

Spreading around soil problem

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Re: Exhibition Place hotel plan stalled by fouled soil, Sept. 8

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Soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile and semi-volatile compounds and inorganics was found while excavating for an Exhibition Place hotel and now must be dealt with.

If they follow the normal pattern to deal with soil too contaminated to lie under foundations, roads, and parking lots in Toronto, it will be dug it up and trucked east, west, and north to be dumped into farmers' fields, perhaps spending a few weeks at a soil remediation facility for the smelly stuff to be evaporated off.

Or perhaps it will go to one of the several small airports around the GTA that are being reconstructed by trucking in millions of tons of soil for which they receive millions of dollars for taking somebody else's problem and operate free of municipal and provincial environmental inspection because airports are under federal jurisdiction.

The oil, lead, carbon tetrachloride, cyanide, and all the other material that made the soil too contaminated to sit under a hotel in the city is now free to be taken up by farmers' crops or to be washed down to the water table to drinking water wells and to the streams and lakes of the greenbelt.

When that soil is removed from Exhibition Place they won't be eliminating the problem, they will just be spreading it around.

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