

# TPLC's Environmental Management Program

The Toronto port lands were reclaimed from Lake Ontario in the late 1800's and early 1900's with rapid industrialization occurring shortly thereafter, particularly during World War I. Some of the historic industrial activities include metal works, chemical storage, munitions manufacturing, ash disposal and tank farms which have contaminated the soil and groundwater.

In the early 1990's, TPLC and the Ministry of Environment (MOE) discovered that a site by site response to soil and groundwater contamination would not achieve restoration objectives in the port lands. By April 1993, the City of Toronto, the MOE and TPLC partnered to create an area-wide strategy to develop an 'environmental road map' for the remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater based on the biophysical conditions of the area. The approach was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in 1997.

TPLC's Environmental Management Strategy for the port lands is comprised of four elements:

The **Area Wide Initiative (AWI)** involves groundwater monitoring across the port lands to understand existing environmental conditions. Ecological monitoring is also undertaken in several areas to identify the influence of contaminants on plant and soil organisms. Sewer monitoring is conducted by the City within the public realm to assess/observe discharges from any properties.

The **Individual Site Initiative (ISI)** is a series of three processes to provide TPLC with a comprehensive approach to the

short and long-term management of its properties.

*Site Tracking Process (STP)* categorizes sites according to the need for intervention and the degree of difficulty posed by site conditions.

*Site Restoration Process (SRP)* identifies the remedial or risk management plan, providing an environmental road map for restoration.

*Site Management Process (SMP)* ensures there are no health and safety risks associated with a property.

The **Environmental Information** collected through the AWI and ISI together with historical records are maintained on a Geographic Information System.

Finally, **Administration** is shared jointly among TPLC, the City of Toronto and the MOE through quarterly meetings, annual reporting and on-going communication with the property owners and tenants.

TPLC's Environmental Management Strategy continues to be a valuable tool for brownfield management and redevelopment. TPLC received a **Brownie Award** for this program in 2004, recognizing innovation and leadership in brownfield redevelopment.



**Toronto Port Lands**