

March 2001

# What Does the Cleanup Mean to Me?

## A Look at Your Questions About the Cleanup at the Former Henry Wood's Sons Paint Factory Site

This is one in a series of fact sheets prepared by Wellesley College regarding cleanup of the former Henry Wood's Sons Company paint pigment factory site.

We recognize that our College community has questions about how the cleanup will affect life on campus. We want you to know that the College is committed to your safety and keeping everyone in the campus community informed. Our goal is to minimize the impact that the cleanup of the former Henry Wood's Sons Paint Factory site will have on our campus community and the town of Wellesley.

We have taken a number of steps to communicate cleanup-related information with Wellesley students, faculty and staff and will continue to do so -- through fact sheets, updates sent via the College's electronic bulletin board, campus information sessions, and regularly updated information on the project web site, at [www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/About/paintshop.html](http://www.wellesley.edu/PublicAffairs/About/paintshop.html)

Here are answers to some of the questions you may have about the cleanup.

For more information, please contact

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### What areas of the campus are affected by the cleanup?

The 16-acre former paint factory site is located on undeveloped and largely unused land in the northwest corner of the campus. The College's cleanup is focused on Paintshop Pond, Upper Waban Brook, the northwest corner of Lake Waban, the northern and southern wetlands, and the uplands immediately south of Route 135. The cleanup will involve excavating contaminated soil and sediment from the uplands, wetlands, Upper Waban Brook and Paintshop Pond.

To begin cleanup, trees and vegetation need to be cleared from a 30-acre area south of Route 135, east of Paintshop Pond and northwest of Lake Waban. This work is necessary to gain access to contaminated areas and to create an area of clean soil (referred to as a "clean pad"). Some students have raised questions about the impact of the clearing and cleanup on wildlife at the site. Clearing will be conducted in stages and we expect that animals living in the area will leave and relocate once clearing begins. Efforts will be made to minimize the loss of animal life during clearing and construction.

Concerns have been raised about the visual impact of the cleanup. During cleanup, trucks will be entering and exiting the site and the area will look like a construction zone with large equipment in operation. However, the cleanup site will be blocked by a screened fence so much of the day to day work will not be visible to people on campus. Once cleanup is completed, the College will re-vegetate the area to make it aesthetically pleasing, consistent with the principles of Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. that guide the landscape at the College.

### What is the College cleaning up?

The College is cleaning up high levels of metals - lead, trivalent chromium, hexavalent chromium and arsenic, which were contained in paint pigments and waste found in the soil and sediment at the former paint factory site. Our goal in the cleanup is to extract unacceptable amounts of these contaminants in order to minimize potential risks to human health, wildlife, and the environment from future contact with them.

### When will work begin? How long will it take?

Assuming we receive regulatory approval in a timely fashion, we hope to start site work in late March/early April 2001. The entire cleanup is expected to take approximately 14 months, start to finish.

### Is my health at risk while the College is undertaking the cleanup?

No. During the cleanup, a number of safety measures will be taken to ensure the protection of students, staff and faculty. The cleanup area will be fenced off and erosion and dust control measures will be taken to protect any possible exposure outside the fence line. We will implement an extensive, "real time" air monitoring program to verify that any dust-borne contamination is well below any level that might pose a health concern to students, staff and faculty - including those who are engaged in outdoor activities and sports or work in areas near the cleanup site. Monitoring stations will be placed at various locations around the work site fence-line to monitor the air quality. Health-protective action levels for the site have been established that are much lower than the levels that could cause any short-or long-term health impacts. Should measurements exceed these action levels, additional dust control actions will be undertaken. In the unlikely event that these control actions are not effective, work will be stopped until the situation is rectified.

In addition, fixed monitoring stations will be installed and operated continuously at the Distribution Center, the soccer field and the Oval tennis courts to verify that air quality levels in these locations are always below the protective levels. Finally, three portable monitoring stations will operate each day; their locations adjusted as the wind direction changes.

### What about noise from the project?

Although the project area is at the far western edge of campus, there may be some noticeable noise from the operation of construction equipment. The College is committed to strict compliance with the Town of Wellesley's noise ordinance that forbids construction work before 7 AM or after 7 PM, Monday-Saturday, and any work on Sunday.

### Will areas of the campus be off-limits during the construction?

Yes. Several areas will be affected -- some intermittently and some for the estimated 14-month period of cleanup. During March, for example, fencing will be erected and signs posted along portions of Lake Waban. This area and portions of the walking and jogging paths will be off-limits for the duration of the project. The tennis courts near the Distribution Center along Route 135 will be closed from June 1, 2001 until cleanup is completed. Our plan is to have the Oval tennis courts remain open with a dust monitoring station located there to ensure safety. In addition, the Distribution Center will remain open with an air monitoring station installed to ensure the health and safety of people using the area. This monitoring information will be made available to the public.

Project planners are working hard to minimize any disruption to parking during construction and hope to be able to accommodate all existing needs. If they become necessary, separate advisories will be issued concerning parking.

### Will the athletic fields be usable during construction?

We will not use the recreational areas in the vicinity of the cleanup during the first week of construction in order to verify our monitoring procedures. After that first week, the areas will be available for regular use. Continuous air monitoring will be conducted to ensure the safety of all participants, but plans for alternative fields are being reviewed.