

Media Release



The Regional Municipality of Halton

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For Immediate Release

Update on information circulating online regarding suspected cancer rates in Joshua Creek

Halton Region – November 7, 2024

Halton Region is aware of the messages circulating online regarding a suspected increase in cancer rates in the Joshua Creek area of Oakville. These messages are understandably alarming and raise concerns among residents and we want to assure current and future Joshua Creek residents of their safety.

Cancer rates

Halton Region Public Health monitors cancer data for the region, including Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton, and Oakville. The [2023 Halton Region Cancer Report](#) demonstrated that incidence and mortality rates in Halton are **lower** compared to Ontario for both lung cancer and all types of cancer combined. Furthermore, a preliminary Halton Region Public Health investigation into the Joshua Creek area demonstrates that cancer mortality is lower among residents of that community compared to residents of Halton and Ontario. Halton Region Public Health continues to work with the Province to monitor local trends in cancer incidence and mortality.

Ninth Line Closed Landfill Site

Environmental monitoring of the Ninth Line Closed Landfill site in the Joshua Creek area has been in place since the mid-1980s. The site is owned by the Town of Oakville and in 1998 Halton Region assumed responsibility for proactive environmental monitoring and maintenance activities. The Region implemented an Environmental Management Plan monitoring and reporting program for the site beginning in 2002. The monitoring program includes:

- Subsurface combustible gas monitoring - Monthly
- Surface water monitoring - Every two years
- Groundwater and leachate monitoring - Every five years

Soil samples are not part of the monitoring program as any potential impacts from a landfill are more readily detected in ground or surface water than in soil. As such, the current environmental monitoring program at the Ninth Line Closed Landfill is in line with provincial best practices.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is the lead ministry responsible for restoring, protecting, and enhancing the environment to ensure public health and environmental quality. Halton Region provides information to the Ministry about this site upon request. The Ministry has determined

that the groundwater sampling results indicate leachate concentrations are low and measured parameters have largely decreased in concentration over time. Also, the Ministry has concluded that, based on the surface water sampling data, the landfill's impact on the water quality of Joshua Creek is negligible.

Halton Region will continue due diligence monitoring and maintaining the closed landfill site, ensuring the ongoing safety and protection of resident health.

About Halton

The Regional Municipality of Halton serves more than 650,000 residents in the City of Burlington, the Town of Halton Hills, the Town of Milton, and the Town of Oakville. Halton Region is committed to meeting the needs of its residents through the delivery of cost-effective, quality programs and services, including water and wastewater; Regional roads and infrastructure planning; paramedic services; waste management; public health; social assistance; children's and seniors' services; housing services; and emergency management. For more information, call 311 or visit Halton Region's website at halton.ca.

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