

Your Business ... Your Burlington

Company focuses on water

Joseph Chin - May 5, 2011 - Clean water is emerging as the world's next great challenge, and a number of Mississauga companies are at the forefront of research and development to tackle the problem.

Their science is so innovative, participants in the Ontario Global Water Leadership Summit, to be held May 17-18 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, made a field trip to Mississauga yesterday to see firsthand what they're up to.

The all-day tour stopped by Imbrium Systems, GE Water and Echologics Engineering in this city and Kontek Ecology in Burlington.

The visitors were sent on their way by Sandra Pupatello, Ontario's minister of economic development and trade.

"Ontario is home to some of the most advanced R&D and innovative water technologies, so we look forward to showing the world what we have to offer," she said.

At Imbrium's Erin Mills research lab, visitors stood on a viewing platform and peered down into a series of large inter-connected water tanks designed to simulate sewers. They were also peering into the future as Imbrium and other Canadian companies race to develop products to vie for part of the \$22 trillion that studies show will be spent on water infrastructure, wastewater management and water purification worldwide over the next 20 years.

Imbrium – one of whose founders, back in the early 1990s, was John Monteith, a former Region of Peel stormwater inspector – designs and develops stormwater treatment products that protect water resources from harmful pollutants.

The company invented and marketed the Stormceptor oil and sediment separator, and has sold 30,000 of the flagship devices worldwide. Imbrium is also bringing to the market newer technologies it believes will catch on just as quickly, such as the Jellyfish fine sediment filter, and SorbtiveMedia and SorbtiveFilter technologies for phosphorus removal.

"We have a 30,000-sq.-ft. R&D facility, which includes an analytical facility, and we have three PhDs on staff," said president and chief executive officer Scott Perry. "Having advanced technologies, always looking towards continuous improvement, and product performance validation has always put us above our competitors."

Perry says Imbrium will continue to stay on top of water treatment policy issues so that when there is a need for a new water treatment system, Imbrium will be ready.

“With any water body that’s impaired and struggling with algae blooms and phosphorus issues, municipalities are going to have to turn to advanced technologies – whether they’re ours or someone else’s. We’re progressive, so as policy, we’re working to address the issues ... we’re positioning ourselves to help water issues get back on track.”

The Ontario Global Water Leadership Summit welcomes water innovators, funders, thinkers, catalysts, entrepreneurs and researchers.

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