

West Toronto residents demand action on spills

By **GLENN WHEELER**

Frustrated residents of the Junction Triangle, an area in West Toronto which has been plagued by noxious odors and several chemical spills, angrily questioned officials of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment at a meeting last night.

They complained that numerous meetings such as the one last night have been held in the last 10 years, but that nothing gets done. "Don't pass the buck, pass some legislation," said Terry Kelly of Edwin Avenue, to the applause of most of the 100 residents.

More than 5,000 residents live in the area bounded by Bloor Street West, Dundas Street West and Lansdowne Avenue and Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway tracks.

The area also contains a number of industries, including factories that make paint, rubber and adhesive tape. Residents say the industries release chemical odors that cause headaches, nausea and watery eyes.

An employee of Nacan Products Ltd., whose job it was to mix raw chemicals, sent several people to the hospital on April 6 and closed area schools when he tried to cover up a

measuring error by dumping more than 800 gallons of chemicals in sewers.

A week ago, three chemicals were accidentally released by various companies in the area. About 70 gallons of polyvinyl acetate emulsion leaked into sewers through a ruptured hose at Nacan. The ministry has investigated the other incidents but hasn't released the information.

William Bidell, an assistant deputy minister in the Environment Ministry, said legislation exists to deal with the situation but there is little medical evidence on the health affects of chemical odors such as those in the Junction Triangle.

Mr. Bidell said the Environmental Protection Act enables the ministry to obtain an injunction to close down any establishment causing serious health hazards. He said after the meeting that he knew for certain of only one factory that has been closed under the act.

Halfway through the meeting, Government officials and reporters left at the request of Tony Ruprecht, Liberal member of the Legislature for Parkdale, who said that residents wanted to discuss the matter among themselves.