

Officials hope for good turnout for soils meeting

**Wednesday night
meeting chance for
Falconbridge
residents
to air concerns**

THE SUDBURY STAR

Falconbridge residents are invited to a public meeting Wednesday night to provide input and obtain an update into a health study launched in the community.

The Falconbridge Citizens' Committee is hoping for a large turnout at the meeting, to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Falconbridge Community Centre.

The citizens' committee wants to ensure residents' concerns are addressed in the health study being conducted by Falconbridge Ltd. and a consulting company.

Public input is crucial "in order to develop a study that addresses the needs and concerns of residents," states a community-wide notice being circulated by the committee.

"We are inviting you to meet with the consultants and provide your input with regard to community health concerns and issues that you would like to see addressed."

Residents will be able to ask questions and seek information about a variety of community health-related issues, the committee says.

The meeting will feature officials from Falconbridge Ltd., SARA Consulting

Group, the Sudbury and District Health Unit, the City of Greater Sudbury, the Ministry of the Environment and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Concerns about health and property values have been heightened in Falconbridge for the last several months, after tests indicated high levels of arsenic in the community's soil.

Earlier this year, Falconbridge Ltd. offering to pay for medical tests on every resident of the community to allay concerns related to the high arsenic levels.

The company also offered to test the soil of properties that had not already tested as part of a major soil-testing study in Greater Sudbury.

Some residents have suggested their homes should be bought by Falconbridge Ltd.

With about 330 homes in the community, the estimated cost of such a buy-out has been estimated to be between \$17 million and \$20 million.

Soils study open house to be held

An open house for the Sudbury Soils Study will be held Nov. 25 at Science North from 3-9 p.m.

The SARA Group continues to review the soils data to determine the final list of chemicals of concern to be addressed.

For more information about the Sudbury Soils Study, call Chris Wren at 1-519-766-1039 or 1-866-315-0228, www.sudburysoilsstudy.com.