 days to comment on a massive environmental assessment (EA) report that proposes an ethanol plant on crown land at the Oshawa Harbour.

The City remains opposed to an ethanol plant at the Oshawa Harbour for the following reasons:

- The proposed ethanol plant would be located on a historic and prominent height of land overlooking Lake Ontario.
- The proposed ethanol plant would be located adjacent to the Second Marsh, a Provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest that is home to a rich diversity of wildlife species.
- The proposed ethanol plant would be adjacent to the heavily used Oshawa portion of the Waterfront Trail that stretches 900 km through 41 communities from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Quebec border.
- The proposed ethanol plant is moving forward in the absence of a comprehensive Land Use Plan / Business Plan to be created by the Canada Port Authority.
- There is a lack of effective, accessible and recent public consultation.
- The Oshawa community has resoundingly rejected the idea of an ethanol plant at the Oshawa Harbour.

Furthermore, Second Marsh, Montgomery Creek Provincially Significant Wetland, the Waterfront Trail and Lakeview Park are deemed sensitive outdoor recreational land uses.

The City is collecting signed opposition letters up until July 27, just one day prior to the July 28 comment deadline on the EA Screening Report released by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The opposition form letter is available at City of Oshawa facilities and online at www.oshawa.ca/harbour.

