

For Immediate Release
July 16, 2006

Notice of Expanded Smog Advisory

The Ministry of the Environment is expanding its existing *Smog Advisory* for tomorrow, July 17, 2006, to include the following additional forecast regions:

Barrie-Orillia-Midland	Huron-Perth
Belleville-Quinte-Northumberland	Kingston-Prince Edward
City of Hamilton	Niagara
City of Toronto	Oxford-Brant
Dufferin-Innisfil	Parry Sound-Muskoka-Huntsville
Dunnville-Caledonia-Haldimand	Peterborough-Kawartha Lakes
Grey-Bruce	Simcoe-Delhi-Norfolk
Haliburton	Waterloo-Wellington
Halton-Peel	York-Durham

A *Smog Advisory* remains in effect for:

Elgin	Sarnia-Lambton
London-Middlesex	Windsor-Essex-Chatham-Kent

The *Smog Advisory* for all of the above regions will be in effect until further notice.

A *Smog Advisory* is issued when there is a high probability for elevated smog levels.

Hot, hazy, humid, and sunny conditions combined with a southwesterly flow of polluted air from the U.S. and local build-up of pollutants are expected to result in elevated smog levels across southwestern, central, and parts of eastern Ontario.

Smog is a hazy mix of pollutants made up of ground-level ozone, fine particulate matter and other pollutants. During the summer months, more than half of Ontario's smog-causing pollution originates in the United States. In cooler months, domestic sources can be significant contributors to the formation of fine particulate matter.

The website www.airqualityontario.com contains a list of “spare the air” actions (www.airqualityontario.com/science/spareair.cfm) to help combat smog and minimize its effect on sensitive populations. If you want to learn more about air quality, visit the Ministry of the Environment’s website at www.ene.gov.on.ca.

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