

Council moving to solve dump problem

COLDSANE CHRONICLE
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Cramahe Council is moving to resolve a longstanding issue with the closed dump on Dale Road.

Since 1999, there has been a 500-metre restraining zone around the dump located on the land of former owner Cecil Dale. Restrictions on the surrounding area have resulted in reduced property values. Recent councils have not allowed building on the designated land.

In a report to council Feb. 6, Director of Development Becky Bonisteel stated studies of gas, leachate, and hydrogeology must be undertaken to reduce or remove the hold on the land. The complete list of actions required is included in the township's Official Plan.

Residents owning land within that 500-metre area are anxious to have its boundaries reduced or removed.

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They requested that council resolve their problem when they met Feb. 6. At that meeting, Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs recommended everyone involved meet with council, Cramahe staff, its planning consultant Peter Josephs and officials from the provincial government. That meeting was held on March 5 in the township offices.

Mr. Josephs outlined the parameters of the situation for a crowd of area residents whose properties surround the former waste disposal site used by more than one municipality, which was closed in the late seventies.

It was clear the problem was not going to be immediately resolved. It was also unclear, whether any well tests done by the residents would be usable in the required studies, thus reducing the cost.

Ministry of the Environment officials at the meeting were largely noncommittal.

Mayor Coombs referred to letters on file from the ministry stating the water in the area was fine, and wondered if that satisfied ministry needs.

Alida Mitton, Environmental Planner for the ministry replied the 500-metre holding zone comes from the history of complaints over the years, and there are things which can't be seen without a hydrogeological study. It provides a picture of ground water flow and possible leachate. The ministry looks at soil stability, contamination and methane.

Toward the end of her response, Ms. Mitton suggested if the township knows wells tested in the area are all right, it probably doesn't need a hydrogeological study.

Mr. Josephs proposed the township engage a qualified person to establish the terms of reference of a proposed study. He reminded council that Trow Consulting from Kingston was familiar with the township and could do the work.

Cramahe Deputy Mayor Jim Williams drew attention to a Ministry of the Environment report from 2004 which stated studies done in 1989 were "sufficient for the purposes and acceptable for today". It stated there was no offsite migration to the water table and nearby Bidy Creek.

Ministry representative Mike Longpre refused to comment on the statement that it was adequate for 2004. Mr. Longpre had a further conflict with resident Bruce Melnichuk later in the 45-minute meeting.

Mr. Melnichuk contended the ministry committed to put in test wells in 1989 but did not conduct the tests. To prove his point, Mr. Melnichuk pulled out the letter to confirm the claim. The ministry rep reserved comment, advising the landowner that he would get back to him.

It was ultimately resolved the township will ask Mr. Melnichuk to put together suitable documentation. All relevant information about the situation will be sent to Trow Consulting with a request to determine what has to be done to establish where the holding zone will finally be.

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CHRONICLE MAR 15/07

Township wins EDCO award

Cramahe Township was the runner-up for two province-wide advertising awards in 2006.

The awards were for a township tourism campaign run under the banner "Real People You'll be Glad you Met". Cramahe won for its standalone ad and the overall campaign in the tourism competition.

The Economic Developers Council of Ontario awards were handed out on February 8 at its annual conference held at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel.

George Borovilos, the 2006 President of EDCO, commented that over 190 entries were received in the annual competition. In his press release, Mr. Borovilos commented, "The competition allows local communities to see just how they stack up against other municipalities when it comes to promoting location, investment and tourism opportunities." In responding to the announcement, Cramahe Mayor Marc Coombs added, "This competition result demonstrates our effectiveness in our tourism marketing efforts and that we are on the right track."

Ms. Goddard also expressed her pleasure in receiving provincial recognition.

— BOB OWEN

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